CRUISING THE
ELBE RIVER
FROM PRAGUE TO BERLIN
aboard Elbe Princesse · April 2–13, 2023
Dear Commonwealth Club Member,

The Elbe River has long been an important delineator of east and west in Europe. Linking two of the most fascinating capital cities—Prague and Berlin—it traverses a land filled with captivating treasures, including cosmopolitan cities and picturesque towns; terraced vineyards and lush orchards; fortress-crowned crags; and the spectacular gorges of “Saxon Switzerland.”

Beginning with a stay at the incomparable and centrally located Four Seasons Prague, this eight-night river cruise aboard the lovely Elbe Princesse embraces the broad sweep of history across this region from Bohemia to the former East Germany: Prague Castle, a sprawling complex that has served as the seat of power for kings of Bohemia, Holy Roman emperors, and presidents of the former Czechoslovakia; the Wittenberg church where Martin Luther posted his 95 Reformation Theses; historic Jewish synagogues and cemeteries; World War II memorials; Meissen's fine porcelain workshop; the treasures of Dresden's Green Vault and Zwinger Palace; the famous Bauhaus school of 20th-century architecture; Potsdam’s whimsical Sanssouci palace and gardens, summer residence of Frederick the Great, notable for the numerous temples and follies within its park; and the contrast of old and new in Berlin, Germany’s dynamic capital city and largest metropolis. An on-board lecture program and top-tier local guides will help provide context, perspective, and enrichment.

This journey aboard Elbe Princesse can accommodate only 62 guests. For general information or to make your reservation, please return the attached reservation form, call us at 415-597-6720, or e-mail us at travel@commonwealthclub.org.

Sincerely,
Kristina Nemeth
Travel Director
HIGHLIGHTS

♦ Begin your adventure with two nights in Prague, one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

♦ Marvel at the glittering treasures of the Green Vault and the incredible collection of Old Masters paintings at the Zwinger Museum in Dresden.

♦ Explore the village of Wittenberg and its Castle Church where Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses to start the Protestant Reformation more than 500 years ago.

♦ Visit the UNESCO-listed Bauhaus school in Dessau, one of the most influential art & design programs of the 20th century.

♦ Stroll the fanciful gardens of Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam and explore Cecilienhof Palace, where Truman, Churchill, and Stalin met in 1945 to redraw the map of Europe.
Sunday & Monday, April 2 & 3
HOME / PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC
Depart home on an overnight flight to Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. Arrive on Monday and transfer to your hotel, located near the Vltava River in historic Old Town. Gather for a welcome reception this evening.
FOUR SEASONS PRAGUE (R)

Tuesday, April 4
PRAGUE
After a morning lecture, join a walking tour to explore Prague's Old Town including the Jewish Quarter, visiting the haunting Old Jewish Cemetery and the 13th-century Old-New Synagogue, the oldest active synagogue in Europe. Sample regional specialties during lunch at a local restaurant, then spend the afternoon and evening at leisure in central Prague or beyond.
FOUR SEASONS PRAGUE (BL)

Wednesday, April 5
PRAGUE (EMBARK)
Ascend to the imposing Prague Castle, a royal residence as far back as the 10th century and still the seat of the Czech government. Its walls encompass Renaissance-era St. Vitus Cathedral, an imposing structure that incorporates a unique mix of Gothic and Baroque elements; and the Old Royal Palace, one of the oldest parts of the castle, with its elongated throne room and soaring Vladislav Hall, once the site of coronation banquets and indoor jousting tournaments. Stay within the castle walls to stroll along Golden Lane, a charmingly quaint street that dates back to the 15th century. Inside the eleven historic houses that line the lane are period scenes depicting the life of the goldsmiths and other artisans who once lived and worked here. Embark the Elbe Princesse this evening in time for the Captain's welcome dinner.
ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

Thursday, April 6
LITOMĚŘICE
Call at Litoměřice, a royal enclave with an official history dating to the 10th Century, making it one of the oldest Bohemian settlements. A well-known trading post of the Holy Roman Empire, its old town is now under the protection of the Czech Ministry of Culture as a national cultural monument, and is highlighted by the Baroque St. Stephen's Cathedral, finished in 1057.
ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

Friday, April 7
BAD SCHANDAU, GERMANY
Enjoy a morning of cruising along the beautiful Elbe River through “Saxon Switzerland” to the picturesque spa town of Bad Schandau, a summer resort for more than two centuries. Travel uphill and inland by motorcoach to see the spectacular Bastei rock formations and the pinnacles, ravines, and spectacular river views they provide.
ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

Saturday, April 8
DRESDEN
One of the most historically important cities in Germany, Dresden is renowned for its splendid Baroque architecture and world-class art collections. Enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town, including Theater Square and the Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady), an outstanding example of Protestant sacred architecture that was rebuilt and reconsecrated in 2005 after being leveled by Allied bombs during World War II. Also marvel at the glittering displays of precious objects from the late Renaissance and Rococo periods at Dresden Castle’s Green Vault. This afternoon, choose to visit Dresden’s Transparent Factory, a glass-walled facility designed by Volkswagen for the production of its top-of-the-line sedans and expanded into a fascinating interactive exhibition space for innovative future technologies, or enjoy free time to explore Dresden independently.
ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)
Sunday, April 9
DRESDEN / MEISSEN
This morning, visit the Zwinger Palace museum and explore the Old Masters Gallery, where works by Rembrandt, Rubens, and Raphael are displayed. Continue to nearby Meissen this afternoon, where the formula for hard-paste porcelain was developed in 1708. Choose between a visit to the workshop that continues to make the “white gold” by hand and the exquisite collection at the Porcelain Museum, an e-bike excursion along the banks of the Elbe, or independent free time in Meissen's historic center.

ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

Monday, April 10
WITTENBERG
Following a morning of relaxed cruising and shipboard lectures, call at Wittenberg for a visit to the Castle Church, where in 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door, beginning the Protestant Reformation. Wittenberg's historic Market Square, spared by the Allies during bombing raids, is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On a walking tour of Old Town, visit Luther's home as well as St. Mary's Church, where he preached.

ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

Tuesday, April 11
DESSAU
Tour the city of Dessau, home of the famous Bauhaus school of architecture and the Wörlitz Garden Kingdom, each of which has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the influential Main Building at Bauhaus as well as the Masters' Houses, once home to visiting artists such as Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky. Enjoy a gondola ride through the lakes and canals of the English-style gardens at Wörlitz, among the largest gardens in continental Europe.

ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

Wednesday, April 12
POTSDAM
Arrive in Potsdam to explore the magnificently Rococo Sanssouci Palace and Park, originally sketched by Frederick the Great and now the largest UNESCO World Heritage Site in Germany. Also visit Cecilienhof Palace, where Churchill, Truman, and Stalin met at the historic Potsdam Conference in 1945 and redrew the map of Europe. Enjoy the captain's farewell dinner this evening.

ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

Thursday, April 13
BERLIN / HOME
Disembark and transfer to the airport for flights home, or to the center of Berlin to begin the optional extension. (B)

Thursday–Sunday, April 13–16
Optional Post-Tour Extension in Berlin
Extend your visit for three nights in this dynamic city to see more of its world-class landmarks and delve deeper into its complicated history. See the moving Holocaust Memorial and Museum; have lunch at the Reichstag building and follow the spiral walkway under its soaring glass dome; enjoy a private tour of the Berlin Cathedral, including a rousing performance on its 7,000-pipe organ; and stroll through the bustling Potsdamer Platz and the quaint narrow streets of the Nikolai Quarter.

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.

PHOTO CREDITS:
(From dreamstime.com) Reichstag © Tobias Macchaus; Charles Bridge © courtyardpix; Cecilienhof Palace © Igorj1972, Bastie © Pichlraov; Meissen © Sergey Borisov; Meissen Porcelain © Olaf Speier; Dresden © Lukas Blaizek, Dessau © Claudiodivizia; Wittenberg © Bkaiser; Prague Towers © Nsahraj; Brandenburg Gate © Dragkich
The delightful Elbe Princesse, launched in 2016, is specifically designed to navigate the rapidly-changing conditions of the Elbe River using advanced engineering technologies. With stern wheel propulsion and a remarkably shallow draft, she is able to navigate low waters and traverse areas that other vessels operating in this region are not. Accommodating a maximum of just 70 passengers, a warm and intimate atmosphere is created on board. The restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting, and the lounge is a pleasant space for relaxation with panoramic windows, a large TV, and a bar area. With plenty of light in public areas and a large Sun Deck, there is ample opportunity to watch the shoreline gently glide by as you relax on your comfortable floating hotel and take advantage of the open bar. Wifi (intermittent) is accessible throughout the vessel.

**PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>DOUBLE</th>
<th>SINGLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAIN DECK 156 sq. ft., picture windows</td>
<td>$7,990</td>
<td>$12,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPPER DECK 156 sq. ft., large sliding windows with balcony rail</td>
<td>$8,990</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAIN DECK SINGLE 118 sq. ft., picture windows</td>
<td>$11,990</td>
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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE**

- All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including two hotel nights and eight nights aboard Elbe Princesse
- Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations
- Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates
- Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, wait staff, guides, and drivers for all group activities
- Entrance fees and port charges
- Welcome and farewell wine receptions
- House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners
- Bottled water on motorcoaches
- Complete packet of pre-departure information
- Professional tour manager throughout the program

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS**

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

The pace of this tour is moderately active, with considerable walking each day, often over rough, cobblestoned terrain. Participants should be in good health, physically fit, and capable of undertaking this level of activity without assistance from tour staff. By forwarding the deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other participants. SARS-COV-2 (COVID 19) vaccinations are required for all participants as well as tour staff and shipboard crew. Up-to-date COVID-related protocols and procedures will be communicated in pre-trip documents.

**GROUP SIZE**

This program is limited to 62 participants, including travelers from Harvard Alumni Travel, Vanderbilt Alumni Travel, and The National Trust for Historic Preservation.
To reserve space, please call (415) 597-6720 (preferred method) or complete the reservation form and mail it with your check or credit card information to: The Commonwealth Club, 110 The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA 94105. You may also fax the form to (415) 597-6729 and your reservation will be held pending receipt of your check or credit card information. If you have questions, please call (415) 597-6720 or email travel@commonwealthclub.org.

NAME #1
BIRTH-DATE
NAME #2
BIRTH-DATE
MAILING ADDRESS

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

E-MAIL(S)

MEMBERSHIP

We require membership in the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. Please check one of the following options:

- I am a current member of the Commonwealth Club
- Please renew my membership with the credit card information provided here
- I will visit commonwealthclub.org/membership to sign up for a membership

PAYMENT

- Please charge the deposit to my credit card (circle one):

  - VISA
  - MC
  - AMEX
  - Discover

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD #

EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD

DATE

I Enclosed is my check for $_______ ($1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) to reserve ______ place(s) on Cruising the Elbe River

SINGLE TRAVELERS

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

- I prefer to have single accommodations.
- I plan to share accommodations with:

  - or
  - I’d like to know about roommates

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of December 5, 2022, I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference:

- 1st Choice ______
- 2nd Choice ______

Bed Preference (not guaranteed):

- One bed
- Two beds

I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein:

SIGNATURE

DATE

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088600-40

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