THE Elbe River

A VOYAGE FROM PRAGUE TO BERLIN

aboard Swiss Ruby • April 28–May 8, 2015

With Scott Burnham, Scheide Professor of Music History
Dear Princetonian,

Long an important delineator of east and west, the Elbe River links two of the most fascinating capitals of Europe—Prague and Berlin—as it traverses a land filled with captivating treasures. Join your fellow Princetonians for a seven-night river cruise aboard the intimate *Swiss Ruby*.

Begin with two days in Prague, including visits to Prague Castle and the remarkably well-preserved Old Town. Marvel at the fortress-crowned crags and spectacular gorges of “Saxon Switzerland” as you cruise across the border into former East Germany. See the Wittenberg church where Martin Luther posted his 95 Reformation Theses. Tour Meissen’s fine porcelain workshop, the treasures of Dresden’s Green Vault, and Potsdam’s whimsical Sanssouci Palace. For those wishing to lengthen their stay, a post-tour extension in Berlin is available.

Princeton travelers will be joined by those from Yale and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Contact the Princeton Journeys team at (609) 258-8686 or journeys@princeton.edu to reserve your place today.

With kind regards,

Leslie J. Rowley
Executive Director, Princeton Journeys
The Office of Alumni Affairs
Princeton University

*This page: The skyline of Dresden's Old Town glows at sunset.*

*On the cover: The spectacular cathedral and Albrechtsburg Castle at Meissen*

*Back cover: Königstein Fortress perches high above the Elbe in Saxony*
SCOTT BURNHAM, the Schiede Professor of Music History and Princeton University, specializes in the music of the Viennese Classical Style and beyond, including Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn, and Schubert. In 2013, Burnham was awarded Princeton’s Howard T. Behrman Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Humanities. He has also been the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Humanities Center. On the Princeton faculty since 1989, he is known for his courses on various levels of music theory and analysis including “The Life and Times of the String Quartet” and “Beethoven.” In addition to his widely-acclaimed book Beethoven Hero and his more recent work Mozart’s Grace, which explores aspects of beauty in Mozart’s music, he has also published essays about humor in Haydn, memory in Schubert, and manic drama in Schumann. On this Journey, Professor Burnham will concentrate primarily on Mozart and Bach.

An expert in Medieval German Studies, Professor WILLIAM WHOBREY earned his Ph.D. at Stanford University in 1991 and joined the Yale faculty in 1994. He has done extensive research in Germany, with special emphasis on medieval German literature in its heroic and Christian contexts. Professor Whobrey has completed a book on the idea of exile in early medieval literature, and is currently writing about the material transmission of medieval culture. A recipient of the Morse Fellowship and a member of Yale’s Medieval Studies Executive Committee, he is a popular teacher with a reputation for vigorous classroom discussions and challenging seminar topics. “The lands along the Elbe have shaped some of the most important developments in European history, from Luther’s religious reformation to the unification of Germany under the Hohenzollern monarchy,” Professor Whobrey has observed. “From the Middle Ages to their most recent political transformation, eastern Germany and the Czech Republic have made significant contributions to the rich cultural heritage of the West.” Professor Whobrey looks forward to sharing his knowledge of central European culture with Yale alumni as they cruise the Elbe River together.
**ITINERARY**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 28–WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29**

**U.S./Prague, Czech Republic**
Depart the U.S. independently on overnight flights to Prague. Arrive on Wednesday and transfer to your hotel, located on the edge of Prague’s historic Old Town. **PRAHUE MARRIOTT**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 30**

**Prague**
Spend the morning in Prague’s Jewish Quarter, visiting the haunting Old Jewish Cemetery and the 13th-century Old-New Synagogue, the oldest active synagogue in Europe. In the afternoon, explore Prague at leisure, then gather for a welcome reception, dinner, and private concert at the incomparable Lobkowicz Palace. **PRAHUE MARRIOTT (B,R,D)**

**FRIDAY, MAY 1**

**Prague/Embark**
Visit the magnificent Strahov Library for a private tour of the collection of original prints and manuscripts. Continue to the expansive Prague Castle, a royal residence as far back as the 10th century and still the seat of Czech government. Within its walls find Renaissance-era St. Vitus Cathedral, the soaring hilltop structure that incorporates a unique mix of Gothic and Baroque elements. Its impressive art collection features the jewel-studded burial chapel of St. Wenceslaus, Prague’s patron saint. See the Old Royal Palace, one of the oldest parts of the castle, including its long throne room and soaring Vladislav Hall, once the site of coronation banquets and indoor jousting tournaments. Embark **Swiss Ruby** for the first of seven nights aboard, with a welcome reception before dinner. **SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)**

**SATURDAY, MAY 2**

**Prague/Cruising**
Set out on a walking tour of charming Old Town Prague, largely unchanged for centuries. See Old Town Square, home of an intricately decorated astronomical clock and the iconic pointed spires of Tyn Cathedral. Stroll among the street artists and musicians across the Charles Bridge, which spans the Vltava River and offers spectacular views of Prague Castle and the domes and turrets of Old Town. Reboard the **Swiss Ruby** for lunch and spend the afternoon cruising toward the German border. **SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)**

**SUNDAY, MAY 3**

**Bad Schandau/Königstein, Germany**
Observe the maze of pinnacles, ravines, and bizarre rock formations as **Swiss Ruby** cruises through “Saxon Switzerland.” Ascend to the spectacular Bastei Rock Tower, which offers sweeping views of the river and distant mountains. Visit the charming spa town of Bad Schandau, a summer resort for more than two centuries, and the imposing Königstein Fortress, one of the largest hilltop strongholds in Europe, superbly situated above a delightfully scenic stretch of the Elbe. **SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)**
**MONDAY, MAY 4**

**Dresden/Meissen**

One of the most beautiful cities in Germany, Dresden is renowned for its splendid Baroque architecture and world-class art collections. This morning, explore Dresden Castle’s Green Vault and its glittering displays of precious objects from the late Renaissance and Rococo periods, said to be the largest collection of treasures in Europe. Also visit the distinctive Frauenkirche, newly rebuilt and reconsecrated in 2005 after being leveled by Allied bombs during World War II. Continue to Meissen, where the formula for hard-paste porcelain was discovered in 1708. Visit the workshop where the “white gold” is still made by hand, and gaze upon the exquisite collection at the Porcelain Museum.

**SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)**

**TUESDAY, MAY 5**

**Wittenburg**

Call at Wittenburg and visit the Castle Church, where in 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church 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 tour of the city, see Luther’s home as well as St. Mary’s Church, where he often preached.

**SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6**

**Magdeburg/Leipzig**

Call at Magdeburg, founded by Charlemagne in 805 and one of the most important medieval cities in Europe. Travel to Leipzig to gaze upon the St. Thomas Church, where composer Johann Sebastian Bach worked and taught during the 18th century. Also see the 300-foot-tall Battle of Nations Monument, built on the site of the largest battle in Europe prior to WWI, Napoleon’s first decisive military defeat. This afternoon, cruise the incredible 35-mile-long Havel Canal, transiting three locks en route to Potsdam.

**SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)**

**THURSDAY, MAY 7**

**Potsdam/Berlin**

In Potsdam, explore the magnificent and gloriously Rococo Sanssouci Palace and Park, originally sketched by Frederick the Great and now the largest UNESCO World Heritage Site in Germany. Visit Cecilienhof Palace, site of the historic Potsdam Conference where Churchill, Truman and Stalin met in 1945. Tour the conference rooms and view the large collection of photos and memorabilia from the era. Also view the unique Dutch Quarter, built in the 1700s to make skilled Dutch artisans and craftsmen feel at home. This afternoon, cruise to Berlin and join the captain for a farewell reception and dinner aboard.

**SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)**

**FRIDAY, MAY 8**

**Disembark/Return to U.S.**

Disembark Swiss Ruby and transfer to Berlin airport for return flights to the U.S. (B)

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**MAY 8–11, 2014**

**Berlin Extension**

Extend your stay in Berlin on a three-night, post-trip extension in this exciting capital city. Immerse yourself in the great cultural venues of the city: the masterpieces at the Kulturforum Picture Gallery and the ancient treasures of the Pergamon Museum. Reflect on a somber period in German history at Checkpoint Charlie and the Holocaust Museum. Admire the stunning architecture, from the historic Berlin Cathedral and Brandenburg Gate to the dramatic architecture of the many buildings and complexes that have arisen since the end of the Cold War. Visit the Norman Foster–enhanced Reichstag and have lunch in its domed restaurant and enjoy traditional German cuisine at local restaurants.

*Per person, sharing $2,490 / $2,855 single*
**SWISS RUBY**

Launched in 2002 in Germany and refurbished in late 2012, the delightful *MS Swiss Ruby* accommodates a maximum of just 88 passengers. With its moderate draught, the vessel is ideally suited for this voyage along the Vltava and Elbe Rivers and the Havel Canal.

The 44 comfortable outward-facing cabins feature an en suite bathroom with shower, air conditioning, television, telephone, hairdryer, minibar, and a safe. Cabins on the Emerald Deck have a non-opening picture window and twin beds that can be converted into a double bed. Cabins on the Ruby Deck have fixed twin beds and a French balcony.

Public areas are spacious and elegantly decorated with panoramic windows so you can enjoy the view wherever you are. The lounge on the Ruby Deck is a relaxing environment to watch the passing scenery, browse the library, or enjoy a drink from the bar. The restaurant seats all passengers in one sitting and is located on the Emerald Deck. There is also a spacious sun deck with comfortable deck furniture, where you can relax and enjoy the passing scenery. Please note: There is no elevator on board.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

The pace of this tour is moderately active, with some walking each day. All participants should be in good health and capable of walking over rough terrain 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 him/herself or other participants.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS**

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Economy class airfare between New York or L.A. and Prague with return from Berlin is approximately $1,175 as of August 2014 and is subject to change without notice.

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**SIZE**

This program is limited to 75 participants, including travelers from Princeton, Yale, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

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**PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE**

- All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary
- All excursions as specified in the itinerary
- Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations
- Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure days
- Baggage handling at hotels and ship
- Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers
- Gratuities to shipboard personnel
- Port charges
- Entrance fees
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
- Wine, beer, and soft drinks at all group meals
- Bottled water on motorcoaches
- Professional Tour Manager

**PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE**

- U.S. domestic and international airfare
- Passport/visa expenses
- Medical expenses and immunizations
- Airport transfers for those not arriving or departing on designated dates
- Trip cancellation/interruption insurance
- Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour
- Excess baggage charges
- Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals
- Laundry or dry cleaning
- Telephone, email and fax charges
- Room service
- Other items of a personal nature

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RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS: To reserve space, return the completed reservation form with your $1,000 per person deposit to: Princeton Journeys, John Maclean House, P.O. Box 291, Princeton, NJ 08542-0291 or fax to (609) 258-5561. Balance of payment is due December 29, 2014. We accept personal checks, payable to Criterion Travel, as well as Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Diners Club, and Discover. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Princeton Journeys. Deposits are refundable (less a $250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. Cancellations within 120 days of departure are 100% nonrefundable. For this reason we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. If the program is cancelled by Princeton Journeys or our tour operator, you will receive a full refund, without further obligation on our part. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. Note: Neither The Office of Alumni Affairs of Princeton University nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

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NAME #1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT)   PRINCETON AFFILIATION

NAME #2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT)   PRINCETON AFFILIATION

STREET/CITY/STATE/ZIP

HOME PHONE              BUSINESS PHONE

FAX                        E-MAIL

PAYMENT
☐ Enclosed is my check for $______ ($1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel), to hold _____ place(s) on The Elbe River, OR
☐ Charge my deposit to:
  ☐ MasterCard    ☐ VISA    ☐ AmEx    ☐ Discover

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER   EXP. DATE   SEC. CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

SINGLE TRAVELERS
☐ I prefer to have single accommodations.
☐ I will share accommodations with
☐ I am willing to share with another participant (not guaranteed).
☐ I am a ☐ Non-smoker ☐ Smoker.
  I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of December 29, 2014, I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Cabin category preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____
Bed preference in hotels (not guaranteed): ☐ King/Queen ☐ Twins
Bed preference on ship: ☐ Twin beds joined as double ☐ Twins

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

SIGNATURE                  DATE

SIGNATURE                  DATE

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A voyage from Prague to Berlin
aboard Swiss Ruby
April 28–May 8, 2015

Spend seven nights aboard the 4-star Swiss Ruby, featuring just 44 outside staterooms, well suited for an intimate experience with education-seeking travelers.

Dine in an elegant historic castle, taste specialty wines of the region, and sample fresh local cuisine.

Visit the splendid hilltop Castle and the Old-New Jewish Synagogue in Prague and the Castle Church in Wittenberg where Luther started the Protestant Reformation.

See the inspiration for Wagner’s Lohengrin in “Saxon Switzerland,” enjoy a piano recital aboard the ship, and hear from Professor Scott Burnham on the life and works of Mozart and Bach.

Admire the masterpieces of the Green Vault in Dresden, the porcelain collections in Meissen, and the Strahov Monastery Library’s mosaics and precious tomes during a private tour in Prague.