

Brand *g*

# PRAGUE AND DANUBE RIVER CRUISE

August 11 - 20, 2019

Program Guide

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# BEFORE YOU GO

## PERSONAL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

**Passport:** A passport that is valid for at least six (6) months after your return date is required for this program.

Visas: U.S. and Canadian citizens do not need visas for countries visited. Other nationalities should consult the local embassies or consulates for visa requirements.

All documentation required for this itinerary is the sole responsibility of the guest. Brand g will not be responsible for advising and/or obtaining required travel documentation for any passenger, or for any delays, damages, and/or losses, including missed portions of your trip, related to improper or absent travel documentation. It is suggested that copies of important documents, including your passport and visas, be kept in a separate place, in case the originals are lost or stolen.

**Travel Protection:** While travel insurance is not required to participate in this program, Brand g strongly recommends that each guest purchase a travel protection plan, as unforeseen circumstances can occur both prior to and during travel. Brand g's recommended travel insurance provider is Travel Guard Insurance. They may be reached at 1-800-826-4919 or [www.travelguard.com/brandgvacations](http://www.travelguard.com/brandgvacations). Please be sure to carry all policy information with you during your program.

## HEALTH AND MOBILITY

Vaccinations: At the time of this printing, no vaccinations are required for entering the countries visited, but it is recommended that all guests discuss available vaccinations and any other health concerns they may have with their personal physician or a travel medicine specialist.

The consulates of the countries to be visited will also provide information on vaccination requirements and/or suggestions. You may also consult your home country's centers for disease control for their current recommendations. Their website in the US is <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

**Physical Limitations:** This River Cruise program is active. While there will be plenty of time to relax, there is much to see and do. Many included excursions require an extensive amount of walking over cobblestone streets, and many sites have numerous steps that may be steeper and narrower than is common in the U.S. For your safety and enjoyment, we recommend that all guests be in good physical condition. Brand g at its sole discretion, reserves the right to refuse passage, or to require a current passenger to end his or her trip, if the passenger's state of health or physical condition may affect his/her own health, safety, or enjoyment or that of other passengers.

**Medical:** The ship does not employ staff nurses or doctors onboard, nor can the onboard gift shop carry medications that are sold over the counter. Most European nations allow the sale of medications by licensed pharmacies only, therefore guests should bring their medications with them. Should a guest require medical attention it will be done at a local facility. Any medical expenses incurred during the trip are the guest's own responsibility, and Brand g is not responsible for costs of medical service or the quality of medical care received. A travel insurance policy that covers medical expenses while traveling internationally is highly recommended.

**Dietary Preferences:** Please advise us of any special dietary restrictions at least 15 days prior to your departure. This information will be provided to the proper personnel, and to the extent possible within local conditions and limitations, every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. It is the guest's responsibility to provide us with as much detail as possible concerning any medically related dietary concerns. Not all dietary requests can be accommodated, and we appreciate your understanding in this matter.

## LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

While there are no restrictions on the number of bags each guest may bring on board the ship, storage space is limited, and it is suggested that each guest bring only one checked bag. Additionally, all airlines impose restrictions on both size and weight, and many airlines restrict the number of bags per person. Each guest must check with his or her selected air carrier for limitations prior to departure, as luggage restrictions are subject to change. Guests who exceed an airline's luggage restrictions may be asked by the airline to pay the airline's overweight/oversized luggage fees.

An airline's limitations on the weight and size of checked and carry-on baggage are usually found on their website or may be obtained by calling the airline directly. Please remember that international (over the water) and domestic (intra continental) restrictions may not be the same.

Your luggage and all personal belongings are solely your responsibility throughout the trip. Brand g is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged luggage or personal belongings. Selecting a travel insurance plan that will cover lost or stolen luggage and/or personal items is highly recommended.

Please place luggage tags on the outside of all of your bags, including carry on and hand luggage, and include a copy of your contact information during the trip on the inside of your checked bags. Valuables and medication should only be packed in your carry-on bags (unless required to be placed in checked bags by your airline).

## PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Brand g issues all final documents by email between 30 and 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided that full payment has been made and the Passenger Information Forms have been fully completed (either online or through the Brand g online booking website, email or hard copy mailed to the Brand g office).

# GETTING THERE

## AIRPORT SECURITY AND CHECK-IN

Please be sure to contact your airline prior to departure and verify there have been no changes to the flight number or schedule. If you have an airport transfer confirmed with Brand g, please advise of any schedule change affecting your airport pick up time.

Please be sure you are familiar with current airport security procedures and arrive at the airport at least two and a half (2.5) hours prior to your scheduled departure. During peak travel times, you may want to arrive three (3) hours prior to your scheduled departure time.

## CUSTOMS

Entry documents will be required at all border crossings, so please carry proper identification with you at all times, and never place it in checked luggage.

When arriving by airplane, it is not unusual for a border guard to ask you questions such as “where you are from,” “where are you going,” “how long will you be there,” or “what is the purpose of your trip.” Always answer honestly and politely.

If you are bringing laptops, cameras, or other electrical equipment with you on your trip, you may be required to register these items with the local customs authority to ensure you are not charged duty on these items when you return home.

Most items you purchase internationally can be brought back into the US and Canada. We do recommend, however, that you check with both your home country’s customs office for current restrictions, as well as with the embassies of the countries you are visiting for any restrictions on items that may be unlawful to take outside their borders.

When you return to your home country, you should be prepared to declare everything you purchased or acquired while traveling. Many countries will ask you to complete a customs form, which will require descriptions and values of the items. These forms are easier to complete if you keep your sales receipts easily accessible. Most countries have set customs duty exemptions for both quantity and value of certain items. We suggest that you familiarize yourself with these allowances and limits prior to your travel.

## HOTEL CHECK-IN/HOTEL CHECK-OUT

Please be advised that most hotels do not allow check-in earlier than 3:00pm. If you arrive at the hotel before 3:00pm, you may need to wait until the room becomes available. Hotel check-out is usually no later than 11:00am. If your arrival or departure schedule does not coincide with these times, you may ask the hotel to store your luggage while you explore independently. Please note that every effort is made to ensure that your hotel room is available and ready for occupancy upon your arrival at the hotel, but this is not always possible. A short wait for your room to become available may be unavoidable. Depending on your scheduled arrival or departure, you may wish to purchase an early check-in or late check-out, or an additional hotel night, to guarantee availability of your room. Feel free to contact your travel agent or Brand g to review your arrival and departure and discuss any special check-in and/or check-out needs.

## TRANSFERS

**Main Program Arrival Transfers:** Guests arriving at Prague’s Václav Havel International Airport will be met by our local representatives and transferred to the Intercontinental Prague Hotel. Please refer to your personalized travel documents to determine if your arrival transfers will be provided accurately to your flight details. You will find this information on the page entitled *Transfer Information*. If you feel the information listed on that page is not correct, please contact Brand g at 1-800-433-4303 (toll free within the U.S.) or 952-405-9309, email [info@brandgvacations.com](mailto:info@brandgvacations.com), or contact your travel agent immediately.

For those with transfers, our representatives will welcome you in the arrival’s hall (after customs) with a

Brand g logo sign. You will enter the arrivals hall after passing through passport control, collecting your luggage and after proceeding through customs. If you do not see our representative immediately, please wait at least 20 minutes. If no one arrives, or if you have any other problems with your airport pick-up, please call our local representative whose number will be provided on your *Transfer Information* page.

Guests are responsible for providing their most up-to-date flight details. Please inform us immediately if you receive notice of changes to your arrival flight.

**Main Program Departure Transfers:** In Budapest, those guests departing from the ship on the program end date, or those departing from the Intercontinental Budapest post cruise extension hotel, will be transferred to the Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport or train station. Your Brand g tour leader will provide you with the exact meeting point and time for meeting your transfer prior to the end of the trip.

Flight information for all guests must be provided to Brand g no later than 15 days prior to departure in order for transfers to be properly arranged. Your flight arrangements must also be made in accordance with Brand g's recommended transfer guidelines. Guests are responsible for providing their most up-to-date flight details.

**Travel Delays:** If you experience a travel delay while still in your home country, after working with your air carrier to revise your flight schedule, please contact Brand g's Minneapolis-based Operations Office at 1-800-433-4303 (toll free within the U.S.) or 952-405-9309 to advise us of your revised arrival date and time. If the line is busy or you are calling outside of general business hours, please leave a message. The Minneapolis office is on central time (GMT -5 hours).

If you have already departed your home country, please contact our local staff at the numbers provided on the Communication Information page that is included with your personalized travel documents.

If you purchased travel insurance that covers flight delay and cancellation expenses, you will also want to contact your travel insurance company to start a claim for expenses incurred during your delay. If the delay is serious enough that you will miss the starting point of your cruise, any additional hotel, and/or flight arrangements necessary to meet your group will be at your expense.

**Baggage Delays:** Baggage delays unfortunately occur from time to time, especially during peak travel periods. If you discover any bag did not make it to your destination, do not leave the airport baggage area without completing a Lost Baggage Report with your air carrier. This report is essential to the tracking of your claim. If you have an airport transfer scheduled, and are traveling with a companion, we recommend that one person exit the baggage claim area and locate the representative to inform him or her of the situation. This will allow the representative to ensure that the transfer is properly provided. Give the air carrier a copy of your travel itinerary, along with the hotel and ship contact information. Report your lost baggage to your Brand g host and provide them with a copy of your Lost Baggage Report. Brand g is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged baggage and/or personal belongings. Selecting a travel insurance plan that will cover lost or stolen luggage and/or personal items is highly recommended.

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Brand g is not responsible for late arrivals or missed transfers due to delayed, canceled, or missed flights; for missed trip days; or for extra costs resulting from delayed, changed, canceled, or missed flights.

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# PROGRAM INFORMATION

## CONTACTING HOME

The ability to stay in touch with friends and family is an important part of travel, and many guests choose to bring cell phones on the trip. International roaming charges can be expensive, and it is advisable to contact your local carrier to determine the charges and plans available for each country you are visiting, then select the best available plan for your expected usage. In some countries, SIM cards are available for purchase that can be used in an unlocked phone (call your carrier to determine if your phone is, or can be, unlocked), providing a local number that can be used both locally and internationally, usually at a significantly lower rate.

Making international calls from the hotel and ship is possible, but costly. Connection fees are usually applied, in addition to other charges.

Onboard *Amadeus Queen* the ship features free internet and Wi-Fi access. The Brand g host hotels also offer free Wi-Fi.

Should you choose to bring your cell phone, please refrain from conducting conversations during the guides' excursion commentary and any lectures so as not to disturb others.

## CURRENCY AND MONEY MATTERS

The official currency in the Czech Republic is the Czech Koruna, in Germany, Austria, and Slovakia, and onboard *Amadeus Queen* it is the Euro and the Hungarian Forint is the currency for Hungary. US Dollars and Euros may also be accepted at some shops and restaurants throughout the itinerary; however change will be provided in the local currency and often at lower exchange rates than available through ATMs, banks or other currency exchange facilities. If using US Dollars, it is advisable to use small bills.

The ship operates on a 'cashless' system and all charges are billed directly to each guest's onboard account. While onboard, guests will sign for all purchases and pay their charges at the end of the cruise with a credit card; cards accepted are American Express, MasterCard, and Visa. Credit cards will be charged in Euros. Debit cards and Travelers Checks cannot be accepted for settling the onboard account.

**ATMs:** ATMs connected to bank networks such as PLUS or Cirrus are widely available in most major metropolitan areas, airports, city centers, and some hotels. Fees for transactions vary. ATMs are not available onboard the ships and may be limited in the smaller towns and villages along the Danube River. Your bank can tell you which network your ATM card can access, and whether a debit or credit card must be used. It is also recommended that guests bring an overseas contact number for your bank or credit card company in case you require assistance while traveling.

We recommend that you change or withdraw enough local currency while in larger cities, as ATMs and banks may not be readily available in some of the smaller towns along the itinerary. Also, we recommend that you not carry bills in large denominations, as many merchants are hesitant to accept them due to counterfeiting. Local banks can break the larger bills into smaller denominations for you.

**Credit Cards and Travelers Checks:** Most major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, and American Express) are accepted worldwide. Credit cards are also accepted onboard.

There may be some stores or locations where cash is preferred (especially for small purchases) or where a card cannot be used for purchases. We recommend bringing at least one major credit card as well as an ATM card that is both a debit and credit card. Travelers Checks are not widely used in Europe and it is becoming difficult to cash them at banks. Additionally, Travelers Checks cannot be cashed onboard the ship, so we recommend not bringing them.

Please contact your bank and/or credit card companies to let them know that you will be leaving the country to avoid any problems using your credit or debit cards overseas.

## ELECTRICAL CURRENT

The voltage in hotels and onboard ship is 220v, European standard. To use any electrical product from the US or Canada you will need a plug adaptor and any device that is not dual voltage will require an electrical converter. Many electronic devices have built-in electrical converters, however, please check the manufacturer's specifications for specific details.

## EXCURSIONS

Your tour program includes comprehensive shore excursions led by a local English-speaking guide; these excursions have been designed to provide you with the best possible experience. Your Brand g host will provide details on each day's excursion(s) and timing. If you are concerned about any aspect of an excursion, please inform your Brand g tour leader.

## FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED

The *Amadeus Queen* is equipped with an elevator that services all decks except the Sun Deck.

Please note: the American with Disabilities Act does not apply in Europe and accessibility to some sights may be limited. Embarkation and disembarkation facilities may also be impossible to navigate with wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, or any other mechanical device.

## GRATUITIES

Gratuities for the included components of this program have been pre-paid. At your discretion, you may choose to provide additional tips for exemplary service. It is best to provide these tips in cash, directly to the individual or individuals you wish to reward.

## PROGRAM STAFF

A Brand g Tour Leader will be with you during your travel program to handle all the details, leaving you to relax and enjoy your vacation.

## SECURITY

As in all big cities, pickpockets are not uncommon, and caution is encouraged. We recommend wearing purses and cameras across your body when walking and holding them securely when entering and exiting taxis and buses. We also recommend leaving jewelry and other valuables at home.

Personal, in-room safes are provided in each hotel and on board the ship. Brand g cannot be held liable for loss of money, jewelry, or other valuable items from the ship, from a hotel, or while on an excursion.

## SHOPPING

Many shops in Europe may be closed on Sundays and holidays. There is often free time built into the schedule for shopping or other activities. Additionally, we try to allow shopping during excursions where possible. On excursions where shopping is possible, the actual amount of time available may be limited due to tour constraints.

## SMOKING

On the ship, smoking is allowed only on designated parts of the Sun Deck. The hotels have open areas where smoking is allowed and may offer smoking areas in specific sections of some indoor lounges. All hotel rooms and ship staterooms are non-smoking.

## WATER

The ship has been outfitted with a sophisticated filtration system, and the tap water in each stateroom is safe for drinking. In addition, bottled water is provided in your stateroom for your comfort.

## WEATHER

Weather forecasts are widely available on the Internet, and some of the favorites for large, international cities are <https://weather.com/> and [www.cnn.com/weather](http://www.cnn.com/weather). Brand g's preferred resource for up-to-the-minute weather in the rural areas we visit is Weather Underground, which may be found at [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com).

Average temperatures throughout this itinerary in August typically range from 57 – 81 degrees Fahrenheit (14C – 27C).

## WHAT TO BRING

**Travel Essentials:** The following items are essential for any destination: sunglasses, sunscreen, hat, and umbrella. It is recommended that you bring duplicates of prescription eyewear, copies of prescriptions for any medications (generic equivalents are usually easier to obtain), copies of credit card information, and copies of your passport information pages and visas.

**Clothing:** Comfortable, casual clothing is appropriate both onshore and onboard and we suggest lightweight clothing that can be layered. Shorts are appropriate for most tours; however long pants may be required for inside visits on some excursions. Your cruise manager will advise when and if this is required. You may wish to bring something a bit dressier for one or two dinners on board and in case you wish to attend a concert or have a special dinner off the ship. Mix-and-match color schemes work best to help keep baggage light. You will participate in a significant amount of walking over uneven terrain during your time ashore. We recommend comfortable walking shoes with good ankle support. Sturdy sandals are another good option.

Don't forget to pack a lightweight, waterproof jacket (preferably hooded) or even a heavier-weight wind-breaker for cooler temperatures. Also, keep in mind that the ship, motor coaches and other venues visited on our itinerary are air conditioned and may be quite cool. We recommend that you pack a lightweight sweater or long sleeve shirts and carry them with you on excursions.

## OMISSIONS WAIVER

### OMISSIONS

Brand g is not responsible for omissions, printing and/or presentation errors in brochures, on Internet sites, or in any other media where such information may be presented. We reserve the right to make corrections as required.

### RESPONSIBILITY WAIVER

The Passenger accepts the terms and conditions of the Contract of Passage when participating in any Brand g cruise/excursion/tour/land extension. Participation in some shore excursions or tours may also be subject to an independent operator's own Terms and Conditions.

# AMENITIES AND SERVICES

## ABOARD THE *AMADEUS QUEEN*

**Dining:** The ship's onboard restaurant provides a relaxed environment and accommodates all guests with open seating. It offers international and local cuisine. Breakfast and lunch are sumptuous buffets, with evenings featuring chef's specialties and regional dishes.

In addition, an early riser breakfast and a light lunch alternative is offered in the Panorama bar. There are also afternoon and late-night snacks served in the Panorama bar.

Please notify Brand g at least 15 days in advance if you have any special dietary concerns or considerations that need to be considered. We will do our best to ensure that your request is accommodated but cannot guarantee all dietary needs and preferences can be met.

Complimentary coffee, tea, water, soft drinks, select wines and draft beer are included at lunch and dinner. Complimentary alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are served in the Panorama Bar throughout the cruise.

All mealtimes are scheduled around tour departures, and breakfast may take place very early in the morning.

**Fitness Center and Salon:** The Fitness Center offers modern fitness equipment. The hours of operation are generally from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm but may be adjusted based on each day's program. Use of the equipment is at your own risk.

The Salon offers massage and hair services (by appointment onboard).

## GIFT SHOP

There is a gift shop onboard has a limited selection of souvenirs and other sundries. All purchases are charged to your shipboard account. The hours of operation are adjusted to each day's program.

*Please note: No over-the-counter medications are available, in accordance with European laws.*

## GO ACTIVE

A limited number of complimentary bicycles are available for your onshore enjoyment. Bicycle and walking paths are easily accessible from some of the ports of call. The Cruise Manager onboard can offer recommendations. Bicycles may only be reserved through the Front Desk one (1) day in advance of the time you wish to use them (or on the day of, if available). Their use is solely at your own risk.

## HEALTH AND HYGIENE

As part of a commitment to a clean, safe, and healthy onboard environment, the *Amadeus Queen* practices a strict sanitization protocol. To assist in this important matter, the ship kindly asks all guests to wash their hands frequently and to consistently use the hand-sanitizer machines when entering the ship and when entering the restaurant. The machines are located just inside the main entrance to the ship and at the entrance to the restaurant.

## INTERNET

Complimentary wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi) is available and you may access the system using your own laptop computer or other Wi-Fi equipped device. Internet communications are occasionally unavailable due to signal loss resulting from the ship's location within the river's deep canyons. Front Desk staff will inform guests when to expect these communications black-outs.

*Please note:* The Internet connection might not be available in remote areas or when transiting locks. Expect the connectivity speed to be slower than your home connection.

## LAUNDRY

Full-service laundry is available on board. Please inquire at the Front Desk for a list of services and fees. There is no self-service laundry facility.

## LOUNGES AND COFFEE STATION

The Panorama Bar provides spectacular, expansive views at every turn. Relax in the comfort of soft chairs and sofas upholstered in fine fabrics and leathers. Enjoy the full-service bar and entertainment on select evenings. Coffee and tea are available here 24 hours a day.

## MAIL

Stamps are available for purchase at the Front Desk. Mail is posted daily unless local mail facilities are not available. Neither Brand g nor the ship is responsible for mail that is not properly delivered to the addressee by the postal service.

## MOORING AND DOCKING FACILITIES

Local river authorities allocate docking space around ship arrivals and departures in port. Typically, river ships dock facing upstream. Occasionally port conditions require ships to tie up alongside each other, in which case guests may be required to walk through another ship to access their own ship. This is part of the river cruise experience and is perfectly normal and beyond the control of Brand g and the ship company. Guests may experience obstructed views from staterooms when the ship is docked.

**Moving About the Ship:** As the ship is often in motion, and the decks are sometimes slippery, please take care when moving about the decks. Stairs may be steeper than you are used to, and it is best to always use the handrails.

## STATEROOM AMENITIES

Every stateroom is appointed with an individual thermostat for air-conditioning, a flat-screen TV, a hair dryer, a spacious wardrobe, a safe, and a bathroom provided with shower gel, shampoo, conditioner and body lotion. Amadeus Suites are additionally equipped with a minibar and a comfortable seating area. Electrical current is 220V, the European standard. Most staterooms have hotel-style beds that can be positioned separately or together. Your stateroom will be serviced by your Stateroom Attendant daily. Security and maintenance checks may also be performed.

## VISITORS

Visitors are generally not permitted onboard the ship and are not allowed to join any shore excursions. Please make arrangements to meet your friends and relatives onshore.

## THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL - PRAGUE

### Hotel Amenities:

- Roof Top Restaurant and terrace Zlata Praha
- Restaurant Primator
- Duke's Bar & Cafe
- 24-hour business center
- Health club & spa with workout facilities, 2 saunas, gym, solarium, massages treatments.
- Standard and same-day laundry and dry-cleaning service (additional charge)
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout hotel
- Concierge service

### Room Amenities:

- Premium cable/satellite TV with in-room movies
- Wi-Fi, telephone and voicemail
- Individually controlled air conditioner
- In-room safe
- Bathrobe and slippers
- Hair dryer
- Complimentary coffee and tea facilities
- Complimentary access to the Health Club
- Minibar (additional charge)

## INTERCONTINENTAL BUDAPEST (OPTIONAL POST HOTEL)

### Hotel Amenities:

- Corso Restaurant
- Corso Bar & Terrace
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the hotel
- Concierge Services
- Health & Fitness Club with lap pool, steam room, sauna and treatments rooms
- ATM/Cash Machine
- Standard and same-day laundry and dry-cleaning service (additional charge)
- Business Center

### Room Amenities:

- Premium cable/satellite TV with in-room movies
- Bathrobe & Hair Dryer
- Wake Up service/Alarm Clock
- Complimentary coffee and tea facilities
- Minibar (additional charge)
- In-room safe

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What about the weather?**

Prepare for a variety of weather conditions. Layering clothing items is always your best bet, as this allows each person to adjust to any temperature, including artificially maintained temperature, by removing or adding items throughout the day.

## **What should I wear?**

Comfortable, casual clothing is appropriate both onshore and on board. You will find a significant amount of walking over uneven terrain during your time ashore. We recommend comfortable walking shoes with good ankle support, as well as head covering to protect from the sun. At some sites, you may also be required to have knees and shoulders covered. Don't forget to pack a waterproof jacket (preferably hooded) for unpredictable rain and cooler temperatures. You may also wish to bring something a bit dressier for one or two evenings or a special event such as a classical concert, but jacket and gowns are never a requirement.

## **I have concerns about my physical ability. What do I do?**

Guests with mobility concerns should discuss their concerns with Brand g at the time of booking. Guests requiring the use of a mobility device, such as a wheelchair, motorized scooter, or walker, may not be able to participate in many shore excursions or use them on board the ships.

Also, guests who may be limited in their ability to walk long distances may also have difficulties, as there is often uneven terrain on many shore excursions. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your physician.

## **How accurate are the shore excursion/tour descriptions?**

Brand g makes every effort to ensure that shore excursions are performed as promoted and outlined. In certain circumstances beyond our control, it may not be possible or practical for an excursion to be performed exactly as written. The decision to cancel or alter excursions, and/or otherwise adjust or modify any element of an advertised excursion is at the sole discretion of Brand g, always considering the safety and best interests of the guests, and the intent of the overall product delivery. Any modifications deemed necessary to any excursion will not result in eligibility for a refund.

## **Can the itinerary change? What happens if it does change?**

You can count on the value of Brand g's experience and regional knowledge to make sure you enjoy your travel program, even when conditions beyond our control occur. Although every effort is made to keep itineraries as advertised, Brand g reserves the right to make changes and substitutions, as necessary, to ensure the safety of our guests and our vessels. Every effort will be made to alert guests of known changes, in advance of boarding. When this is not possible, all guests will be informed on board of any change or amendment.

Changes to itineraries, including the addition of extensive motor coach touring needed to arrive at the intended excursions, will not result in eligibility for a refund.

## **What time will excursions depart?**

All excursions are carefully coordinated into the daily schedule. Your Cruise Manager will conduct briefings, informing all guests of departure times, specifics about shore excursions/tours, suggested shopping and restaurant recommendations, where applicable, and other important information about upcoming activities. Guests are strongly encouraged to attend the briefings, as information will be presented that may not be included elsewhere, and guests are given the opportunity to ask questions about previous or future activities or events.

**Does each motor coach or walking group have its own tour guide?**

Yes. Each motor coach or walking group has its own English-speaking local guide. Brand g, through its travel partners endeavors to select the highest quality guides, who are well versed in the destination, and who will ensure that you have the best possible time ashore.

**What about tipping?**

Gratuities should always be in accordance with each guest's personal satisfaction. Gratuities for ship board staff as well as included hotel properties have been pre-paid. At your own discretion, you may choose to provide additional tips.

**Is smoking allowed on shore excursions/tours?**

Smoking is not allowed while on the motor coach, and many historical venues now request that visitors not smoke anywhere on site. We ask all our guests to refrain from smoking while on excursions/tours.

# ITINERARY

## PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC *to* BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

August 11, 2019

### PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Welcome to Prague! After settling in to the centrally located Intercontinental Prague, make the most of the remainder of your day by exploring the city on your own. Meet your fellow travelers at a welcome gathering in the early evening at the hotel. The exact details will be provided in your travel documents.

August 12, 2019

### PRAGUE

Your walking tour takes you through the of the streets of the Stare Mesto or “Old Town” to view the beautiful architecture, the 15th century astronomical clock and the Municipal Building. The afternoon is yours for relaxation and exploration. (Breakfast)

August 13, 2019

### PRAGUE/PASSAU, GERMANY (EMBARKATION)

From Prague, travel overland to Passau, Germany, to embark the *Amadeus Queen* for your Danube River Cruise. Passau is situated in a strategic position along the river, at the confluence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz Rivers. (Breakfast/Welcome Reception/Welcome Dinner)

August 14, 2019

### PASSAU/ SALZBURG, AUSTRIA (OPTIONAL EXCURSION) /LINZ

After breakfast enjoy a city walk through Passau, before returning to the ship for a scenic cruise along the Danube River to the city of Linz. This afternoon you will have the opportunity of a walking tour of Linz. Or, take an optional full-day tour to Salzburg. (Breakfast/Lunch\*/Dinner)

*(For the participants on the Salzburg optional excursion, you will depart the ship in Passau and travel to the beautiful city of Salzburg. Here, you will see the Mirabell Gardens and the Great Salzburg Festival Hall. Advance purchase is required. Contact your travel professional or Brand g Vacations. Enjoy free time for lunch in this historic city before joining the ship in Linz. \*Lunch is on own for participants of optional excursion.)*

August 15, 2019

### MELK/DÜRNSTEIN

Arrive in Melk for a visit to the famous Benedictine Abbey, one of the most significant baroque-style building complexes in Europe with its 900-year history. During the guided tour see the Marble Hall with its allegorical painted ceiling, the Imperial Rooms and the famous library with over 80,000 priceless books. The Abbey towers over the Danube River and provides a sweeping panorama of the Lower Alps.

During lunch, cruise the scenic Wachau Valley, the most picturesque part of the Danube, to the scenic town of Dürnstein, where King Richard the Lion-Heart of England was held captive by the Duke Leopold V. Explore this beautiful town on foot and enjoy a tasting of local wines, before departing for the regal city of Vienna. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)

*(Or, enjoy an optional scenic bike tour from Melk to Dürnstein. The ride is approximately 17.5 miles and it follows the river bank of the Danube. The route is generally flat and is surrounded by dramatic mountainous scenery. The ride will be leisurely with plenty of time to stop along the way. Advance purchase is required. Contact your travel professional, Brand g Vacations.)*

August 16, 2019

### **VIENNA**

Begin your visit to Vienna with a driving tour on the Ringstrasse past the Vienna Opera House to St. Stephen's Cathedral. Visit this Cathedral which is the seat of the Archbishop of Vienna. Built in the year 1339 by Duke Rudolf IV, this Romanesque and Gothic cathedral was witness to many important events in the Habsburg and Austrian history. After your visit continue to the Hofburg Palace Complex, which was the center of the gigantic Habsburg Empire. Visit the beautiful Prunksaal Hall of Honor and the National Treasury. Spend time in the city center or return to the ship for lunch. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)

August 17, 2019

### **VIENNA**

Another day in Vienna is yours to enjoy as you like. Relax onboard, stroll the city at your own pace or take the optional tour to Schonbrunn Palace. This evening take in an optional Strauss and Mozart concert at the Kursalon in Vienna. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)

August 18, 2019

### **VIENNA/BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA**

Bratislava is the capital of Slovakia and one of the most famous cities on the Danube. See St. Martin's Cathedral, Town Hall and St. Michael's Gate, the only city gate preserved from the medieval fortifications. When a Hungarian King was coronated at St. Martin's Cathedral the procession would proceed down the streets with a stop at St. Michael's Gate where the new king would pledge his oath at the hands of the archbishop. This afternoon relax onboard as the ship continues cruising the scenic Danube River to its final destination, Budapest, Hungary. (Breakfast/Lunch/Gala Dinner)

August 19, 2019

### **BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**

This morning's sightseeing tour takes you to historic Buda Castle, where you can enjoy a splendid view of the twin cities of Buda and Pest. Your tour also features the Fisherman's Bastion, the Royal Palace, St. Stephen's Basilica, Heroes' Square and more. After dinner, the ship will sail a special evening cruise past the city's beautiful riverfront. (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner)

August 20, 2019

### **BUDAPEST DISEMBARKATION**

This morning after breakfast, disembark the ship. Continue on to the Brand g optional post hotel, transfer to the airport or train station, or continue with your independent arrangements. (Breakfast)