



Collins Tours is pleased to host you for a thrilling river cruise along the peaceful and elegant Rhine and Main Rivers aboard the Avalon Impression. We meet in Lucerne, Switzerland in the heart of the Swiss Alps for two nights before travelling to Basel to embark on our luxury river cruise. With multiple stops in Germany & France before disembarking in Nuremberg, Germany this itinerary is full of exceptionally exciting destinations to be enjoyed at a leisurely pace. We extend our stay in imperial Austria with one night in the beautiful City of Mozart: Salzburg. Our European journey ends in Austria's capital city: Vienna, where we will spend two nights at the 5-star Marriott Vienna in the heart of the city. Live in luxury and meet new friends for this 5-star experience. After a read through this itinerary, I'm sure you will agree, Collins Tours has assembled yet another wonderful vacation for you.

Sincerely, Greg Collins – President & CEO

Day 1: Wednesday, Sep 18 - Overnight Flight, Canada - Zurich, Switzerland (D)

- For those who purchased Collins Tours Inclusive Airfare & Transfers, you will meet your tour manager at the Toronto Airport at the **designated meeting point (TBA)**. 1st piece of luggage included.
- Be sure to have your ***valid passport** with an expiry date permitting you to enter Switzerland and the European Union for Customs & Immigration which you will clear upon your arrival in Europe.
- Enjoy your overnight flight to Zurich, Switzerland with an in-flight meal & snack **(included)**.

Day 2: Thursday, Sep 19 – Zurich - Continental Hotel Lucerne, Switzerland (Welcome Reception)

- Arrive in Zurich, Switzerland! Your tour director will meet you at the baggage claim area after clearing customs before boarding our private motorcoach to Mt. Pilatus where you will take a gondola ride for the incredible view of Lake Lucerne and the surrounding Alps, followed by the cog railway trolley returning to the bus before heading to Hotel Continental Park in Lucerne, our home for the next two nights.
- Join your tour director and fellow travellers for a 1-hour, “Welcome to the Alps” cocktail reception with wine & and light appetizers **(included)**. Here you will have an opportunity to meet your fellow travellers and discuss the exciting tour ahead.
- Following our cocktail reception, feel free to enjoy the city and dinner at your leisure (not included).



Day 3: Friday, Sep 20 – Lucerne, Switzerland (B, Welcome D)

- Wake up and enjoy a delicious Swiss breakfast buffet this morning **(included)**.
- Lunch is on your own today. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon exploring Lucerne as you wish.
- This evening, please meet your tour manager and join your fellow Collins Tours group passengers for a Welcome Group Dinner at the fabulous Psistern Zunfthaus restaurant, just a short walk from our hotel. Tonight,

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you will sample some delectable local cuisine with wine or beer included with meal **(included)**. We will share stories together and discuss further details of our amazing experience through the Rhine and Main Rivers!

Day 4: Saturday, Sep 21 – Lucerne – Basel – Embark on Avalon’s Impression (B, D)

- Enjoy a delicious buffet breakfast this morning.
- Following breakfast, we will make our way by luxury motorcoach to Basel, Switzerland. We stop for lunch (not included) along the way before embarking on our beautiful European River Cruise aboard the Avalon Impression.
- On board, passengers enjoy free Wi-Fi access, complimentary computer use in public areas, a Fitness Center with state-of-the-art equipment, an elevator, and an expansive Sky Deck with shade system, premium lounge chairs, whirlpool, deck games, and the delightful Sky Bistro for al fresco lunches of light grill fare.
- Before dinner **(included)**, meet your crew for a welcome reception **(included)**. We sail to Breisach, Germany overnight.



Day 5: Sunday, Sep 22 – Breisach, Germany (B, L, D) Choice of Included Shore Excursion – Choose One

- Located at the foot of Kaiserstuhl Mountain on the French-German border, Breisach is the gateway to Germany’s Black Forest region, an area of unrivaled natural beauty with its forests of thick pine trees. The area got its name because the forests are so dense that local residents described them as black. Surely, the most well-known products from this region are Black Forest ham, Black Forest cherry cake, and cuckoo clocks.
 - **Classic Excursion - Discover the wonders of Germany’s fairy-tale Black Forest on this exciting full-day excursion. Join an expert guide and travel to the Vogtsbauernhof Open-Air Museum to learn how people have lived and worked in Black Forest farmhouses over the past 6th century. Afterwards follow your guide and travel into the dense pine and fir forests for a visit to the workshop of a local woodcarver who produces traditional cuckoo clocks and other elaborate hand-crafted items. You’ll also have the chance to sample Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte, the delectable world-famous Black Forest cherry cake! OR:**
 - **Visit to a local winery in Breisach, where you will learn about German winemaking and enjoy a wine tasting.**
- This afternoon, we board the Avalon Impression for our sail towards Strasbourg, France.
- Join your tour manager for another group dinner tonight aboard our beautiful sailing vessel.

Day 6: Monday, Sep 23 – Strasbourg, France (B, L, D) Choice of Included Shore Excursion – Choose One

- This morning, wake up in Strasbourg. Situated on the border of France and Germany, this city blends the cultures of both countries in a delightful way.
 - **Classic Excursion - Take some time to enjoy beautiful Strasbourg, the capital of the Alsace region and seat of the Council of Europe and European Parliament. It is, without a doubt, an important city that manages to retain its historic charm. In fact, on your walking tour, you will discover Europe at its most quintessential. Visit the monumental red-sandstone Gothic Cathedral with its ancient murals, stained-glass windows, and fascinating astronomical clock. Stroll through the streets of magical La Petite France district, home to half-timbered houses, quaint shops, inviting bistros, and a waterfront promenade. Also spend time exploring Place Kléber, a**



large historic square in the heart of the city, and Place Gutenberg in the heart of medieval Strasbourg, which features a statue of the inventor of the printing press.

- This afternoon, we sail north towards Rudesheim, Germany.
- Join your tour manager for another group dinner tonight.

Day 7: Tuesday, Sep 24 – Rudesheim, Germany (B, L, D) Choice of Included Shore Excursion – Choose One

- Welcome to Quaint Rudesheim, Germany – one of the liveliest Rhine River towns.
 - **Classic Excursion - visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum, where you'll see and hear a large collection of self-playing calliopes and music boxes from the 18th to the early 20th centuries.**
- This afternoon, stretch out on the Sky Deck as we pass through the spectacular Rhine Gorge on our way to Boppard.
- Enjoy some free time to relax or explore the Rheinallee Promenade for delicatessen fare with a cup of German coffee or glass of Riesling wine.
- Join your tour manager for another group dinner tonight.
- This evening, we board the Avalon Impression for our sail for Frankfurt!

Day 8: Wednesday, Sep 25 – Frankfurt, Germany (B, L, D) Choice of Included Shore Excursion – Choose One

- Welcome to 2,000-year-old Frankfurt! Frankfurt is a city of great diversity. Banks and big business, trade shows and shopping on the one side, culture, cosiness and traditions on the other.
 - **Classic Excursion - Join a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Frankfurt to see the city's cultural landmarks and gleaming financial headquarters combined with the cozy ambience of quaint neighborhoods. OR:**
 - **Classic Excursion - Take a Guided Tour to Seligenstadt—one of Germany's oldest towns and home to the Einhard Basilika—dubbed "minor basilica" in 1925 by Pope Pius XI.**
- This evening we continue our voyage on the Main River.
- Join your tour manager for another group dinner tonight.



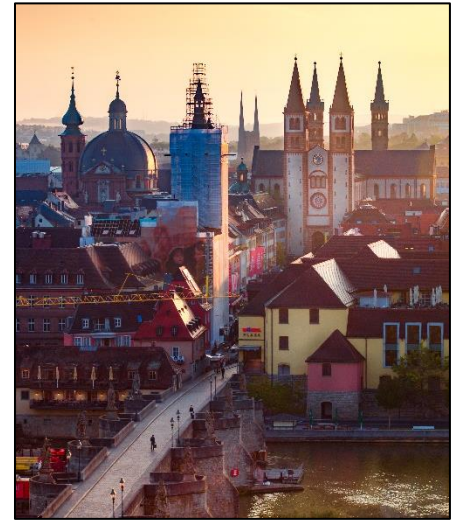
Day 9: Thursday, Sep 26 – Main River Village (B, L, D) Choice of Included Shore Excursion – Choose One

- Today we will be sailing on the Main River with a stop in a Bavarian village along the river.
 - **Classic Excursion – Join a Guided Walking Tour of a picturesque Bavarian village.**
- Join your tour manager for another group dinner tonight.
- Tonight, we sail to Würzburg, Germany.

Day 10: Friday, Sep 27 – Würzburg, Germany (B, L, D)

Choice of Included Shore Excursion – Choose One

- Würzburg is a Baroque city offering southern German flair and Franconian hospitality. Architectural masterpieces from various eras shape the cityscape.
 - *Classic Excursion – Take a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Würzburg with its Old Main Bridge, towering fortress, and baroque Bishop’s Residenz—with the largest known ceiling fresco.*
- This evening, join your tour manager tonight for another dinner aboard the Avalon Impression as we sail for Bamberg, Germany.



Day 11: Saturday, Sep 28 - Bamberg, Germany (B, L & D)

Choice of Included Shore Excursion – Choose One

- Rise and shine in Bamberg, Germany: The City of Seven Hills!
 - *Classic Excursion - Take a Guided Walking Tour of the historic home to imperial dynasties, and see its Romanesque cathedral, Old Town Hall, and seven hills crowned with churches.*
- After the tour, why not spend some free time with a glass of German-style Rauchbier (smoked beer)?
- Join your tour manager for another group dinner tonight.
- Enjoy your evening aboard the ship as we sail to Nuremberg, Germany where we will disembark the ship tomorrow.

Day 12: Sunday, Sep 29 – Bamberg, Germany – Salzburg, Austria - Sheraton Grand Salzburg (B) ****Optional Best of Mozart Concert**

- After breakfast onboard the ship it is time to say farewell to the river cruise and hello to beautiful Austria. Board our private motorcoach transfer to the beautiful world-famous City of Mozart: Salzburg. This UNESCO World Heritage city is where Mozart was born and where the famous "The Sound of Music" movie was filmed!
- We stop for lunch (not included) on our way to the luxurious and centrally located 5-star Sheraton Grand Salzburg – our home for tonight.
- Tonight, dinner is at your leisure. There are many restaurants close to our hotel.
- After dinner, join your Tour Manager for a high-quality Best of Mozart concert in the most magnificent and luxuriant areas in the world: the famous Fortress Hohensalzburg (Price TBA).



Day 13: Monday, Sep 30 – Salzburg – Vienna - Marriott Vienna City Centre (B)

- Wake up to a beautiful buffet breakfast this morning.
- Following breakfast, we will make our way to imperial Vienna where we will be joined by our local tour guide for a 4-hour tour of this majestic city. We will learn why there is nothing quite like the stunning architecture and historical grandeur of Vienna, especially its palaces and opera houses!
- Enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure.

Day 14: Tuesday, Oct 1 – Vienna, Austria (B, Farewell D)

- Wake up to a buffet breakfast in the City of Music.
- Today is a free day to explore Vienna on your own. Visit the Schönbrunn Palace, a magnificent UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site built in 1700 with enormous gardens. Or perhaps visit the St. Stephens Cathedral, the tallest church in Austria. Or admire the Belvedere Museum, one of the city’s most famous art museums, renowned for its impressive collection of Austrian art from the Middle Ages to the present day.
- This evening gather for our Farewell Dinner as we reminisce of our experience beginning in Lucerne.

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- **Please Note:** For those who purchased Collins Tours Inclusive Airfare and Transfers Package, your tour manager will be checking you in for your flights tomorrow for a seamless process at the airport.

Day 15: Wednesday, Oct 2 – Flight to Maritimes (B)

- Our time in Europe ends this morning with our final breakfast.
- For the passengers who have chosen our airfare package you will enjoy complimentary private luxury motorcoach transportation to the airport. Flight times and details to follow at time of reservation.
- For those who have made their own flight arrangements, thank you for joining us for what has surely been a wonderful adventure along the rivers of Central Europe. Safe Travels!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Tour itineraries are ONLY a guideline and may need to be modified by your tour manager. Times on tour itineraries are only estimates as various unforeseen factors, such as weather, traffic, mechanical issues, emergencies, and other “Acts of God,” can influence tour timing. Collins Tours is not responsible or liable, in any way, for delays caused by unforeseen events. No refunds or reimbursements will be offered in the event of any such occurrences.
- Canadian citizens are required to have a valid passport that is good for at least **THREE MONTHS AFTER** your departure date. Citizens of other countries should call and verify their required documentation.
- **Baggage allowance details:** For all Air Canada flights to and from Europe: You are allowed one personal and one carry on item at no charge (max dimension: 23 cm x 40 cm x 55 cm). You are also allowed one free checked bag (max weight 23 kg; \$100 fee for overweight bag). Second checked bag is \$100 CAD each way.
- Currency used in Switzerland is the **Swiss Franc**; in France, Germany and Austria is the **Euro**. Duty Free Rules allow you to claim \$800 per person when you have travelled outside Canada for at least 48 hours.
- All liquids and gels that you are planning to bring on board an airplane must be 3oz or less and sealed in a Ziploc bag and kept in your carry-on. Keep prescription medication in original container or carried with you.
- Collins Tour is not responsible for lost or stolen baggage and/or personal items.
- Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for any flight delays, schedule changes, flight gate changes, acts of God, mechanical issues, any emergencies, or any missed connections due from any such events described above or unforeseen circumstances arising not described above, yet may cause similar outcomes or delays. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for providing additional transportations costs, if necessary, reimbursements or and king for these additional expenses, loss of use, or loss of hotel nights, meals, transportation arrangements, or any portion of your planned vacation you have that may or may not be missed. These costs, if any, will be paid directly by the traveler and submitted through the appropriate persons travel insurance for reimbursement of expenses. Please contact our office if you need assistance with all-inclusive medical insurance, trip cancellation and interruption coverage, or quarantine insurance. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd does not anticipate any such concerns or events and only wishes for everyone to ensure proper travel insurance has been purchase in advance.
- REMEMBER, your tour manager handles: hotel check in/check out procedures, overall group management (e.g. timely transitions, itinerary planning), and group representation with airlines, hotels, group activities, Customs and Immigration, and overall operation of each tour. We work hard to ensure that everyone enjoys his/her experience to the fullest. **Gratuities for your Tour Manager are not included in your tour price.** Tipping is your way of saying “Thank You,” for a job well done.
- **Here are our guidelines on Tipping Etiquette:**
 - Collins Tours guide - from \$6 - \$8 per person, per day
 - Bus driver \$4 -\$5 per person per day
 - Private city tour guides - \$3 per person, per day

Hotel Contact Information:

Lucerne – Hotel Continental Park, Murbacherstrasse 4, 6003 Luzern, Switzerland. Ph: +41 41 228 90 50

Salzburg – Sheraton Grand Salzburg, Auerspergstraße 4, 5020 Salzburg, Austria. Ph: +43 662 889990

Vienna - Vienna Marriott Hotel, Parkring 12A, 1010 Wien, Austria. +43 1 515180

