



MS GEOFFREY CHAUCER · CRUISE THE HEART OF EUROPE · DEPARTING 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

An important update on your cruise, and where you will sail instead

The trip departs on 30 September as planned and will still run for the full fifteen days, finishing in Budapest after visits to Vienna and Bratislava. The main change is to the first half of the holiday. Low water levels on the Rhine mean your original route is no longer possible, so instead you will sail along the River Main, travelling on two ships rather than one.

You will still visit the majority of the destinations included in your original itinerary, while also discovering some new places along the way. You will also have the opportunity to enjoy one of the newest additions to our fleet, MS Riviera Radiance.

THE RIVER, AND WHY WE HAVE CHANGED YOUR ITINERARY

You will fly to Munich and join the MS George Eliot at Nuremberg for ten days on the Main: Bamberg's medieval old town, free time in Ochsenfurt and the Romantic Road up to walled Rothenburg, baroque Würzburg, Wertheim beneath its hilltop castle, Miltenberg and Aschaffenburg, then a choice of Mainz or Frankfurt, and a morning in Rüdesheim among the Rhine valley vineyards. On day eleven you cross to the Danube, with a guided tour and lunch in Regensburg on the way, and join the MS Riviera Radiance at Passau for Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest.

The Rhine below Mainz has dropped too far this month, which is why the first half of your holiday now stays on the Main. Our river cruise partner's nautical team and our own in house team read the gauges daily, judging what they mean for your ship rather than the river in general; levels can move either way, and we will tell you promptly if anything alters.

TWO SHIPS, AND WHERE YOU JOIN THEM

You join the MS George Eliot at Nuremberg on day one and stay with her for ten days. On day eleven you transfer to the MS Riviera Radiance at Passau, one of the newest ships in our fleet, and she carries you down the Danube to Vienna and Bratislava. Your luggage is taken care of on the day you move, and we will look to provide a similar cabin grade to the one you booked on both ships and work with you if we cannot.

YOUR ITINERARY, DAY BY DAY

Coaching times are shown for every day of the Main. Most of it is our usual excursion programme;

Day 1	Fly to Munich, then coach to Nuremberg to board the MS George Eliot. Coaching: 2hrs from the airport, the usual transfer time for this trip MS George Eliot - A five star river cruise ship offering the intimate feel of a luxury boutique hotel
Day 2	Morning Option 1: Guided tour of Nuremberg's medieval history Morning Option 2: Guided tour of Nuremberg's medieval & WWII history Afternoon: Free afternoon scenic sailing towards Bamberg Coaching: 15 minutes each way
Day 3	Morning: Discover Bamberg's beautifully preserved medieval old town, grand cathedral and riverside charm on a guided tour Afternoon: Free afternoon sailing towards Ochsenfurt Coaching: No coaching
Day 4	Morning: Enjoy free time to explore Ochsenfurt's colourful old town, medieval walls and charming half timbered streets at your own pace Afternoon: Drive along the Romantic Road – aptly named to describe this route through some of the most spellbinding scenery in the world Guided tour of Rothenburg After dinner a Bavarian music night

	Coaching: No coaching, Romantic road is an excursion in itself
Day 5	Morning: Explore Würzburg on a guided tour, discovering its elegant baroque architecture, historic old town and impressive riverside setting. Afternoon: Free afternoon sailing towards Wertheim Coaching: No Coaching
Day 6	Morning: Scenic sailing to Wertheim Afternoon: Choose between a guided tour of charming Wertheim or a more active hike up to its hilltop castle for sweeping views over the town and river. After dinner a classical duo performance Coaching: No Coaching
Day 7	Morning: Scenic sailing to Miltenberg Afternoon: Discover Miltenberg on a guided tour, exploring its beautifully preserved old town, colourful half timbered houses and atmospheric market square. Coaching: No Coaching
Day 8	Morning: Scenic sailing to Aschaffenburg Afternoon: Discover Aschaffenburg on a guided tour, exploring its handsome old town, grand palace and picturesque setting on the River Main. Coaching: No Coaching
Day 9	Morning: Morning sailing to Frankfurt Afternoon: Choose between a guided tour of historic Mainz, with its cathedral and old town, or vibrant Frankfurt, where medieval streets meet a striking modern skyline. Chefs' dinner followed by a dance band Coaching: Frankfurt – No Coaching, Mainz – 1hr each way
Day 10	Morning: Discover Rudesheim on a morning guided tour, exploring its charming old town, lively Drosselgasse and picturesque setting among the Rhine Valley vineyards. Afternoon: Free time in Frankfurt Coaching: 1hr each way
Day 11	Morning: Disembark the George Eliot. Coach to Regensburg for a guided tour and free time, with €25 per person for lunch. Afternoon: Travel on to Passau to board the MS Riviera Radiance. Coaching: 3.5hrs from Frankfurt to Regensburg. 2.5hrs Regensburg to Passau MS Riviera Radiance - One of our newest ships, featuring all the facilities you'd expect to find in a boutique hotel
Day 12	Morning option 1: Panoramic guided tour of Vienna on coach Morning option 2: Panoramic guided tour on coach followed by a walking tour of the old town. Back on board for lunch Afternoon: Free for you to enjoy Vienna at your own pace. Perhaps visit one of the city's renowned cafés, browse elegant shops or simply soak up the atmosphere of this imperial city. Coaching: 20 min shuttles to and from Vienna
Day 13	Morning: Enjoy a half day guided tour of Bratislava Afternoon: Option to stay longer and explore more of the Slovak capital at your own pace with shuttles to and from the ship Coaching: 15 minutes each way
Day 14	Morning: Rail journey from Vienna to Budapest and onward to your hotel. If water levels permit, we will continue our journey to Budapest on the Riviera Radiance. Afternoon: Guided tour of Budapest, followed by free time. €25pp provided for lunch Coaching: 20 mins from ship to Vienna train station. 30mins from Budapest train station to hotel

	Train: 2hr 30min
Day 15	Breakfast in Budapest, then a transfer to the airport for your flight home. Coaching: 45mins - 1hr to the airport

Your outbound flight is being rebooked into Munich rather than Cologne, and we will coach you to the ship. You fly home from Budapest as booked.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS UP TO YOU

We would love you to travel with us, and if you do there is something extra by way of apology.

1. Travel and take a future travel voucher worth 50%
2. Travel and take 10% back in cash now plus a 20% voucher
3. Move to the same cruise in 2027, like for like, at no extra cost.
4. Cancel, and we refund what you have paid

Vouchers valid for 6 months from today's date (book within 6 months)

Value of the voucher is based on current holiday price

Valid on all 2026 and 2027 European river cruises

YOU WILL BE WELL LOOKED AFTER

Your Cruise Director, Cruise Host and crew will be with you throughout, just as planned, and everything you enjoy on board remains unchanged. Once onboard you'll experience exceptional dining, all inclusive drinks, local entertainment and immersive experiences all continuing as part of your holiday. The itinerary may be slightly different, but the Riviera experience on board is very much the same.

For the latest on river conditions and our 5-point promise:

rivieratravel.com/update

And for day to day updates, join our low water Facebook group:

[Riviera Travel Official — Low water updates](#)

Any questions at all, please do call us.