



# Colonial Heritage *TRAVEL CLUB*

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## Viking River Cruise – Elegant Elbe

June 18 – July 3, 2024

Day 0 – Flight from Dulles to Berlin

### Day 1 - Berlin, Germany

Arrive at the Berlin airport, then transfer to your hotel. After check-in, you have free time to get acquainted with the city, or join our “Welcome Walk” to stretch your legs and get oriented.

### Day 2 - Berlin, Germany

After breakfast, enjoy a panoramic tour of the vibrant German capital, which has seen its fair share of dramatic changes in the last century. See the Reichstag with its spectacular glass dome, the historic Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie and many other iconic sites. Enjoy the remainder of your day at leisure. (Breakfast)

### Day 3 - Wittenberg, Germany

After breakfast, travel to Potsdam. Tour Sanssouci Palace, a perfect example of German rococo architecture, built by Prussian king Frederick the Great in the 18th century. Built as a summer retreat, it became his personal sanctuary and place to relax in the company of his beloved dogs. Wander through the rooms of the elegant palace and stroll through the magnificent gardens. Enjoy free time and lunch on your own, then transfer to Wittenberg to embark your ship. (Breakfast, Dinner)

### Day 4 - Wittenberg, Germany

This morning, follow in Martin Luther’s footsteps to view many of Wittenberg’s historic landmarks. Tour inside Luther’s House and St. Marien’s Church, where he preached. See the Castle Church where Luther posted his “95 Theses”; then enjoy free time. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

### Day 5 - Meissen, Germany

Today, cruise the Elbe and arrive in Meissen just after lunchtime. Then stop in at the Meissenware factory, producer of fine porcelain since the early 1700s. Discover how this trademarked porcelain is created by hand, then tour the museum. Proceed to Castle Hill for a walking tour through Old Town. Return on board for dinner and an evening at leisure. Your ship remains docked overnight. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## Day 6 - Dresden, Germany

After breakfast, disembark in Dresden, nicknamed “Florence on the Elbe.” Drive through the 19th-century residential area to the Dresden Castle complex; enter the Green Vault to see a comprehensive collection that houses what many claim is the world's largest collection of treasures, including priceless jewels and emeralds. Continue on foot to see Zwinger Palace, Semper Opera House and the Frauenkirche (Cathedral of Our Lady) with its distinctive bell-shaped dome that survived World War II bombings but collapsed the following day. Later, it was rebuilt. Alternatively, enjoy more of Dresden on one of our optional tours. Select a full-day excursion and visit Dresden's baroque castles, sweeping wine estates and opulent palace, once home to royal and lavish banquets. Or, you can visit car manufacturing giant Volkswagen, and gain Working World insight during a tour of their state-of-the-art-facility.

Dinner is served on board your ship; after, feel free to enjoy Dresden's many charms and attractions as we remain docked until early morning. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## Day 7 - Saxon Switzerland, Germany

This morning, cruise through the magnificent, soaring rock formations of the Saxon Switzerland region, then dock at the spa town of Bad Schandau. From here we make our way to the famous rock tower known as the Bastei (bastion), formed by water a million years ago, to enjoy stunning panoramic views of the Elbe. Return on board for dinner and evening cruising. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## Day 8 - Prague, Czech Republic

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to Prague. Upon arrival, you tour Prague, the “City of a Hundred Spires.” After a guided walk through Old Town, take some free time to explore on your own. Then ride to visit Hradčany Castle. Return to the hotel for check-in and dinner on your own. (Breakfast)

## Day 9 - Prague, Czech Republic

Enjoy a full day at leisure to explore this celebrated city, or join an optional tour to Lobkowicz Palace. (Breakfast)

## DAY 10 – 15 - EXTEND YOUR TRIP WITH 5 NIGHTS IN KRAKÓW & WARSAW

Uncover Poland's rich history and culture along the Vistula River. Visit Kraków's Wawel Castle and Auschwitz-Birkenau just outside of the city, journey to Częstochowa and explore Warsaw's Old Town.

### **ALL THIS IS INCLUDED:**

- 3 hotel nights in Kraków; 2 hotel nights in Warsaw (as shown or similar)
- 6 meals: 5 breakfasts (B) & 1 dinner (D)
- 5 guided tours: Kraków City Tour; Klezmer Folk Dinner; Auschwitz & Birkenau; Jasna Góra Monastery; Warsaw City Tour
- Fully escorted by your Viking Tour Director
- All transfers

**Day 10 – Kraków** - Check out of your hotel in Prague and transfer to Kraków, where you will check in to your hotel and enjoy the evening at your leisure. Your Viking Tour Director is available to help you plan your time in Kraków so you can make the most of your visit.

**Day 11 – Kraków** - Discover Kraków's well-preserved Old Town. Stroll through the vast 13th-century Main Square; at its center stands the enormous Renaissance Cloth Hall, where exotic imports once passed for trade. On Wawel Hill, visit Wawel Castle, the former residence of Poland's kings and now a fascinating art museum. Spend the afternoon at your leisure or join an optional excursion to the magnificent Wieliczka Salt Mine. This evening, enjoy dinner on your own. (B)

**Day 12 – Kraków** - After breakfast, journey just outside the city to Auschwitz-Birkenau; these preserved concentration camps serve as a solemn reminder of the horrors of World War II. Back in Kraków, enjoy the afternoon on your own. Perhaps peruse the National Museum's fine collection of paintings, sculptures and military artifacts, or see Wawel Cathedral, where royal coronations were held and national heroes are entombed. This evening, enjoy dinner accompanied by a lively klezmer folk music performance. (B, D)

**Day 13 - Częstochowa & Warsaw** - This morning, check out of your hotel and travel to Warsaw. En route, you will visit the city of Częstochowa. Here, stop at the Pauline monastery of Jasna Góra, home of the famous *Black Madonna* painting that draws millions of Catholic pilgrims from all over the world. In the Polish capital of Warsaw, check in to your hotel and enjoy time to explore the city on your own. Your Viking Tour Director is available to help you plan your time in Warsaw so you can make the most of your visit. (B)

**Day 14 – Warsaw** - This morning, take in the incredibly restored Old Town. Completely demolished during World War II, historians and architects have painstakingly rebuilt it to mirror its original beauty, using bricks and decorative elements salvaged from the rubble whenever possible. You have the afternoon free to continue exploring this compelling city on your own. (B)

**Day 15 – Warsaw** - After breakfast, check out of your hotel and proceed to the airport for your return flight. (B)

**Day 16 – Flight home**