Paris to Prague

OCTOBER 6–19, 2014

Featuring
MLADA BUKOVANSKY
Professor of Government
Smith College

RHINE & MAIN RIVERS
ABOARD THE ELEGANT River Cloud II
Dear Smith Alumnae,

ROMANTIC OLD WORLD VILLAGES set among picturesque winding rivers, vineyards, and rolling hills along with vibrant cities emblematic of a rapidly transforming Europe comprise the culturally rich and historically significant threads of a memorable journey in France, Germany, and the Czech Republic.

This fascinating itinerary is bookended by two of Europe’s most vibrant cities—Paris and Prague—connected by a two-hour journey on France’s high-speed train, TGV, from Paris to Strasbourg and a scenic river cruise aboard the elegant River Cloud II from Strasbourg to Nuremberg.

As you cruise along the Rhine and Main Rivers aboard the lovely 88-passenger River Cloud II, chartered for the exclusive use of Smith and Stanford travelers, you will enjoy the amenities of one of the finest river vessels in Europe, including elegant staterooms and public areas, refined cuisine, and impeccable service. A series of presentations by Mlada Bukovansky, Smith Professor of Government, and Stanford’s Robert Hamrdla, a specialist on Central Europe, will enrich your experience.

If you have any questions, or wish to make a reservation, please call Smith Travel at (800) 225-2029 or go to http://alumnae.smith.edu/travel.

Best regards,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel
Office of Alumnae Relations

MLADA BUKOVANSKY (at left), Professor of Government at Smith College, teaches courses in international relations, European politics, corruption, humanitarianism, international organizations, and international political economy. Her overall research focus is on the evolving norms and institutions that govern world politics. Her most recent publications include a co-authored book entitled Special Responsibilities: Global Problems and American Power, published by Cambridge University Press. She is also the author of numerous scholarly articles and book chapters on subjects ranging from agricultural trade to corruption to international ethics. Her first book, Legitimacy and Power Politics: The American and French Revolutions in International Political Culture (Princeton 2002), is still in print. Mlada was born in Prague and emigrated as a young girl with her immediate family after the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. She has returned several times to the city of her birth, discovering each time new dimensions of her family history and cultural heritage.

Problems and American Power, published by Cambridge University Press. She is also the author of numerous scholarly articles and book chapters on subjects ranging from agricultural trade to corruption to international ethics. Her first book, Legitimacy and Power Politics: The American and French Revolutions in International Political Culture (Princeton 2002), is still in print. Mlada was born in Prague and emigrated as a young girl with her immediate family after the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. She has returned several times to the city of her birth, discovering each time new dimensions of her family history and cultural heritage.
Begin a memorable journey with two nights in Paris, the “City of Light.”

G. ROBERT HAMRDLA has bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Stanford University and has been teaching at his alma mater for more than 35 years. Bob also served as the director of Stanford’s Overseas Study Centers in Beutelsbach, Berlin, and Kraków. Fluent in German and a specialist on Central Europe and Nazi Germany, as well as the former German Democratic Republic, Bob has visited Central and Eastern Europe virtually every year for the past 50 years, and his unfettered enthusiasm for the region is infectious.
OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION
NORMANDY
October 2–7, 2014

Begin your journey with a pre-tour extension to Normandy, where some of the most decisive battles of World War II were fought. Highlights include the Peace Memorial Museum at Caen, which details the events of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy; the American Military Cemetery at St-Laurent-sur-Mer and the landing sectors at Omaha Beach; Pointe du Hoc, site of a daring attack by Army Rangers; Ste-Mère-Église, the first town to be liberated by American airborne divisions; Bénouville, site of the original Pegasus Bridge, a major objective of the Normandy invasion; and Juno Beach, one of three beaches where Allied forces landed on D-Day. In Bayeux, view the 900-year-old Bayeux Tapestry, an extraordinary visual account of the Norman conquest of England. Enjoy comfortable accommodations at the Chateau de la Chénevière near Bayeux. Rates: $2,990 per person, double occupancy; $3,990 per person, single occupancy.

Itinerary

Monday & Tuesday, October 6 & 7
U.S. / PARIS, FRANCE
Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Paris. Upon arrival, check in to the hotel. Gather this evening for a special welcome reception and dinner.
HOTEL SCRIBE (D)

Wednesday, October 8
PARIS
After a morning orientation, choose between two walking tours of Paris neighborhoods—either the stylish Marais district, including Place des Vosges and the newly reopened Picasso Museum, or the boutique-lined streets and artistic haunts of the Latin Quarter. Or, at an additional cost, take a guided coach excursion to Giverny and visit the house where Claude Monet lived most of his life, including the lovely gardens featured in many of his most famous works. The afternoon and evening are free for independent exploration.
HOTEL SCRIBE (B)

Thursday, October 9
PARIS / STRASBOURG (EMBARK)
Transfer to the train station this morning and board the TGV (high-speed train) for Strasbourg. Like many of the region’s border cities, Strasbourg has traded hands several times between France and Germany; today, the French capital of Alsace and seat of the European Parliament reflects both cultures—linguistically, architecturally, and gastronomically. Built at the intersection of several Roman roads, Strasbourg features a historic, UNESCO World Heritage-designated city center with 16th-century half-timbered houses and a gothic cathedral built of red sandstone. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then explore the city by coach and on foot before embarking the River Cloud II late this afternoon.
RIVER CLOUD II (B,L,D)

Saturday, October 11
SPEYER & HEIDELBERG, GERMANY
This morning visit Speyer’s acclaimed Romanesque cathedral, which houses the largest crypt in Germany. Continue cruising north along the Rhine, then stop for an afternoon guided walking tour of Heidelberg, home to a number of great poets and academics, world-famous castle ruins, and Germany’s oldest university.
RIVER CLOUD II (B,L,D)

Sunday, October 12
ROMANTIC RHINE
Dock this morning at Boppard, near the confluence of the Rhine and Mosel Rivers, and enjoy a walking tour of a classic Rhine village, followed by a private recital at the impressive Namyed Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site and home of the Princess of Hohenzollern.

This afternoon, cruise along
the most beautiful stretch of the Romantic Rhine through the Middle Rhine Valley, a storybook landscape of medieval castles and myths. Here, according to German legends, the siren Lorelei calls to sailors from the rocks, and the accursed Niebelungen gold treasure lies submerged beneath the waters. This UNESCO World Heritage site has inspired artists and composers for centuries, including the great 19th-century Romantics Lord Byron, Victor Hugo, and Goethe. 

**RIVER CLOUD II (B,L,D)**

**Monday, October 13**

**MILTENBERG**

After a morning of cruising, dock this afternoon at Miltenberg along Bavaria’s famous Romantic Road, which runs through the great 19th-century Romantics Lord Byron, Victor Hugo, and Goethe. Enjoy a walking tour among picturesque timberwork houses, followed by a private children’s choir concert. **RIVER CLOUD II (B,L,D)**

**Tuesday, October 14**

**WÜRZBURG**

One of the most magnificent Baroque buildings in southern Germany—the Würzburg Residenz Palace—rises high above the Main. In the 16th century, the medieval castle was converted into a magnificent palace with five grand halls, 300 bedrooms, a mirrored gallery, and an enormous, recently restored ceiling painting by Tiepolo. Enjoy a guided tour of the Residenz, followed by a private tasting of Franconian wines in its historic cellar. **RIVER CLOUD II (B,L,D)**

**Wednesday, October 15**

**BAMBERG**

After a morning of cruising, call at Bamberg, founded in 902 and situated on seven hills, with a network of canals winding their way around splendid baroque buildings. Enjoy a walking tour of its beautifully preserved Old Town and a private concert by the excellent Bamberg String Quartet. During a final evening of cruising, transit the Main-Danube Canal, an engineering triumph originally conceived by Charlemagne in the 8th century and completed in 1992. **RIVER CLOUD II (B,L,D)**

**Thursday, October 16**

**NUREMBERG, GERMANY / PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC**

Arrive this morning in Nuremberg and disembark the River Cloud II. Visit the Third Reich parade grounds and tour the courthouse, site of the Nuremberg trials. Enjoy a typical Bavarian lunch at a local restaurant before driving through scenic countryside and across the Czech border to Prague. **INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL (B,L)**

**Friday, October 17**

**PRAGUE**

Enjoy a special private visit to the Strahov Monastery library, with two Baroque rooms housing an impressive collection of precious ancient manuscripts. Continue with an exploration of the ancient Prague Castle complex, which dominates a hilltop on the left bank of the Vltava River and offers lovely views over the city. Prague Castle, a royal residence in the 9th century, today comprises a rich variety of churches, gates, chapels, palace halls, and towers from every period of its history, including the Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral, built over a 600-year period, and the Old Royal Palace, with its beautiful late-Gothic Vladislav Hall. The evening is at leisure to take advantage of the many musical offerings in Prague. **INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL (B,L)**

**Saturday, October 18**

**PRAGUE**

Discover the fairy tale–like setting of Prague’s Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, during a guided walking tour that showcases six centuries of architectural styles lining cobbled streets. Also visit such Art Nouveau treasures as the Municipal House and the Alfons Mucha Museum, dedicated to the works of the well-known Art Nouveau painter. The afternoon is at leisure. This evening gather for a private farewell gala at Lobkowicz Castle, a lovely ancestral palace within Prague Castle. **INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL (B,D)**

**Sunday, October 19**

**PRAGUE / U.S.**

This morning transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)
River Cloud II

Launched by the owners of the legendary Sea Cloud, the five-star River Cloud II combines nostalgic luxury with state-of-the-art marine technology to create an elegant and intimate cruising experience. The 44 outside cabins each offer a large queen or two twin beds, individually adjustable air-conditioning, minibar, TV/video, personal safe, cozy robes, fresh flowers, and private bathroom (with shower) appointed in marble with brass and gold fixtures. Cabin Deck staterooms feature brass-rimmed portholes; Promenade Deck staterooms feature panoramic arched windows. The public areas include a spacious lounge with a custom-built Steinway grand piano, paneled mahogany library, large sun deck with teak deck chairs and bar, small boutique, hair salon, and a dining room that accommodates all guests in a single, unassigned seating. Refined Italian-influenced cuisine is prepared by outstanding European chefs incorporating local ingredients fresh from the market, and a fine selection of wines from regional vintages is included with lunches and dinners on board.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare New York to Paris with return from Prague is approximately $1,160 as of January 2014 and is subject to change without notice.

Terms & Conditions

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport and visa fees • Medical expenses and immunizations • Trip cancellation/ interruption and baggage 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 • Alcohol or soft drinks except where indicated as included • Private transfers or transfers not on program arrival and departure days

Launching educated by the owners of the legendary Sea Cloud, the five-star River Cloud II combines nostalgic luxury with state-of-the-art marine technology to create an elegant and intimate cruising experience. The 44 outside cabins each offer a large queen or two twin beds, individually adjustable air-conditioning, minibar, TV/video, personal safe, cozy robes, fresh flowers, and private bathroom (with shower) appointed in marble with brass and gold fixtures. Cabin Deck staterooms feature brass-rimmed portholes; Promenade Deck staterooms feature panoramic arched windows. The public areas include a spacious lounge with a custom-built Steinway grand piano, paneled mahogany library, large sun deck with teak deck chairs and bar, small boutique, hair salon, and a dining room that accommodates all guests in a single, unassigned seating. Refined Italian-influenced cuisine is prepared by outstanding European chefs incorporating local ingredients fresh from the market, and a fine selection of wines from regional vintages is included with lunches and dinners on board.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare New York to Paris with return from Prague is approximately $1,160 as of January 2014 and is subject to change without notice.

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

A full program of briefings, lectures, and presentations by study leaders and local guides • All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • All excursions, including entrance fees, as specified in the itinerary • Tickets aboard the TGV from Paris to Strasbourg • Airport transfers for all participants on program arrival and departure days • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers, wait staff, and shipboard personnel for all group activities • Port fees and embarkation taxes • House wine, beer, and soft drinks at all group lunches and dinners • Welcome and farewell receptions • Bottled water on excursions • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout

WHAT TO EXPECT

The pace of this program is moderately active, with a few miles of walking each day. Most of the historic city centers have large segments that are closed to motor coaches, and city tours involve walking on cobbled streets or uneven terrain, and may involve extended periods of standing in museums and churches. Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff.

GROUP SIZE

This program is limited to 74 participants, including travelers from Smith and Stanford.

CATALOGUE DECK

CATEGORY DOUBLESINGLE

CABIN DECK (forward), 118 sq.ft., two portholes, twin beds $8,995 $13,495

CABIN DECK, 118 sq.ft., two portholes, twin beds (which can be pushed together to form one queen bed) $9,995 $14,995

PROMENADE DECK, 150 sq.ft., three panoramic windows, queen bed (two side-by-side mattresses which can be made up together or with separate linens, but which cannot be pushed apart) $11,595

Built: 2001 • Registry: Madeira, Portugal • Length: 338 feet • Beam: 32 feet • Draft: 4 feet • Cruising Speed: 10.5 knots • Staterooms: 44 • Crew Members: 33
Enjoy the picture-book scenery along the Rhine and Main rivers.

Personal items such as room service; email, telephone, and fax charges; and other items of a personal nature

TRAVEL INSURANCE A trip protection plan is available at extra cost. Upon receiving your reservation, Smith Travel will send you information on this policy. This comprehensive guest protection plan covers trip cancellation for medical reasons, trip delay, medical expenses, accidental death, lost baggage, and medical evacuation.

RESERVATIONS & DEPOSITS To reserve space, return the completed reservation form with your $1,000 per person deposit to: Smith Travel, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063, or fax to (413) 585-2015. Balance of payment is due June 9, 2014. We accept personal checks, payable to Criterion Travel, as well as VISA, MasterCard, American Express, 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 Criterion Travel. 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. Final payment is due June 9, 2014 (120 days prior to departure). 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 Smith College or our tour operator, you will receive a full refund, with the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour. Due to fluctuations in oil prices, a fuel surcharge may be added to your tour fee. If that should be necessary, Criterion Travel will advise you prior to departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Smith Travel and Criterion Travel, the tour operator. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Smith College and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

DISCLAIMER Smith College is pleased to provide this service of facilitating travel opportunities for its alumnae and friends. Smith College strives to work with the best tour operators to make available interesting and enriching travel opportunities for the Smith family. Please note that Smith College does not conduct tours, nor does it act as an agent for guests interested in tours. Smith College acts as a facilitator with tour operators, with whom tour participants make arrangements for completing travel, and is pleased to act as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during, or after your tour. Smith College encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator’s cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. Smith College is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for related losses or additional expenses.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40

PHOTO CREDITS (From Dreamstime.com): AUTUMN IN PRAGUE ©Kanatly Saman; EIFFEL TOWER ©Thomas Mares; RHINE RIVER ©WorldFoto; WURZBURG RESIDENZ ©Kersten Vladimir; VINEYARDS ©Christian Mueringer; MILTENBERG ©DARKINGELA; BOY IN LEIDERHOSEN © Peter Hansen, (From Shutterstock.com): PRAGUE CLOCK ©FineShine; CZECH DANCERS courtesy of Lobkowicz Events Management

Enjoy the picture-book scenery along the Rhine and Main rivers.

Rhine & Main Rivers aboard the elegant River Cloud II

Reservations

To reserve your space, please make your deposit check payable to Criterion Travel and mail to: Smith Travel, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063. You may fax credit card information to: (413) 585-2015. For questions, call Smith Travel at (800) 225-2029.

NAME #1

NAME #2

STREET ADDRESS

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 reserve _______ place(s) on Paris to Prague.

OR ☐ Charge my deposit to:

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # ☐ EXP. DATE / SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD DATE

SINGLE TRAVELERS

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations.

OR ☐ I will share accommodations with:

OR ☐ I am willing to share with another participant (not guaranteed). I am ☐ Non-smoker / ☐ Smoker.

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of June 9, 2014, I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference:
1st Choice _______________ 2nd Choice _______________

Bed preference on ship:
☐ Twin beds joined as double ☐ Twins

Bed preference in hotels (not guaranteed):
☐ King/Queen ☐ 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
Highlights

Experience the elegant atmosphere, impeccable service, and excellent cuisine of the 88-passenger River Cloud II, just over half the size of most riverboats in the region.

Visit SEVEN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES: The banks of the Seine in Paris; the historic centers of Strasbourg, Bamberg, and Prague; Speyer Cathedral; the Upper Middle Rhine Valley; and the Würzburg Residenz.

Sample the DIVERSE CUISINES AND WINES of Paris, Alsace, Bavaria, and Bohemia during meals and private tastings ashore.

Enjoy PRIVATE MUSICAL PERFORMANCES —from the Bamberg String Quartet to Czech folk music and dance—in memorable settings.

Attend a guest lecture on European affairs in STRASBOURG, seat of the European Parliament, and tour the NUREMBERG courthouse, site of the war crimes trials.

Explore the picturesque timberwork houses in Miltenberg, which lies on both sides of the Main River.