

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

The trip will depart on 2 October as booked, with your guided tour of Cologne and its magnificent cathedral still included. The key change is to the sailing route: rather than travelling along the Rhine and Moselle, you will instead sail through the waterways of Holland and Flanders. Instead of joining the Oscar Wilde, the cruise will now take place on the MS Riviera Resplendence, the newest ship in our fleet.

THE RIVER, AND WHY WE HAVE CHANGED YOUR ITINERARY

You will begin at Düsseldorf or Venlo, just down the Rhine from Cologne, and spend your first full day in Cologne. From there you sail north into the Dutch waterways for Amsterdam by glass topped canal boat, then the windmills at Kinderdijk, before crossing into Flanders for a guided walk through Ghent or a full day in medieval Bruges. Antwerp and its Grote Markt follow, then Nijmegen before you turn for home.

The Rhine above Cologne and leading into the Moselle are too low this month for your ship to sail them. Downstream is different: the lower Rhine carries far more water, and much of your new route runs on canalised, lock controlled waterways where levels are managed rather than left to the weather. 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.

A NEW SHIP

The cruise will now take place aboard the **MS Riviera Resplendence**, the newest ship in our fleet, which entered service in July this year. We will do everything we can to accommodate you in the same cabin category as originally booked. If this is not possible, we will contact you to explain the available options.

YOUR ITINERARY, DAY BY DAY

Coaching times are shown for every day. Most of it, the airport transfers and the excursion coaching, is our usual programme; the ship moors in the heart of almost every town on this route, so the walking tours need no coach at all.

Day 1	Embark at Düsseldorf or Venlo, close by. Flights remain as planned Coaching: Dusseldorf embarkation 20min from Düsseldorf airport or 1hr 10mins from Cologne airport Coaching: Venlo embarkation 1hr from Düsseldorf airport or 1hr 30mins from Cologne airport Ship: MS Riviera Resplendence MS Riviera Resplendence Riviera Travel
Day 2	Morning: Guided tour of Cologne spotting the magnificent dual-spired Gothic cathedral for which the city is so famous. Afternoon: After lunch, free time to enjoy either: Dusseldorf - If we embark in Düsseldorf, you can explore the Old Town, known as the longest bar in the world with over 300 pubs and restaurants serving the local Altbier, a dark beer following a similar brewing process as Kölsch, or see the striking architecture in the modern Media Venlo - If we embark in Venlo, guests can enjoy time exploring this welcoming and easy-to-navigate town. Its attractive shopping streets, relaxed squares and lively café culture are all within easy reach, with independent boutiques and local delicatessens around the Parade and Klaasstraat. For a more leisurely option, the Maasboulevard offers a pleasant riverside walk with views across the River Meuse. Coaching: Dusseldorf 30 mins to Cologne, Venlo is 1hr 15 mins to Cologne
Day 3	Morning: Relax as we sail through the Dutch waterways that have shaped life in the Netherlands for centuries Afternoon: After lunch onboard, explore Amsterdam by taking a classic glass-topped boat tour through the network of canals

	Evening: Gather in the lounge for a delightful performance of traditional Dutch music, brought to life by talented local musicians Coaching: None
Day 4	Morning : Guided tour of Kinderdijk to explore the UNESCO-listed windmills Afternoon: Lunch onboard then, scenic sailing towards Ghent, witnessing the contrast of old and new, urban and rural Coaching: None
Day 5	Morning : Ghent or Bruges Option1: Morning local guided walking tour of Ghent. This Belgian treasure is bisected by a network of historic canals and cobbled towpaths. Lunch onboard then free time in Ghent. Option 2: Full day tour to Bruges. Visit the medieval heart, from the Belfry and colourful Markt to the Gothic Town Hall and Basilica of the Holy Blood. Have lunch at leisure Evening: A live guitar performance Coaching: 45min to Bruges, each way
Day 6	Morning : Guided tour of Antwerp. At its heart is the captivating main square – the Grote Markt – dominated by ornately gabled guild houses, the Renaissance town hall and opulent Brabo Fountain. Afternoon: After lunch onboard, a peaceful afternoon sailing Coaching: None
Day 7	Morning : Guided tour of Nijmegen revealing the city’s rich history, charming streets and scenic riverside setting. Afternoon: Sailing towards Dusseldorf or Venlo Coaching: None
Day 8	Disembark at Düsseldorf or Venlo. Flights remain as planned Coaching: Dusseldorf embarkation 20min to Düsseldorf airport or 1hr 10mins to Cologne airport Coaching: Venlo embarkation 1hr to Düsseldorf airport or 1hr 30mins to Cologne airport

You join at Düsseldorf or Venlo, just down the Rhine from Cologne on the Meuse River. Your original flights remain.

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.

Travel, and take a voucher. A future travel voucher worth 75% of your cruise price.

Travel, and take cash and a voucher. A 15% cash refund now, plus a 30% voucher.

Move to next year. The same cruise next year, at this year's price.

Or cancel. We will refund everything you have paid.

Voucher terms. Valid for six months from today: book within six months. Value based on your current holiday price. Valid on all 2026 and 2027 European river cruises.

READ ABOUT YOUR NEW CRUISE

This is a cruise we sell in its own right: rivieratravel.co.uk/river-cruises/cologne-amsterdam-kinderdijk-medieval-flanders

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.