

## An important update on your holiday, and what we can offer instead

Your holiday departs on 17 October as booked, still runs for eight days, and your outbound flight is unchanged. This summer has seen a dry season and the Rhine is too low for us to bring you up to Switzerland, so the cruise you booked is not running. What we can offer in its place is a cruise through the Netherlands and Belgium aboard the MS Riviera Resplendence, the newest ship in our fleet. It is a different holiday, yet we have completed this cruise with many guests this season with positive reviews.

### THE RIVER, AND WHY WE HAVE CHANGED YOUR ITINERARY

You fly out as booked and board at Düsseldorf. You'll sail the Dutch waterways to Amsterdam, where a glass topped boat takes you through the canal ring, and the evening brings traditional Dutch music in the lounge. Then comes Kinderdijk, where nineteen windmills have stood along the dykes since the 1730s, and after that Belgium: a morning in Ghent among its canals and cobbled towpaths, or a full day in Bruges with the Belfry, the Markt and the Basilica of the Holy Blood. Antwerp follows, with the gabled guild houses of the Grote Markt and the Brabo fountain, then Nijmegen, the oldest city in the Netherlands, and an afternoon at Oosterbeek, where Hotel Hartenstein served as the headquarters of the 1st British Airborne Division in September 1944 and now holds the Airborne Museum.

The Rhine above Cologne has dropped too far this month for a ship of this size to work it reliably, and we would not get you through to Switzerland, which is why the holiday now turns north and west instead. 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.

### YOUR SHIP, AND WHERE YOU JOIN HER

You now sail on the MS Riviera Resplendence, launched this year and the newest ship in our fleet. You board her at Düsseldorf, around twenty minutes from Düsseldorf airport or an hour and ten minutes from Cologne, and you leave her at Düsseldorf on day eight. We'll do our best to ensure your cabin grade carries across but because she is laid out differently from the ship you booked we will confirm your actual cabin with you in writing.

### YOUR ITINERARY, DAY BY DAY

*Coaching times are shown for every day. Most days are reached from the mooring on foot or by short shuttle; Bruges and Düsseldorf are the two coach days.*

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| <b>Day 1</b> | <p>Embark at Düsseldorf or Cologne, close by. Flights stay as planned.</p> <p><b>Coaching:</b> 20min from Düsseldorf airport or 1hr 10mins from Cologne airport</p> <p><b>Ship:</b> <a href="#">MS Riviera Resplendence</a>   <a href="#">Riviera Travel</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Day 2</b> | <p><b>Morning:</b> Guided tour of Cologne spotting the magnificent dual-spired Gothic cathedral for which the city is so famous.</p> <p><b>Afternoon:</b> After lunch, free time, in Düsseldorf's 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</p> <p><b>Coaching:</b> 30min</p> |
| <b>Day 3</b> | <p><b>Morning:</b> Relax as we sail through the Dutch waterways that have shaped life in the Netherlands for centuries</p> <p><b>Afternoon:</b> After lunch onboard, explore Amsterdam by taking a classic glass-topped boat tour through the network of canals</p> <p><b>Evening:</b> Gather in the lounge for a delightful performance of traditional Dutch music, brought to life by talented local musicians</p> <p><b>Coaching:</b> None</p>                 |
| <b>Day 4</b> | <p><b>Morning :</b> Guided tour of Kinderdijk to explore the UNESCO-listed windmills</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|              | <b>Afternoon:</b> Lunch onboard then, scenic sailing towards Ghent, witnessing the contrast of old and new, urban and rural<br><b>Coaching:</b> None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Day 5</b> | <b>Morning : Ghent or Bruges</b><br><b>Option1:</b> 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.<br><b>Option 2:</b> 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<br><b>Evening:</b> A live guitar performance<br><b>Coaching:</b> 45min to Bruges, each way |
| <b>Day 6</b> | <b>Morning :</b> 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.<br><b>Afternoon:</b> After lunch onboard, a peaceful afternoon sailing<br><b>Coaching:</b> None                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Day 7</b> | <b>Morning :</b> Guided tour of Nijmegen revealing the city’s rich history, charming streets and scenic riverside setting.<br><b>Afternoon:</b> we sail onwards to Dusseldorf.<br><b>Coaching:</b> None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Day 8</b> | Disembark at Düsseldorf rather than Basel. Flights will be changed.<br><b>Coaching:</b> 20min from Düsseldorf airport or 1hr 10min from Cologne airport                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

*Your outbound flight is unchanged. You now finish at Düsseldorf rather than Basel, so we are rearranging your flight home and will confirm it with you.*

*None of the original route is part of this itinerary, and we would rather tell you now than let you find out on board: Koblenz, the Rhine Gorge, Rüdesheim, Speyer, Strasbourg, Breisach with the Black Forest and the Alsace Wine Route, and Lucerne and the Bernese Oberland are all out, as is Basel.*

## 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 what you have paid.

**Voucher terms.** Valid for six months from return date of your cruise: book within six months. Value based on your current holiday price. Valid on all 2026, 2027 and 2028 European river cruises.

## YOUR SHIP: THE MS RIVIERA RESPLENDENCE

Launched this year, the Riviera Resplendence is the newest ship in our fleet: 135 metres, three restaurants including the Riverview Kitchen and the Mosaic, French balconies in most cabins and suites, and a split level panorama lounge. You can read about her here: [rivieratravel.co.uk/ships/riviera-resplendence](https://rivieratravel.co.uk/ships/riviera-resplendence)

## 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: exceptional dining, all inclusive drinks, local entertainment and immersive experiences. 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](https://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.*