



MS GEORGE ELIOT · RHINE CRUISE TO SWITZERLAND · DEPARTING 10 OCTOBER 2026

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

The trip departs on 10 October as booked, across the same eight days, and your outbound flight is unchanged. Two things do change. The water is too low for the route to Switzerland, so you will sail through Holland and Flanders instead; and you will do it on the MS Riviera Resplendence, the newest ship in our fleet. Switzerland, Strasbourg and the Rhine Gorge are not part of this sailing.

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

You begin at Düsseldorf on the Rhine, and sail north into the Dutch waterways for Amsterdam by glass topped canal boat, with traditional Dutch music in the lounge that evening. Then the windmills at Kinderdijk, and on into Flanders for a walking tour of Ghent or a full day in medieval Bruges, followed by Antwerp and its Grote Markt. Nijmegen and the quiet ground at Oosterbeek come next, and you finish with a guided tour of Cologne and a free afternoon in Düsseldorf's Old Town.

The MS George Eliot is currently on the Mainz river and we cannot reposition her to Cologne, due to low water levels through the Rhine Gorge. Therefore this cruise will be on our newest ship, MS Riviera Resplendence.

The upper Rhine is running too low this month to sail our Rhine cruise to Switzerland itinerary. Downstream has different water levels: 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.

YOUR ITINERARY, DAY BY DAY

Coaching times are shown for every day. Most of it is our usual excursion 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 the ship at Düsseldorf. Your travel from the UK remain as planned Coaching: 20min from Düsseldorf airport or 1hr 10mins from Cologne airport You'll board our newest ship, the MS Riviera Resplendence, who joined our fleet in July this year We will aim to provide the same standard of cabin. If this is not possible, we will contact you to discuss the available options.
Day 2	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 3	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 4	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 5	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 6	Morning : Guided tour of Nijmegen revealing the city’s rich history, charming streets and scenic riverside setting. Afternoon: After lunch onboard, a visit to Oosterbeek with Hartenstein Museum and Commonwealth war cemetery Coaching: None
Day 7	Morning: Guided tour of Cologne spotting the magnificent dual-spired Gothic cathedral for which the city is so famous. Afternoon: 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 Coaching: 30min
Day 8	Disembark at Düsseldorf rather than Basel. Flights will be changed and we will confirm before departure. Coaching: 20min from Düsseldorf airport or 1hr 10min from Cologne airport

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

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 bookings made within six months of the return date of your cruise. Value based on your current holiday price. Valid on all 2026, 2027 and 2028 European river cruises.

YOUR NEW SHIP: MS RIVIERA RESPLENDENCE

Commissioned in July this year, the Riviera Resplendence is the newest ship in our fleet. You can read all about her here: 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. 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.