MS GEORGE ELIOT · RHINE AND MOSELLE FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS · DEPARTING 31 OCTOBER 2026

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

Your holiday departs on 31 October as booked, still runs for eight days, and your flights are unchanged both out and home. The Rhine is too low for the route you booked, so the cruise along the Rhine and the Moselle is not running. What we can offer in its place is a cruise through the Netherlands and Belgium, and we would move you up to the MS Riviera Resplendence, the newest ship in our fleet, with a gesture of good will to choose from. It is a different holiday, and whether you want it is entirely your decision.

THE RIVER, AND WHY WE HAVE CHANGED YOUR ITINERARY

You fly as booked and board at Düsseldorf, a little downriver of Cologne. Day two brings a guided tour of Cologne and its great twin spired cathedral, with a free afternoon in Düsseldorf. From there the holiday turns north: 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; Kinderdijk, where nineteen windmills have stood along the dykes since the 1730s; then Belgium, with 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, and your last full day is Nijmegen, the oldest city in the Netherlands, before an afternoon sailing back towards Düsseldorf.

The Rhine has dropped too far this month for a ship of this size to work it reliably, 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 rather than the George Eliot. She was launched this year and is the newest ship in our fleet, with larger suites at every grade, three restaurants and a split level panorama lounge. You board her at Düsseldorf, around twenty minutes from Düsseldorf airport or an hour and ten minutes from Cologne, and you leave her there on day eight. We are confirming your cabin now, and will write to you with both.

YOUR ITINERARY, DAY BY DAY

Coaching times are shown for every day. The airport transfers on days one and eight and the Düsseldorf afternoon are the coach days; the rest is reached from the mooring on foot or by short shuttle.

Day 1	Embark at Düsseldorf or Cologne, close by, aboard the MS Riviera Resplendence. Flights as booked. *Coaching: 20min from Düsseldorf airport or 1hr 10mins from Cologne airport*
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 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 to Kölsch, or see the striking architecture in the modern Media Harbour. *Coaching: 30min*
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	**Option 1:** 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:** We sail towards Düsseldorf. *Coaching: None*
Day 8	Disembark at Düsseldorf rather than Cologne. Flights remain as booked. *Coaching: 20min from Düsseldorf airport or 1hr 10min from Cologne airport*

Your flights are unchanged, both out and home. The only difference is the ship andport: you join and leave the ship at Düsseldorf rather than Cologne.

Most of the original route is not part of this itinerary, and we would rather tell you now than let you find out on board: Cochem, Trier, Bernkastel, Koblenz and Boppard are all out, the Rhine Gorge is not sailed, and neither Rüdesheim nor the Lindt tasting takes place. Cologne remains, with its guided tour on day two.

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: book within six months. Value based on your current holiday price. Valid on all 2026, 2027 and 2028 European river cruises.

YOUR NEW 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**

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.