



Amsterdam Pride River Cruise July 23 – August 1, 2014 | Avalon *Affinity*

Your Cruise Vacation Guide

Before You Leave • Getting There About Your Ship • Program Preview

Welcome to RSVP - Where You Belong!

This summer's river cruise is shaping up to be one of the most exciting adventures we've ever created. Not only do we get to spend a few days in fabulous Switzerland, but we'll also sail into Amsterdam for one of the most fun and progressive pride celebrations on the planet!

Avalon *Affinity* is a real beauty, bringing just the right amount of intimate luxury to the RSVP experience. If you've never joined us for a river cruise, you're in for a treat. For those who have navigated the world's rivers with RSVP before, you know how great the adventure that lies ahead will be. Either way, we have lots to share with you regarding your upcoming vacation. So sit down, grab your favorite drink, and read on! This guide outlines everything you need to know before your cruise and what you can expect onboard. It'll also give you a glimpse of the RSVP signature entertainment and activities we've lined up for you.

Whether you've traveled with us many times before or you're a first-timer, you'll certainly find that the new RSVP is exactly where you belong. We can't wait to welcome you to Switzerland!

Enjoy!

Randle, Rachel, Nick, Dann, John, and Paul J.

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Where You Go

	Date	Port	Arrival	Departure
Day 1	Wednesday, July 23	Zürich, Switzerland	Arrivals in Zürich	
Day 2	Thursday, July 24	Zürich, Switzerland		
	Friday, July 25	Basel, Switzerland		6pm
Day 4	Saturday, July 26	Strasbourg, France	8am	10:30pm
Day 5	Sunday, July 27	Speyer, Germany (Heidelberg)	6am	3pm
		Mainz, Germany	10:30pm	Overnight
Day 6	Monday, July 28	Mainz, Germany	Overnight	12:30pm
		Rüdesheim, Germany	2:30pm	Overnight
Day 7	Tuesday, July 29	Rüdesheim, Germany	Overnight	8:30am
		Cruising Rhine Gorge	9am	11:30am
		Cologne, Germany	6pm	Overnight
Day 8	Wednesday, July 30	Cologne, Germany	Overnight	2pm
Day 9	Thursday, July 31	Amsterdam, Netherlands	8am	Overnight
Day 10	Friday, August 1	Amsterdam, Netherlands	(Optional post-cruise begins)	

Itinerary Changes

RSVP Vacations and Avalon have carefully planned this river cruise itinerary for your enjoyment. Although we do our best to adhere to published times, all times listed above are approximate and are more than likely to change slightly as river traffic and lock schedules dictate.

Documentation Requirements

A valid passport is required for all passengers. You will be required to show your passport when checking in for your flight to Zürich, when checking in to the Hotel Marriott Zürich, when checking in onboard *Affinity*, and when checking in to your hotel in Amsterdam.

Please note it is the responsibility of all passengers to have the necessary travel documentation. Failure to do so will result in denied boarding and no refund will be provided.

Where You Start

Provide RSVP with Your Flight Details

Your river cruise journey starts with two nights in Zürich, Switzerland at the Hotel Marriott Zürich. Upon arrival at Zürich International Airport, you will be met by an Avalon representative, who will escort you to the hotel transfer vehicle. The representative will have an Avalon Waterways sign and will be located in the Arrivals Hall.

In order to facilitate this transfer, RSVP will need the following arrival information from each guest prior to May 1, 2014:

Name of Passenger(s): Airline: Flight Number: Scheduled Arrival Time:

This information can be emailed to us at info@rsvpvacations.com or you can call us directly at 310.432.2300.

For those arriving in Zürich prior to July 23 and for those not arriving at Zürich Kloten Airport (Flughafen), you will be responsible for arranging independent transport to the Hotel Marriott Zürich.

Around July 1, you will receive a packet of information from RSVP regarding your cruise. It will include your printed cruise ticket and a purple RSVP luggage tag. We ask that you complete the information on the ID card and place the luggage tag on your bag prior to flying to Zürich. This will help quickly identify your bag upon arrival in Switzerland.

Our Host Hotel

Hotel Marriott Zürich will be our home away from home for your first few days in Europe. The hotel is located near the train station in the heart of the city – on the east bank of the Limmat River, about 10km from Z rich International Airport.

Hotel Marriott Zürich Neumuehlequai 42 8006 Zürich, Switzerland +41 44 360 70 70

Where You Sparkle

Onboard Clothing

RSVP emphasizes a comfortable atmosphere where sportswear and casual resort attire are appropriate for nearly every occasion. Long pants and collared shirts (polo shirts are a welcome and cool choice) are typically worn in the evenings. With respect to your fellow passengers and the beautiful setting, we ask that tank tops, swimwear, and shorts not be worn to dinner. Please note we may make exceptions to the dinner dress policy if we experience a mid-summer heat wave.

On-Shore Clothing

Plan for comfortable days and nights. The average July temperature in Central Europe is usually in the mid 70s during the day and upper 60s at night. However, over the past few years, Europe has experienced late-July/early-August heat waves that drove temperatures well into the upper 90s. You'll want to be prepared for both situations. Remember, too, that when visiting churches, temples, and mosques, you will typically need to cover your knees. So a couple pairs of lightweight casual pants are recommended for daytime sightseeing.

Miscellaneous Packing Advice

Plan for uncertainty; pack at least one change of clothing in your carry-on luggage in case your bags are lost or mishandled en route. Please do not pack any valuables (medications, cameras, jewelry, electronics, cash, your passport, etc.) in your checked baggage.

Special Outfits to Consider

We'll have a couple evening parties and a few T-Dances along the way, however you won't need much in regard to themed outfits/costumes.

Friday, July 25 – 11:00pm "Hello My Name Is..." Party

Our first night on *Affinity* kicks off with our traditional "Hello My Name Is..." Party – the perfect way to mix and mingle with anyone you may not have yet met. With 138 guests onboard, you'll quickly become friends with nearly everyone. Be proud of who you are and where you're from. Get inventive with a nametag or a t-shirt indicating your name and hometown.

Sunday, July 27 – 4:00pm Bathrobe Ball

It's RSVP's traditional underwear party with a twist! Strip down to your skivvies and throw on the bathrobe from your stateroom! You'll be all set for a late afternoon of silly T-Dance fun over cocktails!

Tuesday, July 29 – 4:00pm Found! T-Dance

With all the fantastic places we'll explore, you're sure to pick up a few special souvenirs. While you're out shopping, grab a little something extra to wear at today's T-Dance. Anything purchased ashore is perfect!

Wednesday, July 30 – 4:00pm Red, White, & Blue T-Dance

Our traditional color T-Dance takes on the hues of our final country's flag. Netherland's red, white, and blue offer endless possibilities for our final T-Dance of the week.



Where You Discover

Customs & Immigration

Standard immigration procedures apply when entering Switzerland. Before collecting your bags, you will go through Swiss Immigration. Simply have your passport and completed immigration form in-hand. The process is quick and efficient by nearly all standards. To read more about Swiss Customs, visit www.ch.ch/en/swiss-customs/.

Dining Onboard

Avalon *Affinity*'s bistro would rival any of Europe's finest land-based restaurants. From freshly baked breads and pastries in the morning to four-course overly-indulgent meals at night, we hope you'll enjoy every morsel you put in your mouth. Part of the fun of any RSVP vacation is sitting with different people for each meal. With 138 passengers onboard, you're certain to make some lifelong friends as you break bread with each other. Dining times are as follows:

Early Riser Breakfast 6am – 7am

Full Breakfast 7am – 9am

Late Riser Breakfast 9am – 10am

Lunch Buffet Noon – 1:30pm

Afternoon Coffee & Cake Times Vary Daily

Dinner 7:30pm (one seating only, with all guests served simultaneously)

Late Night Snacks 11pm – Midnight

Coffee, Juices, Tea, & Cookies Available around the clock in the Aft Lounge

Please note the above times may be adjusted slightly depending on the times we dock in each city.

Champagne is served with breakfast. Soft drinks are included with lunch. Soft drinks, wines, and beers are included with dinner. The *Affinity*'s chefs have hand selected the perfect wine pairing for each dinner.

Power & Water

The ship has 220 (European) voltage power outlets in the staterooms. A limited number of adapters are available onboard, so you may want to consider bringing one with you. All water onboard is filtered and potable, however bottled water is also readily available onboard and will be provided each morning as you leave for your excursions. Each stateroom is equipped with a hair dryer.

Mobile Phone Access

Not all U.S.-based mobile phone plans enable you to make and receive calls when outside the U.S. If you are an American citizen and this is your first time traveling abroad, be sure to reach out to your carrier before you leave for Europe to activate the appropriate plan; this typically cannot be done from abroad. International roaming rates apply and you should maintain coverage through local carriers in Switzerland, France, Germany, and the Netherlands throughout most of the cruise.

Internet Access

Complimentary WiFi is available throughout the ship. Access codes for your mobile phones, tablets, and laptops are readily available at the Front Desk. There are also two generaluse computers with a printer in the lobby if you choose to travel electronics free. Because international data rates are so expensive, we advise turning data roaming off on your mobile devices and instead connecting to the Internet via the ship's WiFi. Please note that connection speeds aboard *Affinity* are slower than land-based connections and service may drop out momentarily while our ship makes its way through the lock systems.

Currency

The official currency of Switzerland is the Swiss Franc (CHF). The Euro (EUR) is the official currency of France, Germany, and the Netherlands. Many places in Switzerland will also accept Euro, but you should ask first before assuming. At the time of publishing of this guide, the following exchange rates were applicable:

1.00 USD = 0.87 CHF 1.00 USD = 0.72 EUR 1.00 CHF = 1.15 USD 1.00 EUR = 1.39 USD

Today's exchange rates can be found at www.xe.com/currencyconverter/.

Laundry Service

Laundry service is available at about the same price you would expect to pay in a luxury hotel. You will find laundry bags and price lists in your closet or you can ask your stateroom attendant for details. For safety reason, irons (including travel irons) are prohibited onboard. However, pressing service is available for a fee.

Medical Services

Although there is no official Avalon doctor onboard, in emergencies we are able to dock along the river and get you assistance. Simply contact the Front Desk or any crewmember if a medical need arises.

Door Decorations

Part of the fun of any RSVP vacation is decorating your door. It's a great way to show everyone your personality! When decorating your door, decorations should not obstruct doorways, hallways, or create an electrical or fire hazard. Also, please refrain from using offensive images or nudity on your door. Please respect the ship property and do not damage door surfaces. It is your responsibility to clean up your decorations at the end of the cruise. The costs associated with any damage to your door will be charged to your onboard account.

Drug Policy

Illicit drugs of any kind are not allowed onboard. RSVP has no recourse with the cruise line or government officials in these matters. In other words, you're on your own. Of course, in the Netherlands pot is legal and readily available. However, you are not allowed to smoke it onboard July 31 or August 1 while we're docked in the city.

Smoking Policy

Cigarette smoking is limited to the forward section of the Sky Deck, where the ashtrays are clearly visible. Smoking is prohibited in staterooms, corridors, elevators, stairways, public bathrooms, and all common areas except as listed here.

No Solicitation Policy

We do not allow guests to advertise, market, or offer any other type of commercial or nonprofit solicitations onboard. We want the environment to be free of advertising and other clutter. Any guest violating this policy will be fined a minimum of \$3000 on their shipboard account.

Accessibility

Avalon makes reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled and mobility-impaired travelers, but is not responsible in the event it is unable to do so. Because Avalon cannot provide individual assistance to travelers in many situations, and most of the transportation services are not equipped with wheelchair ramps, we advise you to thoroughly read through Avalon's Terms & Conditions. That being said, Team RSVP will assign a team member to the "Gentle Walkers" group for each city tour.

Alcohol & Non-Alcoholic Beverages

Guests are allowed to bring wine, liquors, sodas, and bottled water onboard. Please note, however, that a corkage fee will apply for wines brought to the main restaurant. There is no corkage fee for beverages consumed in your stateroom.

Personal Funds & Shipboard Charges

Avalon's cashless system is designed to make your life onboard as easy as possible. Your account is activated once you register a credit card with the Front Desk. Avalon accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and Visa. You'll use your onboard account for purchasing drinks from the bar or any other shipboard services (like the salon). Your card will be charged only at the conclusion of your cruise once all purchases have been tallied.

If you'd like to purchase optional excursions, you will handle that credit card transaction separately and directly with Avalon Cruise Director Barbara. These are two different sets of transactions – one with Avalon for drinks/services and one with Barbara for optional excursions. Don't worry if you forget how this works. We'll explain everything to you again once we're onboard!

European Air Conditioning

Air conditioning in Europe is a different standard than in the U.S. Every effort is made to keep the ship, buses, and all excursion venues cool. However, if a heat wave hits, the systems are simply unable to compensate for extreme high temperatures. In those situations, we recommend dressing coolly and comfortably and drinking lots of water to stay hydrated.

Beating the Heat

One recommendation for keeping your room cool is to keep your curtains closed while not in the room. It's a simple thing, but it makes a world of difference.

Bugs

In the heat of summer, sometimes there are bugs along the river. Most aren't the biting kind, but it can still be somewhat discomfiting to see them en masse. Here's a valuable tip we've learned over the years and we'd like to share it with you now...if you're in your room at night and you decide to open your sliding glass doors, be sure to turn off all the lights in your room before doing so. Bugs are attracted to the light and won't hesitate to fly in to your stateroom. We are completely sold out and there's not an empty room to be had onboard. So take this warning as it's intended...be smart about opening your sliding glass doors at night.

Gratuities & Tipping

Gratuities for your stateroom attendants and dining room staff have been pre-paid with your RSVP reservation. Additional tipping for exceptional service is at your discretion and is certainly appreciated by the ship's bar, wait, and cruise director staff. In Europe, a minimum gratuity of \in 5 per person is standard for half-day tours or shorter. For full day tours, \in 10 per person is standard.

Where You Barbara

For those who cruised with us in 2012 or 2013 on the Danube, you will of course know exactly what we mean when we say, "We are truly blessed to welcome back Avalon Cruise Director Barbara Bocz." Barbara is a Hungarian fireball of near statuesque perfection. She plays the ideal foil to RSVP Cruise Director Paul J. Williams (Or is it the other way around? Sometimes it's difficult to tell.)

For those of you who haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting Barbara, you'll get your first chance at the Hotel Marriott Zürich on July 25. She'll be hosting the RSVP/Avalon Hospitality Desk that day. Her colleague Katie, along with RSVP President Randle Roper and RSVP Executive Producer Rachel Pearson, will be hosting on the 23rd and 24th.

The Hospitality Desk Hours are as follows:

Wednesday, July 23	8am — 6pm
Thursday, July 24	8am – 9am & 11:30am – 2pm & 5pm – 7pm
Friday, July 25	10am — Basel Departure (approximately 4pm)

In addition to the above, we will also hold a Welcome Meeting/Orientation at 6pm on Wednesday, July 23 at the Hotel Marriott Zürich. At this session, Katie and Team RSVP will give you a high-level overview of the upcoming 9 days, as well as answer any and all questions you may have about the experience.

If at any time on our voyage you're in need of assistance, you can call Barbara directly at 00491622969510. She'll do her best to help with all matters.



Where You Explore

RSVP has worked closely with Avalon to enhance and develop excursions that will be fun, informative, and exciting for our group. All excursions are exclusive to RSVP guests.

Standard sightseeing excursions in each port are included with your cruise. Optional excursions are listed here and can be booked directly with Avalon Cruise Director Barbara once onboard *Affinity*. Here is a breakdown of all the things you'll see and when.

Day 1 – July 23, 2014 – Arrivals

Welcome to Zürich! Transfer from the airport to our host hotel, the Hotel Marriott Zürich. The remainder of the day is free to start exploration of Switzerland's largest city.

Day 2 – July 24, 2014 – Zürich, Switzerland

This morning, your Local Guide will accompany you along the elegant boutiques of Zürich's Bahnhofstrasse, one of the most beautiful shopping areas in Europe. You will notice that the streets may not be paved with gold, but you can be certain that a couple of meters below the street, unimaginable treasures are lying in underground vaults. Zürich is the world's banking capital. Visitors can spend days exploring Zürich's cobbled streets, wandering through its museums or exploring its flea markets. The quays, with their promenades, are made for walking, especially along the shores of the lake. With an active café culture, it is ideal for people-watching. Zürich has a lively, multi-ethnic population to rival any other major European city. Breakfast and walking tour of Zürich included.

Day 3 – July 25, 2014 – Zürich, Switzerland. Transfer to Basel (Embarkation).

Enjoy a morning at leisure or opt to participate in an optional excursion to Mt. Pilatus, the giant mountain looming above Lucerne to the southwest. This afternoon at around 4pm (exact time TBD as we get closer to sailing), transfer to the Avalon *Affinity* docked on the Rhine River in Basel, where France, Germany, and Switzerland meet. Before dinner, meet your crew at a welcome champagne reception. Breakfast at the hotel and dinner onboard included.

Optional Excursion to Mount Pilatus – €59

Mount Pilatus (2132m/7000ft) presents its visitors with a thrilling ascent by cable car, spectacular summit views of the 10,000-foot Bernese Alps (Eiger, Monk, and Jungfrau) to the south and Lake Lucerne to the north, followed by the steepest cog-wheel descent in the world. In 1868, Queen Victoria made the excursion riding on the back of a mule. Before driving to Basel for embarkation, we shall visit the beautiful lakeside city of Lucerne. Located in the area of four big Swiss lakes, Lucerne has been praised by Marc Twain as well as millions of visitors who cannot imagine Switzerland without Thorvaldsen's impressive Lion Monument, the wooden "Chapel Bridge," or the city's fine stores.

Day 4 – July 26, 2014 – Strasbourg, France

Situated on the border of France and Germany, Strasbourg is influenced by the culture of both countries and is the capital of the Alsace region. It is the seat of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. A Certified Local Guide shows you the noteworthy sights: the Gothic Cathedral, the lovely La Petite France district, Place Kléber, and Place Gutenberg with the statue of the inventor of the printing press. Strasbourg is also home to the Kronenbourg Brewery. An optional excursion into the Alsace wine region is available. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and walking tour of Strasbourg included.

Optional Excursion – Alsace – €39

The famous Alsace Wine Route, or "Route des Vins," is a winding ribbon of flowerdecorated villages in the north of Alsace. This guided excursion takes you on the backroads through the heart of the winemaking country. Stop at the picturesque area of Obernai for short sightseeing of this lovely, small, typical Alsace town, influenced by both the French and the Germans, yet safeguarding its own particular character. Alsace is known for some of the world's finest wines, to be found in the picturesque villages that dot the route with their half-timbered houses, taverns, and stork nests. As there can be no visit to Alsace without a wine tasting on the spot, we will visit one of its cellars and taste the excellent local wine.

Optional Excursion – Black Forest – €40

Visit the setting of countless Grimm Brothers' fairy tales, the Black Forest (Schwarzwald). It is essentially known for it's distinctive features: its highlands, hill upon hill of dark evergreen forest, the typical Black Forest Cake (Schwarzwalder Kirschtorte) whose success is based on tasty cherry schnapps, and the traditional cuckoo clock. Listen to your local expert's stories and fairy tales, as the region is blessed with a particularly rich mythological landscape. Visit the open Air Museum Vogtsbauernhof at Gutach and see how life was lived in this area centuries ago. A local woodcarver will explain how the famous cuckoo clocks are made and there is time for shopping.

Optional Excursion – Maginot Line – €39

The Maginot Line – named after the War Minister Andre Maginot – was completed by the end of 1930s along the Franco-German border, stretching from Switzerland to the vicinity of the Belgian frontier. The Line was composed of huge fortresses with smaller defense posts or simple blockhouses. With the help of our local expert, you are invited to discover one of the forts with a maze of underground galleries, where you will see the fascinating equipment and the original and unique fittings of the kitchen, storage areas, power plant, ventilation system, and the barracks with their sleeping quarters and first aid facilities. A true must for all history lovers.

Day 5 – July 27, 2014 – Speyer, Germany. Excursion to Heidelberg

Heidelberg is Germany's oldest university town, of *Student Prince* fame, a world-famous love musical. Take pictures of the ruins of the imposing Heidelberg Castle, built of red sandstone

and towering above the city, and enjoy free time to explore. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.

Optional Excursion – Speyer Sightseeing w/ Technical Museum – €44

Explore the 2000-year-old imperial cathedral city with the help of your local guide. See the imperial Cathedral of Speyer, one of the largest and most significant Romanesque edifices in Germany. It was built by the emperors and designated as their last resting place as a symbol of their power. Your guided tour ends with a visit at Speyer's Museum of Technology. Thousands of exhibits from the history of technology are waiting to be discovered: an original BURAN space shuttle in Europe's largest aerospace exhibition, walk-in aircraft Boeing 747, and a fully accessible submarine U9 can be explored.

Day 6 – July 28, 2014 – Mainz & Rüdesheim, Germany

Situated on the left bank of the Rhine, opposite the mouth of the Main River, Mainz is Germany's largest and most important wine market. The Old Town has many interesting shops, tearooms, restaurants, and a fountain on the Schillerplatz is decorated with scenes of the famous carnival held here every year. Gutenberg, the father of modern printing, was born here and you'll visit the Gutenberg Museum. Leave Mainz in the late morning; during lunch, sail to Rüdesheim. This pretty little town is the perfect example of a Rhine Valley wine town. Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum is a real surprise! Enjoy a special treat, then there's free time to explore the Drosselgasse and pick up some souvenirs. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and walking tour included.

Optional Excursion – Traditional German Dinner – €59

Savor a typical German dinner Rheinisch-style with most typical local fare, "Schnapps vom Brett" and a wonderful home-made soup. Enjoy a typical German platter – a selection of various roasts with home-made sauerkraut and a variety of locally-made delicacies. Let the talented entertainers give you the best of German music and typical entertainment of both your and their choice. Lean back and relax in a century-old establishment where your drinks, a full-German threecourse menu, and transportation are all included. An unforgettable, cozy evening with your friends, old and new alike.

Day 7 – July 29, 2014 – Rhine Gorge & Cologne, Germany

Downstream from Rüdesheim is the dramatic Rhine Gorge, the most beautiful stretch of river dotted every mile with castles. Pass the legendary rock of the Lorelei, where sweet songs of local beauties lured enchanted sailors to their doom. Arrive in Cologne at sunset with the evening yours to explore! Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.

Day 8 – July 30, 2014 – Cologne, Germany

Cologne is the capital of the Rhineland and one of Germany's largest cities. The soaring twin steeples of Cologne's magnificent gothic cathedral—which took more than 600 years to build—dominate the river skyline. The Germano-Roman Museum next to the cathedral is a must for history buffs! The Old Town abounds with taverns, cafés, and shops. The favorite local beer here is Kölsch. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and walking tour of Cologne included.

Day 9 – July 31, 2014 – Amsterdam, Netherlands

Holland's capital is sophisticated and modern, with a rich and fascinating history. This delightful 700-year-old city with its elegant and classic architecture, cafés and restaurants, and lively marketplace has a distinct ambience. The works of famous Dutch masters can be seen in world-renowned museums such as the Rijksmuseum or the Van Gogh. Today, you can explore on your own or join one of Avalon's optional excursions. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included onboard.

Optional Excursion – Traditional Windmill Village (Zaanse Schans) – €34

If you are in the Netherlands only for a short time, this is a great excursion to see the typical Dutch sights in just one afternoon. Join our local expert for a journey through times when Dutch sailing ships crossed the seven seas and goods from all corners of the world traded in Holland. A short coach ride gives you picturesque views of the Dutch "polder" landscape, reclaimed land with endless horizons and cattle grazing on the green grasslands. The open-air village of Zaanse Schans is a collection of typical Dutch houses, windmills, & craft stores which all have preserved their original character. We will have an inside visit of a functioning windmill showing you how they function. Highly interesting is the clog making demonstration and the cheese factory. In the little stores you can easily find all the Dutch souvenirs you want to take home. Zaanse Schans is a pleasant half-day excursion, which includes an array of typical sights for which Holland is famous.

Optional Tour – Anne Frank – €39

A museum with a story. Visit the hiding place where Anne Frank wrote her diary during the Second World War. For more than two years, Anne Frank, her family, and four others lived secretively in the back part of her father's office building at #263 Prinsengracht, before being betrayed and turned in to the Nazis. If you have read the famous diary, much of this will be familiar to you, but even if you haven't, this can be a fascinating place to see. The Anne Frank House is probably the most famous attraction in town for new visitors. Take advantage of our tailor-made tour, with an introduction by our local escort, hassle free transport, and priority entrance.

Optional Excursion – Can Buy Me Love/Amsterdam By Night – €34

Experience Europe's most famous Red Light District at its best – during the evening! Amsterdam has always cherished the ideas of tolerance and worldliness. The city takes on an entirely new and fascinating character at night: many of its bridges, along with numerous historic buildings and monuments are almost extravagantly illuminated. A night-time boat tour of the city is highly recommended. Take an expertly-guided private cruise and walking tour through the famous Red Light District, learn about the customs and traditions of this provocative and alluring aspect of life in Amsterdam. Enjoy the city's nightlife and collect memories and stories to take home.

Optional Excursion – Cycling through the Dutch Countryside – €49

The Netherlands is known for being the perfect country to go for a bike ride. First, a 15-minute ferry ride takes you out of the city, then start your biking tour into the beautiful and green nature reserve called "Waterland." Your local guide will take you through centuries-old picturesque villages with typical wooden houses, past countless brooks and waterways, across old wooden bridges, and along the ljsselmeer through green pastures. Designated bicycle paths connect the entire region. On a nice summer day, the green fields are full of flowers, while sheep and cows graze in the meadows. It is a peaceful tour with a photo stop at a Dutch windmill. Comfortable bicycles, helmets, and refreshment in a typical Dutch Inn are provided. Of course all of these experiences are under guidance of an expert local guide. This is certainly a different way to experience Holland.

Optional Excursion – Old Masters at the Rijksmuseum – €39

The Masterpieces of Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum offer a unique way to view all the highlights of the Golden Age in one place. The National Museum of the Netherlands is the pride of the Dutch and recently reopened after extensive renovations. Experience these fascinating works of art with the detailed commentary of an expert local guide. What is the story behind Rembrandt's famous "Night Watch"? What is so special about Vermeer's "Kitchen Maid"? Which technique did Frans Hals use in his paintings? Who was the famous windmill and landscape painter? On this excursion, you'll get to know all these exciting facts of "The Masterpieces Collection."

Day 10 – August 1, 2014 – Amsterdam, Netherlands (Disembarkation)

After a hearty breakfast onboard, we bid farewell to the beautiful *Affinity*. We'll separate all guests between those staying with RSVP at Hotel Pulitzer (Prinsengracht 315-331, 1016 GZ Amsterdam, Netherlands, +31 20 523 5235) and those staying elsewhere in the city. After loading baggage onto the appropriate motor coach, we'll all travel through Amsterdam's most beautiful canals for our final excursion together – a canal boat cruise through the elegant grachten, lined with stately homes dating back to Amsterdam's "Golden Age."

Following our canal cruise, those staying at Hotel Pulitzer will be dropped off there around noon. Although check-in is 3:00pm, you can wile away those few hours before the rooms are ready over lunch or you can continue exploring all of the wonderful sites and shopping close to the Pulitzer. Either way, your luggage will be secured at the hotel until you return.

For guests not participating in our optional post-cruise program at Hotel Pulitzer, you will be taken to Amsterdam's Centraal Train Station. From Centraal Station, taxis to your hotel or to the airport are readily available.

For those with early morning flights who won't be able to make our 10am canal boat excursion, we simply say "safe travels" as you head home or continue your European adventures.

Where You Elevate

Over the course of our river cruise, you'll have the opportunity to experience local specialties from wines to music to chocolate onboard. But when you're off the ship, that's your chance to experience the best of local culture. With 14 years of river cruising through Europe, RSVP Cruise Director Paul J. Williams provides his insider tips to really elevate your shore-side experience. By the time we're done, you'll be an insider, too!

Zürich, Switzerland

Since the mid-1990s, Zürich's restaurant trade has boomed. The new establishments, both Swiss and international, tend to favor lighter, leaner meals served in bright spaces that often open out to the street. The traditional cuisine, no longer ubiquitous but still easily found, is called nach Zürcher Art, meaning "cooked in the Zürich style." Think meat, mushrooms, potatoes, butter, and cream – an extremely rich cuisine, perfectly suited to the leaded-glass and burnished-oak guildhalls. Traditional dishes include Zürcher Geschnetzeltes and Tirggel.

Café Odèon

www.odeon.ch/de/

Limmatquai 2, 8001 Zürich

Telephone: +41 (0)44 251 16 50

Located in the heart of Zürich, with over 100 years of history. Typical Viennese coffeehousestyle with homemade foods ranging from burgers to Spaetzle. Many consider this the most interesting café in Zürich with great people watching. Open Monday through Saturday from 7:00am-2:00am.

Sonnenberg

www.convention-zh.ch Hitzigweg 15, 8032 Zürich Telephone: +41 (0)44 266 97 97 International. This restaurant encompasses a breathtaking view high above the lake and city of Zürich. Reservations required. Open 11:30am – Midnight. Dress code: Casual.

Kronenhalle

www.kronenhalle.ch

Ramistrasse 4, 8001 Zürich Telephone: +41 (0)44 262 99 00 Swiss/International. A beautiful restaurant with amazing art, proficient service, and heavenly food. Open Noon – Midnight. Reservations required. Dress Code: Dressy.

Casa Ferlin

www.casaferlin.ch

Stampfenbachstrasse 38, 8006 Zürich Telephone: +41 (0)44 362 35 09

Italian. For almost 100 years, recipes passed down by Great-Grandma Ferlin have been splendidly prepared here. The restaurant is known for its homemade ravioli. Reservations required. Dress code: Casual.

Haus Hiltl

www.hiltl.ch Sihlstrasse 28, 8001 Zürich

Telephone: +41 (0)44 227 70 00 Europe's oldest vegetarian restaurant, serving great vegetarian fare since 1898. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Reservations encouraged. Open 6am – Midnight.

Barfüsser

www.barfuesser.ch

Spitalgasse 14, 8001 Zürich Telephone: +41 (0)44 251 40 64

Once one of the oldest gay bars in Europe, now a sushi bar & cocktail lounge with mixed clientele. Open 11:30am – 11:30pm. Dress code: Casual.

Zürich's Gay Scene

Zürich's rich culture was shaped by artists and political refugees who found their home or a place of refuge in the city, including Richard Wagner, Lenin, Bakunin, James Joyce, Bertolt Brecht, and Albert Einstein. At Spiegelgasse, one can still find the Cabaret Voltaire, the birthplace of Dadaism. The diverse cultural life of Zürich also includes the clubs in the trendy Langstrasse quarter in Zürich-West.

Cranberry BAR

www.cranberry.ch

Metzgergasse 3, 8001 Zürich

Zürich's most popular gay cocktail bar. Since 1997, Cranberry bar is the place to meet in the center of Zürich. Open daily from 5pm.

Black & White Lounge Bar

www.bw-bar.ch

Langstrasse 65, 8004 Zürich

This new LGBT bar opened on March 1, 2014. Serves fresh and cheap food during the day. Open 10am – 4am. Very welcoming to all parts of the LGBT community, so worth checking out to support that terrific attitude. Rachel and Barbara will see you there!

Dynasty Club

www.dynastyclub.ch Zähringerstr. 11, 8001 Zürich Hustler Bar. Open 5pm – 2am. Rachel will not be here.

Les Garçon

www.garcons.ch

Kernstrasse 60, 8004 Zürich This new, gay dance bar is in the 1920s style. A down-to-earth atmosphere, mixed crowd, and good music.

Heaven Club

www.heavenclub.ch

Spitalgasse 5, 8001 Zürich This gay dance club is in the center of Zürich. House, pop, and chart music. Open 6pm – 4am.

Männerzone (translation: Men Zone)

www.maennerzone.ch/

Kernstrasse 57, 8004 Zürich

Männerzone is a bear-friendly cruise bar with a comfortable atmosphere and garage look. Men only. A leather/fetish/sex shop is also at this location.

Rage & Sector C

www.rage.ch

Wagistrasse 13, 8952 Schlieren (near Zürich)

Men's cruising club in the industrial style with bars, labyrinth, cabins, slings, shower, etc. Sector C is on the first floor and is a separate fetish club with strict dress code. Men only. Cash only (Swiss Francs or Euros). Entrance fee.

Cologne, Germany

Hearty and rich food is loved in Cologne – the famous German sausages will amaze even the most seasoned travellers. In Germany, you can enjoy true gourmet dishes, almost all containing meat, as well as different types of pasta, which should be enjoyed with Cologne's official regional beer, Kölsch. Other typical dishes served in Cologne are Flönz (blood sausage), the Halve Hahn (rye bun with Holland Cheese), Hamchen (leg of swine), and Soorbrode (marinated beef a al Rhine) with dumplings and red cabbage. All of these dishes are at the core of the authentic Cologne brew house experience.

Brennerei Weiß

www.brennereiweiss.de

Hahnenstraße 22, 50667 Cologne (Rudolfplatz) Telephone: +49 (0)221 8282 0191 One of the most famous venues in Cologne's gay scene. A rustic German restaurant that includes a bar and beer benches outside on the street. Open 3pm – 1am. Cash only.

Ruhrpott

www.ruhrpott-cologne.de/

Balduinstraße 20, 50676 Cologne Telephone: +49 (0)221 1687 5038 New cafe & cocktail bar in Cologne's gay Bermuda Triangle. Modern and cozy, serving soups, salads, French pizza, homemade cakes, and coffee specialties. Open Noon – 2am.

Culux

www.culux.de

Rudolfplatz 7, 50674 Cologne

Telephone: +49 (0)221 2709 5800

Curry Sausage and burgers. Simple classics for a nice lunch or no-fuss dinner. Meat and potatoes and refined ingredients from select butchers, farmers, and suppliers who guarantee their high quality standards. Open Noon – 11pm.

Bei Oma Kleinmann

www.beiomakleinmann.de/startseite.html

Zülpicher Strasse 9, 50674 Cologne Telephone: +49 (0)221 23 23 46 Do you want Authentic German Schnitzel? Look no further. Biggest and best in town! Reservations required. Open 5pm – Midnight. Casual Attire. Cash only.

Consilium

www.consiliumkoeln.com/ Rathausplatz 1, 50667 Cologne Telephone: +49 (0)221 1687 0727 German. A hidden treasure in Old Town Cologne. Moderately priced refined food with a pretty ambiance and service-oriented staff. Reservations required. Casual Attire. Open 9:30am – 1am.

Café Noa

www.cafe-noa.de/

info@cafe-noa.de Maastrichter Strasse 3, 50672 Cologne Telephone: +49 (0)221 168 111 01 Vegetarian. Reservations encouraged. Open 10am – Midnight. Topnotch service and location, mixed with reasonably priced fair and a trendy, young vibe.

Le Merou Restaurant

www.lemerou.com/

Domkloster 2a, 50667 Cologne Telephone: +49 (0)2211202 4475 International, Seafood, German. Enjoy the best location in Cologne at the Cologne Cathedral. Discover the beautiful Lido terrace and the lounge area of Sir Peter Ustinov's Bar. Reservations required.

Hyatt Biergarten

www.cologne.regency.hyatt.de

Kennedy-Ufer 2a, 50679 Cologne Telephone: +49 (0)221 8281 1537

If you want a simple drink while you enjoy a brilliant view of the Cathedral and Hohenzollern Bridge, this is your place. Great atmosphere reminiscent of a Bavarian beer garden. Open 6pm – Midnight.

Cologne's Gay Scene

Although situated in western Germany, Cologne is sometimes called "the most southern city" of Germany. That is partly because the people in Cologne tend to be more easy-going and approachable than in other German cities. That relaxed attitude led to Cologne becoming the gay capital of the western part of Germany. There are two major gay areas in Cologne: Rudolfplatz, with modern-style cafes, bars, and clubs, and Old Town, with traditional pubs and bars for mixed ages.

Barcelon Colonia

www.barcelon-colonia.de

Pipinstraße 3, 50667 Cologne Telephone: +49 163 1598165 Friendly gay bar in Old Town with Mediterranean charm and design influences inspired by the artist Gaudi. Open 5pm – 1am. Mixed crowd.

Baustelle 4U

www.baustelle4u.de

Vor St. Martin 12, 50667 Cologne Telephone: +49 (0)221 16829711 Popular gay bar in Old Town. Open 5pm – 1am

СОХ

www.cox-cologne.de

Mühlenbach 53, 50676 Cologne Telephone: +49 163 2806245 Cologne's gay bar for the Bear Community and their friends (women welcome). Open 8pm – 1am

Boners

www.boners-cologne.com

Mathiasstraße 22, 50676 Cologne Telephone: +49 (0)221 24 35 41

Cruising bar. All men are welcome. Sorry ladies, this one isn't for you. Boners offers a cage, darkroom, the friendliest crew in town, hardcore videos, a sling room, hot music, and lots more waiting to be discovered!

Station 2B

www.station2b.com

Pipinstraße 2, 50667 Cologne

Cologne's leading fetish and cruising location. Bar and dance floor on the ground level, play area with cabins in the basement. (bring breadcrumbs to find your way out!) Check the website of Station 2B for its current program and dress codes. Minimum comsumption \in 6-8.

ExCorner

www.facebook.com/ExCorner

Schaafenstraße 57-59, 50676 Cologne Telephone: +49 (0)221 2336060 Very popular gay bar for many years. Open 7pm – Whenever They're Ready to Close.

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Amsterdam's dining scene is wildly diverse and covers a lot of ground. Since Indonesia used to be a Dutch colony, the Indonesian restaurants here are among the world's best. A few of our favorite places include:

Le Restaurant

www.lerestaurant.nl/en/

Tweede Jan Steenstraat 3 1073 VK Amsterdam. Telephone: +31 (0)20-379 22 07 Email: info@lerestaurant.nl. Reservations required. Open for dinner Tuesday through Saturday from 7pm. Payment in cash only. French cuisine at its finest.

Ron Gastrobar

www.rongastrobar.nl/en

Sophialaan 55 hs 1075 BP Amsterdam Telephone: +31 (0)20 49 61 943 Email: info@rongastrobar.nl. Reservations required. Open Sunday through Friday from 12pm and on Saturday from 5pm. An accessible French restaurant where overall enjoyment comes first.

Restaurant Blauw

www.restaurantblauw.nl/home.html

Amstelveenseweg 158-160 1075 XN Amsterdam Telephone: +31 (0)20 67 55 000 Email: info@restaurantblauw.nl. Reservations required. Among the best Indonesian restaurants in Amsterdam.

Samhoud Places

www.samhoudplaces.com Oosterdokskade 5 1011 AD Amsterdam Telephone: +31 (0)20 2602094 Email: places@samhoud.com. Reservations required. Open Friday from 12pm, Saturday from 7pm, and Sunday from 12pm. Authentic dishes with an unusual twist. New cuisine at its finest.

The Pancake Bakery

www.pancake.nl/indexeng.php

Prinsengracht 191 1015 DS Amsterdam Telephone: +31 (0)20 625 13 33 On the same canal as Hotel Pulitzer, don't even think about *not* popping in to The Pancake Bakery for some of the most delicious delights in all of the Netherlands.

Amsterdam's Gay Scene

The streets of Amsterdam will be as gay as gay gets Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. With northern Europe's largest Gay Pride Festival happening citywide, you'll find one of the most welcoming citizenry on the entire planet. This festival is not only attended by the gays, but by nearly everyone in the region. They all come together to celebrate progressive diversity within their community and that's what makes this city so special. However, if you want to get off of the streets and in to the bars, here are a few of our favorites:

SoHo

www.soho-amsterdam.com/soho/home-5 Reguliersdwarsstraat 36 An English Pub in the heart of Amsterdam's famous gay party area.

Taboo Bar

www.taboobar.nl Reguliersdwarsstraat 45 A modern and fun place to share a drink with friends or do a little late-night dancing.

Prik

www.prikamsterdam.nl Spuistraat 109 One of Amsterdam's trendiest (and friendliest) cocktail bars.

Club NYX

www.clubnyx.nl Reguliersdwarsstraat 42 11pm – 5am

The club consists of three floors, each floor offering a different style of music, which gives one the opportunity to experience several atmospheres during one night. NYX's most important goal is to provide an experience that revolves around having fun. Because after all, that is what clubbing is about: drinking, dancing, and laughing. This is reflected in all aspects: the music, the entertainment, the décor, the staff, and the guests. No pretention, no attitudes. Although NYX is initially a gay club, straight people are just as welcome. NYX is a melting pot of likeminded, multi-minded people – people who are out to have a good time, to enjoy themselves and enjoy each other.

There are many other small gay bars in Amsterdam attracting various crowds – leather, older, drag, locals, Dutch music/Eurovision, etc. Reguliersdwarsstraat is the predominant gay street and is completely packed during pride weekend. On Friday, August 1, this street is the place to go. On Saturday after the canal parade, the crowds here are immense – think New Orleans' Mardi Gras.

There is a street very close to Reguliersdwarsstraat called Amstel. This street, which has many small gay bars, too, has an outdoor stage on Gay Pride Saturday evening with music and people dancing. For those who need a little elbowroom, Amstel will certainly be less crowded than Reguliersdwarsstraat.

Pride Weekend Highlights

Friday, August 1

De Engel Van Amsterdam – Thank God It's Friday

www.nighttours.com/amsterdam/gayguide/de-engel-van-amsterdam.html 1pm – 3am

A gay bar at the Zeedijk with a terrace, located across the street from The Queen's Head and Barderij.

Club Church

www.nighttours.com/amsterdam/gayguide/club-church.html 10pm – 5am A very popular gay dance and cruise club at Kerkstraat (near Leidsestraat)

Saturday, August 2

The famed canal boat pride parade starts at 2pm at the beginning of Prinsengracht Canal at the Westerdok Harbor. For those staying at the Hotel Pulitzer, simply step outside and you're in the heart of the action.

Funhouse @ WesterUnie

www.nighttours.com/amsterdam/gayguide/funhouse.html 10pm – 7am ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED. ORDER ONLINE.

Bear Necessity at Odeon

www.nighttours.com/amsterdam/gayguide/bear-necessity.html 11pm – 5am ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED. ORDER ONLINE. This is Pride Weekend's official bear dance party.

Sunday, August 3

Rapido

www.nighttours.com/amsterdam/gayguide/rapido.html 3pm – 2am

ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED. ORDER ONLINE.

The most popular gay circuit party in Amsterdam, held at concert hall Paradiso, which is an old church in the center of Amsterdam.

Nude Club Amsterdam at Argos

www.horsemen.nl Doors open by 4pm As the name implies, this is an all-nude party. Dress code: shoes only.

Dirty Dicks Fist Factory

www.nighttours.com/amsterdam/gayguide/dirty-dicks.html 10pm – 3am Sleazy. Dirty. Darkroom fun.

For information regarding Amsterdam Pride's scheduled events, visit www.amsterdamgaypride.nl./

Where You Enjoy

We're thrilled to have two extraordinary RSVP entertainers with us this week:

The fabulously funny and dry **Mr. Paul J. Williams**. He'll be your RSVP Cruise Director and he'll also lead evenings of comedy and games over the course of your cruise. www.pauljwilliams.com

The incomparable **Alysha Umphress**. Before returning to Broadway this fall in *On The Town*, Alysha is taking a little break from the world premier of *Beaches: The Musical* in Washington, D.C., where she played the role of CC Bloom (Bette Midler played CC in the film version). Alysha has been featured in Broadway's *American Idiot, Bring It On: The Musical, On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*, and *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert*. www.alyshaumphress.com

In addition, we're happy to welcome the following local artists:

Armand Jehle. This acclaimed accordion player brings his unique musical stylings to us in Strasbourg.

La Strada. This string trio has delighted our European river cruisers for the past three years. We're thrilled to welcome them back in Cologne!

And to top it all off, we'll also offer Pub Crawls in Zürich, Mainz, and Cologne – all led by Team RSVP. So be ready!

A schedule of the next day's performances and activities will be delivered to your stateroom each evening.



Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Is everything in my Cruise Vacation Guide set in stone? **Answer:** Yes...at the time of printing. We've been working for months to ensure that

everything here is accurate. However, since there are still a few months before we set sail, real world circumstances may cause certain items to be adjusted, amended, reimagined, or simply dropped. Your patience and understanding are certainly appreciated.

Question: Can I bring a friend onboard?

Answer: Only registered cruise guests and crew have access to the ship; no visitors onboard the ship. This is for the safety and security of all guests.

Question: What if I need to change the name on my reservation?

Answer: Name changes are available up to Friday, July 11. A name change fee of \$150.00 USD will be charged for each name change. Contact your travel professional or RSVP to make these changes.

Question: Will I receive anything in the mail?

Answer: Yes. Around July 1, you will receive your cruise contract and an RSVP luggage tag. All other cruise-related communication/information will be made electronically.

Question: What if someone needs to reach me by phone while I'm on the ship? **Answer:** If your mobile phone is turned on while you're away, you'll maintain service through most areas along the river. Having them dial your mobile phone directly is certainly the fastest way for them to reach you. If for some reason they need to call the ship, the phone number for *Affinity* is 004915201506206.

Question: How do I ensure I have the latest news regarding my RSVP vacation? **Answer:** To stay on top of all that's going on and to meet fellow cruisers before you sail, be sure to join our Amsterdam Pride River Cruise event page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/events/406585082819922/

Also, keep a close eye on our Already Booked page at:

http://www.rsvpvacations.com/amsterdam-pride-river-cruise/6

Click on the Already Booked tab to the right. All email communications and news will be posted here.

If you have any questions about your cruise, please call us at 310.432.2300.

We hope you enjoyed your Cruise Vacation Guide. We can't wait to see you in Zürich!

RSVP Vacations is definitely Where You Belong.