



Portland String Quartet



CAPTIVATING RHINE RIVER CRUISE

WITH THE PORTLAND STRING QUARTET

Amsterdam to Basel, Switzerland



APRIL 28-MAY 5, 2022
FROM \$345⁶ PER PERSON
SAVE UP TO \$465 PER PERSON!



The Portland String Quartet: Dean Stein, Ronald Lantz, Julia Adams, Andrew Mark

Grand cities blend in perfect harmony with their historic past and their progressive future. Inspirational towns have given way to great stories, poetry and music, like Heidelberg, where Mark Twain wrote *A Tramp Abroad*. Timeless traditions remain intact—from the making of Kölsch, Cologne’s legendary brew, to the making of Rudesheimer coffee. Take a front-row seat on the spectacular journey along the Rhine and through its designated UNESCO World Heritage Site with its 40 castles strung like pearls on its river banks and to magnificent cities and charming villages alike.

INCLUDES:

- 7-night cruise on *AmaSiena* Amsterdam to Basel
- Up to \$465 per person savings (reflected in pricing to the right)
- All meals on board ship including wine and beer at lunch and dinner as noted.
- Complimentary Sip and Sail cocktail hour each evening
- Choice of included shore excursions in every port
- Three concerts by the Portland String Quartet!
- Port taxes, airport transfers

CRUISE TOUR CATEGORY PRICE*

- E..... \$3,456 (Lower deck, Fixed window)
- D \$4,178 (Lower deck, Fixed window)
- CA... \$4,327 (Mid-deck, French Balcony)
- BB ... \$4,800 (Mid & Upper deck, French Balcony + Outside Balcony)
- BA ... \$4,961 (Upper deck, French Balcony + Outside Balcony)
- AA... \$5,276 (Upper deck, French Balcony + Outside Balcony)

*Cost per person/double occupancy. Please call for single pricing. Pre/Post arrangements will be made on an individual basis and will change the package price

ITINERARY

APRIL 28

Amsterdam

Arrival Amsterdam and group transfer from the airport to the ship. The afternoon is free to explore the city or make your way to the world famous Keukenhof gardens with their millions of flowering tulips. This evening enjoy a Welcome reception where you can meet the crew and your fellow travelers. (L,D)

APRIL 29

Amsterdam

There are 165 canals in Amsterdam, and you’ll get to enjoy some of them on your morning canal cruise. Later in the day, set sail out of Amsterdam. (B,L,D)

APRIL 30

*Cologne,
Germany*

Enjoy cruising to Cologne. Join a guided tour through the Old Town and explore the UNESCO-designated Cologne Cathedral, one of Germany’s most revered Gothic masterpieces. Continue to the Cologne Rathaus, Germany’s oldest town hall, plus see other local sights. For a different view, visit a local tavern to taste its famous Kölsch beer, only made in Cologne, and reibekuchen mit apfelmus, potato pancakes typically served with applesauce. Active adventurers will want to join a guided bike ride along the Rhine and through the historic Stadtgarten. (B,L,D)

MAY 1

*Rhine Gorge—
Rudesheim,
Germany*

Cruise through the captivating UNESCO-designated Rhine Gorge, the most stunningly beautiful stretch of the river before reaching the winemaking town of Rudesheim. Join a wine tasting to discover the flavors of the town’s iconic vineyards. Or drink up the stunning views by soaring

high above the vineyards with a gondola ride to the Niederwalddenkmal. For a more active adventure, hike through the town's beautiful vineyards or join a guided bike tour along the scenic Rhine River. Later in the day, let Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum charm you with its remarkable collection of self-playing musical instruments; or taste one of the town's special delights, Rüdesheimer coffee, ceremoniously made with brandy, coffee and whipped cream. (B,L,D)

MAY 2

*Ludwigshafen,
Germany*

Ludwigshafen is your gateway to a choice of three excursions. Visit Heidelberg, the perfectly preserved medieval city nestled in the Neckar River Valley along Germany's Castle Road. Discover the iconic red sandstone Heidelberg Castle and Great Vat, an 18th-century, 49,000-gallon wine cask. For a more active adventure while in Heidelberg, join a guided hike up the Philosopher's Path, aptly named during the Romantic Period, and enjoy panoramic views of the city. Alternatively, you can visit one of Germany's oldest cities, Speyer, known for the largest Romanesque cathedral in Europe—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—and the medieval Old Gate, Altpörtel. Or join a guided bike tour along the shores of the river Neckar and enjoy a cycling break to explore the picturesque medieval town of Ladenburg. (B,L,D)

MAY 3

*Strasbourg,
France*

Strasbourg offers flavors of both France and Germany because of its borderline location. Enjoy a panoramic tour past the stunning Parc de l'Orangerie, the European Parliament and the Place de la République before walking through its iconic "La Petite France" district, lifted straight from the pages of a fairytale. Wander through charming streets past the Cathédrale de Notre Dame with its famous astronomical clock. Alternatively, take a guided bike ride through the city and Parc de l'Orangerie. (B,L,D)

MAY 4

*Breisach,
Germany*

Breisach is your gateway to several different excursions. Step back in time with a visit to the enchanting Alsatian town of Riquewihr, which looks almost the same as it did in the 16th century. On your walking tour, admire historic architecture and famous sights, such as the Dolder Gate. Alternatively, head to Freiburg, founded in 1120 and home to the Freiburg's Münster, a Gothic cathedral said to have "the most beautiful spire on earth." Those wishing a more active excursion can cycle through the countryside, or hike in the Black Forest, a magical land full of cultural traditions. (B,L,D)

MAY 5

*Basel,
Switzerland*

After breakfast, bid farewell to Switzerland and prepare for your return flight home. (B)

FOR RESERVATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Dana Widen at AAA Travel Group Department
at 207-780-6957 or widen.dana@nne.aaa.com.

You may also contact your closest AAA Travel office by calling 866-883-4985.

The Portland String Quartet performed brilliantly, arguing the composer's case with passion and precision. One couldn't have asked for more persuasive, more unified and more yearningly lyrical playing. – THE NEW YORK TIMES

Throughout its history of national and international tours and more than two dozen recordings, the Portland String Quartet has garnered rave reviews from *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Boston Globe*. These include “Best Chamber Music Recording” for their ground-breaking cycles of the chamber music of Ernest Bloch, George Chadwick and Walter Piston. The Quartet was honored in 2013 by Chamber Music America with its Acclaim Award “in recognition of outstanding service and cultural contributions to the community.”

The PSQ's teamwork skills have been studied by business schools throughout the United States beginning with a captivating video produced by the Harvard Business School. They were proclaimed “Maine treasures” by Colby College where they served as Artists in Residence. The quartet continues its dedication to education with annual workshops where they mentor students from childhood to adult amateur players. They have worked closely with Dr. José Antonio Abreu, the founder of Venezuela's El Sistema. Gifted students from Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, The Dominican Republic and as far away as Japan have come to Maine to study with “the Portland.”

The Portland String Quartet has enjoyed many extraordinary sailings through AmaWaterways, bringing its interpretative skills and loyal supporters to the great rivers and ports of Europe. Recently, in 2017, they traveled on the Seine from Paris to the Normandy Coast. In 2018 they sailed the Danube River from Budapest to Slovakia, Austria and Germany. 2019 found the PSQ sailing through the Bordeaux region of France. Celebrating American music and the music of the great European composers, these wonderful trips bring masterpieces of the chamber music literature to their historic origins.

The Portland String Quartet responded to the work's inner tensions and structural fluidity with a thrilling performance.

– ALLAN KOZINN, THE PORTLAND PRESS HERALD

