

Journey along the
ELBE

BERLIN TO PRAGUE



SPONSORED BY



**Michigan State University
Alumni Association**

May 27 – June 7, 2019

Other dates available upon request



Inspiring Moments

A World Apart

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It should weave together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale. Your personal travel story begins with our commitment to delivering authentic experiences with local people.

The incomparable value of your journey lies in the personalized care you receive from your Travel Director and the knowledge you gain from expert guides and lecturers who call this area home.

By eliminating logistical worries, your multilingual Travel Director allows you to immerse yourself comfortably in your surroundings. This high-caliber professional makes you feel safe and important by creating a convivial, welcoming atmosphere.

The other important characters in this story are the guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines in their insider perspective and commentary.

With these specialists at your side, cruise through enchanting scenery and centuries of history on this fabulous journey to renowned capitals and quaint towns in Germany and the Czech Republic.

- ▶ Admire the **Elbe's ever-changing, captivating scenery** as you savor the peaceful, unhurried pace.
- ▶ Delight in **Prague's old-world grandeur** while meandering across the Charles Bridge.
- ▶ Feel the **dynamic energy of Berlin**, one of Europe's most exciting cities.
- ▶ Marvel at the rebirth of **Dresden's beloved Church of Our Lady**.
- ▶ Travel in the footsteps of **Martin Luther**, whose religious ideas triggered far-reaching reformation.
- ▶ Watch a master artisan at work, crafting delicate **Meissen porcelain**.

Above: Saxon Alps | Below: Dresden | Cover photo: Königstein Fortress





Dear Spartan Alumni and Friends,

Join us as we wend our way through enchanting scenery and centuries of history on this unique river cruise aboard a state-of-the-art paddleboat cruiser. Arrive right in the heart of cities within Germany and the Czech Republic, while relishing the quieter, less crowded intimacy of the Elbe River during eight relaxing nights on board the MS Elbe Princesse.

This remarkable river journey is bookended by overnight hotel stays in two of Europe's sparkling gems, Berlin and Prague. In each capital city, enjoy fascinating guided excursions that showcase its renowned landmarks and special beauty.

While gliding along the Elbe, delight in the breathtaking views around every bend, from the picturesque Saxon Alps region to the many charming towns and villages nestled on the river's banks. Plus, enjoy a choice of excursions in the ports of Wittenberg, Meissen, Dresden and Prague, featuring cycling, a beer tasting, history tours and more.

This thoughtfully planned trip offers the camaraderie of group travel, free time to explore independently and insightful lectures that add meaningful context to your daily experiences. Ensure your spot on this incredible adventure by reserving today!

Go Green!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Regina Cross".

Regina Cross BS '91
Director of Alumni Travel
Michigan State University Alumni Association

We strongly suggest purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your confirmation letter from the MSU Alumni Association.

833-303-1333

michst.ahitravel.com

Brandenburg Gate, Berlin





Day 1

In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Berlin, Germany. †

Day 2

Berlin, Germany

Upon arrival, transfer † to the Hilton Berlin.

Meet and mingle with your fellow travelers tonight at a Welcome Reception.

Day 3

B | D

Berlin

Discovery: Berlin City Tour. Free-spirited and progressive, Berlin has revitalized itself with cool, contemporary architecture, an exuberant arts scene, hip cafés and pleasant parks. See its top sites, including the Brandenburg Gate, Pariser Platz, the Federal Chancellery, the elegant Unter den Linden boulevard and more. Drive along Kurfürstendamm, the leafy boulevard lined with exclusive shops, restaurants and cafés.

Free Time: Spend the afternoon at leisure.

Later, embark the MS Elbe Princesse, outfitted with two modern paddle wheels at the stern.

Enrichment: A Tale of Two Cities: East Berlin and West Berlin. Examine the lasting impact of the city's divided past.

Before dinner, gather for a Welcome cocktail, then savor a French-inspired Welcome Dinner.

Day 4

B | L | D

Potsdam

Discovery: Potsdam. Stroll through the regal, terraced Sanssouci Gardens, part of Frederick the Great's lavish summer retreat, and visit Cecilienhof Palace, site of the 1945 Potsdam Conference.

This evening, enjoy entertainment on board.

Day 5

B | L | D

Cruising the Elbe | Magdeburg

From the sun deck, take in the serene riverside scenery as the ship cruises toward Magdeburg.

Enrichment: Contemporary Germany. Gain insights about life in a unified Germany today.

YOUR INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE

Free time means something different to every traveler. You may like to linger in a cozy café or stay on the go. That's why we design itineraries that allow you to craft an individual travel experience.



PERSONALIZE YOUR CRUISE | PYC | Included

Choose from a variety of excursions in selected ports based on your interests.

Check out our itinerary for more details. We've done the legwork. Now the choice is yours.



Old Town, Dresden

Discovery: Magdeburg. On a guided tour, explore one of Germany's oldest cities, and step inside the country's first Gothic cathedral.

Day 6

B | L | D

Wittenberg

🌟PYC | Choose one of these excursions:

Martin Luther, a monk and theological scholar, lived and taught in this university town for many years and sparked momentous religious reform. Each choice today begins with a guided tour in town, pass by the City Church, where he regularly preached, and stop to see the door of Castle Church where he nailed his 95 Theses.

•**Wittenberg and Martin Luther.** After the tour in town, walk through the university where Luther taught and explore Luther House, his former home, now a museum with extensive exhibits chronicling the Reformation movement.

•**Wittenberg and Brewery Tour.** Following the tour in town, discover how the Brauhaus brewery creates its beers and enjoy a tasting. *(Active – Three floors and many stairs)*

Return to the ship and continue cruising.

Day 7

B | L | D

Meissen | Dresden

🌟PYC | Choose one of these excursions:

•**Meissen Porcelain.** See the craftsmanship behind the town's famous white porcelain during a tour of the factory, established in 1710.

•**Meissen Bike Tour Along the Elbe.** Pedal on the Elbe Cycle Route, voted the top favorite by the German Cycling Federation. *(Active)*

After your morning activity, return to the ship for a satisfying lunch and cruise to Dresden.

🌟PYC | Choose one of these excursions:

•**Dresden City Tour.** On a panoramic tour, see the three stately castles near the Elbe, the "Blue Wonder" steel bridge from 1893 and the chic Koenigstrasse. With a guide, walk to view the baroque Zwinger, the Royal Castle and Dresden Cathedral. Admire the Church of Our Lady, built in 1743 and ravaged by World War II bombings, now lovingly restored. Later, study the wonderful collection in the Old Master's Gallery, featuring art by Rembrandt, Rubens, Vermeer and Italian legends Raphael, Titian and Botticelli.

Elbe Cycle Route, Meissen





•**Dresden Old Town Culinary Tour.** Take an engaging walk through the beautiful old town as your guide provides fascinating insights about its architecture and history. Pause along your route to sample a variety of tasty Saxon specialties.

The ship moors overnight in Dresden.

Day 8 B | L | D

Saxon Alps

Discovery: Saxon Alps. Head into the Elbe Sandstone mountains and marvel at the craggy, unusually shaped formations created by water erosion millions of years ago. Gaze across this unique landscape from Königstein, one of Europe's largest hilltop fortresses.

Revel in breathtaking views as the ship cruises through the scenic Saxon Alps region, dotted with forested riverbanks, green meadows and red-roofed houses.

Day 9 B | L | D

Litomerice, Czech Republic

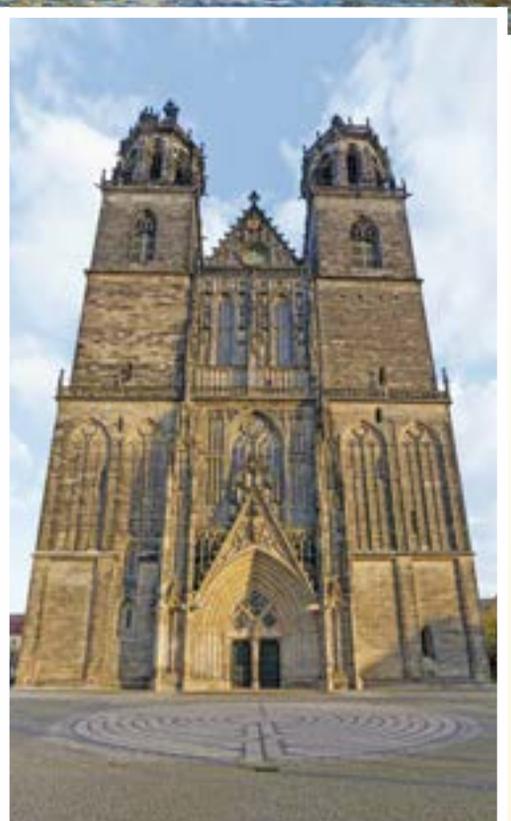
Discovery: Litomerice. Stroll through this pretty city established in the 10th century and filled with colorful Gothic, Renaissance and baroque buildings.

From your deck chair, take in unfolding vistas of life along the river as the ship sails to Prague.

Day 10 B | L | D

Prague

Discovery: Old Town Prague. Spread along both banks of the Vltava River, Prague is one of Europe's most dazzling cities. Magnificent architecture abounds in its historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage site. With a guide, set out on a walk to discover its Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and baroque gems. See



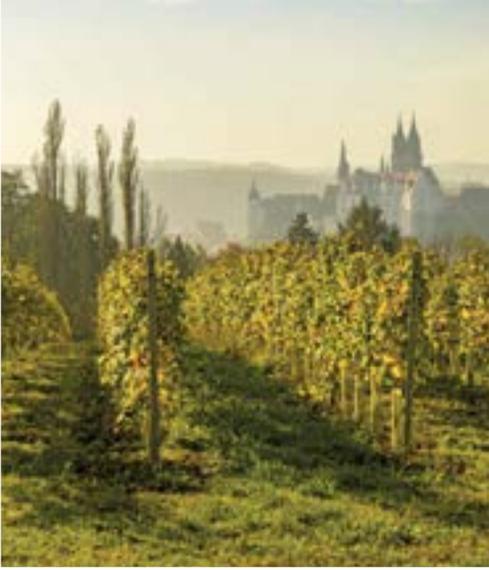
Above: Berliner Dom, Spree River, Berlin | Inset: Germany's first Gothic cathedral, Magdeburg

the Old Town Square, the 14th-century Church of Our Lady before Tyn and Prague's medieval astronomical clock. Cross the acclaimed Charles Bridge, lined with 30 statues of religious figures. Return to the ship for lunch.

Free Time: Make your own plans in Prague.

Enrichment: Velvet Revolution. Learn how this pivotal movement in 1989 freed the former Czechoslovakia from communist control.

Tonight, as your cruise concludes, enjoy a festive Farewell Reception and Dinner on board.



Left: Vineyards near Meissen | Below: Brauhaus Brewery, Wittenberg | Lower: Charles Bridge, Prague



Day 11

B

Prague

After breakfast, disembark the ship.

PYC | Choose one of these excursions:

• **Prague Castle.** This sprawling castle, one of world's largest ancient castle complexes, has been the seat of Czech rulers since the ninth century. See the Castle Square, the Chapel of the Holy Cross, the Picture Gallery and the old Royal Palace. Go inside the grand, Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral, built in 1344, and stroll on Golden Lane, lined with charming, 16th-century homes once occupied by the castle's staff.

• **Prague's Historic Jewish Quarter.** Explore the original network of narrow streets and see the baroque Old New Synagogue, Europe's oldest active synagogue, founded in 1270. Next, visit the Prague National Jewish Museum, comprised of four synagogues, a ceremonial hall and the Old Jewish Cemetery, one of the oldest of its kind in the world. More than 12,000 timeworn, jumbled tombstones are wedged inside its boundaries.

This afternoon, check in to the Art Deco Imperial Hotel.

Free Time: Spend the rest of the day pursuing your own interests in the city.



Day 12

B

In Transit

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city. ⬆

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Walking is required on many excursions, and surfaces may be uneven or unpaved.

✈ Transfers and flights included for AHI FlexAir participants.

B|L|D denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

ACCOMMODATIONS



MS Elbe Princesse

Employing innovative, advanced marine design based on the paddle-wheelers of the past, the recently christened, first-class Elbe Princesse easily navigates shallow rivers, allowing it to moor right in the heart of city centers. On board this intimate vessel carrying 71 travelers, enjoy outstanding, friendly service; bright, contemporary and comfortable cabins; and exceptional cuisine. Begin your day with a wonderful breakfast buffet, and delight in French and European specialties at lunch and dinner. All your drinks on board are included, except for special wines and spirits. With beds that face the river, the staterooms boast great views of the passing scenery, and each includes a private bathroom with shower. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



ART DECO IMPERIAL HOTEL |  PRAGUE



HILTON BERLIN | BERLIN | 

Our travel experts have carefully selected these first-class properties for their prime locations. They are ideally located for exploring the region's renowned landmarks, while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in local life. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of the services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.

Reserve your Journey along the Elbe today!

Trip #:5-24483W

Send to Journey along the Elbe
MSU Alumni Association
c/o AHI Travel
International Tower-Suite 600
8550 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631

Please contact AHI Travel at **833-303-1333** with questions regarding this trip or to make a reservation. You may also call the MSU Alumni Association at **888-697-2863**.

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

1) _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

2) _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home: (_____) _____ Cell: (_____) _____

Sharing with _____ (Form sent separately)

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Double Accommodations: Main or Upper

Single Accommodations: Single accommodations at an additional cost (limited availability).

Main (156 sq. ft.) additional \$1,595 Upper (156 sq. ft.) additional \$1,595
 Upper (129 sq. ft.) additional \$995

I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Land | Cruise Program and AHI FlexAir

I/we reserve the Land | Cruise Program and request the AHI FlexAir to Berlin, Germany, with a return from Prague, Czech Republic, to depart from:

Departure City

Land | Cruise Program

I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by **March 13, 2019** (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI Travel.

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600 pp required) to reserve _____ place(s).

Accept my check made payable to **AHI Travel**.

Charge my: MasterCard Visa Discover Amex

Card # _____

Expires _____/_____/_____

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature. **MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL**-The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

AIR TRANSPORTATION-The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Exclusion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. **VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.** Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for arrival and departure transfers, and any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS-On occasion, AHI Travel obtains, from its staff, or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI Travel, without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI Travel's sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

RESPONSIBILITY-AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association do not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program, and act only as agents for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations or other services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not liable for any negligence or willful act of any such person or entity or any third person. In addition and without limitation, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property or accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature whatsoever caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, are subject to change at or before the time of departure. No revisions of the printed itinerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is canceled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and accepts the terms of this contract set out herein and in more specific pre-departure passenger information. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the company(ies) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip. **CANCELLATION** All cancellations for any reason will be subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. You may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 15% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. We strongly suggest purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your confirmation letter from the MSU Alumni Association. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI Travel. **CANCELLATION OF TRIP OPTIONS**-Purchases of optional excursions, trip extensions and additional hotel nights become fully non-refundable 45 days prior to departure. Air transportation and private transfer purchases are subject only to penalties assessed by the airlines and transfer suppliers.

PROGRAM DATES

Air Program dates:

May 27 – June 7, 2019

Land | Cruise Program dates:

May 28 – June 7, 2019

LAND | CRUISE PROGRAM

Category-Deck	Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
B-Main (Midship)	\$5,145	\$250	\$4,895
A-Upper (Forward & Midship)	\$5,545	\$250	\$5,295

Category A features floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door with French balcony. Category B features a picture window. Cabins on both decks listed above are 156 sq. ft.

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT, Port Tax and Service supplement is an additional \$395 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations at an additional cost (limited availability): Main (156 sq. ft.)-additional \$1,595; Upper (156 sq. ft.)-additional \$1,595; Upper (129 sq. ft.)-additional \$995.

Let us arrange your flights!

✈️ **AHI FlexAir** | Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- ▶ **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase.
- ▶ arrival and departure **transfers** on most flights.
- ▶ **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights.
- ▶ **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays.
- ▶ flight insurance worth up to \$250,000, subject to policy terms.

**Travel stress-free
with AHI FlexAir.**



Sanssouci Palace, Potsdam



Museum Island, Berlin

UNESCO World Heritage

1. Museum Island, Berlin
2. Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin
3. Luther Memorials in Wittenberg
4. Historic Center of Prague



Luther Memorial, Wittenberg

833-303-1333

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INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

(with baggage handling)

- **1 night** in Berlin, Germany, at the first-class Hilton Berlin.
- **8 nights** aboard the first-class MS Elbe Princesse.
- **1 night** in Prague, Czech Republic, at the deluxe Art Deco Imperial Hotel.

Transfers

- Deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land/Cruise Program, plus baggage handling.

Extensive Meal Program

- 10 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 8 dinners, including a Farewell Dinner; wine with hotel dinner; and all drinks included on board except special wines and spirits.
- Opportunities to sample authentic cuisine and local flavors.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history:
 - See Berlin's remarkable landmarks.
 - Stroll through splendid gardens and a palace in Potsdam.
 - Tour medieval Magdeburg.
 - Marvel at the Elbe Sandstone Mountains.
 - Explore the colorful streets of Litomerice.
 - Discover the historic heart of Prague.



Choose from a selection of **PERSONALIZE YOUR CRUISE | PYC**

excursions in these towns:

- **Wittenberg** | Wittenberg and Martin Luther | Wittenberg and Brewery Tour
- **Meissen** | Meissen Porcelain | Meissen Bicycle Tour Along the Elbe
- **Dresden** | Dresden City Tour | Dresden Old Town Culinary Tour
- **Prague** | Prague Castle | Prague's Historic Jewish Quarter
- Free time to pursue your own interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



Zwinger Palace, Dresden

AHI Travel Expertise

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

- ▶ **Travel Consultants** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.
- ▶ **Passenger Service Representative** | Once you have reserved your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who will help you with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.
- ▶ **Travel Information** | Receive extensive destination information and travel tips compiled by our travel-savvy team to prepare you fully for your journey.

Once you arrive:

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

- ▶ **Travel Director** | Throughout your journey, you will be in the care of a seasoned AHI travel professional who will manage all the logistics, allowing you to relax and simply soak up the ambience. Resourceful, knowledgeable and attentive, your Travel Director helps to ensure you enjoy an unforgettable travel experience.
- ▶ **Expert Guides** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
- ▶ **Lecturers** | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



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Old Town, Prague



Discover cultural splendors and lovely vistas on a first-class Elbe River cruise!

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural travel programs that delight travelers.

With AHI you can rely on:

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.

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