

2023

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

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CRUISING THE ELBE RIVER

From Prague to Berlin aboard *Elbe Princesse*

April 2–13, 2023

With **Sue Weaver Schopf**



HARVARD
Alumni Travels



Above: Meissen

Cover: View from Prague's Charles Bridge

Cruising the Elbe River

The Elbe River has long been an important delineator of east and west in Europe. Linking two fascinating capital cities—Prague and Berlin—it traverses a land filled with captivating treasures, including cosmopolitan cities and picturesque towns; terraced vineyards and lush orchards; fortress-crowned crags; and the spectacular gorges of “Saxon Switzerland.”

Beginning with a stay at the elegant and centrally located Four Seasons Prague, this eight-night river cruise aboard the lovely *Elbe Princesse* embraces the broad sweep of history across this region: Prague Castle, a sprawling complex that has served as the seat of power for kings of Bohemia, Holy Roman emperors, and presidents of the former Czechoslovakia; the Wittenberg church where Martin Luther posted his 95 Reformation Theses; historic Jewish synagogues and cemeteries; World War II memorials; Meissen’s fine porcelain workshop; the treasures of Dresden’s Green Vault; the famous Bauhaus school of 20th-century architecture; Potsdam’s whimsical Sanssouci palace and gardens, summer residence of Frederick the Great; and the contrast of old and new in Berlin, Germany’s dynamic capital city and largest metropolis. An on-board lecture program and top-tier local guides will help provide context, perspective, and enrichment.

Activity Level 3:

A LITTLE MORE TO IT

This a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily excursions may involve up to one mile of walking at a time, navigating uneven terrain, and standing for up to two hours at museums or other sites. In some instances, elevators are unavailable, and stairs may not have handrails.

Study Leader



Sue Weaver Schopf is Distinguished Service Lecturer in Extension at Harvard University. She recently retired from the position of Associate Dean and Director of the Master of Liberal Arts Program at the Harvard Extension School, where she also

served for over thirty years as Research Advisor in the Humanities. She holds the PhD in English from Vanderbilt University. A recipient of post-doctoral fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, she is a winner of the Petra T. Shattuck Excellence in Teaching Prize, the Michael Shinagel Award for Extraordinary Contributions to Student Success, and the Dean’s Distinguished Service Award. A specialist in 19th-century British literature and 20th-century drama, she also teaches courses on popular culture topics such as the vampire in literature and film, the post-apocalyptic novel, and depictions of the scientist in fiction and film. Her publications include articles on a variety of 19th-century authors including William Wordsworth, Mary Shelley, and Bram Stoker. Her lifelong devotion to walking in the footsteps of writers and artists has inspired her lectures on more than 50 Harvard Alumni travel-study programs and a dozen spring-break tours designed for her students.



Prague rooftops; Bastei rock formations

Schedule by Day

SUNDAY & MONDAY, APRIL 2 & 3

HOME / PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Depart home on overnight flights to Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. Arrive on Monday and transfer to your hotel, located near the Vltava River in historic Old Town. Gather for a welcome reception this evening. FOUR SEASONS PRAGUE (R)

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

PRAGUE

After a morning lecture, join a walking tour to explore Old Town including the Jewish Quarter, visiting the haunting Old Jewish Cemetery and the 13th-century Old-New Synagogue, the oldest active synagogue in Europe. Sample regional specialties during lunch, then spend the afternoon and evening at leisure in central Prague or beyond. FOUR SEASONS PRAGUE (BL)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

PRAGUE (EMBARK)

Ascend to the imposing Prague Castle to see St. Vitus Cathedral, an imposing structure that incorporates a unique mix of Gothic and Baroque elements; and the Old Royal Palace, one of the oldest parts of the castle. Also stroll along Golden Lane, a charmingly quaint street that dates back to the 15th century. Embark *Elbe Princesse* this evening in time for the Captain's welcome dinner. ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

LITOMERICE

Call at Litomerice, a royal enclave dating to the 10th Century. A well-known trading post of the Holy Roman Empire, its old town is now under protection as a national cultural monument, and is highlighted by St. Stephen's Cathedral, dating to 1057. ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

BAD SCHANDAU, GERMANY

Enjoy a morning of cruising along the beautiful Elbe River through "Saxon Switzerland" to the picturesque spa town of Bad Schandau, a summer resort for more than two centuries. Travel uphill and inland by motorcoach to see the spectacular Bastei rock formations. ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

DRESDEN

Dresden is renowned for its splendid Baroque architecture and world-class art collections. Enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town, including Theater Square and the Frauenkirche, rebuilt and reconsecrated in 2005 after being leveled during World War II. Also marvel at the glittering precious objects at Dresden Castle's Green Vault. This afternoon, either visit Dresden's Transparent Factory, a glass-walled facility designed by Volkswagen for the production of its sedans and expanded into an interactive exhibition space for future technologies, or enjoy free time to explore independently. ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

DRESDEN / MEISSEN

This morning, visit the Zwinger Palace museum and explore the Old Masters Gallery, where works by Rembrandt, Rubens, and Raphael are displayed. Continue to nearby Meissen this afternoon, where the formula for hard-paste porcelain was developed in 1708. Choose between a visit to the workshop that continues to make the "white gold" by hand and the exquisite collection at the Porcelain Museum, an e-bike excursion along the banks of the Elbe, or independent free time in Meissen's historic center. ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

MONDAY, APRIL 10

WITTENBERG

Following a morning of relaxed cruising, call at Wittenberg for a visit to Castle Church, where in 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door, beginning the Protestant Reformation. Market Square, spared by the Allies during bombing raids, is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On a walking tour of Old Town, visit Luther's home as well as St. Mary's Church, where he preached. ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

DESSAU

Tour the city of Dessau, home of the famous Bauhaus school of architecture and the Wörlitz Garden Kingdom, each of which has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the influential Main Building at Bauhaus as well as the Masters' Houses, once home to visiting artists such as Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky. Enjoy a gondola ride through the lakes and canals of the English-style gardens at Wörlitz, among the largest gardens in continental Europe. ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

POTSDAM

Explore the magnificently Rococo Sanssouci Palace and Park, originally sketched by Frederick the Great and now the largest UNESCO World Heritage Site in Germany. Also visit Cecilienhof Palace, where Churchill, Truman, and Stalin met at the historic Potsdam Conference in 1945 to redraw the map of Europe. Enjoy the captain's farewell dinner this evening. ELBE PRINCESSE (BLD)

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

BERLIN / HOME

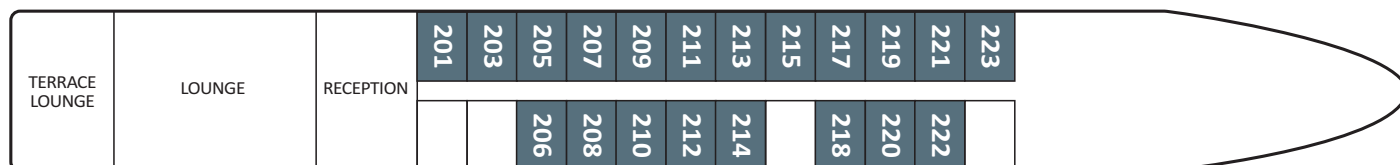
Disembark and transfer to the airport for flights home, or to the center of Berlin to begin the optional extension. (B)

MS Elbe Princesse

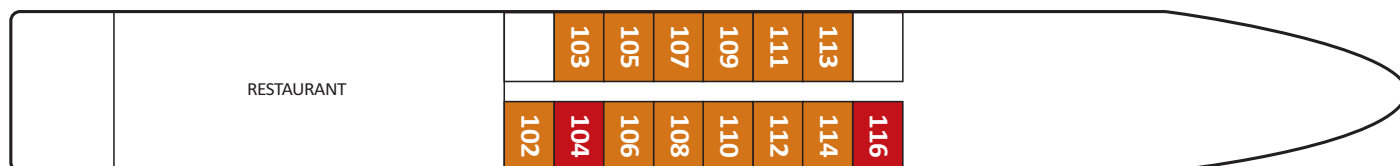
The delightful *Elbe Princesse*, launched in 2016, is specifically designed to navigate the rapidly-changing conditions of the Elbe River using advanced engineering technologies. With stern wheel propulsion and a remarkably shallow draft, she is able to navigate low waters and traverse areas that other vessels operating in this region are not. Accommodating a maximum of just 70 passengers, a warm and intimate atmosphere is created on board. The restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting, and the lounge is a pleasant space for relaxation with panoramic windows, a large TV, and a bar area. The modern and comfortable cabins all face outside and feature picture windows, a small desk and seating area, independent climate control, a safe, hairdryer, bathroom with full amenities, and TV. With plenty of light in public areas and a large Sun Deck, there is ample opportunity to watch the shoreline gently glide by as you relax on your comfortable floating hotel and take advantage of the open bar. Wifi (intermittent) is accessible throughout the vessel.



UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



Rates per Person

CATEGORY	DOUBLE	SINGLE
MAIN DECK 156 sq. ft., picture windows	\$7,990	\$12,490
UPPER DECK 156 sq. ft., large sliding windows with balcony rail	\$8,990	\$12,990
MAIN DECK SINGLE 118 sq. ft., picture windows	—	\$11,990

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including two hotel nights and eight nights aboard *Elbe Princesse* • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates • Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, wait staff, guides, and drivers for all group activities • Entrance fees and port charges • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout the program



AIR ARRANGEMENTS U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.



Zwinger Palace

Upcoming Travel Programs

LAND & RAIL

Moroccan Discovery

MAR 12–25, 2023

Shadi Kouresh

Provincial French Countryside

JUN 2–16, 2023

Gordan Teskey

Legendary Turkey

OCT 13–27, 2023

Lizabeth Cohen & Herrick Chapman

Ultimate Patagonia

OCT 19–30, 2023

Brian Farrell

Journey Through Vietnam

OCT 26–NOV 9, 2023

CRUISES

The Galápagos Islands on *M/V Theory*

DEC 31, 2022–JAN 9, 2023

Gabriela Soto Laveaga

Costa Rica & the Panama Canal on *Hebridean Sky*

JAN 3–10, 2023

Erez Manela

Expedition to Antarctica on *Le Boreal*

JAN 4–17, 2023

Scott Edwards

Total Solar Eclipse in Australia on *Caledonian Sky*

APR 12–25, 2023

Joseph Henrich

Antiquities of the Red & Aegean Seas on *Le Bougainville*

APR 14–26, 2023

Michael McCormick

European Coastal Civilizations: Lisbon to London on *Le Bougainville*

MAY 20–29, 2023

Cruising Alaska's Glaciers & Inside Passage on *Star Breeze*

JUL 13–20, 2023

Leeanne & Alfonso Alonso

Coastal Life Cruising the Adriatic & Aegean Seas

SEP 18–26, 2023

Robert Stavins

Island Life in Ancient Greece on *Le Bougainville*

OCT 3–11, 2023

Sicily by Sail on *Sea Cloud II*

OCT 10–18, 2023

James Simpson

RIVERS & LAKES

The Pride of South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe

MAR 11–27, 2023

Bence P. Ölveczky

Great Journey through Europe: Switzerland, France, Germany and the Netherlands

JUN 28–JUL 9, 2023

Christie McDonald

Cruising the Danube River: Vienna to the Black Sea on *Amadeus Silver III*

OCT 7–19, 2023

The Enchanting Douro River: Round-trip Porto on *AmaDouro*

OCT 13–21, 2023

Catherine McKenna

Thailand & Laos: A Journey along the Mekong on *Anouvong*

DEC 27, 2023–JAN 6, 2024

William Kirby

FAMILY ADVENTURES

Tanzania Family Safari

DEC 23, 2023–JAN 2, 2024

Dan Lieberman

Egypt & the Nile: A Journey into Antiquity on *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer*

DEC 26, 2023–JAN 5, 2024

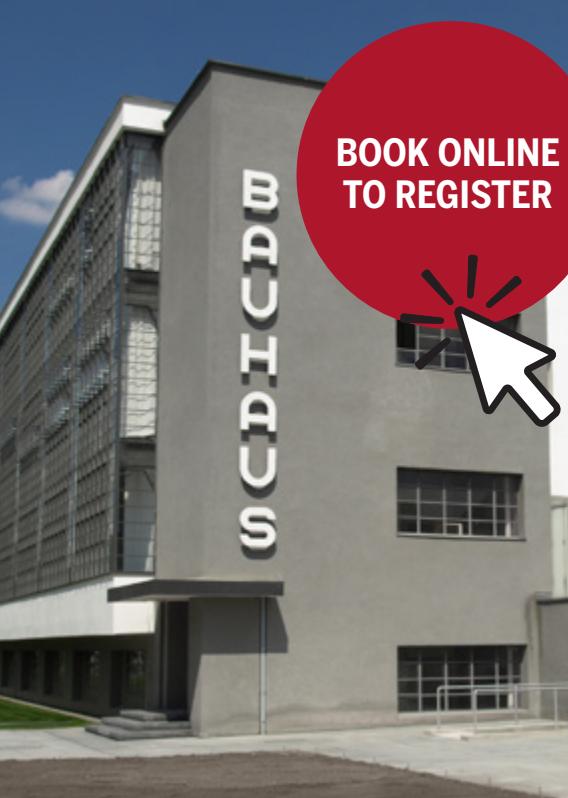
Wolves of Yellowstone

DEC 26, 2023–JAN 3, 2024

Missy Holbrook

New Year's in Havana: A Family Program in Cuba

DEC 27, 2023–JAN 1, 2024



Trip Registration is Easy

Step 1

Visit: alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/elbe-river-2023

Step 2

Click the Blue “**Register Today**” button and fill out the online form with your contact information and payment details.

Step 3

Look for an **email confirmation** from Harvard Alumni Travels.

All bookings are conducted online only.

Find complete trip-specific terms and conditions on the trip web page (link above).



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS
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