LONG AN IMPORTANT DELINEATOR OF EAST AND WEST, the Elbe River links two of the most fascinating capitals of Europe—Prague and Berlin—as it traverses a land filled with captivating treasures.

This seven-night river cruise aboard the intimate Swiss Ruby captures both the broad sweep and the fine details of the region’s appeal: Wenceslas Square, ground zero of the Velvet Revolution; the fortress-crowned crags and spectacular gorges of “Saxon Switzerland”; 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 riches of Dresden’s Green Vault; and Potsdam’s whimsical Sanssouci Palace. From Bohemia to the former East Germany, the variety of visits and views in this part of the world is rich and unique.

This journey combines the best of modern Europe with true old-world charm. Along the way, lectures by Harvard Professor Emeritus Robert Kiely and other speakers will help put each amazing site into a global context. For those wishing to lengthen their stay, a post-tour extension to Berlin is available.
Enjoy Prague’s whimsically spiky, medieval skyline, dominated by cathedral and church spires that have given the Czech Republic’s capital its nickname, “City of 100 Spires.”

**FEATURED STUDY LEADER**

Robert J. Kiely is the Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Professor of English Emeritus at Harvard University. During his tenure at Harvard, he served terms as associate dean of undergraduate education and chair of the English Department; in addition, he and his wife, Jana Moravkova, were Masters of Adams House from 1973 to 1999. He taught courses on the Victorian, modern, and postmodern novel, as well as on the English Bible and classics in Christian literature. His latest book, *Blessed and Beautiful* (Yale University Press, 2010) offers a meditation on the lives of the saints and the images of them painted by Renaissance artists in Italy. Professor Kiely will speak on Luther, Lohengrin, and the Americans in Berlin before World War II.

**ADDITIONAL LECTURER**

G. Robert Hamrdla, Professor Emeritus at Stanford University, has been teaching at Stanford for more than 35 years, most recently in the Continuing Studies Program. Fluent in German and a specialist on Central Europe and Nazi Germany, as well as the former German Democratic Republic, he has visited these areas—in particular eastern Germany—virtually every year for the past 50 years, and his unfettered enthusiasm for the region is infectious. He also served as the director of Stanford’s Overseas Study Centers in Beutelsbach, Berlin, and Kraków.

*Enjoy Prague’s whimsically spiky, medieval skyline, dominated by cathedral and church spires that have given the Czech Republic’s capital its nickname, “City of 100 Spires.”*
Observe a wide variety of cultural and architectural treasures, from the Gothic interior of St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague and the Norman Foster–designed, eponymous hard-paste porcelain and Dresden’s beloved Frauenkirche, destroyed by World War II bombing and rebuilt after the reunification of Germany.

SCHEDULE BY DAY  Included meals are designated as B=breakfast, L=lunch, R=reception, D=dinner

TUESDAY, APRIL 26 – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27
U.S. / Prague, Czech Republic
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Prague. Arrive on Wednesday and transfer to your hotel, located on the edge of Prague’s historic Old Town. Prague Marriott

THURSDAY, APRIL 28
Prague
Spend the morning in Prague’s Jewish Quarter, visiting the haunting Old Jewish Cemetery and the 13th-century Old-New Synagogue, the oldest active synagogue in Europe. In the afternoon, explore Prague at leisure, then gather for a welcome reception, dinner, and private concert at Nelahozeves Palace, an impressive Renaissance chateau perched high above the Vltava River. Prague Marriott (B,R,D)

FRIDAY, APRIL 29
Prague (Embark)
Visit the magnificent Strahov Library for a private tour of original prints and manuscripts. Continue to Prague Castle, a royal residence as far back as the 10th century and still the seat of Czech government. Within its walls find Renaissance-era St. Vitus Cathedral, the soaring hilltop structure that incorporates a unique mix of Gothic and Baroque elements. See the Old Royal Palace, one of the oldest parts of the castle, including its long throne room and soaring Vladislav Hall, once the site of coronation banquets and indoor jousting tournaments. Embark Swiss Ruby and enjoy a welcome reception before dinner. Swiss Ruby (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, APRIL 30
Prague / Cruising
Take a walking tour of charming Old Town Prague, including Old Town Square, home of an intricately decorated astronomical clock and the iconic pointed spires of Tyn Cathedral. Stroll among the street artists and musicians on the Charles Bridge, which spans the Vltava River and offers spectacular views of Prague Castle and Old Town. Spend the afternoon cruising toward the German border. Swiss Ruby (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MAY 1
Bad Schandau / Dresden, Germany
Observe the maze of pinnacles, ravines, and bizarre rock formations as the Swiss Ruby cruises through “Saxon Switzerland.” Dock at the charming spa town of Bad Schandau, a summer resort for more than two centuries. Ascend to the spectacular Bastei Rock in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains, which offers sweeping views of the river and distant mountains. Then drive to beautiful Dresden, renowned for its splendid Baroque architecture and world-class art collections. Explore the Zwinger Palace museum and exquisite gardens. This evening, you may choose to go ashore for dinner and/or an evening musical performance. Swiss Ruby (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MAY 2
Dresden / Meissen
This morning, explore Dresden Castle’s Green Vault and its glittering displays of precious objects from the late Renaissance and Rococo periods, said to be the largest collection of treasures in Europe. Also visit the distinctive Frauenkirche, rebuilt and reconsecrated in 2005 after being leveled by Allied bombs during World War II. Continue to Meissen, where the formula for hard-paste porcelain was discovered in 1708. Visit the workshop where the “white gold” is still made by hand, and see the exquisite collection at the Porcelain Museum. Swiss Ruby (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MAY 3
Wittenberg
Call at Wittenberg and visit the Castle Church, where in 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door, sparking the Protestant Reformation. Wittenberg’s historic Market Square, spared by the Allies during bombing raids, is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On a city tour, see Luther’s home as well as St. Mary’s Church, where he often preached. Swiss Ruby (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4
Magdeburg
Founded by Charlemagne in 805,
Magdeburg was one of the most important medieval cities in Europe. Visit its cathedral, the oldest Gothic example in Germany, and the highly imaginative Green Citadel, the last building project worked on by controversial artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. This afternoon, cruise the incredible 35-mile-long Havel Canal, transiting three locks en route to Potsdam. Swiss Ruby (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, MAY 5
Potsdam / Berlin
In 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. Visit Cecilienhof Palace, where Churchill, Truman, and Stalin met at the historic Potsdam Conference in 1945; the unique Dutch Quarter, built in the 1700s to make skilled Dutch artisans and craftsmen feel at home; and the Russian Settlement, a charming Russian-style village built to house members of a choir composed of captured Russian troops in 1812. This afternoon, cruise to Berlin and join the captain for a farewell reception and dinner aboard. Swiss Ruby (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MAY 6
Berlin (Disembark) / Home
Disembark Swiss Ruby and transfer to Berlin airport for return flights to the U.S. (B)
Launched in 2002 in Germany and refurbished in late 2012, the delightful Swiss Ruby accommodates a maximum of just 88 passengers. With its moderate draft, the vessel is ideally suited for this voyage along the Vltava and Elbe Rivers and the Havel Canal. The 44 comfortable outward-facing cabins feature en suite bathrooms with shower, air-conditioning, television, telephone, hair dryer, minibar, and a safe. All cabins are approximately 123 square feet; those on the Emerald Deck have non-opening picture windows and twin beds that can be made up into one bed, and those on the Ruby Deck have sliding glass doors, a French balcony, and fixed double beds. Public areas are spacious and elegantly decorated with panoramic windows, and the lounge on the Ruby Deck is a relaxing environment for watching the passing scenery, browsing the library, or enjoying a drink from the bar. The dining room accommodates all passengers in one sitting and is located on the Emerald Deck. There is also a spacious sun deck with comfortable deck furniture.

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS**

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Economy-class airfare between New York and Prague with return from Berlin is approximately $1,250 as of May 2015 and is subject to change without notice.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this program, a $1,000 deposit is required per person. Please either call us at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806 or fill out and mail or fax the registration form found in this brochure. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has reached final payment deadline is December 28, 2015, 120 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by HAA from the participant. Cancellations received within 120 days prior to departure will be assessed a cancellation fee of $1,000 per person. Cancellations received within 120 days prior to departure are subject to 100% penalty of all deposits and payments.

ITINERARY CHANGES: The itinerary contained in this brochure is accurate at the time of printing. We reserve the right to change the program or accommodations as conditions warrant.

**INSURANCE:** We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by HAA upon confirmation.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of HAA and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at http://alumni.harvard.edu/haa/travel/trips/elbe-2016. If you are not able to access the internet, please call HAA Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806.

**DISCLAIMER:** Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. Neither HAA nor the tour operator is responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

**QUESTIONS:** Please call HAA Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, email: haatravels@harvard.edu

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