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Travelling with Inspiring Vacations allows you to explore the wonders of the world in a variety of different ways. We have partnered with a worldwide network of local travel experts to bring you culturally unique and delightfully unforgettable travel experiences. Whether it is meandering through narrow canyons by rail, cruising the idyllic waters of the Mediterranean or touring through t...

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TOUR ITINERARY



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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	Edinburgh
Meals included	Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Today you will arrive in Scotland's much-loved capital, Edinburgh. Discover its fascinating history, unsurpassed beauty and warm, friendly locals. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your centrally located hotel, situated close to the station.

Stay: Edinburgh, Apex Hotel Waterloo Place

DAY 2

Destination	Edinburgh 🚆 Ballachulish
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

All aboard for Glasgow this morning, before changing trains for a journey on one of the world's most incredible railway lines, the West Highland Line. Travel along a hillside ledge overlooking Gare Loch before entering the spectacular Highlands, an idyllic, remote and untouched landscape. The incredible route skirts the western banks of Loch Lomond and climbs quickly from Crianlarich to Upper Tyndrum and wild Rannoch Moor, a dramatic region of peat bogs, streams and ancient forests that are only visible from the comfort of your train. On arrival at Fort William, transfer to your hotel.

Stay: Three Nights, Ballachulish Hotel (or similar)

DAY 3

Destination	Ballachulish 🚆 🚢 Isle Of Mull, Duart Castle
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

INSIDER EXPERIENCE

Venture to the town of Oban where you'll board a ferry and cruise to Craignure on the Isle of Mull.

Heading through the small islands and across to Mull, the incredible picture-postcard views are truly awe-inspiring. Think rugged coastline; hills rising sharply from the water's edge; endless greens, purples and browns of the moorland;

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and jagged, exposed rock faces. On approach to the island, you'll notice a lonely castle above the sea cliffs. This is Duart Castle, ancestral home of the Maclean Clan. Visit the castle, taking in its eclectic rooms and stunning views. Later, return to your hotel for the evening.

DAY 4

Destination	Ballachulish 🚗 Neptune's Staircase 🚗 Loch Linnhe
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

INSIDER EXPERIENCE

Travel to Neptune's Staircase, an impressive set of eight locks operated by a team of at least three lock keepers. Situated on the Caledonian Canal, the 22-ton lock gates were originally hand-powered, but are now operated by hydraulics.

INSIDER EXPERIENCE

Discover the picturesque waters of Loch Linnhe and set off on a cruise.

Today you'll travel by coach to Neptune's Staircase. It takes approximately one-and-a-half hours to pass from one end of the staircase to the other, where water overcomes gravity and nature to climb the hillside. From here, continue on to Loch Linnhe for your Insider Experience. Later, pass the stunning mountain landscapes of Glencoe before returning to your hotel. Tonight, enjoy a traditional Scottish dinner.

DAY 5

Destination	Ballachulish 🚗 Inverness
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

INSIDER EXPERIENCE

Join the Jacobite Steam Train for a journey to Mallaig on the final leg of the West Highland Line.

Departing from Fort William, join the Jacobite Steam Train. Your train will steam past Ben Nevis before climbing into the mountains around Glenfinnan, a town famous as the rallying point for Bonnie Prince Charlie's assault on the British throne. At Glenfinnan, reach the line's most picturesque section and one of Britain's most iconic engineering works – the 21-arched Glenfinnan Viaduct. A magical experience, it's no wonder this train was featured as the Hogwarts Express in the Harry Potter films. As you head towards Mallaig, we drop down to the sea's edge and the landscape opens up with the first views of the rugged 'Small Isles' – Rum, Eigg and Muck – which hang close offshore and tease in and out of view near the journey's end. After a lunch stop, it's time to return to Fort William. From there, you'll then continue by coach

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through the picturesque countryside to the city of Inverness, capital of the Highlands.

Stay: Three Nights, Inverness Palace Hotel and Spa (or similar)

DAY 6


Destination	Inverness  Loch Ness
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

INSIDER EXPERIENCE

During a cruise, soak up the myth and mystery of Loch Ness and its monster before disembarking at the picturesque 13th-century ruins of Urquhart Castle.

This morning, you'll travel to the tranquil waters of Loch Ness, as famous for the elusive 'monster' that allegedly swims in its depths as for its natural beauty. Later, return by coach to Inverness, and enjoy some time at leisure.

DAY 7


Destination	Inverness  Eilean Donan Castle
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

INSIDER EXPERIENCE

Enjoy one of the most breathtaking railway journeys in Europe: the Kyle Line.

Today, experience a picturesque rail journey. Enjoy countless photo opportunities as you wind through wooded hillsides and over sparse moors, climbing over the highlands and past charming loch-side and seaside towns. Arrive at Kyle of Lochalsh, the end of the line, located across a short stretch of water from the Isle of Skye. Afterwards, make a visit to Eilean Donan Castle, situated on a tiny island in Loch Duich.

DAY 8

Destination	Inverness  Edinburgh
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

INSIDER EXPERIENCE

This evening, enjoy the opportunity to try some traditional Scottish fare. You'll also listen to a chorus of bagpipes and

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drums during a Scottish-themed evening to mark the end of your journey.

Leaving Inverness behind this morning, you'll travel south by rail through the Cairngorms and via the towns of Aviemore and Kingussie, as well as the burgh of Pitlochry, before arriving back in Edinburgh. Transfer from the railway station to your hotel.

Stay: Edinburgh, Radisson Blu Hotel (or similar)

DAY 9

Destination	Edinburgh ✈️ Amsterdam 🚢
Meals included	Breakfast, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your included flight from Edinburgh to Amsterdam. Upon arrival, transfer to your premium river ship. Perhaps grab a map to explore this carefree, cosmopolitan city. This evening meet your Cruise Director and fellow passengers at a Captain's Welcome Reception.

Stay: 14 Nights, aboard your Travelmarvel river ship

DAY 10

Destination	🚢 Amsterdam, Utrecht
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Board a glass-top boat and glide through Amsterdam's maze of waterways with a local guide, before enjoying some free time to explore this lively city. Later, travel by coach to Utrecht, via Rembrandt's Windmill. From here, your ship will set off along the Rhine as you prepare for tonight's special Gala Dinner.

DAY 11

Destination	🚢 Cologne, Brühl
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

INSIDER EXPERIENCE

Step back in time during a visit to the World Heritage-listed Augustusburg Castle. Listen to enthralling stories and enjoy a walk through the landscaped parks and gardens between the castle and the lodge.


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Learn how the twin spires of Cologne's famous cathedral, the Kölner Dom, took over six centuries to complete as you cruise into this picturesque city. Disembark and take the short drive to Brühl for your Insider Experience.

DAY 12

Destination	 Rhine Gorge, Rudesheim
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Dock in Rudesheim, and board the Winzerexpress mini-train, bound for Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum.

DAY 13


Destination	 Miltenberg
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

INSIDER EXPERIENCE

Get a glimpse into local life as you are welcomed into the home of a friendly Miltenberg family. Enjoy coffee and cake made by your gracious hosts.

Discover Miltenberg today, exploring this well-preserved town's half-timbered buildings dating from the 15th to 18th century.

DAY 14

Destination	 Würzburg
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A


Board a coach and travel through the rolling hills to Würzburg. Admire the baroque palace and walk through the beautiful Court Garden. Later, perhaps enjoy an optional visit to medieval Rothenburg, a true fairytale town.

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DAY 15

Destination	 Bamberg
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A


Cruise along the last stretch of the Main River before arriving at Bamberg. Here, choose between an afternoon of free time or a guided tour. Later on this evening, your ship will reach the Main-Danube Canal.

DAY 16

Destination	 Nuremberg
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Explore Nuremberg, the site of Hitler's now infamous rallies. Wander the cobblestone streets, discovering hidden boutiques and artisan stores. Finish your day cruising through the Main-Danube Canal, crossing Europe's Continental Divide thanks to the canal's 16 stair-step locks.

DAY 17


Destination	 Regensburg
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

INSIDER EXPERIENCE

This evening, enjoy an authentic Bavarian experience on board as you sample local beer and snacks, accompanied by traditional folk music, song and dance.

Having reached the Danube River overnight, Regensburg awaits. Spend the day in this charming city, conveniently docked right in the heart of town so you can have easy access to all the main sites.

DAY 18

Destination	 Passau
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A


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As you enjoy your breakfast, arrive in the 'Three Rivers City' of Passau, where the rivers Inn and Ilz join the Danube. Explore the city at your leisure this morning, or grab a bike and set out to explore. Alternatively, join an optional tour to Český Krumlov in the Czech Republic, or travel to Salzburg and enjoy the sights from 'The Sound of Music'.

DAY 19

Destination	 Melk, Dürnstein
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A


Join a local guide to see Melk Abbey, an active Benedictine monastery since 1089. Cruise through the picturesque Wachau Valley, then continue to Dürnstein, where you have a free afternoon to explore.

DAY 20

Destination	 Vienna
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A


In Vienna, join a walking tour of St Stephen's Cathedral, the Graben, Hofburg Palace and the Albertina. Afterwards, you may enjoy visiting the Naschmarkt. This evening, perhaps enjoy an optional concert featuring music from Mozart to 'The Sound of Music'.

DAY 21

Destination	 Vienna
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Today is yours to explore Vienna. Perhaps visit the Hofburg area and the Imperial Treasury. Otherwise, enjoy an optional excursion to Schönbrunn Palace, or head to Bratislava.

DAY 22

Destination	 Budapest
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

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TOUR ITINERARY

After breakfast, join a local guide to explore the city. Tonight after a Captain's Farewell Dinner, set off on a magical twilight cruise through Budapest.

DAY 23

Destination  Budapest 

Meals included Breakfast

Accommodation N/A

After breakfast, board a coach and pass through the rural landscapes of Slovakia before crossing the border into the Czech Republic. Accented by verdant hills covered in vineyards, the southern countryside of the Czech Republic is a wine-lovers dream. With a three-night stay in Prague, you will have plenty of time to soak in the magic of this beautiful capital – a city of stone bridges, Gothic cathedrals and golden towers, overseen by a grand castle.

Stay: Three Nights, Prague, Grandior Hotel

DAY 24

Destination Prague

Meals included Breakfast

Accommodation N/A

Your exploration of Prague begins with a tour of the World Heritage-listed Old Town. Travel across the Vltava River to Prague Castle, which dominates the city skyline. Believed to date back to the 9th century, this castle complex – with its network of palaces and churches – is considered the largest in the world. You'll then wander across Charles Bridge and arrive in Prague's Old Market Square. Stop for some time to explore if you wish, and continue to discover the incredible city of Prague on your own terms, with its multitude of sights.

DAY 25

Destination Prague

Meals included Breakfast

Accommodation N/A

Having become familiar with the layout of Prague, enjoy today at leisure to explore as you please. The Jewish Quarter is a pulsing hub of Semitic history, so perhaps you'd like to head there, or have your camera ready at the Astronomical Clock, a masterpiece in the Old Town Square. A tour of Terezín is also possible today, and tonight you may like to enhance your journey further with a lively traditional Czech Folklore Dinner and show.

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DAY 26

Destination Prague

Meals included Breakfast

Accommodation N/A

Your adventure comes to an end today with a transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

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Inclusions

WHATS INCLUDED

11 nights in premium accommodation
14 nights cruising on a premium Travelmarvel river ship
Services of a Great Rail Journeys Tour Escort, Travelmarvel Cruise Director, Tour Director, Entertainment & Activities Coordinators, and local guides
60 meals – 25 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 22 dinners
Onboard water stations, plus tea and coffee, soft drink, beer and local wine during lunch and dinner on your cruise
Transfers, port charges and tipping
Superior twin share accommodation
Sightseeing and transportation as per the itinerary

Fine Print

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payments

Book now and secure your package with only a AUD \$3000 deposit per person.
Pay a 2nd instalment of AUD \$2,869 per person within 28 days.
You will then be invoiced for final payment 100 days prior to departure.

Booking Process

Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)
Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)
Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
Your position on the tour will be confirmed within 48 hours of completing your order. If your place cannot be confirmed, a full refund of the deposit will occur

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OPTIONAL TOURS	None
EXCLUSIONS	<p>Airfares Personal Expenses Travel Insurance Optional activities Anything not mentioned in the itinerary or optional</p>
CABIN BEDDING AND UPGRADES	<p>7 Nights onboard a premium Travel Marvel River Ship</p> <p>Window Stateroom - Included Each stateroom features an en suite bathroom and personal climate control; great storage; queen or twin bedding with plush linen; plus a TV, safe and mini-fridge.</p> <p>*Upgrade prices may vary depending on which category of cabin is chosen. Please enquire within to receive the exact upgrade prices for each Cabin.</p>
HOTEL LIST	<p>Edinburgh (1st stay) - Apex Hotel Waterloo Place Ballachulish - Ballachulish Hotel (or similar) Inverness - Inverness Palace Hotel and Spa (or similar) Edinburgh (2nd stay) Radisson Blu Hotel (or similar) 14 nights cruising on a premium Travelmarvel river ship Prague - Grandior Hotel</p>

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however, any changes are beyond our control.

Single Supplement

A single supplement is available on all nights of this trip from an extra AUD \$6,100 subject to availability.

Triple Share

Not available.

Children

Children must be 5 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

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