Monday, May 6: Depart the U.S.
Depart on an overnight flight to Basel, Switzerland.

Tuesday, May 7: Basel, Switzerland
Upon your arrival in Basel, Switzerland, you’ll be met at the airport and transferred to the Royal Crown. This evening, you’ll gather with your fellow travelers and faculty leader for a welcome reception and dinner on board.
ROYAL CROWN (R, D)

Wednesday, May 8: Basel
Following breakfast, we’ll take a walking tour of Basel’s medieval Old Town. Steeped in Celtic-Roman history and situated at the crossroads of France, Germany, and Switzerland, much of the ancient city of Basel remains well preserved. An important cultural center, Basel is home to Switzerland’s oldest university, where the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche taught.
In the afternoon, you’ll choose from one of two options:
OPTION 1: Explore the ongoing excavations of Augusta Raurica, site of the oldest known Roman colony on the Rhine.
OPTION 2: Enjoy an afternoon in Kunstmuseum Basel, home to the largest and most significant public art collection in Switzerland, including a number of works by Hans Holbein.
ROYAL CROWN (B, L, D)

Thursday, May 9: Strasbourg, France
Like many of the region’s border cities, Strasbourg has traded hands several times between France and Germany. Today, the French capital of Alsace and seat of the European Parliament reflects both cultures—linguistically, architecturally, and gastronomically. Strasbourg features a historic, UNESCO World Heritage-designated city center with 16th-century half-timbered houses and a Gothic cathedral built of red sandstone. In the morning, we’ll explore the city by coach and on foot, then cruise on small local boats through the canals of Strasbourg’s “Petite France.”
In the afternoon, you’ll choose from one of two options:
OPTION 1: Visit Ouvrage Schoenenbourg (Fort Schoenenbourg), a Maginot Line fortification. Although heavily bombarded during the Battle of France in 1940, it suffered little significant damage and retains all of its original structural elements.
OPTION 2: Indulge in a wine tasting in Alsace, an important wine-producing region in France, noted for its dry Rieslings.
ROYAL CROWN (B, L, D)

Friday, May 10: Mainz, Germany
We’ll enjoy a morning of cruising along the Rhine River to Mainz, where native son Johannes Gutenberg developed movable type printing in 1439. In the afternoon, we’ll take a guided tour of the Gutenberg Museum to see a replica of Gutenberg’s workshop, observe a demonstration of his printing method, and
view a copy of his 42-line Bible, printed between 1452 and 1455. In the evening, we’ll stroll along the banks of the Rhine River in the shadow of Mainz’s architecture.

ROYAL CROWN (B, L, D)

Saturday, May 11: Rhine Gorge Cruising
In the morning, we’ll traverse the scenic Rhine Gorge, the popular name for the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, which earned UNESCO World Heritage designation for its combination of geological, historical, cultural, and industrial significance. After lunch, the Royal Crown enters the Moselle River and cruises past storybook castles and vineyards en route to Bernkastel and Trier.

ROYAL CROWN (B, L, D)

Sunday, May 12: Trier/Bernkastel
Trier is likely the oldest city in Germany and is well known for its Roman and medieval buildings. In the morning, we’ll visit the well-preserved Porta Nigra city gate, the fourth-century Basilica of Constantine, and a second-century Roman bridge that is still in use. After lunch, we’ll visit Bernkastel-Kues, birthplace of one of the most famous German polymaths, the medieval churchman and philosopher Nikolaus von Kues. We’ll enjoy a private tasting of wines, primarily Reislings, grown on the steep-sloped vineyards of the Middle Moselle.

ROYAL CROWN (B, L, D)

Monday, May 13: Koblenz
After a morning of cruising, we’ll disembark in Koblenz and continue to Namedy Castle, where we’ll be greeted by Princess Heide von Hohenzollern before enjoying a private concert and tour. This afternoon, we’ll continue overland to Remagen, view the Bridge Towers and hear a guest lecture on the Battle of Remagen, when Allied troops unexpectedly captured the Ludendorff Bridge over the Rhine in March 1945 and thwarted German military operations in the area.

ROYAL CROWN (B, L, D)

Tuesday, May 14: Koblenz/Cologne
This morning, we’ll arrive in Cologne, once the largest city of the Holy Roman Empire, today considered the cultural hub of Germany. We’ll tour Cologne Cathedral, the city’s most famous landmark and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Next, we’ll visit the Romano-Germanic Museum, known for the large collection of artifacts from the Roman settlement on which modern Cologne is built. This evening is at leisure for independent exploration in Cologne.

ROYAL CROWN (B, L, D)
Wednesday, May 15: Duisberg/Dusseldorf
We’ll cruise to Duisberg and choose one of two options for this afternoon’s activity:

OPTION 1: Discover Xanten Archaeological Park, Germany’s largest open-air archeological museum, built on the site of the Roman settlement of Colonia Ulpia Traiana.

OPTION 2: Journey to Dusseldorf, an international business and financial center renowned for its fashion and trade fairs. Explore some of the city’s wealth of contemporary art museums and enjoy a tasting of Altbier (top-fermented “old beer”) at a local brewery.

ROYAL CROWN (B, L, D)

Thursday, May 16: Deventer, Netherlands
Today, you’ll choose from two optional activities.

OPTION 1: Tour Park Kalkriese, an archaeological site that commemorates the Germanic tribes’ victory over the Romans in A.D. 9. The museum highlights ongoing research in the area.

OPTION 2: Enjoy a walking tour and museum visit in Kampen, a former Hanseatic League city with one of the best-preserved old town centers in the Netherlands. Afternoon tea will be taken in Middachten Castle, a monumental Dutch manor house built in the 12th century.

ROYAL CROWN (B, L, D)

Friday, May 17: Arnhem
Today, you’ll choose from one of two full-day options.

OPTION 1: Explore Arnhem, a 19th-century resort town turned World War II history site, home to Operation Market Garden, the failed effort by Allied forces to secure nine bridges over the Rhine. Visit Frost Bridge, named after the British officer in command at Arnhem, and the Airborne Museum, dedicated to the Battle of Arnhem. Also explore the Overloon War Museum in Nijmegen, located on the site of the Battle of Overloon, a World War II tank and infantry battle between Allied and German forces that occurred in September and October 1944, in the aftermath of Operation Market Garden.

OPTION 2: Explore the Kröller-Müller Museum, a national art museum and sculpture park that boasts the second-largest collection of van Gogh paintings in the world and a superb assemblage of modern and contemporary sculptures. Those who wish may enjoy optional cycling in the surrounding Park Hoge Velwe. After the museum, drive to the tiny country village of Bronkhorst, population approximately 150, for time at leisure to explore its picturesque buildings and medieval castle.

ALL: This evening, we’ll enjoy an optional walk at sunset across the modern De Oversteek Bridge in Nijmegen, where the American soldiers who died here fighting for the liberation of the Netherlands are honored every night with the lighting in slow succession of street lamps spanning the bridge.

ROYAL CROWN (B, L, D)

Saturday, May 18: Amsterdam
We’ll arrive in Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands. An important port during the 17th-century Dutch Golden Age, it is one of Europe’s top financial centers and has a long history in the diamond trade. The city’s 17th-century canals and 19th- and 20th-century Defence Line of Amsterdam enjoy UNESCO World Heritage status. In the morning, we’ll delight in a classic boat tour of the city’s extensive canal system, then choose from one of three optional afternoon activities.

**OPTION 1:** Discover “occupied” Amsterdam on foot during a walking tour, ending at the Resistance Museum.

**OPTION 2:** Visit the world-renowned Rijksmuseum, the Dutch national museum dedicated to art and history.

**OPTION 3:** Enjoy an afternoon of independent exploration.

**ALL:** Gather this evening for a festive farewell dinner.

*ROYAL CROWN (B, L, D)*

**Sunday, May 19: Amsterdam/Home**

After breakfast and disembarkation, you’ll be transferred to the airport for your return flight home.

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