

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
ALABAMA

A L U M N I

# DANUBE RIVER AND THE HABSBURG EMPIRE

Hungary ♦ Slovakia ♦ Austria ♦ Germany ♦  
Czech Republic ♦ Poland

aboard the M.S. AMADEUS DIAMOND

June 14 to 28, 2012



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALABAMA**  
A L U M N I

Dear Alabama Traveler:

*Come explore the medieval spires, honey-colored cathedrals and cultural treasures of the former Habsburg Empire, one of the most prolific in all of European history, on this custom-designed itinerary that introduces you to six Central European countries and features opportunities to visit 10 UNESCO World Heritage sites. This unique journey combines a seven-night cruise on the Danube River, where the spectacular legacy of art, music and culture of the Habsburgs thrived for over six centuries, with three nights in each of the historic cities of Prague and Kraków, whose medieval architecture was spared destruction during World War II.*

*Enjoy accommodations aboard the chartered, deluxe M.S. AMADEUS DIAMOND, one of the finest ships to ply the waterways of Europe, and in deluxe, centrally located hotels. Explore the well-preserved, historic city centers of Budapest, Vienna, Český Krumlov, Prague and Kraków—virtual open-air museums of Central European history and architecture. Embark the ship in cosmopolitan Budapest, and cruise on the magical “Blue Danube” through the spectacular Wachau Valley watching for medieval castles, stopping in the delightful storybook village of Dürnstein and exploring the architectural riches of Bratislava, Melk Abbey and the imperial Vienna of Maria Theresa and Franz Josef. In addition, traverse the enchanting landscapes, rolling hills and woodlands of Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland en route to the treasures of Prague and Kraków.*

*Your experience will be enhanced by a comprehensive schedule of exclusive guided excursions, a private organ recital in Melk and a memorable performance by the Mozart Children’s Choir. You can also extend your travel program in Budapest, Hungary, on the Two-Night Pre-Program Option.*

*Traveling through the heartland of Europe has never been easier or more appealing. For both new and repeat travelers to the Danube valley and Central Europe, this unique itinerary provides a fresh perspective on a region of wonderful cultural riches and diversity. This popular travel program, an incredible value, sells out quickly. We encourage you to make your reservations today, while Early Booking Savings are available.*

Sincerely,



Ashley Hodges  
Alumni Tour Coordinator  
University of Alabama National Alumni Association





## U.S./Budapest, Hungary

Thursday and Friday,  
June 14 and 15

Depart from the U.S.

Arrive in Budapest,

“Pearl of the Danube.”

Embark the

M.S. AMADEUS DIAMOND and

attend the welcome reception  
and dinner this evening.

## Budapest, Hungary

Saturday June 16

For centuries, the twin cities of Buda and Pest have faced each other across the Danube River. When the Habsburg Archduke Joseph, son of Emperor Leopold II, became Palatine of Budapest in 1796, he undertook a building program on an unprecedented scale. By the time this “most Hungarian Habsburg” died in 1847, Budapest rivaled Vienna as an imperial capital. The Danube embankments and the Buda Castle Quarter are a UNESCO World Heritage site. Begin your tour in Pest, where the elegant limestone Parliament Building looms beside the river. Pass through Heroes’ Square and admire its monuments to the Magyar chiefs who conquered Hungary in A.D. 896. Cross the imposing Chain Bridge linking river-level Pest to the hillier Buda side of the Danube. On Castle Hill, visit the Gothic Matthias Church, built in the 1200s and renovated in the 17th and 19th centuries, and the neo-Romanesque Fisherman’s Bastion, which commands a panoramic view of the city.

## Bratislava, Slovakia

Sunday, June 17

Dock in Bratislava, capital of Slovakia, located in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains overlooking the banks of the Danube River. Beautifully restored since the end of the Cold War, the city showcases its 21st-century life amid its 1,000-year-old history. Enjoy a morning walking tour of Bratislava’s Old Town, to see its medieval, Renaissance and 19th-century architecture, among the finest

in central Europe. Admire the Romanesque 14th-century Cathedral of St. Martin, visit the elaborate Primatial Palace and marvel at the beauty of the magnificent Slovak National Theater, one of Europe’s finest 19th-century opera houses. See the 14th-century St. Michael’s Gate, the only remaining portion of the city’s medieval fortifications.

## Vienna, Austria

Monday and Tuesday, June 18 and 19

The former seat of the Habsburg Empire, Vienna is an open-air museum of Baroque architecture, designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. This remarkable city owes its present appearance to the Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Josef, who created the famous Ringstrasse to showcase the city’s finest landmarks—the impressive Vienna Opera House and the lavish Hofburg Palace. After a lecture on the Habsburgs by a local expert, visit the great 13th-century Stephansdom, renowned for its distinctive zigzagged roof tiles.

The afternoon is at leisure. This evening, you will have the opportunity to attend an optional performance of Mozart and Strauss’ music in a premier venue.\* Overnight aboard the ship in Vienna.

On your second day, further explore the cultural treasures of Vienna at your own pace or join the optional excursion to Schönbrunn Palace,\* a UNESCO World Heritage site and the Habsburgs’ summer residence, to learn about the lineage of the Austrian Empire. Enjoy a private Mozart Children’s Chorus performance on board this evening.

## Dürnstein/Melk

Wednesday, June 20

The charming medieval village of Dürnstein sits below the hilltop ruins of Castle Kuenringer, where Richard the Lionheart was held prisoner after the Third Crusade. Walk through the tiny, picturesque village to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Abbey Church. Then, cruise the Danube’s spectacular and fabled Wachau Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where terraced vineyards

Photo this page: *In Prague, the “City of Spires,” walk on the famous Charles Bridge, which links the medieval Old Town with the splendid Baroque palaces of the Little Quarter, the city’s most intact historical district.*





blanket hillsides dotted with the haunting ruins of medieval castles.

This afternoon, visit Melk’s magnificent Benedictine Abbey, showcasing Austria’s impressive Baroque architecture. A prestigious center of scholarship throughout the Middle Ages, the abbey’s library today is a repository of 100,000 medieval manuscripts, priceless relics and 16th-century “Danube School” masters’ works by Albrecht Dürer and Lucas Cranach. The tour concludes with a private organ recital in the abbey’s beautiful Stiftskirche (church).

This evening, cruise to Linz.

## Linz for Salzburg/ Passau, Germany

Thursday, June 21

From Linz, a full-day optional tour to Salzburg is offered.\* Salzburg’s Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its wonderful Baroque architecture. The ship will continue on to Passau where passengers will rejoin the ship in time for dinner.

## Passau/Český Krumlov, Czech Republic/Prague

Friday, June 22

Disembark and travel across the rolling, wooded German and Czech countryside to Český Krumlov, a UNESCO World

Heritage site and the best-preserved medieval city in the Czech Republic. Built during the 13th century, the castle and surrounding village overlook the Vltava River. Enjoy lunch and a walking tour before continuing on to Prague. On arrival, check into the deluxe HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL PRAHA, located near the historic Old Town.



*Founded in 1089, the Austrian Benedictine Melk Abbey housed a world-renowned monastic library.*

## Prague

Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24

A guided tour showcases the diverse cultural legacy of Prague, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the “City of a Thousand Spires” of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Tour the fascinating Hradčany complex

*The beautifully preserved Český Krumlov is a stunning example of a medieval small town in central Europe.*





*Kraków's Renaissance Cloth Hall overlooks the lively Rynek Główny (Main Market Square), an impressive plaza surrounded by ornate houses and towering spires.*

of castles, churches and museums, the former residence of Bohemian royalty, which dominates the city skyline. See St. Vitus Cathedral and walk through the "Golden Lane," a street formerly lined with goldsmiths that today is known for its small houses built in the Mannerism style at the end of the 16th century.

Walk down the narrow, picturesque lanes of the Staré Město (Old Town) to the Orloj, the ornate, 15th-century astronomical clock of the Old Town Hall. Continue to Josefov, the Jewish Quarter, and visit Europe's oldest Jewish house of worship, the Gothic Old-New Synagogue; walk among the moss-covered, 15th-century headstones of the Jewish Cemetery; and conclude at the famous Charles Bridge, adorned with 17th- and 18th-century statues of saints.

## **Prague/Kraków, Poland** **Monday, June 25**

This morning enjoy the scenic transfer to Kraków, stopping en route in Brno for lunch. The second largest city in the Czech Republic, Brno is located at the crossroads of ancient trade routes that have joined the North and South European civilizations for centuries. Upon arrival in Kraków, check into the deluxe, centrally located RADISSON BLU HOTEL.

## **Kraków** **Tuesday and Wednesday,** **June 26 and 27**

For more than one thousand years, Kraków has been the cultural and spiritual capital of Poland, serving as the country's seat of government from 1038 to 1596. Kraków is the only major Polish city to have emerged from World War II unscathed, and its Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage site whose treasures have remained undiminished through the centuries.

Enjoy a walking tour of the grounds of Wáwel Hill. See the Royal Castle, the seat of the monarchy for 500 years, which blends 16th-century Florentine architecture with Polish motifs and houses the state art collection, and the 14th-century Cathedral of Sts. Stanislaus and Waclaw,

where all of Poland's kings were crowned and buried. Walk into the Old Town and to Rynek Główny, or "Main Market Square." Visit the 14th-century twin-spired Mariacki (St. Mary's) Church, one of the finest Gothic structures in Poland, to see the famous medieval altar by Wit Stwosz. From the church's tower, a lone trumpeter sounds a haunting call every hour on the hour, in commemoration of a warning of an impending attack by the Tatars in medieval times. Pass by the former residence of Pope John Paul II, where he lived while Archbishop of Kraków.



*The charming hamlet of Dürnstein is nestled within the rolling Wachau Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site.*

You can choose the optional excursion to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau,\* a UNESCO World Heritage site and poignant memorial to those who perished in the Holocaust.

An optional excursion will also be offered to tour Wieliczka Salt Mine,\* a UNESCO World Heritage site known as "The Underground Salt Cathedral of Poland," featuring the richly ornamented Chapel of the Blessed Kinga, carved entirely from salt, and the underground salt mining exhibition.

Attend a farewell reception Wednesday evening.

## **Kraków/U.S.** **Thursday, June 28**

Transfer to the airport and return to the U.S.



## M.S. AMADEUS DIAMOND

One of the finest vessels to ply the waterways of Europe, the deluxe, state-of-the-art M.S. AMADEUS DIAMOND (launched in 2009) offers comfort and classic elegance.

All outside accommodations—62 Staterooms (each at 161 square feet) and 12 Junior Suites (each at 236 square feet including sitting area)—are more spacious than those typically found on river ships. Accommodations on the Mozart and Strauss Decks feature French balconies (full-length sliding glass doors that extend almost the cabin width, with railing).

Amenities include two twin beds that convert to a queen-size bed, private bathroom with shower, individual climate control, telephone, television and writing desk.

Gourmet continental meals are served in single, unassigned seatings in the delightfully scenic Panorama Restaurant and include full breakfast, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and three-course dinner.

Common areas include the Panorama Bar, Lido Bar and Amadeus-Club with Internet stations, boutique, Sun Deck with golf putting green, hair salon, fitness and massage rooms.

The English-speaking international crew provides an unmatched level of service.

The M.S. AMADEUS DIAMOND meets the highest safety standards and is part of the only fleet of European river ships to have been awarded the “Green Certificate” of environmental preservation.



*Stateroom Category 4*



*Lounge*

## Budapest Pre-Program Option\*

The Habsburg Empire’s influence can still be found in the streets of Budapest, where a rich history as a powerful capital of Austria-Hungary, medieval architecture and the tradition of fine culture combine to make it one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Begin your travel program with this two-night prelude featuring accommodations in the deluxe, KEMPINSKI CORVINUS HOTEL, located in the heart of the city; a sightseeing tour; and an excursion into Hungary’s fabled Puszta.

*\*Pre-Cruise Option and Optional Excursions are available at additional cost, and details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*



*The 13th-century fortification, Michael’s Gate, towers over Bratislava’s lively Old Town.*



## THE HOUSE of HABSBURG

In the late Middle Ages, Swiss Count Rudolph von Habsburg married the daughter of Count Burkhard III of Hohenberg becoming an important vassal in the domains of old German Tribes, increasing his importance through his wife's valuable estates and thus founding The House of Habsburg. Through similarly smartly arranged marriages, his heirs evolved their status until The House of Habsburg became one of the most powerful dynasties in the history of Europe. Count Rudolph's sons began a six-century-long succession as Dukes and Archdukes of Austria and, after five generations, his descendents began a hereditary line of 19 Holy Roman Emperors creating a family tree which traces their lineage to Kings of Bohemia and Hungary as well as the Romans. These strategic unions allowed them to acquire territories spanning from Portugal to Poland, from the Mediterranean to the North Sea and, at one time, the Habsburgs even controlled Spain's interests in the Americas.

From their seat of power in the inspiring classical city of Vienna, The Habsburgs' cultural influence flowed out to their vast empire. The Reign of Empress Maria Theresa, from 1740 until the 19th century, brought one of the most fascinating chapters of Austrian art and architecture—Baroque to art deco (Jugendstil). Fashion became an art form, where each "tracht" identified a person's social, marital and trade status. Today, the Habsburgs' Viennese influence is prevalent throughout the heart of Central Europe and perhaps the greatest of the Empire's legacies arose in the sonorous notes of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven and Johannes Strauss,

whose music has continued to resound through the centuries.



## Included Features

### On board the deluxe

#### M.S. AMADEUS DIAMOND

- ◆ Seven-night cruise on the scenic Danube River from Budapest, Hungary, to Passau, Germany, with port calls at Bratislava, Slovakia; Vienna, Dürnstein, Melk and Linz (for Salzburg), Austria.
- ◆ Comfortable air-conditioned, outside accommodations with private bathroom.
- ◆ All meals each day, featuring fine continental cuisine served at single, unassigned seatings—breakfast buffet, buffet lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and a late-evening snack.
- ◆ Complimentary wine served with dinner.
- ◆ Captain's welcome reception.
- ◆ Tour of Budapest, a UNESCO World Heritage site, highlighted by visits to Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion.
- ◆ Guided tour of Bratislava's medieval Old Town, with a visit to the Primatial Palace.
- ◆ City tour of Vienna, a UNESCO World Heritage site, featuring the Stephansdom.
- ◆ Exclusive lecture on the Habsburg Empire by a local expert.
- ◆ Enjoy a private Mozart Children's Chorus performance on board the ship.
- ◆ Walking tour of medieval Dürnstein.
- ◆ Tour of the magnificent Benedictine Abbey of Melk, a Baroque masterpiece.
- ◆ Private organ recital in Melk's Stiftskirche.

**Scenic transfer from Passau to Prague, with a stop in Český Krumlov, a UNESCO World Heritage site, for lunch and a picturesque walking tour.**

### In Prague

- ◆ Three nights in the ideally located, deluxe HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL PRAHA.
- ◆ Breakfast each morning.
- ◆ Tour of Hradčany Castle, the Royal Palace; see St. Vitus' Cathedral and walk through the colorful Golden Lane.
- ◆ Walking tour of Staré Město, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the historic center of Prague, and visit to the Old Jewish Quarter and the Old-New Synagogue.

**Scenic transfer from Prague to Kraków, with lunch in Brno en route.**

### In Kraków

- ◆ Three nights in the five-star, centrally located RADISSON BLU HOTEL.
- ◆ Breakfast each morning.
- ◆ City tour of historic Kraków, a UNESCO World Heritage site, to see the grounds of Wáwel Hill and the Rynek Główny and to visit the 14th-century Mariacki Church.
- ◆ Farewell reception.

### Enhanced Travel Services

- ◆ All transfers and luggage handling abroad for all participants who have purchased their air tickets through Gohagan & Company and whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ All excursions and visits, as outlined in the itinerary, led by experienced English-speaking local guides.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship and in the hotels.
- ◆ Experienced Travel Director to accompany you throughout the travel program.
- ◆ Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure material.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Specially arranged Optional Excursions are offered to complement your travel program.





Until 1918, the Hofburg Palace, located in the heart of Vienna, was the center of the Habsburg monarchy.

Cover photo: Budapest's majestic Parliament Building is a classic example of Gothic Revival architecture and a proud symbol of Hungary's national rebirth.

## CONTRACT: TERMS & CONDITIONS. IMPORTANT READ CAREFULLY.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring associations/organizations, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, agents, and assigns (collectively "Gohagan"), do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity of any third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, animals, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, sickness, illness, the lack of availability of or access to appropriate medical attention, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time.

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a participant on these trips at any time. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel/cruise line.

Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Gohagan shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs and guest lecture series (if applicable), are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Gohagan is not responsible therefore and is not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. Gohagan may cancel a trip (or an option) for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund monies paid by the participant to it. Gohagan is not required to cancel any trip for any reason including without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. Gohagan is not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Gohagan makes the flight arrangements or cancels the trip. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute vessels, hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in this brochure.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Taxes; passport, visas and associated fees; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and internet access; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to ship and hotel personnel; optional sightseeing excursions; excess baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air/airport tax(es); airfare and associated local taxes, airport facility and security taxes and federal inspection fees not listed in the "Included Features" section of the brochure; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel/ship on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you have not purchased your international air arrangements through Gohagan or if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); any overnight on land due to flight schedule(s); meals, alcoholic or other beverages and all other services not specifically mentioned in the "Included Features" section.

**AIRFARE:** Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased through Gohagan.

**LUGGAGE:** Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without prior notice. Please contact your airline(s) for the most current luggage allowance policy.

**HEALTH:** Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Participants must be able to climb stairs and step over raised thresholds or bulkheads aboard the ship without assistance.

**DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS:** Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by December 16, 2011. In the event a "discounted" reservation must be cancelled, no "replacement" reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.

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**CANCELLATIONS:** Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a \$200 (\$50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 121 days prior to departure; from 95 through 120 days prior to departure, \$600 (\$200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 61 through 94 days prior to departure, 40% of the published full regular tariffs; from 45 through 60 days prior to departure, 55% of the published full regular tariffs; from 22 through 44 days prior to departure, 70% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

**TRIP INSURANCE:** Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation.

**RATES:** Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases.

**REGISTRATION:** CST#: 2031868-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OST#: TA 0905.

**ARBITRATION AGREEMENT:** Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to these Terms and Conditions, the brochure, or any other information relating in any way to the trip, or to the trip itself, shall be settled solely and exclusively by binding arbitration in Chicago, Illinois, in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association then existent.

The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

**ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT:** By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms and conditions of this contract.

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