Cruising the Elbe River

From Prague to Berlin
Aboard the Swiss Ruby

April 26 to May 6, 2016

A program of the Stanford Alumni Association
It’s been several years since we’ve cruised the Elbe River together and we’re very excited to be exploring this historic part of Europe by river vessel once again. Our floating home for seven nights, the intimate Swiss Ruby, provides great access to the port cities where we call and a relaxing ambience for watching the scenery go by during our afternoons of cruising. We are most fortunate to have Travel/Study’s Central Europe expert, Bob Hamrdla, ’59, MA ’64, onboard with us for this river journey from the capital of the Czech Republic to the capital of Germany. Bob has been the faculty leader on some 50 Stanford trips and he works tirelessly to enrich each one with his incredible knowledge and insight. I hope you join us!

Brett

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**Relish** an elegant dinner and a private musical performance at a historic castle outside of Prague.

**Admire** the glittering treasures of the Green Vault in Dresden, said to be the largest collection of historic precious objects in all of Europe.

**Stroll** through the fanciful grounds at Sanssouci Palace and Park in Potsdam, an excellent example of the rococo style.

**Relax** on deck as the Swiss Ruby cruises past idyllic green hillsides and stunning, castle-studded landscapes.

COVER: SAXON SWITZERLAND, GERMANY
"The history of Berlin was put into interesting context by Bob Hamrdla. . . The entire trip was exciting, educational and expanding."

**Stanford Faculty Leader**

**G. ROBERT HAMRDLA, ’59, MA ’64,** has been teaching at Stanford for nearly 40 years, most recently in the Continuing Studies Program. He is also a former assistant to the president of Stanford and served as secretary to Stanford’s board of trustees. Fluent in German and a specialist on Central Europe and Nazi Germany as well as the former German Democratic Republic, he has introduced thousands of Stanford students and alumni to Central and Eastern European history and has visited these areas virtually every year for the past 55 years. During our program he will discuss such topics as the European Union, the relationship between France and Germany, problems in relationships among all EU members, problems among those countries using the Euro, and the enormously important issue of immigration into—and between member countries of—the E.U.

— Former director of Stanford’s overseas campuses in Beutelsbach, Berlin and Kraków
— Faculty leader for more than 50 Stanford Travel/Study programs, primarily in Central Europe
— BA, mathematics, 1959, and MA, history, 1964, Stanford University

**Harvard Faculty 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. He taught courses on the Victorian, modern and postmodern novel, as well as on the English bible and classics in Christian literature. Professor Kiely will speak on Luther, Lohengrin and the Americans in Berlin before World War II.
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26 & 27
DEPART U.S. / PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Prague. Arrive on Wednesday and transfer to our hotel, located on the edge of Prague’s historic Old Town.

PRAHUE ARRIVAL
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. Gather this evening for a welcome reception, dinner and private concert at the incomparable Nelahozeves Palace, an enchanting Renaissance chateau perched high above the Vltava River.

PRAHUE ARRIVAL (B,D)
FRIDAY, APRIL 29
PRAGUE / EMBARK SWISS RUBY
Visit the magnificent Strahov Library for a private tour of its collection of original prints and manuscripts. Continue to the expansive Prague Castle, which has been a royal residence since the 10th century and is still the seat of Czech government. Within its walls is the Renaissance-era St. Vitus Cathedral, the soaring hilltop structure that incorporates a unique mix of Gothic and baroque elements. A highlight of its impressive art collection is the jewel-studded burial chapel of St. Wenceslaus, Prague’s patron saint. Visit the Old Royal Palace, one of the oldest parts of the castle, that includes a long throne room and soaring Vladislav Hall, once the site of coronation banquets and indoor jousting tournaments.

Embark the Swiss Ruby for lunch and spend the afternoon cruising toward the German border.

SUNDAY, MAY 1
BAD SCHANDAU, GERMANY / DRESDEN
Observe a 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 popular summer resort for more than two centuries. Ascend spectacular Bastei Rock in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains to take in sweeping views of the river and distant mountains. Then drive to historic Dresden, renowned for its splendid baroque architecture and world-class art collections. Explore the Zwinger Palace museum and the palace’s exquisite gardens. Our ship

SATURDAY, APRIL 30
PRAGUE / CRUISING
This morning, enjoy a walking tour of charming Old Town Prague, largely unchanged over the centuries. Visit Old Town Square, home of Prague’s famous, 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 the domes and turrets of Old Town.
remains in port this evening. Choose to have dinner and relax onboard or go ashore for a night out on the town. SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MAY 2
DRESDEN / MEISSEN
This morning, tour 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 such treasures in Europe. Visit the distinctive Frauenkirche, newly 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” porcelain is still made by hand, and gaze upon the exquisite collection at the Porcelain Museum. SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MAY 3
WITTENBERG
Upon arrival at Wittenberg, visit the Castle Church, where Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in 1517, beginning the Protestant Reformation. Wittenberg's historic Market Square, spared by the Allies during bombing raids, is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. On a tour of the city, 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. Its cathedral is the oldest representation of Gothic architecture in all of Germany and is still among the tallest in the eastern part of the country. Also visit the highly imaginative Green Citadel, the last building project worked on by controversial artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. This afternoon, cruise the impressive 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 magnificent and gloriously 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, site of the historic Potsdam Conference, where Churchill, Truman and Stalin met in 1945. Tour the conference rooms and view the large collection of photos and memorabilia from the era. View 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 Russian troops captured in 1812. This afternoon, enjoy the last leg of our cruise to Berlin and join our captain for a farewell reception and dinner aboard ship. SWISS RUBY (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MAY 6
BERLIN / DISEMBARK / U.S.
Disembark the Swiss Ruby in Berlin this morning and transfer to the airport for return flights home. (B)

Optional Post-trip Extension: Berlin
MAY 6 TO 9
Enjoy a three-night, post-trip extension in this exciting European capital. Travel to Museum Island for a visit to the Neues Museum with its impressive collection of archaeological treasures, including the iconic bust of Egyptian queen Nefertiti. Reflect on a somber period in German history at Checkpoint Charlie and at the Holocaust Memorial. Admire the stunning architecture of the city, from the historic Berlin Cathedral and Brandenburg Gate to the more contemporary buildings and complexes that have risen since the end of the Cold War. Enjoy traditional German cuisine at local restaurants, including lunch at the domed restaurant of the Norman Foster-enhanced Reichstag.

Details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.
Swiss Ruby

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 our voyage. The 44 outward-facing cabins feature en suite bathrooms with shower, air-conditioning, television, telephone, hairdryer, minibar and safe. Public areas are spacious and elegantly decorated with panoramic windows, and the lounge on the Ruby Deck offers a relaxing environment for watching the passing scenery, browsing in the library or enjoying a drink from the bar. The dining room, located on the Emerald Deck, accommodates all passengers in one sitting. There is also a spacious sun deck with comfortable deck furniture.

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<th>Program Cost</th>
<th>Rates per person, based on double or single occupancy, as specified</th>
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<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Aft Emerald Deck cabins with queen or twin beds and two picture windows. 123 square feet.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Forward Emerald Deck cabins with queen or twin beds and two picture windows. 123 square feet.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Midship Emerald Deck cabins with queen or twin beds and two picture windows. 123 square feet.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Aft Ruby Deck cabins with queen bed and French balcony with sliding glass door. 123 square feet.</td>
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<td>Forward Ruby Deck cabins with queen bed and French balcony with sliding glass door. 123 square feet.</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Midship Ruby Deck cabins with queen bed and French balcony with sliding glass door. 123 square feet.</td>
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*Association nonmembers add $300 per person.
**Single accommodations may be limited to as few as 2 cabins.

| Length: 279 feet |
| Beam: 43 feet |
| Draft: 3.9 feet |
| Engines: 1440 hp |
| Registry: Switzerland |
DATES
April 26 to May 6, 2016 (11 days)

SIZE
This program can accommodate a total of 72 participants, including travelers from Stanford, Harvard and MIT. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

INCLUDED
2 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations ■ 7-night cruise aboard the Swiss Ruby ■ 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 8 dinners ■ Welcome and farewell receptions ■ Gratuities to guides, drivers, waitstaff, housekeepers and ship crew for all group activities ■ All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary ■ Group transfers and baggage handling on designated program arrival and departure days ■ Port fees and embarkation taxes ■ Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance ■ Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information ■ Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare ■ Passport and visa fees ■ Immunization costs ■ Meals and beverages other than those specified as included ■ Independent and private airport transfers ■ Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance ■ Excess-baggage charges ■ Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on United Airlines from San Francisco to Prague, Czech Republic, and return from Berlin, Germany, is approximately $1,500 as of August 2015 and is subject to change without notice.

FUEL COSTS
In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult to predict fuel costs over the long term and, more specifically, at the time of operation of this voyage. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of brochure printing. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this program to be moderately strenuous. Daily excursions involve one to three miles of walking, often over uneven terrain such as cobblestones. Several days will require spending two to three continuous hours on one’s feet and standing in one place at a time, such as during museum tours where seats are not available. In some instances, guided tours may require climbing up and down multiple flights of stairs. Stairs may not have handrails, and elevators may be limited or unavailable. There is no elevator onboard the Swiss Ruby. Some sites and museums do not allow buses to pull up in front, thus taking several minutes of walking to reach the entrance. Full days of touring are balanced with lectures and leisure time aboard ship. Participants must be in good health, active and physically capable of undertaking this level of activity without assistance from tour staff. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space. A $200-per-person deposit is required to hold space for the optional post-trip extension. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?elbe2016 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with our welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. Families and travel companions may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/go/to/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the ship’s ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in August 2015 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
“As with all the many Stanford trips I’ve been on, the professors, staff and traveling companions have contributed to spectacular adventures.”

MARTA PERRY MACKENZIE, ’59, STANFORD TRAVELER