

2021 - Europe's Rivers & Castles

7-NIGHT CRUISE

From the meandering Main to the UNESCO-designated Upper Middle Rhine Valley with its multitude of castles dotting its shores to the vineyard-clad hills of the Moselle, enjoy Europe at its most picturesque. Let the storybook villages—Wertheim, Cochem and Zell—captivate you; and Rothenburg, located on the Romantic Road enchant you. Marvel at the world's largest ceiling fresco in the Würzburg Residence, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Savor the many flavors of Germany with a chance to sample the world-famous wines of the Rheingau, the hearty smoked beer of Bamberg. All along the way, gain an intimate understanding of the history and culture of the places you visit.

OVERVIEW:

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES</u>
1	NUREMBERG	EMBARKATION
2	BAMBERG	UNESCO city walking tour and smoked beer tasting OR Bike tour to Eltmann
3	WÜRZBURG	Würzburg walking tour OR Residenz Palace visit OR Rothenburg excursion OR Marienberg Fortress hike
4	WERTHEIM	Walking tour OR Main River bike tour OR Pretzel bakery visit and tasting OR Castle Hill hike
5	RÜDESHEIM	Gondola ride and wine tasting Siegfried's Mechanical Music Museum OR Vineyard hike OR Guided bike tour of the Rheingau Castles along the Rhine scenic cruising Unique Lahneck Castle visit
6	COCHEM	Reichsburg Castle and walking tour OR Reichsburg Castle hike OR Cochem Mustard Mill tour OR Moselle bike tour Exclusive wine festival celebration
7	TRIER	"Rome of the North" tour OR "Ancient tales of the Porta Nigra" OR Petrisberg hike OR Trier bike tour
8	LUXEMBOURG	DISEMBARKATION

ITINERARY DETAILS:

Day 1, NUREMBERG. Board the ship in Nuremberg for your Europe's Rivers & Castles cruise. (D)

Day 2, BAMBERG. Bamberg has been referred to as "Franconian Rome" as, like Rome, it was built on seven hills—but in Bamberg, a church graces each one. Bamberg's medieval and Baroque architecture has withstood the test of time and, as such, became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Join a guided walking tour of this medieval gem where you'll see its cathedral, Old Town Hall and elegant old mansions, and afterwards, indulge in the town's famous smoked beer, Rauchbier. Alternatively, enjoy a bike tour through Bamberg and follow your knowledgeable guide along the river to the enchanting winemaking town of Eltmann. (B,L,D)

Day 3, WÜRZBURG. Go on a full-day excursion to Rothenburg, Germany's best-preserved walled town located on the Romantic Road. For those not going to Rothenburg, enjoy a city tour of Würzburg, a bursting with Baroque splendor. Or visit Würzburg's Baroque Residenz Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that features an opulent interior, including a grand fresco by Tiepolo. As an alternative to the walking tour and the palace visit, the more active guest may choose to venture high above the town for a hike to Marienberg Fortress, which dominates the city. (B,L,D)

Day 4, WERTHEIM. Wertheim's old town center still features half-timbered houses and the Gothic architecture of the Stiftskirche, its oldest Protestant church. You may either join a guided walking tour through the historic city center or learn the art of pretzel making with a visit to a local bakery. For those seeking a more active adventure, take a scenic bike ride through the Main River Valley or hike high above the town for a visit to the castle, one of the most picturesque ruins in Germany. (B,L,D)

Day 5, RÜDESHEIM - RHINE GORGE - LAHNSTEIN. Arrive in Rudesheim, where you can visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum, or take a ride over the vineyards of Rudesheim in a gondola to the Niederwald Monument, and then afterwards be treated to a wine tasting. You may also hike through a Rudesheim vineyard. Another choice today is to take a guided bike tour along the Rhine Valley, riding between the Rheingau hills and the Rhine River. Later in the day, set sail towards Lahnstein through the Rhine River Gorge, famous for its beautiful and imposing castles. Cap the day off with a visit to Lahneck Castle. (B,L,D)

Day 6, COCHEM - ZELL. Wake up in fairytale Cochem and visit the Reichsburg Castle followed by a walking tour. As an alternative, visit one of Europe's oldest working mustard mills where you will sample Cochem's famous mustard. You may also opt to take a guided bike tour along the captivating Moselle River or a hike to Reichsburg Castle. Later, cruise to Zell, famous for its Riesling and the well-known arched black cat icon, often seen on the labels of local German wines. Experience the hospitality of the citizens of Zell, including the local Wine Queen and Mayor, at an exclusive wine festival where you'll sample local wines, sausages and more. (B,L,D)

Day 7, TRIER. Enjoy a scenic cruise along the Moselle to Trier, Germany's oldest city, renowned for its rich ancient Roman past, and referred to as the "Rome of the North" or "Second Rome" as it has impressive Roman relics and nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Join a guided tour of the city, including the old Roman amphitheater, Roman Baths and Basilica of Constantine. Alternatively, go in search of the secrets of the Porta Nigra Gate, dating back to 180 A.D., on a tour that takes you back to a time when Rome ruled the world from the Emperor's seat in Trier. You also have the choice of a bike tour through the historic city center and along the Moselle River; or hike high above Trier to Petrisberg. (B,L,D)

Day 8, LUXEMBOURG. Bid au revoir to Luxembourg as you prepare for your journey home.