

## 2021 - Medieval Treasures

### 7-NIGHT CRUISE

Walk through thousands of years of history in the medieval towns of Rothenburg, Bamberg and Miltenberg. Revel in the architectural gems on display—the Würzburg Residenz and Mannheim Baroque Palace. Indulge your inner child with visits to Siegfried’s Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum and the Speyer Technical Museum. Discover the Alsatian capital of France, Strasbourg and savor local flavors like rich Rudesheimer coffee and hearty Bamberg smoked beer. All this and more awaits you as you experience the many medieval treasures of Europe.

#### OVERVIEW:

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES</u>
1	BASEL	EMBARKATION
2	STRASBOURG	“The Gem of the Alsace” tour OR Strasbourg bike tour
3	LUDWIGSHAFEN	Mannheim Baroque Palace OR “Secrets of Speyer” tour OR Speyer Technical Museum Wine tasting
4	RÜDESHEIM	Siegfried’s Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum OR Gondola ride OR Vineyard hike
5	MILTENBERG	“The Pearl of the Main” walking tour OR Flavors of Miltenberg OR Miltenberg Castle hike OR Miltenberg to Wertheim bike tour Walking tour OR Pretzel bakery visit and tasting OR Castle Hill hike
6	KITZINGEN	Würzburg walking tour and Residenz Palace OR Full-day Rothenburg OR Kitzingen to Volkach bike tour Walking tour
7	BAMBERG	UNESCO city walking tour and smoked beer tasting OR Tastes of Bamberg OR Bamberg bike tour
8	NUREMBERG	DISEMBARKATION

#### ITINERARY DETAILS:

Day 1, BASEL. Board the ship in Basel for your Medieval Treasures cruise. (D)

Day 2, STRASBOURG. Capital of Alsace, Strasbourg is beloved for its wine culture and enchanting 16th- and 17th-century half-timbered houses, which line La Petite

France quarter on the banks of the Grand Île (Grand Island), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Join a tour of the city that takes you past the stunning Parc de l'Orangerie, the European Parliament and the Place de la République and then walk through the iconic "La Petite France" district, which appears to have been lifted straight from the pages of a fairytale. Wander through these charming streets and past the Cathédrale de Notre Dame with its famous astronomical clock. Alternatively, the active adventurer can go on a guided bike tour. (B,L,D)

Day 3, LUDWIGSHAFEN - RÜDESHEIM. Ludwigshafen is your gateway to a choice of three excursions. Visit the Mannheim Baroque Palace—one of the largest palaces in Europe, which is furnished with over 800 exhibits, recreating its bygone grandeur. Alternatively, join a walking tour of one of Germany's oldest cities, Speyer, known for the largest Romanesque cathedral in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage Site; its crypt contains the tomb of eight German emperors and kings. Speyer is also home to the medieval Altpörtel, Old Gate. Or, if you prefer a more modern view of Speyer, you can visit the intriguing Speyer Technical Museum. Later in the day, sail to Rudesheim, where you'll be treated to a wine tasting. (B,L,D)

Day 4, RÜDESHEIM. Continue your exploration of Rudesheim with a choice of excursions. Those who fancy a more whimsical adventure will want to visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum. For an adventure of a different kind, soar over the vineyards of Rudesheim on a gondola to the Niederwald Monument; or opt to take a hike through the vineyards. (B,L,D)

Day 5, MILTENBERG - WERTHEIM. Enjoy a scenic cruise to Miltenberg, the "Pearl of the Main River." While on your walking tour, you'll discover why this medieval town seems to leap from the pages of a fairytale with its 14th- and 15th-century half-timbered, gabled houses; the famed Crooked House; and the venerable Royal Inn, which has been a working hotel since the 17th century. For those who would like a more active adventure, hike to the Miltenberg Castle, offering majestic views of the town and river; or go on a guided bike ride along the Main River. Or you can taste local specialties on a "Flavors of Miltenberg" tour. Later in the day, set sail for Wertheim, considered to have one of Germany's most beautiful city centers with precious half-timbered houses. While here, join a walking tour, hike to the impressive stone ruins of Wertheim Castle or go to a pretzel bakery for a delicious tasting. (B,L,D)

Day 6, KITZINGEN - VOLKACH. There are several choices of excursions, depending on your interests. You can go to Würzburg, a beautiful city bursting with Baroque splendor. While here, visit its crown jewel, the Baroque Residenz Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that features an opulent interior, including a grand fresco by Tiepolo. Alternatively, you can take a trip through a thousand years of history while in Rothenburg, Germany's best-preserved walled town located on the Romantic Road. Interestingly, the imagery of Walt Disney's *Pinocchio* was very much influenced by sketches of Rothenburg. Or for a more active excursion, go on a bike tour from Kitzingen to Volkach. (B,L,D)

Day 7, BAMBERG. Explore enchanting Bamberg, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in one of three ways. Join a guided walking tour of this medieval gem where you'll see its cathedral, Old Town Hall and elegant old mansions. Or taste your way through the city sampling smoked beer, licorice root and Hormla pastry, a local favorite dating back to 1427. And for those wishing to explore the town more actively, hop on a bike for a guided bike tour along the Main River from Eltmann and to Bamberg's quirky quarters beyond the town center. (B,L,D)

Day 8, NUREMBERG. Bid farewell to Nuremberg and prepare for your flight home. (B)