

2021 - Rhine & Moselle Fairytales

11-NIGHT CRUISE

Pages from fairytales come to life as you find inspiration along the fabled, castle-laden Rhine and its breathtaking tributary, the Moselle, with fascinating scenery of Europe's steepest vineyards lining its shores. Encounter some of the prettiest towns of the Alsace—Strasbourg and Riquewihr—that blend their German and French heritage into one enchanting masterpiece. Cochem and Bernkastel, towns that grew up below a castle, give you a sense of what it was like to live during the Middle Ages. Visit Trier, once known as the second Rome as no other city in Germany has so many monuments from Roman times; and Koblenz, where history meets at two rivers. Bygone grandeur of a different kind can be found at Mannheim's glorious Baroque Palace and at Schwetzingen Palace Gardens with more than 100 sculptures and whimsical buildings, including the most spectacular, the Türkischer Garten. Colorful canals and glistening lakes, hilltop towns and majestic alps, mighty fortresses and storied castles, and hearty beer and delicate wines can all be experienced on this fairytale journey through time.

OVERVIEW:

| <u>DAY</u> | <u>DESTINATION</u> | <u>ACTIVITIES</u> |
|------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | AMSTERDAM | EMBARKATION |
| 2 | AMSTERDAM | Canal cruise tour Scenic cruising out of Amsterdam |
| 3 | COLOGNE | "Holy City" walking tour and cathedral visit OR Kölsch beer tasting OR Cologne bike tour |
| 4 | LAHNSTEIN | Unique Lahneck Castle visit OR Ehrenbreitstein Fortress and cable car ride to Koblenz OR Lahneck Castle hike OR "Two Rivers" bike tour |
| 5 | MOSELLE VALLEY | Scenic cruising Reichsburg Castle and walking tour OR Cochem Mustard Mill OR Cochem hike OR Cochem bike tour |
| 6 | MOSELLE VALLEY | Scenic cruising "Rome of the North" tour OR "Ancient tales of the Porta Nigra" tour OR Petrisberg hike OR Trier bike tour |
| 7 | BERNKASTEL | Walking tour and wine tasting OR Moselle bike tour OR Landshut Castle hike |
| 8 | RHINE GORGE | Castles along the Rhine scenic cruising Gondola ride and Wine tasting OR Vineyard hike OR Schloss Johannisberg bike tour Siegfried's Mechanical Music Museum |

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|----|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | OR Rudesheimer coffee |
| 9 | LUDWIGSHAFEN | <p>“Romantic Heidelberg” excursion</p> <p>OR Mannheim Baroque Palace</p> <p>OR Schwetzingen Gardens</p> <p>OR Heidleberg Philosopher's Path hike</p> <p>OR Ladenburg bike tour</p> |
| 10 | STRASBOURG | <p>“The Gem of the Alsace” tour</p> <p>OR Strasbourg bike tour</p> |
| 11 | BREISACH | <p>Riquewihr walking tour</p> <p>OR Freiburg excursion</p> <p>OR Black Forest hike</p> <p>OR Breisach wine country bike tour</p> |
| 12 | BASEL | DISEMBARKATION |

ITINERARY DETAILS:

Day 1, AMSTERDAM. Board the ship for your Rhine & Moselle Fairytales cruise. (D)

Day 2, AMSTERDAM. There are 165 canals in Amsterdam, and you'll get to enjoy some of them on your canal cruise. Later in the day, set sail out of Amsterdam. (B,L,D)

Day 3, COLOGNE. Enjoy cruising to Cologne, home to one of Germany's most revered Gothic masterpieces, the Cologne Cathedral. Join a guided tour through the Old Town and explore the UNESCO-designated cathedral. You'll also pass by the Cologne Rathaus, Germany's oldest town hall, and other local sights. For a different view of the city, visit a local tavern to taste its famous Kölsch beer, only made in Cologne, and reibekuchen, potato pancakes typically served with applesauce. Active adventurers will want to join a guided bike ride along the Rhine. (B,L,D)

Day 4, LAHNSTEIN. You have a choice to visit Burg Lahneck, a medieval 13th-century castle, located in the city of Lahnstein; or you can go to Ehrenbreitstein Fortress to take the aerial cable car over the Rhine to Koblenz, which boasts a rich history spanning more than 2,000 years. For those seeking a more active adventure, explore the area on the “Two Rivers Bike Tour,” which takes you along both the Rhine and Moselle rivers; or go on a hike around Lahnstein to Lahneck Castle. (B,L,D)

Day 5, MOSELLE VALLEY - COCHEM. Spend the morning taking in the beauty of the Moselle on this scenic stretch of the river before reaching Cochem with its half-timbered houses and Reichsburg Castle. Join a guided tour through the castle and then walk through its Old Town. For those wishing to have a more active exploration of the area, you can go on a guided hike to the castle or a bike tour through Cochem. Or for a different adventure, follow your palate to one of Europe's oldest mustard mills in Cochem for a taste of its finest mustard recipe. (B,L,D)

Day 6, MOSELLE VALLEY - TRIER. Set sail for Trier, Germany's oldest city, where you can discover on a city tour why it has been called the “Rome of the North” as it has impressive Roman relics and nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Alternatively, go in search of the secrets of the Porta Nigra Gate 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 7, BERNKASTEL. Enjoy a scenic cruise to Bernkastel that will enchant you. Walk through its colorful Old Town center and past many medieval and Renaissance buildings on a guided tour that also includes a winery visit and tasting. Cycling enthusiasts can choose to join a bike tour and hikers can opt to trek up to the ruins of Landshtut Castle, which dates all the way back to the 9th century. (B,L,D)

Day 8, RHINE GORGE - RÜDESHEIM. Cruise through the captivating UNESCO-designated Rhine Gorge, the most stunningly beautiful stretch of the river, before reaching Rudesheim. Drink up the stunning views by soaring high above the vineyards with a gondola ride to the Niederwalddenkmal Statue, and afterwards, be treated to a wine tasting. For a more active adventure, hike through the town's beautiful vineyards or join a guided bike tour along the scenic Rhine River to Schloss Johannisberg. Later in the day, let Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum charm you or taste one of the town's special delights, Rudesheimer coffee, ceremoniously made with brandy, coffee and whipped cream. (B,L,D)

Day 9, LUDWIGSHAFEN. You have a choice of several excursions, depending on your interest. Visit Heidelberg, a perfectly preserved medieval city nestled in the Neckar River Valley along Germany's Castle Road. Alternatively, relive a bygone era on an excursion to the glorious Schwetzingen Baroque Palace. Tour this splendid palace furnished with over 800 exhibits. Or, you may decide to visit Schwetzingen Palace Gardens with more than 100 sculptures and admire an assortment of whimsical buildings. The Apollotempel houses a statue of the ancient Greek god of light and the arts, playing the lyre; and the most spectacular, the Türkischer Garten

with a mosque, are a few of the many highlights you will see. You can also hike the historic Philosopher's Path along the Neckar River or bike to the charming town of Ladenburg and glide past its half-timbered architecture. (B,L,D)

Day 10, STRASBOURG. Strasbourg, the capital city of Alsace, offers flavors of both France and Germany because of its borderline location. Enjoy a panoramic tour past the stunning Parc de l'Orangerie, the European Parliament and the Place de la République before walking through its 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 take a guided bike ride through the city and Parc de l'Orangerie. (B,L,D)

Day 11, BREISACH. Breisach is your gateway to several different excursions, depending on your interests. Step back in time with a visit to the enchanting Alsatian town of Riquewihr, which looks almost the same as it did in the 16th century. On your walking tour, admire historic architecture as well as famous sights, such as the Dolder Gate. Alternatively, you may wish to go to Freiburg, founded in 1120 and home to the Freiburg's Münster, a Gothic cathedral said to have "the most beautiful spire on earth." Those wishing a more active excursion can cycle through the scenic countryside, or go on a hike in the Black Forest*, a magical land full of cultural traditions. (B,L,D)

*Please Note: Black forest hike is weather dependent and may only operate at certain times of year. Please refer to your final documents for details.

Day 12, BASEL. Disembark the ship and bid farewell to Switzerland as you prepare for your return flight home. (B)