

2021 - Rhine & Moselle Splendors

7-NIGHT CRUISE

Expand your imagination in fairytale villages—enchanting Cochem where folklore and history come alive in every street, and in well-preserved Bernkastel with its medieval Market Square and half-timbered houses. Whimsical fantasies abound at Siegfried’s Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum and at the Palace Gardens of Schwetzingen, a cultural heritage site of European significance with more than 100 sculptures scattered throughout its surprising landscape. Blend German heritage with Italian in Trier, with its Roman Imperial Baths and the Porta Nigra; and with French heritage in Strasbourg, and you have the most splendid journey.

OVERVIEW:

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES</u>
1	LUXEMBOURG	EMBARKATION
2	SCHWEICH	“Rome of the North” tour OR Petrisberg Hill hike Walking tour and wine tasting OR Landshut Castle hike OR Moselle Bike Tour
3	COCHEM	Reichsburg Castle and walking tour OR Cochem Mustard Mill Tour OR Bundesbank Bunker vault tour OR Cochem bike tour Scenic cruising Unique Lahneck Castle visit
4	RHINE GORGE	Castles along the Rhine scenic cruising Gondola Ride and wine tasting OR Vineyard hike OR Guided Bike Tour of the Rheingau Siegfried’s Mechanical Music Museum OR Rudesheimer Coffee
5	LUDWIGSHAFEN	“Romantic Heidelberg” excursion OR Schwetzingen Palace and Gardens OR Heidelberg Philosopher’s Path hike OR Ladenburg bike tour
6	STRASBOURG	“The Gem of the Alsace” tour OR Strasbourg bike tour
7	BREISACH	Riquewihr walking tour OR Freiburg excursion OR Black Forest hike OR Breisach wine country bike tour Overnight in Basel
8	BASEL	DISEMBARKATION

ITINERARY DETAILS:

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

Day 2, SCHWEICH - TRIER - BERNKASTEL. Trier, Germany's oldest city, has often been referred to as the second Rome. Be guided to the Roman Imperial Baths, the Porta Nigra and Emperor Constantine's Throne Room. Or hike to Petrisberg Hill, where you'll take in a spectacular view of the city and its glorious spires. You can also cycle along the Moselle River past Trier's Imperial Baths, Porta Nigra city gate and other historic sites. During the afternoon, sail to Bernkastel, strategically located in the middle of the Moselle Valley's wine-producing region. Walk through the colorful Old Town center and past many medieval buildings before enjoying a wine tasting at a local winery. For those who prefer to be more active, trek up to the ruins of Landshut Castle, which dates all the way back to the 9th century, or pedal along the Moselle River from Bernkastel to Losnich and past the historic Abbey Machern, Roman ruins in the winemaking town of Erden and sun-kissed vineyards. (B,L,D)

Day 3, COCHEM - MOSELLE VALLEY - LAHNSTEIN. History comes to life in 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 visit one of Europe's oldest mustard mills in Cochem (dating back to 1810) for a taste of its finest mustard recipe. Later in the day, sail along the Moselle, taking in the fascinating scenery before arriving in Lahnstein where you'll enjoy a visit to Lahneck Castle. (B,L,D)

Day 4, RHINE GORGE - RÜDESHEIM. Cruise through the captivating UNESCO-designated Rhine Gorge, the most stunningly beautiful stretch of the river, before reaching the winemaking town of Rüdesheim. 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, Rüdesheimer coffee, ceremoniously made with brandy, coffee and whipped cream. (B,L,D)

Day 5, 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 Palace and Gardens. Tour this splendid palace and wander through its gardens with more than 100 sculptures and 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. For those seeking a more active adventure, hike the historic Philosopher's Path along the Neckar River or join a guided bike tour along the Neckar River to the medieval town of Ladenburg. (B,L,D)

Day 6, STRASBOURG. Strasbourg, the capital city of Alsace, has flavors of both France and Germany which you'll get to discover. Enjoy a panoramic bus tour past the stunning Parc de l'Orangerie, the European Parliament and the Place de la République followed by a walking tour through its iconic "La Petite France" district, which appears to have been lifted straight from the pages of a fairytale. You'll also see the Cathédrale de Notre Dame with its famous astronomical clock. The active adventurer can join a guided Old Town bike tour, which also takes you through the Parc de l'Orangerie. (B,L,D)

Day 7, BREISACH - BASEL. 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." You also have the choice to go on a hike in the Black Forest, a magical land full of cultural traditions; or cycle through the scenic countryside. (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 8, BASEL. Bid farewell to Switzerland and prepare for your return flight home. (B)