

# Places you visit



## Day 1: Basel

Located along the Rhine River, Basel sits at the point where French, German and Swiss borders meet, marking the gateway to the Swiss Rhineland. Basel's cobblestone streets, 18th century buildings and three surviving medieval gates reflect the city's rich past. A cultural centre, Basel is also home to many museums including the Museum of Fine Arts with masterpieces by Picasso and Dali.

## Day 2: Basel

Your morning tour will show you Basel's historic Middle Bridge, cathedral and steep winding streets. Then tour one of the city's many art museums. Afternoon is free to explore at your own pace.

## Day 3: Breisach

The city of Breisach is the gateway to the Black Forest Region. During your excursion, you'll encounter the area's unspoiled mountain landscape with its meadows and forests, densely populated with pine trees. You'll also see a cuckoo clock-making demonstration.

## Day 4: Strasbourg

Strasbourg is the largest city of the Alsace region. Located on the border of France and Germany, it maintains influence from both countries. Admire the carefully restored Cathedral of Notre Dame with its graceful, 142 metre-tall spires, see the Place d'Austerlitz and the European Parliament. In the afternoon your time is free to explore this multicultural city, called "Petit France".

## Day 5: Heidelberg & Rudesheim

Today's excursion takes you to Heidelberg, home to Germany's oldest university founded in 1386. See the imposing

Heidelberg Castle, a magnificent red sandstone ruin overlooking the Neckar River. Continue with a walking tour through the Old Town and marketplace. Return to your ship for afternoon cruising. Dock late in Rudesheim. Enjoy free time to stroll along the Drosselgasse, a pedestrian-only street lined with restaurants, bars and shops.

## Day 6: Rudesheim & Koblenz

Rudesheim is the main centre of Rhine wine making. Half-timbered medieval houses, narrow streets and old inns give the town the flavour of the Middle Ages. Take a mini-train to tour Siegfried's Mechanical Music Museum, which houses one of the world's largest collections of self-playing instruments. Then cruise along one of the most beautiful stretches of the Rhine. You will pass legendary Lorelei Rock. This afternoon, visit 700-year-old Marksburg Castle in Braubach and tour its museum. Return to your ship in Koblenz, set at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers. Founded more than 2,000 years ago, it has grown to become the business and cultural centre of the Middle Rhine Region and is overlooked by Europe's oldest fortress, Ehrenbreitstein.

## Day 7: Cochem & Cologne

Perched on a hilltop above the city and the Moselle River, the 1,000 year old Cochem Castle is the city's signature landmark. Timber-framed houses, St Martin's Church, the market square and a former monastery now serving as an arts centre are all well preserved in the lively old quarter of town. Take a walking tour through this quaint village. Then visit a winery and taste some local vintages. Cruise through the afternoon, arriving in Cologne tonight.

## Day 8: Cologne

Dominating Cologne's riverside skyline are the soaring twin steeples of its magnificent Gothic Cathedral that miraculously survived WWII bombings. A brewery visit showcases Germany's favourite beverage. Along the docks there are many taverns, cafes and shops in which to spend your free time.

## Day 9: Arnhem

Arrive early and take an excursion to the site of Operation Market Garden and the Airborne Museum. After lunch you have free time to explore this quaint town, rich in World War II history, on your own.

## Day 10: Amsterdam

Experience Amsterdam with its hundreds of canals and Golden Age architecture during a glass-topped canal cruise passing narrow merchant houses and the famed Skinny Bridge. Visit the Van Gogh Museum and explore works by the famed artist. Utilise your free time to visit one of the city's many

museums or the Anne Frank House where, during WWII, this young Jewish girl hid in an Amsterdam attic for two years before being sent to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

## Day 11: Gouda & Rotterdam

World-renowned for its cheese, Gouda is also known for its well preserved Gothic Town Hall and St John's Church. Visit Hoogerwaard Cheese Farm for a guided tour and cheese-making demonstration. Return to your ship in Schoonhoven and sail to Rotterdam.

## Day 12: Delft & Dordrecht

From Rotterdam, take a journey to Delft, famous for its blue and white china. Stop at one of the Delftware factories for a pottery demonstration. Then see the *Nieuwe Kerk* and the *Prinsenhof* on a guided tour. Sail to Dordrecht and enjoy a free afternoon in this charming Dutch town, or take an optional excursion to see the windmills at Kinderdijk.

## Day 13: Brugge

Take a coach tour to Brugge. This former capital of West Flanders is criss-crossed with canals and filled with lovely architecture that serves as a testament to the city's former prominence as a textile trade centre. See the medieval Beguinage courtyard and gardens, the Church of Our Lady, Gruuthuize Palace and Simon Stevin Square. Lunch today is at a traditional Belgian restaurant, followed by free time.

## Day 14: Antwerp

This morning, you tour Antwerp. Belgium's major port is located on the right bank of the Schelde River and has been an important trade centre since the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Historic Antwerp is home to the largest Gothic structure in the Low Countries, the Cathedral of Our Lady. You will also see the Town Hall and Steen Castle and visit the Rubens Museum.

## Day 15: Antwerp

Disembark.



Basel