

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. Take the free afternoon to explore one of the city's many outstanding art museums.

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. 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.

Day 6: Rhine River & Koblenz

This morning we sail through the glorious Middle Rhine Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, passing charming villages, many castles and the 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. Along the docks there are many taverns, cafés 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. Utilise your free time to visit one of the city's many museums, the Van Gogh Museum 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 & Schoonhoven

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: Rotterdam & Dordrecht

You have the morning free to explore Rotterdam, Holland's second-largest city. Return aboard for lunch; sail to Dordrecht. This afternoon's excursion takes you to see the 18th-century windmills of Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and tour a working windmill.

Day 13: Ghent & Brugge

This morning we dock in Ghent. From here, take a morning tour to Brugge. See the medieval *Béguinage* courtyard and gardens, beautiful canals and Simon Stevin Square. Stay in Brugge for lunch on your own, or return to Ghent for lunch aboard and an afternoon exploring the charming capital of East Flanders. Dine aboard; we sail this evening from Ghent, arriving in Antwerp at midnight.

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 11th-century. Historic Antwerp is home to the largest Gothic structure in the Low Countries, the Cathedral of Our Lady with its four magnificent altarpieces painted by Peter Paul Rubens. You will also see the Town Hall and Steen Castle.

Day 15: Antwerp

Disembark.



Basel