

Places you visit



Rhine river view

Day 1: Amsterdam

Amsterdam is renowned for its museums, colourful gardens, abundance of bicycles and endless lattice of canals. After boarding your ship, you may have free time to explore on your own.

Day 2: Kinderdijk

This morning, sail to Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where you tour this fascinating network of windmills and other flood management technologies. After lunch aboard, enjoy an afternoon of *sjoelen* (Dutch table shuttleboard) and sample Dutch cheeses and *jenever*, a juniper liqueur.

Day 3: Cologne

An intriguing mix of old and new, Cologne reveals its Roman heritage in the city layout and ancient ruins that lie scattered through

out the town. Cologne's modern plazas and *Hohe-Strasse*, a pedestrian-only shopping zone, provide a variety of stores, lively bars and enticing restaurants. On your walking tour of this gem of the Rhine you will stroll through the Old Town and pass St Martin's Church. Then visit Cologne's *Dom*, a remarkable Gothic cathedral. Spared Allied bombs during World War II, the Cathedral's lacy spires are visible for miles, and its stained-glass windows fill the interior with brilliant coloured light. Your evening is free to explore the dockside taverns, cafés and shops.

Day 4: Koblenz & Rudesheim

Located at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers, Koblenz is overlooked by Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, from across the river. Take a coach to Braubach to tour 700-year-old Marksburg Castle and

its museum. Return to your ship and sail along the most scenic stretch of the Rhine. Castles overlook the river from their hilltop locations. Arrive in Rudesheim this evening. Then spend free time to stroll the pedestrian-only *Drosselgasse* and sample a glass of locally produced wine in one of the restaurants or wine bars.

Day 5: Heidelberg & Speyer

Enjoy the passing scenery as you cruise through the morning. Arrive in Mannheim during lunch and disembark for your tour of Germany's oldest university town, Heidelberg, situated in the Neckar Valley just east of the Rhine. Known as the cradle of the German Romantic movement, it also boasts beautiful baroque architecture. Heidelberg is most famous as the site of the imposing ruins of Heidelberg Castle, a magnificent red sand-

stone ruin perched high above the river and the former home of the Palatinate princes until it was partially destroyed by fire in the 17th-century. Visit the beautiful sandstone ruins and take in the scenery of the Neckar River Valley and the city's many red rooftops from the castle's hilltop location. Continue with a walking tour from the Old Town to Heidelberg's renowned gates. Rejoin your ship in Speyer where you have free time this evening.

Day 6: Strasbourg

After a morning of scenic cruising you arrive in Kehl where you disembark for your guided tour of Strasbourg. The multi-cultural city of Strasbourg exhibits both French and German influences due to its location along the Rhine River at the border of both countries. The old streets of "Petit France", with wooden houses and picturesque canals, seem to make time stand still. The carefully restored Cathedral of Notre Dame contains a combination of architectural styles and is most recognized for its 142-metre tall graceful spires. Another landmark is the 18th-century Château des Rohan, which houses three of the city's major museums. You will also see the Place d'Austerlitz and the European Parliament and tour the interior of the city's famed cathedral. Free time allows you to further explore the old section of this French-German city.

Day 7: Breisach

Breisach's most prominent landmark is the Cathedral of St Stephanus. Visible from any part of the city, this landmark towers high above the Rhine. Breisach is located in one of the warmest parts of Germany, next to Alsace, which is famous for its wine-growing. It is also the gateway for your tour of Germany's famous Black Forest. Here, you board a coach for a scenic excursion through the area's renowned mountain landscape, rolling meadows and dense forests. Visit a local workshop and see a cuckoo clock-making demonstration. After your return to Breisach you have free time to explore the town or, take an optional excursion to Colmar.

Day 8: Basel

Disembark.



Amsterdam