

8 Days Romantic Rhine River Cruise Northbound (Basel to Amsterdam)



One of Europe’s most legendary rivers awaits you on this exciting journey along the Rhine River, which begins in Switzerland and stops in France, Germany, and Holland!

A few highlights are Breisach, the gateway to Germany’s Black Forest, an area of unrivaled natural beauty, best known for Black Forest ham, cherry cake, and the cuckoo clock.

In Rudesheim, visit the unique Siegfried’s Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum to see the impressive collection of historical self-playing instruments.

Sail through the dramatic Rhine Gorge, the most beautiful stretch of river dotted every mile with castles and see the legendary Lorelei rock.

In splendid Amsterdam, enjoy a canal cruise along the elegant grachten lined with homes dating back to the city’s “Golden Age.”



Day 01 Arrive in Basel, Switzerland (Embarkation) (D)

Welcome to Basel. Your Suite Ship® is Ready for Boarding.

Flights into Zürich must arrive by 3 pm.

Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.

Enjoy dinner and explore the ship on your first night on board.

EVENING CRUISE TO BREISACH

Day 02 Breisach, Germany. Excursion to the Black Forest (B, L, D)

History, Artistry, and the Beautiful Black Forest

Classic

Visit the charming village of Colmar on a Guided Tour of its half-timbered medieval and early renaissance buildings, OR:

Discovery

Join a full-day Guided Excursion to the magical Black Forest to experience the Vogtsbauernhof open-air-museum, visit an authentic water mill, and see a traditional Bavarian butter-making demonstration.

Explore on your own this afternoon taking a bike from the ship or hiking up to St. Stephan's Cathedral.

EVENING CRUISE TO STRASBOURG

Day 03 Strasbourg, France (B, L, D)

Gothic Giants, Military Marvels, and Varietal Vintages

Classic

Come along for City Sightseeing, including the city's gothic, stained-glass cathedral with its celebrated ancient murals and astronomical clock, and the magical La Petite France District.

You may choose to join a Guided Optional Excursion to the splendid Alsace wine country, or to the historic Maginot Line—an impressive installation of pre-WWII defensive fortifications designed to protect the eastern border of France.

Alternatively, enjoy a free afternoon sampling the local cuisine in Place Kléber, or pay a visit to one of Strasbourg's many wonderful museums.

EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO LUDWIGSHAFEN

Day 04 Ludwigshafen, Germany. Excursion to Heidelberg (B, L, D)

Castle Walls and the World's Biggest Barrel of Wine

Classic

Enjoy a Guided Tour to Heidelberg Castle to see the ruins of the magnificent renaissance treasure towering above the city, and its famed Great Vat, the "World's Largest Wine Barrel," OR:

Active

Join your Avalon Adventure Host for a hike up Philosophers' Way for an inspiring view of the city below.

Enjoy a brief cruise to Mainz this afternoon.

MAINZ

Turning the Pages of History

Classic

Enjoy a Guided City Walk including a visit to the Gutenberg Museum to see the captivating history of printing.

Enjoy live entertainment on board your ship this evening.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN MAINZ

Day 05 Rudesheim-Rhine Gorge (B, L, D)

Eat, Drink, and Be Merry in Wine Country

Discovery

Take a Guided Tour of the incredible Mechanical Music Museum for a one-of-a-kind instrumental experience, OR:

Active

Take a Guided Hike through the vineyards with your Adventure Host, and enjoy the view with a cable car ride back down.

Discovery

Based on your departure date, enjoy either a Coffee Tasting or a Wine Tasting.

Relax on the Sky Deck for an afternoon cruise through the spectacular Rhine Gorge to Koblenz. Sail past the legendary rock of The Lorelei—where the siren of mythology sang songs to lure ill-fated sailors.

KOBLENZ

Travel Through 2,000 Years Of Monumental History

Classic

Take a Guided City Walk amid ancient fortress walls, towers, squares, and monuments.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN KOBLENZ

Day 06 Cologne (B, L, D)

Prost! Celebrate in the Rhineland's Capital City

Active

Join a Guided Walk with your Avalon Adventure Host this morning, OR:

Classic

Take a Guided City Walk of Cologne—with its soaring twin-steepled gothic cathedral, OR:

Discovery

Choose a Guided Walking Tour of Cologne's important Jewish heritage sites.

Don't miss the chance to enjoy free time over a glass of Kölsch pale lager—locally brewed for over 100 years!

AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO AMSTERDAM

Day 07 Amsterdam, Holland (B, L, D)

Colorful Amsterdam—with Canals, Crooked Houses, and Cuisine of a Golden Age

Classic

Explore the iconic waterways of Amsterdam on a Guided Canal Cruise past stately homes of Amsterdam's "Golden Age."

During tulip season, you may take a Guided Optional Excursion to Keukenhof gardens—with more than seven million tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths, as well as other bulbs, planted each year.

Outside of tulip season, join a Guided Optional Excursion to Zaanse Schans to see historic windmills and charming Dutch houses.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN AMSTERDAM

Day 08 Amsterdam (Disembarkation) (B)

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.

B = Breakfast. L = Lunch. D = Dinner.

***NOTE:** In the event of water level problems or any problems of a technical nature, it may be necessary to operate the itinerary by motorcoach or to alter the program. Included visits and special features are subject to change. If a change becomes necessary, a substitute will be offered. Prices are per person, based on double occupancy, subject to change. Port charges are additional \$182 per person. Travel insurance is not included, we highly recommend you purchase the insurance for cancellation and medical protection. Please ask for details.

Included:

- Cruise: full breakfast, lunch, and dinner, including Captain's welcome and farewell receptions with sparkling wine and canapés; daily afternoon tea, daily night fare, farewell dinner, complimentary sparkling wine with breakfast; wine, beer, or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard
- Free bottled water daily.
- Club Lounge with 24-hour, self-serve beverage station with premium coffees, cappuccinos, lattes, hot chocolate & teas
- Cookies & fresh fruit available throughout the day.
- Free Wi-Fi throughout the ship.
- Premium L'Occitane bath products & hairdryer.
- Bathrobes & slippers.
- Flatscreen satellite TV with free movie channels.
- Individual climate control.
- Library with books, cards, and games.
- Special onboard cultural & artisan experiences.
- Maps for hiking, biking and jogging routes.
- Complimentary Bicycles available for time on shore.
- Included sightseeing with headsets by Certified Local Guides.

Highlights & Sightseeing:

CRUISE: deluxe 7-night cruise in an outside stateroom

BASEL: Onboard welcome reception

BREISACH. EXCURSION TO BLACK FOREST: choice of excursion to Black Forest, or guided tour in Colmar

STRASBOURG: guided sightseeing, visit La Petite France district and the gothic cathedral

EXCURSION TO HEIDELBERG. MAINZ: guided tour of Heidelberg Castle; see the Great Vat; visit the Gutenberg Museum in Mainz

RÜDESHEIM-RHINE GORGE- KOBLENZ: visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum in Rudesheim; special treat; scenic cruise through the Rhine Gorge; guided walk in Koblenz

COLOGNE: choice of "Cologne highlights" walking tour, or Jewish Heritage walking tour

AMSTERDAM: canal cruise



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