

Romantic Rhine (Northbound)

8 Day River Cruise Basel to Amsterdam



Vacation Overview

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! Board your vessel in Basel, Switzerland, then head for Breisach, Germany, located at the foot of the Kaiserstuhl Mountain on the French-German border. Here you'll find 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. Continue your river cruise to Strasbourg, France, where you'll be amazed by the red-sandstone gothic cathedral with ancient murals and the fascinating astronomical clock. Also, stroll through the lovely La Petite France district with its quaint shops, delightful bistros, and peaceful waterfront promenade. Visit the ruins of Heidelberg's castle, towering magnificently over the city, or stop in Mainz for a guided walk and a visit to the captivating Gutenberg Museum. Next up is the charming wine town of Rudesheim, and a visit to the unique Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum to see the impressive collection of historical self-playing instruments. You'll pass through the dramatic Rhine Gorge—the most beautiful view of the Rhine River where ancient castles stand on cliffs 400 feet above the water. Last stop in Germany is Cologne—a 2,000-year-old city known for its gothic architecture and famous twin-spired cathedral.

As an exclamation point to this wonderful Rhine river cruise, you'll spend time in Holland's popular, modern capital of Amsterdam. There is much to do with the world-famous museums and abundance of restaurants amongst the classic architecture and charming canals. The best way to see the treasures of this 700-year-old city is on a canal cruise along the elegant grachten lined with homes dating back to the city's "Golden Age."



Itinerary

Day 1 **BASEL, SWITZERLAND (EMBARKATION)**

Welcome to Switzerland. 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

 Dinner

Day 2 **BREISACH, GERMANY. EXCURSION TO BLACK FOREST**

History, Artistry, and the Beautiful Black Forest

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

DISCOVERY Visit to Badische Winzerkeller, the largest German wine producer in Europe. Discover Germany's southernmost wine country in Baden—ideally situated between the hills of the Black Forest and the Rhine River. Learn about the vintners' process in the vineyards here, and enjoy a wine tasting.

You may choose to join a Guided Optional Excursion to visit the charming village of Colmar in the morning, with its half-timbered medieval and early renaissance buildings.

EVENING CRUISE TO STRASBOURG

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 3 **STRASBOURG, FRANCE**

Gothic Giants, Petite France, and Varietal Vintages

CLASSIC Join a City Sightseeing Tour, including Strasbourg's gothic, stained-glass cathedral with its celebrated ancient murals and astronomical clock, as well as the magical La Petite France District.

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

Alternatively, take some free time in Strasbourg to visit a museum, or stroll across the city center.

EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO LUDWIGSHAFEN

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 4 **LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY. EXCURSION TO HEIDELBERG**

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.

Alternatively enjoy a brief cruise to Mainz this afternoon and join our included tour.

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

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 5 **RÜDESHEIM—RHINE GORGE**

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; based on your departure enjoy a local special treat, OR:

ACTIVE Enjoy a hike with your Avalon Adventure Host through the picturesque vineyards of Rudesheim.

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 2000 Years Of Monumental History

Enjoy free time in Koblenz before a relaxing evening on board with dinner and live entertainment.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN KOBLENZ

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 6 **COLOGNE**

Prost! Celebrate in the Rhineland

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

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 7 **AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND**

Canals of Colorful Amsterdam

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. You may also choose an Optional City Biking Tour to discover the countryside.

Take some free time to explore Amsterdam's colorful streets and canal houses, galleries, and shops.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN AMSTERDAM

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 8 **AMSTERDAM (DISEMBARKATION)**

Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.

 Breakfast

Vacation Highlights

Day 1 Basel (Embarkation): onboard welcome reception

Day 2 Breisach: choice of excursion to Black Forest, or visit to Badische Winzerkeller

Day 3 Strasbourg: guided sightseeing, visit La Petite France district and the gothic cathedral

Day 4 Mainz: choice of guided tour of Heidelberg Castle, see the Great Vat, or hike up Philosophers' Way, or visit the Gutenberg Museum in Mainz

Day 5 Rudesheim—Rhine Gorge—Koblenz: visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum in Rudesheim; scenic cruise through the Rhine Gorge; free time in Koblenz

Day 6 Cologne: choice of "Cologne Highlights" walking tour, or Jewish Heritage walking tour

Day 7 Amsterdam: canal cruise

Day 8 Amsterdam (Disembarkation): your cruise ends this morning

- In the event of technical or water level issues, it may be necessary to operate the itinerary by motorcoach or alter the program, including hotel overnight when necessary.
- Guided Tours, Optional Excursions, activities, sailing and docking schedules may be contingent on weather conditions or other issues outside of our control and could therefore be subject to change at any time.
- Please check visa requirements with your local consulate(s); responsibility for obtaining visas rests with the traveler.



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