



Europe's Rivers & Castles Cruise Route Guide

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Europe's Rivers & Castles Trip Map



Overview of the Cruise

- Experience Europe on the picturesque meandering Main River to the castle-laden Rhine River Gorge to the Moselle River.
- Be captivated by the storybook villages of Bernkastel, Cochem & Wertheim and even visit the enchanting Rothenberg.
- Marvel at the Residenz Palace or the Chagall window in Mainz
- Savor the wine of the Rheingau and the smoked beer in Bamberg and the famous Rudesheim Coffee.

Day 1

- LUXEMBOURG EMBARKATION
- Welcome Dinner2

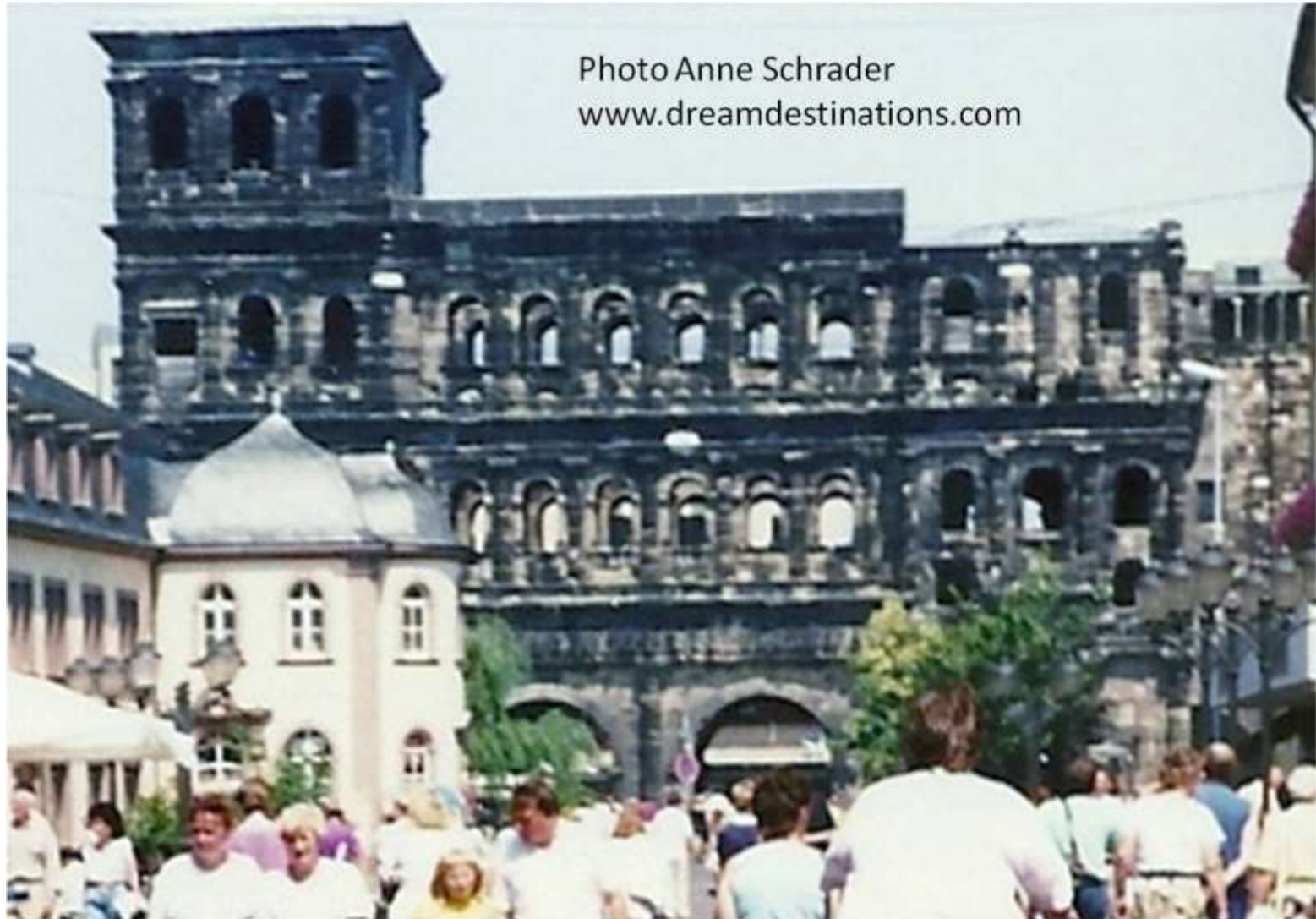
Day 2

- **Trier** City tour
- Or Secrets of the Porta Nigra
- Or Petrisberg Hill hike Walking tour and wine tasting
- Or Old Castle Ruin hike
- Or Guided bike ride along the Moselle
- Later in the day, sail to **Bernkastel** for a guided tour & wine tasting
- Or hike to the Landshut Castle
- Or join a bike tour

Trier Overview

- Trier is the oldest city in Germany—it was a Roman settlement.
- The Roman sites in Trier include the huge city gate, the Porta Nigra, an amphitheater, the throne room of Emperor Constantine, and a large bath complex.
- There is also the ornate Trier Electoral Palace and gardens.
- The old town area of the main market (Hauptmarkt) is also worth a visit (on one side is the Porta Nigra).

Porta Nigra, Trier



Trier Palace



Photo Anne Schrader
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Bernkastel Overview

- Bernkastel is a charming town with over 500 years of wine making history.
- The old town area is very well preserved with gabled, half-timbered buildings.
- The town is guarded with Landshut castle on the hill. It was first built in 1277 but was ruined by fire in 1692.
- St Michael's church, built in the 14th century, had a dual purpose—it served as a house of worship and its tall bell tower served as a watch tower in the old city ramparts.
- The city has some wonderful fountains—they include St. Michael's fountain on the Market Square, the bear's fountain and the doctor's fountain.

Bernkastel

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Bernkastel

Burg Landshut Ruins

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Market Square with Guard Tower (in the Background)



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Day 3 Koblenz

- **Cochem** Walking Tour and Reichsburg Castle
- Or Cochem Hike to Reichsburg Castle & visit
- Or Cochem Mustard Mill visit
- Or **Koblenz** walking tour
- Sail through Rhine River Gorge to view the 40 castles and arrive at **Rüdesheim**
- After diner visit Siegfried's Mechanical Music Museum
- Or Rüdesheimer Coffee

Cochem Overview

- Cochem, Germany, on the Mosel River, is a former walled city.
- It has a population of about 5,800 and is a traditional old German town.
- The town has many fine buildings, quaint cottages, guild houses, and winding cobblestone streets.
- The town square, lined with half-timbered houses, is a wonderful, scenic area of this small town.
- Cochem Castle (the correct name is *Schloss Reichsburg*) is perched over the town and is toured by several river cruise companies.

Cochem

Photo Anne Schrader
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Tour inside Reichsburg Castle



Photo Anne Schrader
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Rathaus Fountain.

This fountain could easily be

easily be

misunderstood—
St. George is

cutting his cloak in
half to give to a

beggar—he is not
trying to kill him as
some think!



Koblenz, Germany Overview

- Koblenz is located at the confluence of the Moselle and Rhine Rivers.
- It is a great base to explore parts of nearby castles and quaint towns—we used it and enjoyed it very much.
- Key sights in and near Koblenz, include Deutsches Eck, Lahneck Castle, Stolzenfels Castle, Ehrenbreitstein Fortress and the Electoral Palace.

Deutsches Eck, Koblenz



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Old Town Koblenz



Photo Anne Schrader
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The Scenic Rhine River Gorge Castles

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Rhine Gorge Castles



Pfalzgrafenstein Toll Station, Germany



Rheinstein Castle, Rhine River Castles



Marksburg Castle, Germany

Rüdesheim, Overview

- This is a charming wine village.
- It is famous for the great white wines grown in the region, along with a special coffee drink, aptly named Rüdesheimer coffee (Flambé Asbach brandy, sugar cube, coffee garnished with whipped cream).
- A lively lane, the Drosselgasse, is lined with taverns and wine-cellars.

Rüdesheimer Coffee



Hank & Jim W. our client enjoy a Rüdesheimer Coffee



Day 4 RÜDESHEIM

- Wine tasting
- Or Rüdesheim Gondola ride
- Or Rüdesheim Vineyards hike
- Or Guided bike tour of the Rheingau
- Or **Mainz** Walking Tour

Rüdesheim



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RÜDESHEIM



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Crowded Drosselgasse Lane Rüdesheim



Mainz Overview

- Mainz is located where the Rhine and Main Rivers meet.
- About 80% of the city was destroyed in WW II, but they have rebuilt most of the area around market square.
- It was a major trade center in the Middle Ages.
- The 2 most famous sites are the huge cathedral and the Gutenberg printing museum—he printed the Gutenberg Bible—as so known as the 42-Line Bible, for the number of lines in each column.

Market Square, Mainz

Photo Anne Schrader
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Market Square with Cathedral in the background



Photo Anne Schrader
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Gutenberg Museum



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Mainz Marc Chagall Window Stephanskirche



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 5 WERTHEIM

- Walking tour
- Or Pretzel bakery visit and tasting
- Or Wertheim Castle Hill hike
- Or Guided bike ride along the Main River

Wertheim Overview

- Wertheim is located where the Tauber River and the Main River meet.
- Overlooking the town are ruins of castle that was built in the 12th century.
- The old town and its market square is ringed with several half-timbered houses.
- This old walled city has an impressive watch tower that still remains.

Wertheim

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Wertheim Market Square

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com



The 115 foot tall Sprizer Turm. It dates back to the 1200s and was one of the original 18 watch towers that ringed this city.



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 6 WÜRZBURG

- Walking tour
- Or Residenz Palace tour
- Or Würzburg Castle hike
- Or **Rothenburg** Excursion

Würzburg Overview

- Würzburg is located in the heart of Franconia's wine country.
- As you move to the town from the port, your first sights are the Marienberg Citadel and the old stone bridge to enter the town.
- The key sight in Würzburg is the baroque Residenz Palace and its amazing gardens.
- You should tour the palace—about 40 of the 360 rooms are available for visitors.

Marienberg Fortress



Photo Anne Schrader
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Old Stone Bridge

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Residenz Palace Würzburg



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Garden statue Residenz Palace



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Rothenburg ob der Tauber Overview

- Rothenburg, Germany (the correct name is Rothenburg ob der Tauber), ob means above the Tauber River, is one of the most visited towns in Germany.
- This walled city has all its ramparts intact, has massive gates, and many folks walk the walls or part of the walls as I did during our visit.
- Its medieval past is everywhere—the impressive town hall, half-timbered buildings, a criminal museum, a carved wooden altarpiece masterpiece in St. Jacobs Church--all are surrounded by massive fortifications.
- It is very touristy but still fun.

Burgotor (Burg Gate) Rothenburg



Video Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Sieber Tower in Rothenburg



Video Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 7 Bamberg

- Bamberg Walking Tour
- Or Taste of Bamberg
- Or Eltmann to Bamberg bike tour

Overview

- Bamberg is about 7 Km from the Main River, in the Upper Franconia region of Bavaria.
- It has a wonderfully preserved old town area on the west bank of the Regnitz River.
- Key sights include the Altes Rathaus (old town hall), the Bamberg Cathedral, and the Neue Residenz (home of the prince bishops).
- Bamberg has a special beer—it is a historic smoked beer.

Photo Anne Schrader
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Bamburg Rathaus (town hall)



Bamberg Cathedral

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New Residence Rose Garden, Bamberg, Germany

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 8 Nuremberg

- After breakfast, disembark the ship

The Walled City of Nuremberg. There are 4 km of medieval walls and 67 defensive towers that ring the old town



Photo Anne Schrader
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Maxbrücke (also called Hangman's Bridge) at the Pegnitz River—Nuremberg's oldest stone bridge

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