

Active & Discovery on the Rhine Avalon Waterways

By

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Route Map From Avalon Waterways



Overview

- Fairytale settings await on every Rhine River cruise, but an Active & Discovery cruise with Avalon immerses you in new, interactive ways.
- As you glide from untouched villages to touching cities throughout Holland, Germany and France, our range of excursions, from Classic to Discovery to Active options, presents the opportunity to move at your desired pace and be moved at every turn.

Clifftop castles, rolling vineyards, and cobblestone lanes become even more enchanting when you experience them from the seat of a bicycle or an artist's stool.

- From culinary walks and beer tours to cave, castle, and kayaking explorations, you choose exactly how to toast the joys of the Rhine and your moving journey on it.

Move. Enjoy a little get-up-and-go on your cruising vacation when you:

- Paddle through the canals of Amsterdam on a kayak.
- Take an E-Bike tour surrounded by beautiful vineyards at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle rivers.
- Follow the road less traveled on an exciting hike along Heidelberg's Philosophers' Way.

Overview

- **And Be Moved.** Get off the beaten path and relish the world when you:
 - Discover your inner artist at an Amsterdam painting class inspired by the Dutch masters.
 - Explore the lava caverns on a one-of-a-kind volcano encounter below the town of Mendig.
 - Join a foodie tour through Strasbourg to discover the cuisine of France's Alsace region.

Plus, Classic sightseeing is always available in every port along the way.

Activate your senses and discover a world of wonder in all-new, entirely “you” ways on your personal, passion-packed cruise along the Rhine.

Day 1 Basel

- Welcome to Switzerland. Your Suite Ship[®] is Ready for Boarding.

Flights into Zürich must arrive before 3 pm.

Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.

- Optional Tour (Extra Cost)
- **Wonders of Basel**
- See the wonders of Basel by coach and on foot during this enjoyable guided excursion that shows off the best of this 2,000-year-old city.
- **EVENING CRUISE TO BREISACH**

Basel, Switzerland

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Bridge Tower Chapel

Photo Anne Schrader
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Old Town Basel, Switzerland

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Town Hall, Basel, Switzerland



Old Town Fountains Basel Switzerland



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Old Town
Basel
Switzerland

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Day 2 Breisach

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Take a Guided E-bike Tour to experience the magical Black Forest from a unique point of view, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** 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 EXCURSION:** Visit a local winery and its vineyards to learn about German winemaking; a wine tasting will be the perfect end of this tour.
- **Optional Tour (Extra Cost)**
- **Storybook Colmar, France's Little Venice**
- Discover the fusion of German and French culture on this wonderful guided tour through storybook Colmar, the "Little Venice" of France and capital of the Alsace wine region.
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO STRASBOURG**

Day 3 Strasbourg

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy a walking tour along the river and explore Strasbourg's lovely European District around the Marne-Rhein Canal, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Join a Culinary Walk to discover the Alsatian cuisine and traditions, so influenced by the unique history of a region, whose control alternated between Germany and France for centuries, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** 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.
- This afternoon choose one of the Optional Excursions available, Enjoy live entertainment on board your ship this evening.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO MAINZ**

Strasbourg



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Strasbourg

Photos Hank Schrader



There are plenty of small places to eat



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Colorful Shop in Strasbourg



Photo Anne Schrader
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A narrow lane in Old Town Strasbourg

Photo Anne Schrader
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Photo Hank Schrader
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Medieval Watch Towers Strasbourg, France

Strasbourg



Photo Anne Schrader

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Palais Rohan

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Take a Canal Boat Ride. In the background is Vauban Dam which could flood the Ill River. It actually worked in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 3 Optional Tours (Extra Cost)

- **Defending France: The Maginot Line of WWII**
- Explore France's awe-inspiring WWII Maginot Line, one of the greatest networks of defensive fortifications ever built, on this guided visit through the underground barracks, storehouses, and railways.
- **Into the Alsace Countryside with Vineyards Tour**
- Travel along the famed Route des Vins (Alsace Wine Route) on this enchanting half-day excursion through the heart of France's wine country for a vineyard and wine cellar tour with tasting.

Day 4 Mainz

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Follow the road less traveled on this exciting Guided Hike along the Philosophers' Way for an inspiring view of the city below, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Learn about the art of beer making with an entertaining and exclusive Guided Tour of four breweries in and out of Old Heidelberg, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** 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. While visiting the city, also enjoy a tasting of local specialties.
- **DISCOVER EXCURSION:** Enjoy an experience fit for royalty during an exclusive private reception at Rheinstein Castle.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN BINGEN**

Heidelberg Castle in the Snow

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Old Bridge in Heidelberg

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Old Bridge Gate Heidelberg



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Haus Zum Ritter
“House of the Knights”
Oldest burger house in
the city



Photo Anne Schrader
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Church of the Holy Spirit



Photo Anne Schrader
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Golden Fleece Sign



Photo Anne Schrader
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Hauptstrasse—the
main street in the old
town of Heidelberg



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Dirndls (Traditional Dresses) for sale



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 5 Rhine Gorge to Koblenz

- En route to Koblenz, sail through the Rhine Gorge (a UNESCO World Heritage site).
- Take in the breathtaking views of ancient castles perched on cliffs 400 feet above the water and pass the legendary Rock of the Lorelei—where the mythological siren’s songs lured ill-fated sailors.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Take a Guided E-Bike Tour in the vineyards surrounding this beautiful city at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle rivers, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** For a unique experience, join us on an excursion to the “Lava City” of Mendig for a Volcano Encounter, including exploring the caverns and corridors where basalt (cold lava) was mined, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Enjoy a leisurely Guided Walk of ancient Koblenz, including a cable car ride to Ehrenbreitstein Fortress for a spectacular panoramic view.
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Enjoy a remarkable classical music concert in a lovely baroque venue at Engers Castle, home to the Villa Musica Rhineland-Palatinate National Foundation, one of Germany’s largest music institutions.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO DÜSSELDORF**

Marksburg Castle



Photo Anne Schrader
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Maus (Mouse) Castle

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Katz (Cat) Castle

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Lorelei—this tree-covered cliff inspired the legend of a love forsaken siren who lures sailors to their death by her enchanting song in this swift flowing, narrow part of the Rhine.



Schönburg Castle on the rock massif above Oberwesel

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Pfalzgrafenstein Castle (foreground) & Gutenfels Castle on the Hill

Photo Anne Schrader
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Reichenstein Castle



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 6 DÜSSELDORF

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Join a City Biking Tour to discover interesting stories about the sights and the city itself along the way, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Experience Düsseldorf's Old Town and get an insight into its culinary diversity, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Tour of Düsseldorf. Visit the Old Town, but also discover its spectacular subway line, where each station has an individual magic character.
- This afternoon you might take a Guided Optional Excursion to Düsseldorf's microbreweries to try a variety of Altbiers. (Extra Cost)
- Later enjoy live entertainment on board.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO AMSTERDAM

Day 6 Optional Excursions (Extra Cost)

- **Düsseldorf Altbier Discovery Tour**
- Join an expert guide for a tour and tasting of Düsseldorf's world-famous Altbiers! Learn all about these historic top-fermented beers, including what gives them their dark copper color and crisp, fruity taste. Prost!
- **Rhine Tower Ascent with Sparkling Wine**
- Discover Media Hafen, Düsseldorf's vibrantly redeveloped dock area, where you'll ascend the city's tallest building for magnificent views and a glass of delicious sparkling wine.

Day 7 Amsterdam

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy a Guided Kayak Tour for an adventure which will provide you a unique perspective of the “Venice of the North” from the waters of its magnificent canals, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Attend a Painting Class and be inspired by the masters’ techniques. Paint your own canvas and discover your inner artist, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Enjoy a Guided Canal Cruise to explore the iconic waterways and sites of Amsterdam.
- This afternoon consider an Optional Culinary Walk in one of Amsterdam’s famous districts.
- Spend free time strolling at leisure through the galleries and cafés of Amsterdam.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN AMSTERDAM**

Canal Boats, Amsterdam



Typical Gabled Houses as seen from a canal boat cruise in 2013.



Skinny Bridge, Amsterdam



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Rijksmuseum



Photo Hank Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 7 Optional Excursions (Extra Cost)

- **Zaanse Schans & the Symbols of Holland**
- Tour a working windmill, watch wooden clogs being made, and visit a cheese farm on this exciting half-day guided excursion to Zaanse Schans!
- **Bites & Highlights of Amsterdam**
- Discover Amsterdam's charming Jordaan district and taste the authentic foods the locals know and love on this enjoyable guided foodie walking tour.

Day 8 Amsterdam

- Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.

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