

# Castles Along the Rhine Uniworld Waterways

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

# Castles Along the Rhine Route Map from Uniworld



# Overview

- Cruise along the Rhine—Germany on one side, France on the other. Discover Alsace, whose dual French and German heritage has given it fabulous food and a winemaking tradition that goes back to the Romans.
- Marvel at castles that were once mighty fortresses and get an insider's look at one of the only castles on the Rhine that has never been destroyed, Marksburg Castle.
- Visit historic cities, including ancient Cologne and picturesque Strasbourg; stroll through the fairytale town of Rudesheim; and taste delightful white wines in the villages where the grapes are grown.

## **Day 1 Amsterdam (Embarkation):**

- Arrive at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.
- If your cruise package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship.

# Generations Family Program (select sailings)

- Share the enchantment of this region with the special young people in your life on this special version of the Castles Along the Rhine.
- These cruises not only feature unique, fun-filled adventures for families to enjoy together, they're also packed with culturally and historically significant experiences designed to spark creativity and lifelong learning.

# Day 2 Cologne

- History buffs will enjoy an expertly led tour through Cologne's Old Town, where three medieval gates remain standing, as does the old city hall with its Renaissance façade
- Wander through the city's historical center and take in its charming atmosphere, narrow alleyways flanked by old houses and countless breweries.
- Follow your guide around some of the most popular sites of Cologne, the largest city on the Rhine. You'll pass the old fish market, City Hall with its Renaissance façade and the old Jewish mikvah (a bath used for ritual cleansing).
- Meander through the narrow, cobbled lanes of Old Town, lined with traditional houses in every color and a plethora of restaurants and pubs. One of the city's 12 Romanesque churches provides a castle-like backdrop to this quaint, riverside quarter of Cologne.
- Your local expert will take you all the way to the Domplatte, the square where you'll find the Cologne Cathedral. Should you wish, you can head inside this Gothic building on your own to see the Shrine of the Magi and the beautiful stained-glass windows. Otherwise, try asking your guide for tips on what to explore. Whatever your interests, our local expert knows all the best spots in town!
- No matter how you choose to explore Old Town, you'll also have ample free time to explore on your own.
- *A special Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.*

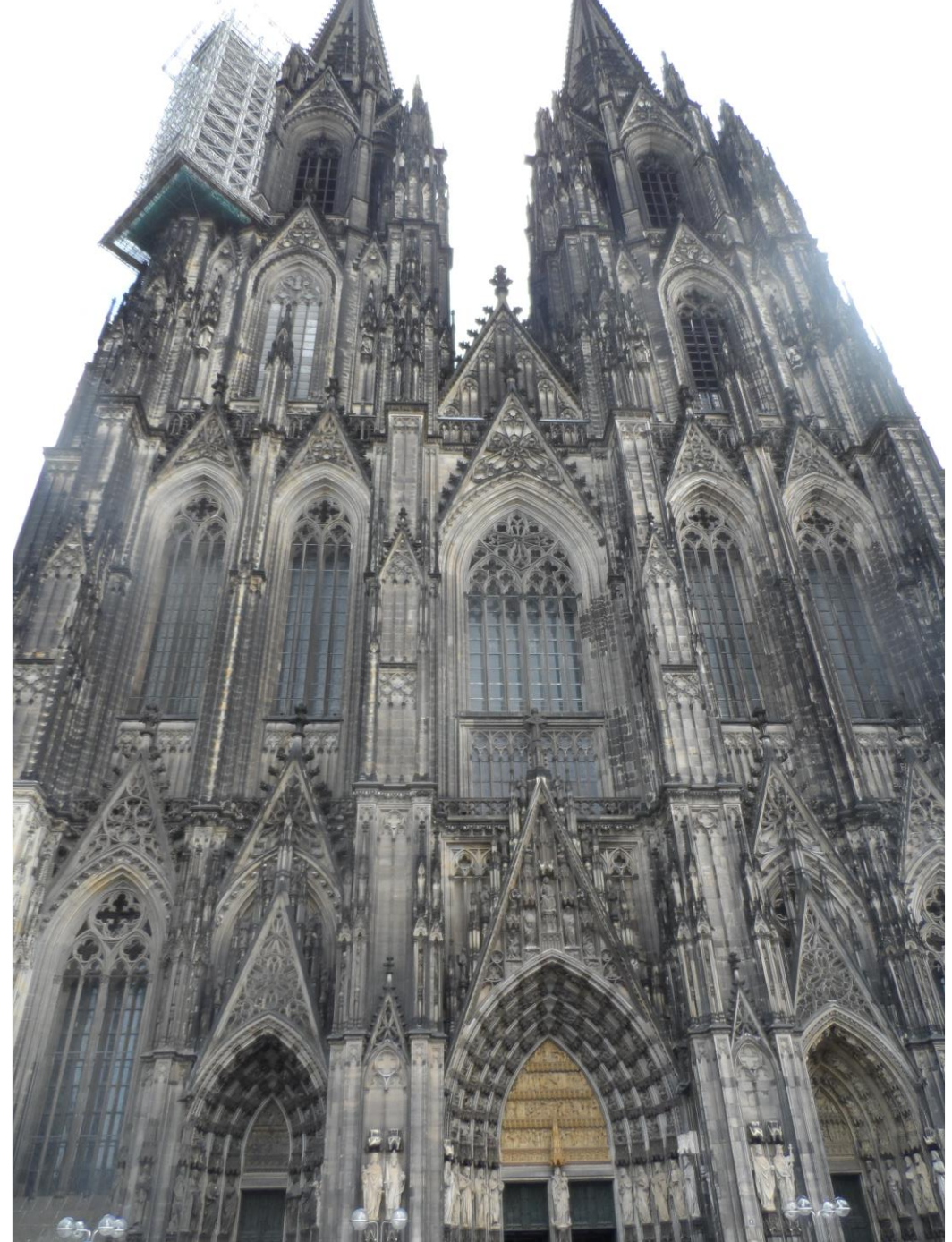
# Cologne Cathedral

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# Cologne Cathedral





# German-Roman Museum

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# Hohenzollern Bridge



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# Christmas Markets in Old Market Square

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# Day 2 GARGOYLES AND CHOCOLATE GENERATIONS ONLY TOUR

- What do gargoyles and chocolate have in common?
- Not much, except that the ones in Cologne are famous.
- Start with the gargoyles as your walking tour through Cologne takes you past the city's iconic Gothic cathedral, where over 100 stone beasts stand guard.
- Then end your tour with a sweet treat as we stop at the local chocolate museum.

# Day 3 - KOBLENZ, BOPPARD 3 CHOICES

## KOBLENZ WALKING TOUR—CHOICE # 1

- Watch the waters of the Moselle meld with the Rhine's as you stand on the spit of land called German Corner: It's the perfect spot for a symbol of German unity, an equestrian statue of Kaiser Wilhelm I, who united the nation in the 19th century. (There's another symbol of German unity here too: three panels of the Berlin Wall.)
- Behind it is Koblenz's oldest church, St. Castor's Basilica, first erected in the ninth century, and just one of the charming churches and squares you'll encounter as you wander through Old Town.
- Like many Rhineland towns, Koblenz suffered at the hands of Louis XIV's forces—that's why you'll see so many baroque features in the buildings you pass, since so many needed to be reconstructed after the French left. That's also why the Church of Our Lady has twin onion domes.
- Despite their travails over the ages, though, Koblenz's citizens kept their sense of humor: One example of it might catch you by surprise as you pass the fountain known as the Spitting Boy, which spits water without warning.
- After the tour, you'll have some free time to enjoy the Marktplatz (Market Square) and its bounty of shopping and wine bars.



# KOBLENZ, Germany



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# Deutsches Eck (German Corner)



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Deutsches Eck (German Corner)



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# St Castor's Basilica





# Goerresplaz Square



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# MARKSBURG CASTLE VISIT

## CHOICE # 2

- With its pale walls, slate-gray roof, and unusually slender towers and turrets, Marksburg looks as though it has been lifted straight from the pages of a fairytale. But don't be deceived: this is a powerful fortress, built to withstand attack. Marksburg's defenses were so daunting that enemies generally chose to leave it alone.
- That's why this is the only hill castle in Germany that has never been destroyed—a remarkable fact when you consider its 700-year-long history.
- Enter the fortress through a drawbridge gate and vaulted tunnel—just the first of the many defensive features you'll encounter on your tour. Notice the “murder holes” in the walls; these would have let defenders pour boiling pitch on would-be invaders. Horsemen once thundered up the Riders' Stairway, which was hewn into the bedrock, but you can take the steps at a more leisurely pace.
- Guides will show you the cannons of the Great Battery, once aimed at the Rhine River, and the castle kitchen with its enormous fireplace.
- You'll tour the bedchamber, the great banquet hall, the armory, the stables and, if you're feeling brave, the torture chamber.
- Don't miss the re-created medieval garden, with 150 plants used in the Middle Ages for curative (or magical) purposes.



# Marksburg



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# Marksburg

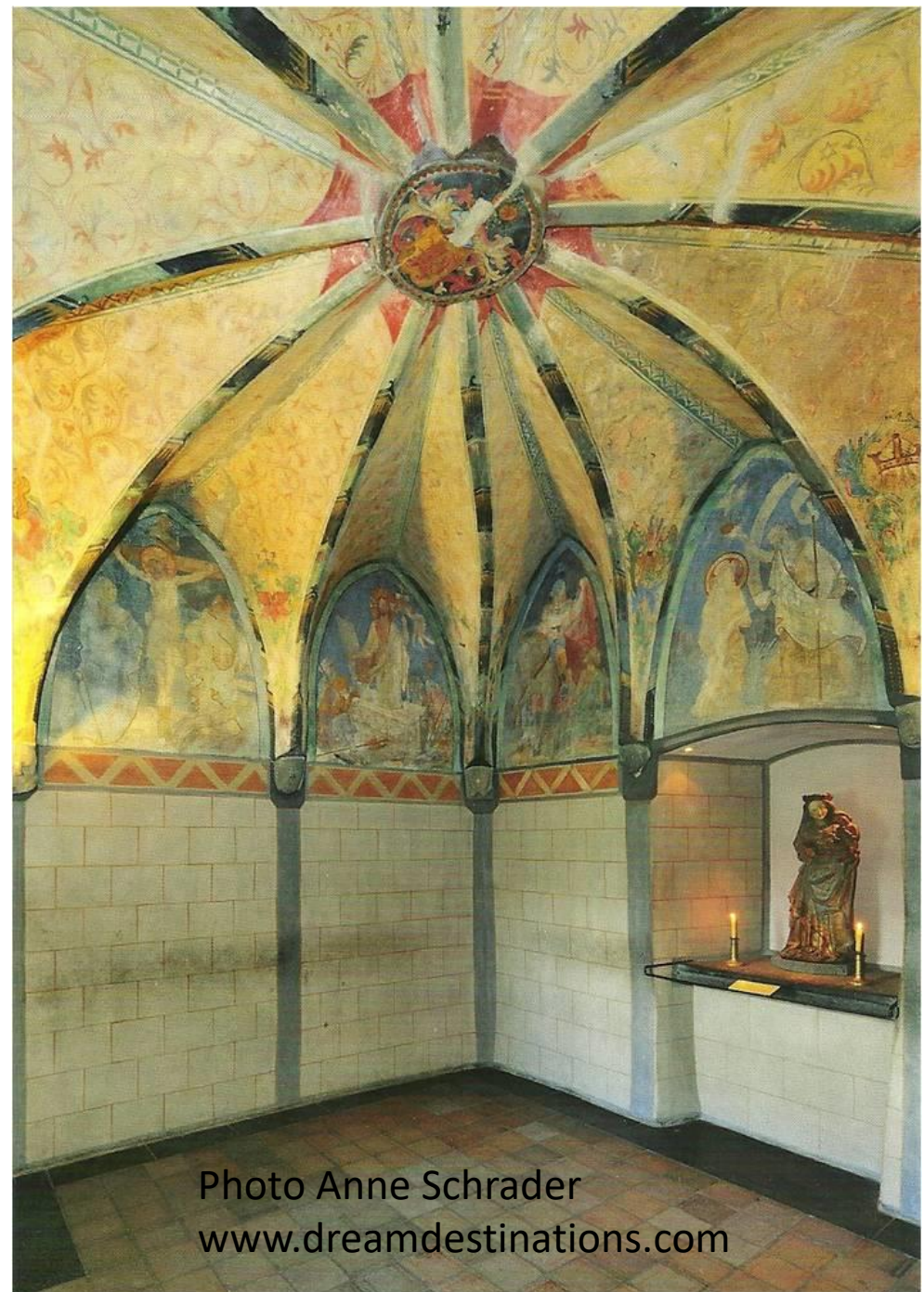


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# BOPPARD VILLAGE STROLL

## Choice # 3

- Join the Cruise Manager on a walk through this attractive town with a long and surprising history; the Cruise Manager will point out its highlights and recommend a host of activities.
- Take a chairlift to the top of the hill for a great view of the valley and the river (you can hike the return route, if you're up for it);
- enjoy a glass of wine at a local tavern and watch the water traffic on the river; or ride a bicycle along the Rhine promenade.
- You might also visit Saint Severus Church, whose twin towers dominate the waterfront, or explore the remains of a fourth-century Roman fort.
- If you're interested in design and the decorative arts, stop by the Museum Boppard to see the exhibit on native son Michael Thonet, who developed the technique of bentwood furniture in the 1840s. His iconic, lightweight chairs are still popular in cafés throughout Europe.
- Or simply stroll beneath the trees along the city's scenic riverside promenade, which is lined with the gorgeous villas of 19th-century entrepreneurs.



# Day 3 - KOBLENZ, BOPPARD

- **“LET'S GO” BIKE THE CASTLES**

- Explore the beautiful stretch of the Middle Rhine region that lies between Boppard and Koblenz by bike on this 25km ride.
- You'll pass the romantic, timber frame houses of Spay, the sweeping vineyards of Bopparder Hamm, the famous "German Corner" where the Rhine and Moselle converge, lush Lahn riverscapes and, of course, some fairytale-esque castles.
- One such castle is the UNESCO designated Marksburg Castle, the only hilltop castle along the Rhine that has never once been destroyed during its long history. It's 13th to 15th century structures have been virtually unchanged since their construction.

# Day 3—Marksburg Castle Generations Only

- **MEDIEVAL MARKSBURG**

- This morning, venture to the only undamaged hill castle on the Rhine, Marksburg Castle.
- Step into a real-life fairytale as you enter the fortress through the drawbridge gate and vaulted tunnel, the first of many defensive features you'll see on your tour.
- Originally constructed to withstand enemy attacks some 700 years ago, you'll see its cannons, torture chambers and battlements from the time of the knights.
- Your special family tour will take you on a journey of what it was like to live in the Middle Ages.
- Only on Generations cruises

# DAY 3 KOBLENZ SCAVENGER HUNT GENERATION TOUR AFTERNOON

- Situated on the banks of both the Moselle and Rhine rivers, Koblenz is a 2,000-year-old city that features a statue of Emperor William I that marks the confluence of the two rivers.
- After your morning visit to Marksburg Castle, you'll join your guide for a captivating scavenger hunt through Koblenz. Along the way, you'll be introduced to the history of Max and Moritz, a classic German illustrated story by Wilhelm Busch about two young boys who like to misbehave.
- Find the Schängel Fountain, the fountain of a little boy who randomly spits on people as they pass by, which is located in the center of old Koblenz.



# Day 4 Rhine Gorge- Rüdesheim

- **YOU WILL BEGAIN YOUR DAY SAILING THE RHINE GORGE**  
**YOUR TOUR IS THE CASTLE VOLLRADS WINE TASTING**

- Nestled in the rolling, vineyard-covered hills of the Rheingau, Castle Vollrads has a square tower that dates back to the 14th century, as does the moat. Just one family owned the castle for 700 years, until 1997, adding on to it and remodeling it over the centuries.
- While the interior of the castle is rarely open to the public, you will have the opportunity to step inside to see some of the elegantly appointed rooms, including the beautiful gold-embossed Flemish leather wall covering in the 17th-century dining room.
- Grapes have been grown here for more than a thousand years; records show that Castle Vollrads wines were first sold in 1211. These days the excellence of its Riesling is well known; it's so well known, in fact, that Schloss Vollrads is one of the few German vineyards whose name stands alone on a wine label—no village name is required.
- Accompanied by a local wine expert, you will sample three wines in three different locations. There will also be time to wander through the grounds at your leisure.

# Marksburg Castle



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# Maus (Mouse) Castle

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# Katz (Cat) Castle

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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

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# Pfalzgrafenstein Castle (foreground) & Gutenfels Castle on the Hill

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# Reichenstein Castle



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# Day 4 Cable car climb to Niederwald Heights Generations Only

- Board an aerial tramway for a cable car trip up to the Niederwald Monument and be treated to sweeping views of the Rhine River below.
- From there, you can choose either a half-hour hike through the breathtaking vineyards or you can hop back on the cable car and head into town.

# Day 5 GERMERSHEIM (SPEYER)

- Speyer—“spire” in English—is well named, since the four red towers of the Romanesque cathedral dominate the Old Town.

## PRIVATE DOKTORENHOF VINEGAR ESTATE VISIT AND TASTING

- For a different spin on the Palatinate wine region, visit the Weinessiggut Doktorenhof estate for a special vinegar tasting. Yes, you read that right—a vinegar tasting. Founded by Georg Wiedemann some 30 years ago, Doktorenhof produces vinegars from premium wines, rather than inexpensive ones. Gewürztraminer, Sylvaner, Riesling and Pinot Noir are aged with a century-old vinegar “mother,” as the bacteria that makes vinegar is known, and flavored with a variety of herbs and fruits. Most importantly, Wiedemann and his family run their farm and vineyards with the utmost care, tending to them with natural materials only.
- The results make complex and elegant aperitifs, intended to be sipped from a specially designed long-stemmed glass between courses or after a meal. The atmospheric tasting room (think candles, cloaks and choir music) is like no other you’ll ever experience. You’ll have plenty of time to explore their enticing gift shop, too.
- This MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience supports Global Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.



# DAY 5 GOURMET VINEGAR COOKING CLASS (EXTRA CHARGE)

- Learn the secrets of creative but easy cooking when you join a chef in his 300-year-old village home-one with a very modern kitchen-near Doktorenhof. Schnitzel and sauerkraut may include vinegar in their ingredients, but the four courses you help prepare for lunch today take vinegar in a whole new direction.
- You might use orange blossom vinegar to season prawns or cherry vinegar in chocolate tartlets.
- This is a friendly, hands-on experience with a chef who welcomes novices as well as experienced cooks into his kitchen. The menu will be determined by what's fresh and local, and your chef instructor is a master at pairing regional wines with regional foods. Sauté, sip, sample-and enjoy!

# DAY 5 ROMANTIC HEIDELBERG (EXTRA CHARGE)

- A motorcoach carries you to Heidelberg, sometimes called the most romantic city in Germany.
- It is home to the nation's oldest university, a charming baroque Old Town lying along the banks of the Neckar River, and extraordinarily beautiful castle ruins overlooking the town.
- Your tour will take you to the castle, with its views of the red-tile roofs of the town below, the handsome Old Bridge and the wooded hillsides beyond, and then into Old Town, where you will see the late-Gothic Holy Spirit Church, the Student Prison and the longest pedestrian street in Germany.

# Heidelberg Castle in the Snow

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# Old Bridge in Heidelberg

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# Old Bridge Gate Heidelberg



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



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# Church of the Holy Spirit



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# Golden Fleece Sign



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Hauptstrasse—the  
main street in the old  
town of Heidelberg



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# Dirndls (Traditional Dresses) for sale



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# DAY 5 SUBMARINES & SPACE SHUTTLES

## Generations Only Tour

- If you're interested in automotive history, trains or aeronautical technology, you'll enjoy a stop at the Technik Museum, home to Europe's largest space flight exhibition.
- Your family will want to get up close and personal with an original jumbo jet, submarine and rescue sea cruises.
- See the Russian space shuttle BURAN, an original moonstone, space suits, a Soyuz landing capsule, as well as locomotives, vintage cars, motorcycles and thousands of other exhibits.

# DAY 5 SPEYER CLIMBING FOREST

## Generations Only

- Join your dedicated Family Host for an adventure at Speyer's Climbing Forest.
- As you're harnessed safely to ropes and nets, you'll climb the trees and more than 200 platforms while having fun in the great outdoors with your family members.
- Choose from 24 different courses, depending on your comfort level, and enjoy fantastic views in this climbing haven.



# Day 6 Strasbourg:

- See Strasbourg on foot with an insightful local expert, where this historic town with its cobbled lanes, half-timbered homes, giant stork nests and impossible-to-resist pastry shops will win your heart.

## STRASBOURG PANORAMIC TOUR WITH CATHEDRAL AND OLD TOWN WALK

- Controlled over the centuries by either France or Germany, Strasbourg is both cross-cultural and bilingual. Old and new, French and German all blend together in this wonderful city, which is also considered the legislative and democratic capital of the European Union.
- Get a glimpse of Strasbourg's grand political role as we drive by the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, where the European Court of Human Rights sits.
- Then get a feel for the cultural side of the city on a walking tour through its enchanting streets.
- Kehl, directly across the river from Strasbourg, will be your ship's base while you explore the Alsatian capital.
- If you're feeling adventurous, take advantage of Uniworld's bicycles or Nordic walking sticks and explore the banks of the river.
- *You have the entire afternoon to see more of Strasbourg on your own.*

# Strasbourg



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# Strasbourg

Photos Hank Schrader





There are plenty of small places to eat



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# Colorful Shop in Strasbourg



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# A narrow lane in Old Town Strasbourg

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# Medieval Watch Towers Strasbourg, France

# Strasbourg



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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](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# DAY 6 BLACK FOREST: NATURAL BEAUTY & LIVING HISTORY (EXTRA CHARGE)

- Today, experience the myriad facets of the legendary Black Forest, famous for cuckoo clocks, cherry brandy and its extraordinary natural beauty.
- Join a guide for a walking tour of the Vogtsbauernhof outdoor museum, where farmhouses (some dating to the 17th century), sawmills, chapels and gardens show you how village people have lived and worked over the past 400 years.
- Enjoy a typical regional lunch and stop at the family-owned House of Black Forest Clocks, where you will learn how cuckoo clocks are made-and savor a slice of Black Forest cake, too.
- Following your Black Forest adventure, you will Reboard the Motorcoach and return to the ship.

# DAY 6 CANALS, COBBLESTONES AND CATHEDRALS GENERATIONS ONLY TOUR

- Spend your day in the “Crossroads of Europe,” Strasbourg, located halfway between Paris and Prague.
- See the Strasbourg Cathedral and admire its spectacular Gothic façade built in the Middle Ages.
- You might even venture to climb up the 332 steps to the top for splendid views among the cathedral’s gargoyles.
- After your cathedral visit, you may choose to spend the rest of your day exploring, shopping or enjoying a nice lunch in an Alsatian *winstub*, a wine lounge.
- This is a generations only tour.



# Day 7 Breisach

- Breisach is your gateway to the Alsatian wine road and your launching point for an excursion along the celebrated Route des Vins, which hugs the foothills of the Vosges mountain range, or a city tour of Freiburg.
- Join a local guide for a one-hour walking tour in Freiburg, passing storybook medieval houses with steeply pitched roofs and a gorgeous Gothic cathedral that was begun by a 12th-century Holy Roman emperor.
- An old stone well in Kaysersberg bears an inscription that warns against drinking water and urges the reader to “Drink with moderation old and subtil wine . . . and leave the water to the side.”
- What better words could guide you as you explore some delightful Alsatian wine villages? Though the remains of a 12th-century castle speak to Kaysersberg’s strategic importance in the Middle Ages, today it is an idyllic village nestled among vineyards.
- In modern days, the village is best known as the birthplace of Albert Schweitzer. During your tour of this enchanting village indulge in a tasting of an Alsatian specialty, *Kugelhopf*, a delicious yeast-based cake traditionally baked in a circular, Bundt mold. Then it is on to Eguishem.
- The road from Kaysersberg to Eguishem provides quintessential wine road scenery: lush foothills, famous vineyards, castle ruins and quaint villages. You'll arrive in a town so pretty it is regularly ranked amongst the most beautiful in France. Walk its cobbled streets to admire timber-framed buildings painted in every color of the rainbow.
- *Note: Lunch today will be on your own.*
- *A special Captain’s Farewell Reception and Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.*

# Day 7 ALL ABOUT ALSACE

## GENERATIONS ONLY

- Step into a storybook today during a visit to the Alsatian town of Kayersberg. This tour pairs side-by-side with the adult's "Alsatian Villages" excursion, with a dedicated family guide to share fun stories about Kayersberg's history and culture just with the kids. Don't miss a local favorite treat: *Kugelhopf*, a yummy Bundt cake traditional to Alsace.
- The Generations tour will break for free time at the same time as the regular "Alsatian Villages" tour, so families can shop around and enjoy lunch together.

# Day 8 Basel (Disembarkation)

Disembark the ship.

If your cruise package includes a group departure transfer or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg for your flight home (unless, of course, you've decided to extend your trip with the post-cruise extension to lovely Lake Lucerne).



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