

Dream Destinations



Your journey begins here!

The Captivating Rhine 2018

By

Hank Schrader

AmaWaterways Cruise Specialist

Overview

- This cruise departs Amsterdam and cruises the Rhine down to Basel, Switzerland on April 1, 2018.
- This is a great opportunity to visit 4 Europe Countries.
- The cruise ship is the AmaSonata, a 135-meter longship.

AmaSonata



Great Included Tours

- Immersive tours in every destination
- Gentle, regular, active and late-riser tour options
- Bike tours and hikes
- Limited Edition Tours
- Knowledgeable guides
- Personal headset for easy exploration

Day 1 Amsterdam, Netherlands - EMBARKATION

- Embark the ship.
- Tonight, gather on board for a “Welcome Aboard” Wine Toast as you commence your awesome itinerary through some of Europe’s most enchanting and historic regions. (D)

Route Map from AmaWaterways



Day 2 Amsterdam

- Admire beautiful 17th-century homes, charming churches and 16th-century merchant houses on a guided canal boat cruise.
- Later, take a motor coach tour of Amsterdam, exploring the city's most notable sights, followed by free time in Amsterdam.
- This afternoon, the ship departs for Germany.
(B,L,D)

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

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Canal Boats, Amsterdam

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

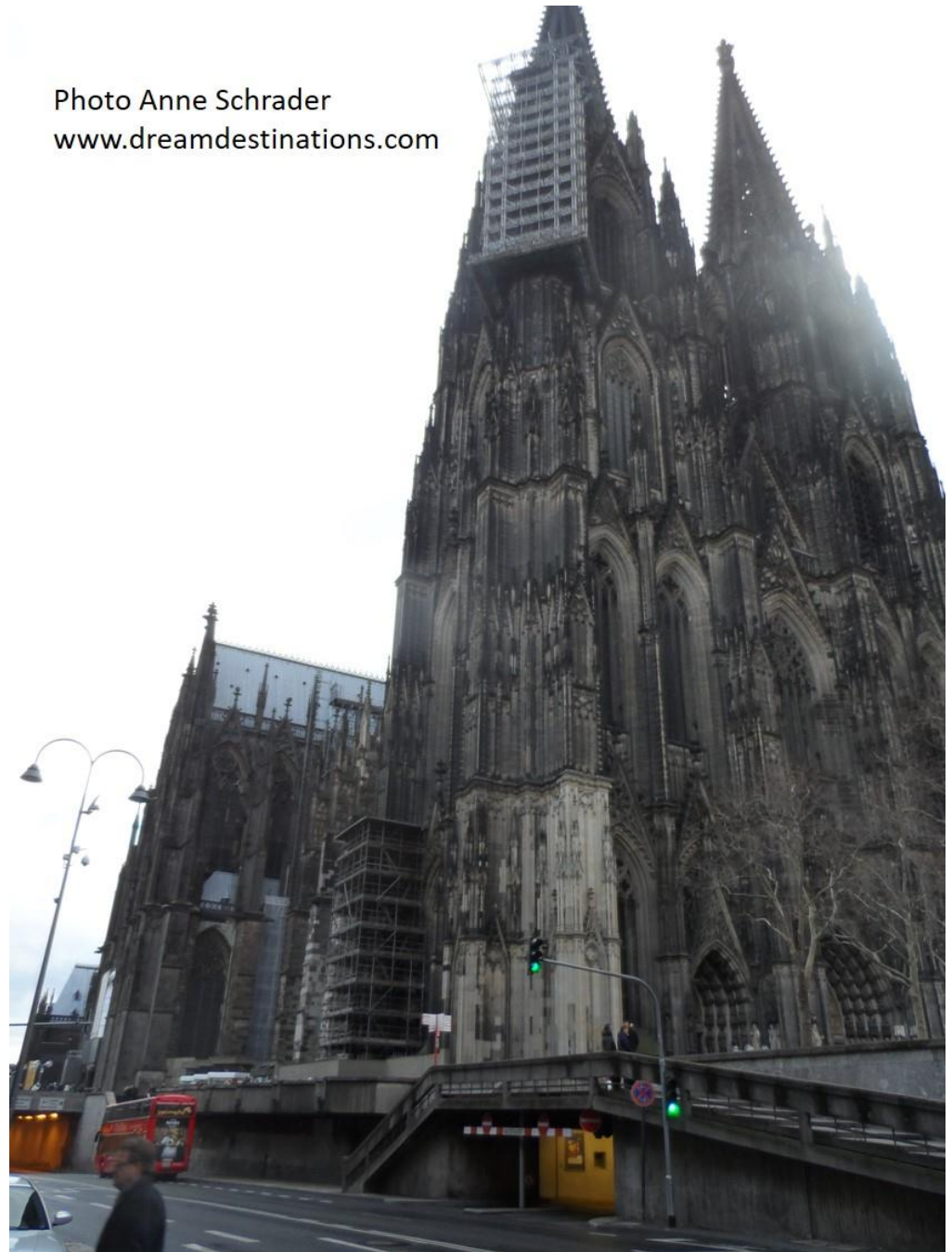


Day 3 Cologne

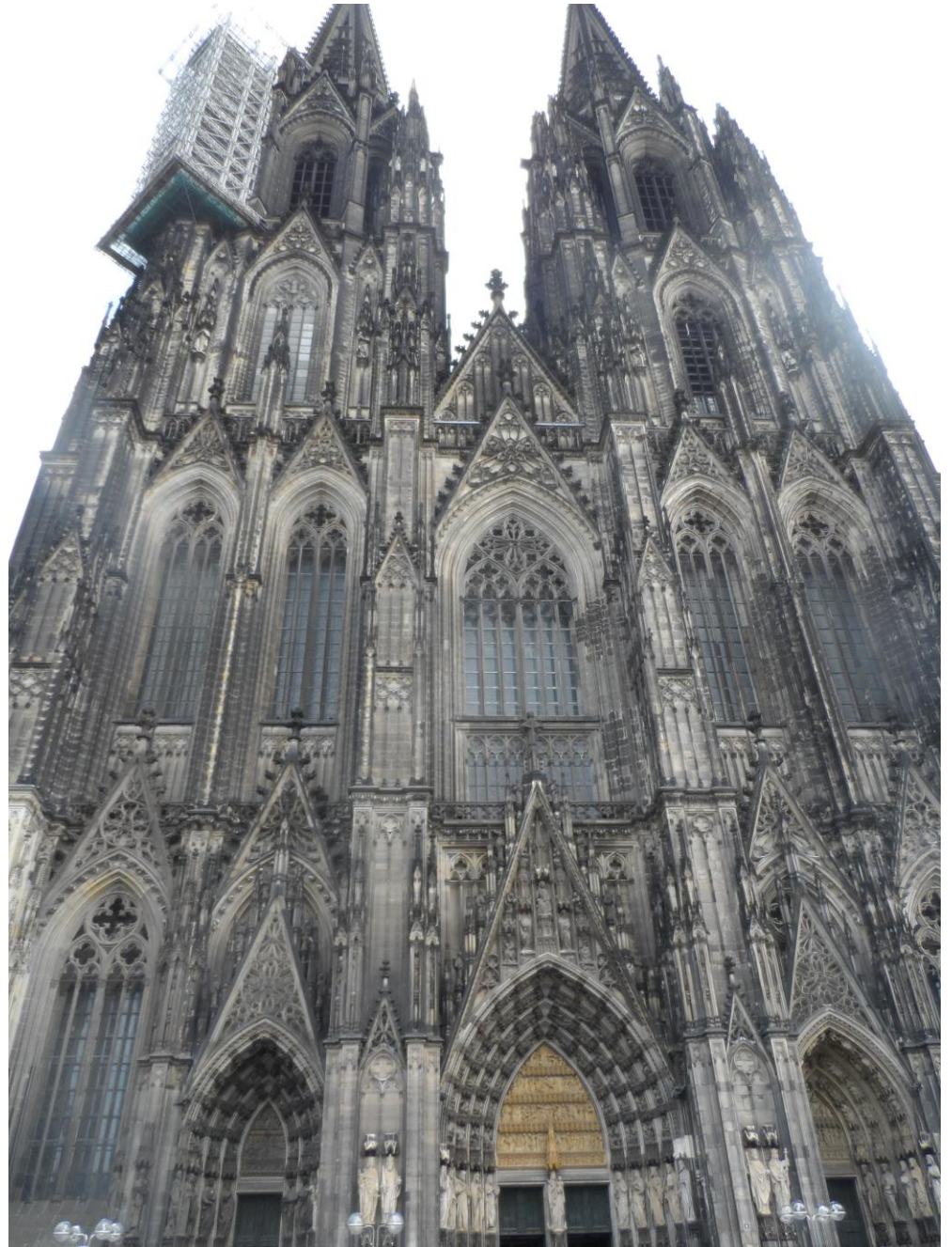
- This morning, you will take a walking tour through the old part of the city and visit the cathedral in Cologne, famous for its university and legendary 13th-century Gothic cathedral.
- Afterwards, with free time, head to a local pub for a tasting of Kölsch, a distinctive yellow-hued beer brewed only in Cologne.
- This afternoon sail to Koblenz and moors overnight (B,L,D).

Cologne Cathedral

Photo Anne Schrader
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Cologne Cathedral



German-Roman Museum

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Hohenzollern Bridge



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Christmas Markets in Old Market Square



KOBLENZ, Germany



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Deutsches Eck (German Corner)



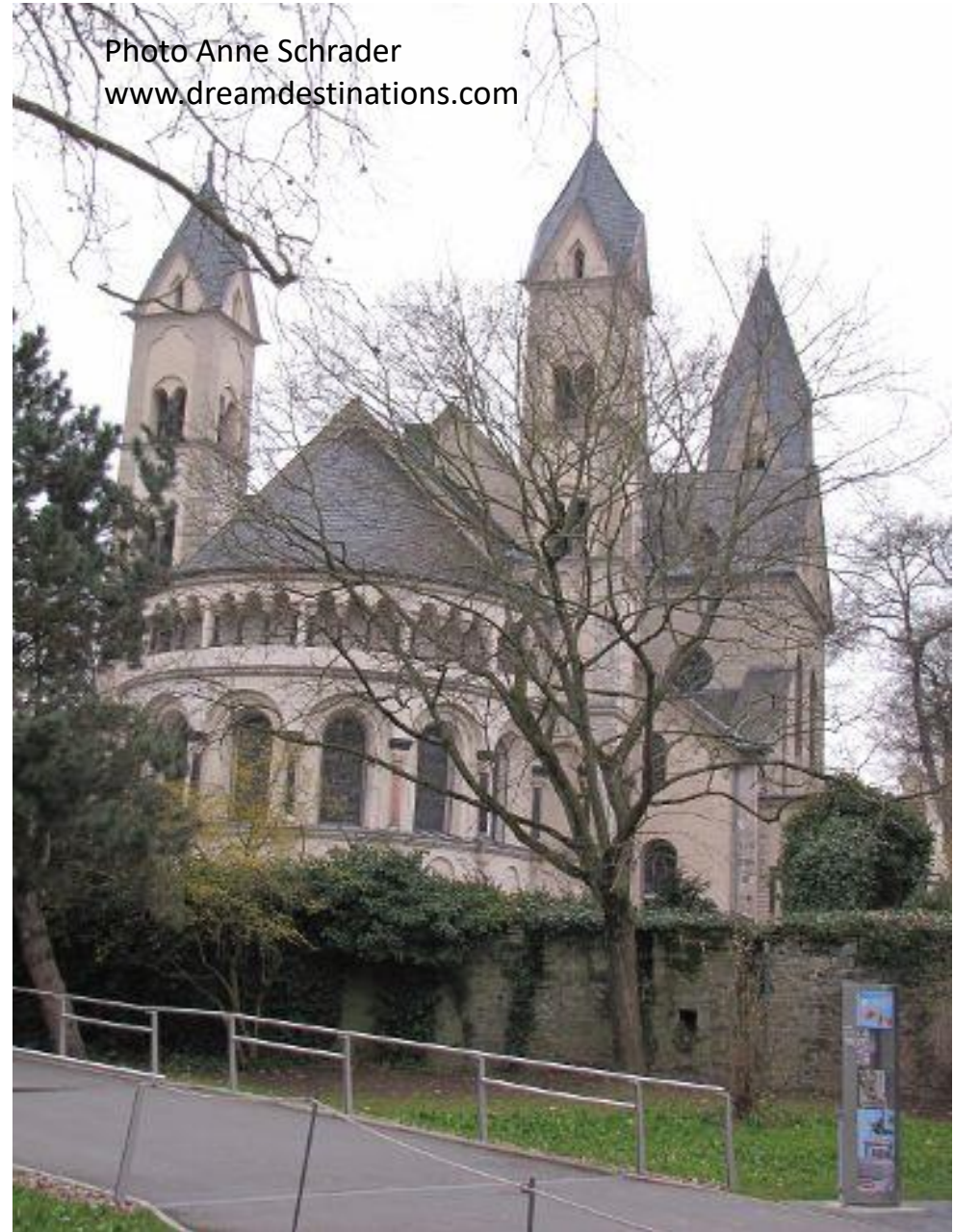
Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Deutsches Eck (German Corner)



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

St Castor's Basilica



Goerresplaz Square



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 4

- In the morning, cruise through the Rhine Gorge, the most stunningly beautiful stretch of the river, with hillsides dotted with fairy-tale castles.
- In the afternoon, you will arrive at Rüdesheim.

Marksburg Castle



Photo Anne Schrader
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Maus (Mouse) Castle

Photo Anne Schrader
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Katz (Cat) Castle

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 4

- After dinner, you will have the opportunity to visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum, home to a remarkable collection of old robotic and self-playing musical instruments,
- or enjoy a tasting of Rüdeshheimer coffee, a local specialty.
- The ship sails overnight. (B,L,D)

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
www.dreamdestinations.com



Reichenstein Castle



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 4

- This afternoon you will have the option to take one of three excursions:
- a Gondola Ride above the town to see the Niederwalddenkmal Statue followed by wine tasting with a local vintner,
- a guided hike through the town and surrounding vineyards,
- a guided bike tour along the Rhine River to one of Germany's best wine regions.
- Afterwards, you'll have free time to explore the Drosselgasse, the town's most famous and charming street, a narrow passage lined with shops and taverns.

Sailing into Rudesheim

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Gondola Ride



RÜDESHEIM



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum



Rüdesheimer Coffee

Photo Hank Schrader



Day 5

- Arrive in Mannheim & choose one of 3 afternoon excursions.
- Option #1 is a half-day excursion to the historic university town of Heidelberg, to visit the red-walled castle with its Great Vat (a 49,000-gallon wine cask) & enjoy beautiful views of the Neckar Valley & city below.
- Option # 2, enjoy a hike up the Philosopher's Path up to a panoramic viewpoint of Heidelberg.
- Option #3 is a city tour of Speyer known for its cathedral, numerous churches and the medieval Altpörtel (Old Gate).

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

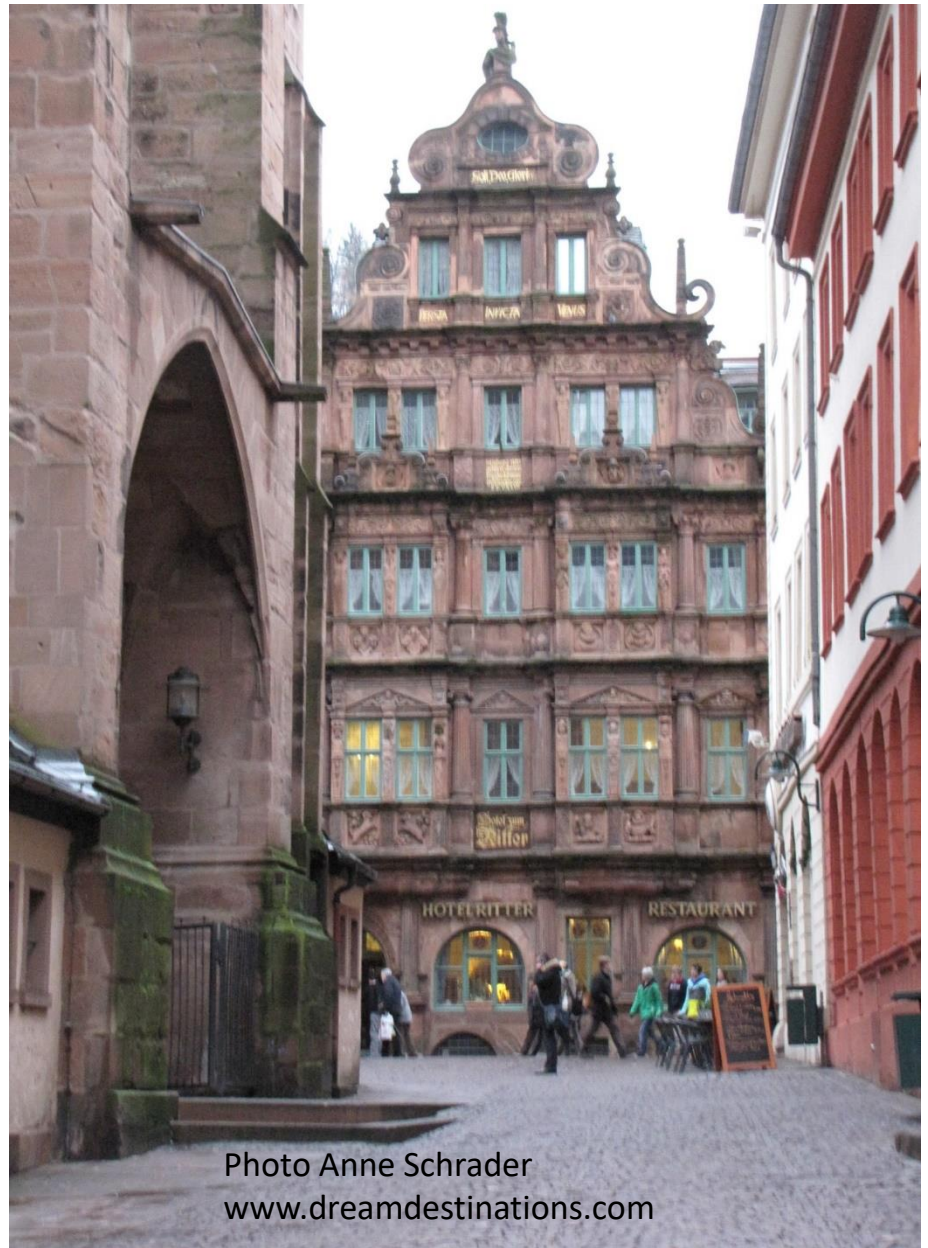


Photo Anne Schrader
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Church of the Holy Spirit



Photo Anne Schrader
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Golden Fleece Sign



Hauptstrasse— the main street in the old town of Heidelberg



Dirndls (Traditional Dresses) for sale



Photo Anne Schrader
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Side view of Speyer Cathedral Option # 3



Towers of the Speyer Cathedral

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Front Entrance of the Speyer Dom



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Jakob Spilger
Pilgrim Statue.
Speyer is part of
the historic
pilgrimage route
of Santiago de
Compostela



The Watch
Tower—at 188
feet, was one of
the 68 towers that
used to guard the
city of Speyer,
Germany



Christmas Markets. In the background is the Old Mint Building



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 6 STRASBOURG, FRANCE

- Alsace's principal city is situated on the Ill River where it flows into the Rhine at the German border. This morning, take a tour through this charming town lined with narrow cobblestone streets.
- Visit the "La Petite France" district, where you will see the sandstone Gothic Cathedral with its famous astronomical clock, timber-framed buildings, covered bridges and medieval watchtowers.
- As an alternative, take a guided bicycle tour (capacity controlled) past the Orangery, the town's oldest park, the European Parliament, and Place de la Republique.

Strasbourg



Photo Anne Schrader
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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 Hank Schrader
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Medieval Watch Towers Strasbourg, France

Strasbourg



Photo Anne Schrader
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Palais Rohan

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



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 7 BREISACH, GERMANY

- Today, you have your choice of excursions:
- a scenic tour of the villages of Breisach and Freiburg,
- or a visit to the wine village of Riquewihr.
- or a guided bike tour of Breisach that takes you through the Rheinau woods.
- The ship sails overnight to Basel. (B,L,D)

Photo Anne Schrader
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Freiburg—Historic Merchant's Hall in the Augustinerplatz.



Market at Munster Square, Freiburg



Photo Anne Schrader
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Riquewahr Dolder Gate

Photo Hank Schrader
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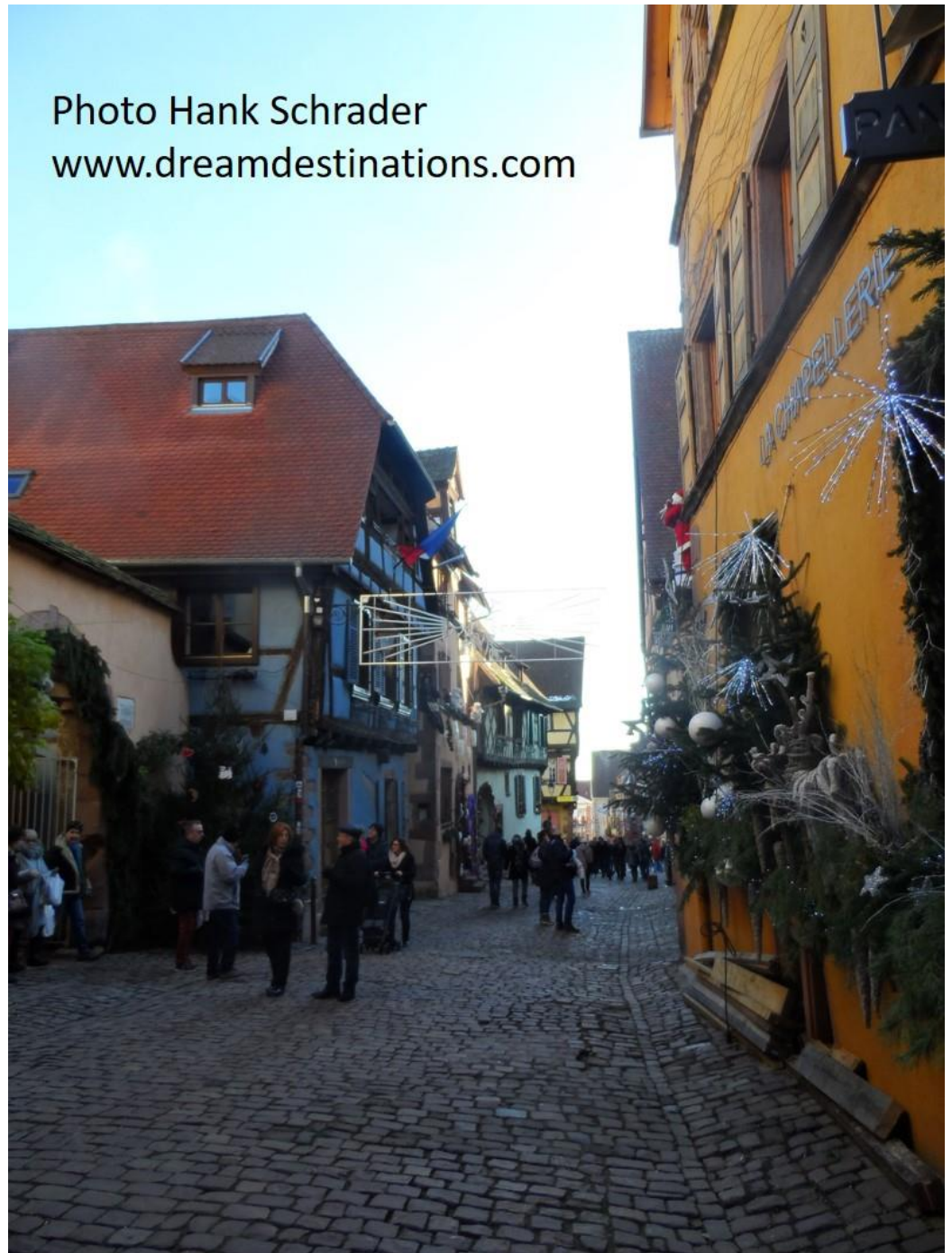
Riquewihr



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Riquewihr

Photo Hank Schrader
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Riquewihr

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 8

- Disembark after breakfast.
- The town of Basel is known as a longtime center for banking, commerce and trade.
- Basel's glorious past is still evident in its medieval Town Hall and exquisite old homes.

Basel Town Hall

Photo Anne Schrader
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The Rhine River at Basel

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com





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- **Please contact us at:**
- aschrader@dreamdestinations.com or
- hschrader@dreamdestinations.com or
- Call us at:
- 832-244-0215 (Anne cell); 713-397-0188 (Hank Cell) or 713-436-5287
- Or visit at www.dreamdestinations.com
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