

The Rhine & Moselle:
Canals, Vineyards & Castles
Avalon Waterways

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

Route Map From Avalon Waterways



Overview

- This magnificent European river cruise vacation begins in Holland's colorful, modern capital of Amsterdam.
- See the treasures of this 700-year-old city from a unique perspective on a canal cruise along the elegant grachten.
- Then, embark on your picturesque cruise along the Rhine River to Cologne, Germany—a 2,000-year-old city known for its Gothic-style architecture.
- On a guided city walk, see the famous twin-spired cathedral and explore the cobblestone streets of the Old City.
- You'll sail through the dramatic Rhine Gorge—the most beautiful stretch of the Rhine River where ancient castles stand on cliffs 400 feet above the water.
- In the charming wine town of Rüdesheim, enjoy a stroll through its famous cobblestone Drosselgasse lined with shops, restaurants, and lively taverns.

Overview

- Along the Moselle River, stop at the picturesque town of Cochem where the Riesling grape is cultivated.
- Visit Reichsburg Castle, nestled among vineyards and offering breathtaking views of the town and river valley below.
- In Berncastel, enjoy a guided walk and taste some of the region's best-loved wines.
- Join an included excursion to historical Luxembourg City, offering unique and dramatic views as it is set on two levels—high above on straddling hills and dropping into two river valleys.

Day 1 Amsterdam

- Welcome to Holland. Your Suite Ship® is Ready for Boarding.
- Flights into Amsterdam must arrive by 3:30 pm.
- Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.
- Optional Tour (Extra Cost)
- 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.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN AMSTERDAM**

Optional Tour Keukenhof Gardens



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Keukenhof Gardens



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Keukenhof Gardens

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Day 2 Amsterdam

- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Explore the iconic waterways of Amsterdam on a Guided Canal Cruise past stately homes of the city's "Golden Age."
- This afternoon choose among the Guided Optional Excursions available. (Extra Cost).
- **Medieval Muiderslot Castle**
- From Golden Age paintings to 13th-century arms and armor, discover the wonders of Muiderslot Castle, one of Holland's most beautiful medieval castle fortresses, on this captivating half-day guided tour.
- **The Netherlands on two Wheels: Into the Dutch Countryside**
- Pedal your way past polders, dikes, and quaint, centuries-old villages on this exhilarating guided bike tour through the beautiful Dutch countryside.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO COLOGNE

Canal Boats, Amsterdam

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

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Skinny Bridge, Amsterdam



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Rijksmuseum



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Day 3

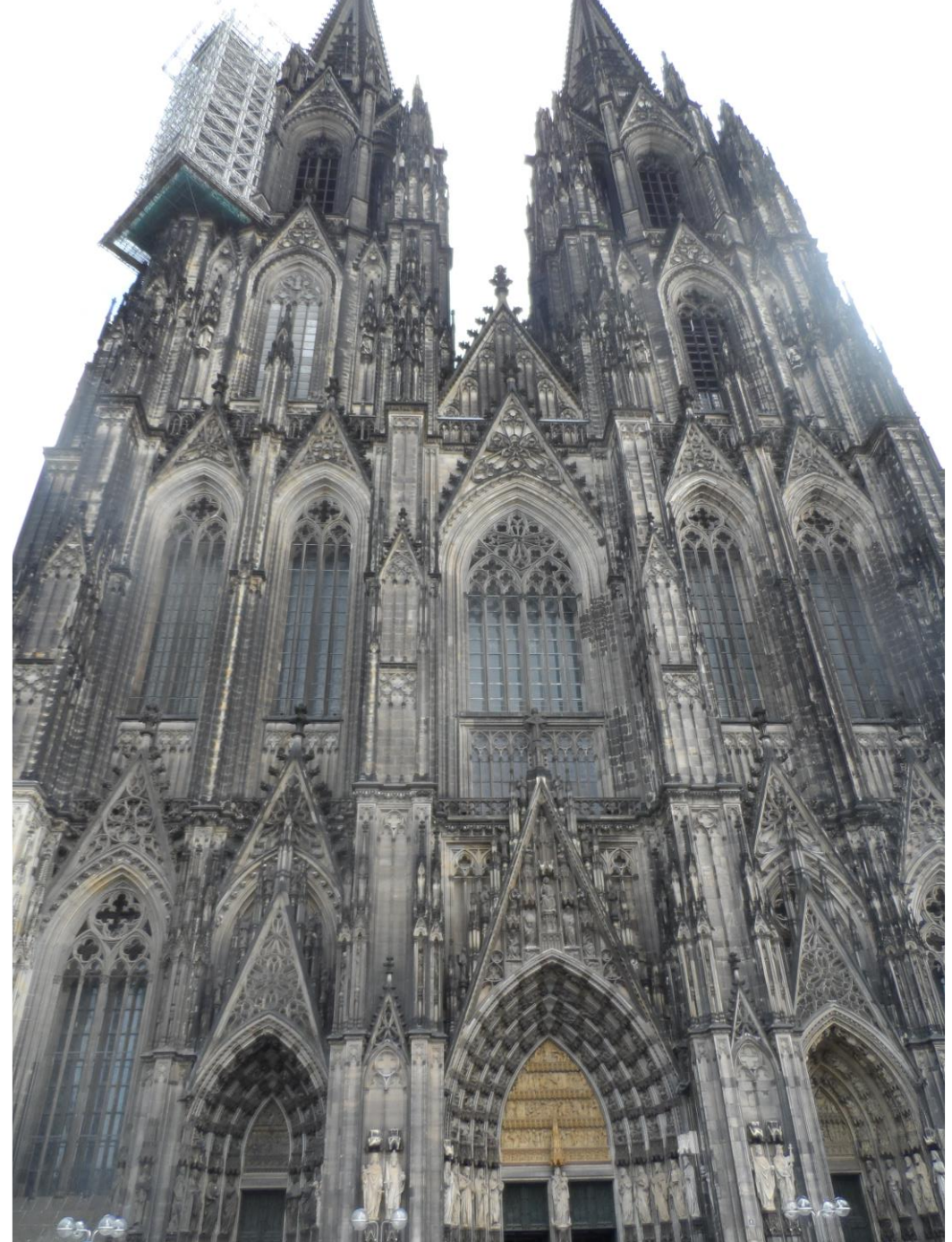
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy a bike ride like the locals in Cologne with your Adventure Host, Optional Excursion (Extra Cost) OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Walking Tour of Cologne's important Jewish heritage sites, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided City Walk of Cologne—with its soaring twin-steepled gothic cathedral.
- Spend free time over a glass of Kölsch pale lager—locally brewed for over 100 years!
- Enjoy live entertainment onboard your ship this evening.
- OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO RÜDESHEIM

Cologne Cathedral

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Cologne Cathedral



German-Roman Museum Cologne

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Hohenzollern Bridge Cologne



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Christmas Markets in Old Market Square Cologne



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Day 4

- En route to Rüdesheim, 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 an open-air cable car ride to the Niederwald Monument. Ride or walk back down through the vineyards; enjoy a tasting of the authentic Rüdesheimer coffee, OR;
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Tour of the incredible Mechanical Music Museum for a one-of-a-kind instrumental experience; enjoy a tasting of the authentic Rüdesheimer coffee.
- Enjoy a leisurely cruise to Koblenz this evening while having dinner onboard.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN KOBLENZ**

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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Sailing into Rudesheim

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Gondola Ride Rüdesheim



Germania Monument

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Germania Monument



Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum Rudesheim

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Photo Hank Schrader
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Siegfried's Mechanical Music Museum Rüdesheim



Crowded Drosselgasse Lane Rudesheim



Day 5 Cochem

- Relax on the Sky Deck of your ship while sailing through the Moselle Valley, famous for the beautiful growing villages and their vineyards.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** See Cochem from atop, hike up to an excellent viewpoint with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Take part to a Guided Visit to one of the oldest mustard mills, dating back to 1810. Under the guidance of the head mustard “miller”, you’ll watch mustard being made using traditional skills, more than 200 years of savoir-faire and a recipe that has been passed down several generations, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Walk of Cochem through its half-timbered houses and winding streets. Visit the hilltop Reichsburg Castle with a bird’s-eye-view of the Moselle Valley.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BERNKASTEL

Cochem

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Reichsburg Castle

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Keep Tower Reichsburg Castle



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Reichsburg Castle



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Inside Reichsburg Castle



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Main Square Cochem

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Cochem



Photo Anne Schrader
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Cochem Fountain



Day 6 Bernkastel

- This morning, select a Guided Optional Excursion to Traben-Trarbach for an underground visit or a panoramic drive through the Moselle region.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Head out into the fresh air and hike up to Landshut Castle with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Walking Tour of the charming wine village of Bernkastel—with its medieval marketplace and 17th-century gabled timber-framed houses.
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Join a Wine Tasting to experience the tradition of legendary German wine making.
- Tonight, enjoy live entertainment on board your ship.
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO REMICH**

Bernkastel

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Market Square with Guard Tower (in the Background)



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Bear Fountain Bernkastel



Bernkastel Street

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Bernkastel

Burg Landshut Ruins

Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 6 Optional Tours (Extra Cost)

- **Vineyards, Villages & Views of the Moselle**
- Experience the wonder and beauty of the Moselle River from a whole new perspective on this enriching guided excursion featuring the world-famous Moselle Bend and a visit to a local winery for a tasting of sparkling wine.
- **Underground Cellars on the Moselle Shores**
- Explore the underground cellars to taste Traben-Trarbach's famous Riesling and learn the secrets of traditional viticulture and ancient cellar techniques.

Day 7

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Bike in two countries along the Mosel with your Adventure Host, (Extra Cost) OR;
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Enjoy a Wine Walk in Luxembourg's Moselle Region. Discover the way of life and the daily work in the vineyards while enjoying the unique panorama at the Scheuerberg, OR;
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Tour of Luxembourg City—with its dramatic views, ancient ruins, and modern architecture along the deep gorge terrain.
- **Discover Trier: the Imperial Roman Baths (Extra Cost)**
- Discover Trier, Germany's oldest city, with its collection of unique Roman monuments revealing a glorious past.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN REMICH**

Luxembourg City Walls



Luxembourg Promenade de le Comiche



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Optional Tour Porta Nigra, Trier 1990



Porta Nigra Trier 2022



Photo Anne Schrader
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This 2022 picture is a good example of how large and ornate the Trier Market Square is in the old town area. You can see the Market Cross and St. Peter's Fountain in the foreground. The tall spire in the center of this picture St. Gangolf's Church that was completed in 1509.



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Another picture of the Market Square Trier



Day 8 Remich

- Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.
- Flights should not leave Luxembourg City airport before 8 am.

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