

The Rhine and Moselle Tauck River Cruises

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

Route Map From Tauck River Cruises



Overview

- So many delights are in store along the enchanting Moselle and Rhine on our 14-night cruise between Basel and Amsterdam...
- From the Netherlands to Switzerland, through Germany, France and Luxembourg, see the marriage of French and German culture in Strasbourg; mingle with jet setters in Baden-Baden; check out the ancient university town of Heidelberg and medieval masterpieces like Bernkastel, Trier and Cochem.
- Pay tribute to those who fell in the Battle of the Bulge at the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial; get a true taste of Europe with regional specialties, local wines and folk traditions; and enjoy an exclusive special dinner at a castle in Germany.

Day 1 Welcome to The Netherlands

- **Tour begins: 4:00 PM, Amsterdam.**
- A transfer is included from Amsterdam's Schiphol International Airport or Centraal Station directly to your riverboat.
- Your cruise on the Moselle and Rhine rivers begins when all guests check in at 4:00 PM.
- After a Discovery briefing, cocktail hour and a welcome dinner aboard ship, enjoy a musical performance in the lounge. *Welkom aan boord!*

Day 2 A Choice of Excursions in Amsterdam

- Enjoy a choice of excursions in Amsterdam today – your first choice is a visit to the famed Rijksmuseum, home to one of the world's most important collections of artwork by the Dutch Masters.
- Another option is a guided tour through the Dutch countryside with a visit to a tulip and vegetable nursery.
- You may return to the ship for lunch or remain in town.
- Following an afternoon at leisure, join us tonight for a Welcome Briefing followed by dinner in the Compass Rose followed by a special performance in the Panorama Lounge.

Guided visit to the famed Rijksmuseum



Day 3 In and Around Nijmegen

- Arrive in Nijmegen, where your day begins with a choice of excursions – a visit to Paleis Het Loo and gardens, the largest authentic 17th-century palace of the House of Orange-Nassau and a masterpiece of Dutch Baroque architecture
- or alternatively, a visit to the art-filled Kröller-Müller Museum in De Hoge Veluwe National Park.
- This afternoon's choices include an introductory walk-through Nijmegen
- or a visit to the Airborne Museum at the beautifully restored Villa Hartenstein, rich with World War II history.
- Everyone rejoins the riverboat late afternoon; tonight, chart a course for Düsseldorf.

Nijmegen Cobblestone Street



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Nijmegen Town Hall & Grote Markt



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Nijmegen Grote Markt Tunnel Entrance



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Nijmegen St. Stephens Church



Photo Anne Schrader
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Cheese Store Nijmegen



Photo Anne Schrader
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Airborne Museum



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Airborne Museum



Airborne Museum



Photo Hank Schrader
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Day 4 Day of Sailing and a Castle Dinner

- A day of cruising awaits you today ahead of a very special evening.
- This evening, you're off to Engelskirchen for a visit to its neighboring castle, Schloss Ehreshoven.
- Built in the 14th century and later expanded in the style of a grand Baroque manor house, the estate is surrounded by a moat, landscaped gardens, and a castle park.
- Schloss Ehreshoven is frequently used as a film location but this evening it's the elegant setting for a Tauck Exclusive cocktail reception and dinner with entertainment.
- Return to the ship late tonight to continue your cruise.

Day 5 Historic Köln & a Relaxing Afternoon Cruising

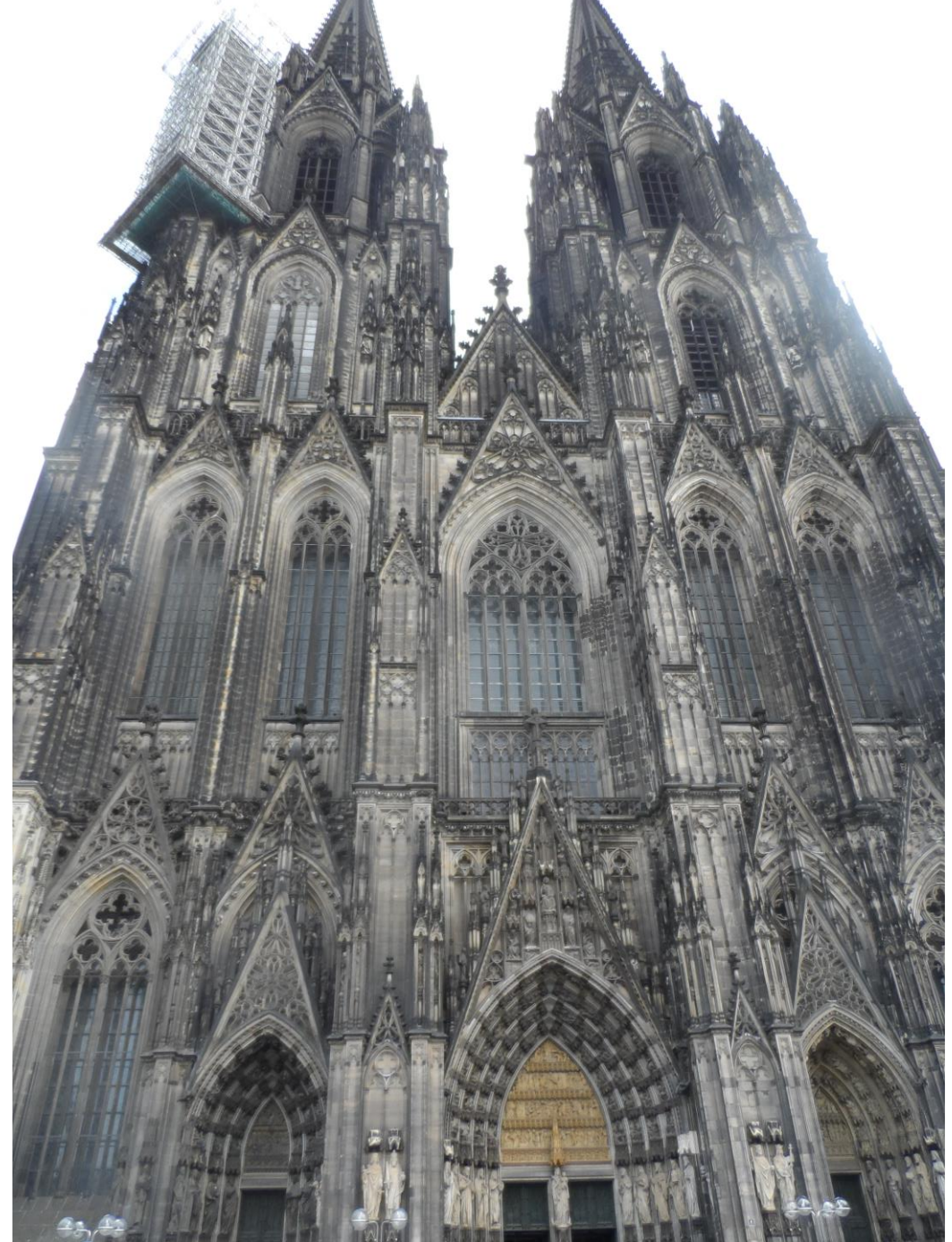
- Spend the morning exploring the historic German city of Köln (Cologne), where you'll enjoy a choice of city tours with a local guide through the Old Town, with one option offering you the chance to explore a preserved World War II bunker!
- Return to your ship for lunch and a relaxing afternoon cruising along the Rhine.

Cologne Cathedral

Photo Anne Schrader
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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



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 6 Moselle Valley, Cochem & Reichsburg Castle

- Enjoy a morning of cruising, complete with onboard commentary about the Moselle River, as you make your way to Cochem, a jewel of a town complete with a Baroque town hall and ancient town gates – breathing in its historic charm and ambiance.
- Stepping ashore in this Moselle Valley town is like stepping into the pages of a medieval fairy tale.
- Explore Cochem either on a guided walking tour accompanied with a visit to picture-perfect 1,000-year-old Reichsburg Castle, which looks down on Cochem's quaint market square
- or on a bicycle ride to the town of Senheim, where you'll learn about the area's centuries-old winemaking traditions with a tasting of the excellent locally produced vintages.
- Return to your riverboat this evening, your ship sets sail for the town of Traben-Trarbach, arriving overnight.

Cochem

Photo Anne Schrader
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Reichsburg Castle

Photo Anne Schrader

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Main Square Cochem

Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 7 A choice of activities in Luxembourg or Traben-Trarbach

- Dock this morning in Traben-Trarbach and set off for a choice of excursions.
- On one, you're off on a journey to the tiny Grand Duchy of Luxembourg starting with a visit to the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial; where over 5,000 American casualties of World War II's Battle of the Bulge lie buried here, as does General George S. Patton, followed by a walking tour of Luxembourg's well-preserved old town including the Cathedral, Parliament, the Palace of the Grand Duke, and centuries-old battlements that are today a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Alternatively, following your visit to the cemetery and memorial, embark on an expedition into the underground tunnels known as *kasematten*, built in the 17th-century as a means to defend against artillery fire and heavily utilized during World War II.
- Your other option brings you to the charming spa town of Traben-Trarbach, where you have the choice of an orientation tour – or a guided bicycle ride along the Moselle River.
- Dinner tonight is back aboard your ship.

Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial.

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Luxembourg City Walls



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Luxembourg Promenade de le Comiche



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 8 Ancient Trier & Moselle cruising

- Your ship docks in Trier today.
- Disembark this morning for a guided walking tour where you'll discover an ancient city that lays claim as being one of the oldest in Germany – during a walking tour that includes both medieval treasures and sites dating back to Roman times, from a 2nd-century city gate and the 4th-century basilica to a 16th-century fountain featuring images of St. Peter.
- Reboard your riverboat for an afternoon of classic river cruising, watching the scenery slip by from the Sun Deck as your riverboat glides along the Moselle; enjoy dinner aboard ship tonight.

Porta Nigra, Trier



Photo Anne Schrader
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Porta Nigra Trier



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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.



Photo Anne Schrader
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Another picture of the Market Square Trier



Day 9 A Day of Cruising Along the Moselle

- A wonderful day of cruising along the Moselle awaits today.
- Following dinner this evening, your ship arrives in the town of Koblenz, where you may join your Tauck Director for a choice of activities in town.

Koblenz, Germany Jesuit Square



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Deutsches Eck (German Corner) Koblenz



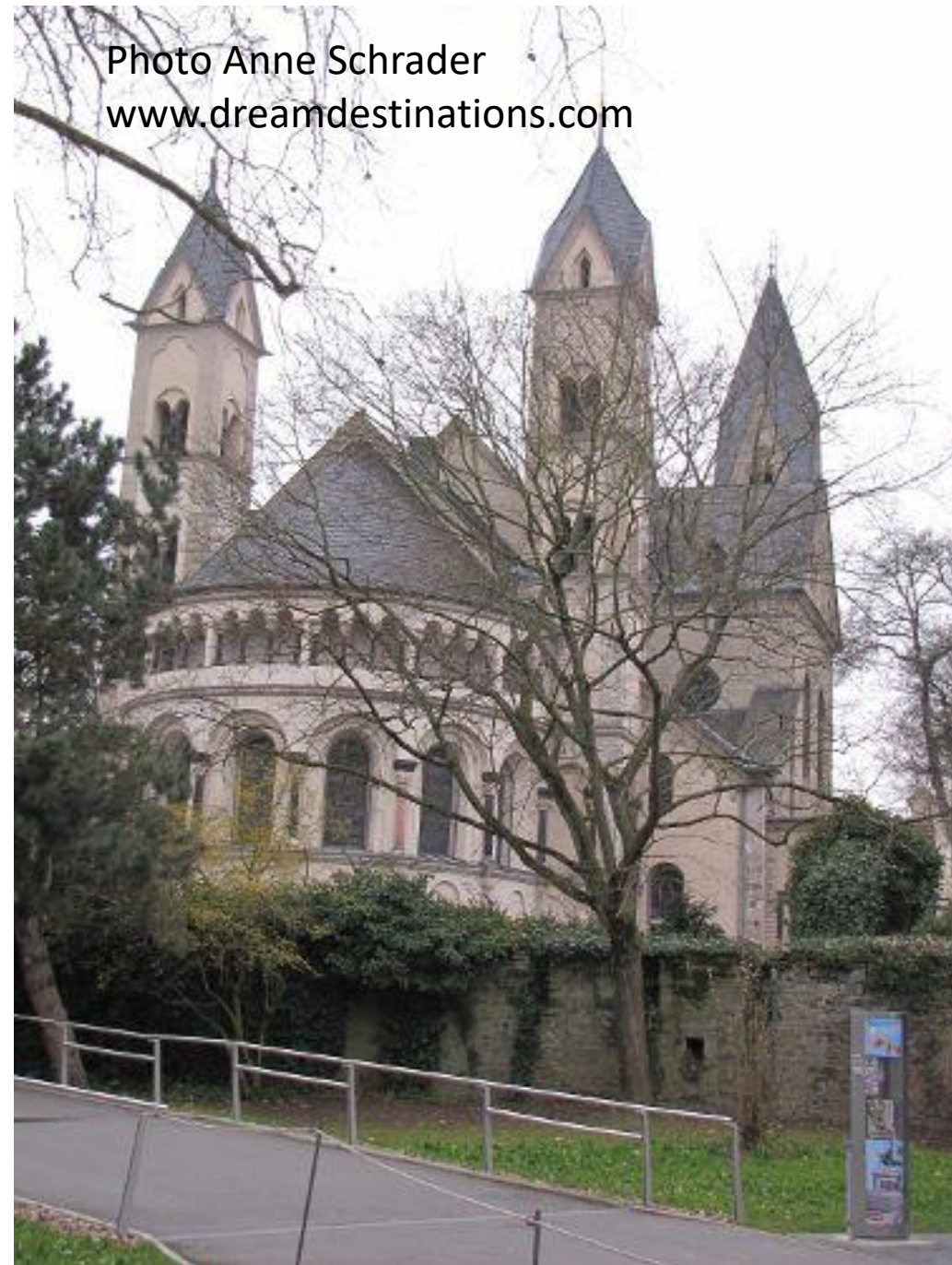
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Deutsches Eck (German Corner) Koblenz



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St Castor's Basilica Koblenz



Goerresplaz
Square
Koblenz. The
fountain is a
summary of the
2000-year
history of
Koblenz



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Day 10 Boppard & the Lorelei

- Tauck's Rhine-Moselle river cruise departs the Moselle today and returns to the Rhine, arriving in Boppard for your choice of a two-hour bicycling excursion along the Rhine
- or, stay on the riverboat as it glides through the Middle Rhine Valley, listening to the legend of the Lorelei and discover for yourself why this beautiful part of the river – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – has inspired composers, writers and artists for centuries.
- Have lunch onboard, and gain insights on the Lorelei Valley and legends associated with the many castles you'll pass on your way through the region from your Tauck Director.
- Enjoy dinner aboard ship tonight.

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

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 11 **Historic Heidelberg Castle or a winery visit & tasting**

- Enjoy a day in the historic college town of Heidelberg, home to one of the oldest universities in Europe as well as the setting for the famous operetta, *The Student Prince*,
- or visit a centuries-old family winery for a tour and tasting.
- In Heidelberg, take a walking tour for a close-up look at the Old Town, and ride a funicular up to the imposing Heidelberger Schloss, perched 300 feet above the city; view its examples of medieval, Renaissance and Baroque architecture, and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.
- Perhaps you'll be as captivated by this lovely old city as America's first travel writer, Mark Twain, was when he spent three months here with his family.
- Enjoy lunch at a local brewery in the heart of the old town with free time to explore.
- Alternatively, visit to local family-owned winery for a tour and tasting before enjoying lunch and free time in Heidelberg.

Heidelberg Castle in the Snow

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Old Bridge in Heidelberg

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Old Bridge Gate Heidelberg



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

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



Photo Anne Schrader
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Church of the Holy Spirit Heidelberg



Photo Anne Schrader
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Golden Fleece Sign Heidelberg



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Hauptstrasse—the
main street in the old
town of Heidelberg



Photo Anne Schrader
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Dirndls (Traditional Dresses) for sale Heidelberg



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 12 Stuttgart

- Stuttgart enjoys a reputation as an industrial powerhouse; a cradle of both the automobile and motorcycle industries in the 19th century, it's the corporate headquarters of both Porsche and Mercedes-Benz.
- But the city also possesses a charming, small-town atmosphere, tucked into an inviting urban landscape of historic sites, lakes, parks, gardens, vineyards and forests.
- Your excursion features a walking tour of the city's historic center, where you'll see the restored *Altes Schloss* (Old Castle), most of which dates to the 15th century, and its inner courtyard; the palatial 18th-century *Neues Schloss* (New Castle), completely rebuilt after nearly being burned to the ground during WWII.
- Later, you'll explore the Mercedes-Benz Museum – a dazzling ultramodern showcase featuring more than 160 vehicles on display, ranging from some of the oldest automobiles ever built to legendary racing cars to futuristic research vehicles in exhibits that chronicle the history of the legendary car company.
- Following your time at the museum, you may join us for an optional walking tour of Stuttgart.

Day 12 The Black Forest spa town of Baden-Baden

As an alternate option, travel by coach to the beautiful spa town of Baden-Baden where you'll discover that the elegant Belle Époque period is still alive and well.

For many generations, wealthy folks have flocked here to see and be seen, and to take the healing thermal waters for which the town is famous.

Join us on a walking tour and time spent on your own discovering some of the town's treasures ranging from the ruins of Roman baths to the ornate, 250-year-old Belle Époque casino, the Kurhaus, which movie star Marlene Dietrich once described as "the most beautiful casino in the world."

You'll also have an optional opportunity to visit the Caracalla Spa in town before returning to the riverboat for the evening.

Baden-Baden



Day 13 A taste of France in Strasbourg

- Your Rhine cruise continues today to stunning Strasbourg, France – the seat of the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the capital of the historic Alsace region.
- You'll see the Parliament buildings and step back in time to discover La Petite France, noted for its medieval half-timbered houses set beside lovely canals, on your choice of a walking tour or a small group excursion off the beaten path to unique local shops.
- While visiting the famous Gothic Cathédrale de Notre-Dame de Strasbourg, you'll be inspired by the graceful, expressive statuary of the Pilier des Anges (Pillar of Angels), and the magnificent stained-glass windows.
- Spend free time this afternoon exploring the "crossroads of Europe" as you wish before returning to the riverboat.

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



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 Strasbourg

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



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



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 14 Basel or Zürich & a Fond Farewell

- The Tauck Difference in European river cruising is all about where you go, what you do, and who you meet on your shore excursions – and today, you have a choice!
- First choice is spending the day in Basel, a beautiful city on the banks of the Rhine River.
- You'll get a good overview on a brief sightseeing tour that is followed by a walking tour in the Old Town – see the bright-red Rathaus, Basel's Town Hall.
- After lunch, explore more of one of Europe's most attractive and best-preserved Old Towns on your own, perhaps taking in one of the city's 40 museums.
- Your second choice is a trip to the town of Zürich for a guided tour and lunch.
- Return to the ship in Basel; this evening, bid the captain and crew a fond adieu at the ship's farewell reception followed by dinner aboard the riverboat as your Rhine cruise concludes.

The Rhine River at Basel

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Basel Town Hall on Market Square



Old Town Zurich

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Niederhof Street

Photo Hank Schrader
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Merchant's Guild House



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Grossmunster Church Zurich



Fraumunster Church Zurich

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Munsterhof is largest old town square in Zurich



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St. Peter Church Zurich.

Photo Hank Schrader
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St Peter Church Clock Face is the largest in all Europe

Photo Hank Schrader
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Day 15 Homeward Bound

- **Tour ends: Basel.**
- Fly home anytime. Upon disembarking the riverboat (no later than 9:00 AM), transfers are included to EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg or Basel's SBB train station;
- guests can also transfer to Zürich Airport or Zurich Hauptbahnhof (train station).
- Please allow 3 hours for flight check-in.

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