

Tulips & The Rhine Emerald Waterways

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

Overview

- A vibrant celebration of all things quintessentially Dutch, Amsterdam's winding canals and a trip to Keukenhof Gardens are the perfect start to your river cruise.
- View traditional windmills en-route along the river towards Cologne, where a guided excursion will introduce you to its Gothic cathedral.
- Discover even more of archaic Germany in Koblenz and Heidelberg, before crossing the border into Strasbourg and concluding in the enchanting Black Forest.

Map From Emerald Waterways



Your Cruise Includes:

- 7 nights on board an Emerald Cruises Star-Ship
- Airport transfers to and from your Star-Ship
- The services of an Emerald Cruises cruise director
- Port taxes and charges
- All tipping and gratuities

Included Excursions:

- Visit to Keukenhof Gardens
- Guided tour of Cologne's Old Town & a visit to the Botanical Gardens
- Orientation walk of Koblenz & a visit to Ehrenbreitstein Fortress
- Guided tour of Strasbourg

EmeraldPLUS

- Visit to Schwetzingen Palace & Gardens
- A tale of two cities divided by the Rhine

EmeraldACTIVE

- Guided vineyard hike in Bad-Dürkheim
- Guided bike tour in Breisach Shape

Dining Highlights

- 20 delectable meals including 7 breakfasts (B), 6 lunches (L), 7 dinners (D)
- Including a Welcome and Farewell Reception & Dinner
- Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks served with lunch and dinner on board

Day 1 Amsterdam

- Welcome to Amsterdam.
- Here, you will be met at the airport by your friendly Emerald Cruises representative and transferred to your contemporary Star-Ship, where a quintessentially Dutch adventure awaits.
- **Meals Included:** Dinner

Day 2 - Amsterdam

- This morning you'll visit the iconic Keukenhof Gardens, boasting 32 hectares of spring-flowering bulbs.
- This scenic area is infused with delightful aromas and a swathe of vibrant colors.
- Soak in the sights of tulips, hyacinths, and orchids of every color, creating an expertly arranged pattern of beauty.
- You will also have the opportunity to see statues commissioned by world-renowned artists, each adopting the annual theme.
- **Included Excursion**
- Visit to Keukenhof Gardens
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Keukenhof Gardens



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Day 3 - Cologne

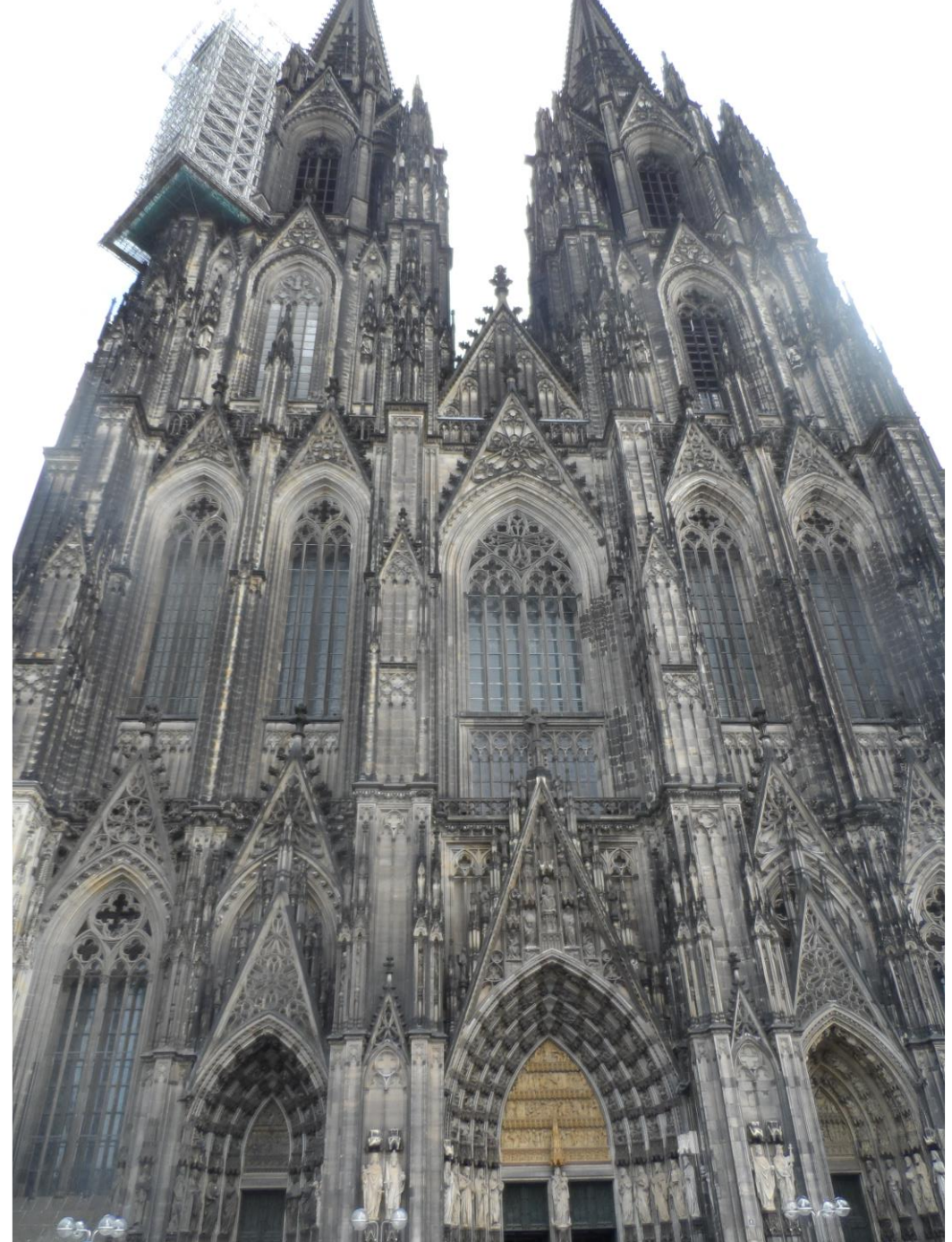
- Once the ancient Roman settlement of Colonia, Cologne is alive with ancient architecture.
- Your included walking tour of the city will touch on the historical charm of its Old Town.
- Here, you will have the opportunity to traverse rustic alleyways, visit iconic monuments and see how archaeologists have uncovered a Jewish Quarter that can be dated back to the 13th century.
- As part of your day, you will also explore Cologne Botanical Gardens. Established in the 19th century, the gardens are visited by more than a million people every year.
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided tour of Cologne's Old Town & a visit to the Botanical Gardens
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Cologne Cathedral

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Cologne Cathedral



German-Roman Museum Cologne

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Hohenzollern Bridge Cologne



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Christmas Markets in Old Market Square Cologne



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Day 4 - Koblenz

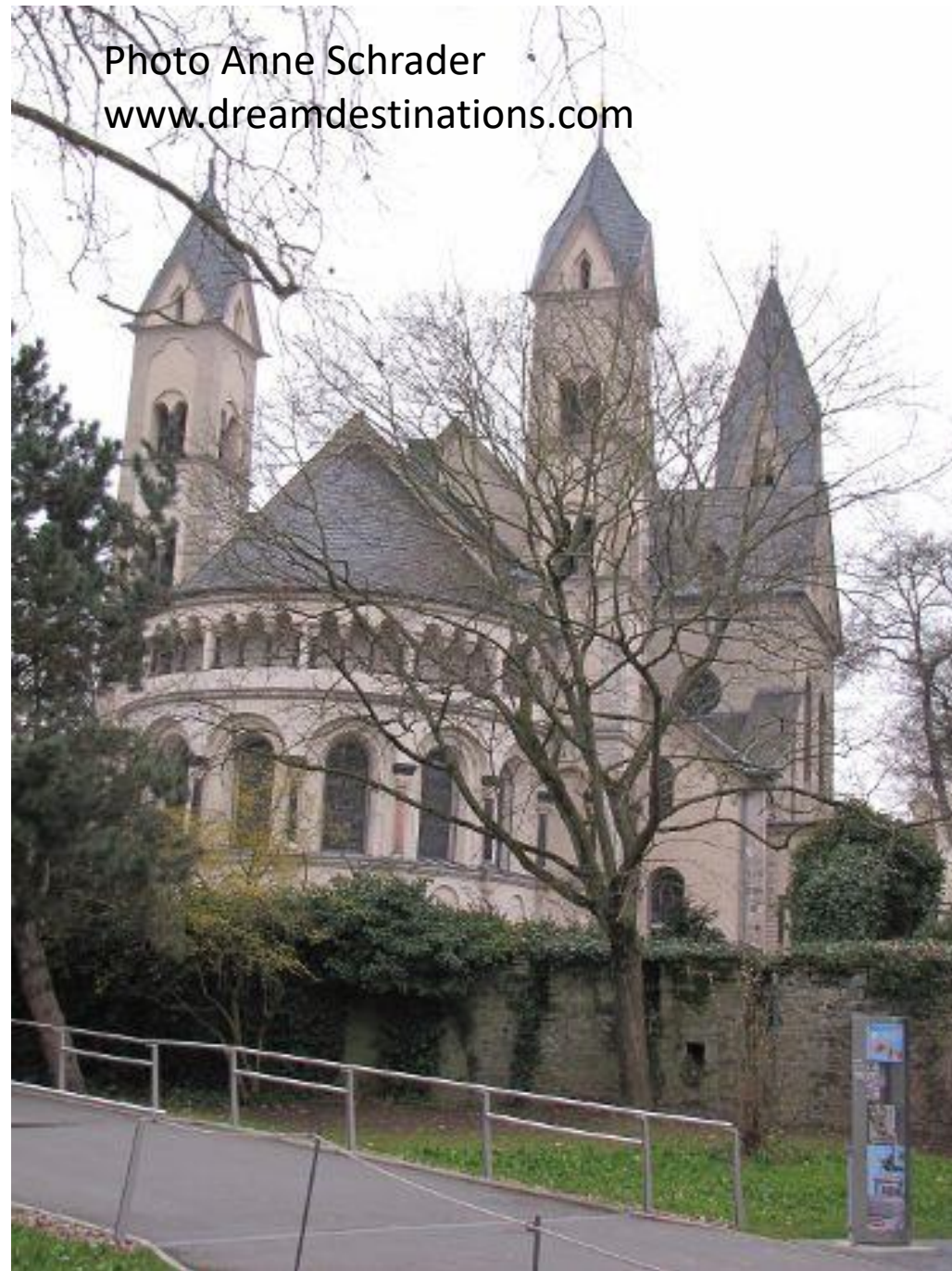
- Once a Roman stronghold desired for its strategic value,
- Koblenz is now a city with a unique blend of historic and contemporary architecture.
- Today, join your local guide for an insightful walking tour of Koblenz, passing examples of architecture that survived the war years, including the Church of Our Lady.
- You will also have the chance to see the point at which two of Europe's great rivers meet at the German Corner and Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, one of the largest preserved fortresses in Europe.
- Later, we'll cruise through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Rhine Gorge, exemplifying the extraordinary beauty of an area that left the philosophers and artists of the German Romanticism movement entranced.
- **Included Excursion**
- Orientation walk of Koblenz & a visit to Ehrenbreitstein Fortress
- **DiscoverMORE**
- A Moselle Valley & Cochem Castle visit (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Deutsches Eck (German Corner) Koblenz



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St Castor's Basilica Koblenz



Old Town Koblenz



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Goerresplaz
Square
Koblenz



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Fortress Ehrenbreitstein

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Cochem (Extra Expense)

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Reichsburg Castle

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Main Square Cochem

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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

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Reichenstein Castle



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Day 5 - Ludwigshafen – Schwetzingen

- Schwetzingen Palace is famous for the beauty and harmony of its gardens.
- Remarkably, the original design survives to this day.
- Besides the palace interior, you will also visit the Palace Gardens, a cultural heritage site of European significance with more than 100 sculptures scattered throughout this picture-perfect landscape.
- Alternatively, you can embark on an active journey to the quaint wellness town of Bad-Dürkheim for a hike through the beautiful vineyards.
- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Visit to Schwetzingen Palace & Gardens
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Guided vineyard hike in Bad-Dürkheim
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Evening concert at Bruchsal Palace (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 - Kehl – Strasbourg

- Today, we arrive in Kehl, where you'll be transferred to Strasbourg, a city that promises much in the way of beautiful architecture.
- The UNESCO World Heritage-listed Neustadt district is particularly iconic, perfectly encapsulating the Rhineland.
- The Neustadt district is yours to discover during your included tour, as is the Maison Kammerzell, a prime example of German Renaissance architecture.
- Paying homage to the region's artistic past, Petite France is an exceptional historic quarter that looks as though it has been pulled directly from an artist's easel.
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided tour of Strasbourg
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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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Photo Hank Schrader
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Medieval Watch Towers Strasbourg, France

Strasbourg



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Palais Rohan Strasbourg

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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.



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Day 7 - Breisach

- Today, you will experience the tale of two cities divided by the Rhine, Breisach (Germany), and Neuf-Brisach (France).
- During your guided visit to these two fantastic gems on the Rhine River, you'll pass by the main sights and attractions, one of which is the UNESCO World Heritage-listed fortress overlooking Neuf-Brisach.
- **EmeraldPLUS**
- A tale of two cities divided by the Rhine
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Guided bike tour in Breisach

Day 8 - Basel

- Welcome to Switzerland. Basel graces the banks of the Rhine River and is known for its high concentration of museums, showcasing everything from contemporary art to scientific achievements.
- After breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to your Star-Ship and fellow guests as you transfer to the airport, taking memories infused with vibrant tulip gardens with you.
- Please book your flight to depart out of Basel after 10:00 AM.
- This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions for further information.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast

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