

Cities of Light Viking River Cruises

By

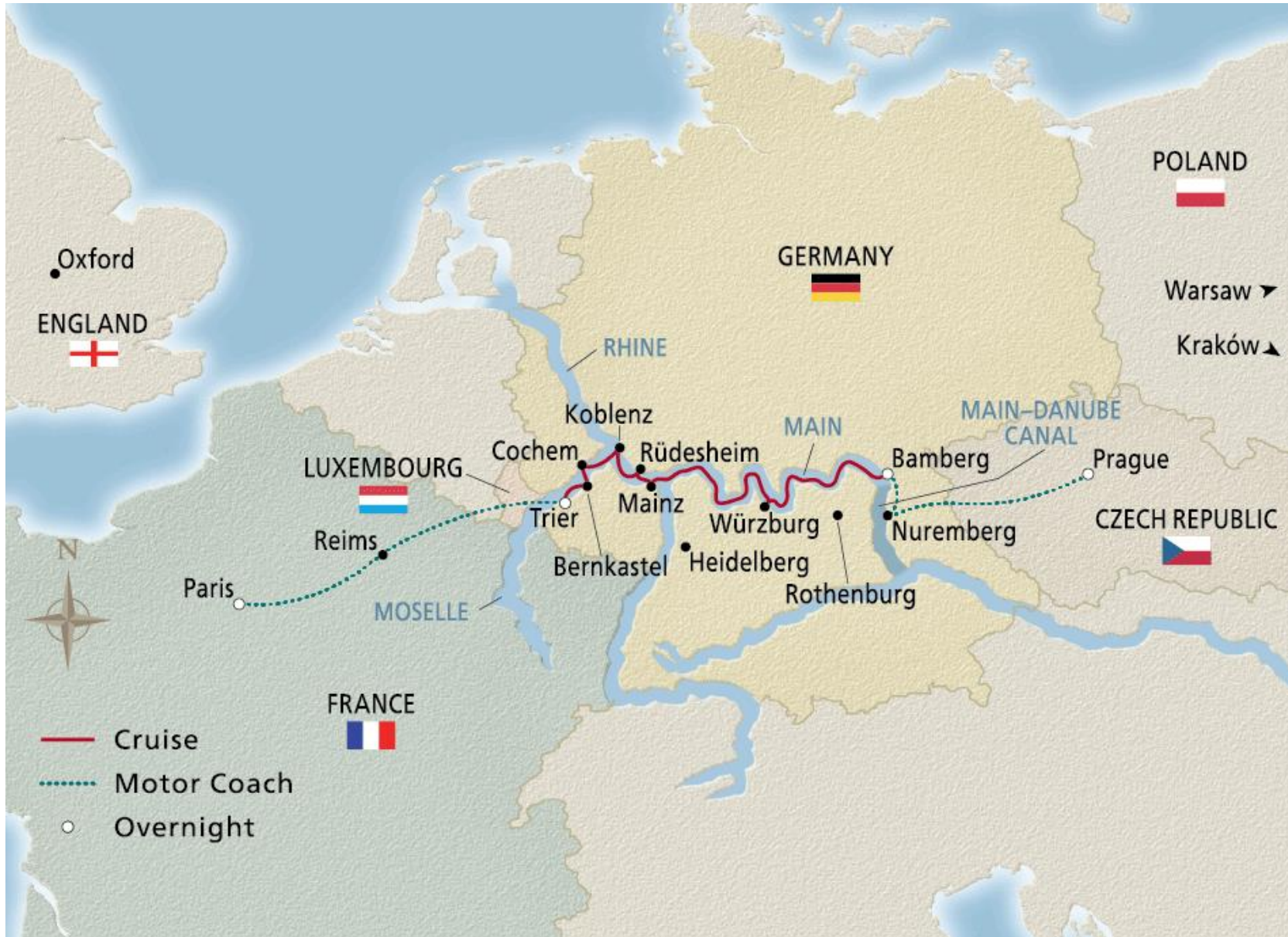
Hank Schrader

Europe River Cruise Expert

Overview

- Sail Europe's most iconic rivers: the Main, lined with quaint villages; the castle-studded Rhine; and the Moselle with its steep vineyards.
- Enjoy Privileged Access to Prague's Lobkowitz Palace.
- Delve into Nuremberg's history at the Imperial Castle and the former Nazi Party Rally Grounds.
- Taste legendary Moselle Rieslings.
- Savor Czech, German and French cuisine.
- With bookends in Paris and Prague, this 12-day journey celebrates Europe's most luminous ports.

Map from Viking River Cruises



Cities of Light

- Your Viking Cruise includes one shore excursion in each port of call (excluding embarkation and disembarkation ports), and there are many optional excursions in most ports that will allow you to customize your journey.
- A full list of available shore excursions is provided to each guest well in advance of each cruise.

Day 1 Paris, France

- Arrive in Paris, the romantic capital of France.
- Transfer from the Charles de Gaulle airport to your hotel for a 2-night stay.
- After check-in, enjoy free time to explore this exciting city, or join our “welcome walk” to stretch your legs and get oriented.

Day 2 Paris, France

- Today's tour begins with a drive along the Champs-Élysées, past the Arc de Triomphe to the world-famous Louvre.
- The remainder of the day is yours to experience more of this timeless city: visit a museum, explore Montmartre or take a moonlit cruise along the Seine River.
- The banks of the Seine, with their graceful bridges and unrivaled city views, are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- As always, your Program Director can help you plan your free time.
- (Breakfast)

Day 2 Shore Excursions

- Panoramic Paris—included
- Montmartre Hill—visit one of the most celebrated districts in Paris—Montmartre.
- Paris by Night Tour—experience the “City of Light” in its full illuminated glory.
- The Palace of Versailles—enjoy the day at the former home of French Kings: the awe-inspiring Chateau de Versailles.
- Paris Caberet with Dinner—celebrate the colorful tradition of *fin de siecle* Paris during an unforgettable night out.
- Monet’s Gardens & Highlights of Paris—stroll the enchanting gardens of the Monet Fondation and see the major sights of the romantic “City of Light”.

Day 3 Reims, France & Trier, Germany

- Today, stop in Reims for lunch and a visit to Reims Cathedral before continuing on to the Luxembourg American Cemetery to pay homage to the many Americans who lost their lives during the World War II Battle of the Bulge.
- Continue on to Trier and embark your ship.
- Dinner is served on board. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 3 Shore Excursions

- Reims Cathedral & Luxembourg American Cemetery—included

Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial.

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Day 4 Trier & Bernkastel, Germany

- Enjoy a morning tour of Trier, Germany's oldest city, set on the banks of the Moselle River.
- See the wonderfully preserved Roman Porta Nigra gate, Trier Cathedral and the Church of Our Lady.
- Lunch is served on your ship as we depart.
- Enjoy scenic cruising along the Moselle this afternoon.
- We dock in Bernkastel around dinnertime.
- After your evening meal you can take a walk through the town's cobblestone streets or join an optional wine-tasting excursion in this famous wine region.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 4 Shore Excursions

- Trier Highlights—included
- Bernkastel-Kues Wine Tasting—take in the beauty and the charm of the Moselle Valley's most enchanting towns and sample the wine that has put it on the map of oenophiles everywhere.

Porta Nigra



Photo Anne Schrader
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This 2022 picture is a good example of how large and ornate the Market Square is in the old town area of Trier. 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, Germanuy

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Bernkastel

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Bernkastel

Burg Landshut Ruins

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Market Square with Guard Tower (in the Background)



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Day 5 Cochem, Germany

- A walking tour takes you through the quaint Moselle town of Cochem.
- Then, visit imposing Reichsburg Castle.
- After lunch you sail the scenic Moselle to Winnigen, arriving in the evening during dinner.
- Explore the cobbled streets and cafés or stay on your ship and hear folktales about the Moselle.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 5 Shore Excursions

- Cochem, Reichsburg & the Moselle Valley—included
- Bycycling the Moselle—follow the meandering Moselle River past small villages, steep vineyards, sun-kissed slopes and lovely vistas..

Cochem

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Reichsburg Castle

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Main Square Cochem

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Day 6 Koblenz, Germany

- After breakfast, disembark for a tour of Marksburg Castle, the only Rhine fortress that was never destroyed. Since its fortifications have remained so intact, stepping inside is a veritable journey back to the Middle Ages.
- Take in views of the Rhine Valley from this castle's stunning vantage point.
- Return to your ship for lunch and enjoy cruising through the storied Middle Rhine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, lined with medieval castles, historic towns and vineyards.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 6 Shore Excursions

- Marksburg Castle—included
- Ehrenbreitstein Fortress--Ascend to the mighty fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, set high on a hill with magnificent views of Koblenz, the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers and the Eifel Hills.

Marksburg Castle



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Marksburg



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Marksburg

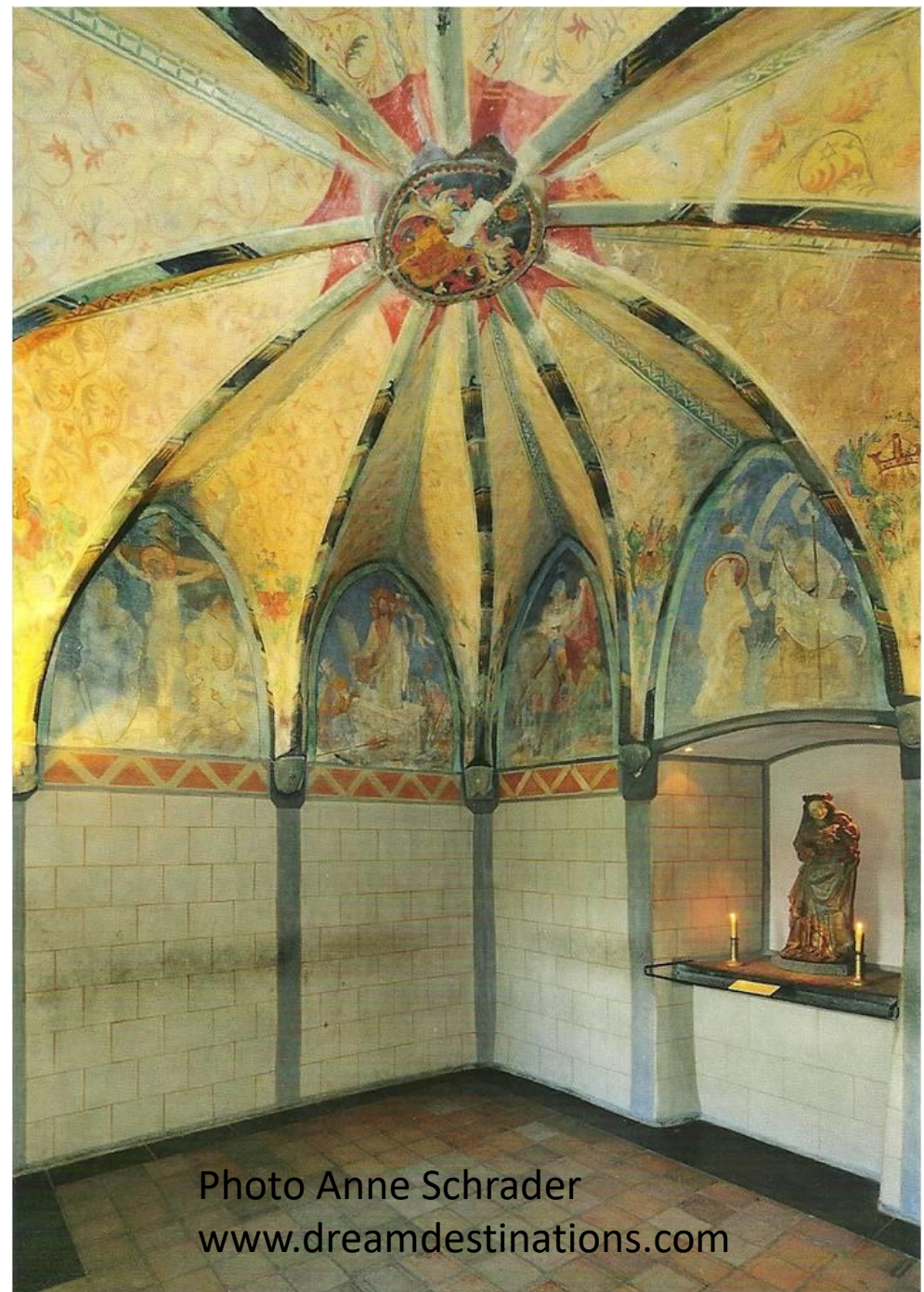


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Tram to Fortress



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Fortress Ehrenbreitstein

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Sailing the Rhine Gorge

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 7 Heidelberg, Germany

- Today's full-day excursion takes you to Heidelberg, home to Germany's oldest university.
- Tour the imposing red sandstone ruins of Heidelberg Castle, built in the 12th century but twice destroyed by lightning and then later rebuilt.
- A guided walk through the Heidelberg's Old Town and marketplace is included, as is lunch in a local restaurant.
- Return to your ship for dinner and departure.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 7 Shore Excursions

- Heidelberg Highlights & Lunch with University Students--included

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 Heidelberg



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Church of the Holy Spirit Heidelberg



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Golden Fleece Sign Heidelberg



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Hauptstrasse—the
main street in the old
town of Heidelberg



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Dirndls (Traditional Dresses) for sale Heidelberg



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Day 8 Würzburg, Germany

- Disembark in Karlstadt and take a half-day excursion to the enticing Franconian wine town of Würzburg where you tour the Bishops' Residenz, a beautiful baroque palace with numerous paintings and frescoes.
- Enjoy some free time in Würzburg this afternoon,
- or join an optional journey along the "Romantic Road" to the walled medieval village of Rothenburg.
- Meet your ship in Würzburg and dine on board.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 8 Shore Excursions

- Würzburg Residenz & Walk--Tour Würzburg's Bishops' Residenz, one of Germany's largest and most ornate palaces and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Rothenberg ob der Tauber--Follow the "Romantic Road" to one of Germany's last remaining walled medieval towns, lovingly preserved.
- Hike the Würzburg Hills--Climb the Würzburg Hills to Marienberg Fortress, rising above the Main River, for impressive city views.

Marienberg Fortress Würzburg



Old Stone Bridge Würzburg

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Residenz Palace Würzburg



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Garden statue Residenz Palace



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Translated from German, Plönlein is the small square at a fountain". This is probably the most famous picture of Rothenburg. (optional extra cost)



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Market Square Rothenburg



Burger Gate
(Castle Gate)
Rothenburg. This
gate was built
around 1460 and
is the western
gate entrance. It
is the highest
gate tower of the
town
fortifications.



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Day 9 Bamberg, Germany

- This morning, enjoy scenic cruising along the Main River as you make your way eastward through the Franconia region of Germany.
- After lunch we stop in the historic town of Bamberg, founded in 902 and an important center of the German Enlightenment.
- Enjoy a walking tour of Bamberg's beautifully preserved Old Town area, a UNESCO World Heritage Site,
- then take time to explore or perhaps sample the town's famous locally brewed smoky beer, *rauchbier*.
- Dine on board.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 9 Shore Excursions

- Bamberg Walking Tour--included

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Bamberg
Rathaus
(town hall)

Bamberg Cathedral



New Residence Rose Garden, Bamberg, Germany

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Day 10 Nuremberg, Germany

- After breakfast, disembark in Bamberg for a tour of the Bavarian city of Nuremberg.
- See the ruins of Zeppelin Field, Nazi parade grounds of the 1930s, and the Palace of Justice, the venerable vestige of the Nuremberg Trials.
- Enjoy lunch on your own, then transfer to Prague.
- Check in to your hotel for a 2-night stay and take time to explore the city and see what you discover.
- (Breakfast)

Day 10 Shore Excursions

- Nuremberg Through History--included

The Walled City of Nuremberg. There are 4 km of walls and 67 defensive towers that ring the old town

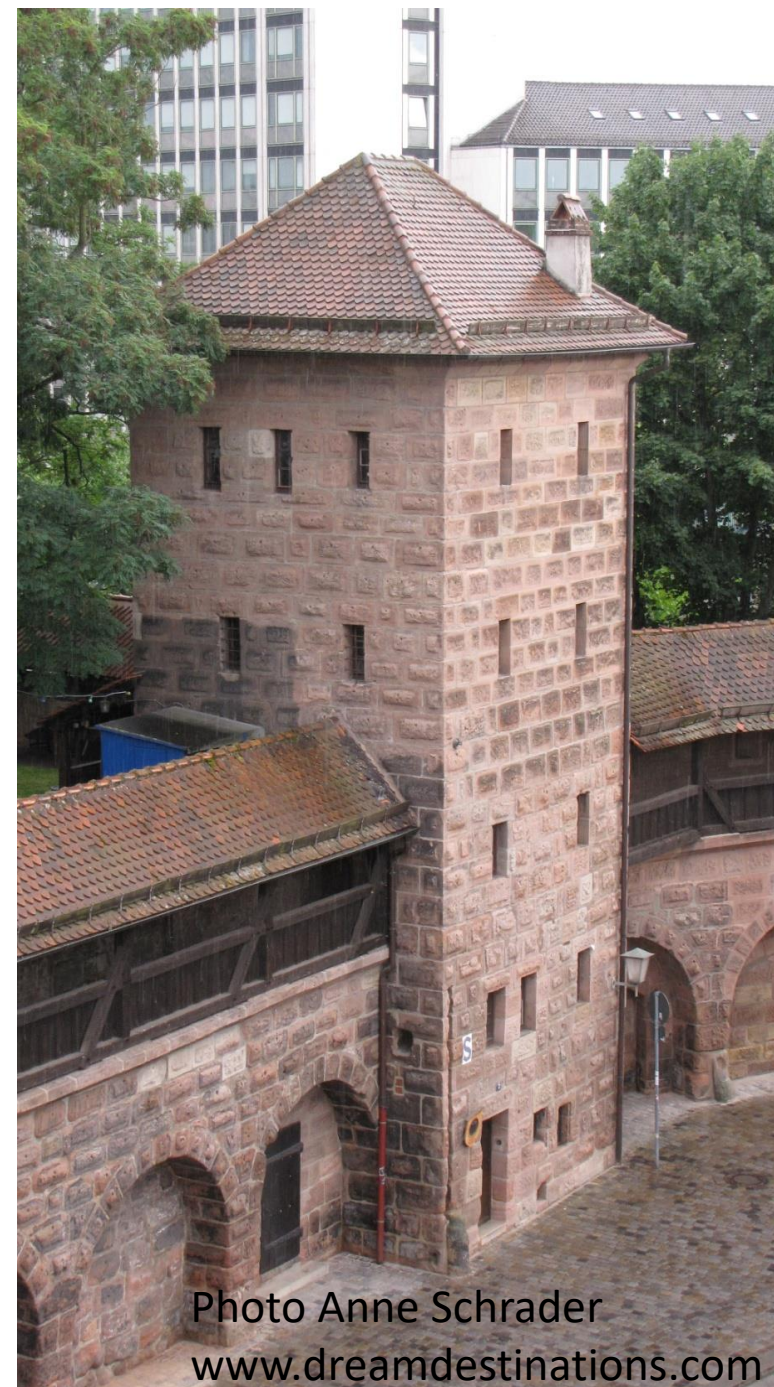


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Maxbrücke (also called Hangman's Bridge) at the Pegnitz River—Nuremberg's oldest stone bridge

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Day 11 Prague, Czech Republic

- This morning, tour the “City of a Hundred Spires.”
- A guided walk takes you through Old Town to the famed Charles Bridge.
- Then, travel to Hradčany for a guided tour inside Prague Castle and St. Vitus Cathedral.
- Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure; you can see the Town Hall’s intricate 15th-century astronomical clock and spend some time in historic Wenceslas Square.
- You also have the opportunity today to join an optional tour to Lobkowitz Palace.
- (Breakfast)

Day 11 Land Excursions

- Panoramic Prague—included
- Privileged Access: Lobkowitz Palace--See the stately residence of one of the region's most avid patrons of the arts and admire the priceless artifacts they left behind.
- Prague Folklore Dinner-- Raise a glass to the vibrant and colorful traditions of Czech culture during a fun-filled evening of food, dance and wine.

Day 12 Prague, Czech Republic

- After breakfast, check out of your hotel and proceed to the airport for your return flight.
- Or extend your journey with 2 additional nights in Prague and discover more of this celebrated city.
- (Breakfast)

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