

# Paris to the Swiss Alps Viking River Cruises

By

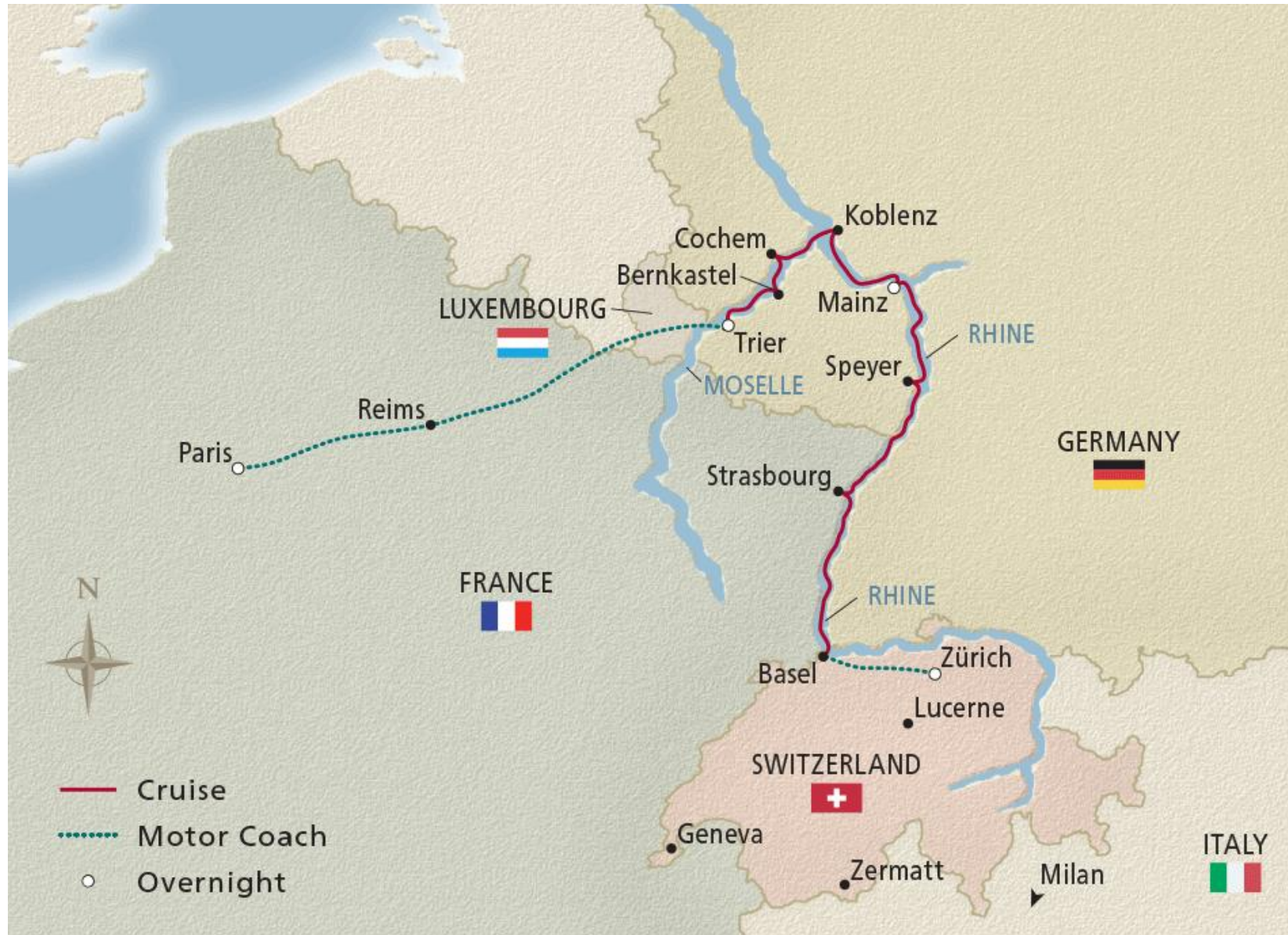
Hank Schrader

Europe River Cruise Expert

# Overview

- Pay your respects at the Luxembourg American Cemetery.
- Discover Roman Trier.
- Taste Moselle Rieslings and visit the wine town of Bernkastel-Kues.
- Enjoy scenic cruising past the town of Sankt Goar, home of the Lorelei Rock, and through the Rhine Gorge, a UNESCO Site.
- Visit fascinating Worms and the university town of Heidelberg.
- Vineyard-flanked slopes and historic cities, along with hotel stays in Paris and Zürich, make this 12-day cruise tour irresistible.

# Map From Viking River Cruises



# Paris to Zürich

- 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 Seine River, past the city's landmarks such as Notre Dame Cathedral, the world-famous Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay.
- Ride along the Champs-Élysées past the Arc de Triomphe.
- The remainder of the day is yours to experience more of this timeless city: visit a museum or explore Montmartre.
- 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—  
Montarte
- 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



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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. 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

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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

- Disembark in the quaint town of Cochem for a tour of this stunning medieval town and its millennium-old Reichsburg Castle perched on a hill.
- Visit the scenic Moselle wine country, where some of the finest Rieslings in the world are produced along terraced slopes.
- During your tour, delve into a wine-making history that dates back nearly 2,000 years to Roman times.
- Stop at a local winery for a tour and tasting before returning to your ship for Moselle cruising this afternoon.
- (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.
- An Evening of Music & Wine—celebrate the music and wines of the Moselle region in one of Germany's most picturesque villages.

# Cochem

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# Reichsburg Castle

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# Main Square Cochem

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# Day 6 Koblenz, Germany

- Sail along the Middle Rhine today and enjoy scenic cruising through the Rhine Gorge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Explore historic Koblenz and stroll through the romantic town as you witness where the Rhine and Moselle Rivers meet.
- Pass the sleepy town of Sankt Goar, home to Rhinefels Castle, the largest fortress on the Rhine, and see Lorelei Rock, named after the fabled figure who once lured sailors to her shores.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 6 Shore Excursions

- Historic Koblenz—included
- Fairy-tale Eltz Castle—visit Eltz Castle, a medieval castle in the heart of the Eifel region and considered Europe's most beautiful castle.

# Fortress Ehrenbreitstein

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# Sailing the Rhine Gorge

# 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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# Day 7 Mainz, Germany

- Arrive in Mainz today in the heart of the Rhine wine region.
- Visit one of the Upper Rhine's most dramatic cathedrals here: Mainz Cathedral, with its six towers reaching toward the heavens.
- Browse the Gutenberg Museum, dedicated to the inventor of movable type and book printing.
- The collection includes many beautiful books and fascinating printing technologies, including a replica of Gutenberg's workshop.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 7 Shore Excursions

- Mainz Walking Tour & Gutenberg Museum—included
- Jewish Mainz & Chagall Window—discover Mainz and view the stunning Chagall stained-glass window that adorns St. Stephen's Church.
- The Working World of Opel—step behind the scenes of Opel, one of the world's leading car manufacturers.
- Wine & Nature of Schloss Vollrads—visit one of Germany's oldest winemakers and enjoy a tasting of the estate's leading Rieslings.

# Day 8 Speyer, Germany

- Explore the quiet German town of Speyer, on the west bank of the Rhine.
- Visit its stunning Romanesque imperial cathedral, considered a pivotal structure in the evolution of European architecture.
- This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the burial place of eight emperors, including some of the most famous Holy Roman Emperors.
- Stroll Speyer's charming, shop-lined main street and see the impressive clock tower of its Altpörtel, the Old Town Gate.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 8 Shore Excursions

- Speyer Walking Tour—included
- Heidelberg & Martin Luther's Worms—visit two of Germany's most historic cities, one renowned for its religious past and the other for its university.
- Gardens of Schloss Schwetzingen—visit the stunning gardens of Schloss Schwetzingen and admire the baroque architecture and beautiful flora.

# Towers of the Speyer Cathedral

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# Side view of Speyer Cathedral



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# Front Entrance of the Speyer Dom



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Jakob Spilger  
Pilgrim Statue.  
Speyer is part of the  
historic pilgrimage r  
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



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# Day 9 Strasbourg, France

- Visit Strasbourg today, the cultural center of France's Alsace region.
- Thanks to its location at the border of France and Germany, it boasts a convivial mix of cultural influences.
- See its well-preserved Old Town, or Petite France, enclosed on all sides by the little Ill River.
- Stroll the cobblestone streets lined with half-timbered houses and intersected by picturesque canals, pausing to visit the cathedral. Indulging in Alsatian café culture is central to any visit here.
- You might join an excursion to sample Alsatian wine.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 9 Shore Excursions

- Strasbourg Highlights—included
- Alsatian Wine Tasting—explore the treasures of Alsace from its Renaissance beauty and distinct culture to its crisp, clean white wines.
- Flavors of Alsace—sample Alsatian and French flavors and pleasures as you meet food merchants, a French sommelier and a local chef.
- Mercedes-Benz Factory—witness the precision that goes into every Mercedes on this fascinating tour.
- Strasbourg from the Top—view Strasbourg from the top of its cathedral and explore its historic culture rich center.

# 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

Photo Anne 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 10 Basel & Zürich, Switzerland

- Disembark in Basel, a fascinating blend of modern and traditional with a thriving arts scene.
- Get acquainted with its Market Square of guild houses and Gothic, Renaissance, and baroque splendor.
- Then continue by coach to Zürich, beautifully set on its namesake lake.
- The nation's largest city, it is often cited as one of Europe's most livable places.
- (Breakfast)

# Day 10 Shore Excursions

- Basel Highlights—included
- Highlights of the Alps—immerse yourself for a day among splendid vistas and rich culture of alpine Switzerland.

# The Rhine River at Basel

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# Basel Town Hall on Market Square



# Day 11 Zürich, Switzerland

- Discover Zürich during a city walk and lake cruise.
- As you explore, the distant snowcapped Alps tower across the lake and cast their reflection in the glassy waters.
- See the twin-spired Grossmünster church, founded by Charlemagne, with its stained-glass windows by Augusto Giacometti.
- Across the Limatt River, admire the Fraumünster, with its distinctive green spire. Marc Chagall created five windows of the abbey's choir.
- After your walk, embark a boat for a scenic tour on Lake Zürich.
- (Breakfast)

# Day 11 Shore Excursions

- Zurich Walking Tour & Lake Cruise—included
- Lindt Exclusive Chocolate Workshop—become a Maitre Chocolatier during a hand-on workshop in chocolate making at the Lindt headquarters in Kilchberg.
- Swiss Cuisine at a Historic Guild House—dine at a traditional guild house and enjoy an authentic Swiss dining experience
- Zurich West by Foot—explore Zurich’s urban renaissance during a walking tour of the contemporary Zurich West.

# Day 12 Zürich, Switzerland

- After breakfast, check out of your hotel and proceed to the Zürich airport for your return flight.
- (Breakfast)

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- [hschrader@visitdd.com](mailto:hschrader@visitdd.com)
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