

Rhine Castles & Swiss Alps AmaWaterways River Cruises

By

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Map From AmaWaterways



Overview

- Discover fairytale castles and historic vineyards as part of this spectacular Rhine River cruise fantasy.
- Start by exploring the canal laden city of Amsterdam, with its neat rows of buildings and rich history.
- Then it's off to Germany, where you'll discover not only the grand city of Cologne but charming villages like the winemaking hamlet of Rudesheim and the university town of Heidelberg.
- Enjoy cruising through the UNESCO designated Rhine Gorge, where 40 castles are strung like pearls along the riverbanks.
- Cross the border into France's Alsace region in enchanting Strasbourg and take in spectacular panoramas of the Swiss Alps.
- Encompassing the Netherlands, Germany, France and Switzerland, as well as iconic landmarks and majestic mountain landscapes, this distinctive itinerary is truly a dream come true.

Day 1 AMSTERDAM

- EMBARKATION
- Board the ship for your Rhine Castles & Swiss Alps cruise.
- (D)

Amsterdam's Main Square (Dam Square)

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 2 AMSTERDAM

- Canal cruise tour
- There are 165 canals in Amsterdam, and you'll get enjoy some of them on your canal cruise.
- Later in the day, set sail out of Amsterdam
- Scenic cruising out of Amsterdam

Canal Boats in Amsterdam

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



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

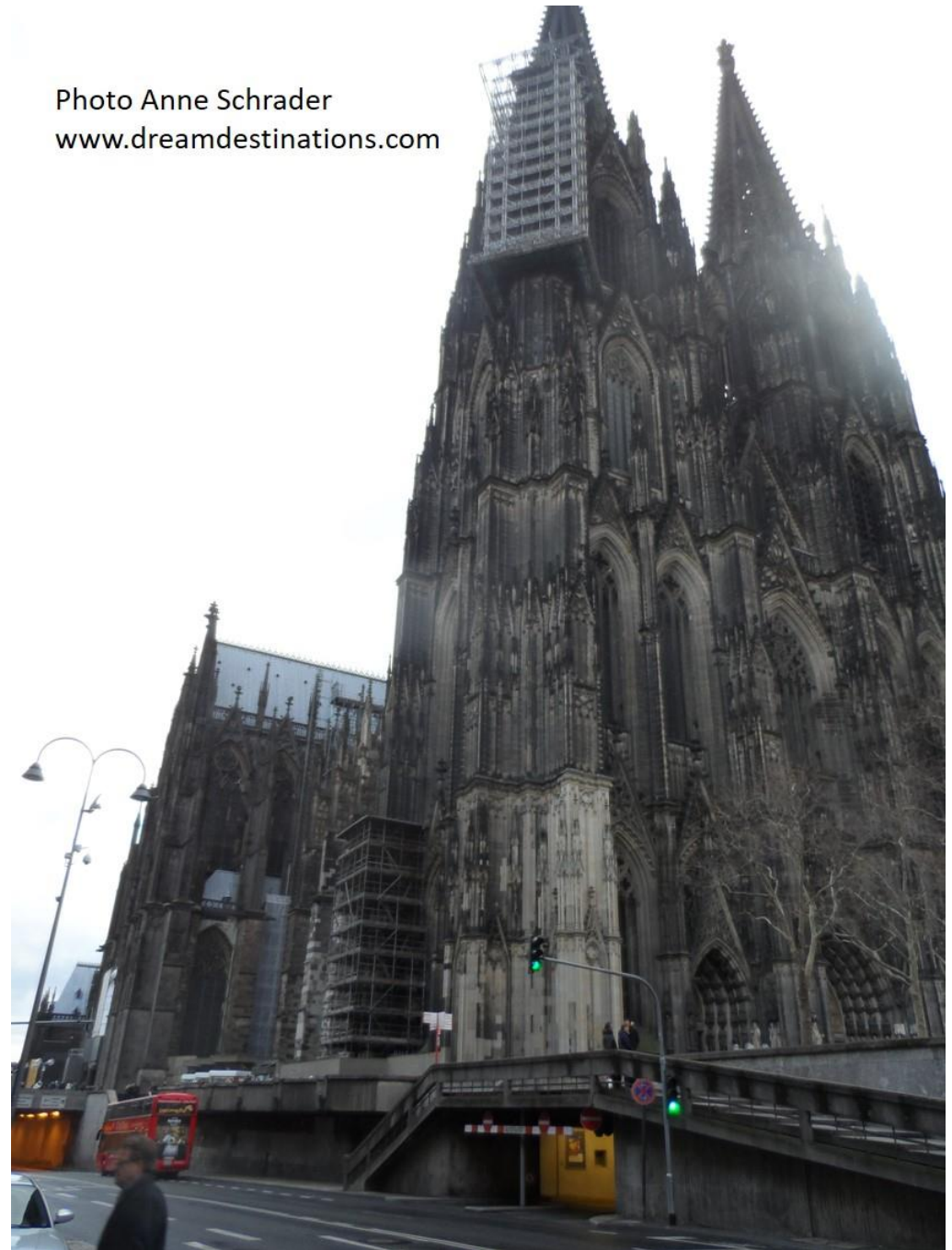


Day 3 COLOGNE

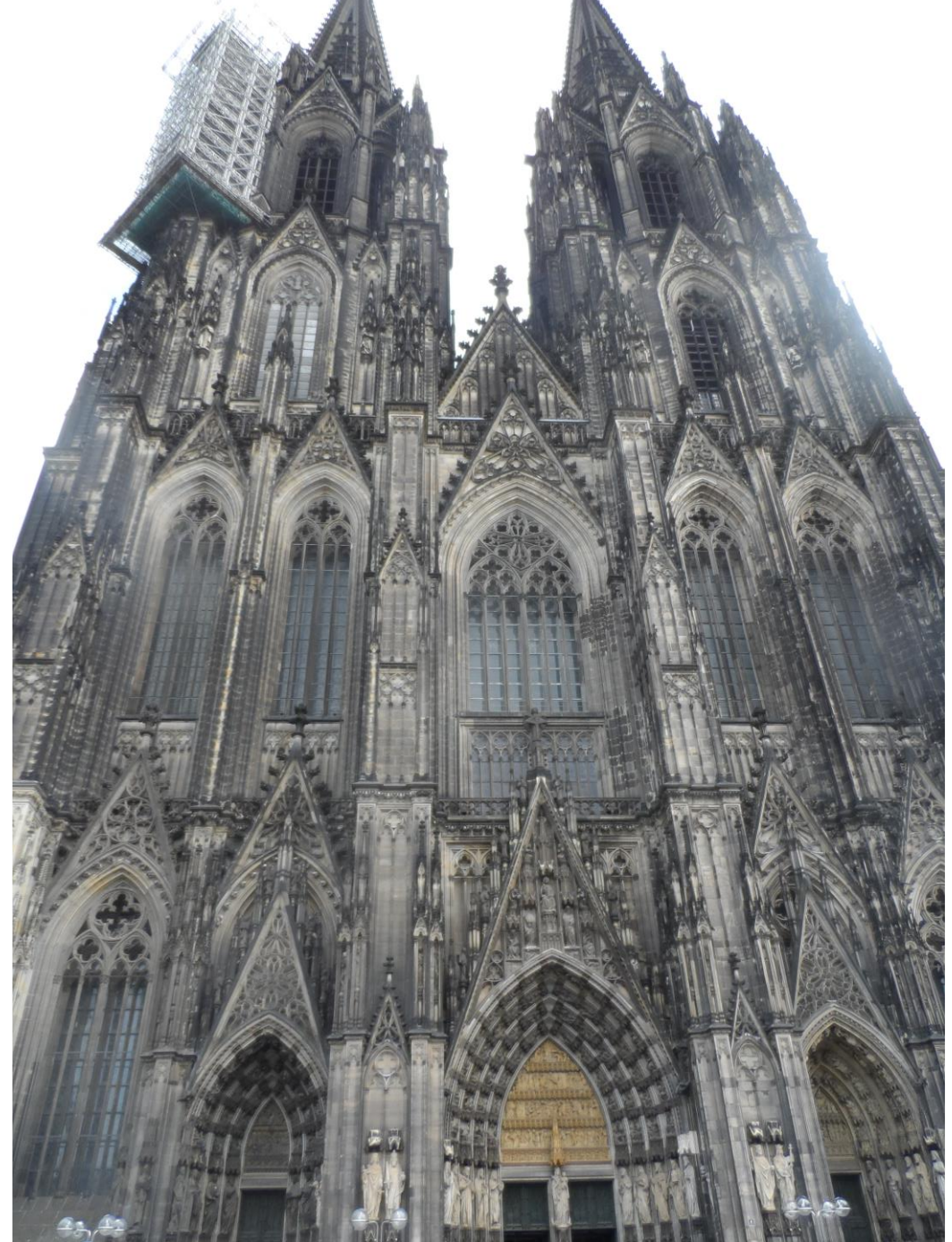
- Holy City” walking tour and cathedral visit
- OR Kölsch beer and local specialties tasting
- OR Cologne bike tour
- Enjoy cruising to Cologne.
- Join a guided tour through the Old Town and explore the UNESCO designated Cologne Cathedral, one of Germany’s most revered Gothic masterpieces.
- Continue to the Cologne Rathaus, Germany’s oldest town hall, plus see other local sights.
- For a different view, visit a local tavern to taste its famous Kölsch beer, only made in Cologne, and reibekuchen mit apfelmus, potato pancakes typically served with applesauce.
- Active adventurers will want to join a guided bike ride along the Rhine and through the historic Stadtgarten.
- (B,L,D)

Cologne Cathedral

Photo Anne Schrader
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Cologne Cathedral



German-Roman Museum

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Hohenzollern Bridge



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Old Town Main Square during the Christmas Markets



Day 4 RHINE GORGE

- Castles along the Rhine scenic cruising
- Rüdesheim wine tasting
- OR Gondola ride
- OR Vineyard hike
- OR Guided bike tour of the Rheingau
- Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum
- OR Rüdesheimer Coffee

Rhine Castles



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestination.com

Marksburg Castle



Photo Anne Schrader
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Maus (Mouse) Castle

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com



Katz (Cat) Castle

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



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
www.dreamdestinations.com



Reichenstein Castle



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Sailing into Rudesheim

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Gondola Ride Rüdesheim



Germania Monument

Photo Anne Schrader
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Germania Monument



Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum

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Photo Hank Schrader
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Hank & Jim (our client) enjoy a Rudesheimer Coffee



Rüdesheimer Coffee



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Rüdesheim

Photo Anne Schrader
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RÜDESHEIM



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Crowded
Drosselgasse
Lane
Rüdesheim



Day 5 LUDWIGSHAFEN

- “Romantic Heidelberg” excursion
- OR Heidelberg Philosopher’s hike
- OR “Secrets of Speyer” tour
- OR Ladenburg bike tour
- Ludwigshafen is your gateway to a choice of four excursions.
- Visit Heidelberg, the perfectly preserved medieval city nestled in the Neckar River Valley along Germany’s Castle Road.
- Discover the iconic red sandstone Heidelberg Castle and Great Vat, an 18th century, 49,000-gallon wine cask.
- Take an active adventure while in Heidelberg, join a guided hike up the Philosopher’s Path, aptly named during the Romantic Period and enjoy panoramic views of the city.
- Alternatively, you can visit one of Germany’s oldest cities, Speyer, known for the largest Romanesque cathedral in Europe—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—and the medieval Old Gate, Altpörtel.
- Or pedal along the river Neckar to the picturesque medieval city center of Ladenburg and enjoy some free time to explore the shops.

Heidelberg Castle in the Snow

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Old Bridge in Heidelberg

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Old Bridge Gate Heidelberg



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

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



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Church of the Holy Spirit



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Golden Fleece Sign



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Hauptstrasse—the
main street in the old
town of Heidelberg



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Dirndls (Traditional Dresses) for sale



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Towers of the Speyer Cathedral

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Side view of Speyer Cathedral



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Front Entrance of the Speyer Dom



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

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



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 6 STRASBOURG

- “The Gem of Alsace” tour
- OR Strasbourg bike tour
- Strasbourg offers flavors of both France and Germany because of its borderline location.
- Enjoy a panoramic tour past the stunning Parc de l’Orangerie, the European Parliament and the Place de la République before walking through its iconic “La Petite France” district, lifted straight from pages of a fairytale.
- Wander through charming streets past the Cathédrale de Nôtre Dame with its famous astronomical clock.
- Alternatively, take a guided bike ride through the city and Parc de l’Orangerie.
- (B,L,D)

Strasbourg



Photo Anne Schrader
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Strasbourg

Photos Hank Schrader



There are plenty of small places to eat



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Colorful Shop in Strasbourg



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

A narrow lane in Old Town Strasbourg

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com



Photo Hank Schrader
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Medieval Watch Towers Strasbourg, France

Strasbourg



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Palais Rohan

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



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



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 7 Basel

- “City of Art” tour
- OR Three countries bike tour
- OR Lake Lucerne Full Day Tour
- Lake Lucerne Half Day Tour
- Enjoy getting to know Basel, Switzerland’s third largest city.
- Long an important university, banking and trade center, Basel’s glorious past is still evident in its medieval town hall, richly decorated market square and exquisite 18th century patrician homes.
- Tour the city by foot or on a guided bike tour that takes you through three countries: Switzerland, France and Germany.
- Alternatively, go on a full day excursion to Lake Lucerne,
- or opt for one of the morning excursions and visit Lucerne in the afternoon.
- With either Lake Lucerne excursion, you’ll have the opportunity to see its Lion Monument – the figure of a dying lion carved into a hillside in memory of the Swiss Guards massacred during the French Revolution in 1792 – which Mark Twain described as “the most mournful and moving piece of stone in the world.”
- You’ll also see Lake Lucerne’s spectacular medieval walls and towers, dating back to the 13th century.
- (B,L,D)

The Rhine River at Basel

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Basel Town Hall



Lion Monument –
the figure of a dying
lion carved into a
hillside in memory
of the Swiss Guards
massacred
during the French
Revolution in 1792



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Lucerne Covered Bridge

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Lucerne

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Lucerne Walls

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Colorful Restaurant Lucerne



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 8 Basel

- Bid farewell to Basel and prepare for your flight home. (B)