

Rhine & Moselle Delights

By Hank Schrader

Europe River Cruise Expert

Overview of the Rhine & Moselle Delight River Cruise

- Dramatic rivers yielding to fairytale towns and iconic cities all come alive as you discover four countries along the storied Rhine and Moselle.
- From Switzerland's pristine cities—Lucerne and Zurich—to the colorful canals of Amsterdam, delve deeply into the history, legends and culture.
- Wander through postcard-perfect towns such Riquewihr, Freiburg, Bernkastel and Cochem.
- Soar high above the Rhine with a gondola ride in Rudesheim and above the Moselle with a hike to Reichsburg Castle.
- Uncover the secrets of Trier's Porta Nigra—Germany's oldest city and often referred to as the second Rome.
- Grand Baroque palaces, whimsical gardens and a plethora of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, provide lovers of enchantment, historians and connoisseurs of fine wine, beer and food with the best these regions offer.

Route Map from AmaWaterways



Day 1 **EMBARKATION – BASEL, SWITZERLAND**

- Board the ship for your Rhine & Moselle Delights cruise.

The Rhine River at Basel

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Basel Town Hall



Day 2 BREISACH

- Step back in time with a visit to the enchanting Alsatian town of Riquewihr, which looks almost the same as it did in the 16th century. On your walking tour, admire historic architecture as well as famous sights, such as the Dolder Gate.
- Alternatively, you may wish to go to Freiburg, founded in 1120 and home to the Freiburg's Münster, a Gothic cathedral said to have "the most beautiful spire on earth."
- Those wishing a more active excursion can cycle through the scenic countryside, or go on a hike to the Black Forest*, a magical land full of cultural traditions, as well as home to elaborate cuckoo clocks. (B,L,D)

Riquewihr Dolder Gate



Riquewihr



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Riquewahr

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Riquewihr

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Freiburg—Historic Merchant's Hall in the Augustinerplatz.



Market at Munster Square, Freiburg



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 3 STRASBOURG

- Strasbourg, the capital city of Alsace, offers flavors of both France and Germany. Enjoy a panoramic tour past the stunning Parc de l'Orangerie, the European Parliament and the Place de la République. Then walk through its iconic UNESCO World Heritage "La Petite France" district, which appears to have been lifted straight from the pages of a fairytale. Wander through these charming streets and past the Cathédrale de Notre Dame with its famous astronomical clock.
- Alternatively, the active adventurer can take a guided bike ride through this captivating city and Parc de l'Orangerie. (B,L,D)

Strasbourg



Photo Anne Schrader
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Strasbourg

Photos Hank Schrader



Day 4 LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY – RÜDESHEIM

- Visit Heidelberg, a perfectly preserved medieval city nestled in the Neckar River Valley along Germany's Castle Road.
- For a more active adventure while in Heidelberg, join a guided hike up the Philosopher's Path, aptly named during the Romantic Period, and be rewarded with panoramic views of the city.
- Alternatively, relive a bygone era on a tour of the glorious Schwetzingen Baroque Palace
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- Later in the day, sail to Rudesheim where you can visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum or taste one of the town's special delights, Rudsheimer coffee, ceremoniously made with brandy. (B,L,D)

Heidelberg Castle

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Old Bridge Gate Heidelberg



Photo Anne Schrader
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Sailing into Rudesheim

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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





Rudesheim

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RÜDESHEIM



Crowded
Drosselgasse
Lane
Rüdesheim



Day 5 RÜDESHEIM – RHINE GORGE

- Your exploration of Rüdesheim continues with your choice of three excursions. Take a gondola ride to the Niederwalddenkmal Statue. Afterwards, indulge your taste buds with a sampling of Riesling wines in the vineyards.
- Alternatively, you can join a guided bike ride through the town and along the Rhine River to Schloss Johannisberg or hike through the town's beautiful vineyards.
- During the afternoon, set sail along the scenic Rhine River Gorge with its fabled legends and many castles. (B,L,D)

Gondola Ride Rüdesheim



Germania Monument

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Rhine Castles



Photo Anne Schrader
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Rhine River Gorge

Photos Hank Schrader



Castles



Pfalzgrafenstein Toll Station, Germany



Reichsburg Castle Cochem Germany



Rheinstein Castle, Rhine River Castles



Marksburg Castle, Germany

Day 6 BERNKASTEL

- Sail to Bernkastel, located in the middle of the Moselle Valley's wine-producing region
- Walk through its colorful Old Town center and past many medieval and Renaissance buildings on a guided tour, and afterwards, be treated to a wine tasting.
- Cycling enthusiasts can choose to join a bike tour along the shores of the Moselle River, and hikers can opt to trek up to the ruins of Landshut Castle. (B,L,D)

Bernkastel

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Bernkastel

Burg Landshut Ruins

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Market Square with Guard Tower (in the Background)



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 7 TRIER

- Enjoy a scenic morning cruise along the Moselle River to Trier, Germany's oldest city
- Discover on a city tour why it has been called the "Rome of the North" or "Second Rome" as it has impressive Roman relics and nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Alternatively, go in search of the secrets of the Porta Nigra Gate on a tour that takes you back to a time when Rome ruled the world from the Emperor's seat in Trier.
- You also have the choice of a bike tour through the historic city center and along the Moselle River; or hike high above Trier to Petrisberg.
(B,L,D)

Porta Nigra, Trier



Photo Anne Schrader
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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. 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

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Day 8 **COCHEM**

- Discover how the castle has been an integral part of the town's history, and afterwards, go on a walking tour along Cochem's narrow cobblestone streets lined with medieval houses.
- For a more active excursion, hike to the castle or go on a biking tour along the Moselle River.
- As an alternative excursion, you can visit one of Europe's oldest working mustard mills where you will sample Cochem's famous mustard. (B,L,D)

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 9 **COLOGNE**

- Join a guided tour through the Old Town and explore the UNESCO-designated cathedral. Continue on to the Cologne Rathaus, Germany's oldest town hall, and take in other local sights.
- For a different view of the city, visit a local tavern to taste its famous Kölsch beer, only made in Cologne, and reibekuchen mit apfelmus, potato pancakes typically served with applesauce.
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Cologne Cathedral

Photo Anne Schrader
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Old Town Main Square during the Christmas Markets



Day 10 **AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS.**

- View Amsterdam on a scenic canal cruise followed by a walk to Begijnhof, known for its Middle Age buildings.
- Or taste the local flavor on a guided walk past the city's iconic canals, gabled houses, narrow bridges and house boats, tasting Dutch specialties at a grand Amsterdam cafe. (B,L,D)

Amsterdam's Main Square (Dam Square)

Photo Anne Schrader
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Canal Boats in Amsterdam

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



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



Day 11 **AMSTERDAM – DISEMBARKATION**

- Bid Farewell to Amsterdam and prepare for your flight home. (B)

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