

The Rhine & Moselle: Avalon Waterways

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

Route Map From Avalon Waterways



Overview

- Your cruise on the Rhine and Moselle Rivers begins in Basel, Switzerland, to explore extraordinary cities in Germany and France, as well as Holland's capital of Amsterdam.
- At the foot of Kaiserstuhl Mountain on the French-German border sits Breisach—the gateway to Germany's beautiful Black Forest.
- Continue your river cruise to Strasbourg, France, where a local expert will show you the red-sandstone Gothic-style cathedral with ancient murals and its fascinating astronomical clock.
- Visit the ruins of Heidelberg Castle, towering magnificently over the city, then sail for the charming Rhine Valley wine town of Rüdesheim.

Overview

- Cruise through the dramatic Rhine Gorge for the most beautiful view of the Rhine River and see ancient castles standing majestically on cliffs 400 feet above the water.
- Visit Koblenz, strategically located at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers, before coming to the charming wine village of Bernkastel!
- Here, you'll go on a guided walk and taste some of the famed Moselle wines.
- Visit a medieval castle, then sail back into the Rhine and explore the magnificent city of Cologne, Germany, which spans both sides of the Rhine River.
- Your river cruise vacation ends in marvelous Amsterdam.
- Take in the sights on a canal cruise through the elegant Grachten lined with stately homes dating back to the city's "Golden Age."

Day 1 Basel

- Welcome to Basel. Your Suite Ship[®] is Ready for Boarding.
- Flights into Zürich or Basel must arrive by 3 pm.
- Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.
- Enjoy dinner and explore the ship on your first night on board.
- **Wonders of Basel Optional Tour (Extra Cost)**
- See the wonders of Basel by coach and on foot during this enjoyable guided excursion that shows off the best of this 2,000-year-old city.
- EVENING CRUISE TO BREISACH

Mittlere Bridge Over the Rhine Basel

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Little Chapel on the Mittlere Bridge Basel



Old Town Basel as seen from the Rhine River

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Town Hall & Market Square Basel



Neptune Fountain Old Town Basel



Henman Sevogel Basel Fountain

He is the hero of the battle of St. Jakob. Although he lost his life during the battle and the Swiss lost the battle, they inflicted so many losses on the French, that they stopped their advance into Switzerland.



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 2 Breisach

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy the view on a relaxing bike ride along the Rhine with your Adventure Host (Extra Cost), OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Join a full-day Guided Tour to the magical Black Forest to experience the Vogtsbauernhof open-air-museum, visit an authentic water mill, and see a traditional butter-making demonstration, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Visit to a local winery in Breisach, where you will learn about German winemaking and enjoy a wine tasting, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join A Guided Tour to explore Freiburg's medieval city center, sheltered by the Black Forest amid vineyards and gardens of the Upper Rhine Valley.
- Optional Excursion (Extra Cost) **Storybook Colmar, France's Little Venice**
- Discover the fusion of German and French culture on this wonderful guided tour through storybook Colmar, the "Little Venice" of France and capital of the Alsace wine region.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO STRASBOURG

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Freiburg—Historic Merchant's Hall in the Augustinerplatz.



Market at Munster Square, Freiburg



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 3 Strasbourg

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Discover Strasbourg by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a City Sightseeing Tour, including the city's Gothic, stained-glass cathedral with its celebrated ancient murals and astronomical clock, as well as the magical La Petite France District.
- **2 Optional Tours (Extra Cost)**
- **Into the Alsace Countryside with Wine Tasting**
- Travel along the famed Alsace Wine Route on this enchanting half-day excursion that visits a traditional medieval Alsace village and includes a cellar tasting of the local wines.
- **Defending France: The Maginot Line of WWII**
- Explore France's awe-inspiring WWII Maginot Line, one of the greatest networks of defensive fortifications ever built, on this guided visit through the underground barracks, storehouses, and railways.
- Alternatively, take some free time in Strasbourg to visit a museum, or stroll across the city center.
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO LUDWIGSHAFEN**

Strasbourg



Photo Anne Schrader
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Strasbourg

Photos Hank Schrader



There are plenty of small places to eat



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Colorful Shop in Strasbourg



Photo Anne Schrader
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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

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



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 4 Ludwigshafen

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Join your Avalon Adventure Host for an inspiring walk in Heidelberg, the Philosophers' way, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take an entertaining Guided Tour to the famous Frankenstein castle, nestled in the hills of the Western Odenwald area, and enjoy a breathtaking view on the Rhine Valley, OR:
- **EXCURSION:** Enjoy a Guided Tour to Heidelberg Castle to see the ruins of the magnificent renaissance treasure towering above the city, and its famed Great Vat, the “World’s Largest Wine Barrel.”
- Enjoy sailing a leisurely afternoon sailing to Rüdesheim.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN RÜDESHEIM**

Heidelberg Castle in the Snow

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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 Heidelberg



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Church of the Holy Spirit Heidelberg



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Golden Fleece Sign Heidelberg



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 Heidelberg



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 5 Rüdesheim to Koblenz

- This morning leave Rüdesheim after breakfast and enjoy the breathtaking views as you cruise through the spectacular Rhine Gorge on your way to Koblenz.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore Koblenz's Mosel side by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided City Walk amid ancient fortresses walls, towers, squares and monuments, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Visit the Sayn Manor House on a Guided Tour.
- Later, enjoy live entertainment onboard.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BERNKASTEL

Sailing from Rudesheim

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Marksburg Castle



Photo Anne Schrader
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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



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Koblenz, Germany Jesuit Square



Photo Anne Schrader
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Deutsches Eck (German Corner) Koblenz



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Deutsches Eck (German Corner) Koblenz



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

St Castor's
Basilica
Koblenz



Goerresplaz
Square
Koblenz. The
fountain is a
summary of the
2000-year
history of
Koblenz



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 6 Bernkastel

- This morning enjoy a leisurely sailing.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Join your Adventure Host for an hike in this beautiful area (Extra Cost) , OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Walking Tour of the charming wine village of Bernkastel—with its medieval marketplace and 17th-century gabled timber-framed houses.
- This afternoon, select a Guided Optional Excursion to a local winery for a wine tasting.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO REMICH

Bernkastel

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Market Square with Guard Tower (in the Background)



Photo Anne Schrader
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Bear Fountain Bernkastel



Bernkastel Street

Photo Anne Schrader
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Photo Anne Schrader
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Bernkastel

Burg Landshut Ruins

Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 7 Remich

- Enjoy a free morning to discover Remich on your own. Alternatively choose among the Guided Optional Excursions available.
- During lunch time enjoy a short sailing to Trier.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Wander and Discover Trier. Follow your Adventure Host for a Walk in and around this city, OR
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Sightseeing tour of Trier— Germany's oldest city with ancient remnants dating from 144-152 AD. Starting from Porta Nigra, walk through the city center, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a history-focused Roman Trier Guided Tour to learn more about the history of Roman civilization in this Moselle River city and visit the ruins of a 20,000-seat amphitheater, and imperial baths.
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO COCHEM**

Optional Tour Porta Nigra, Trier 1990



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Porta Nigra Trier 2022



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

This 2022 picture is a good example of how large and ornate the Trier 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 Trier



Day 8 Cochem

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Bike along the Mosel river with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Visit the former bunker of Germany's Central Bank (Deutsche Bundesbank) and immerse yourself in the underground vault where millions of German Mark were kept during the Cold War, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Walk of Cochem to see the charming town's half-timbered houses and winding streets. Visit the hilltop Reichsburg Castle with a bird's-eye-view of the Moselle Valley and river bend.
- Enjoy a short cruise to Alken, where you have free time to explore at your own pace.
- Alternatively, select a Guided Optional Excursion to Eltz Castle (Extra Expense).
- **EVENING CRUISE TO COLOGNE**

Cochem

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Reichsburg Castle

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Keep Tower Reichsburg Castle



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Reichsburg Castle



Photo Anne Schrader
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Inside Reichsburg Castle



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Main Square Cochem

Photo Anne Schrader
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Cochem



Photo Anne Schrader
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Cochem Fountain



Optional Tour Burg Eltz



Photo Anne Schrader
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Entrance to the courtyard area Burg Eltz



Photo Anne Schrader
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Treasury Burg Eltz

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 9 Cologne

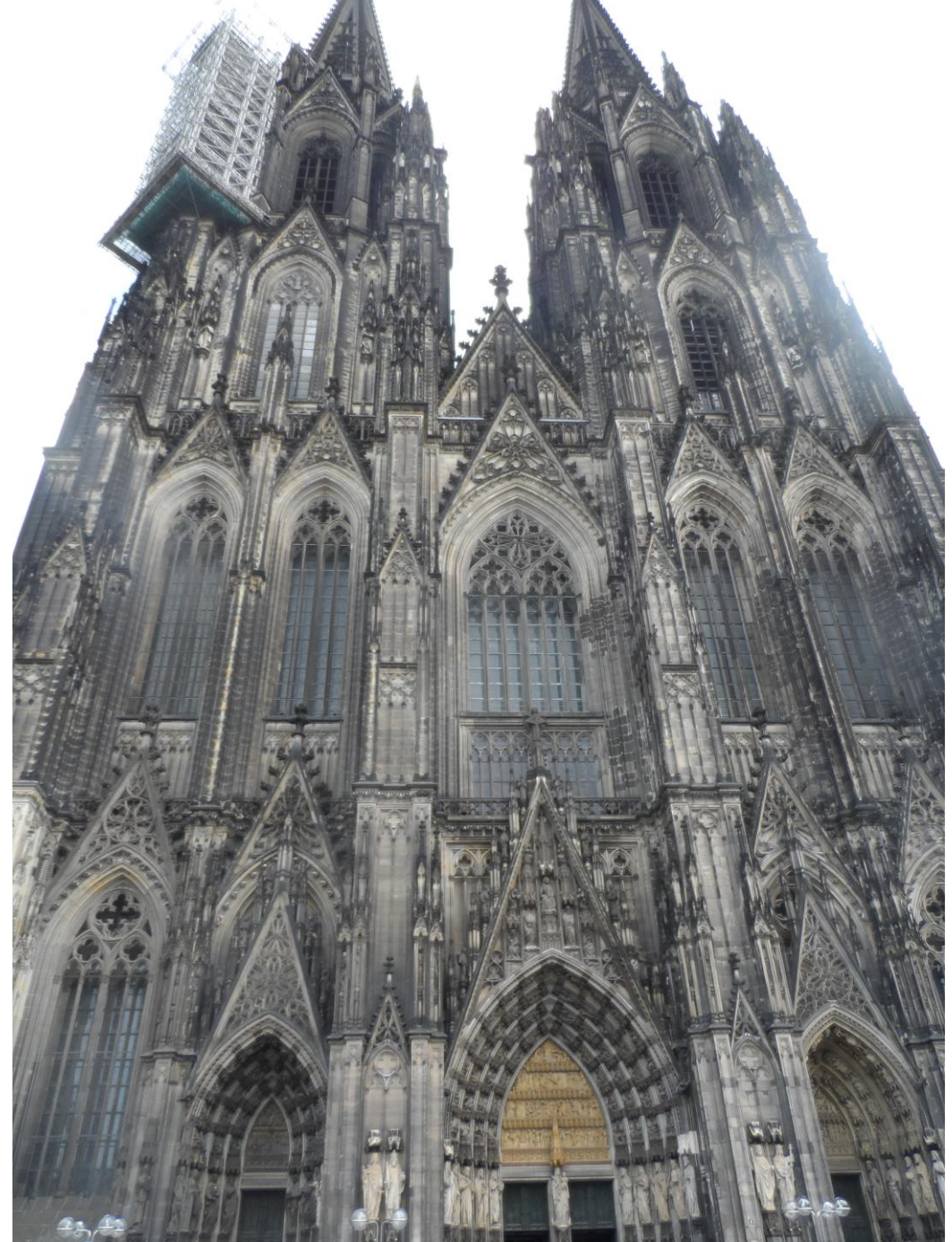
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy a bike ride like the locals in Cologne with your Adventure Host (Extra Cost) , OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Choose a Guided Walking Tour of Cologne's important Jewish heritage sites, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided City Walk of Cologne—with its soaring twin-steeped gothic cathedral.
- Spend free time over a glass of Kölsch pale lager—locally brewed for over 100 years!
- AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT SAILING TO AMSTERDAM

Cologne Cathedral

Photo Anne Schrader
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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



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 10 Amsterdam

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Start your day joining your Adventure Host on an early morning walk in Amsterdam (Extra Expense), OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Explore the iconic waterways of Amsterdam on a Guided Canal Cruise past stately homes of Amsterdam’s “Golden Age.”
- During tulip season, you may take a Guided Optional Excursion (Extra Expense) to Keukenhof gardens—with more than seven million tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths, as well as other bulbs, planted each year.
- Outside of tulip season, join a Guided Optional Excursion (Extra Expense) to Zaanse Schans to see historic windmills and charming Dutch houses.
- You may choose to spend some free time this afternoon visiting one of Amsterdam’s many fascinating museums or galleries.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN AMSTERDAM**

Canal Boats, Amsterdam

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



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

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Skinny Bridge, Amsterdam



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Rijksmuseum



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Optional Tour Keukenhof Gardens



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Keukenhof Gardens



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Keukenhof Gardens



Photo Anne Schrader

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Keukenhof Gardens



Photo Anne Schrader
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Keukenhof Gardens



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Day 11 Amsterdam

- Your Cruise ends with breakfast this morning.

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