

11-Day Rhine Castles & Moselle Vineyards Emerald Waterways

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

Overview

- Explore a landscape of sun-drenched vineyards, magnificent castles, and quaint villages along the Rhine & Moselle rivers.
- Begin in the Netherlands with a tour of the quintessentially Dutch cities of Amsterdam and Utrecht before a visit to the traditional Kinderdijk windmills.
- You will then continue to Germany, traversing the wonderful countryside, stopping in Koblenz, where the Rhine and Moselle meet.
- After exploring the picture-perfect Moselle, travel south to the Alsatian capital of Strasbourg, followed by the serenity of Switzerland in Basel.

Map From Emerald Waterways



Cruise Inclusions:

- 10 nights on board an Emerald Cruises Star-Ship
- Airport transfers to and from your Star-Ship
- The services of an Emerald Cruises cruise director
- Port taxes and charges
- All tipping and gratuities

Included Excursions:

- Kinderdijk visit
- Visit to Marksburg Castle
- Walking tour of Bernkastel
- Guided tour of Cochem with Reichsburg Castle Visit
- Guided tour of Mainz
- Canal cruise of Strasbourg
- Guided tour of Colmar

EmeraldPLUS

- Canal boat tour of Utrecht with Cheese Tasting
- Visit and wine tasting at Schloss Johannisberg

EmeraldACTIVE

- Guided bike around Utrecht
- Active hike to Marksburg Castle
- Active Hike to Landshut Castle Ruins in Bernkastel
- Cycling tour along the Moselle
- Active hike to Niederwalddenkmal Monument
- Canoeing on the Rhine

Dining Highlights

- 29 delectable meals including 10 breakfasts (B), 9 lunches (L), 10 dinners (D)
- Including a Welcome and Farewell Reception & Dinner
- Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks served with lunch and dinner on board

Day 1 - Amsterdam

- Upon arrival in Amsterdam, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your innovative Emerald Cruises Star-Ship, where your friendly captain and crew will welcome your arrival.
- Please book your flight to arrive in Amsterdam before 05:00 PM.
- **Meals Included:** Dinner

Day 2 - Utrecht

- As part of your EmeraldPLUS program, you will start the day by exploring a canal cruise through the Oudegracht or Old Canal, which is not only the oldest in Utrecht, but it is also older than the canals in Amsterdam.
- For centuries, along the water, the wealthiest have built mansions with the peculiarity of having warehouses and service entrances just above water level.
- Undoubtedly, the castle of Oudaen stands out among all the rest: an urban castle well preserved despite being more than eight centuries old.
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Guided bike tour near Utrecht
- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Canal cruise and cheese tasting
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 - Nijmegen

- Today you will visit the Kinderdijk Windmills, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- This unique collection of nineteen authentic 18th-century windmills is considered a Dutch icon across the globe.
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided tour Kinderdijk Windmills
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Kinderdijk

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Kinderdijk

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 4 - Koblenz

- Wonderfully maintained inside and out, Marksburg Castle boasts a selection of typical interiors, including the castle kitchen, the knight's hall, the armory and an inviting wine cellar.
- The attractive light-stoned walls of the castle are protected by an outer fortress, with a single tower peering over the turrets and castle walls, it resembles something you would find in a Brothers Grimm tale.
- **Included Excursion**
- Visit to Marksburg Castle
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Hike to Marksburg Castle
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Marksburg



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Marksburg



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Marksburg

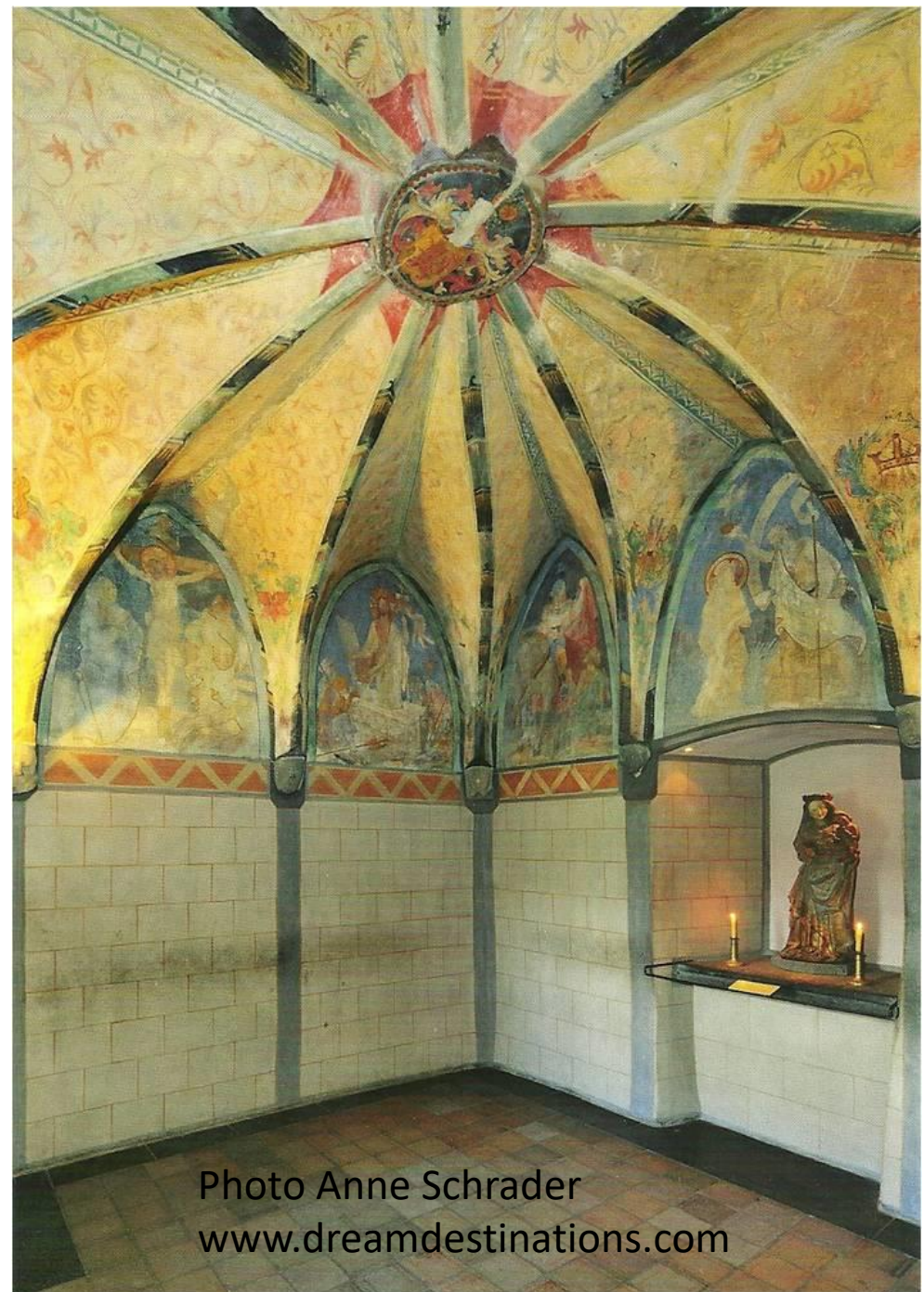


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Day 5 - Bernkastel

- Dating back to 3000 BC, Bernkastel is situated along the banks of the Moselle River.
- Home to well-preserved buildings dating back to 1416.
- Enjoy a guided walking tour, where you will have the opportunity to stroll through the medieval marketplace with its gabled timber-framed houses, castle ruins and town gate.
- Or, take part in an active hike to the Landshut Castle Ruins overlooking the Moselle.
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Active hike to Landshut Castle Ruins
- **Included Excursion**
- Walking tour of Bernkastel
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Bernkastel

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Market Square with Guard Tower (in the Background)



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Bernkastel

Burg Landshut Ruins

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Day 6 - Cochem

- Today, you will enjoy the enchanting town of Cochem during a guided tour of its well-preserved sites.
- You'll see the remains of the historic town wall with its old fortifications, alongside the town hall and its many other gems.
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided tour of Cochem & Visit to Reichsburg Castle
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Cycling along the Moselle
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Cochem

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Reichsburg Castle

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Main Square Cochem

Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 7 - Rüdesheim

- Today as part of your incredible EmeraldPLUS program, you will visit the grand Schloss Johannisberg Winery.
- Set in the breathtaking Rheingau region, the legendary Schloss Johannisberg is steeped in history, cultivating exquisite wine for over 1000 years.
- The first Riesling winery in the world, at Schloss Johannisberg, discover a unique wine culture and fabled history during this exclusive tour.
- Set over 50 hectares in front of the Taunus mountains, the onsite 300-acre forest grows native oak to make the wooden barrels used for producing this exemplary wine.
- These extra-special barrels are then kept in the 900-year-old abbey cellar, known as 'Bibliotheca Subterranea', where over 25,000 precious wines are stored.
- Alternatively, participate in an active hike through vineyards to the historical Niederwalddenkmal Monument.
- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Wine Visit and tasting at Schloss Johannisberg
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Active Hike to Niederwalddenkmal Monument
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sailing into Rudesheim

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Germania Monument

Photo Anne Schrader
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Germania Monument



Day 8 - Mainz

- Your day will start with a guided tour of Mainz and a visit to the impressive sandstone cathedral of the tremendous Old Town.
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided Tour of Mainz
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Visit to Gutenberg Museum & workshop (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Market Square Mainz

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Buildings that ring Market Square

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Market Square with Cathedral in the background



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Market Square

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Mainz Cathedral



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Ornate Building

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Marktbrunnen (Market Fountain)

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Gutenberg Museum



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Day 9 - Kehl – Strasbourg

- This morning, we'll dock in Kehl and take a coach transfer to the medieval capital of France's Alsace Region, Strasbourg. The best way to discover Strasbourg's charm is via its quaint waterways. Embark on an EmeraldPLUS traditional canal boat tour.
- Relax as you pass through petite France, full of storybook canals, half-timbered houses and narrow lanes. Witness the covered bridges and the Vauban Dam before reaching the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Neustadt imperial quarter, where many of Strasbourg's administrative buildings are based. This afternoon, enjoy free time to explore at leisure.
- **Included Excursion**
- Canal boat tour in Strasbourg
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Alsace wine route with tasting (extra expense, only available on select dates)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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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Photo Hank Schrader
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Medieval Watch Towers Strasbourg, France

Strasbourg



Photo Anne Schrader

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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.



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 10 - Breisach - Colmar

- Commence your magical morning with a tour of Colmar.
- As you walk down the cobblestone lanes, it's easy to imagine the characters from the Grimm's Fairy Tales here, with half-timbered façades adorned with window boxes full of colorful blooms.
- Alternatively, embark on a canoeing adventure on the banks of the Rhine.
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided tour of Colmar
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Canoeing on the banks of the Rhine
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11 - Basel - Zurich

- After breakfast, it's time to say farewell to your fellow guests. Disembark your Star-Ship for your transfer to the airport and take with you the memories of all the beautiful destinations you have visited.
- Please book your flight to depart out of Zurich after 11:30 AM.
- This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions for further information.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast

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