

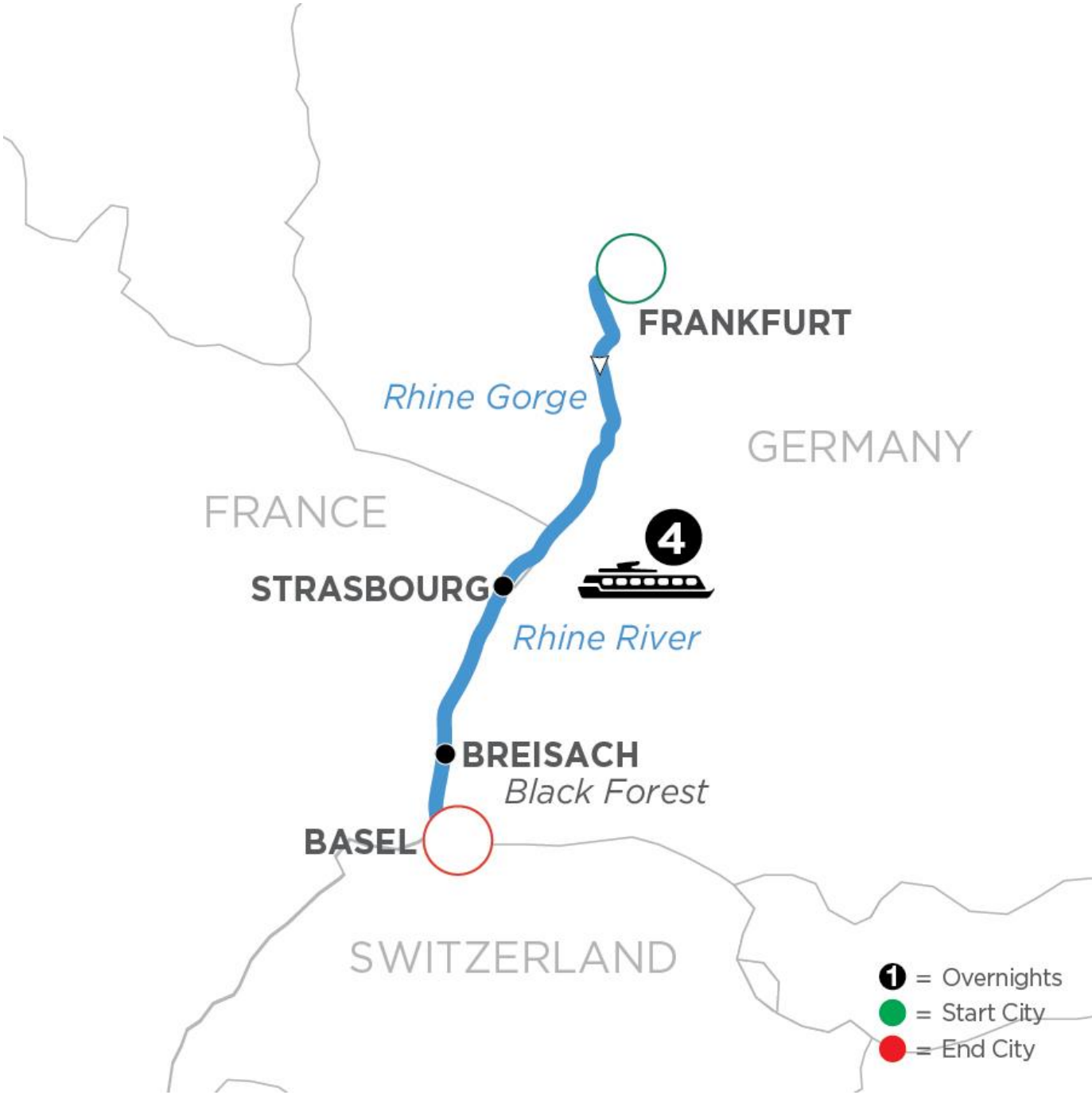
The Best of the Rhine Avalon Waterways

By

Hank Schrader

Europe River Cruise Expert

Route Map From Avalon Waterways



Overview

- Discover extraordinary destinations in Germany, France, and Switzerland on this Rhine River cruise to sample local charms and traditions from Frankfurt to Basel.
- Relax on the Sky Deck and pass through the dramatic Rhine Gorge—the most beautiful view of the Rhine River where ancient castles stand on cliffs 400 feet above the water.
- In Strasbourg, France, you'll be amazed by the red-sandstone Gothic cathedral with ancient murals and fascinating astronomical clock. Also, stroll through the lovely La Petite France district with its quaint shops, delightful bistros, and peaceful waterfront promenade.
- Before the end of your European river cruise vacation, stop in Breisach, Germany, the gateway to Germany's Black Forest. Here, find unrivaled natural beauty in the area best known for Black Forest ham, cherry cake, and the cuckoo clock.

Day 1 Frankfurt

- Welcome to Germany. Your Suite Ship® is Ready for Boarding.
- Flights into Frankfurt must arrive before 2 pm.
- Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.
- Optional Tour (Extra Cost)
- **Frankfurt am Main, Mainhattan of Europe**
- Nicknamed the "Mainhattan of Europe," Frankfurt is a bustling international city on the Main River with a cosmopolitan style reminiscent of New York, but you'll discover its quainter, simpler side during this guided sightseeing walking tour of its historic Römer district.

- OVERNIGHT CRUISE

Old Town Frankfurt The Fountain of Justice

Photo Anne Schrader
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Old Town Frankfurt

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Old Town Frankfurt Old St. Nicholas Church



Old Town Frankfurt Friedrich Stoltze Statue Poet and Writer



Day 2 Rhine Gorge

- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** While sailing enjoy a cup of Rudesheimer Coffee, a local drink prepared mixing brandy and sugar, topped with coffee and a layer of whipped cream and chocolate shavings.
- Enjoy a relaxing day onboard and sail through the Rhine Gorge (a UNESCO World Heritage site). Take in the breathtaking views of ancient castles perched on cliffs 400 feet above the water and pass the legendary Rock of the Lorelei—where the mythological siren’s songs lured ill-fated sailors.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Join your Adventure Host to discover today’s special activities and classes.
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Enjoy a wine tasting onboard.
- Enjoy live entertainment on board your ship this evening.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO STRASBOURG**

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



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Day 3 Strasbourg

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Discover Strasbourg by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a City Sightseeing Tour, including Strasbourg's Gothic, stained-glass cathedral with its celebrated ancient murals and astronomical clock, as well as the magical La Petite France District.
- Choose a Guided Optional Excursion to visit Alsace's wine country today. Alternatively, take some free time in Strasbourg to visit a museum, or stroll across the city center.
- Optional Excursion (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.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BREISACH

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



Photo Anne Schrader

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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 3 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.
- **Biking in Strasbourg with your Adventure Host**
- Discover Strasbourg by bike with your Adventure Host

Day 4 Breisach

- **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 BASEL**

Freiburg—Historic
Merchant's Hall in
the Augustinerplatz.

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com



Market at Munster Square, Freiburg



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 5 Basel

- Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.

Flights should not leave Zürich airport before 10 am or Basel airport before 8 am.

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