

Three Rivers: Danube, Main and Rhine Tauck River Cruises

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

Map from Tauck



Overview

- Explore three glorious rivers on this very exciting cruise.
- Travel Germany's Romantic Road, visit the famed Nürburgring motorsports complex, savor the tastes of Frankfurt, and fully immerse in the historic beauty of towns like Nijmegen, Rothenburg and Cologne.
- Embark your riverboat in Regensburg, Germany, cruising the Danube to Nürnberg for tours above and underground.
- Make your way into the countryside to visit Bayreuth, Bamberg and Rothenburg along the Romantic Road. Artisan crafts and passions add local color to your cruise along the Main, where you'll enjoy a hands-on visit to a historic paper mill or be privy to a private piano collection during a visit with your eclectic host.
- Frankfurt's name alone evokes images of the all-American hotdog that took its cue from the sausages that are made here; discover the city's local specialties on your foodie tour, before a sparkling dinner at Schlösshotel Kronberg raises the culinary bar.
- Set a course for the racetrack at Nürburgring or slow your pace on a bicycle ride.

Day 1 Arrive Amsterdam & Embark riverboat

- **Tour begins: 4:00 PM.** A transfer is included from Schiphol International Airport or Amsterdam Centraal Station to your riverboat.
- Check in time aboard ship is 4:00 PM for all guests.
- Join us for a welcome reception followed by dinner onboard your riverboat tonight and an evening cruise on Amsterdam's storied canals, after-dinner drink in hand.

Day 2 Pursue your interests in Nijmegen

- You have a choice of sightseeing adventures today.
- Join our local guide for a walking tour into the heart of Nijmegen, the oldest town in the Netherlands and vibrant with medieval sights that straddle streets from the 16th-century Lower Town by the banks of the Waal River to the older Upper Town.
- Alternatively, learn about the Dutch passion for horticulture during an expertly guided visit to the Gardens of Appeltern and a water pumping station,
- or venture to the Freedom Museum in Groesbeek, chronicling 20th century history in the Netherlands.
- Your ship sails this afternoon, bound for Köln, Germany.

Nijmegen Cobblestone Street



Photo Anne Schrader
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Nijmegen Town Hall & Grote Markt



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Nijmegen Grote Markt Tunnel Entrance



Photo Anne Schrader
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Nijmegen St. Stephens Church



Photo Anne Schrader
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Cheese Store Nijmegen



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 3 Köln (Cologne) & Bonn

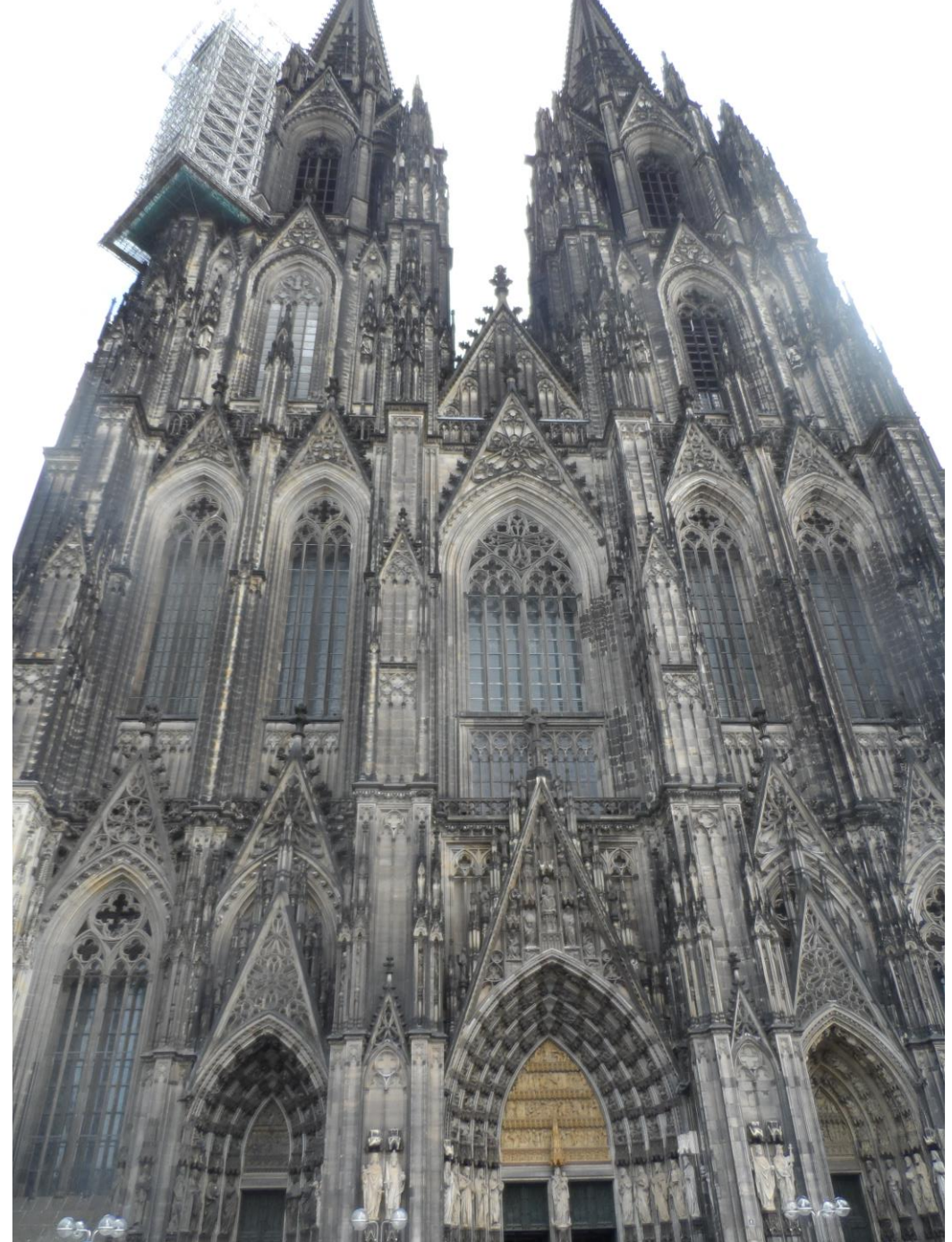
- Spend a leisurely morning aboard the riverboat, arriving in Köln before lunch for a walking tour with a local guide.
- Founded by the Romans in 38 BC, the city is like a living textbook of history and architecture, with Roman ruins, medieval churches, avant-garde buildings and the famous filigree-towered Kölner Dom (Cologne Cathedral), designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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 4 The Middle Rhine Valley

- Dock in Koblenz for your choice of excursions.
- Drive to the Nürburgring racetrack that was featured in the movie Rush; see its Grand Prix racetrack built in 1984, and a long Nordschleife "North loop" track, built in the 1920s, around the village and medieval castle of Nürburg in the Eifel Mountains.
- Or, go at your own pace as you ride a bicycle along the Rhine from Koblenz to Boppard.
- Enjoy head-turning scenic beauty this afternoon as your riverboat charts a course through the picture-book landscapes of the Middle Rhine Valley, designated a UNESCO World Heritage for its history as an important transport route and its castle-crowned hilltops.
- Arrive in Wiesbaden this evening where a Tauck Exclusive dinner at Schlosshotel Kronberg, built in 1893 under the commission of Empress Victoria Friedrich and sparkling with antiques and paintings from her private estate.

The Scenic Rhine River Gorge Castles

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Rhine Gorge Castles



Pfalzgrafenstein Toll Station, Germany



Rheinstein Castle, Rhine River Castles



Marksburg Castle, Germany

Maus (Mouse) Castle

Photo Anne Schrader
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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



Day 5 A Taste of Frankfurt

- While its name evokes images of the famous sausage that inspired modern-day hot dogs, Frankfurt is home to one of the most impressive skylines in Germany, with world-renowned museums, historic cathedrals and ornately gabled half-timbered houses lining its streets and squares.
- Join a local guide for a walking tour of its landmark sites or whet your appetite for some of the city's most tempting culinary specialties on a tasting walk.
- Return to your riverboat for an afternoon of cruising, followed by dinner at leisure onboard.

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 6 Paper or Pianos in Middle Main

- Dating back to the 7th century, Wertheim is located where the Main River meets the Tauber River in southwest Germany in a fairy-tale setting.
- It is crowned with a hilltop castle that reigns over the city with delightful views, is renowned for its Franconian wine and glass making – and is home to a paper mill and piano collection that are yours to experience on a choice of excursions.
- See how paper is made on an interactive visit to a working paper mill
- or meet the owner of a private piano collection as your host shows you his prized musical instruments.

Day 7 Bavarian Beauty on the Romantic Road

- Arrive in Würzburg this morning, set on the banks of the Main River in the heart of Franconian wine country along the Romantic Road for a choice of shore excursions.
- Join a local guide for a walking tour of Würzburg, known for its lavish Baroque and Rococo architecture, including the 18th-century Residenz Palace.
- Or visit the walled Bavarian town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber at the north end of the Romantic Road, resplendent with medieval architecture, half-timbered houses and a cobblestoned Old Town.

Marienberg Fortress



Photo Anne Schrader
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Old Stone Bridge

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Residenz Palace Würzburg



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Garden statue Residenz Palace



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Translated from German, Plönlein is actually the small square at a fountain". This is probably the most famous picture of Rothenburg.



Photo Anne Schrader
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Market Square Rothenburg.



Burger Gate
(Castle Gate)
Rothenburg. This
gate was built
around 1460 and
is the western
gate entrance. It
is the highest
gate tower of
the town
fortifications.



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 8 Bamberg or Bayreuth

- Your riverboat docks in Bamberg this morning, located on the River Regnitz close to the Danube Main Canal, for a day of Bavarian discoveries.
- You can choose to join our local guide for an in-depth tour of Bamberg, spread over seven hills that earned its nickname, "Franconian Rome."
- Explore its medieval old town, surrounded by Europe's largest intact wall and discover the special smoked beer it is famous for.
- Or drive to nearby Bayreuth to see its Baroque opera house, charming palaces, historical gardens and museums on a locally guided tour.
- At its center is the former home of composer Richard Wagner, whose music is featured every year at the Richard Wagner Festival, Germany's most important opera event.
- Dinner is at leisure onboard the riverboat.

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Bamberg
Rathaus
(town hall)

Bamberg Cathedral



New Residence Rose Garden, Bamberg, Germany

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 9 Choices in Nuremberg

- An important commercial hub from the Middle Ages onward, Nuremberg, the second largest city in Bavaria, is steeped in a rich historic legacy that can be seen and felt today, both above and below ground.
- View its well-preserved landmarks, including the imperial castle and the walled Old Town on a locally guided walk that provides insights about this Franconian capital
- or go underground with a local guide learning about centuries of history both above and below ground.
- Explore the historic rock-cut tunnels that were cut into the rock starting in 1380.
- Their main uses were beer storage for local breweries but in the 1940s, they were also used as air raid bunkers.
- Enjoy time to discover the sights on your own before returning to the riverboat for a farewell cocktail and dinner.

The Walled City of Nuremberg. There are 4 km of medieval walls and 67 defensive towers that ring the old town

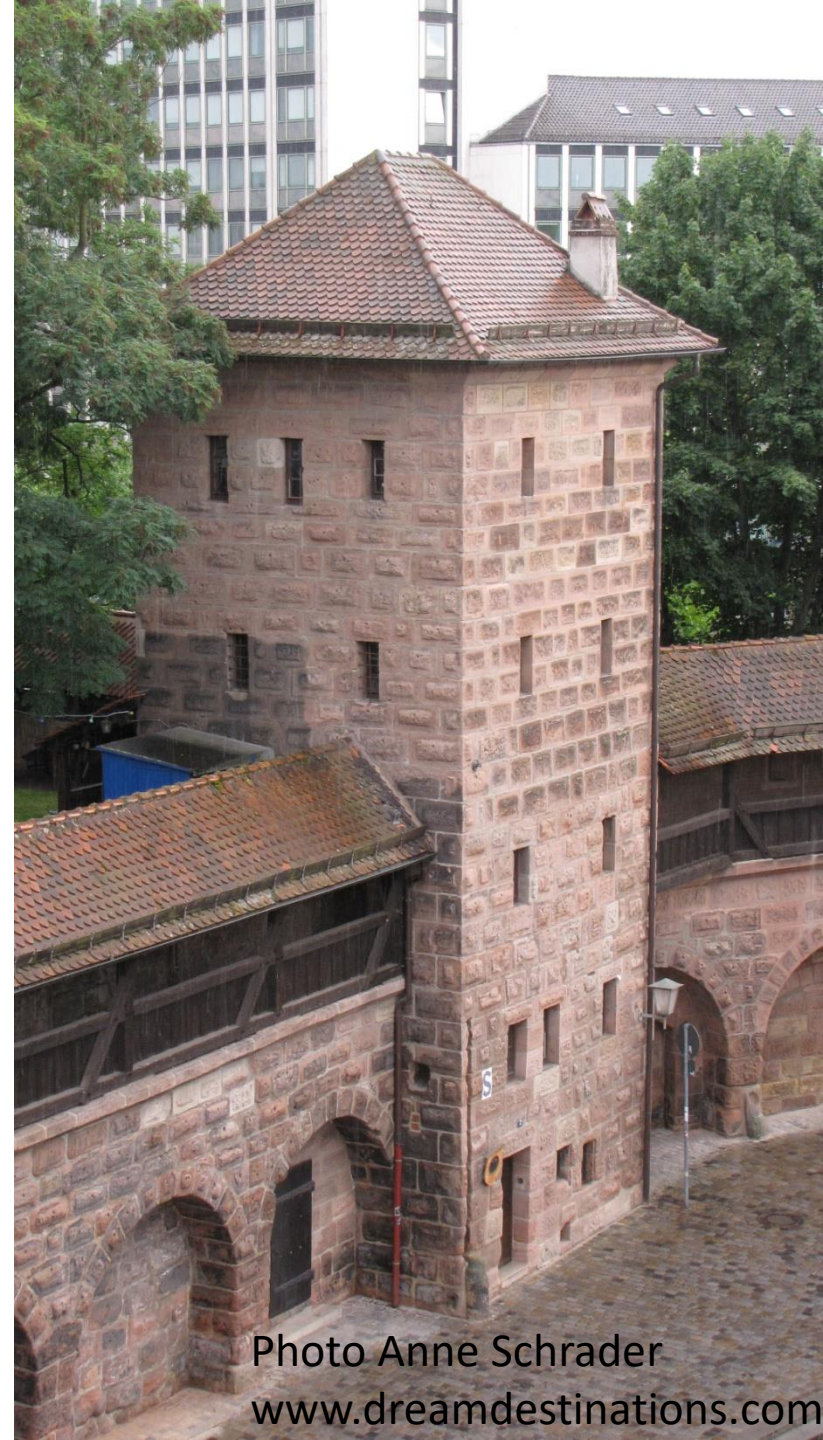


Photo Anne Schrader
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Maxbrücke (also called Hangman's Bridge) at the Pegnitz River—Nuremberg's oldest stone bridge

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 10 Journey Home

- **Tour ends: Regensburg.**
- Disembark ship in Regensburg this morning.
- A transfer from your riverboat to Munich's International Airport is included, approximately a 90-minute drive away.
- Flights should be booked after 12 noon. Allow a minimum of three hours for flight check-in at the airport.
- For additional nights in Munich, ask at booking.

Regensburg, Germany

Photo Anne Schrader

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Porta Praetoria

Roman ruins used in a new building



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Old Town Hall Regensburg

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Regensburg St. Peter's Cathedral



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