



**2021-2022 RHINE CASTLES & SWISS ALPS
AT**

7-NIGHT BASEL, SWITZERLAND TO AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS CRUISE

Discover fairytale castles and historic vineyards as part of this Rhine River cruise fantasy. Embark your ship in Basel before crossing the border into France’s Alsace region in enchanting Strasbourg. Then it’s off to Germany, where you’ll discover not only the grand city of Cologne but charming villages like the winemaking hamlet of Rudesheim and the university town of Heidelberg. You’ll also enjoy cruising through the UNESCO-designated Rhine Gorge, where 40 castles are strung like pearls along the river banks. Conclude your cruise by exploring the canal-laden city of Amsterdam, with its neat rows of buildings and rich history. Encompassing the Netherlands, Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy, as well as iconic landmarks and majestic mountain landscapes, this distinctive itinerary is truly a dream come true.

DAY	DESTINATION	ACTIVITIES
1	Basel	EMBARKATION
2	Basel	“City of Art” tour OR Three countries bike tour OR Full-Day Lucerne Excursion
3	Strasbourg	“The Gem of Alsace” tour OR Strasbourg bike tour
4	Ludwigshafen	“Romantic Heidelberg” excursion OR “Secrets of Speyer” tour OR Heidelberg Philosopher’s Path hike OR Ladenburg bike tour
	Rudesheim	Siegfried’s Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum OR Rudesheimer coffee
5	Rudesheim	Rudesheim Gondola Ride and Wine Tasting OR Vineyard hike OR Guided bike tour of the Rheingau
	Rhine Gorge Lahnstein	Castles along the Rhine scenic cruising Burg Lahneck tour
6	Cologne	“Holy City” walking tour and cathedral visit OR Kölsch beer and local specialties tasting OR Cologne bike tour
7	Amsterdam	Canal cruise tour OR Floriade* OR A Taste of Amsterdam**
8	Amsterdam	DISEMBARKATION

**Please note: The Floriade 2022 Expo opens from April 14 to October 9, 2022.*

***May be replaced with Jordaan District Walking Tour based on docking location*

Day 1, BASEL – LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND - EMBARKATION. Embark your ship in Basel for your *Rhine Castles & Swiss Alps* cruise.

Day 2, LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND. Enjoy getting to know Basel, Switzerland’s third largest city. Long an important university, banking and trade center, Basel’s glorious past is still evident in its medieval town hall, richly decorated market square and exquisite 18th-century patrician homes. Tour the city by foot or on a guided bike tour that takes you through three countries: Switzerland, France and Germany. Or, choose a full-day excursion in Lucerne, known for its Lion Monument – the figure of a dying lion carved into a hillside in memory of the Swiss Guards massacred during the French Revolution in 1792 – which Mark Twain described as “the most



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mournful and moving piece of stone in the world.” You’ll also see Lucerne’s spectacular medieval walls and towers, dating back to the 13th century. (B,L,D)

Day 3, STRASBOURG, FRANCE. Strasbourg offers flavors of both France and Germany because of its borderline location. Enjoy a panoramic tour past the stunning Parc de l’Orangerie, the European Parliament and the Place de la République before walking through its iconic “La Petite France” district, lifted straight from the pages of a fairytale. Wander through charming streets past the Cathédrale de Nôtre Dame with its famous astronomical clock. Alternatively, take a guided bike ride through the city and Parc de l’Orangerie. (B,L,D)

Day 4, LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY – RÜDESHEIM, GERMANY. Ludwigshafen is your gateway to a choice of four excursions. Visit Heidelberg, the perfectly preserved medieval city nestled in the Neckar River Valley along Germany’s Castle Road. Discover the iconic red sandstone Heidelberg Castle and Great Vat, an 18th-century, 49,000-gallon wine cask. For a more active adventure while in Heidelberg, join a guided hike up the Philosopher’s Path, aptly named during the Romantic Period, and enjoy panoramic views of the city. Alternatively, you can visit one of Germany’s oldest cities, Speyer, known for the largest Romanesque cathedral in Europe—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—and the medieval Old Gate, Altpörtel. Or pedal along the river Neckar to the picturesque medieval city center of Ladenburg and enjoy some free time to explore the shops. Later in the day, cruise to the charming village of Rüdesheim and let Siegfried’s Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum charm you with its remarkable collection of self-playing musical instruments; or taste one of the town’s special delights, Rüdeshimer coffee, ceremoniously made with brandy, coffee and whipped cream. (B,L,D)

Day 5, RÜDESHEIM. Join a wine tasting to discover the flavors of the town’s iconic vineyards and drink up the stunning views by soaring high above the vineyards with a gondola ride to the Niederwalddenkmal. For a more active adventure, hike through the town’s beautiful vineyards or join a guided bike tour along the scenic Rhine River. Later in the day, cruise through the captivating UNESCO-designated Rhine Gorge, the most stunningly beautiful stretch of the river before reaching Lahnstein, where you will enjoy a unique evening visit at Lahneck Castle. (B,L,D)

DAY 6, COLOGNE, GERMANY. Enjoy cruising to Cologne. Join a guided tour through the Old Town and explore the UNESCO-designated Cologne Cathedral, one of Germany’s most revered Gothic masterpieces. Continue to the Cologne Rathaus, Germany’s oldest town hall, plus see other historic sites. For a different view, visit a local tavern to taste its famous Kölsch beer, only made in Cologne, and *reibekuchen mit apfelmus*, potato pancakes typically served with applesauce. Active adventurers will want to join a guided bike ride along the Rhine and through the historic Stadtgarten. (B,L,D)

Day 7, AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS. There are 165 canals in Amsterdam, and you’ll get to enjoy some of them on your canal cruise. Or opt for a rare experience with a journey into the Netherland’s Floriade Expo* in Almere – very close to Amsterdam – which will feature stunning gardens, innovative sustainable gardening exhibits, live entertainment, souvenirs and food stalls. Alternatively, get a taste of local flavor, passing iconic canals, gabled houses, narrow bridges and house boats while tasting Dutch specialties at one of Amsterdam’s grand cafes. (B,L,D)

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Day 8, AMSTERDAM – DISEMBARKATION. Bid farewell to Amsterdam as you prepare for your return flight home.