

2022 - Enchanting Rhine

7-NIGHT CRUISE WITH 2 NIGHTS ZURICH, 2 NIGHTS LUCERNE PRE-CRUISE

Grand cities blend in perfect harmony with their historic past and their progressive future. Inspirational towns have given way to great stories, poetry and music, like Heidelberg, where Mark Twain wrote *A Tramp Abroad*. Timeless traditions remain intact—from the making of Kölsch, Cologne’s legendary brew, to the making of Rudesheimer coffee. Take a front-row seat on an enchanting journey that takes you along the Rhine and through its designated UNESCO World Heritage Site with its 40 castles strung like pearls on its river banks and to magnificent cities and charming villages alike.

OVERVIEW:

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES</u>
1	ZURICH	Hotel check-in
2	ZURICH	“Little Big City” tour Free time
3	ZURICH	Transfer from Zurich Scenic Lake Lucerne cruise Hotel check-in
4	LUCERNE	Lucerne City Tour
5	LUCERNE	Depart Hotel Lion Monument Transfer to Basel Highlights tour EMBARKATION
6	BREISACH	Riquewihr excursion OR Freiburg excursion OR Black Forest excursion OR Breisach wine country bike tour
7	STRASBOURG	“The Gem of Alsace” tour OR Strasbourg bike tour
8	LUDWIGSHAFEN	“Romantic Heidelberg” excursion OR Heidelberg Philosopher’s hike OR “Secrets of Speyer” tour OR Ladenburg bike tour Siegfried’s Mechanical Music Museum OR Rudesheimer Coffee
9	RÜDESHEIM	Gondola ride and wine tasting OR Vineyard hike OR Guided bike tour of the Rheingau Castles along the Rhine scenic cruising Lahneck Castle Visit
10	COLOGNE	“Holy City” walking tour and cathedral visit

OR Kölsch Beer tasting

OR Cologne bike tour

11	AMSTERDAM	Canal cruise tour
		OR A Taste of Amsterdam*
		OR Floriade**
12	AMSTERDAM	DISEMBARKATION

ITINERARY DETAILS:

Day 1, ZURICH. Arrive in Zurich and check in to your hotel.

Day 2, ZURICH. Zurich seamlessly blends its historic past with its progressive future—all of which will be on full display during your city tour. (B)

Day 3, ZURICH - LUCERNE. Check out of your hotel and transfer to Lucerne, where you'll enjoy a cruise across the tranquil waters of Lake Lucerne. (B)

Day 4, LUCERNE. Discover Lucerne's unrivaled beauty on a walking tour that includes the spectacular medieval walls and towers, dating back to the 13th century. (B)

Day 5, LUCERNE - BASEL - EMBARKATION. Check out of your hotel and visit the iconic Lion Monument, sculpted in memory of the Swiss Guards massacred during the French Revolution. Later, head to Basel. Upon arrival in Basel, enjoy a highlights tour of 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 and exquisite 18th century patrician homes. Then enjoy free time for lunch on your own before the drive to the ship. (B,D)

Day 6, BREISACH. Breisach is your gateway to several different excursions, depending on your interests. Step back in time with a visit to the enchanting Alsatian town of Riquewihr, which looks almost the same as it did in the 16th century. On your walking tour, admire historic architecture as well as famous sights, such as the Dolder Gate. Alternatively, you may wish to go to Freiburg, founded in 1120 and home to the Freiburg's Münster, a Gothic cathedral said to have "the most beautiful spire on earth." Those wishing a more active excursion can cycle through the scenic countryside, or go on a hike to the Black Forest, a magical land full of cultural traditions. (B,L,D)

*Please Note: Black forest hike is weather dependent and may only operate at certain times of year. Please refer to your final documents for details.

Day 7, STRASBOURG. Strasbourg, the capital city of Alsace, 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. Then walk through its iconic UNESCO World Heritage "La Petite France" district, which appears to have been lifted straight from the pages of a fairytale. Wander through these charming streets and past the Cathédrale de Nôtre Dame with its famous astronomical clock. For the active adventurer, you can take a guided bike ride through this captivating city and Parc de l'Orangerie. (B,L,D)

Day 8, LUDWIGSHAFEN - RÜDESHEIM. Ludwigshafen is your gateway to a choice of three 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 be rewarded with panoramic views of the city. Or ride along the river Neckar to the medieval town of Ladenburg where you'll have some free time to explore the shops and quaint Marktplatz. 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 Altpörtel, Old Gate. Later in the day, sail to Rüdesheim where you can visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum; or taste one of the town's special delights, Rüdesheimer Coffee, ceremoniously made with brandy. (B,L,D)

Day 9, RÜDESHEIM - RHINE GORGE - LAHNSTEIN. Your exploration of Rüdesheim continues with your choice of three excursions. Take a gondola ride to the Niederwalddenkmal Statue, where you can enjoy panoramic views of the river. Afterwards, indulge your taste buds with a sampling of Riesling wines in the vineyards. If you prefer a more active adventure, hike through Rüdesheim's vineyards, taking in views of the town, the Roman Bridge and Bromersburg Castle. Or join a guided bike ride through the town and along the Rhine River. During the afternoon, set sail along the scenic Rhine River Gorge with its fabled legends and many castles to Lahnstein where you'll enjoy a visit to Lahneck Castle. (B,L,D)

Day 10, COLOGNE. Home to one of Germany's most revered Gothic masterpieces, the Cologne Cathedral, this 2,000-year-old city is also a bustling cosmopolitan hotspot. Join a guided tour through the enchanting Old Town and explore the UNESCO-designated cathedral, where the remains of the fabled Three Kings—the Magi—are believed to rest. Alternatively, ride a bike along the Rhine and through the historic Stadtgarten; or visit a local tavern to taste Kölsch beer and reibekuchen mit apfelmus—potato pancakes served with applesauce. (B,L,D)

Day 11, AMSTERDAM. Amsterdam boasts amazing history, art, architecture, and museums, and you have a choice as to how you wish to explore it. The famous canals of Amsterdam await discovery on your city tour beginning with a scenic 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. If you prefer exploring the world with your taste buds, stroll past traditional canals, gabled houses, narrow bridges and house boats to taste Dutch specialties at a grand Amsterdam café. (B,L,D)

**Depending on docking location, A Taste of Amsterdam may not operate; therefore, an alternative tour will operate instead.*

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

Day 12, AMSTERDAM. Bid Farewell to Amsterdam and prepare for your homeward flight. (B)