

## Jewels of the Rhine



**Tour Name:** Jewels of the Rhine

**Days:** 8

**Day 1 Sat, 07 Jun Zurich - Basel**

Welcome to Basel. On arrival, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your Emerald Cruises Star-Ship, where your friendly captain and crew will be waiting to greet you. This evening, join your fellow guests for dinner on board. Please book your flight to arrive into Zurich prior to 01:00 PM.

**Day 2 Sun, 08 Jun Breisach**

Today, as part of your incredible EmeraldPLUS programme, you will visit the city of Freiburg. Considered the 'Capital of the Black Forest', Freiburg has lovely sights that will amaze you. You'll also have the opportunity to sample authentic Black Forest delicacies. If you're feeling more active, you can choose to join a guided bike tour in Breisach.

**EmeraldPLUS**

Guided tour of Freiburg with tasting

Spectacular and historic Freiburg im Breisgau, commonly known just as Freiburg, sits on the edge of the mountainous Black Forest in southern Germany, a photogenic old city that was founded in 1120 that lays claim to having the most sunshine in the whole country. Life in this vibrant university city centers on the Altstadt's cobbled and arcaded Rathausplatz (City Square), lined with Gothic churches and civic buildings interspersed with buzzy cafés and bars. Enjoy a fascinating guided tour of the city and sample some local delicacies during a visit to a local market, such as Black Forest ham.

5 hours

#### **EmeraldACTIVE**

Guided bike tour in Breisach

Guests meet the local guide and set out by bike from the star-ships and ride through the Rhine meadows to the quaint little village Burkheim. The route has the picturesque scenery between the Kaiserstuhl mountains and the river Rhine through the woods. Once guests arrive in Burkheim, then have a break to enjoy some traditional Black Forest cake. On the way back to the star-ships, guests will continue riding on the banks of the river, enjoying the views over to France.

4 hours

#### **Day 3 Mon, 09 Jun Kehl - Strasbourg**

This morning, your Star-Ship will dock in Kehl, where you will be transferred across the river to Strasbourg, the capital of France's Alsace Region. Cobble squares surrounded by half-timbered houses make Strasbourg appear as if it has been effortlessly suspended in time, and you will get the opportunity to explore the past during your included walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Town. Witness the ornate beauty of many of Strasbourg's highlights, including the Maison Kammerzell and the canal network that weaves through Petite France, before enjoying free time to explore at leisure.

#### **Included Excursion**

Guided tour of Strasbourg.

This morning, dock in Kehl and be transferred by coach to the picturesque town of Strasbourg, where a medieval past is yours to discover among cobble squares surrounded by half-timbered houses. Your included walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed old town will touch on many of Strasbourg's highlights, including the astrological signs that adorn the façade of the Maison Kammerzell and the idyllic historic scenery around Petite France. This afternoon, enjoy free time to explore Strasbourg at leisure.

4 hours

#### **Day 4 Tue, 10 Jun Ludwigshafen - Heidelberg**

Relax on board this morning as you sail towards Ludwigshafen, following the meandering Rhine River and passing the confluence of the Rhine and Neckar. Travel by coach to Heidelberg, where you'll have the opportunity to learn about how it became a UNESCO City of Literature, having inspired the likes of Mark Twain and William Turner with its historical setting.

Your guided tour of the town will allow you to find your own inspiration among its delightful landmarks, including Heidelberg Castle, one of the most impressive Renaissance ruins in all of Europe. Alternatively, revel in a hike from Mount Königstuhl to Heidelberg.

#### **Included Excursion**

Guided tour of Heidelberg.

This morning, your Star-Ship will arrive in Ludwigshafen, and you will discover Heidelberg. The idyllic UNESCO City of Literature has inspired the likes of Mark Twain and famed British artist William Turner. A guided tour of the town will unveil its rich history, starting at the Renaissance ruins of Heidelberg Castle, where carefully curated gardens are still peppered with serene water features, sculptures and colorful flowerbeds.

5 hours

#### **EmeraldACTIVE**

Active hike from Mount Königstuhl to Heidelberg

Guests will meet the local guide for the coach transfer to Heidelberg. Guests are dropped off at the funicular, and they will take the car up the hill to the Mount Königsstuhl. Exiting the charmingly antique wagon, we dive in the breathtaking panoramic view of the Neckar valley, before we continue our journey on foot through the forest. Out of the woods we enter the castle of Heidelberg for a short tour of the ruin before we descend into the Old Town again. Once in town, the guides will give guests an orientation walk and free time.

5 hours

**Day 5 Wed, 11 Jun Koblenz**

Cruise to the 2,000-year-old town of Koblenz today and discover its fairy tale-like surrounds, nestled on the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle rivers. Your local guide will tour you through the Roman town, touching on the twin-towered façade of the Church of Our Lady and the German Corner, where the two inspirational waterways meet. Journey by cable car to Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, where you'll find exceptional views of the surrounding area from its hilltop position. And tonight, our EmeraldPLUS invites you to join a magical private evening concert.

**Included Excursion**

Walking tour of Koblenz.

Once a Roman stronghold desired for its strategic value, Koblenz is now a city with a unique blend of historic and contemporary architecture. Today, join your local guide for an insightful walking tour of Koblenz, passing examples of architecture that survived the war years, including the Church of Our Lady. Admire the natural splendour of your surroundings as you ride on the Koblenz Cable Car, embarking on an aerial journey to Ehrenbreitstein Fortress.  
2 hours

**EmeraldPLUS**

Private Evening concert on the Rhine -no information provided

**DiscoverMORE**

A Moselle Valley & Cochem Castle visit (extra expense) 180 seats \$83

Join the guide on your transfer to Cochem, where organized mini vans will be waiting for the guests to take them up to the breathtaking Reichsburg Castle. During a guided walking tour guests will learn more about the castle. After the tour the mini vans will be waiting for the guests to drive them back to the city center where your local guide is showing you the charming city of Cochem before enjoying some free time in Cochem. Afterwards the coaches drive you back to your ship.

**Day 6 Thu, 12 Jun Cologne**

Effortlessly steeped in history and tales of the past, Cologne is one of the oldest cities in Germany, encapsulating a timeline that spans more than two millennia. Your included city tour will take you to the heart of its Old Town.

**Included Excursion**

Guided tour of Cologne's Old Town

Founded by Romans in 50 A.D., the cathedral city of Cologne is one of the oldest cities in Germany and the largest on the Rhine. The historic capital of the Rhineland, this illustrious city has been generously peppered with ancient architecture, from Roman ruins to medieval structures, despite much of the inner city being completely destroyed during WWII. Join your local guide and explore the city, including the Old Town with its beautiful squares, historic monuments and contemporary architecture. You will conclude at the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Cologne Cathedral, whose filigree twin towers form an iconic part of the skyline. During your free time, shop for trinkets or explore further before returning to the ship.

2 hours

**Day 7 Fri, 13 Jun Amsterdam**

This morning, you can choose to embark on a guided bike tour to Waterland, learning about how the water is reclaiming Holland as you pass through quintessential Dutch surrounds and witness traditional villages and windmills. Alternatively, take to Amsterdam's UNESCO World Heritage-listed canal network during a glass-top canal cruise, passing Roman patrician houses and ornate merchant houses that tell tales of the prosperous Dutch Golden Age.

**Included Excursion**

Canal cruise

Today, you can choose to relax during a glass top canal boat through Amsterdam's elaborate UNESCO World Heritage-listed canal system, sailing through the medieval center of the city and past Roman patrician houses.

1 hour

**EmeraldACTIVE**

Guided bike tour to Waterland

Embark on a guided bike tour to Waterland, passing quintessential villages, traditional windmills and fields that are bursting with colour

3 hours

**DiscoverMORE**

Private hidden Gems tour of Amsterdam (extra expense) 15 seats \$190

Embark on an enchanting journey through Amsterdam, immersing yourself in the city's hidden treasures guided by our knowledgeable locals. This exclusive tour unveils secret spots and culinary gems frequented by Amsterdam's residents,

offering you a unique chance to savor handpicked local delights. Engage with our friendly guides to gain insights into their lives in this vibrant city. Amsterdam awaits, promising a delightful blend of discovery, authenticity, and delectable tastes.  
2hours

NOTE: ALL 3 EXCURSIONS HAPPEN AT THE SAME TIME AND GUESTS CAN ONLY CHOOSE ONE.

**Day 8 Sat, 14 Jun Amsterdam**

After breakfast, it's time to say farewell to your Star-Ship and fellow guests and disembark for your transfer to the airport, taking memories of the Black Forest and charming Strasbourg with you.

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.