

Tulips & the Rhine



Tour Name: Tulips & the Rhine

Days: 8

Day 1 Tue, 08 Apr Amsterdam

Welcome to Amsterdam. Here, you will be met at the airport by your friendly Emerald Cruises representative and transferred to your contemporary Star-Ship, where a quintessentially Dutch adventure awaits.

Day 2 Wed, 09 Apr Amsterdam

This morning you'll visit the iconic Keukenhof Gardens, boasting 32 hectares of spring-flowering bulbs. This scenic area is infused with delightful aromas and a swathe of vibrant colours. Soak in the sights of tulips, hyacinths, and orchids of every colour, creating an expertly arranged pattern of beauty. You will also have the opportunity to see statues commissioned by world-renowned artists, each adopting the annual theme.

Included Excursion

Visit to Keukenhof Gardens

A visit to the 'Garden of Europe' is sure to delight as the multicolored carpet of flowers stretches as far as the eye can see. A must visit while in the Netherlands.

5.5 hours

Day 3 Thu, 10 Apr Cologne

Once the ancient Roman settlement of Colonia, Cologne is alive with ancient architecture. Your included walking tour of the city will touch on the historical charm of its Old Town. Here, you will have the opportunity to traverse rustic alleyways, visit iconic monuments and see how archaeologists have uncovered a Jewish Quarter that can be dated back to the 13th century. As part of your day, you will also explore Cologne Botanical Gardens. Established in the 19th century, the gardens are visited by more than a million people every year.

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 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 4 Fri, 11 Apr 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. You will also have the chance to see the point at which two of Europe's great rivers meet at the German Corner and Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, one of the largest preserved fortresses in Europe. Later, we'll cruise through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Rhine Gorge, exemplifying the extraordinary beauty of an area that left the philosophers and artists of the German Romanticism movement entranced.

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

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.
5 hours

Day 5 Sat, 12 Apr Ludwigshafen – Schwetzingen

Schwetzingen Palace is famous for the beauty and harmony of its gardens. Remarkably, the original design survives to this day. Besides the palace interior, you will also visit the Palace Gardens, a cultural heritage site of European significance with more than 100 sculptures scattered throughout this picture-perfect landscape. Alternatively, you can embark on an active journey to the quaint wellness town of Bad-Dürkheim for a hike through the beautiful vineyards.

EmeraldPLUS

Visit to Schwetzingen Palace & Gardens

The coach journey is approximately 40 minutes and guests are dropped off at the Parkplatz Alter Messplatz. Guests will walk to the main entrance – about 5-minute walk (500 meters). Then, they are separated into groups and will have a guided tour to the palace and grounds the museum and room from 18th century. After guests are given an orientation walk about the gardens. The tour is 1.5 hours and after guests will have free time to explore.
4 hours

EmeraldACTIVE

Guided vineyard hike in Bad-Dürkheim

Buses will depart the star-ships in Ludwisghafen to the quaint town of Bad-Dürkheim. The coach journey is approximately 30 minutes and guests are dropped off at the main parking lot. Guests will walk to the main vineyard start with a hike through the vineyards. After, they will have a small orientation walk through the center of Bad-Dürkheim. After the orientation walk, guests will be taken to Fitz Ritter Winery for a wine refreshment and free time. The winery is home of the oldest Ginko tree in Germany. Bad Dürkhem is known as a wellness and spa town, there is a beautiful park and lots of green areas and many vineyards open to public.

3.5 hours

NOTE: This EmeraldACTIVE operates at the same time as the EmeraldPLUS - Visit to Schwetzingen Palace & Gardens

Day 6 Sun, 13 Apr Kehl – Strasbourg

Today, we arrive in Kehl, where you'll be transferred to Strasbourg, a city that promises much in the way of beautiful architecture. The UNESCO World Heritage-listed Neustadt district is particularly iconic, perfectly encapsulating the Rhineland. The Neustadt district is yours to discover during your included tour, as is the Maison Kammerzell, a prime example of German Renaissance architecture. Paying homage to the region's artistic past, Petite France is an exceptional historic quarter that looks as though it has been pulled directly from an artist's easel.

Included Excursion

Guided tour of Strasbourg.

Transfer to Strasbourg (about 20 min drive). In Strasbourg the guides will walk with passengers through the main highlights of the UNESCO protected old town like: Maison Kammerzell, Petite France and the Ponts Couverts (about 2 hours). After tour passengers have free time to explore.

4 hours

Day 7 Mon, 14 Apr Breisach

Today, you will experience the tale of two cities divided by the Rhine, Breisach (Germany), and Neuf-Brisach (France). During your guided visit to these two fantastic gems on the Rhine River, you'll pass by the main sights and attractions, one of which is the UNESCO World Heritage-listed fortress overlooking Neuf-Brisach.

EmeraldPLUS

A tale of two cities divided by the Rhine.

Coach to Neuf Brisach (France) across the river. In Neuf Brisach, guests will see some of these main attractions:

Vauban Fortifications
Eglise Royal Saint-Louis
City Hall (Hôtel de Ville)

After the walking tour and free time, guests will drive to Breisach (German side) they are dropped off at Heinrich-Ulmann Platz and start the walking tour of passing by the main sights:

Stephanmünster – Main Cathedral
Radbrunnen
Franciscan Monastery

Main Walking streets around Marktplatz

Some of the historical facts about Breisach as a military fortress, and it was fought over by the French and the Germans for centuries. Sun king Louis XIV. lost the fortress to the Habsburgs and had the fortress of Neuf-Brisach built just opposite Breisach on the other side of the Rhine. Free time to explore.

4.5 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 8 Tue, 15 Apr Basel - Zurich

Welcome to Switzerland. Basel graces the banks of the Rhine River and is known for its high concentration of museums, showcasing everything from contemporary art to scientific achievements.

After breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to your Star-Ship and fellow guests as you transfer to the airport, taking memories infused with vibrant tulip gardens with you.

Please book your flight to depart out of Zurich after 11:30 AM.

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.