

SIU 40th Anniversary

Rhine River Cruise

July 19—26, 2015

Avalon Waterways

Felicity



Day 1: Arrive in Zürich, Switzerland Transfer to Basel (Embarkation)

Flights into Zürich must arrive before 3 pm. Your river cruise vessel is docked on the Rhine River in Basel, where France, Germany, and Switzerland meet. Before dinner, meet your crew at a welcome reception. (Dinner)

Day 2: Strasbourg, France

Situated on the border of France and Germany, Strasbourg is influenced by the culture of both countries and is the capital of the Alsace region. It is the seat of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. Noteworthy sights are the GOTHIC CATHEDRAL, the lovely LA PETITE FRANCE district, Place Kléber, and Place Gutenberg with the statue of the inventor of the printing press. An optional excursion to the Alsace wine region or the Black Forest are available today. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 3: Speyer, Germany. Excursion to Heidelberg, Germany

Speyer was a bishopric and boasts a Romanesque cathedral with six imposing towers and the finest and largest crypt in Germany. Four Holy Roman Emperors and four German kings are buried in the impressive Royal Vault. Enjoy free time on your own or an optional guided tour which also visits the impressive Technical Museum. From here, an excursion takes you to Heidelberg, home to the oldest University in Germany, which was founded in 1386. Visit the imposing ruins of the Heidelberg Castle, towering magnificently over the city and among the most important Renaissance structures north of the Alps. You will also see the famed Great Vat, the World's Largest Wine Barrel. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 4: Mainz–Rüdesheim

Situated on the left bank of the Rhine, opposite the mouth of the Main River, Mainz is Germany's largest and most important wine market. The Old Town has many interesting shops, tea rooms, and restaurants, and a fountain on the Schillerplatz is decorated with famous scenes of the famous carnival held here every year. Gutenberg, the father of modern printing, was born here and you'll visit the GUTENBERG MUSEUM. The pretty little town of Rüdesheim is the perfect example of a Rhine Valley wine town. SEGFRIED'S MECHANICAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM is a real surprise! Enjoy a SPECIAL TREAT, then there's free time to explore the Drosselgasse and pick up some souvenirs. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 5: Rhine Gorge– Koblenz

Downstream from Rudesheim is the dramatic RHINE GORGE, the most beautiful stretch of river and dotted every mile with castles. Pass the legendary rock of the *Lorelei*, where sweet songs of local beauties lured enchanted sailors to their doom. Situated at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers, 2,000 year old Koblenz is the cultural and business center of the Middle Rhine region. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 6: Colonge, Germany

Colonge is the capital of the Rhineland and one of Germany's largest cities. The soaring twin steeples of Cologne's magnificent gothic cathedral– which took more than 600 years to build–dominate the river skyline. The Germano-Roman Museum next to the cathedral is a must for history buffs! The Old Town abounds with taverns, cafes, and shops. The favorite local beer here is Kölsch. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 7: Amsterdam, Holland

Holland's capital is sophisticated and modern, with a rich and fascinating history. This delightful 700-year-old city with its elegant and classical architecture, cafes, and restaurants, and lively marketplace has a distinct ambience. The works of famous Dutch masters can be seen in world-renowned museums such as the Rijksmuseum or the Van Gogh. There is no better way to see Amsterdam than by CANAL BOAT, cruising through the elegant *grachten* lined with stately homes dating back to Amsterdam's "Golden Age." (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 8: Amsterdam (Disembarkation).

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning (Breakfast)

**River Level Staterooms
Starting At \$2,999PP**

**French Balcony Staterooms
Starting At \$3,599PP**

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