

2024 SEASON

ROMANTIC RHINE (SOUTHBOUND)

CRUISE: WAZ 8 Day River Cruise Amsterdam to Basel

One of Europe's most legendary rivers takes you across Germany and touches in Holland, France, and Switzerland! This magnificent Rhine River cruise begins in the ever popular, modern city of Amsterdam, Holland. Cruise on its famous canals along the elegant grachten--the best way to see the treasures of this 700-year-old city dating back to the "Golden Age." Visit Cologne, Germany—a 2,000 year-old city known for its Gothic-style architecture—and see its famous twin-spired cathedral and Old Town with many shops, cafés, and taverns.

Sail through the dramatic Rhine Gorge—offering the most beautiful view of the Rhine River where ancient castles stand on cliffs 400 feet above the water. Cruise to the charming wine town of Rudesheim and visit the unique Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum. Continue your Rhine River cruise to Mainz for a guided walk and visit to the captivating Gutenberg Museum, or take an excursion to Heidelberg to visit the ruins of its red-walled castle. In Strasbourg, France, marvel at the red-sandstone Gothic-style cathedral with ancient murals and fascinating astronomical clock. Also, stroll through the lovely La Petite France district with its quaint shops, delightful bistros, and peaceful waterfront promenade. Stop in Breisach, Germany, the gateway to Germany's Black Forest. Here, find unrivaled natural beauty in the area best known for Black Forest ham, cherry cake, and the cuckoo clock.

CRUISE OVERVIEW

8
DAYS

4
COUNTRIES

🚩 COUNTRIES

Netherlands
Germany
France
Switzerland



CRUISE

AT-A-GLANCE

Day 1 Amsterdam (Embarkation):

Onboard welcome reception

Day 2 Amsterdam:

Canal cruise

Day 3 Cologne:Choice of Cologne highlights walking tour, or Jewish Heritage walking tour or bike with your Adventure Host**Day 4 Rhine Gorge-Rüdesheim:**Cruise through the scenic Rhine Gorge with breathtaking views of ancient castles, towering cliffs, and the legendary Rock of the Lorelei; visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum in Rüdesheim or hike in the vineyards with your Adventure Host**Day 5 Mainz. Excursion to Heidelberg:**

Choice of guided walk in Mainz with a visit to the Gutenberg Museum, or a guided tour of Heidelberg Castle, see the Great Vat, or walk the Philosophers' Way with your Adventure Host

Day 6 Strasbourg:

Choice of guided sightseeing, visit the La Petite France district and the Gothic cathedral or bike with your Adventure Host

Day 7 Breisach:

Choice of excursion to Black Forest, or visit to a local winery in Breisach

Day 8 Basel (Disembarkation):

Your cruise ends this morning

ALWAYS INCLUDED

CRUISE EXPERIENCES

You've always forged your own path... with your own distinct perspective of looking at the world. Avalon Waterways presents a river cruise experience with your unique style in mind - offering expansive views and wider perspectives. That's why we've designed a cruise experience that's just a bit different.

Here are just some of the features and amenities you'll experience on board our Avalon ships. See the Ship Amenities section below for more information about the amenities in our fleet's unique ships.

Throughout the Ship

- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Panoramic windows
- Elegant, contemporary design & décor
- Friendly, English-speaking crew & Cruise Director
- Sky Deck with whirlpool, shade awnings, game area and premium lounges
- Covered Observation Lounge
- Club Lounge with 24-hour self-serve beverage station with complimentary cappuccinos, lattes, tea, hot chocolate & premium coffees, as well as treats throughout the day

Dining

- Avalon FlexDining® for more venue and seating options, including flexible seating times in our Panorama Dining Room
- Avalon Fresh® healthy cuisine options at every meal
- Complimentary sparkling wine with breakfast; wine, beer, or soft drinks with every lunch and dinner
- Daily a la carte breakfast with full range of classic breakfast items, healthy Avalon Fresh® options and daily specials
- Daily lunch buffet featuring regional specialties, classic dishes, healthy Avalon Fresh® options and rotating chef's features including carving & pasta stations. Alternatively, you may dine al fresco at our Sky Grill on the Sky Deck (weather and itinerary permitting) or enjoy a light lunch in the Panorama Lounge.
- Daily Afternoon Tea featuring tea, coffee, sweet treats & sandwiches
- Daily four-course a la carte dinner in the Panorama Dining Room with choice of appetizers, soups, salads, entrees and desserts. Includes selections of regional recipes, Western dishes and vegetarian options.
- Enjoy a tasting menu with a view in the Panorama Bistro - a less formal "sit-down" atmosphere while lingering over several satisfying selections
- Welcome & farewell cocktails with sparkling wine and canapés
- Panorama Lounge featuring premium spirits and Avalon specialty cocktails, along with local entertainment special guests
- Cocktails available on the Sky Deck

- Fresh fruit available throughout the day

Health and Fitness

- Bikes
- Canoe, kayak and jogging excursions
- Maps for hiking, biking and jogging routes
- Fitness and wellness activities
- Fitbits®
- All through your Avalon Adventure HostSM

Suites & Staterooms

- Comfort Collection BedsSM with choice of mattress firmness
- Egyptian super-combed cotton linens
- Bathrobes & slippers
- Premium L'Occitane bath products
- Large bathroom featuring shower with glass door
- Flatscreen satellite TV with free movie channels
- Individual climate control and in-room safe
- USB Ports
- And, much more

Avalon has designed included activities with a choice of experiences. We invite you to select the tours, activities, and events that interest you most, so you can experience your cruise your way. Plus, we offer independent exploration options and the use of our exclusive AvalonGO APP on most of our cruises.

Below are 3 types of included shore excursions for you to experience.



CLASSIC

Your local expert is ready to guide you through the history and heritage of local destinations. You'll marvel at the legends, lore, and spectacular architecture of iconic and historic sites.



DISCOVERY

We've found inspiring and interactive activities to speak to your interests - from cooking classes, to painting workshops - to immerse yourself in each culture you explore.



ACTIVE

Embark on energetic excursions to keep you in motion and on the go - from a guided jogging tour of Amsterdam, to biking, paddling, and hiking your way through scenic locales.

DAY-BY-DAY

ITINERARY

DAY 1

AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND (EMBARKATION)

Welcome to Holland. Your Suite Ship® is Ready for Boarding.

Flights into Amsterdam must arrive by 3:30 pm.

Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.

Your day in Amsterdam is free to explore at your leisure.

During tulip season, you may take a Guided Optional Excursion to Keukenhof gardens—with more than seven million tulips, daffodils and hyacinths, as well as other bulbs, planted each year.

Outside of tulip season, join a Guided Optional Excursion to Zaanse Schans to see historic windmills and charming Dutch houses.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN AMSTERDAM

 Dinner

DAY 2

AMSTERDAM

Canals of Colorful Amsterdam

Join your Adventure Host for today's special activities.



Classic

Explore the iconic waterways of Amsterdam on a Guided Canal Cruise past stately homes of Amsterdam's "Golden Age."

This afternoon choose among the Guided Optional Excursions available or take some free time to explore Amsterdam's colorful streets and canal houses, galleries, and shops.

AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO COLOGNE

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

DAY 3

COLOGNE, GERMANY

Prost! Celebrate in the Rhineland

**Active**

Enjoy a bike ride like the locals in Cologne with your Adventure Host, OR:

**Discovery**

Choose a Guided Walking Tour of Cologne's important Jewish heritage sites, OR:

**Classic**

Take a Guided City Walk of Cologne—with its soaring twin-steepled gothic cathedral.

Spend free time over a glass of Kölsch pale lager—locally brewed for over 100 years!

Later, local musicians will join us on board for live entertainment.

OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO RÜDESHEIM

Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 4

RÜDESHEIM

Eat, Drink, and Be Merry in Wine Country

En route to Rüdesheim, sail through the Rhine Gorge (a UNESCO World Heritage site). Take in the breathtaking views of ancient castles perched on cliffs 400 feet above the water, and pass the legendary Rock of the Lorelei—where the mythological siren's songs lured ill-fated sailors.

**Active**

Enjoy a hike with your Avalon Adventure Host through the picturesque vineyards of Rüdesheim, OR:

**Discovery**

Take a Guided Tour of the incredible Mechanical Music Museum for a one-of-a-kind instrumental experience; based on your departure enjoy a local special treat.

Enjoy live entertainment on board your ship this evening.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN RÜDESHEIM

Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 5

MAINZ. EXCURSION TO HEIDELBERG

Printing Halls, Castle Walls, and the World's Biggest Wine Barrel

**Active**

Join your Avalon Adventure Host for an inspiring walk in Heidelberg, the Philosophers' way, OR:

**Classic**

Enjoy a Guided City Walk, including a visit to the Gutenberg Museum to see the captivating history of printing, OR:

**Classic**

Enjoy a Guided Tour to Heidelberg Castle to see the ruins of the magnificent renaissance treasure towering above the city, and its famed Great Vat, the "World's Largest Wine Barrel."

EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO STRASBOURG

Breakfast Lunch Dinner

DAY 6

STRASBOURG, FRANCE

A Grand Cathedral and La Petite France

Ask about today's energizing or relaxing Adventure Host activities.

**Active**

Discover Strasbourg by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:

**Classic**

Join a City Sightseeing Tour, including Strasbourg's Gothic, stained-glass cathedral with its celebrated ancient murals and astronomical clock, as well as the magical La Petite France District.

Choose a Guided Optional Excursion to the historic Maginot Line—the pre-WWII fortifications designed to protect the eastern border of France, or visit Alsace's wine country today.

Alternatively, take some free time in Strasbourg to visit a museum, or stroll across the city center.

EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BREISACH

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

DAY 7

BREISACH, GERMANY. EXCURSION TO BLACK FOREST

German Winemaking and the Beautiful Black Forest

**Discovery**

Join a full-day Guided Tour to the magical Black Forest to experience the Vogtsbauernhof open-air-museum, visit an authentic water mill, and see a traditional butter-making demonstration, OR:

**Discovery**

Visit to a local winery in Breisach, where you will learn about German winemaking and enjoy a wine tasting.

You may choose to join a Guided Optional Excursion to visit the charming village of Colmar in the morning, with half-timbered medieval and early renaissance buildings.

EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BASEL

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

DAY 8

BASEL, SWITZERLAND (DISEMBARKATION)

Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.

Flights should not leave Zürich airport before 10 am or Basel airport before 8 am.

 Breakfast

HAND-PICKED

HOTELS

We've vetted and hand-selected the best hotels around the world with location, comfort, and style in mind. Enjoy first-class hotels in each destination, and check in with the confidence that we've already checked everything out for your comfort and convenience.

Zurich

ZURICH

Renaissance Zurich Tower

This 300 room luxury hotel is housed in a modern tower building located in the vibrant Zurich West quarter. The exclusive Grill restaurant serves urban cuisine and the lounge bar offers drinks, snacks and cocktails. Other amenities include a fitness area on the 15th floor with city views, sauna and steam bath.

Turbinenstrasse 20 Zurich

Complimentary Wifi

SuperiorFirst-Class

Hotel as shown or similar

Hotel Amenities

Spa Services

Bar/Lounge

Elevator

Currency Exchange

Restaurant On-Site

Ice Machine

Parking/Valet

Fitness Room

Laundry Available

Business Center

Free WiFi

Concierge Desk

Luggage Storage

Room Features

Coffee Maker

Hair Dryer

Complimentary Toiletries

Climate Control

Non-Smoking Rooms

Iron/Ironing Board

Air Conditioning

Television

Internet Access

Disabled Access / Rooms

In-Room Safe

Wake-Up Calls

Window Opens

Phone

Mini-Bar

Air Conditioning (Seasonal)

Complimentary Newspaper

Desk

Cable/Satellite

Alarm Clock

Room Service