



# VIKING CRUISES

*Exploring the World in Comfort®*

## ***Rhine Getaway*** **2013 At-A-Glance**



**Visit all the highlights of the legendary Rhine in just 8 days. In Germany, see the many charming castles commanding the riverbanks as you sail by, and tour both Marksburg Castle and the ruins of Heidelberg Castle. Admire Cologne, the jewel of the Rhine, with its awe-inspiring *Dom*, and experience the lush landscape of the Black forest region. Also, explore Holland's famous windmills and waterworks, encounter multicultural Strasbourg in France, and take part in the inviting nightlife in Rüdensheim's *Drosselgasse*. On this itinerary you see a lot—without spending a lot of time.**

Sail dates available October to December 2013

Amsterdam to Basel *or* Basel to Amsterdam

Ships sailing this itinerary: Viking Forseti Viking Helvetia, Viking Sun or Viking Rinda

## ***Rhine Getaway*** **Journey Highlights**

### **Included Features**

- 8-day cruise with river-view stateroom
- 6 guided tours with audio headset
- All meals: 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners, featuring regional specialties and including Welcome Cocktail Reception & Dinner and Captain's Farewell Dinner
- Traditional Thanksgiving feast of roasted turkey with all the trimmings on November departures
- Visit 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Culture Curriculum<sup>SM</sup>: Enjoy a classical music performance; learn how to create your own Alsatian Flammkuchen; observe a traditional glassblower; attend lectures on Germany's current affairs & origins of Rhine River cruising

### **Christmas Markets in the Heart of Europe**

In Europe's magical Christmas markets, the spirit and romance of the holidays comes alive. While at first glance they all look the same, each city has its own character — some have an intimate feel while others are much bigger events. Whichever Christmas markets you visit, you'll enjoy a wonderful feast of tasty treats, as well as dozens of stalls brimming with unique and inspiring handcrafted gifts.

### **Ancient Heidelberg**

Heidelberg is home to Germany's oldest university, founded in 1386. It also features one of the Rhine's most distinctive landmarks—the red sandstone ruins of Heidelberg Castle. Situated high above the town, the castle has sweeping views of the Neckar River Valley and of Heidelberg's red-roofed charm. Stroll along Heidelberg's narrow cobbled streets, shop in the stalls lining its wide squares, see the imposing gates of the Old Town area and walk across the town's famous Old Bridge.

### **Sensational Strasbourg**

The multicultural city of Strasbourg, capital of France's Alsace region, owes its blend of French and German influences to its location along the Rhine River at the border between the two countries. Its historic city center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, features traditional wooden houses and picturesque canals.

#### **Included Tours:**

Strasbourg city tour  
Heidelberg excursion  
Marksburg Castle & Museum tour  
Cologne walking tour  
Kinderdijk windmill tour

#### **Optional Tours:**

Colmar excursion  
Vineyard walk  
World War II excursion

Optional tours are purchased on board ship and are subject to availability & minimum participation

## ***Rhine Getaway*** **Basel to Amsterdam Itinerary**

### **Day 1 Basel, Switzerland**

- Basel airport transfer\*
- Embark ship
- Free day to explore Basel at your leisure

*Included Meals: Dinner*

### **Day 2 Breisach, Germany**

- Black Forest excursion
- Cuckoo clock-making demonstration
- Free time in Breisach
- Christmas market visit
- Optional excursion to Colmar
- Optional World War II excursion
- Welcome Reception & Dinner

*Included Meals:*

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 3 Strasbourg, France**

- City tour of Strasbourg including European Parliament and cathedral
- Free time to explore Strasbourg
- Christmas market visit

*Included Meals:*

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 4 Heidelberg & Rudesheim, Germany**

- Tour of Heidelberg including Heidelberg Castle and Old Town
- Scenic cruising
- Free time in Rudesheim
- Christmas market visit

*Included Meals:*

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 5 Braubach & Koblenz, Germany**

- Scenic cruising along the Middle Rhine, a UNESCO Site
- Tour of Marksburg Castle and its museum
- Free time in Koblenz

*Included Meals:*

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 6 Cologne, Germany**

- Walking tour including Old Town and Cologne Cathedral
- Free time to explore Cologne
- Christmas market visit

*Included Meals:*

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 7 Kinderdijk, The Netherlands**

- Dutch cheese & *jenever* tasting
- Tour the windmills of Kinderdijk, a UNESCO Site
- Captain's Farewell Dinner

*Included Meals:*

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 8 Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

- Disembark
- Amsterdam airport transfer\*

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

\* Airport transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises Transfers must be with flights that arrive/depart on ship or included hotel check-in or check-out day only.

## *Rhine Getaway* Amsterdam to Basel Itinerary

**Day 1 Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

- Amsterdam airport transfer\*
- Embark ship
- Free time to explore Amsterdam
- Christmas market

*Included Meals: Dinner*

**Day 2 Kinderdijk, The Netherlands**

- Dutch cheese & *jenever* tasting
- Tour the windmills of Kinderdijk, a UNESCO Site
- Welcome Reception and Dinner

*Included Meals:*

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 3 Cologne, Germany**

- Walking tour including Old Town and Cologne Cathedral
- Free time to explore Cologne
- Christmas market visit

*Included Meals:*

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 4 Koblenz & Rudesheim, Germany**

- Tour of Marksburg Castle and its museum
- Scenic cruising along the Middle Rhine, a UNESCO Site
- Free time to explore Rudesheim
- Christmas market visit

*Included Meals:*

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 5 Heidelberg & Speyer, Germany**

- Tour of Heidelberg including Heidelberg Castle and Old Town
- Free time in Speyer

*Included Meals:*

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 6 Strasbourg, France**

- City tour of Strasbourg including European Parliament and cathedral
- Free time to explore Strasbourg
- Christmas market visit

*Included Meals:*

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 7 Breisach, Germany**

- Black Forest excursion
- Cuckoo clock-making demonstration
- Free time in Breisach
- Christmas market visit
- Optional excursion to Colmar
- Optional vineyard walk
- Captain's Farewell Dinner

*Included Meals:*

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 8 Basel, Switzerland**

- Disembark
- Basel airport transfer\*

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

\* Airport transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises Transfers must be with flights that arrive/depart on ship or included hotel check-in or check-out day only.

## Explore More

More days means more to discover. We offer exciting ways to see even more of the region with extension packages you can add before or after your Viking journey.

### **Amsterdam Extension**

#### **2 nights—\$499 per person**

Extend your journey with a trip to Amsterdam, where you will be centrally located near key sites like Museum Square and the Anne Frank House. Two nights at the **Radisson Blu** (or similar), daily breakfasts, a walking tour and transfer to ship are included along with the services of a Viking host.

The superior first class **Radisson Blu Hotel**, Amsterdam is located in the heart of the city, within walking distance of many of Amsterdam's main sites and attractions, including Museum Square and the famous flower market. The hotel features a restaurant, café and bar; free internet service; concierge services; 24-hour room service; fitness center and gift shop. Air-conditioned rooms include television, telephone, wireless internet service, a hair dryer and minibar.

### **Lucerne Extension**

#### **2 nights for \$599 per person**

Extend your journey in picturesque Lucerne, Switzerland; enjoy the scenic landscape of the Swiss Alps with a view from your hotel, situated on the shores of beautiful Lake Lucerne. Two nights at the Radisson Blu (or similar), daily breakfasts, guided walking tour and ship/hotel transfer are included along with the services of a Viking host.

The superior first class **Radisson Blu Hotel**, Lucerne is nestled on the banks of Lake Lucerne and offers generously-sized rooms with lake-views, a restaurant, bar and first-class service. Hotel amenities include fitness & wellness center, business services and currency exchange. Air-conditioned rooms include television, telephone, free wireless internet service, a hair dryer and minibar.

### **Basel Extension**

#### **2 nights—\$499 per person**

Extend your Rhine voyage with two extra days in Basel, giving you time to see the city's architectural landmarks and one of its world-class art museums. Two nights at the **Hilton Basel** (or similar), daily breakfasts and an art and architecture tour are included along with the services of a Viking host.

The **Hilton Basel** hotel is 20 minutes from EuroAirport Basel and has 11 meeting rooms with wireless internet access, business center and Executive Lounge. Enjoy the health club at the Hilton Basel hotel or play golf nearby. Shop at Freie Strasse or visit Basel attractions such as the Old Town. Further afield, visit the Roman town of Augusta Raurica before heading back for a relaxing sauna or steam room. Rooms include air-conditioning, internet connectivity, mini-bar, coffee maker, television, hairdryer and toiletries.

\* Hotels are subject to change without notice at which time, a comparable alternative will be offered.

## The Viking Experience

### **Quietvox Tour Earphones**

With our Quietvox tour earphones, there are no worries about missing any interesting details during your shore excursions. Each guest will receive a lightweight, portable receiver that can be worn around the neck or slipped into a pocket. The comfortable earpiece with individual volume control allows you to hear your guide's comments no matter where you are standing and makes every place on your tour the "best seat in the house."

### **Onboard Enrichment**

*Culture Curriculum<sup>SM</sup>*. To help you further appreciate the countries that you will visit, we complement your shore excursion with a broad range of immersive activities, on board and ashore. Your cruise includes a Dutch cheese & *jenever* tasting, Alsatian *Flammkuchen* cooking demonstration and lectures on topics such as the European Union, The Dutch Masters, Travelers Along the Rhine and a German language lesson.. Times and locations will be announced on board.

As part of our Culture Curriculum, we have partnered with the Smithsonian Institution to bring you exclusive onboard lectures. Artists, performers, historical eyewitnesses and professors all contribute to a fascinating and entertaining program that gives you true insight into the places you visit. Smithsonian lectures will be featured on the following 2012 dates: July 29 on *Viking Helvetia* and August 26 on *Viking Sun*.

*Expert Program Directors*. Viking River Cruises Program Directors are selected for their comprehensive knowledge of the regions you will be visiting. They have a fine appreciation of each destination's nuances and a genuine passion for travel and are there to help from the first moment to the end of your journey. If you have any questions, would like recommendations or have any concerns during your itinerary, do not hesitate to contact your Program Director.

### **General Physical Fitness**

Our tours and cruises are not physically demanding, however, *because of the nature of many of the sites you will be visiting, this tour may not be appropriate for guests with certain medical conditions and physical restrictions*. Walking tours are often on uneven ground or cobblestones and may include stairs and steep inclines. If you have concerns or questions, please discuss the nature of your itinerary with your Viking River Cruises Travel Consultant.

### **Complimentary Wine with Onboard Dinner and Lunch Service**

Enjoy complimentary bottled wine with onboard dinner and lunch service. We feature two varietals—one white and one red—that pair beautifully with our onboard menu of contemporary and regional specialties.



## Before You Go

Visit our website at [vikingrivercruises.com](http://vikingrivercruises.com) (or [vrc.com](http://vrc.com)) where you can not only learn more about all the places you might go with Viking, but you can also immerse yourself in the experience from the comfort of your own home. There is information abound and you can watch videos of destinations, take a virtual tour of a cruise ship or get a list of recommended readings.

### Passports & Visas

Passports are necessary however no visas are required for U.S. citizens for this itinerary. Non-U.S. citizens, please check your consulate for visa information.

### Viking's All-Inclusive Airfare & Transfers

For your convenience, you can purchase roundtrip trans-oceanic air travel directly from Viking in conjunction with your river cruise or cruisetour. Viking's air packages are a great value because they include your transfers between airport and ship or hotel. And, when you reserve your air with Viking and purchase Viking's all-inclusive travel protection policy, your air travel is covered by the policy as part of your Viking itinerary. Select from more than 165 different gateways (additional gateways available) in economy or the upgraded service of Premium Economy or Business Class (trans-oceanic portion); once your reservation has been made, we will confirm your flight schedules 75 days before departure.

### E-Check Program

Viking offers special incentives when you pay via e-check (electronic debit to your checking account)—a quick and convenient way to pay for your vacation. Ask for details when making your reservation.

### Viking Travel Protection

Viking Travel Protection allows you to cancel your trip for any reason. Enjoy peace of mind knowing that whatever may arise—even a pre-existing medical condition—you retain 100% of your travel value. Premiums are based on trip cost and start at only \$249 per person!

\*Information contained in this document is subject to change without notice.

See your travel agent or call us at 1-877-668-4546  
[www.vikingrivercruises.com](http://www.vikingrivercruises.com)