



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 March to November 2013

Amsterdam to Basel *or* Basel to Amsterdam

Ships sailing this itinerary: Viking Atla, Viking Bragi, Viking Forseti, Viking Helvetia,
Viking Jarl, Viking Rinda, Viking Sun, Viking Tor or Viking Var

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
- Visit 6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Old World Highlights[®]: Dutch cheese & *jenever* tasting, Alsatian *Flammkuchen* cooking demonstration
- Culture CurriculumSM: German language lesson, The Dutch Masters, Travelers Along the Rhine, The European Union

Medieval Toll Booths

The castles along the Rhine Valley were originally constructed as fortified residences to protect the land from marauders—but castle owners also utilized their strategically advantageous positions to impose tolls on passing merchants. This may explain why you will see so many castles along the 35-mile stretch of the Rhine between Mainz and Bonn.

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.

Alsatian Cuisine

This region produces a savory cuisine that perfectly merges hearty German fare with French elegance. A typical dish is *choucroute*, featuring fermented white cabbage layered with spicy smoked pork—best served with potatoes and an Alsatian pinot blanc. Other meat specialties include *Baeckeoffe*, a traditional stew of marinated beef or lamb; charcuterie, sausages and other cured meats; goose liver pâté and Munster cheese—enjoy them with a Gewürztraminer, riesling or a hearty Kronenbourg beer.

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. On your tour, see the carefully restored Cathedral of Notre Dame, most recognized for its graceful 465-foot-tall spires.

Included Tours:

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

Optional Tours:

Colmar excursion
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
- 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Included Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 Breisach, Germany

- Black Forest excursion
- Cuckoo clock-making demonstration
- Free time in Breisach
- Optional excursion to Colmar
- 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.

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

See your travel agent or call us at 1-877-668-4546
www.vikingrivercruises.com

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 CurriculumSM. 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.

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 (or 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!

Climate – Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

| <u>Destination</u> | <u>Mar</u> | <u>Apr</u> | <u>May</u> | <u>Jun</u> | <u>Jul</u> | <u>Aug</u> | <u>Sep</u> | <u>Oct</u> | <u>Nov</u> |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Amsterdam | 48/34 | 55/38 | 63/45 | 68/50 | 71/53 | 71/53 | 66/49 | 58/44 | 48/37 |
| Basel | 52/34 | 60/40 | 68/41 | 74/53 | 78/56 | 77/56 | 70/51 | 59/43 | 47/36 |
| Cologne | 47/36 | 54/41 | 63/48 | 68/53 | 71/56 | 71/56 | 65/52 | 57/46 | 47/38 |

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