

River Castles Tour

The German Rivers Rhine, Moselle, Neckar and Main and their Castles

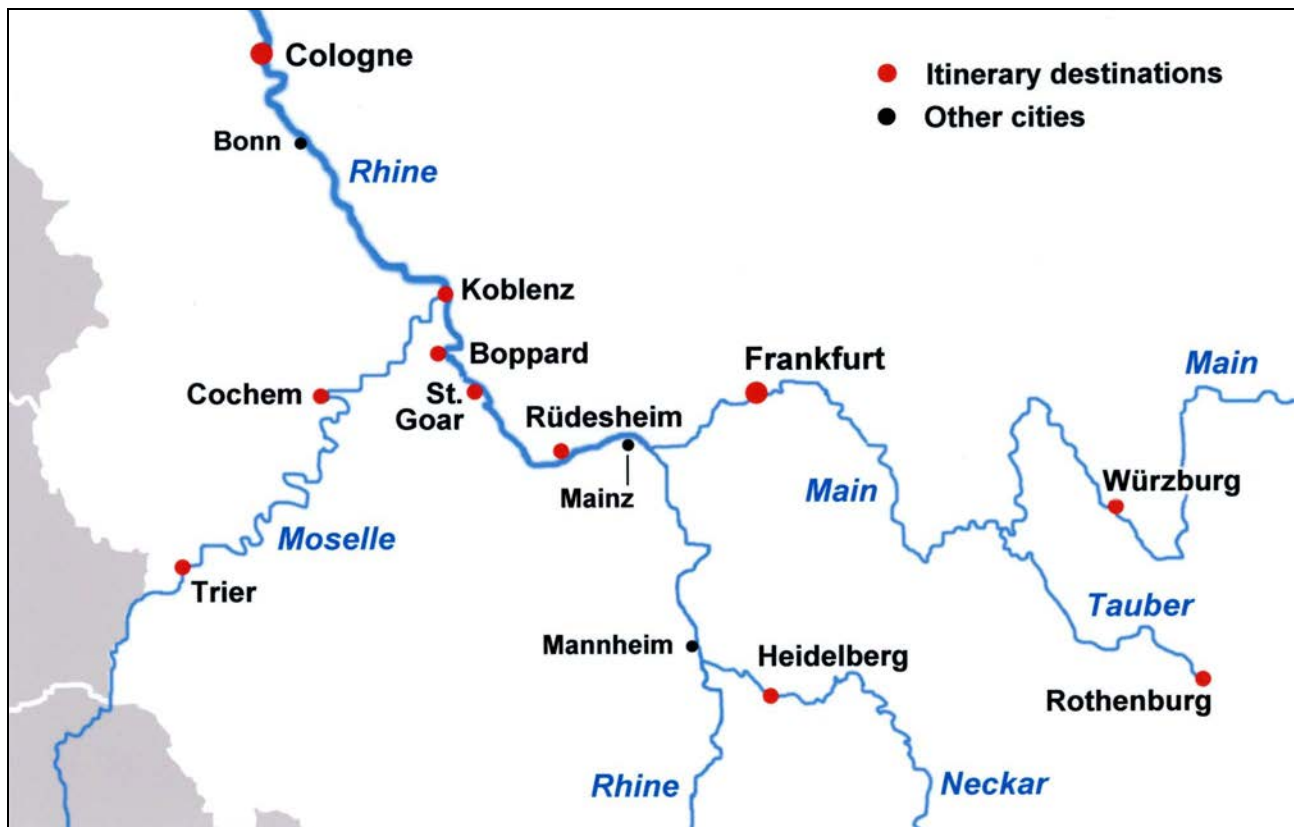


For hundreds of years the Rhine has ranked as one of the most popular travel destinations in Europe. This region, truly one of the most beautiful in Germany, was recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2002.

Spend plenty of time discovering the river, its castles and ruins, tales and legends and also those of its tributaries Moselle, Neckar and Main. The days are planned to offer you many highlights but they are leisurely paced with time for you to explore on your own.

Enjoy, relax and let us take care of the details for you.

Map



Itinerary

Day 1 - DEPARTURE

Board your flight from your home destination to Frankfurt, Germany. This itinerary assumes this to be an overnight flight.

Air fare independently arranged.



Day 2 - WELCOME TO THE RHINE

Arrival in Frankfurt, Germany. **Your flight should arrive at the Frankfurt Airport by 11:15 a.m. at the latest for the complimentary transfer at noon.** When the group is complete we drive directly to the RHINE for lunch in one of the charming villages on the River.

Transfer to the four-star Bellevue Rheinhotel in Boppard, one of the best hotels in the Rhine area. This Art Nouveau style hotel is situated directly on the river, with a dock at its front door, and has welcomed guests since 1877. We will spend the next five nights here.



You can spend some relaxing moments at the on-site swimming pool and sauna. Health conscious guests can work out at the fitness centre.

Tonight we meet for a welcome drink followed by dinner at the hotel.

> *Your tour includes: Transfer from airport to hotel, welcome drink, three-course dinner with menu choices, one beverage, and coffee or tea after, Bellevue Rheinhotel in Boppard*

Day 3 - CASTLES, CASTLES, CASTLES - RUEDESHEIM



Cruising all day on the Rhine on the most beautiful stretch of the river, the part added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list. We travel upstream past the Loreley Rock and lots of medieval castles on both sides of the river to most charming RUEDESHEIM.

Time for lunch and souvenirs in famous Drosselgasse, and then we take a cable car uphill through the vineyards to Niederwald Monument. Be prepared for incredible views over the valley. We return on a Rhinesteamer and later have a great dinner in a typical Rheinkeller with wine tasting.



> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, Rhine cruises from and to St. Goar, tickets for cable car, three-course dinner with choices and wine tasting, Bellevue Rheinhotel*

Day 4 - MARKSBURG, KOBLENZ, EHRENBREITSTEIN

Today we cross the river by ferry to Braubach, the Town of Roses where we take a guided tour of the MARKSBURG, an 11th century castle, the only one on the Rhine that was never destroyed.

We continue to KOBLENZ, meaning confluence, where the Moselle joins the Rhine at the Deutsches Eck (the German Corner). Admire the equestrian statue of Wilhelm I. Time to explore Koblenz on you own, before we take a cable car up to EHRENBREITSTEIN Fortress for an inside visit of the Museum of the Rhine.

From Koblenz we take a boat back, have dinner on board, and dock in front of our hotel.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, entrance fees to Marksburg and Ehrenbreitstein, Rhine cruise from Koblenz to Boppard, three-course dinner on board, Bellevue Rheinhotel*



Day 5 - REMAGEN, COLOGNE

Morning stop at the Peace Museum of REMAGEN, located in surviving towers of the former railway bridge which fell into the American hands almost intact on March 7, 1945, but collapsed ten days later under the weight of armoured vehicles.

We continue to COLOGNE, the biggest city on our tour and on the Rhine. We see the famous gothic Cathedral, and join the locals in one of Germany's longest pedestrian zones for a Koelsch or a cup of coffee.

Late afternoon arrival back at your hotel. Dinner.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, guided walking tour of Cologne, entrance to Peace Museum, three-course dinner, Bellevue Rheinhotel*



Day 6 - MOSELLE, BURG ELTZ, COCHEM, TRIER

Today we drive upstream along the MOSELLE River, which in scenery, castles and vineyards does not stand in the shadow compared to its big brother, the Rhine.

Our first stop is the twelfth century BURG ELTZ, rising majestically above the rear end of the wild Eltz Valley, one of Germany's most beautiful castles, surrounded by the river on three sides. Inside visit.

Day 6 - continued

We continue to COCHEM located on an idyllic bend on the river, where you have time for lunch on the Moselle Promenade.



From Cochem we continue on to TRIER, Germany's oldest city, with lots of Roman sights. We get a deeper insight into this place with a guided walking tour, which takes you inside the Porta Nigra, a roman fortress from the second century, and the best preserved roman construction north of the Alps. Our Trier tour also includes the Cathedral, one of Germany's oldest churches with foundations dating from the fourth century, and the Church of our Dear Lady, the oldest purely gothic church in Germany. All three sights are on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Time for dinner on your own in Trier tonight before we return to the hotel.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, entrance fees for Burg Eltz, Porta Nigra, Cathedral, Church of our Dear Lady, local guide in Trier, Bellevue Rheinhotel*

Day 7 - RHEINFELS, HEIDELBERG, BURGENSTRASSE

Today say goodbye to the Rhine after your visit to RHEINFELS CASTLE in St. Goar and head south to HEIDELBERG, on the banks of the Neckar river. In medieval times the Electoral Palatinate with Heidelberg as the political centre was one of the most advanced European States. See the beautiful red-walled castle including the great vat with a guided tour. Then we take a cogwheel train down into the city where you have more time for sightseeing, shopping and postcards.



Tonight we are staying in a typical country hotel in the Neckar Valley on the BURGENSTRASSE (Castle Road).

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, Heidelberg Castle Tour, Cogwheel Train, three-course, hotel in Neckar valley*

Day 8 - ROTHENBURG, ROMANTIC ROAD, WUERZBURG

Our last traveling day takes us to medieval ROTHENBURG OB DER TAUBER in Frankonia where you feel like you just jumped back into the 16th century. Completely surrounded by its medieval ramparts with countless towers, Rothenburg is famous for its ancient houses, fountains, cobbled lanes, hidden corners and street signs. Also famous for the Meistertrunk, in which -- according to legend -- the burgomeister saved the town by emptying a 6-pint tankard in one single draught.



After lunch we take the ROMANTIC ROAD all the way to where it starts, to WUERZBURG on the Main River. Take a guided tour of UNESCO Residence, this superb baroque palace, one of the biggest in Germany, admire the staircase, the frescoes by Tiepolo, the Hofkirche and the Gardens. Afterwards you have time to see more of Wuerzburg on your own and get your final shopping done.



Back to Frankfurt for overnight.

Farewell dinner tonight at our hotel.

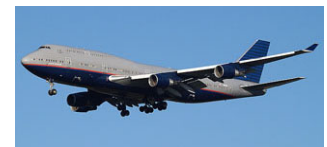
> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, entrance fees and tour of Residence, three-course dinner with choices, one beverage, and coffee or tea, hotel in Frankfurt*

Day 9 - RETURN

Time to say "Auf wiedersehen".

Transfer to Frankfurt Airport for your return flight home.

> *Buffet breakfast, transfer to airport*



Dates and Prices

- Tours include:
- all features as per itinerary, departure guaranteed,
 - 7 breakfast buffets,
 - 6 three-course dinners, each including one drink and coffee or tea,
 - accommodation for 7 nights,
 - door-to-door transportation (bus, boat, etc.),
 - reservation fees, entrance fees, and local guide fees, and
 - the services of the Tour Director and Driver throughout the tour.

All castle visits include inside tours with experienced guides and plenty of time on your own.

There are no hidden extras. Maximum group size is 30 persons.

The **River Castles Tour** is offered on the following basis:

Tour prices are for the **land segment** only. Air fare is not included.

Prices are per person, in U.S. dollars, based on double occupancy. Single Occupancy is available for a Single Supplement charge of US \$ 250. Three adults sharing one room each receive a Triple Occupancy reduction of US \$ 150. A child 8 to 16 years old sharing a room with two adults receives a 30% reduction on this tour.

Guaranteed Departure: The River Castles Tour is guaranteed to operate as scheduled and will not be cancelled due to a low level of participation.

A deposit of US \$ 300 per person is required to secure a reservation.

Personal expenses, lunches and gratuities for the driver and local guides are not included.

River Castles Tour – 2018 Departures

Your overnight flight leaves ...	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy	Triple Occupancy	Child 8 - 16 with 2 Adults
June 23, 2018	US \$ 2,729	2,979	2,579	1,910
September 1, 2018	US \$ 2,729	2,979	2,579	1,910

Possible Accommodation Upgrade

For the five nights at the Bellevue Rheinhof in Boppard it is possible to upgrade to a River View room or a River View Residence suite. Please contact us directly for a quotation for your tour.

Private Tour Option

Do our dates not work for you? We can arrange the tour for you or your party as a private tour. Same itinerary as above in a private limousine or van, with bilingual, professional private guide / chauffeur. Prices per individual are the same as for the regular group tour, plus a US \$ 200 per day private tour premium for the group. Please contact us directly to confirm availability.

Detailed **Reservation Request** instructions and your choice of an online or paper form are provided on the Reservations page of www.europeancastlestours.com .

Final payment is due 45 days before departure.

Five weeks before departure you will receive a detailed information package with lots of travel tips and information about places we will visit.

Participation in Astrid Baur Travel tours is conditional on acceptance of the Astrid Baur Travel **Terms and Conditions** posted on the Reservations page of www.europeancastlestours.com .

Cancellation Policy

If notice of cancellation is received more than 45 days prior to tour start, the deposit will be retained.

Otherwise:	31 to 45 days prior to tour start:	20 % of total price
	15 to 30 days prior to tour start:	35 % of total price
	8 to 14 days prior to tour start:	50 % of total price
	1 to 7 days prior to tour start:	75 % of total price
	Departure day and later:	100 % of total price

The deposit will be applied to any cancellation charges.

Contact Information

Would you like to talk to passengers from previous tours? Let us know.

We will be pleased to answer questions you may have, and very pleased to take your reservation.

Astrid Baur, Tour Director

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