

Cycling Europe

FRANCE & GERMANY- BIKE & BOAT 2020

Along The Rhine From Mainz To Strasbourg or v.v.
8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS – SELF GUIDED



What an experience! On this fascinating journey along the Rhine River you will cross the French-German border several times exploring two beautiful and contrasting regions– the French Alsace and the German Black Forest. Visit beautiful churches and romantic castles, scenic towns including Speyer, Nierstein, Strasbourg with its half-timbered medieval houses and the magical “Student Prince” town of Heidelberg. One thing both regions do have in common is fine wine and cuisine so prepare yourself for a week of exhilarating cycling, wonderful sightseeing and gourmet indulgence! Your journey will start in either Mainz (Germany) or Strasbourg (France) depending on your departure date.

ITINERARY –MAINZ TO STRASBOURG

Day 1: Mainz

Individual arrival in Mainz with embarkation between 3 and 5 pm. There may be time to see the capital of Rhineland-Palatinate with its lovingly restored half-timbered houses in the Old Town and the Romanesque Cathedral of Saint Martin. Overnight in Mainz.

Day 2: Mainz – Nierstein, Cycle tour approx. 20 km then Nierstein - Worms by River Barge

In the morning, we start our first cycle tour along the Rhine Cycle Route with its well-paved path directly along the banks of the Rhine to Nierstein. Nierstein is one of the largest wine-growing communities on the Rhine – visit the historic old town with its

medieval market square and noble houses and perhaps sample the local vintage. In the afternoon we sail to Worms. Guests who would like a longer cycle tour can ride on to Worms (Cycle tour Mainz - Worms approx. 60 kms)

Day 3: Worms to Heidelberg, Cycle Tour approx. 45 km

Start today's bike ride in the imperial city of Worms. In Mannheim you will leave the Rhine River and follow the marvellous Neckar River up to Heidelberg, perhaps making a stop off in the historic Roman Old Town of Ladenburg. You will be able to see the ruins of Heidelberg castle from afar – perched on the slopes of Mr Konigstuhl, it towers over the city and river. Admire the famous Heidelberg red sandstone bridge and take a stroll through the narrow lanes and soak up the atmosphere in the picturesque squares.



Day 4: Heidelberg – Mannheim, Cycle Tour approx. 47 km

Cycle via Eppelheim and Plankstadt through the heart of the Electoral Palatinate region (a powerful political movement in the 13th and 14th centuries at the time when Heidelberg University was founded), partly along the so-called "Castle Road". Schwetzingen Castle, with its beautiful garden is worth a visit before you cycle on to Mannheim. In this lovely town, also called the "City of Squares", due to its grid-pattern layout, you will find one of the worlds' largest Baroque palaces and the unique and distinctive water tower.

Day 5: Mannheim – Speyer, Cycle Tour approx. 20 km

Cycle from Mannheim, alongside the numerous oxbow lakes of the Old Rhine as it leads to today's destination -the cathedral city of Speyer, which was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1981. Enjoy this short ride past lovely lakes and through unspoilt nature in areas designated as Natural Reserves. Visit the 1000-year-old cathedral, the old city gate and wander through Speyer's beautiful Old Town.

Day 6: Speyer – Germersheim, Cycle Tour approx. 25 km , *Germersheim – Plittersdorf by River Barge*

Continue by bike through the Palatinate region, past oxbow lakes and through a tranquil natural landscape to the old fortified town of Germersheim, with its numerous picturesque lanes, corners and squares. During dinner your boat moves onto Plittersdorf for overnight.

Day 7: Plittersdorf -Gambshheim/Freistett Cycle Tour approx. 40 km Gambshheim-Strasbourg by River Barge /

Ride beside the river through the gentle Rhine plain until you reach the lock station of Gambshheim/Freistett. Join your boat and sail to Kehl which connects to Strasbourg via a bridge. You can decide whether to enjoy the charm of the small German town of Kehl or to visit Strasbourg and see the famous historic squares like the Cathedral Square and the Suckling Pig Market. You may opt to take a tour on a pleasure boat to visit the area known as "La Petite France".

Day 8: Strasbourg (Kehl)

Disembark at 9.00 am after breakfast.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Optional excursions (not included in the tour price) can be booked and paid for on board with the cruise director.

- **Speyer:** City tour / guided sightseeing walk



ITINERARY –STRASBOURG TO MAINZ

Day 1: Saturday, Strasbourg

Embarkation in Strasbourg (Kehl) from 3:00 – 5:00am. There may be time to explore the capital of the Alsace with its many canals.

Day 2: Sunday, River Barge Strasbourg-Gambshheim, Gambshheim/Freistett-Plittersdorf Cycle Tour approx. 40 km

During breakfast sail to Gambshheim/Freistett Lock station. From here begin your cycle tour riding directly alongside the Rhine through the gentle Rhine plain up to Plittersdorf for overnight. You can also ride from Strasbourg (Kehl) – approximately 60kms.

Day 3: Monday, River Barge Plittersdorf-Germersheim, Germersheim – Speyer, Cycle Tour approx. 25 km

Early this morning sail to Germersheim. Look forward to visiting this old fortified town with its many picturesque lanes, corners and squares. Continuing through the Palatinate land,

you reach the cathedral city of Speyer. Speyer Cathedral was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1981.

Day 4: Tuesday, Speyer – Mannheim, Cycle Tour approx. 20 km

Enjoy a short cycle ride alongside the Old Rhine, past marvellous lakes, through untouched protected areas designated as National Nature Reserves and natural flood plains. You reach Mannheim, also called the “City of Squares” due to its layout in a grid-pattern. In these squares, countless places are well worth visiting as for example the famous Mannheim Baroque Palace – German largest Baroque palace complex and the water tower – the city's landmark.

Day 5: Wednesday, Mannheim – Heidelberg, Cycle Tour approx. 45 km

Today the tour leads through the core of the Electoral Palatinate and partly along the Castle Road. Schwetzingen Castle and its castle garden are only two reasons to visit the charming town of Schwetzingen. From here, the route continues via Plankstadt and Eppelheim to Heidelberg. Already visible from afar, the castle ruin of Heidelberg Castle towers over the Old Town. Admire the famous Heidelberg red sandstone bridge or stroll through meandering lanes and see the picturesque squares in the Old Town.

Day 6: Thursday, Heidelberg – Worms, Cycle Tour approx. 45 km

You leave the history-charged Heidelberg and follow the course of the Neckar River. The Roman city of Ladenburg with its historic Old Town is well worth a stop-off. After Mannheim, you will be back on the Rhine and follow its course until you reach the imperial city of Worms. On your journey through two millennia of the city's history, learn about emperors and kings, myths and legends of the Nibelung, Judaism and Martin Luther.

Day 7: Friday, by River Barge Worms – Nierstein, Nierstein – Mainz, Cycle Tour approx. 20 km

With almost 1,000 Hectare of viticultural area, Nierstein is home to the largest wine-growing community on the Rhine. The historic Old Town with its medieval market square and noble houses is also well worth visiting. A short stretch that leaves plenty of time for one to indulge oneself: cycle on the Rhine Cycle Route on well-paved cycle ways directly alongside the Rhine from Nierstein to Mainz. Guests, who would like to cycle a longer stretch, can also choose to start the cycle tour in Worms. (cycle tour Worms-Mainz approx. 60 km).

Day 8: Saturday, Mainz

After breakfast disembarkation until 09:00am. Individual journey home.

GRADE

EASY: The quality of the cycle ways along this route is excellent. Most of the way is paved or asphalted and does not have any gradients of note. This makes the trip suitable for all levels of cyclists. The daily cycle tours are self-guided. You will cycle about 20 to 50 km. The kilometres indicated for the cycle tours in the itinerary are approximate.

GENERAL INFORMATION

All bike tours are unescorted. All mileages are approximate distances of recommended routes.

Your river barge is a "floating hotel", and also a means of transport that moves with motor power and must always be operated, even at night. If you are a light sleeper, bring some ear-plugs. Please bear in mind that riverboats are restricted (bridge passages, locks) in size (length, height, width) and therefore cannot be compared with sea-going vessels.

Note: In the event of extremely high or low water, or for meteorological reasons, the shipping company reserves the right to change the route for your safety, bridge stages by bus or even to cancel the trip at short notice without any legal claim arising therefrom (water levels are force majeure). This would not be a reason for fee-free cancellation.

YOUR RIVER BOAT: MS OLYMPIA



The MS Olympia has been completely refurbished in 2015/2016. The comfortable atmosphere aboard the vessel will make your journey a relaxed experience. The Upper deck holds the tastefully furnished saloon with bar and a bright and friendly restaurant. The spacious sun deck is partly shaded and features comfortable deck chairs, which invites passengers to relax and take in the scenery. Both the Upper and the Main deck have comfortable modern cabins of 11 m². All cabins feature en-suite facilities with shower and hair dryer, TV, safe and individually controlled air conditioning.

Upper deck: 22 two-bed-cabins and 2 single-bed-cabins. Large opening panoramic windows.

Main deck: 21 two-bed cabins with non-opening windows.

Technical details: Length: 88.50m • Width 10.50m • Depth 1.30m • Max. 96 passengers. • Languages on board: German, English • Currency on board: Euro • Credit cards: MasterCard and Visa.



2020 TOUR DATES: MS OLYMPIA

Mainz – Strasburg

06-13 June

29 August-05 September

Strasburg – Mainz

13-20 June

05-12 September

2020 COSTS PER PERSON IN EURO

Two bed cabin Main Deck	€1059
Two bed cabin Upper Deck	€1259
Two bed cabin Main Deck for single use	€1359
One bed cabin Upper Deck	€1459

RENTAL BIKES:

7 gear unisex bicycle with hand and back-pedal brakes
OR freewheel hubs (must be reserved in advance – limited number) **€75**

E Bike (must be reserved in advance -limited availability) **€165**

All rental bikes are equipped with panniers and rental bike insurance.

HELMETS – not available to rent– bring your own or buy onboard from €25

2020 COST INCLUDES

- 7 nights in outside cabin with ensuite and air conditioning
- Programme according to itinerary from Mainz to Strasburg and v.v.
- Welcome drink
- Daily cabin cleaning
- Change of towels and bed linen when required
- All meals: breakfast, lunch on board for non-cyclists or packed lunch for cyclists, afternoon coffee and tea, three course dinner
- Passenger and port fees
- Tour guide on board (does not cycle with group)
- Daily information briefing on board for the respective cycle tour
- Maps and information pack (one per cabin)

2019 COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Arrival and departure transfers
- Entrance fees and excursions
- City maps
- Insurance and personal expenses.
- Gratuities (at your discretion)

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS

Please inform us on reservation of your dietary needs and we will do our best to take them into consideration. There will be an extra fee of approx. € 25 per person/week (to be paid directly).

BOOK THROUGH

A Walker's World

Don't just see the world. Experience it.

Ph 09 4867473 Fax 09 484 0091

Email: info@walkworld.co.nz

