

# Cycling Europe

**2020 GERMANY: HEIDELBERG & JEWELS OF THE RHINE  
BIKE & BOAT KOBLENZ TO BAD WIMPFEN & v.v.  
8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS 210 kms**



## Self-guided Cycling:

Travel by bicycle and riverboat from Koblenz to Bad Wimpfen along the river valleys of the Rhine and Neckar. Beautiful scenery lines the cycle paths along the rivers, interspersed with famous cities, valley slopes with vineyards and picturesque villages such as: pretty Marbach, the birthplace of the writer and poem Schiller; the uplands of the Odenwald; the city of Worms with its famous cathedral; and the numerous museums in Mainz.

The stretch of cycle path along the left bank of the Rhine between Bingen and Koblenz passes through the Rhineland Massif, which is adorned by castles. Heidelberg with its

magnificent castle, the narrow streets of the old town centres of Eberbach, Rudesheim and Koblenz, are just a few of the highlights of this trip along the Rhine and the Neckar.

You cycle at your own pace, self-guided - The tour guide on board will hold a daily briefing for your cycle tours, and 1 set of maps will be provided per cabin. The tour guide is contactable by mobile phone if you get lost or need assistance.

## ITINERARY

### KOBLENZ TO BAD WIMPFEN

#### Day 1 (Sat): Koblenz:

Boarding from 4 pm. You can store your luggage on board from 10 am if you arrive early. The crew will welcome you on board. You will spend the evening and first night in Koblenz.

#### Day 2 (Sun): Koblenz – Boppard by boat | Boppard – Rudesheim (cycle approx. 46 km)

The ship sails upstream on the Rhine from Koblenz to Boppard in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley. A cycle route on the left bank, through the Lorely valley to Rudesheim is dotted with castles. Overnight in Rudesheim or Bingen on the other side of the river.



#### Day 3 (Mon): Rudesheim – Mainz (cycle approx. 32 -35 km)

Cycling tour from Rudesheim through the beautiful Rheingau and Eltville or on the quiet left bank to Mainz. In Mainz visit the many churches, museums and monuments. The most important are the Dom (cathedral), the Royal Palace, the State Theatre, the Citadel and the monument of Gutenberg. Discover the city on a guided tour.

#### Day 4 (Tue): Mainz – Nierstein (cycle approx. 17-26 km)

Cycle out of Mainz past many of its characteristic houses. Continue via Laubenheim to Nierstein, to rejoin you boat for lunch on board. Later today you have the option to visit a vineyard for a tour by tractor wagon followed by a wine-tasting and dinner at the vineyard (optional excursion payable and booked on board). Guests who do not opt for this option will have dinner on board.

#### Day 5 (Wed): Nierstein - Mannheim by boat | Mannheim – Heidelberg (cycle approx. 25 km)

Cruise along the Rhine past Worms to Mannheim. Start your cycle tour to the Celtic city of Ladenburg before reaching the "Student Prince" town of Heidelberg. This old city, overlooked by a stunning castle, attracts tourists from all over the world. Join your tour leader for an optional city walk of Heidelberg (book and pay onboard).



#### Day 6 (Thu): Heidelberg – Eberbach (cycle approx 34 km)

Cycle from Heidelberg via Ziegelhausen, through the Odenwald, to Neckarsteinach. Your destination today is picturesque Eberbach. Wander this lovely old town with narrow streets. Join a local 'Eberbacher' on a 'night watch' tour of the romantic

old town (optional excursion payable and booked on board).



### **Day 7 (Fri): Eberbach – Bad Wimpfen (cycle approx 45 km)**

The first stop of today's bike tour is Burg Hornsberg in Neckarzimmern. Bad Wimpfen, the destination of this tour, looks like a dream village of the Middle Ages.

### **Day 8 (Sat): Tour ends in Bad Wimpfen**

Disembark after breakfast.

## **REVERSE ITINERARY: From Bad Wimpfen to Koblenz**

### **Day 1 (Sat): Bad Wimpfen:**

Embarkation is from 4 pm. You can store your luggage on board from 11 am if you arrive early. The crew will welcome you on board. You will spend the evening and first night in Bad Wimpfen.

### **Day 2 (Sun): Bad Wimpfen – Eberbach (ca. 45 km / 25 miles)**

By bike to Neckarzimmern, from here you can go on foot or by bike to the castle Burg Hornberg, where Götz von Berlichingen once lived. Continue your bike tour to the old picturesque town of Eberbach. Join a local 'Eberbacher' on a 'night watch' tour of the romantic old town (optional excursion payable and booked on board).

### **Day 3 (Mon): Eberbach – Heidelberg (ca. 34 km / 23 miles)**

Firstly cycle to Hirschhorn, the "Pearl of the Neckar Valley". You cycle through the uplands of the Odenwald to Neckarsteinach, then via Ziegelhausen to Heidelberg. A walk through the Old Town town and a visit to the castle are highly recommended. Join your tour leader for an optional city walk of Heidelberg (book and pay on board).

### **Day 4 (Tue): Heidelberg – Mannheim**

#### **(ca. 25 km / 16 miles) Mannheim - Nierstein by ship**

Cycle from Heidelberg enjoying a perfect view of its castle then on to Ladenburg, founded by the Romans. Leaving the Neckar behind continue to Mannheim where the ship will be waiting for you. Cruise from Mannheim to Nierstein, enjoying lunch on board, to reach. Later today you have the option to visit a vineyard for a tour by tractor wagon followed by a wine-tasting and dinner at the vineyard (optional excursion payable and booked on board). Guests who do not opt for this option will have dinner on board.

### **Day 5 (Wed): Nierstein – Mainz (ca. 17 -26 km / 10 - 16 miles)**

Leave the largest wine community in the Rhine valley and cycle to Mainz where you will experience Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. Perhaps visit one of Mainz's many museums. Join a guided city walk of Mainz (book and pay on board).

### **Day 6 (Thu): Mainz – Rudesheim**

#### **(ca. 32 - 35 km / 20 - 22 miles)**

Cycle from Mainz through the beautiful Rheingau, via the rose town of Eltville to the picturesque village of Rudesheim. Take a stroll down the ancient cobbled street next to the river known as the Drosselgasse lined with beautifully restored ancient timbered houses. Overnight in Rudesheim or Bingen.



### Day 7 (Fri): Rüdesheim – Boppard - then to Koblenz by ship (ca. 46 km / 28.5 miles)

Today you cycle on the left bank of the Rhine past castles and through the Loreley Valley to the UNESCO World Heritage cultural site of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley. On the way you will pass castles and villages as well as the celebrated Rock of Lorely. In the afternoon cruise to Koblenz at the start of the Moselle wine region.

### Day 8 (Sat): Tour ends in Koblenz

Disembark after breakfast.

**GRADE:** Total of 210 cycling kilometres in 6 days. The quality of the cycling tracks is very good: usually you will cycle on paved tracks along the rivers without any gradients of note. This makes the trip suitable for all levels of fitness and experience. If you prefer not to cycle on any day you can skip a day and cruise with the vessel instead.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION:

The 68 metre long MS Patria has been modernised specifically for bike and boat tours and accommodates a maximum of 68 guests. There are 34 twin cabins (approx. 7 M<sup>2</sup>) containing 2 low single. All cabins have a window - The windows on the upper promenade deck can be opened for ventilation, but for safety reasons the windows on the lower (main) deck are fixed, so there is individually regulated air conditioning on the lower deck. **Each cabin has a shower and toilet.**

There are 15 cabins on the lower (main) deck, and 19 cabins on the promenade upper deck. This ship has a nice salon with bar and large windows forward of the top deck and a separate restaurant on the lower deck. A partially covered sun deck provides loungers and deck chairs for relaxing.

Minimum number of passengers : 40 / Maximum 68





### SCHEDULE 2020:

Koblenz to Bad Wimpfen : 09-16 May, 04-11 July, 29 August-05 September

Bad Wimpfen to Koblenz: 16-23 May, 11-18 July, 05-12 September

### KOBLENZ TO SAARBURG ALONG THE MOSELLE RIVER

You can link your cruise on the Rhine with a cruise on the Moselle. On various dates, the PATRIA also sails along the Moselle and Saar rivers from Koblenz to Saarburg, and a week later it makes the return journey from Saarburg back to Koblenz. Tour highlights are Trier, Cochem and Bernkastel.

### COST 2020:

Twin cabin main deck	€ 909	Twin cabin upper deck	€1009
Single cabin main deck	€1314	Single cabin upper deck	€1479

Minimum number to operate – 40 persons

**BIKE RENTAL: €75** for a 7-gear unisex touring bike with hand brake and/or pedal brake and a pannier and rental bike insurance

**Electric Bike rental: €165** must be reserved at time of booking, limited number. Includes pannier bag and rental bike insurance.

Rental Bike helmets are not available on this tour – it is not compulsory to wear one in Germany

### INCLUDED IN THE COST:

- Accommodation on board 7 nights from/to Koblenz or Bad Wimpfen
- Meals: "Full board" (7 x breakfasts, 6 x picnic lunches during bike tours, 7 x three course dinners)
- Bed linen and towels (daily change of towels); daily short cleaning of the cabin
- Welcome drink and briefing on the first evening
- English speaking tour leader onboard will hold with daily briefings for the bike tours. During the day the tour leader does not accompany the bike tour, but can always be reached on his cell phone
- Printed instructions and detailed maps for the daily bike tours; 1 set per cabin on arrival
- Daily coffee and tea on board till 4 p.m.
- GPS Tracks

### NOT INCLUDED:

- Transfers to/from the docking place in Koblenz and/or Bad Wimpfen
- Other transfers, parking fee, entrance fees & excursions, fees for ferries
- Drinks on board, personal insurances, gratuities (at your discretion).
- Special diets on request – a surcharge of €25 for lactose or gluten free diets. Must be booked at least 3 weeks prior to departure and payable directly on board.
- Tips and gratuities



## TRANSFERS

Transfers can be arranged between Koblenz and Bad Wimpfen by minivan based on 4 passengers minimum at a cost of €85 per person (book in advance).

### Getting there by train:

**Koblenz:** Koblenz HBF main railway station is located about 3 km from the pier. The cost for a taxi to/from the boat is approx. €12 Euros.

Closest Airport: Frankfurt Airport – Mannheim – Saarburg takes 3 ¼ -3 ½ hours (€44 – 60 to buy in Germany). Seats cannot be booked in advance, so it is cheaper to buy train tickets in Germany. Timetables on [www.bahn.com](http://www.bahn.com) look up Frankfurt “Fluhagen” – Koblenz HBF

**Bad Wimpfen:** Bad Wimpfen railway station is approx 200 ms from the pier (taxi cost approx. € 5). From Frankfurt Airport or Frankfurt you can connect with one change in Mannheim, it takes 1.5 – 2.5 hrs and costs 35 – 40 Euros to buy in Germany. Seats cannot be reserved in advance on most trains, so it is cheaper to buy tickets in Germany. Timetables: [www.bahn.com](http://www.bahn.com)



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Ph 09 4867473 Fax 09 484 0091

Email: [info@walkworld.co.nz](mailto:info@walkworld.co.nz)