

THE RHINE RIVER

THROUGH THE HEART
OF EUROPE



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WATERWAYS®
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FOREWORD



Welcome! You have chosen the most rewarding way to enjoy Europe's legendary rivers, magnificent scenery and enriching history.

On an Avalon Waterways river cruise, our goal is to ensure your journey is memorable from beginning to end. Views become epic, your ship transforms into a relaxation center, and your meals become experiences.

Each ship in our young fleet is designed to provide amazing views and comfortable spaces throughout, inviting you to stretch out and relax, or to gather with new friends. River cruising's largest staterooms and suites transform into your home away from home, as you'll awake to a panoramic view of a new destination each day. And the special touches we've added are countless, but all add up to one-of-a-kind cruise experience.

With Avalon, each meal is a part of the experience, crafted from the freshest local ingredients, with regionally influenced recipes and wines that bring the region to life.

Plus with Avalon, your shore experience is never an afterthought, as we've included the very best land excursions in each destination, knowledgeable local guides and personal headsets. You travel with industry experts backed by a rich heritage of 80-plus years experience.

We're looking forward to having you aboard, so sit back, relax and enjoy river cruising at its finest.

Bon Voyage!

Patrick Clark
President

This book, **Across Europe with Avalon**, is divided into 14 chapters. Its aim is to provide you with a general introduction to the history, arts, culture and music of those countries that you might visit during a trip on one of the cruise-ships of the Avalon-Waterways fleet. The book covers such fascinating and impressive European waterways as the Rhine, the Moselle, the Saône and Rhône, the Seine, the Main, the Main-Danube Canal and the Danube, as well as presenting the most important and interesting sights of the classic metropolises, Paris, Pragues, Munich, Bucharest and Istanbul.

This book makes no claim to being a standard travel guide offering the usual 'nuts and bolts' practical information about precisely how, when and where to do this, that and the other. Instead, it is meant to be a useful **companion on your travels**, helping you to focus on those things that will make your trip to Europe so special and memorable. Conceived as a supplement to the information material you will receive on board, it is designed to answer many of those questions that might arise and to serve as an attractive souvenir of your trip.

The following symbols will be found in this book:

continue



Avalon-Waterways offers tours carefully tailored to the individual wishes and interests of their passengers. Thus, you yourself have decided whether, for example, starting from Basel, you would prefer to cruise the Rhine as far as Amsterdam or, rather, to join the Main by Mainz in order to travel along the Danube. These arrows indicate where you can find more information about the next section of your cruise program.

H

For many of the destinations that you will visit, you will receive on board not only a city map but also handouts containing a great deal of useful information. These cities are marked with an **H**. The present book makes only brief reference to the main sights in these destinations, but numerous photographs should help to whet your appetite to find out more.

i

You would like to know more about specific subjects ranging from Vincent van Gogh to French gardens to Moselle wines...? Then keep an eye open for the sidebars with red headlines containing such detailed information.



While your Avalon ship will drop you right on the doorstep of the most exciting cities and sites located on Europe's rivers, there are also a number of very interesting destinations well worth a detour by bus. Those excursions offered on your river cruise are indicated by the green bus icon.

Possible Enhancement

In many cities, English-speaking tour guides will ensure that you see and enjoy all of the most famous and interesting sights. However, as you might like to do a little exploring on your own initiative, this book offers some tips and suggestions about how you can further enhance your experience.

Switzerland -
A Country of Lakes
and Mountains

From Basel
to Mainz

The Romantic
Middle Rhine -
From Mainz
to Koblenz

Koblenz - The Only City
on the Rhine
and the Moselle

From Koblenz
to Cologne

Cologne - Characterful
and Cheerful Rhine
Metropolis

From Cologne
to the Dutch Border

THE RHINE RIVER

THROUGH THE HEART OF EUROPE

A cruise along Germany's most imposing river takes one past a fascinating range of landscapes during visits to such romantic destinations as Heidelberg (on its tributary, the Neckar) and Rudesheim, to historic cities like Speyer and Koblenz, to cultural metropolises such as Strasbourg and Cologne, not to mention some of Germany's most important industrial regions. A definite highpoint of your Avalon cruise will be the trip along the romantic Middle Rhine Valley: here, impressive fortresses flanked by steep vineyards rear up over picturesque villages dotted with half-timbered houses hundreds of years old. The Rhine cruises offered by Avalon promise complete relaxation and are a joy both for lovers of culture and for those who just want to sit back and take things easy. But seeing is believing - so simply enjoy!



i THE RHINE - THE MOST IMPORTANT EUROPEAN WATERWAY

From its source in Switzerland to its confluence in the North sea via its vast delta in The Netherlands, the Rhine has a course 820 miles in length. Until the river was regulated during the 19th century, the Upper Rhine, i.e., the stretch of the river between Basel and Bingen, was up to 3 miles wide and was continually changing its course. Since the completion of the Grande Canal d'Alsace (in German, Rheinseitenkanal) with its system of ten locks in 1959, this section of the river is navigable for large freight and passenger ships throughout the year. Owing to its shallows and strong currents, the Middle Rhine between Rudesheim/Bingen and Koblenz used to present a severe challenge to river shipping, too, but the problems of this section have also been ironed out thanks to dynamiting of the riverbed. Once it enters Holland, the Lower Rhine splits into a confusing labyrinth of waterways and canals, with numerous side-arms emptying into the North Sea.

The Rhine flows through six countries (Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, France, Germany and The Netherlands) and often marks a national border throughout its course. It is Europe's busiest commercial waterway and an important transport link with the North Sea. Via the River Main, the Main-Danube Canal and the Danube (a total course of about 2170 miles/3500 km), the Rhine is also linked to the Black Sea.

Switzerland
Country of lakes
and mountains



Guests taking an Avalon Rhine cruise fly into or from Zürich Airport – the perfect opportunity to get to know both Zürich and nearby Lucerne.



Switzerland – A Country of Lakes and Mountains

Jagged Alpine peaks, lush green meadows and idyllic lakes, along with rustic old mountain villages, cosmopol-

itan spas and elegant cities with their own special flair... Switzerland is most definitely a very worthwhile destination.

Zürich
On both banks
of the Limmat



Zürich – Financial Metropolis and Idyllic Pocket-Sized City

Visitors soon discover that Zürich is a city that is cosmopolitan, international and elegant – and this is nowhere more evident than on Bahnhofstrasse, the boulevard-like

shopping street that runs through the heart of the city. Since the second half of the 19th century, this has become the chosen setting for numerous luxury hotels, major banks and up-market stores selling jewelry and watches, as well as expensive boutiques offering designer fashion. However, away from this boulevard, Zürich is also a city of historic

The Grossmünster
One of Zürich's many
fine churches





*On the Limmatquai
The historic City Hall*

guild-houses, of narrow medieval lanes, lovely churches and famous museums. The city's main sights on both sides of

the River Limmat are all within easy walking distance.



*Tempting delicacies
Made by Sprüngli,
the largest producer
of confectionery
in Switzerland*



*Made in Switzerland
A guarantee of quality*

H

Lucerne on Its Lovely Lake

A visit to **Lucerne!** The great American author, Mark Twain, treated himself to two lengthy stays in this delightful lakeside town. Lucerne is pictur-

esquely situated at the north end of Lake Lucerne (in German, the Vierwaldstättersee) with its many bays and below the Pilatus, the town's 'local mountain.' The town symbol is its historic water-tower



*Lucerne
The Old City with
the Kapellbrücke
and Watertower*

located close to the famous Kapellbrücke. Like the nearby Spreuerbrücke, this wooden bridge is roofed and was part of the town's medieval defenses that also included the long fortified wall, the Museggmauer. The quaint town center is characterized by beautiful

ly painted guild-houses, especially around the squares, the Weinmarkt, Hirschenplatz and Kornmarkt.

*Historic paddle-steamer
On Lake Lucerne*



i 'THE MOST MOURNFUL AND MOVING PIECE OF STONE IN THE WORLD'

At the time of the French Revolution, about 1000 Swiss Guards served as the body-guard of the French king, Louis XVI. When revolutionaries stormed the Tuileries Palace in Paris in August 1792, the Swiss troops defended the palace to the very last, even though the king and his family had long since fled. Almost 30 years later, an officer who survived the bloody event, Carl Pfyffer, commissioned the creation of a monument commemorating the bravery and loyalty of the Swiss Guards. This took the form of a dying lion carved into the natural sandstone. The inscription lists the names of the officers of the Swiss Guard and records approximate numbers of the soldiers who lost their lives (760) as well as those who survived (350). Mark Twain was greatly moved by the expressive power of this monument, as he recorded in his travel book published in 1880, *A Tramp Abroad*: 'The shape is right, the attitude is right, the proportions are right, but that indescribable something which makes the Lion of Lucerne the most mournful and moving piece of stone in the world, is wanting. The Lion lies in his lair in the perpendicular face of a low cliff—for he is carved from the living rock of the cliff...'



i THE LEGEND OF PONTIUS PILATE ON 'LAKE PILATUS'

Why call a mountain 'Pilatus'? For German-speaking people, the name immediately awakens associations with Pontius Pilate (who they call Pontius Pilatus), the Roman who sentenced Jesus to death. And, indeed, legend has it that there is a connection. Was this perhaps his last resting place? Maybe in the now filled-in 'Lake Pilatus' near the Upper Alps? Supposedly, wherever one set about burying Pilate's body, a dreadful storm suddenly interrupted the proceedings. This is why the high mountain now called Pilatus (previously Frakmont) was chosen, after which the weather was always stormy on its heights. The story goes that, every Good Friday, the Roman governor of Judea rose from his damp tomb and sat in full ceremonial dress to pass judgment. To prevent any further disaster, it was considered inadvisable to disturb Pilate's grave. Thus, until the 16th century, Lucerne's town council forbade citizens to climb the mountain on pain of severe penalties.

tending as far as the glaciers of the Jungfrau region. At the summit of the Pilatus, one can

also see the world's biggest alphorn with a length of almost 40 feet.

■ Practical Info:

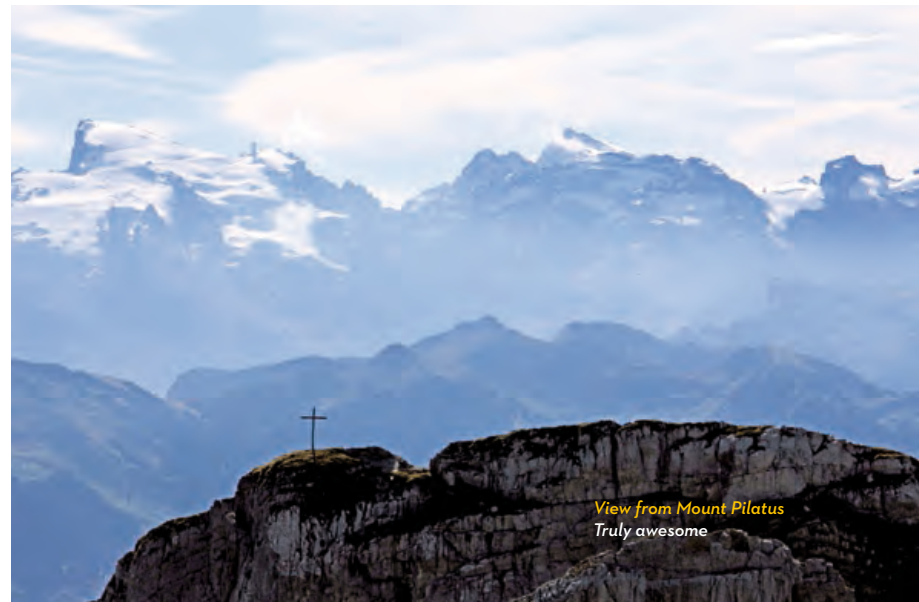
Make sure you are wearing suitable walking shoes if you intend not only to visit the

panorama restaurant but also to make the roughly 20-minute walk to the so-called 'Esel' ('Donkey') or one of the other viewing points!

Mount Pilatus - Lucerne's Mountain of Myth and Legend

For the people of Lucerne, the **Pilatus** used to be anything but a well-loved mountain on the town's doorstep: rather, it was the source of dangerous storms and flash floods that wrought terrible destruction. As a result, it was regarded as the home of dragons and sorcerers - no wonder the mountain is the setting for countless legends and stories.

Today, an excursion to the Pilatus is on most visitors' program. Many 'scale' the peak on the Pilatusbahn, the world's steepest rack-railway, with a maximum inclination of 48% between Alpnachstad and Pilatus-Kulm (7000 feet). Having reached the summit, visitors are rewarded by an overwhelming panoramic view over Lucerne and Lake Lucerne. The views also embrace no less than 73 peaks of the Alpine chain, ex-



View from Mount Pilatus
Truly awesome

View from 'Little-Basel'
Toward the Old City



The Kaiserstuhl
One of the warmest
areas of Germany

From Basel to Mainz

(km 166-497)

Your Rhine cruise will either begin or end in Basel.

H

Basel - A Center of Commerce with Charm

A walk through Basel is like taking a trip back in time through every imaginable epoch: from remains dating from the times of the Celts and Romans, to fine medieval buildings like the Cathedral (Münster), to the modern architecture around the City Theater. Basel has a beauti-



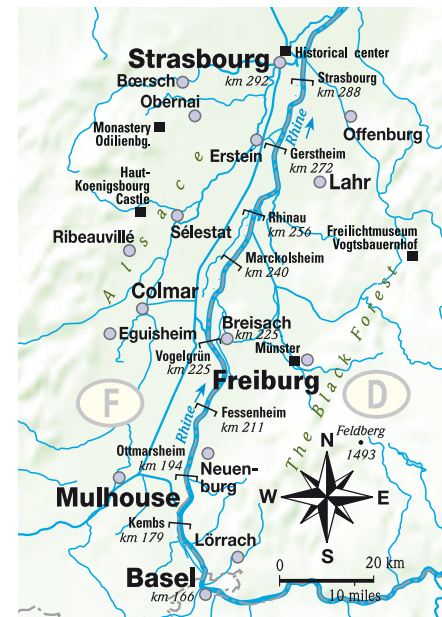
The Spalen Gate (1370)
A part of Basel's medi-
eval fortifications

fully preserved Old City, and its 40 or so museums make it a treasury of culture. Several bridges and quaint passenger ferries over the Rhine link 'Little Basel' (Klein-Basel) on the right bank with 'Great Basel' (Gross-Basel) on the other side. On the fringes of the city, numerous international pharmaceutical and chemical companies have taken advantage of a location where the Swiss, German and French borders join.

From Basel to Strasbourg

Between Basel and Strasbourg, the Rhine and its accompanying canal flow through the Upper Rhine Plain, a flat expanse about 25

miles wide flanked by the hills of the Black Forest to the east and the foothills of the Vosges Mountains to the west. During periods of thaw, water flow-



ing down from the Alps regularly used to cause the river to break its banks, leaving various arms, pools and swamps when the waters again receded. Thus, it is hardly surprising that most towns along this section of the Rhine were established on higher ground whenever possible. Since the regulation of the river and the construction of several locks and weirs, the danger of excessive high or low water has been almost completely eliminated. On this part of the river, dense alluvial forests often block the view toward many of the towns close to the Rhine.

Just a couple of miles downstream from Basel, your ship sails past the so-called Dreiländereck ('Three Countries Corner'): the Rhine now leaves Switzerland and forms the border between France on the left bank and Germany on

the right bank. However, passenger ships and freight barges actually travel along the Grande Canal d'Alsace within the French border.

Looking rather like an island rising from the Rhine Plain, the Kaiserstuhl ('Emperor's Throne') is an approximately 1815-foot-high massif of volcanic origin. This is one of Germany's warmest and most fertile regions, and it enjoys a high reputation as a wine-growing area.

Breisach - 'City of Europe' (km 225)



Safe from floods, this former fortified city was able to develop directly on the Rhine thanks to its elevated site on a steep cliff. Its strategic posi-

*Breisach on the Rhine
Minster Church*



i WINNING ENERGY FROM THE RHINE

The Rhine is not only the most important commercial waterway of Central Europe but is also important in the production of electrical energy. Along its course, one cannot help noticing a number of cooling towers of power stations (e.g., Fessenheim at km 209, Philippsburg at km 390 and Biblis at km 445). These are nuclear power stations, and this source of energy is of particular importance in France (about 73% of all electricity), but less so in Germany (about 22%). Hydroelectric plants on the river's weirs also produce energy, albeit relatively small amounts, i.e., less than 4% of the national total.

tion meant that it was often a bone of contention, and 85% of the town was destroyed at the end of the Second World War. All that now remains of the medieval defenses are the Radbrunnen Tower and some sections of the old city walls.

Located on a hill named after it, the Minster Church (Münster) of Breisach with its two characteristically different towers rises impressively over the roofs of the Old Town. Breisach has the distinction of having the title 'City of Europe,' because in 1950, its inhabitants were among the first to express unanimous approval of the idea of a united and free Europe.

Proceeding downriver, dense riverside forests means that one rarely catches much more than an occasional glimpse of the nearby towns or of the ter-

raced vineyards of the Kaiserstuhl on the right bank or the more distant vineyards of Alsace on the left bank.



*Breisach
The Europe Fountain*



Breisach is an excellent point of departure for an excursion to Freiburg and into the scenic Black Forest: (round trip: about 70 miles)

■ Freiburg - Gateway to the Black Forest

The university city of **Freiburg** (220,000 inhabitants) enjoys a very picturesque setting on the edge of the foothills of the Black Forest. Its wonderful, almost 800-year-old **Münster** (Cathedral) with its famous 382-foot-high openwork spire would alone justify a visit. Inside, the stained glass (1505-28) in the choir and the high altar are especially outstanding. The square around the Cathedral (Münsterplatz) has many fine historic buildings, including the so-called **Kaufhaus** from the 16th century and the **Archbishop's Palace**. Via the pedestrian zone, one can walk to the square, Rathausplatz, with the **Old and New City Halls**. A distinguishing feature

of the town's streets is its so-called **Bächle**, the narrow rivulets that flow in channels originally intended to supply water needed for various purposes (not for drinking, though) or as drainage canals.

Freiburg is an important **center of renewable energy**. Numerous companies active in this pioneering field have premises on the outskirts of the city. In addition, the scientific faculty of the University is specialized in areas relating to the production of energy from renewable biological materials, geothermic sources, water, wind and, above all, the sun.

Freiburg's Cathedral
Dedicated to the Virgin Mary



WHERE DOES THE NAME 'AMERICA' ACTUALLY COME FROM?

'America comes from Freiburg,' is an assertion you might hear while in the town. But don't worry, this is only meant half seriously. The fact is that the Freiburg cartographer, Martin Waldseemüller, presented a new map of the world on April 25, 1507, showing a previously unknown fourth continent. Waldseemüller gave this new landmass on the other side of the Atlantic the name, 'America,' in honor of Amerigo Vespucci, the Florentine navigator and explorer whom he mistakenly regarded as the discoverer of the 'New World.'



■ The Black Forest - Germany's Largest Forest Region

The **Black Forest** (in German, Schwarzwald) is a landscape characterized by high hills, forests, ravines, waterfalls and caves. The region is also generally associated with the production of cuckoo clocks and delicious specialties like smoked cured ham and the classic **Black Forest gateau** (Schwarzwälder-Kirschtorte). A good introduction to Black

Forest life and work over the past four centuries is offered by the open-air museum, the **Vogtsbauernhof**. Many typical farmhouses and outbuildings from the region dating from the 16th to the 18th centuries have been carefully dismantled and reassembled in their original form in the museum. Inside, one can see parlors and bedrooms furnished authentically, as well as barns

The Vogtsbauernhof
With its evocative Black Forest farm buildings



and stalls with original tools and farming equipment. Demonstrations of traditional crafts and techniques using such tools give visitors insights into



daily life over a century ago. And don't forget to try a slice of delicious, creamy Black Forest gateau!

The production of original Black Forest cuckoo clocks has a long tradition in the area. The first of these were made about 250 years ago. Nowadays, the workshops of traditional producers like Familie Herr not only carve the wooden casings but also make the functioning parts and mechanisms of the clocks themselves.

Black Forest
Cuckoo clocks



Cuckoo clocks
Traditional
craftsmanship

Feel inspired to try baking your very own Black Forest gateau? Here is the recipe:



BLACK FOREST GATEAU

Ingredients:

Cake mixture

- 6 eggs
- 3-4 tbsp warm water
- 6 oz. sugar
- 3 oz. flour
- 1 oz. corn starch (Gustin)
- 1.5 oz. cocoa
- 2.5 oz. ground almonds

Making the mixture:

- Separate the egg whites and yolks
- Mix together the yolks, water and 4 oz. sugar, and beat until frothy
- Beat the egg whites until they form stiff peaks, and then fold in the remaining sugar
- Fold the beaten yolks mixture into the egg whites before carefully folding in the flour, starch, cocoa and ground almonds
- Turn the mixture into a greased springform and smooth the top
- Bake in a pre-heated oven at 170°C for 50-60 minutes
- Remove from the oven and leave to cool overnight

Ingredients:

Filling

- 25 oz. stoned morello cherries
- 1/8 l cherry juice
- 2 tsp corn starch
- 6 cl Kirschwasser (cherry schnapps)
- 3/4 l sweetened cream
- 1 sachet or 2 leaves (soaked) gelatin
- 2 tbsp icing sugar
- 1 sachet vanilla sugar
- coarsely grated dark chocolate

Making the filling:

- Reserve 16 of the stoned cherries for decoration
- Bring most of the cherry juice to the boil; meanwhile, stir the corn starch into the remaining juice before adding this to the boiling juice, stirring all the time, and then adding the cherries
- Beat the cream until stiff before stirring in the icing sugar and gelatin

Preparing the cake for serving:

- Cut the chocolate sponge cake into three layers of the same thickness. Sprinkle the layer to be used as the base with some of the Kirschwasser
- Spread the cooled cherry mixture evenly over the base, and top this with a thin layer of whipped cream
- Sprinkle the middle layer of sponge cake with the rest of the Kirschwasser before adding a thick layer of cream
- Add the top layer of sponge cake
- Spread the remaining cream over the top of the gateau before decorating with the grated chocolate and the reserved cherries

Guten Appetit!





An excursion into Alsace from either Breisach or Strasbourg is a treat that you won't want to miss.



■ Alsace – The Best of France and Germany Rolled into One

Squeezed between the Rhine river and the Vosges Hills, the historic region of Alsace - like the dialect spoken here - presents a curious mixture of French and German culture.

Quaint little old villages, cobblestone lanes, medieval half-timbered houses, enchanting ancient fortresses, along with masterpieces of art and architecture - **Alsace** is an especially lovely and interesting region of France. What's more, it's a veritable paradise for those who enjoy savoring the finer pleasures of outstanding cuisine and wines.

Ribeauvillé
A typical Alsatian town



Alsace
A 'chocolate-box'
region of France



HOTLY CONTESTED AND EAGERLY COVETED

Over the past centuries, Alsace was an ongoing bone of contention between France and Germany. Sometimes it fell within the dominions of the one, sometimes of the other. The Alsatians themselves, though, simply carried on doing things their own way - and the result was a culture and traditions all of their own and like no other.

Precisely for this reason, this stretch of land about 120 miles long and 30 miles wide between the Rhine and the Vosges Mountains is a particularly alluring and interesting destination. And the landscape and the villages flanking the Alsatian Wine Road are especially quaint and charming. Colmar, the third-largest city in the region is considered to be its 'wine capital.' However, Alsace's largest city and its cultural heart is Strasbourg.

Prettily skirting the foothills of the Vosges Mountains, the **Route des Vins**, Alsace's wine road, links one delightful wine village after another, among

which the best known include Eguisheim, Riquewihr, Ribeauvillé, Obernai and Boersch. Many of the route's lovely towns are still surrounded by their medieval defensive walls penetrated by ancient gateways. You will enjoy taking a leisurely stroll amid such picturesque surroundings with countless half-timbered houses festooned with flowers: and don't forget to find out for yourself why Alsace's wines enjoy an international reputation!

One of the region's gems is the attractive and unspoiled small town of **Obernai**, whose central square, the Place du Marché, has a very pretty historic fountain (Fontaine Ste-Odile). The square is flanked by the former covered grain market (Halle aux Blés) from 1554, as well as the City Hall with a bell-tower nearly 200 feet high (Tour de la Chapelle). Numerous houses in Obernai date from the 16th/17th century.



'VIN D'ALSACE' AN EXCELLENT TIPPLE

In contrast to many other French or German wines, the wines of Alsace are not named after their region or vineyard of origin but simply after the grape variety from which they are made. Generally speaking, the white wines of the northernmost French wine region are made using the following types of grape: Riesling, Pinot Blanc, Gewürztraminer, Sylvaner and Pinot Gris. The only grape cultivated for making red wines is the Pinot Noir.



Colmar
The Koifhus



Colmar
Petite Venise



Colmar - A Jewel of the Alsace Region

Breisach-Colmar: about 15 miles (25 km)

Colmar is rather like a large and living open-air museum: countless striking historic houses dating from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance lend its Old City a truly medieval character. Among its most beautiful and important buildings are the former customs house, the Koifhus, the Maison Pfister constructed by wealthy hat-makers, and the Maison des Têtes, whose façade is adorned by over a hundred carved heads.

A part of the town that is an absolute 'must' is Petite Venise ('Little Venice') located on the banks of the small river, the Lauch. This borders on the former Tanners' Quarter (Quartier des Tanneurs), which is no less attractive and enchanting. Even now, small wooden boats can be seen sliding along the narrow waterways. In the past, they were used for carrying

heavy loads; today, they are loved by tourists, who choose them for romantic boat tours during which you can see Colmar's low bridges and colorfully painted half-timbered houses with beautiful shutters.



Colmar
The 'Statue of Liberty'

Popular attractions for visitors are St. Martin's Cathedral with its precious windows. Other sights worth seeing in Colmar include a number of fine old churches and the Musée d'Unterlinden, which contains the **Isenheim Altarpiece** (1506-1515), the main work of Matthias Grünewald and in-

deed one of the greatest of all German works of art. This is an altarpiece with folding wings and three main central panels: the first central panel dramatically depicts Christ's Crucifixion set against a calamitous background; the second shows a dazzlingly colorful Adoration of Christ flanked by wings depicting the Annunciation and Resurrection; while the third includes sculpture and is devoted to St. Anthony. In the museum, the altarpiece is exhibited in such a way that one can view all of the panels.

Few visitors are aware of the fact that Colmar was the birthplace of the sculptor, Frédéric-August Bartholdi, who designed the figure of the Statue of Liberty in New York, a small copy of which has been on show in the town for a few years.



Musée d'Unterlinden
The Isenheim Altarpiece



Fort Schoenenbourg:

Part of the 420-Mile-Long Maginot Line (676 km)

With a tunnel system embracing about 1.5 miles (2.4 km) of underground passageways, **Fort Schoenenbourg** (to the north of Strasbourg) is the largest accessible system of fortifications of the Maginot Line in Alsace. Located 56 to 100 feet below ground level, a complete barracks with kitchens, military hospital, power station, arms stores and command posts can be visited. When in service, this fortress was manned by between 510 and 630 soldiers.

Named after the French Minister of Defense, André Maginot, the Maginot Line was a

series of fortified bunkers constructed along France's borders with Germany and Italy. These were built between 1930 and 1940 with the aim of resisting a possible attack from German or Italian forces. However, the Maginot Line was not an unbroken system of defenses, and its fortifications were constructed largely with the aim of repelling an infantry assault. As a result, the Maginot Line was of little use against attack by German tanks; thus, after the short, sharp Ardennes offensive spearheaded by armored divisions, France had little option but to surrender in June 1940.

■ Practical Info:

As the temperature in the fort is a constant 13°C, do wear appropriately warm clothing as well as good walking shoes!

Fort Schoenenbourg
The former entry point for munitions is now the main entrance for visitors



Strasbourg – One of the Wealthiest Cities of Medieval Europe (km 292)

Strasbourg is not located directly on the Rhine but amid several arms of its small tributary, the River Ill. Areas characterized by romantic half-timbered buildings, cozy wine taverns and, above all, its magnificent Cathedral ensure that a visit to this historic metropolis is a truly memorable experience. As the seat of several European institutions, Strasbourg has also become a symbol of the idea of a unified Europe.

The squares and lanes by the Cathedral are illuminated by thousands of lights during the

Advent and Christmas period. For over four centuries, Strasbourg has been the venue of the famous 'Christkindelsmärik,' one of France's oldest Christmas markets. In addition, the so-called 'light trail' of lovely illuminations makes an Advent walk through the Old City quite magical. Every year, a massive and colorful Christmas tree with newly created illuminations adorns one of the city's main squares, Place Kléber.

View from the Ill
The Cathédrale Notre-Dame (1176-1439), one of the world's largest sandstone buildings (469 feet tall)





■ **Possible Enhancement:**
Boat tour on the Ill

It goes without saying that your tour guide will show you all of the city's most important and attractive sights. However, if you feel inspired to explore a little on your own, the most pleasant and enjoyable way to do so is to take a trip on one of the barge-like passenger boats providing city tours on the Ill. Among the many historic sights on their itinerary, these pass the old bishop's residence, the Palais Rohan, the Old Customs House (Ancienne Douane), the pretty Tanners' House (Maison des Tanneurs) and the romantic riverside quarter, Pe-

Strasbourg Cathedral
The famous astronomical clock

Petite France
Strasbourg's loveliest riverside quarter



'UNITED IN DIVERSITY' - THE MOTTO OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

The EU is an organization with a membership of 27 European sovereign states, whose sphere of responsibility has, since 1992 (Treaty of Maastricht), extended beyond merely economic matters to include such political areas as common foreign and security policies. The origins of the EU extend back to the 1950s when initially six countries (Belgium, West Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands) signed the Treaty of Paris. The initial goal was to cultivate economic relationships with the aim of thereby hindering future military conflicts while also creating a large common market that would help to accelerate postwar economic growth.

In the meantime, 17 member states of the EU have introduced a common currency, the Euro. In order that none of its members feels at a disadvantage, the EU does not have a capital city, and its governmental and administrative organs are located in Brussels (e.g., Council of Europe), Strasbourg (e.g., European Parliament), Frankfurt (European Central Bank) and Luxembourg (e.g., European Court). The organization's 'anthem' is an instrumental version of a melody from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the so-called 'Ode to Joy.' The European flag has a circle of twelve golden stars that symbolize unity, solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe.

tite France, on the way to the 'Covered Bridges' (Ponts Couverts) and the defensive barrage constructed by Vauban (Barrage Vauban).

*Duration: about 70 minutes
Point of embarkation: by the Palais Rohan*

The seat of the European Parliament
A fine example of contemporary architecture



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The distance (one way) from Speyer or Mannheim to Heidelberg is only about 15 miles (24 km).

Heidelberg - A City for Lovers of Romance

During the warmer months of the year, Heidelberg is literally besieged by visitors from all over the world. The reason: the uniquely romantic atmosphere of this historic university city and especially of **Heidelberg Castle**. Superbly sited above the Neckar, its garden and terrace offer delightful views over the city's clustered roofs and lanes. Mark Twain's travel writing and the setting of the popular musical, *The Student Prince*, did much to establish Heidelberg's popularity among English-speaking travelers. Many Americans are also aware that this lovely city houses US (until 2015) and NATO military headquarters. In past times, the Baroque **Old Bridge** could be closed by a portcullis between the twin-towered Bridge Gateway, where visitors to the city had to pay a special toll. Of the bridge's sculptures, the most photographed is surely the bronze *Bridge Monkey* created in 1979. This commemorates an earlier sculpture from the second half of the 15th century who offered visitors a cheeky and irreverent greeting. Heidelberg's main street which goes through the town's historic center is the

Heidelberg
Castle and the Old Bridge

most important shopping promenade as well as the location of many beautiful buildings. Don't miss the electoral pharmacy (*Kurfürstliche Hofapotheke*), built around 1700, the hotel *Zum Ritter*, built in 1592, and the City Hall. Another unmistakable sight is the Old University where you can visit the former students' prison.



Heidelberg University
The Old Hall



From Strasbourg to Mainz (km 292-497)

After a few miles and two locks, the Grande Canal d'Alsace reaches its end, and your ship now continues its course along the freely flowing section of the Upper Rhine as it was regulated and straightened according to plans drawn up by Tulla in the 19th century. While some sections of the riverbanks make a natural impression, others are flanked by large industrial zones extending right down to the water. Several cities were established at a safe distance from the Rhine, while others, like Speyer und Worms are situated directly on the river.

Karlsruhe Castle
The octagonal tower



Karlsruhe – A 'Planned' City

Karlsruhe (c. km 360) is a rather splendid residence city and is a good example of Baroque urban planning: its point of focus is Karlsruhe Castle, from which emanate 32 streets in a fan-like pattern forming an arc. Behind the fine Castle with its octagonal tower, there is a magnificent English-style park with broad green expanses and a large lake. The central street leading from the main Castle façade into the city ends at Marktplatz, where a pyramid (1823) is placed above the burial vault of the founder of the city.

Speyer – City of the German Emperors

One sees them from far away: the six soaring towers of the largest and most significant work of Romanesque architecture in Germany: Speyer's Imperial Cathedral. From the 11th century, the church's crypt served as the burial place of several German emperors and kings. It is thus fitting that the 'Dom' in Speyer is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Spey-



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Speyer Cathedral
Awe-inspiring Romanesque architecture

er itself is a pretty, small town with a downtown area containing quite a few attractive old buildings. Those interested in

science, technology and transport will want to seek out the Technical Museum on the outskirts of the town.



The distance (one way) from Speyer or Mannheim to Schwetzingen is only about 12 miles (20 km)

■ Schwetzingen Castle and Its Gardens

Located a few miles from the Rhine roughly between Heidelberg and Mannheim, the town of Schwetzingen rose to eminence in the Baroque period. It is principally known for the Electoral Castle whose central section was begun in 1697, while the two curved wings

were added in the 1750s. After its completion under the architects, Alessandro Galli da Bibiena and Franz Wilhelm Rabaliatti, its wonderful gardens embracing contrasting styles were designed largely by Johann Ludwig Petri and Nicolas de Pigage.

The rather severe, circular Baroque garden adjoining the

Castle leads into an English-style park that is enlivened by a number of curious architectural features. In the southern part of the garden, a **mosque** with two minarets is reflected in the water of an artificial lake. Although actually used as a mosque in more recent times, it was not originally intended as a Moslem place of worship: rather, it was meant to be a symbol of tolerance and respect toward all of the world's cultures and religions. In fact, the build-

ing lacks several elements required in a mosque, but the inscriptions in Arabic present aphorisms whose wisdom transcends cultural barriers.

Some follies in the garden are intended to recall **Roman ruins**. For example, in the northwest corner of the garden, there is a ruined gateway with tower, while a series of arch-

The Mosque
In Schwetzingen's Castle Garden



es leading away from this suggest an ancient aqueduct. An obelisk can be seen in the center of this ensemble.

The **Palladio Bridge**, which is often called the 'Chinese Bridge,' really was designed according to a draft by the architect, Andrea Palladio, who was active in Venetia during the Renaissance. From here, one can see the Temple of Mercury, a three-sided structure made of

tufa stone that has the form of a Roman tomb. This is just one of several Roman-style temples in the gardens.

The **Bath-House** designed by Pigage is a delightful little palace that looks rather like a Baroque Italian villa. While Prince-Elector Carl Theodor allowed the public free access to the rest of the gardens, the area around this building could only be entered by persons expressly invited by the owner. As a result, Carl Theodor could live here as a 'private person' and devote his energies to the arts and music. One striking feature of the Bath-House's enclosed garden is the fountain with jets of water flowing from the beaks of birds into a central basin with an owl sculpture.

Between Speyer and Worms
Just a few miles downriver from Speyer, the industrial zones and inland ports of Mannheim and Ludwigshafen dominate the scene. For almost 4 miles, the left bank of the Rhine is flanked by a single industrial plant, the main production premises of BASF, the world's largest chemical company. Here, about 40,000 employees are directly involved in chemical production processes, while an even larger number are concerned with supply and delivery. On the opposite bank of the river, Mannheim is located at the point where the River Neckar flows into the Rhine.





Worms
The gateway tower of
the Nibelungs Bridge



Worms
Hagen sculpture



Oppenheim
A delightful wine village

Worms - City of the Nibelungs

Worms – just like Speyer – once played an important role as an Imperial city. Its Romanesque Cathedral of red sandstone with round towers is the dominant building of the city. This was the venue for many Imperial parliaments (so-called Diets), the most famous of which took place in 1521, when Martin Luther refused to abjure his 95 Theses with the immortal words, “Here I stand. I can do no other.” Worms is also closely associated with the medieval German epic poem, the Nibelungenlied. On the riverside promenade, there is a sculpture showing Hagen throwing the treasure of the Nibelungs back into the Rhine.

The Wine-Growing Region, Rheinhessen

Worms is considered to be the ‘gateway’ to the major wine-growing region, Rheinhessen, which your ship runs alongside on the left bank between Worms and Mainz. Now and again, one sees a church situated right in a vineyard, the most famous example being the Liebfrauenkirche in Worms, which is visible above the Rhine riverbank, while the Church of St. Catherine occupies a lovely site above the wine village of Oppenheim. Not far away, Nierstein is a no less picturesque center of wine cultivation. Directly opposite the confluence of the River Main in the Rhine, we now come to Mainz.

i THE TREASURE OF THE NIBELUNGS

If you are acquainted with Richard Wagner’s vast opera cycle, *The Ring of the Nibelungs*, the movie of the same name or the story by J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Legend of Sigurt and Gudrun*, you will already know at least part of the legend of the Nibelungs.

The tale of the Burgundian king’s proud daughter, Kriemhild, and her brothers, Gunther, Gernot and Giselher, has its roots in the break up of the ancient Burgundian kingdom around Worms during the 5th century. After Siegfried from Xanten had killed a dragon and taken the treasure of the Nibelungs for himself, he journeyed to the royal court in Worms. He wished to marry Kriemhild but was first obliged to help Gunther win Brünhild – Queen of Isenland (Iceland) – for his wife. She had sworn only to marry a man capable of beating her in combat, something that Siegfried succeeded in doing using guile and a magic helmet that allowed him to change shape.

Years later, however, a terrible dispute between Brünhild and Kriemhild was to have fatal consequences: not only the families themselves but also their peoples were soon involved in bloody strife. Finally, Hagen, a powerful vassal of Gunther, took the treasure and cast it into the Rhine – a secret he took with him to the grave.

During your cruise on the Rhine (and on the Danube, too), you will often hear mention of stories and legends relating to the Nibelung saga.

i TULLA - THE MAN WHO SUBDUED THE RHINE

Johann Gottfried Tulla (1770-1828) was an engineer born in the German state of Baden, who planned and implemented the straightening and regulation of the Rhine during the 19th century and thereby gave the Upper Rhine an entirely new appearance. Confronting difficulties almost unimaginable today, workers straightened and confined the river within banks between 625 and 820 feet apart, as well as lowering the riverbed and inserting systems of dams and dikes. In addition to improving the Rhine's navigability, this meant that settlements close to the river were less threatened by flooding, while diseases like malaria were effectively wiped out. It was by far the largest and most important technical achievement of its time, and its effects are felt no less today than then.

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Mainz and Johannes Gutenberg, the Man of the Millennium

Old and new rub shoulders quite happily in Mainz - in fact, this is a distinguishing feature of the city. Many historic buildings, monuments and museums provide insights into over 2000 years of the city's history.

The silhouette of Mainz is characterized by numerous towers. First of all, there are the six towers of the mighty Romanesque Cathedral (c. 1100) which shaped the city's history. Over the centuries, the Cathedral has been continuously modified and expanded. The principal glory of the spacious



*The Romanesque Cathedral of St. Martin
More than a millennium
of city history*

interior is the collection of the episcopal tombs which date from the 13th to the 18th century. Even though Mainz has a good number of interesting churches like the Carmelite Church and St. Quintin, the most-visited is the one dedicated to St. Stephen, whose windows were designed and installed by Marc Chagall only a few months before his death in 1984.

In the Middle Ages, Mainz was surrounded by a giant town wall with watchtowers. Three of them, the Iron Tower, the Wood Tower and the Alexander Tower, are well-preserved medieval examples of architecture that still can be visited. Like most of the city center, they were badly damaged during the Second World War, but were later restored to their original condition. Another noteworthy building is the former Elector's Palace in the Renaissance style, which today contains the Roman-German Museum.

Mainz's most important tourist attraction is the Gutenberg Museum dedicated to the most famous son of the

town: Johannes Gutenberg (1400-1468), the inventor of letterpress printing. He paved the way for the 'mass production' of texts and books - one of the most important inventions of the second millennium. In 1999, Gutenberg was awarded the title 'Man of the Millennium' by A&E Networks.

Gutenberg's masterpiece was the first-ever printed Bible produced in 1455, of which an original can be seen in the museum.

*Johannes
Gutenberg
The inventor
of printing
using movable
type*



continue →

Your cruise continues along the Main and Danube? If so, for more information, turn to page 270

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The Romantic Middle Rhine - From Mainz to Koblenz

(km 497-592)

The section of the Rhine between Mainz and Koblenz is of striking scenic beauty. For the first few miles, many of the gently undulating hills on the right bank have extensive vineyards, while fine old man-

sions have gardens reaching down to the riverfront. Between Rudesheim and Koblenz, the river's course deserves the name, the 'Romantic Rhine': here, steep cliffs and crags rise almost vertically from the water, while romantic ruined fortresses enjoy splendid sites on hills rising up to about 1000 feet, and villages from medieval times nestle along the

narrow riverbanks. The valley sometimes seems so narrow that one wonders how the river can ever wind its way through.

During the 19th century, it was Britons above all who fell in love with the wild charms of the Middle Rhine Valley. The English poet and artist, Lord Byron, wrote ecstatic praises of the romantic landscape,

and Mary Shelley wrote her classic tale of horror, *Frankenstein*, very much under the impressions awakened by a recent tour along the Rhine. Thus, it is hardly surprising that, even today, this mysterious and evocative landscape with its intriguing ruined castles remains an unending source of myths and legends that further add to its charms.



The Middle Rhine
A UNESCO World
Heritage Site since
1992



The Niederwald Monument
With the statue of 'Germania'

From Mainz to Rüdesheim

In **Biebrich**, which is now a suburb of the state capital of Hesse, **Wiesbaden**, one can find the so-called Henkell 'Schlösschen' ('Little Castle') set among some fine mansions. In the first years of the 20th century, it was from here that the Henkell Trocken brand of sparkling wine began a remarkable success story that would make it famous throughout the world. Nearby **Biebrich Castle** is one of the most important Baroque castles on the Rhine and was once a residence of the former counts (and later dukes) of Nassau; it is now used by the state government of Hesse for special events and ceremonies. **Eltville** is often called the 'town of wine and roses.' From the ship, one can admire the rather splendid mansions and houses that line the Rhine promenade, as well as ancient

Burg Crass and **Eltville Castle** that once belonged to the archbishop-elect of Mainz. **Oestrich** also presents a very attractive selection of historic buildings to those passing on the Rhine. These include an 18th century wooden crane once used for loading and unloading wine barrels onto and off riverboats. Inside, it has two large wheels that needed only two men to push them and thereby wind in a pulley rope to lift loads on and off ships. This crane remained in use until 1926. Between the wine villages of **Geisenheim** and **Rüdesheim**, one can see the **Convent of St. Hildegard**, which now houses an active community of Benedictine nuns. The convent was erected between 1900 and 1904 in the neo-Romanesque style and carries on the tradition of Hildegard of Bingen, one of the greatest women of the Middle Ages.



Rüdesheim - German Gemütlichkeit at Its Best

Wine, dance, romance: all this and more is embraced by the German expression, *Gemütlichkeit*, a word that many tourists immediately associate with the town, **Rüdesheim**. Here,

and particularly in the narrow Drosselgasse, the lanes are flanked by one traditional wine tavern after another.

'Rüdesheim Coffee' is a luxurious warming drink that is a treat for every occasion. The version offered in the Schloss Rüdesheim is particularly delicious.

i RECIPE: RÜDESHEIMER KAFFEE

Ingredients (per cup):

0.2 l hot strong coffee
3 sugar cubes
4 cl brandy (Asbach Uralt)
a little sweetened whipped cream
grated chocolate

Preparation:

- Place the sugar cubes and brandy in a fireproof cup, and ignite the brandy using a match
- Allow to burn for about 1 minute, stirring all the time until the sugar has dissolved completely
- Pour in the hot coffee, stir well, top with some whipped cream, and sprinkle with grated chocolate



The Romantic Rhine

Like **Klopp Castle** above **Bingen** and ruined **Ehrenfels Castle** above the opposite riverbank, the **Mouse Tower** located on an island in the Rhine served as part of a system for extorting river tolls during the Middle Ages. The current becomes stronger here, but the earlier perils once associated with the dreaded 'Binger Loch' were finally banished forever when the riverbed was deepened for the last time during the 1970s. Three great rocks that can still be seen in the river when its waters are low were part of a ridge of rock that once extended right across the river.

Around each bend of the river, it seems that one fortress after another heaves into view, for example, **Burg Rheinstein**, ruined **Reichenstein Castle**, **Burg Sooneck** and **Burg Hohneck**, as well as pretty wine villages like **Assmannshausen**, **Trechtingshausen** and **Lorch**. On average, there is a castle every 1.5 miles along the course of the Middle Rhine. Many of these were constructed as toll-collecting fortresses during the 12th century and were then expanded and strengthened as the Middle Ages progressed. In 1689, most of them were seriously damaged or destroyed by the troops of the 'Sun King,' Louis XIV, but many were then restored and rebuilt by so-

called 'castle romantics' during the 19th century. This same fate was suffered by **Stahleck Castle** located above the pretty



*The Mouse Tower
On an island by Bingen*



*In Bacharach
The Werner Chapel*

town of **Bacharach**. The symbol of this town, though, is the ruined **Werner Chapel**, which is associated with a number of

spine-chilling tales that Heinrich Heine incorporated into his fragmentary story, *The Rabbi of Bacharach*.

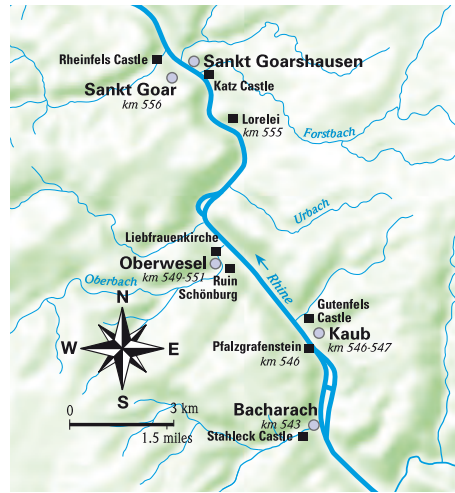
*The Romantic Rhine
Oberwesel*



i THE LEGEND OF THE MOUSE TOWER BY BINGEN (AFTER THE BROTHERS GRIMM)

In 974, there was such a serious famine that many starved to death. Seeing the plight of the common folk, the archbishop of Mainz, a notoriously cruel and covetous prelate, said, 'Gather all of the poor in a barn, and I will give them to eat.' However, once they were all inside, he had the doors bolted, and set the building on fire, so that all inside perished in the flames. Hearing the people's screams and pleas, the archbishop shouted, 'Listen, listen, how the mice are whistling.' It was not long, though, before God ensured that the churchman received his just deserts. Mice appeared from everywhere, crawling all over him and biting him day and night. Nothing he could do would stop them. So he constructed the island tower by Bingen in the middle of the Rhine. His plan to live there safe from the rodents was doomed to failure, as the mice simply swam across, climbed up into the tower and ate the archbishop alive.

Perhaps the most striking and unusual castle to be seen anywhere in Germany, the tiny fortress, **Pfalzgrafenstein**, is located in the middle of the Rhine on Falkenau Island near **Kaub**. Along with Stahleck Castle and **Gutenfels Castle**, the so-called 'Pfalz' was used for collecting river tolls. Located beneath another imposing castle ruin, the **Schönburg**, the small town of **Oberwesel** flanks the left bank of the Rhine for almost 2 miles. Thousands of vines cover the steep slopes. They are need-





ed for making different sorts of white wine, e.g., Riesling or Müller Thurgau. The town is dominated by two Gothic churches and has very well-preserved medieval walls and defenses. It is no wonder that the people of Oberwesel call their hometown 'The Town of Towers and Vines.' The current of the Rhine now begins to grow swifter as the river is forced to wind its way between often tight meanders flanked by steep cliffs. The most striking rocky outcrop of the Middle Rhine

Valley is the famous **Lorelei**. About 120 yards high, this cliff has long been a subject of legend and fantasy. However, Heinrich Heine gave the legend its final form in 1822, by imagining the existence of a beautiful maiden who sat on the rock combing her long hair and singing, and thereby luring mariners to their destruction (rather like the Sirens in Homer's *Odyssey*). When you pass this point during your Avalon cruise, you will hear the *Song of the Lorelei* being played.



Romantic Rhine
Near Lorelei



i THE SONG OF THE LORELEI HEINRICH HEINE (1823)



 I cannot know the meaning
Why it is that I feel so sad:
A fable of old, through it streaming,
Makes my mind quite mad. 

The air is cool as its darkens
And gently flows the Rhine.
The crest of the mountain sparkles
In the last rays of sunshine.

 The loveliest maiden is sitting
Up there, so wondrously fair;
Her golden jewelry is gleaming;
She combs her golden hair. 

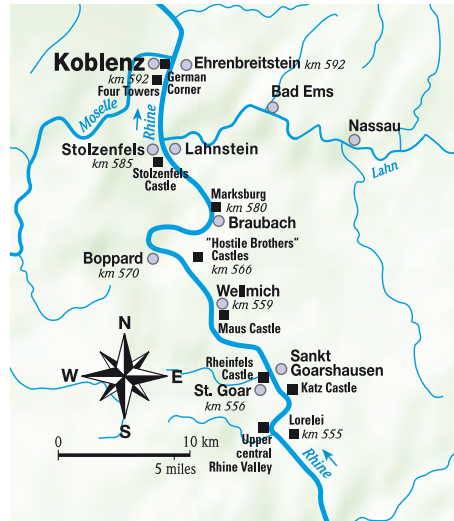
She uses a comb of finest gold,
And sings a song so sweetly.
It is music of beauty untold
A strange, enchanting melody.

The boatman aboard his small skiff,
Enraptured with a wild desire,
Has no eye for the jagged cliff,
His thoughts to the heights aspire.

 I think that the waves will devour
Both boat and man, by and by,
And that, with her song of gentle power,
Was the work of the Lorelei. 

Rearing high above **St. Goar**, ruined **Rheinfels Castle** is the largest fortress of the Middle Rhine, and it served as a model for subsequent castle building throughout the medieval German Empire.

Among the many Rhenish castles associated with curious legends, one might mention **Katz Castle** above **St. Goarshausen** and **Maus Castle** above **Wellmich**. They are said to be watching each other warily just like a cat and a mouse – hence the names. Another well-known legend concerns two fortresses located less than a quarter-of-a-mile apart (as the crow flies, at least), **Sternfels** and



Liebenstein, which are fondly nicknamed, the **Two Hostile Brothers**.



The Marksburg
A picture-book castle

Seen from the Rhine, **Boppard** looks very much like a spa town of yesteryear, a little old-fashioned perhaps, but with some attractive hotels along the riverside promenade, which is dominated by the imposing twin towers of the Church of St. Severus dating from the end of the 12th century. Close to the river ferry, one can see one of the sturdiest defensive buildings of the Middle Rhine, the moated fortress built for the archbishop-elect of Trier. The square keep was not built to keep out attackers, though, but served as an impregnable lock-up for troublesome burghers.

The **Marksburg** looks like the sort of robber-baron's castle that you might see in a book of fairytales: majestically situated over the Rhine Valley, it has a high keep, mighty defen-

sive walls and bastions, and a splendid knight's hall, chapel and armory; in fact, it is one of the few castles that was never destroyed and has thus been preserved in its original 14th-century condition.

One of the most outstanding products of 19th-century Rhine romanticism, **Stolzenfels Castle**, was rebuilt by the Prussian architect, Friedrich Schinkel, as a summer residence for king Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia. Rather like Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria, it is characterized by a surfeit of small decorative towers and extravagant ornamental elements.

Just a couple of miles downriver, your ship will reach **Koblenz**.



THE TRAGEDY OF THE TWO HOSTILE BROTHERS

According to legend, two brothers used the fortune inherited from their father to construct two mighty fortresses, **Sternfels Castle** and **Liebenstein Castle**. When their mother died, they were supposed to share her fortune with their blind sister. As was the custom in those days, they measured out the money in bushels, but then cheated their blind and helpless sibling in the most contemptible manner. However, while God blessed the little money received by the sister, the brothers reaped strife and disappointment: their wealth decreased, their fields were devastated by storms, their castles fell into disrepair, and the two brothers quarreled so badly that they had a thick wall erected between their fortresses that can still be seen today. When their inheritances had all been used up, they finally made up, but even this went wrong: having decided to meet for a hunting expedition, they agreed that whoever got up first should wake the other by shooting a crossbow bolt at the shutters on his bedroom window. As chance would have it, they both woke at the same time, cast open the shutters, and each shot a bolt that pierced the other through the heart. Thus, each received the just punishment for cheating his blind sister of her rightful inheritance. (Traditional)

*The 'German Corner'
The promontory at
the confluence of the
Moselle and Rhine*

houses, narrow lanes and romantic corners!

The tip of land where the Moselle joins the Rhine is called the 'German Corner' (*Deutsches Eck*). The site is dominated by an enormous equestrian statue of the Prussian Kaiser Wilhelm I. Nearby is the twin-towered 12th-century Basilica of St. Castor, which is the oldest church of the city. One should also take a closer look at the archbishop of Trier's Old Fortress (*Alte Burg*) and impressive historic buildings like the 'Kauf- und Danzhaus', the 'Schöffenhau' and the residential tower 'Deutscher Kaiser.' Its Baroque 'onion spires' make the Romanesque Church of Our Lady a noticeable place of interest. The 'Four Towers' nearby are beautiful examples for Baroque architecture. The Schängel Fountain stands in the courtyard of the City Hall and is surrounded by the Baroque buildings of the Jesuit monastery. The bronze figure spits out water several meters beyond the edge of the fountain at irregular intervals - so take care!

*The 'Four Towers'
Baroque houses by the
Church of Our Lady*



Koblenz – The Only City on the Rhine and the Moselle

Located at the point where the Moselle joins the Rhine, Koblenz can look back over a history extending back more

than 2000 years. While here, take a look at the ancient Romanesque churches whose towers are such an important feature of the city's skyline! And enjoy exploring its castles, former nobleman's mansions, splendid burgher's

i THE KOBLENZ 'EYEBALL ROLLER'

Not far from the Church of St. Florin, on the bell-tower of the old Koblenz 'Customs and Dancing Hall,' a grotesque face gazes down on passersby. This is the so-called 'Eyeball Roller,' which moves its eyes left and right in time with the swinging of the pendulum of the tower clock, as well as sticking out its tongue on the hour and half-hour. This gargoyle is supposed to recall the robber baron, Johann Lutter von Kobern, who was sentenced to death by beheading in 1536. The story goes that his last words were: 'Hang my head on the Customs House and, as long as it stays there, the town will prosper.'



continue →

Your cruise continues along the Moselle?
If so, for more information, turn to page 140

From Koblenz to Cologne

(km 592–689)

Beyond Koblenz, the Rhine flows through a relatively densely populated plain (the Neuwieder Becken), before the valley narrows once more, and several old fortresses and wine villages adorn its banks. Owing to the thermal springs in this area, there are several popular spa towns here. The course of the river will take you past many places of historic interest, including Remagen and Bonn, before you reach Cologne (Köln), the oldest and most important city on the Rhine.

What does the Neuwieder Becken have to do with the American businessman and tycoon, John D. Rockefeller (1874–1960), who was one of the richest men in the world?

Researchers into his family history are convinced that the Rockefellers have German origins: in 1723, a certain Johann Peter Roggenfeller from near Neuwied emigrated to America and settled in Germantown, Pennsylvania. His name, 'Rockefeller,' derived from the now-abandoned village of Rockenfeld in the administrative district of Neuwied. Even today, many people living here have the surname, 'Rockenfeller.'

Andernach still has a remarkably well-preserved medieval city wall. Its most impressive feature is the 195-foot-high 'Round Tower,' the highest defensive tower on the Rhine. Behind it, one can see the four towers of the Romanesque Parish Church. A symbol of the town is the 'Old Crane' dating from the 16th century. If you are lucky, by

i THE 'MIRACLE OF REMAGEN'

When Hitler's troops were forced to retreat during the last months of the Second World War, they took care to destroy all bridges over the Rhine in order to hinder the advance of American, Belgian and British forces. Thus, when nearing Remagen on March 7, 1945, members of the 9th US Tank Division were astonished to find that its railway bridge was almost entirely intact. 'This bridge is worth its weight in gold,' General Eisenhower is said to have exclaimed, and in the next few days, 18 Allied regiments were able to cross the Rhine without loss. However, on March 17, the bridge suddenly collapsed owing to excess weight, killing 28 American soldiers. Only the two pairs of towers on either side of the river can now be seen; since 1980, those on the left bank have housed a small Peace Museum.

the Namedyer Werth, you might see water spouting up from the Andernach Geysir, the highest cold-water geyser in the world.

Remagen is best known because of its railway bridge, which played such an important role during the Allied advance of 1945.



Remagen Bridge
The four surviving towers





Drachenburg Castle
Near Drachenfels

Located on the right bank of the river below the wooded slopes of the Siebengebirge range of hills between **Bad Honnef** and **Königswinter**, **Rhöndorf** is where Konrad Adenauer (1876–1967), the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, spent his last years until his death.

The Siebengebirge is a range of hills made up of a series of cones of extinct volcanoes. The most famous hills of the group are the Drachenfels and Petersberg. At the summit of the **Drachenfels**, an impressive ruin is located near the supposed site of the cave where, in the saga of the Nibelungs, Siegfried killed a dragon whose blood made him invulnerable to wounds. Also,

the popular legend by the Brothers Grimm, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, is said to have its origins here. Nearby **Drachenburg Castle** was created only in 1884 on the romantic whim of a wealthy baron.

The **Petersberg** hotel moved into the spotlight of history when it was used as the seat of the Allied High Commission; this body was made up of representatives of the Allied Powers occupying Germany met from 1949 to 1955. Since then, it has served as a place for accommodating guests of the German government and state.



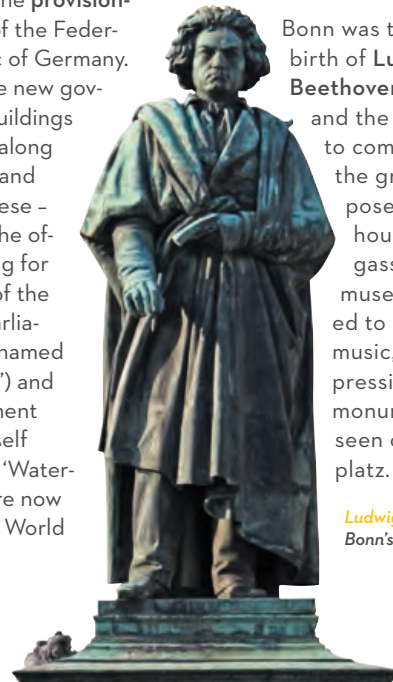
Bonn
The Beethovenhalle

After the war and until Germany's reunification, **Bonn** served as the **provisional capital** of the Federal Republic of Germany. Most of the new government buildings were built along the Rhine, and many of these – including the office building for members of the national parliament (nicknamed 'Tall Eugen') and the parliament building itself (called the 'Waterworks') – are now part of the World

Conference Center (WCCB). Both the German President and Chancellor have a second state residence (after Berlin) in Bonn.

Bonn was the place of birth of **Ludwig van Beethoven** (1770–1827), and the city is proud to commemorate the great composer. His birthplace in Bonn-gasse contains a museum dedicated to his life and music, while an impressive statue monument can be seen on Münsterplatz.

Ludwig van Beethoven
Bonn's greatest son





KONRAD ADENAUER A GREAT GERMAN

Konrad Adenauer, who had previously been Lord Mayor of Cologne for many years, became the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949, and his far-reaching policies over the next 14 years did much to shape the country. His period of power saw the re-establishment of stable democratic government, rapid economic recovery and growth, and a foreign policy of conciliation and cooperation. In the latter, he sought solidarity with the Western powers, European unity and membership of NATO. Thus, for example, the long-term stationing of American forces in Germany as a security measure owed much to Adenauer. In the face of much opposition even within his own party, he worked to establish a social economy in Germany. His outlook was essentially anti-communist, yet he was a political realist and was thus prepared to reopen diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. It was largely his achievement that Germany soon became a functioning democracy based on individual liberty and an independent judiciary, so that the country was able to re-establish itself within the international community in the years following the disaster of the Second World War.



On the riverbank, the large concert hall and congress center, the Beethovenhalle, is often the venue for performances of the composer's works.

In 1989, Bonn celebrated its 2000-year anniversary. Thus, the city's roots go back to the Celts and the Romans. Bonn's landmark, the Bonn Minster, is a towering Romanesque basilica standing on a site that has been sacred for 2000 years, first as a Roman temple and then as a Christian church and shrine to the martyrs Cassius and Florentius. With its 92-meter crossing tower, Romanesque cloister and a mainly Baroque interior, the Minster is an impressive piece of architecture. Twice in its history, in 1314 and 1346, the Minster was the coronation venue for German kings. The Residential Palace (Residenzschloss), built in the late Baroque period by the electors of

Cologne, is today part of Bonn's university. The City Hall and the Koblenzer Tor date back to the same period.

At this point, the Rhine River has left behind the hilly valley landscape and – now called the Lower Rhine (Niederrhein) – traverses the so-called Cologne Lowland (Kölner Bucht), a densely populated and highly industrialized region. Along the banks of the river, there are many large, modern petrochemical refineries.

As your cruise ship approaches **Cologne**, it's well worth looking out for various city landmarks as you sail by – these include the futuristic building of the **Chocolate Museum**, the striking church tower of **Great St. Martin's** and the picturesque **Fish Market** – before the ship docks close to the **Hohenzollern Bridge** and the **Cathedral**.



WHY WAS BONN THE PROVISIONAL CAPITAL OF GERMANY?

The Allies were agreed that Germany's new postwar capital should be relatively undamaged, small but yet steeped in tradition and historical associations. The British declared themselves ready to relinquish the area around Bonn that lay within their occupation zone if the city was chosen as Germany's provisional capital. The first meeting of the Parliamentary Council in Bonn in 1948 represented a first step toward its selection. The final decision fell on November 29, 1949, with Bonn being preferred to Frankfurt, Kassel and Stuttgart, although the provisional character of its role was especially emphasized. When Germany was finally reunified, the treaty regulating the terms of this process declared that Berlin would be its capital. After a parliamentary vote in favor of this, the government and parliament moved to Berlin in 1991.



Cologne's skyline
Absolutely unforgettable

The Martinswinkel
A romantic spot



Cologne - Characterful and Cheerful Rhine Metropolis

Despite suffering terrible damage during the Second World War, Cologne has since developed into one of Germany's liveliest major cities. The city's symbol and focal point is its Cathedral, one of the world's greatest places of worship. Even older, Cologne has many fine Romanesque churches like Great St. Martin's. A visit to the city should definitely take in a traditional pub like those around the Heumarkt and Alter Markt, where 'Kölsch,' a pale beer with a distinctive tang of hops, is the local specialty.



Great St. Martin's
One of the 12 Romanesque churches



COLOGNE - GERMANY'S OLDEST JEWISH COMMUNITY

As early as 321 AD, a document refers to a Jewish community in a quarter around Cologne's City Hall. In spite of ongoing disputes with the Christian population, this seems to have flourished until the 14th century, but the arrival of the Black Death in 1349 saw Jews being blamed for the catastrophe. Pogroms and massacres followed, many Jews fled or were driven out of the city, and their quarter suffered widespread destruction.

In the succeeding centuries, Cologne's Jewish community was able to re-establish itself, so that they accounted for no less than 15,000 of the city's population in early 1933. Under Nazi rule, though, all six synagogues and other Jewish buildings were desecrated or destroyed, while 11,000 Jews were deported and murdered.

After the Second World War, a new synagogue was erected on the fringe of the inner city. A bronze plaque on the City Opera House recalls the fact that there was once a synagogue in Glockengasse. A mikwe, a bath for ritual purification that has been excavated on Rathausplatz, can be visited. Today, Cologne's Jewish community is once more an important element in the life of the city.



From Cologne to the Dutch Border

(km 689 -864)

The Rhine has now left the last hills of its course behind it and flows its leisurely way through a broad and essentially flat landscape. For some miles, though, its banks are characterized by sprawling urban zones and large industrial complexes. After a while, one sees more and more old branches of the river that have reverted to their natural state, as well as extensive meadows sometimes separated by arrow-straight rows of poplars or dotted with gnarled old willows. The pastures and fields reach right down to the riverside.

Located amid open meadows and completely surrounded by a medieval defensive wall, the small town of Zons seems like a dream-like apparition when seen in the early morning mist.

*Leverkusen (The Bayerwerke)
Bayer is best known for its
production of aspirin*

During the 14th century, Zons was a fortified customs town controlled by the archbishop-elect of Cologne, and the mighty Customs Tower and Windmill Tower – built using the red bricks characteristic of the Lower Rhine – date from this time.

In the far distance, one soon sees a huge cable-stayed bridge over the Rhine, a sign that your ship is nearing Düsseldorf, a major commercial, congress and cultural center with its own university. Düsseldorf's Old City boasts the nickname, 'the world's longest bar,' and the downtown area really does have over 250 pubs, restaurants and bars. Directly on the right bank, one can see two of the city's symbols, the lighthouse-like Old Castle Tower and the spire of the Church of St. Lambert.

i WHY DO MOST RHINE BRIDGES LOOK ALIKE?

By the end of the Second World War, all 37 bridges over the German Rhine had been destroyed. Consequently, it was necessary to look for new technical solutions that would be effective, economical and easy to implement as quickly as possible. To create the minimum obstruction to river traffic, the idea of having as few supporting piers in the river as possible gave rise to the constructional form called a **cable-stayed or guyed bridge**. Here, the road crossing the river is suspended using thick iron cables directly attached to a supporting pylon rising as high as 300 feet or more.

The local specialty – Altbier





Düsseldorf
Rhine promenade



Similar to Zons, Kaiserswerth also used to be a fortified customs town, and the remains of a 12th-century fortress built by Emperor Friedrich Barbarossa for collecting tolls can be seen close to the riverbank.

Duisburg has the biggest inland port in Europe: each year, about 20,000 ships dock in its 21 harbors, whose quays have a total length of about 30 miles. Little of this can be seen from the Rhine, though, as this extensive network of docks and quays lies beyond the green riverbank and along the River Ruhr, which joins the Rhine here.

Only a few towns are located close to the banks of the last section of the Lower Rhine, which is otherwise flanked by trees and fields. The most important of these include Wesel, a former member of the Hanseatic League, historic Xanten dominated by the tow-

i THE RUHR REGION - BETWEEN 'HEAVY METAL' AND 'HIGH HEELS'

Duisburg is located on the very edge of the Ruhr region, which extends eastward and is made up of many large industrial towns that have literally grown together into an unbroken urban complex. Over 10 million people live in the 'Rhine-Ruhr Metropolitan Region.' The area's economy was originally based on coalmining along with iron and steel production. In the meantime, the region has managed to transform itself from a center of heavy industry into a center of cutting-edge research. In 2010, the whole region (under the name RUHR 2010) had the distinction of being the 'cultural capital of Europe,' a symbol of the new identity of the Ruhr region. Of course, a major role in this development has been played by the city of Düsseldorf, a fashion metropolis enjoying an international reputation.

ers of its cathedral, and the small town of Rees behind its riverside walls. Sited directly on the river by Kalkar, a high-output nuclear power station was constructed to go online in 1986. Although completed, the nuclear catastrophe in Chernobyl meant that it was never started up, and an imag-

inative entrepreneur has since converted it into a leisure center. Near Emmerich, the Lower Rhine attains its maximum width of about 0.6 miles. Leaving Germany, it splits into a baffling complex of waterways and side-arms, and after this point, it is officially no longer referred to as the Rhine.

continue ➔

Your cruise continues to Amsterdam?
If so, for more information, turn to page 86