

CRUISING THE RHINE

13 – 20 MAY 2020



FROM
£3,280
PER PERSON

Tour Leaders: Marie-Thérèse Hill & Douglas Skeggs


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY

EXPLORE HISTORIC TOWNS AND PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPES



The course of the River Rhine as it traverses Germany and Holland is the stuff of legend. This delightful cruise aboard the luxurious river vessel MS Amadeus Silver III is the perfect way to explore some of the Rhine's most beautiful countryside and historic sights. The cruise encompasses not only the history, culture, food, wine and tradition, but also historic medieval towns, fairy-tale castles, impressive churches and some of the most picturesque scenery imaginable on the Rhine.

Our journey begins in Basel before sailing to Strasbourg famous for its half-timbered houses, the Ponts Couverts, the Palais de Rohan and the Council of Europe. We continue to the wine region of Alsace where there will be an opportunity to taste some local wines, before sailing on to Speyer, founded by the Romans and one of Germany's oldest cities. We then visit Heidelberg, the world-famous university city on the Neckar River, before continuing to the ancient town of Rudesheim with its charming Old Town and fascinating Music Museum.

Continuing north we reach the 2000-year-old city of Koblenz which lies in a spectacular setting and is renowned for its fine churches and the amusing Schangelbrunnen, or 'scallywag fountain'. We sail on to Cochem, famous for its Mosel wines, before reaching Cologne where a walking tour includes the Old Town and the magnificent Gothic Church. Our final port of call is Amsterdam where we explore the city's notable sights and canals - a fitting end to a splendid voyage.

It promises to be a delightful journey, complemented by an inspiring array of shore excursions and captivating lectures from Douglas Skeggs.



Volendam



Aerial view of Cologne



Amsterdam canals

8-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 13 MAY 2020

13 May London / Basel / Strasbourg

Suggested flights (not included)
British Airways BA 752 departing
London Heathrow at 08.25 hrs.

Arrive in Basel at 11.00 hrs. Transfer to the Kunstmuseum Basel for lunch in the museum restaurant followed by a tour of the museum. The museum houses the largest and most significant public art collection in Switzerland and is listed as a heritage site of national significance. Continue to the dock in Basel to board the luxury MS Amadeus Silver III and embark on a seven-night cruise on the Rhine. Captain's drinks followed by a welcome dinner on board.



Cathedral of Our Lady of Strasbourg

14 May Strasbourg / Speyer

This morning the vessel arrives in

the town of Strasbourg, located on the French-German border. Morning city tour with a walk through the old town and a visit to the famous Strasburger Munster, a fine example of Gothic architecture. This is followed by a boat cruise on the river during which we will enjoy the views of 'Petit France', the former mill and tanner district which still maintains its medieval charm, as well as the beautiful half-timbered houses, the Ponts Couverts, the Palais de Rohan and the Council of Europe.

Lunch on board. This afternoon we will drive through the picturesque Alsace landscape and romantic wine villages where we will stop at a winery to taste some of the local wines. Continue to the beautiful village of Obernai and stroll through the town steeped in rich history. The town was annexed by Germany in 1871 with the rest of Alsace then was returned to France after World War I in 1918. Dinner on board.

15 May Speyer / Mannheim & Heidelberg

Enjoy a walking tour of Speyer, founded by the Romans, including a visit to the Romanesque Imperial

Cathedral, the Church of the Holy Spirit, the Old Gate and Jewish Ritual Bath.

Lunch on board. This afternoon explore Heidelberg, the world famous university city on the Neckar River. Visit the magnificent ruins of Heidelberg Castle before strolling through the enchanting old town, to the Karl-Theodor Bridge, the late-gothic Church of the Holy Spirit and the town hall. Dinner on board.

16 May Mannheim / Rudesheim / Koblenz

This morning we arrive in Rudesheim, where we explore the Music Museum, Siegfried Mechanical Music Cabinet, containing historical self-playing musical instruments. Embark on a guided tour through the picturesque old town - the Drosselgasse - with its wine and garden taverns. Also visit the Eagle Tower, a part of the city wall and the fortifications which date from the 15th century. Return to the boat and depart for 2,000-year-old Koblenz which is situated at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers, and is the cultural and business centre of the Middle Rhine region.



Cologne Cathedral



Heidelberg



Lunch on board. Afternoon arrival in Koblenz where we will embark on a guided tour of the town's old quarter, which was badly damaged during the Second World War and has since been rebuilt. Walk along the romantic streets between the St. Castor Basilica and the Church of our Beloved Lady, as well as visiting the Emperor Wilhelm Memorial at the famous German Corner and the town's best-known landmark, the Schaengel Fountain at the town hall. Return to the boat. Dinner on board.

17 May Koblenz / Cochem / Cologne

This morning the vessel will be docked in Koblenz.

Lunch on board followed by transfer from Koblenz by coach to Cochem. On arrival we will explore Cochem including a visit to the magnificent Reichsburg Castle, located on a precipitous rock high above the city, which dominates the cityscape. Enjoy the views of the Moselle Valley with its beautiful meadows and vineyards. Enjoy a wine tasting of some local Mosel wines before returning to the boat. Dinner on board.

18 May Cologne / Hoorn

This morning we arrive in Cologne, one of Germany's largest cities, with a river skyline dominated by the soaring twin spires of its magnificent Gothic cathedral. This masterpiece of early Gothic architecture is one of the largest cathedrals in Europe - the impressive ceiling covers an area of 20,000 square feet and is supported by 56 columns. The Three Kings Shrine, a masterpiece of local goldsmiths' craft, is located high above the altar. Embark on a city tour on foot, including a visit to the magnificent cathedral, and also see the town hall and old town with its large Romanesque church of St. Martin. Return to the boat.

Lunch on board. This afternoon we cruise on towards Hoorn. Dinner on board.



Moselle Valley

19 May Hoorn / Amsterdam

This morning we continue to cruise to Hoorn.

Lunch on board. On arrival in Hoorn we will drive through the Dutch Polder landscape to the old fishing village of Volendam, built on the shore of the former Zuiderzee. Take a stroll through the old village and see people still dressed in traditional costumes. Continue into the countryside to visit a local cheese farm. Here, we will learn how Dutch cheese is made and sample the local products. Afterwards, we continue to Amsterdam, where we will enjoy a city tour on a canal cruise through the Dutch metropolis and see the Royal Palace, house boats, numerous canals and the Museum Quarter. Return to the boat. Captain's Gala Dinner.

20 May Amsterdam / London

This morning disembark from the boat and transfer to Amsterdam airport. Suggested flights (not included) British Airways BA 431 departing Amsterdam 11.40 hrs arriving London Heathrow at 12.00 hrs.

TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Haydn Deck C1 Cabin	£3,280
Single Supplement	£340
Strauss Deck B1 Cabin	£3,795
Single Supplement	£1,055
Mozart Deck A1 Cabin	£3,985
Single Supplement	£1,350
Mozart Deck Suite	£4,480
Single Supplement	£2,600

PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Full board including daily breakfast, lunch, dinner, and midnight snack
- Coffee, tea and ice water with all meals on board
- Free flowing regional red and white wines, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board
- All entrance fees, visits, excursions and transportation as per the itinerary
- Local English speaking guide/s
- Gratuities to staff onboard
- Gratuities to guide/s
- Gratuities to bus driver/s
- Portorage
- Services of a professional cruise director
- The services of your tour leader and guest lecturer throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights, currently approximately £330 per person based on 2019 fares and subject to change
- Travel insurance
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 14/05/19

Please note that the price excludes the cost of international flights. When the flight schedule has been released (June 2019) we will be able to confirm prices should you wish to book them through us.



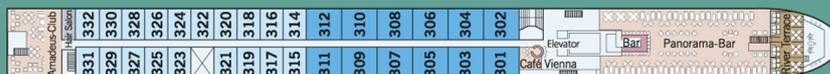
Speyer Cathedral



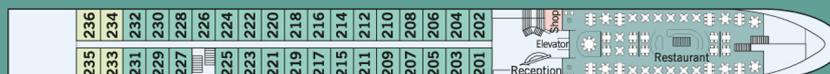
MS AMADEUS SILVER III

The magnificent MS Amadeus Silver III vessel, built in 2016, is the newest addition to the award-winning Amadeus Silver fleet that includes the premium 135 metre MS Amadeus Silver and MS Amadeus Silver II vessels. The new vessel is based on an already successful design model while incorporating several new, exciting features that add extra elements of innovation for which the 'Silver' fleet is renowned. This premium vessel comprises twelve luxurious suites with a private exterior balcony and a cosy reading corner. The 72 standard cabins come with panoramic window fronts that can be automatically lowered and modern amenities which include a walk-in wardrobe and a stylish bathroom. Spacious public areas such as the elegant 'Café Vienna' and glass shielded, open air 'River Terrace Lounge' provide an inviting ambience in which to relax and unwind.

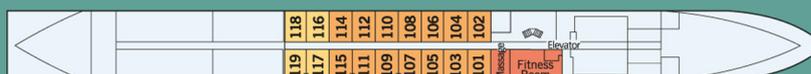
LEVEL 03 Mozart Deck



LEVEL 02 Strauss Deck



LEVEL 01 Haydn Deck



At 188 square feet, the 72 cabins of the Amadeus Silver III offer spacious accommodation for passengers on the vessel. While cabins on all decks have panoramic windows that provide stunning views of the passing scenery; the cabins on the Mozart and Strauss decks have special windows that convert into open French balconies and offer unimpeded views of the charming countryside. All cabins include modern hospitality amenities such as a comfortable bed, TV, separate area for WC/shower, writing desk, chair, a cabinet to store belongings and a safe to secure valuables. All staterooms and suites offer a choice in bed configuration – please specify your preference on booking.



YOUR TOUR LEADERS



MARIE-THÉRÈSE HILL

TOUR LEADER

Marie-Thérèse was born in Vienna and now lives in Hampshire. She was educated at the French Lycée and a language school in Switzerland, studied Piano in Vienna and is fluent in French, English, German and Italian. Her familiarity with European culture and extensive contacts worldwide are reflected in her unique tours.



DOUGLAS SKEGGS

TOUR LEADER

Douglas Skeggs read fine art at Magdalene College, Cambridge and since 1980 has been a lecturer on the history and techniques of painting. He has made several art documentaries and written and advised on many more. An accomplished painter in his own right, he has held three one-man exhibitions of his work. His biography of Monet, *River of Light: Monet's Impressions of the Seine*, sold 65,000 copies, and he has also written several novels.



020 3411 4595 | ENQUIRY@THEULTIMATETRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | THEULTIMATETRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK
25-27 VANSTON PLACE LONDON SW6 1AZ

