Cruise Details

Name:	Grand Rhine & Dutch Canals
Reference:	AMAAQ271218CER
Operator:	Ama Waterways
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	AmaSofia
Regions:	Rhine
Departs On:	18 Dec 27
Departs From:	Basel
Arrives On:	01 Jan 28
Arrives At:	Amsterdam
Cruise Nights:	14
Total Vacation Days:	14

Itinerary

Day 1: Basel (Switzerland)

BASEL, SWITZERLAND – EMBARKATION. After breakfast, bid farewell to Switzerland and prepare for your return flight home. (B)

Arrives On: 18 Dec 27

Day 2: Breisach (Germany)

BREISACH, GERMANY. Breisach is your gateway to several different excursions, depending on your interests. Step back in time with a visit to the enchanting Alsatian town of Colmar. On your tour, admire historic architecture and perhaps get a glimpse of the Statue of Liberty, a small replica of the famous version in New York, to commemorate the sculptor’s Colmar birthplace. Those wishing for a more active excursion can cycle through the countryside, or hike through the heart of the Kaiserstuhl, a volcanic region in the Rhine plain known for its unique landscapes, vineyards, and exceptional biodiversity. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 19 Dec 27

Day 3: Strasbourg (France)

STRASBOURG, FRANCE. Strasbourg offers flavors of both France and Germany because of its borderline location. Enjoy a short drive to the Place de la République before walking through the iconic “La Petite France” district, lifted straight from the pages of a fairytale. Wander through charming streets past the Cathédrale de Nôtre Dame with its famous astronomical clock. Alternatively, take a guided bike ride through the city and Parc de l’Orangerie. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 20 Dec 27

Day 4: Ludwigshafen (Germany)

LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY. Ludwigshafen is your gateway to a choice of three excursions. Visit Heidelberg, the perfectly preserved medieval city nestled in the Neckar River Valley along Germany’s Castle Road. Discover the iconic red sandstone Heidelberg Castle and Great Vat, an 18th-century, 49,000-gallon wine cask. For a more active adventure while in Heidelberg, join a guided hike up the Philosopher’s Path, aptly named during the Romantic Period, and enjoy panoramic views of the city. Alternatively, you can visit one of Germany’s oldest cities, Speyer, known for the largest Romanesque cathedral in Europe—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—and the medieval Old Gate, Altpörtel. Or join a guided bike tour along the shores of the river Neckar and enjoy a cycling break to explore the picturesque medieval town of Ladenburg. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 21 Dec 27

Day 5: Rüdesheim am Rhein (Germany)

RÜDESHEIM – RHINE GORGE – LAHNSTEIN, GERMANY. Your exploration of Rüdesheim continues with your choice of three excursions. Take a gondola ride to the Niederwalddenkmal Statue, where you can enjoy panoramic views of the river. Afterwards, indulge your taste buds with a sampling of Riesling wines in the vineyards. If you prefer a more active adventure, hike through Rüdesheim’s vineyards, taking in views of the town, the Roman Bridge and Bromersburg Castle. Or join a guided bike ride through the town and along the Rhine River. During the afternoon, set sail along the scenic Rhine River Gorge with its fabled legends and many castles to Lahnstein where you’ll enjoy a visit to Lahneck Castle. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 22 Dec 27

Day 5: Lahnstein (Germany)

Arrives On: 22 Dec 27

Day 6: Monheim am Rhein (Germany)

MONHEIM – DÜSSELDORF, GERMANY. This morning, venture to the nearby city of Cologne on either a full-day or morning tour. Join a guided tour through the enchanting Old Town and to the Cologne Rathaus, German's oldest town hall, the Old Market and the Heumarkt. In the afternoon, explore Düsseldorf, a leading hub for German culture, commerce and architecture; and a must-visit city for any travelers on the Rhine. Explore historic Düsseldorf on foot with a knowledgeable local tour guide, then kick up your feet with a tasting of Altbier, a Düsseldorf specialty brewed using traditional techniques. Alternatively, explore Düsseldorf on two wheels with our guided bike tour. (B,L,D) *Not combinable with other tours on this day

Arrives On: 23 Dec 27

Day 6: Düsseldorf (Germany)

Arrives On: 23 Dec 27

Day 7: Utrecht (Netherlands)

UTRECHT – AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS. Begin the day in Utrecht, where you can explore this charming town on a walking tour or sip beer during a special tasting tour. Then enjoy a scenic cruise on board your river cruise ship around Amsterdam before setting out on a boat specially designed for the city's famous canals from which you will get a close-up view of these inspiring waterways. If you prefer exploring the world with your taste buds, stroll past traditional canals, gabled houses, narrow bridges and house boats to taste Dutch specialties at a grand Amsterdam café. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 24 Dec 27

Day 7: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Arrives On: 24 Dec 27

Day 8: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS. Enjoy a special tour of the world-famous Rijksmuseum. Considered The Netherlands' national museum, the Rijksmuseum encompasses 800 years of Dutch history. Wander through the world's largest collection of Dutch and Flemish art, where some of the most renowned works are housed, and marvel at such historic paintings as Rembrandt's "The Night Watch" and Vermeer's "The Milkmaid." (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 25 Dec 27

Day 9: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

AMSTERDAM – UTRECHT, NETHERLANDS. There are 165 canals in Amsterdam, and you'll get enjoy some of them on your canal cruise. Later in the day, enjoy a scenic cruise through the IJsselmeer to Utrecht, the religious center of the Netherlands since the 8th century and a far-reaching city boasting a medieval old town, canals and a beautiful Gothic cathedral, some of which you may see on your walking tour, which includes a visit to the whimsical collection of automatically playing musical instruments at Museum Speelklok. Alternatively, marvel at the largest castle in Holland, De Haar on a walking or biking tour. Straight out of your fairytale dreams, this castle inspires awe with its turrets, moats and suspension bridges as well as its luxurious interior. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 26 Dec 27

Day 9: Utrecht (Netherlands)

Arrives On: 26 Dec 27

Day 10: Hellevoetsluis (Netherlands)

HELLEVOETSLUIS, NETHERLANDS. Enjoy a scenic morning cruise through the delta before arriving in Hellevoetsluis, an island metropolis of South Holland. During your tour of this medieval harbor town, you may see enchanting sites such as its iconic working De Hoop windmill and witness the charming wharf houses. Later in the day, you may discover the intriguing history of how the Delta Works, a unique storm surge barrier, came to be while visiting the Flood Museum. More than half of the Netherlands lies below sea level and the Delta Works were built to prevent a recurrence of the 1953 flood disaster. You may also choose to visit a traditional Dutch flat bottom boat. For those who prefer an active adventure, pedal from Hellevoetsluis, with its cobblestone streets and charming harbor, across the Haringvlietdam and back. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 27 Dec 27

Day 11: Gent (Ghent) (Belgium)

GHENT, BELGIUM. There are several choices of excursions in Ghent, depending on your interests. Stroll through the Capital of East Flanders, learning about its unique history on your walking tour, or pedal through the spellbinding town on a guided bike tour. Alternatively, visit Bruges, one of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe, on a full-day excursion that includes the renowned Church of Our Lady, home to the beautiful Carrara marble Madonna and Child sculpture by Michelangelo. If you prefer a shorter excursion in Bruges, visit the town later in the day or spend your afternoon at Ghent's moated Castle of the Counts, which boasts an eye-catching design as well as a ghoulishly interesting collection of medieval torture devices. (B,L,D) **Other excursions are not combinable with full-day tour on this day.

Arrives On: 28 Dec 27

Day 12: Brussel (Bruxelles) (Belgium)

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM. Explore Belgium’s captivating capital on your guided walking tour or pedal through Laeken Park on a guided bike ride, taking in the unique architecture of the Far East Museums, as well as the jaw-dropping iron molecule sculpture known as the Atomium. Alternatively, delight your palate with a Belgian chocolate tasting. In the afternoon, visit Gaasbeek Castle, one of the oldest and authentic moated castles in Flanders. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 29 Dec 27

Day 13: Antwerp (Belgium)

ANTWERP, BELGIUM. Explore Belgium’s trendy “City of Diamonds” on a walking tour where you’ll see Antwerp’s Steen Castle, Grote Market and Brabo Fountain, along with the UNESCO-designated Cathedral of Our Lady. Active travelers may prefer instead to bike through Antwerp. Later in the day, beer enthusiasts will appreciate a tasting of the local brew while foodies may prefer our excursion to sample some of Belgium’s culinary delights such as its fresh and fluffy waffles. An afternoon bike tour is also available for those who prefer to get their heart beating later in the day, and it includes an opportunity to visit the Red Star Line Museum, highlighting the historic shipping line responsible for transporting three million immigrants to America. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 30 Dec 27

Day 14: Dordrecht (Netherlands)

DORDRECHT, NETHERLANDS – KINDERDIJK, NETHERLANDS. Established in 1220, Holland’s oldest city was virtually destroyed by a devastating flood in the 15th century that essentially created the city’s wetlands. Learn more about Dordrecht’s fascinating history on your walking tour, or visit Rotterdam, the “Gateway to Europe,” as well as Delfshaven, where, on August 1, 1620, the Pilgrim fathers departed on their epic journey aboard the Speedwell. Stopping in Southampton, many then boarded the Mayflower and concluded their journey at Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts. In the afternoon, venture to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kinderdijk, a lovely village renowned for having the country’s greatest concentration of windmills, all dating from the 18th century. You may also pedal past the windmills from the seat of a bike. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 31 Dec 27

Day 15: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

AMSTERDAM – DISEMBARKATION. Board the ship for your Grand Rhine cruise. (D)

Arrives On: 01 Jan 28

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.

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