Cruise Details

Name:	Romantic Franconia & Bavaria & Legendary Rhine & Moselle
Reference:	EMERALDECMN290827-2
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Sky
Regions:	Rhine
Departs On:	29 Aug 27
Departs From:	Munich
Arrives On:	08 Sep 27
Arrives At:	Mainz
Cruise Nights:	10
Total Vacation Days:	11

Itinerary

Day 1: Munich (Germany)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise. The capital of Germany's enchanting Bavarian region, Munich, awaits your arrival. Immerse yourself in the city's rich history, evident in its legacies of centuries-old buildings, delicious Bavarian cuisine, and lively atmosphere. This charming city is world-famous for its annual Oktoberfest and heritage beer halls. This evening, enjoy meeting your fellow guests and tour director for a convivial welcome drink.

Arrives On: 29 Aug 27

Day 2: Munich (Germany)

Experience first-hand the enchanting Neuschwanstein Castle on today’s full-day excursion. Should you wish to discover the delights of Munich later in the day, such as enjoying Bavaria’s legendary Bavarian hospitality and beer halls, your tour director will be more than happy to help you plan your leisure time. Included Excursion
Visit to

Neuschwanstein Castle
On this day excursion from Munich, you'll get to experience first-hand the striking grandeur of the world-famous Neuschwanstein Castle. During your included tour, explore the exquisite halls of this fairy-tale-like, 19th-century castle and marvel at its breathtaking surroundings, dramatically resting atop a rugged hill in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps.

Arrives On: 30 Aug 27

Day 3: Munich (Germany)

After breakfast, you'll be transferred to Bavaria's historic city of Nuremberg. In the afternoon, soak in the sights of Nuremberg on your included morning excursion. Included Excursion
Medieval tour of Nuremberg with visit to the Kaiserburg
Step back in time with a guided medieval tour of Nuremberg, a city rich in history and legendary architecture. Explore the cobbled streets, charming squares, and impressive structures that have stood here for centuries. You'll also visit the iconic Kaiserburg, the ancient imperial castle that once served as the residence of German kings. Discover its fascinating history, towering walls, and stunning views over the city, making it a highlight of Nuremberg's medieval heritage.

Arrives On: 31 Aug 27

Day 3: Nuremberg (Germany)

Arrives On: 31 Aug 27

Day 4: Nuremberg (Germany)

This morning, after breakfast, you'll be transferred from Nuremberg to Mainz by coach, where you'll then embark on your luxury Emerald Star-Ship and a memorable river cruise.

Arrives On: 01 Sep 27

Day 4: Mainz (Germany)

Arrives On: 01 Sep 27

Day 5: Rüdesheim (Germany)

Rüdesheim is a charming riverside town where sloping vineyards meet the water's edge and narrow cobbled streets wind between traditional, half-timbered buildings. It has an authentic, traditional atmosphere, where the Rhineland's charm seems to appear around every corner, from cuckoo clocks and oompah music to inviting taverns and bustling little squares. Known as the heart of the Rhine wine region, Rüdesheim is renowned for Riesling and Pinot Noir, reflected in the

many local wine bars and cellar doors. The relaxed riverside promenade, cosy courtyards, and gentle hillside viewpoints together create an easy-going setting that feels quintessentially German and distinctly wine-country in character. EmeraldACTIVE
Hike to Niederwalddenkmal
Enjoy an active hike through verdant vineyards to the Niederwalddenkmal, a stunning monument located in the Niederwald, near Rüdesheim am Rhein, in the German state of Hesse. This historical landmark overlooks the scenic Rhine Valley and was built in the late 1800s to commemorate the Unification of Germany EmeraldPLUS
Visit to Schloss Johannisberg Winery
Set in the breathtaking Rheingau region, the legendary Schloss Johannisberg is steeped in history, cultivating exquisite wine for over 1,000 years. Set over 50 hectares in front of the Taunus mountains, it is considered the first riesling winery in the world and produces wooden barrels from its onsite 300-acre forest of native oak. On this captivating tour, you'll learn about its unique wine culture and fabled history of the region. DiscoverMORE
Rüdesheim walk with specialty coffee (extra expense)
On your visit to the charming town of Rüdesheim, hop aboard the mini train and make your way to a cosy local café for a truly traditional treat. Here, you'll discover Rüdesheimer coffee, a specialty drink prepared at your table with local brandy, rich coffee, whipped cream, and chocolate shavings for a warming indulgence. The ritual of watching it being made, the aroma of spices and spirits, and the lively, old-world setting combine to create an experience that feels both nostalgic and uniquely Rüdesheim.
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 2 hours

Arrives On: 02 Sep 27

Day 6: Bernkastel-Kues (Germany)

Dating back to 3000 BC, Bernkastel is set on the banks of the Moselle River. Its well-preserved medieval centre is home to many buildings dating back to the 15th century, creating a charming fairytale ambience. The town is surrounded by steeply terraced vineyards, producing exceptional mineral-driven white wines, most notably its world-famous Riesling.

You will remain docked in Bernkastel overnight.

Arrives On: 03 Sep 27

Day 7: Schweich (Germany)

Schweich is a small riverside town in southwest Germany, set amid gentle Moselle landscapes and surrounded by rolling vineyards and wooded hills. Its relaxed pace and local feel offer a pleasant contrast to the grandeur of nearby Trier, making it a welcoming gateway to the region. Traditional houses, quiet streets, and easy access to walking and cycling paths along the river give Schweich an unhurried, village-like charm. From here, it is just a short journey into Trier, allowing you to enjoy the tranquillity of a smaller town while remaining close to one of Germany's

most historically significant cities. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Trier
Founded by the Romans in the late 1st century BC, Trier is a historic treasure and often referred to as the ‘Rome of the North’. During today’s guided tour, explore the ruins of the old city baths, a hive of activity during ancient times, and the Porta Nigra, the best-preserved Roman city gate north of the Alps. DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Luxembourg (extra expense)
Crossing the border into Luxembourg, you will explore one of the smallest countries in Europe. On this guided walking tour, you’ll see Our Lady's Cathedral, the Archdukes Palace and other famous sights, finishing at the grand Place d'Armes, nicknamed the Parlour of the City.
Activity level: Moderate, Duration: 3 hours

Arrives On: 04 Sep 27

Day 8: Cochem (Germany)

Spend today in the picturesque medieval town of Cochem, known for its half-timbered houses, colourful squares and the striking Reichsburg Castle, which stands high above the town. It’s in the heart of the Moselle wine region and the town is surrounded by terraced vineyards, producing Germany’s signature white varietals. EmeraldPLUS
Tastes of Moselle
Take a delicious journey through Cochem’s culinary traditions on a tour that perfectly combines culture, craftsmanship and local flavour. Visit the historic mustard mill, where you’ll learn about traditional production and enjoy a tasting. At a local bakery, sample freshly baked regional specialties before continuing to a cosy beer garden. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided e-bike tour
Join a local guide for a tour of Cochem on two wheels. See the impressive Reichsburg Castle sitting proudly above the city, and ride through winding streets past historic half-timbered houses. DiscoverMORE
Grand-Prix backstage experience(extra expense)
Visit Nürburgring and step behind the scenes of the legendary “Green Hell” uncovering fascinating trivia and entertaining stories from more than 95 years of racing history. During your guided experience, you’ll explore the historic paddock, the start & finish building, and the Media Centre. The highlight is an exclusive rooftop view from the pit building, offering a breathtaking panorama of the Grand Prix Track.
Activity level: Moderate, Duration: 3 hours DiscoverMORE
Wines of the Moselle(extra expense)
Take a short walk to a local winery for a tasting with a beautiful view of Cochem and the Moselle. During your visit, you’ll learn more about the viticulture of the region and what inspired many generations of winemakers.
Activity level: Moderate Duration: 1.5 hours

Arrives On: 05 Sep 27

Day 9: Koblenz (Germany)

Once a Roman stronghold, Koblenz was established around 8 BC for its strategic value. Today, it’s a modern park- and flower-filled city with a unique blend of historic and contemporary architecture.

Enjoy a late departure from Koblenz tonight. Included Excursion
Koblenz walking tour
Today, join your local guide for an insightful walking tour of Koblenz, passing examples of architecture that survived the war years, including the Church of Our Lady. You’ll also have the chance to see the point at which two of Europe’s great rivers meet at the German Corner and Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, one of the largest preserved fortresses in Europe. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided e-bike tour
Ride along the banks of the Moselle and Rhine River on a guided e-bike tour, pedalling past riverside promenades, historic landmarks and bridges as your local guide shares stories of Koblenz’s rich past. DiscoverMORE
Visit to Marksburg Castle (extra expense)
Fairytale-like Marksburg Castle boasts beautifully maintained interiors that represent traditional styles of the past 900 years, including the castle kitchen, knight's hall, armoury, and even an inviting wine cellar. The attractive light-stone walls are protected by an outer fortress, with a single tower peering over the turrets and walls, like something you would find in a story from the Brothers Grimm.
Activity level: Difficult/Active, Duration: 3 hours

Arrives On: 06 Sep 27

Day 10: Mainz (Germany)

Arrive in Mainz today, the capital of Rhineland-Palatinate. It’s a captivating blend of history and modernity, with everything from Roman ruins and Baroque churches to innovative architecture. Mainz is known for its vibrant cultural scene, from museums and theatre to fun festivals and outdoor concerts. The town is famous as the birthplace of Johannes Gutenberg who invented the first printing press and manufactured his first books in the 15th century, including the Gutenberg Bible. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Mainz
Join a guided tour of Mainz and visit the impressive sandstone cathedral of the tremendous Old Town with medieval market squares and half-timbered houses. You’ll also learn more about its most notable resident, Johannes Gutenberg, the pioneering inventor of the movable-type printing press whose work transformed global communication. DiscoverMORE
Visit to Eberbach Abbey & wine tasting (extra expense)
Founded in 1136 by St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Eberbach Abbey is one of the best-preserved medieval monasteries in the Rheingau and is home to the largest medieval vineyard in Germany. During your visit, you can indulge in a riesling wine tasting, experiencing the vibrant flavours of the region.
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 3 hours DiscoverMORE
Gutenberg Museum visit & workshop (extra expense)
Take a journey through the history of printing at this remarkable museum, which features displays of rare Gutenberg Bibles, reconstructions of his works and live printing press demonstrations. Join a hands-on workshop where you can learn the art of setting

type and create your own printed works.
Activity level: Moderate, Duration: 3 hours

Arrives On: 07 Sep 27

Day 11: Mainz (Germany)

This morning, after breakfast, it’s time to bid farewell to your fellow guests and disembark your Star-Ship for your transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK, leaving with cherished memories of the wondrous treasures of the Rhine and Moselle. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions for further information.

Arrives On: 08 Sep 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.
© 2026 Deluxe Cruises. This cruise itinerary was printed from https://deluxecruises.co.uk