Cruise Details

Name:	Jewels of the Rhine & Glacier Express
Reference:	EMERALDESAZ220927-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Destiny
Regions:	Rhine, Danube and Main
Departs On:	22 Sep 27
Departs From:	Amsterdam
Arrives On:	02 Oct 27
Arrives At:	Zurich
Cruise Nights:	10
Total Vacation Days:	11

Itinerary

Day 1: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise. Welcome to The Netherlands and Amsterdam, the Dutch capital and a postcard-worthy destination known for its network of World Heritage-listed canals, cafés, and esteemed art galleries. Upon arrival, you'll be met at the airport by your friendly Emerald Cruises representative and transferred to your contemporary Emerald Star-Ship for the start of a memorable voyage.

Arrives On: 22 Sep 27

Day 2: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Beyond Amsterdam's storied canals, a gentler rhythm unfolds as you venture into the Dutch countryside, where emerald-green pastures, mirror-like waterways and centuries-old windmills paint an impossibly picturesque scene. From charming towns like Alkmaar, famed for its historic cheese-making traditions, to Waterland, where pretty, stilted villages, glassy lakes and narrow

canals offer a glimpse into traditional Dutch life, discover how the Dutch have shaped their landscape for generations. Included Excursion
Excursion to Alkmaar
Step into classic Dutch charm with a visit to Alkmaar, a picturesque town known for its historic architecture, tranquil canals and world-famous cheese market. Whether you're exploring the cobbled streets lined with gabled houses or soaking up the atmosphere of lively squares, Alkmaar offers an authentic and inviting slice of the Netherlands. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided e-bike tour to Waterland
Active travellers can embark on a guided e-bike tour through the outskirts of Amsterdam to Waterland, passing quintessential Dutch villages, traditional windmills and fields that burst with colour and vibrancy. DiscoverMORE
Dutch Delights (extra expense)
See the highlights of this amazing city while tasting some delicious Dutch treats.
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 3 hours

Arrives On: 23 Sep 27

Day 3: Düsseldorf (Germany)

This morning, you'll cross the German border and arrive in the vibrant city of Düsseldorf. With its innovative architecture, high-end art scene and passion for fashion, this is one of the country's most captivating cities. After lunch, continue along the Rhine River to Cologne. Founded by the Romans in 50 AD, Cologne is one of the oldest cities in Germany and was almost completely rebuilt after the destruction during World War II. Look out for the twin spires of its Gothic cathedral, known locally as the Kolner Dom. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Düsseldorf
Discover the vibrant city of Düsseldorf on a guided walking tour that takes you through its cultural landmarks and lively streets. During your tour, explore the historic Altstadt and modern cityscape. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Cologne's Old Town
Join your local guide and explore the city of Cologne, including the Old Town with its beautiful squares, historic monuments and contemporary architecture. You will conclude at the World Heritage-listed Cologne Cathedral, whose filigree twin towers form an iconic part of the skyline. During your free time, shop for trinkets or explore further before returning to your Emerald Star-Ship. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided e-bike tour in Cologne
Join your local guide and explore Cologne on two wheels. This active e-bike tour will take you along the picturesque Rhine River, passing Cologne's northern suburbs and industrial and business areas. DiscoverMORE
German beer experience (extra expense)
Discover the spirited beer culture of Cologne on this lively and flavourful guided tour through the city's legendary brewhouses. Cologne is the proud home of Kölsch - a crisp, golden beer brewed only in this region - and no visit is complete without experiencing this drink as a local.
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 2 hours Please note your Emerald Star-Ship will remain docked in Cologne until

late this evening, so you can go ashore and visit some of the city’s lively pubs or chic cocktail bars after dinner.

Arrives On: 24 Sep 27

Day 3: Cologne (Germany)

Arrives On: 24 Sep 27

Day 4: 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.

Later, you’ll cruise through the World Heritage-listed Rhine Gorge, exemplifying the extraordinary beauty of an area that left philosophers and artists of the German Romanticism movement entranced. Look out for the iconic Lorelei Rock, where a beautiful siren is said to have lured sailors to their death with her song. Included Excursion
Orientation walk of Koblenz
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 merge at the German Corner. DiscoverMORE
Moselle Valley & Cochem Castle visit (extra expense)
Resting on a spectacular hill 91m (299 ft) above the Moselle Valley, you’ll find the medieval town of Cochem. Embark on a walking tour including a guided visit to the magnificent Cochem (Reichsburg) Castle, boasting impressive views of the Moselle Valley. The original 12th-century Romanesque style was replaced by King Louis XIV, who ordered his troops to destroy it in 1689. Rebuilt in 1868, he chose the neo-Gothic architecture that we know today as his family's summer residence.
Activity level: Difficult/Active, Duration: 5 hours

Arrives On: 25 Sep 27

Day 5: Mannheim (Germany)

A lively university town, Mannheim is best known for its unique grid system and is often called the ‘City of Squares’ (Quadratestadt). Its most famous landmark is arguably the striking Baroque Mannheim Palace, one of the largest palaces in Europe.

Cruise onwards to Germersheim tonight for an exclusive concert at Bruchsal Palace. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Heidelberg
Travel to nearby Heidelberg, an idyllic UNESCO City of Literature that has inspired the likes of Mark Twain and famed British artist William Turner. A guided tour of the town will unveil its rich history, starting at the Renaissance remnants of Heidelberg Castle, where carefully curated gardens are still peppered

with serene water features, sculptures and colourful flowerbeds. EmeraldACTIVE
Active hike from Mount Königstuhl to Heidelberg
Meet your local guide and take the funicular to the peak of Mount Königstuhl. Take in the breathtaking panoramic views of the Neckar Valley, then continue your journey on foot through the forest. Once out of the woods, enter Heidelberg Castle for a short tour of the castle remnants, before descending into the Old Town. Enjoy a brief orientation walk and some free time at leisure. EmeraldPLUS
Evening Concert at Bruchsal Palace
Bruchsal Palace, also known as the Damiansburg, is a breathtaking Baroque Palace noted for its fine Rococo decoration. Made up of over 50 buildings, this impressive complex includes a three-winged residential building with an attached chapel, four pavilions separated by a road, some smaller utility buildings, and a pretty garden. This evening, you're invited to attend a private classical concert in one of the most beautiful rooms. This exclusive experience blends culture, atmosphere, and refinement, an enchanting night in one of Germany's most stunning historical settings.

Arrives On: 26 Sep 27

Day 5: Germersheim (Germany)

Arrives On: 26 Sep 27

Day 6: Strasbourg (France)

Today, you'll arrive in Strasbourg, a city that promises much in the way of beautiful architecture. The World Heritage-listed Neustadt district is an iconic example of 19th-century German Imperial architecture. Strasbourg is also at the heart of the celebrated Alsace wine region. Included Excursion
Flavours of Alsace: Strasbourg walking tour with local tasting
Explore the historic streets of Strasbourg on a guided walking tour that reveals the city's rich cultural heritage. From the grand Strasbourg Cathedral to the picturesque La Petite France, you'll discover the city's fascinating landmarks and charming corners. Along the way, enjoy a delightful local tasting of regional specialties, offering a true taste of Alsace culinary traditions. DiscoverMORE
Baden Baden Spa experience (extra expense)
Escape to the heart of Germany's Black Forest for a rejuvenating day at the world-renowned Baden-Baden Spa. Famous for its healing thermal waters and elegant ambience, Baden-Baden offers an inviting blend of wellness, history and indulgence.
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 3 hours

Arrives On: 27 Sep 27

Day 7: Breisach (Germany)

Set high above the Rhine at the point where the Black Forest joins Alsace, Breisach presents a charming blend of German and French cultures. The Romanesque-Gothic St. Stephen’s church, resting on a volcanic hill, is visible from a great distance and is a notable landmark. EmeraldPLUS
Guided tour of Freiburg with tasting
Spectacular and historic Freiburg im Breisgau, commonly known simply as Freiburg, sits on the edge of the mountainous Black Forest in southern Germany. A photogenic old city that was founded in 1120, Freiburg lays claim to having the most sunshine in the whole country. Life in this vibrant university city focuses on the Altstadt's cobbled and arcaded Rathausplatz (City Square), lined with Gothic churches and civic buildings interspersed with buzzy cafés and bars. Enjoy a fascinating guided tour of the city and sample some delicious local delicacies during a visit to a local market, such as the famous Black Forest ham. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided e-bike tour in Breisach
For a more active experience, choose an exhilarating e-bike tour around Breisach. The route takes in the picturesque scenery between the Kaiserstuhl mountains and the river running through the woods. Once you arrive in Burkheim, take a break to enjoy some traditional Black Forest cake. Immerse yourself in the natural beauty and cultural richness of this captivating region on two wheels. DiscoverMORE
Guided tour of Colmar (extra expense)
Commence your magical morning with a guided tour of Colmar. As you walk along the quaint, cobblestone lanes, it's easy to imagine the characters from the Grimm's Fairy Tales here, where half-timbered façades are adorned with window boxes full of colourful blooms.
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 5 hours

Arrives On: 28 Sep 27

Day 8: Basel (Switzerland)

This morning, after breakfast, it’s time to say farewell to your fellow guests and crew as you disembark your luxury Emerald Star-Ship in Basel (Huningue). From here, you’ll be transferred by coach to Zermatt, stopping along the way in Montreux. Once you’ve arrived in Zermatt, settle into your centrally-located hotel for your included two-night stay. Later, enjoy a welcome drink with your Tour Director and fellow guests, setting the scene for the exciting days ahead.

Arrives On: 29 Sep 27

Day 8: Zermatt (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 29 Sep 27

Day 9: Zermatt (Switzerland)

Soak up the delightful sights of Zermatt on today’s included morning tour. Later, you may wish to join an optional Emerald DiscoverMORE excursion or continue exploring this charming

alpine village at your own pace. Although best known as a world-famous ski resort, with a dramatic backdrop of the iconic Matterhorn and spectacular mountains, there is so much more to discover in Zermatt along its quaint and car-free streets. Your tour director will be more than happy to help you plan your explorations and answer any questions that may arise. Included Excursion
Guided city tour of Zermatt
Bask in the fresh mountain air and explore delightful Zermatt as you join today's included tour. As you delve into this celebrated ski resort village, your local guide will share captivating stories and insider knowledge that reveal Zermatt's rich history and unique character. From traditional chalets to sweeping alpine vistas, every corner of Zermatt reveals a postcard-worthy view. DiscoverMORE
Visit to Gornergrat Matterhorn (extra expense)
The Gornergrat is a viewing point platform, where today, you can enjoy unobstructed and spectacular views of the iconic Matterhorn mountain. To reach the Gornergrat, you'll board the Gornergrat Bahn, the world's first fully electrified open-air cog railway. Today, you'll ride a modern and eco-friendly version – considered Europe's highest – which transports passengers directly from Zermatt Station to the summit of the Gornergrat, 365 days a year.
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 2.5 hours

Arrives On: 30 Sep 27

Day 10: Zermatt (Switzerland)

After breakfast, board the incredible Glacier Express Train from Zermatt to the charming town of Chur. From here, you'll enjoy a comfortable coach ride to Zurich.

The vibrant city of Zurich, Switzerland's cosmopolitan capital, is renowned for its glimmering lake, charming Old Town streets and rich Swiss culture. Your day concludes with an included one-night stay in a centrally-located hotel in Zurich Included Excursion
Glacier Express 2nd class train from Zermatt to Chur
Embark from Zermatt on the world-famous Glacier Express Train for a panoramic journey to Chur. Along the way, you'll be treated to breathtaking views of Switzerland's dramatic Alpine landscapes.

Arrives On: 01 Oct 27

Day 10: Zurich (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 01 Oct 27

Day 11: Zurich (Switzerland)

This morning, after breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to your fellow guests and beautiful Zurich as you are transferred to the airport for your return flight to the UK, leaving with treasured memories of magnificent alpine landscapes and traditional Swiss delights. Due to new restrictions on cruise ships at Amsterdam's city docks, your cruise is now likely to embark

and/or disembark at a port outside central Amsterdam. If your ship does not have a central Amsterdam docking, Emerald Cruises will provide a central Amsterdam meeting point and transfers to your ship as required. These changes are required by local authorities and are in line with our booking terms which allow changes to berthing or dock locations and ports where operationally necessary. You will be advised of the confirmed docking location prior to departure. 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: 02 Oct 27

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

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