Cruise Details

Name:	Discover the Rhine & Rhone rivers
Reference:	EMERALDEWAM021027-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Luna
Regions:	Rhine
Departs On:	02 Oct 27
Departs From:	Amsterdam
Arrives On:	16 Oct 27
Arrives At:	Arles
Cruise Nights:	14
Total Vacation Days:	15

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: 02 Oct 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: 03 Oct 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: 04 Oct 27

Day 3: Cologne (Germany)

Arrives On: 04 Oct 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: 05 Oct 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: 06 Oct 27

Day 5: Germersheim (Germany)

Arrives On: 06 Oct 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: 07 Oct 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: 08 Oct 27

Day 8: Basel (Switzerland)

After breakfast, you will disembark your Star-Ship and be transferred by coach to Lyon, where your river cruising journey will continue.

Arrives On: 09 Oct 27

Day 8: Lyon (France)

Arrives On: 09 Oct 27

Day 9: Lyon (France)

France’s third-largest city, Lyon, is a former Roman capital and steeped in history. It's considered the gastronomic heartbeat of the country thanks to its rich culinary heritage, abundant fresh produce and famous local chefs. Home to traditional Lyonnaise cuisine, bustling food markets and more than 20 Michelin-starred restaurants, you'll be able to experience an array of cultural and culinary delights. This evening, enjoy a welcome reception and dinner with your

fellow guests. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Lyon
Today, enjoy a guided coach tour of Lyon, starting at Fourvières Hill to view the ancient Roman Theatre. Pass by the Romanesque and Byzantine Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière, an impressive building that strayed away from the popular Gothic models of the same period. Join your guide on a walk through the city's hidden passageways (called traboules) and admire the Renaissance-era houses. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided bike tour of Lyon
For guests who wish to choose an active excursion over the standard city tour, meet your local guides for an e-bike tour. Ride to the green lungs of the city, the famous Parc de la Tête d'Or, which was inaugurated in 1857, the same year as Central Park in New York. The largest urban park in France, it contains an impressive collection of more than 15,000 species of plants. The tour will take in the Tête d'Or park, zoo and greenhouses, former vet school and courthouse, and the Confluence district if requested. Take note that guests must be in good shape and confident cyclists. DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Pérouges (extra expense)
Journey by coach to the medieval town of Pérouges, located on a small hill overlooking the Ain River valley north of Lyon. Known for its wine and weaving and considered one of the most beautiful villages in France, it's filled with cobblestone streets and fascinating buildings. Starting from the upper gate, you'll join a guided walking tour to see the 15th-century fortified church, the former home of the princes of Savoy and the main street 'Rue des Rondes', a 33-metre-deep well and the Maison du Sergent de Justice, with its round tower. Enjoy time at leisure before your journey back to Lyon.
Activity Level: Moderate; Duration: 3.5 hours

Arrives On: 10 Oct 27

Day 10: Vienne (France)

A quintessentially French town, Vienne began life as a Roman colony in Gaul under the rule of Julius Caesar around 47 BC. Its strategic position on the Rhône River made it an important port for trade and communication over the centuries, and many monuments from the Roman and Medieval periods can still be seen. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Vienne
Take a walking tour in Vienne to uncover the rich history of this charming riverside town. You'll see its beautiful Jardin de Ville (City Garden) and the Cybèle Garden, an open-air museum of Gallo-Roman ruins. Admire the beautiful cathedral, which was built from the 11th to 16th centuries. Explore one of the best-preserved Roman theatres in Europe, built around 40 to 50 AD into the steep slopes of Pipet Hill and originally able to accommodate over 10,000 spectators. EmeraldPLUS
Cheese and olive tasting on board
This afternoon, join your fellow guests and Cruise Directors in the Horizon Lounge to sample some local delicacies. Listen to a short presentation about the region and its produce, before a tasting of specialty cheese and Provence olives.

Arrives On: 11 Oct 27

Day 11: Tournon-sur-Rhône (France)

The picturesque village of Tournon borders the gently meandering Rhône and is dominated by a 16th-century castle that overlooks the village. Within, there are several iconic landmarks, including a set of ancient watchtowers and a lush botanic garden. Part of the Rhône Valley, the village is surrounded by vineyards producing some of the world’s finest reds. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Tournon with wine tasting
Join your local guides to walk through Tournon as they unveil fascinating local history and give an insight into the traditions of viticulture. Admire its Roman ruins and Renaissance monuments, then marvel at the world’s oldest suspension bridge with cables. Afterwards, enjoy a curated wine tasting at the castle. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided hike through the vineyards
Embark on an active hike through the beautiful vineyards that surround Tournon, known for their fine syrah, marsanne and roussanne. A local guide will lead you through vineyards close to where your Emerald Star-Ship has docked, taking in the spectacular views of the Rhone River. On your way back to your Emerald Star-Ship, you may stop at a local chocolate maker for a tasting and shopping of renowned French chocolate.

Arrives On: 12 Oct 27

Day 12: Viviers (France)

Arrive in Viviers today, a walled town with Middle Age flair that’s home to one of France’s oldest cathedrals, with parts dating back to the 12th century. In its charming centre, pastel-coloured buildings gently faded by the sun line narrow cobblestone streets, dotted with tiny shops and leafy squares. The town is part of the Provence region of southern France and is known for its natural beauty, relaxed ambience and sunny Mediterranean climate. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Viviers
Your included tour of the town follows a unique heritage discovery trail that touches on many of its iconic monuments. Admire its architectural treasures, including the Maison des Chevaliers, a lavishly decorated Roman house with an extravagant Renaissance façade. DiscoverMORE
Visit to Chauvet Pont D’Arc (extra expense)
Embark on a transformative journey as you delve into the mesmerising depths of the Caverne du Pont-d'Arc Museum, an awe-inspiring testament to the indomitable spirit of human creativity. Let the luminosity of knowledge guide your steps as you traverse the cavernous expanse with a local guide who breathes life into the ancient canvases that adorn the largest decorated cave replica in the world.
Activity Level: Moderate; Duration: 2.5 hours

Arrives On: 13 Oct 27

Day 13: Avignon (France)

Avignon has a rich history, from its Celtic beginnings to its powerful position as the residence of seven successive Popes between 1309 and 1377. It’s most famous for the World Heritage-listed Palais des Papes, as well as other glorious medieval architecture and a world-renowned arts festival. The city also played a major role in the French Revolution, resulting in several violent conflicts. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Avignon
Explore the World Heritage-listed highlights that adorn Avignon’s ancient town centre as you venture down its cobbled alleyways. Witness the splendour of the Pont d’Avignon, a 12th-century bridge, and soak in sights of some of the medieval architecture that generously pepper the city. EmeraldACTIVE
Canoeing excursion in Avignon
Choose an active way to explore the region. Travel north of Avignon to board a canoe and paddle back towards the town along the Rhône River. The wide, calm waters are ideal for canoeing, and you’ll get to take in the picturesque landscapes from a new perspective. You’ll even get to paddle beneath the famous Pont d’Avignon, a medieval landmark. EmeraldPLUS
Provençal dinner hosted by local chef Fabien Morreale
This evening, you'll enjoy a delightful Provençal dining experience on board, expertly prepared by Top Chef finalist, Fabien Morreale. Dine on authentic dishes that celebrate the flavours of the region and its abundant fresh produce. Chef Fabien brings his passion for food to the table during this immersive dining experience, where he will engage with guests and share his extensive knowledge and passion for Provençal cuisine. EmeraldPLUS
Classical concert in Avignon
Enjoy a private classical concert set within a historic chapel where centuries-old stone walls create exceptional acoustics and a truly atmospheric setting. As the gentle light glows and music fills the space, a talented local trio performs timeless works, offering a moment of elegance, reflection, and cultural immersion. This exclusive experience blends Provence’s rich heritage with the beauty of live classical music for an unforgettable evening. DiscoverMORE
Guided tour of the Pont du Gard (extra expense)
In the heart of Provence, the World Heritage-listed Pont du Gard aqueduct is one of humankind’s great masterpieces. This three-level Roman aqueduct is 275 metres long and 48 metres high, and served as an aqueduct until the sixth century. Later, it was used as a toll gate, before being transformed into a road bridge. As well as marvelling at this wonderful feat of engineering, you’ll visit the small Roman town of Uzès, great for exploring and enjoying some great food in the local restaurants.
Activity Level: Easy, Duration: 4.5 hours DiscoverMORE
Visit to Chateauneuf du Pape with wine tasting (extra expense)
The appellation of Chateauneuf du Pape is one of the most famous in France, known for its warm red blends and creamy whites. The village itself has centuries of history that will charm and delight, including the picturesque ruins of a 14th-century castle. Enjoy a curated tasting of the region’s famous wines at a local vineyard.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 3.25 hours

Arrives On: 14 Oct 27

Day 14: Arles (France)

The past is yours to uncover in Arles. The city was once an important Phoenician trading port, before being captured by the Romans, who peppered the region with iconic monuments. It has been a favourite retreat for legendary artists like Van Gogh and Gauguin, drawn to its unique light and arresting beauty. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Arles with arena visit
Discover Arles' remarkable Roman heritage on a guided walking tour through one of France's best-preserved ancient cities. Stroll past iconic landmarks such as the Roman Amphitheatre, ancient forum, and Roman baths, while learning how Arles once thrived as a major outpost of the Roman Empire. Along winding streets and sun-washed squares, history comes alive through stories of emperors, gladiators, and everyday life in Roman Gaul. DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Les Baux de Provence (extra expense)
Set in the heart of the Alpilles Regional Natural Park, Les Baux de Provence is a World Heritage-listed site, recognised for being 'one of the most beautiful villages in France'. Compact, with numerous shops and restaurants, the village retains its traditional style, with its narrow cobblestone streets and grey medieval stone buildings. The high, rocky pinnacle of Château-Fortress des Baux extends to the southwest of the village, and the incredible views make the trip very worthwhile.
Activity Level: Difficult / Active, Duration: 4 hours DiscoverMORE
Lavender Distillery – from Field to Perfume (extra expense)
Experience the timeless art of Provençal soap-making in this hands-on workshop. Learn the traditional techniques used to create luxurious soaps from natural ingredients like olive oil, lavender, and other local botanicals. Create your own artisanal soap, guided by expert craftsmen, and take home a unique, fragrant souvenir of your Provençal experience.
Activity Level: Easy, Duration 3 hours DiscoverMORE
In the footsteps of Van Gogh with a painting workshop (extra expense)
Follow in the footsteps of Vincent van Gogh as you explore the landscapes that inspired his iconic works. Afterwards, take part in a painting workshop, where you'll try your hand at recreating the vibrant scenes that captured the artist's imagination. As a memory from this unique local experience, you get to bring home your masterpiece inspired by Van Gogh's legacy.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 3 hours

Arrives On: 15 Oct 27

Day 15: Arles (France)

After breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to your fellow guests and disembark your Emerald Star-Ship for your transfer to the airport, taking memories of the idyllic French countryside in autumn and delightful cuisine with you. Please book your flight to depart out of Marseille after 11:00 AM. 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: 16 Oct 27

Day 15: Marseille (France)

Arrives On: 16 Oct 27

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

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