Cruise Details

Name:	Discover the Rhine & Rhone rivers
Reference:	EMERALDEWAM100727-1C
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Star
Regions:	Rhine
Departs On:	10 Jul 27
Departs From:	Amsterdam
Arrives On:	24 Jul 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: 10 Jul 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: 11 Jul 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: 12 Jul 27

Day 3: Cologne (Germany)

Arrives On: 12 Jul 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: 13 Jul 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: 14 Jul 27

Day 5: Germersheim (Germany)

Arrives On: 14 Jul 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: 15 Jul 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: 16 Jul 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: 17 Jul 27

Day 8: Lyon (France)

Arrives On: 17 Jul 27

Day 9: Lyon (France)

The third-largest city in France and a flourishing trading city since Roman times, the stunning city of Lyon is steeped in history. With its superbly preserved historic quarters, a significant section of Lyon has been designated a World Heritage-listed Site, which contains the emblematic Basilica Notre-Dame de Fourvière. Lyon is arguably most famous for its outstanding cuisine and culinary heritage, considered the heart of gastronomy in France and one of the world’s

premier food capitals. Home to traditional Lyonnaise cuisine, you'll have plenty of opportunity to sample an array of exceptional culinary delights, accompanied by some of Europe's finest wines. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Lyon with cheese tasting
Discover the gastronomic heart of France on a flavourful journey through Lyon. Wander through the city's charming streets with a local expert and explore the traditions and specialties that shaped its renowned culinary culture. The highlight of today's tour is a guided visit to the incredible Les Halles de Lyon – Paul Bocuse, an iconic city market showcasing the excellence of French cuisine. Meet dedicated artisans, observe their craft, and learn the stories behind Lyon's celebrated gastronomic heritage. You'll also enjoy a tasting of some of the region's outstanding artisan cheeses–a rich, immersive culinary experience for food lovers. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided e-bike tour of Lyon
For those feeling more energetic, explore the highlights of Lyon on two wheels, as part of a guided e-bike tour through this enchanting city. DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Pérouges (extra expense)
Located on a small hill overlooking the Ain River valley north of Lyon, this compact medieval walled town thrives on its local wine and weaving industries. Considered one of the most beautiful villages in France, a variety of fascinating buildings, including a fortified church and the house of the Princes of Savoy, invite you to stroll the quaint cobblestone streets. Explore from the upper gate to the 15th-century church, the main street 'Rue des Rondes', passing the 33-metre-deep well and the Maison du Sergent de Justice, distinctive with its round tower. A lovely place to relax with a drink, you'll soon understand why this picturesque location has been used as the backdrop for numerous films, including the French classic, 'The Three Musketeers.'

Arrives On: 18 Jul 27

Day 10: Mâcon (France)

Nestled in the heart of Burgundy, the Beaujolais region is well-known for its distinctive wines produced here, particularly the world-famous Beaujolais Nouveau. The Beaujolais wine region is renowned for its vibrant, fruity wines produced with the Gamay grape variety. The extensive planting of Gamay grapes makes Beaujolais one of several regions across the world that focus solely on a single grape variety. Red wine accounts for 99 percent of the total wine production in the Beaujolais wine region. Included Excursion
Beaujolais wine tasting
Journey through the rolling hills and charming villages of the Beaujolais region, a landscape shaped by centuries of winemaking traditions. Accompanied by a local wine expert, explore the area's distinctive terroirs that give Beaujolais its lively, expressive character — from fresh, fruit-forward crus to elegant, refined vintages. Enjoy guided tastings as you uncover the craftsmanship, history, and passion behind each pour. A refined and engaging experience created especially for wine lovers.

Arrives On: 19 Jul 27

Day 11: Tournon-sur-Rhône (France)

Today, you'll arrive in Tournon, a charming village that borders the gently meandering Rhône. Picturesque Tournon is dominated by a 16th-century castle that overlooks the village and several iconic landmarks, including a set of ancient watchtowers and impressive Roman relics. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Tournon with wine tasting
Led by an expert local guide, enjoy a walking tour that highlights the village's intangible cultural heritage. You'll also learn about the area's rich history of viticulture and enjoy a special wine tasting of the local varieties. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided hike through the vineyards
Alternatively, for those feeling more active, join a guided hike through the verdant local vineyards. As you take in the bucolic splendour that surrounds you, marvel at the rows upon rows of grapes that are selected to produce some of the finest wines in Europe.

Arrives On: 20 Jul 27

Day 12: Viviers (France)

Welcome to Viviers, a small walled village in southern France that dates back to ancient Roman times. This delightful village is best known for its impressive medieval cathedral – one of the oldest in France – as well as romantic views across the beautiful Rhône River. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Viviers
Today, your included walking tour with a local guide through charming Viviers will highlight many of the village's striking monuments, distinctive for their ornate windows and lavish façades. DiscoverMORE
Visit to Chauvet Pont D'Arc (extra expense)
Embark on a transformative journey as you delve into the fascinating 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 this cavernous expanse. You'll be accompanied by a local guide who breathes life into the ancient canvases that adorn the largest decorated cave replica in the world.

Arrives On: 21 Jul 27

Day 13: Avignon (France)

Set along the banks of the Rhône River in the celebrated region of Provence, the fortified city of Avignon bears a rich and illustrious history – from Celtic beginnings to the residence of seven successive Popes between 1309 and 1377. This legacy is evident today in the massive Palais des Papes (Popes' Palace), which is surrounded by medieval stone ramparts and an assortment of grand palaces and courtyards. Avignon also played a significant role in the nation-defining French Revolution during the late 18th century. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Avignon with market visit
Discover the charm of Avignon on a guided walk through its historic streets, from medieval ramparts to lively local

squares. Today’s walk leads you into the vibrant Les Halles d’Avignon, the city’s covered market, where colourful stalls and Provençal aromas capture the spirit of southern France. Learn about regional traditions, daily life, and the city’s rich heritage as your guide brings Avignon’s stories to life. Enjoy a delightful immersion in the culture and evocative atmosphere at the heart of Provence. EmeraldPLUS
Provençal dinner hosted by local chef, Fabien Morreale
This evening, you’ll enjoy an exclusive Provençal dining experience on board your Emerald Star-Ship, expertly prepared by France's Top Chef finalist, Fabien Morreale. This celebrated French chef will prepare a special Provençal dinner menu just for you to enjoy and savour the authentic flavours of the gastronomic region of Provence, paired with fine wines. EmeraldPLUS
Classical concert in Avignon
After your exclusive Provençal dinner, later this evening, you’re invited to another unforgettable experience: an exclusive classical concert performed within the halls of one of the ancient churches in Avignon. DiscoverMORE
Guided tour of the Pont du Gard (extra expense)
At the heart of Provence, the World Heritage-listed Pont du Gard Aqueduct presents one of humankind’s great masterpieces. Technically and architecturally impressive, this three-level Roman aqueduct served as an aqueduct until the 6th century A.D., transporting thousands of gallons of water per day. Later, it was used as a toll gate before transforming into a road bridge. On this fascinating guided tour, you’ll also visit the small Roman town of Uzès. Explore the circular streets that once protected the medieval castle and sample some of the region’s delicious cuisine in the local restaurants. DiscoverMORE
Visit to Chateauneuf du Pape with wine tasting (extra expense)
Enjoy sampling some of the local wines during a private tasting within the delightful village of Chateauneuf du Pape, known for its fine red wines, storied viticulture and charming medieval lanes.

Arrives On: 22 Jul 27

Day 14: Arles (France)

The glorious past is yours to uncover in Arles, a once-important Phoenician trading port that was captured by the Romans, who liberally peppered the city with iconic monuments that are still clearly evident today. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Arles with arena visit
Today, your included tour of this city will showcase some of its UNESCO World Heritage-listed Roman and Romanesque monuments, illustrating how the city has evolved over the centuries. Visit the 2,000-year-old Arles Amphitheatre and follow in the footsteps of world-renowned artist, Vincent van Gogh; some of his legendary artwork was inspired by the dazzling beauty of the surrounding area. DiscoverMORE
In the footsteps of Van Gogh with a painting workshop (extra expense)
Follow in the footsteps of celebrated artist Vincent van Gogh as you explore the beautiful 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. You’ll get to keep your own masterpiece inspired by Van Gogh’s legacy and then take this home as a unique souvenir to keep. DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Les Baux de Provence (extra expense)
Set at the heart of the Alpilles regional country park, the World Heritage-listed Les Baux de Provence is recognised as one of the most beautiful villages in France. Situated at a fortified rocky site between Arles and St. Remy-de-Provence, explore the Old Village with its narrow cobblestone streets and medieval stone buildings. Compact and brimming with shops and restaurants, the village retains a traditional lifestyle while being regarded as an outstanding attraction. The high, rocky pinnacle of Château-Fortress des Baux extends to the southwest of the village and reveals incredible views from the hilltop.

Arrives On: 23 Jul 27

Day 15: Arles (France)

After breakfast, it’s time to bid farewell to your fellow guests and disembark your Star-Ship for your transfer to the airport, taking memories of the idyllic French countryside, exceptional gastronomic and world-famous wines. Please book flights departing out of Marseille after 11:00 AM. 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: 24 Jul 27

Day 15: Marseille (France)

Arrives On: 24 Jul 27

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

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