Cruise Details

Name:	Romantic Rhine & Moselle with Enchanting Belgium
Reference:	SCENICABBR010527-1
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Opal
Regions:	Rhine
Departs On:	01 May 27
Departs From:	Brussel (Bruxelles)
Arrives On:	18 May 27
Arrives At:	Basel
Cruise Nights:	17
Total Vacation Days:	18

Itinerary

Day 1: Brussel (Bruxelles) (Belgium)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise.

Welcome to Belgium and the city of Brussels, where your European journey of wonders begins. Over the next three days, enjoy the country’s vibrant atmosphere, well-preserved medieval architecture, world-renowned beer and exquisite chocolatiers. Upon arrival, check into your wonderfully located hotel. Please book your flight to arrive into Brussels prior to 03:00 PM.

Arrives On: 01 May 27

Day 2: Brussel (Bruxelles) (Belgium)

Wake in Brussels today. The capital of Belgium and the administrative centre of the European Union, Brussels is a vibrant mix of history and cultures with world-class museums, lively outdoor markets and an ever-evolving dining scene. Though it’s known as a bureaucratic hub, it

also has its own quirky character.

Join a guided walking tour of the city. Wander Brussels' elegant boulevards and grand squares, including the magnificent Grand Place, a World Heritage site. Admire ornate guildhalls, Art Nouveau facades, and chic boutiques, while your expert guide reveals stories of royal heritage, diplomacy and indulgent Belgian delights, from the finest chocolate to its legendary beer.

Later, transfer to the city of Bruges. Its beautifully preserved medieval centre is threaded with canals lined with gorgeous historic buildings and looks as if it has been pulled from a fairytale. Upon arrival, join a local guide for an immersive walking tour of the city. Meander through cobbled laneways to charming town squares, see sights such as the Belfry of Bruges, the medieval bell tower, and learn about the fascinating history of this ancient town.

Check in to your luxury hotel for a two-night stay.

Tonight, join your fellow travelers for an included dinner at a local restaurant featuring delicious Flemish cuisine.

Arrives On: 02 May 27

Day 2: Brugge (Bruges) (Belgium)

Arrives On: 02 May 27

Day 3: Brugge (Bruges) (Belgium)

This morning join a local guide for an immersive walking tour of the city. Wander through cobbled laneways to charming town squares, see sights such as the Belfry of Bruges, the medieval bell tower, and learn about the fascinating history of this ancient town.

Spend the afternoon at your leisure. If you're feeling active, climb the 366 steps of the Belfry Tower for breathtaking city views or indulge in the irresistible flavours of Belgian waffles at a nearby eatery.

Arrives On: 03 May 27

Day 4: Brugge (Bruges) (Belgium)

Spend the morning uncovering the charms of Bruges. Scenic Freechoice:
Immerse yourself in Bruges with Scenic Freechoice activities:

Canal Cruise: Delight on a cruise through the canals of Bruges and see the sights of the city from a different angle. Admire medieval architecture at its best as you gently cruise under bridges and past the idyllic swans that grace these canals.

Beer & chocolate tasting: Bruges is famous for many things, beer and chocolate chief among them. Join a local guide and gain an understanding of the city's storied history in crafting these delicacies. This afternoon bid farewell beautiful Bruges and transfer to Amsterdam to board your Scenic Space-Ship for the next part of your journey, your unforgettable European river cruise.

Arrives On: 04 May 27

Day 4: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Arrives On: 04 May 27

Day 5: Dordrecht (Netherlands)

An early departure out of Amsterdam allows for relaxed cruising before arriving in Dordrecht. It’s the oldest city in Holland and its location as a port city made it an important merchant stop. As you explore the port, the canals, the picturesque alleyways and the town square you’ll discover more than 1,000 historic monuments dotted around the town, many of which have been reborn as restaurants, museums and theatres. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose one of the following excursions:

Delft pottery factory visit: Delft is a charming city famed for its blue and white pottery. Enjoy a guided tour before visiting the 17th century pottery factory where master painters still decorate in the traditional manner.

Walking tour of Dordrecht: A local guide will take you on a walking tour of the city’s winding canals, picturesque streets and historic buildings. Highlights include Groothoofd Quay, the Grote Kerk (Great Church) and the Old Water Tower.

Excursion to Kinderdijk: Windmills are an icon of Dutch culture and the traditional village of Kinderdjik boasts 19 of them. Explore the town and the role these World Heritage-listed windmills play in agricultural life, on an experience only available with Scenic.

Arrives On: 05 May 27

Day 6: Veere (Netherlands)

This historic small town set on the Veerse Meer Lake is known as the ‘Pearl of Walcheren’. Wander through its narrow streets and along the charming marina nestled at its heart to see why. Dating back to the 12th century, it was a popular trading hub and the town’s wealth can be seen in the grand architecture of its buildings. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from a range of excursions today:

Guided tour of Veere: Wander along the quaint streets of Veere on this guided walking tour. Take in a picturesque harbour lined with Scottish merchant houses, a 15th century town hall with tower and Grote Kerk, an imposing Gothic church that moonlighted as a hospital.

Oyster farm visit: Gourmands will be talking about this excursion for a long time. It’s not everyday you get to taste plump, briny bivalves straight from the crisp, cold waters of the North Sea.

Excursion to the Delta Works: This fascinating series of dams was designed to protect the population on the Delta plain from flooding. As well as being an impressive feat of engineering, it’s essential in protecting low-lying areas of the Netherlands from surges and flooding.

Arrives On: 06 May 27

Day 7: Antwerp (Belgium)

It’s time to delve into a new culture as the ship docks in Antwerp. It’s the largest city in Flanders, Belgium’s second city and the unofficial Diamond Capital of the world, having dominated global trade since the 15th century. The seaport, located 80km inland, is one of the world’s most important. Antwerp’s charm lies in its contradictions, a city with a medieval heart of cobbled lanes and riverside fortress combined with a creative pulse that champions innovation, including modern architecture and a thriving culinary scene. Scenic Freechoice:
These interesting Scenic Freechoice excursions are available today:

Guided walking tour: Let a local guide show you the real Antwerp on a walking tour of the city. As well as being the Diamond Capital of the world, it’s home to the stunning Cathedral of Our Lady, Steen Castle, a medieval fortress and main square lined with extravagant buildings.

Craft beer & chocolate pairing: Belgium’s culinary reputation is renowned for chocolate and beer. Find out why the two work so well together on this unique tasting journey.

Excursion to Fort Breendonk: This former Nazi prison camp has been preserved as a national memorial. A guided visit takes in the original barracks, courtyards and cells as you hear the moving stories of those once imprisoned here. Scenic Enrich
Concert at Cleydael Castle: Learn about its fascinating history before being serenaded by eight musicians, two singing soloists and a host on this classical concert in an enchanting setting, only with Scenic. New in 2027.

Arrives On: 07 May 27

Day 8: Nijmegen (Netherlands)

Arrive in Nijmegen late afternoon and take your time exploring. Dating back more than 2,000 years it’s officially recognised as the oldest city in The Netherlands. Its large population of university students gives it a lively atmosphere, with many excellent museums, trendy coffee shops, independent stores and a buzzing nightlife. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way with one of these excursions:

Arnhem Airborne Museum: You don’t have to be a military aficionado to enjoy the museum’s account of the Battle of Arnhem as you follow in the footsteps of the British servicemen who parachuted into the city in September 1944 after many years of German occupation.

The Netherlands Open Air Museum: This fascinating 44-hectare outdoor museum complete with replicas of historic houses, mills and farmhouses will show you how the Dutch lived and celebrated through the ages.

Palais Het Loo: Royalists or anyone fascinated by monarchies will revel in wandering this museum, which was the Dutch royal family's summer home for centuries. Dating back to 1685, it’s now a museum showcasing the lineage’s rich history, elaborate decor, art collection and grand gardens.

Arrives On: 08 May 27

Day 9: Düsseldorf (Germany)

Willkommen to Germany and the city of Düsseldorf. An early arrival and late departure gives you ample time to discover a city known for its art scene and fashion industry. Once dubbed ‘Little Paris’ by Napoleon, it blends the museums, galleries and luxurious shops of the city of lights with a historic old town and unique harbour precinct where historic quay walls share the same space as architecturally designed buildings by the likes of Frank Gehry. With a late departure, there’s time to explore its buzzing waterfront and glamorous bars by night. Scenic Freechoice:
Experience the best of the city with one of these Scenic Freechoic excursions:

Walking tour: Explore Düsseldorf on a guided walking tour. Discover its gentrified harbour to its charming old town and Castle Tower, which dates to the 13th century.

Cycling tour: Active travellers can explore the banks of the Rhine on two wheels, cycling to one of the most historic regions of Düsseldorf, Kaiserswerth.

Dusseldorf's Altbier: Learn about Düsseldorf’s long tradition of beer production, visit well-known microbreweries and sample some delicious Altbier, the traditional ale produced in this region.

Arrives On: 09 May 27

Day 11: Cochem (Germany)

Cochem is a medieval gem with a castle overlooking the town. While this may be its crowning feature, the traditional town is known for being part of the German wine route and is a great place to sample local varietals. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore the region with one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Guided tour of Cochem: Explore a castle with a unique well-preserved Knight’s Hall and Trophy Room. After wandering the halls of Reichsburg Castle make your way to the old town to take in the historic buildings and charming streetscapes.

Cycling tour of Cochem: Hop on an e-bike and cycle along the gentle path beside the Moselle River. Your local guide will show you Cochems gems, from the majestic castle to the town’s half-timbered houses.

Arrives On: 11 May 27

Day 12: Bernkastel-Kues (Germany)

Oenophiles will have earmarked Bernkastel. It sits at the heart of the Moselle Valley wine region and one of the world’s most famous Riesling vineyards, Bernkasteler Doctor, is just on the edge of town. You’ll also fall in love with this wonderfully preserved riverside town for its atmospheric market square, with buildings that date to the 13th century, and the ruins of Landshut Castle, which dates back to the fourth and fifth centuries. Scenic Freechoice:
Discover Bernkastel your way on one of these excursions:

Guided Hike to Landshut ruins: Take an active hike up to the ruins of Landshut Castle, situated on a hill overlooking Bernkastel and the Moselle River. The ruins have been here since the

13th century and a guide will reveal its fascinating history.

Walking tour of Bernkastel: Learn about the local architecture and culture on a guided tour of the town, which includes perfectly preserved half-timbered houses and the Renaissance Rathaus (Town Hall), before enjoying some time at leisure.

Wine tasting along the Moselle: Find out why the fertile banks of the Moselle River are the breeding ground for world-renowned Rieslings. Learn about local varietals before sampling a selection of prestigious local drops. Scenic Enrich
Classical Concert at Liebfrauenkirche in Trier: Experience a once-in-a-lifetime classical music concert. Not only is the Liebfrauenkirche, or Church of Our Lady, a magnificent building named on the UNESCO world heritage list, but it boasts exemplary acoustics. Trier, founded by the Roman Emperor Augustus in the year 16BC, is the oldest city in Germany and this is an exclusive Scenic Enrich only available to Scenic guests.

Arrives On: 12 May 27

Day 13: Koblenz (Germany)

Koblenz is many things; a wine hub, a fortress city and one of Germany's oldest metropolises. Founded by the Romans more than 2,000 years ago it is strategically placed where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet. Its long history ensures there's something for everyone, from rich history to a melange of French and German cultures and beautiful scenery. It is, of course, also the gateway to both the romantic Rhine Valley and the beautiful Moselle Valley. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose to explore your way with today's Scenic Freechoice:

Walking tour of Koblenz: A guide will lead you on a journey through the old town's winding streets, charming squares, impressive townhouses and historic churches as well as the famed Florinsmarkt, the former political and economic centre of the city.

Marksburg Castle visit: Drive to Marksburg Castle, perched high above the Rhine River, to marvel at this perfect example of Medieval architecture. Dating back to 1117, it's the only castle on the Middle Rhine that hasn't been destroyed. (Note: This is for active guests only and requires a good degree of fitness and mobility.)

Medieval Limburg: A coach will take you to the charming medieval town of Limburg an der Lahn, where you can walk the historic cobblestone streets lined with perfectly preserved half-timbered houses, visit the Cathedral that overlooks the city and see Alte Lahnbrucke, the Old Bridge that straddles the Lahn River.
Your Scenic Space-Ship will overnight in Koblenz, offering you the opportunity to explore the city after dark.

Arrives On: 13 May 27

Day 14: Rüdesheim (Germany)

Cruise through the picturesque Rhine Gorge this morning and relax as you take in landscapes that could have come straight from a fairytale. The stunning 65-kilometre stretch of river is punctuated with a constellation of some 40 hilltop castles and fortresses that span a period

of 1,000 years. Look out for the Lorelei statue, dedicated to the tragic legend of a beautiful maiden whose voice distracts sailors – the potential inspiration for the Sirens who tempted Odysseus.

Disembark in Rüdesheim, a stunning town surrounded by steep vineyards that's known for its medieval architecture and wine culture – locals have been cultivating wine for more than two millennia. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way with one of these excursions:

Siegfried's Musikkabinett Museum: Arrive to this quirky museum by mini train, where a local guide will introduce you to its weird and wonderful mechanical musical instruments. Afterwards, explore the surrounding streets on your own or take the cable car up to the Niederwald Monument.

Hike & cable car: Take the cable car up to the Niederwald Monument then join a local guide on foot as you hike through the rolling vineyards of Rüdesheim, known for its Riesling. Enjoy spectacular views of the countryside and Rhine River below.
Your Scenic Space-Ship will depart late this evening, giving you the opportunity to meander through the enchanting laneways of Rüdesheim.

Arrives On: 14 May 27

Day 15: Mannheim (Germany)

The ship docks in Mannheim today, a large metropolitan centre that's used as a base to explore the surrounding region, including the historic charms of Heidelberg and the stunning vine covered landscapes Bad Dürkheim where you can sip on aromatic wines. Scenic Freechoice:
Discover the region on one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Historical tour of Heidelberg: Enjoy a guided tour of the town as well as a visit to Heidelberg Castle, one of the most important Renaissance structures north of the Alps. Take in the breathtaking views from the balcony then see the great Heidelberg Tun, the world's largest wine barrel. (Note: the walk includes some stairs and uneven ground).

Tour of Heidelberg with free time: A coach transfer to Heidelberg is followed by a brief walking tour of the town and before a chance to explore on your own.

Excursion to Bad Dürkheim: Take in the stunning vine-covered landscapes as you drive to Bad Dürkheim and visit the famed Fitz-Ritter winery. This ninth-generation family-owned vineyard offers exceptional quality wine and guests are treated to a tour and tasting on an experience only available with Scenic. (Note: a good degree of fitness is required).

Arrives On: 15 May 27

Day 16: Strasbourg (France)

The capital of the Alsace wine region is a captivating blend of France and Germany. It has a Gothic cathedral and an Old Town surrounded by a river, with sherbert-coloured, half-timbered houses bordering a complex network of canals. Strasbourg proudly wears its medieval past while looking firmly towards the future and is known for its youthful energy and infectious spirit. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from these

Scenic Freechoice experiences today:

Alsace wine route with tasting: Explore this culturally diverse wine-growing area and visit one of the region’s most famous wine growing villages to do a tasting at a local wine cellar before exploring the neighbouring town of Obernai. Cycling through Strasbourg: Glide on an e-bike along the region’s impressive cycling trails during this active excursion. More than 500km of trails cover the city and you will explore some of these while cycling through the city's charming suburbs past historic buildings, beautiful parklands and charming canals.

Walking tour of Strasbourg: Located on the border of France and Germany, Strasbourg has been influenced by both cultures. See the city’s most important sites on foot, like the cathedral, Petit France and the Grand Ile, as you learn how the two nations shaped this unique city.
A late departure gives you plenty of time to explore.

Arrives On: 16 May 27

Day 17: Breisach (Germany)

There’s plenty of reasons Breisach is a must-visit food and wine destination. Not only does it share a border with the Alsace region, it’s also located between the Rhine River and the legendary Black Forest. Don’t leave without trying the German Pinot Noir. Luckily for you, the town was meticulously rebuilt after World War II, complete with its traditional cobbled streets and pastel houses. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore the region with your choice of one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Guided tour of Colmar: A walking tour of the cultural centre of the Alsace shows off Colmar’s confluence of French and German architecture, lifestyle, and culture. A highlight of the tour is tasting a slice of the famed Kugelhopf cake at a local bistro.

Guided tour of Freiburg with tasting: It’s location right on the edge of the Black Forest makes Freiburg a magical place to visit. Enjoy a guided walking tour through the lively medieval town and sample the local delicacy, Black Forest Cake.

Kaiserstuhl winery visit and wine tasting: Thanks to numerous volcanic eruptions over 16 million years ago, the volcanic soil of the Kaiserstuhl produces excellent grapes, which make even better wines. Sample them for yourself and taste the difference.
Return to your Scenic Space-Ship and toast to your final evening on board.

Arrives On: 17 May 27

Day 18: Basel (Switzerland)

Your cruise concludes this morning in Basel (Huningue). Enjoy one final breakfast on board before disembarking and transferring to the Airport for your return flight to the UK, taking with you lifelong memories of a cruise that captured your imagination. Please book your flight to depart out of Basel after 10:00 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, Scenic 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.

Arrives On: 18 May 27

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

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