deluxe cruises

Cruise Details

Name:	Rhine Highlights
Reference:	SCENICAMBC170328-1W
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Opal
Regions:	Rhine
Departs On:	17 Mar 28
Departs From:	Amsterdam
Arrives On:	24 Mar 28
Arrives At:	Basel
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	8

Itinerary

Day 1: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Your journey begins in the picturesque city of Amsterdam. Getting lost in its labyrinth of narrow laneways and canals lined with beautifully preserved 17th century buildings and charming cafes is one of the great ways to spend a day.

Board your 5-star Scenic Space-Ship this afternoon, meet your fellow guests and raise a glass to the start of a fascinating journey ahead of you at this evening’s welcome reception.

Arrives On: 17 Mar 28

Day 2: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Spend the morning in Amsterdam. The Netherlands’ capital is a treasure trove of architectural beauty, galleries filled with masterpieces, 16th century canals, narrow cobbled laneways, and streets busy with cyclists. Much of the city’s World Heritage-listed canal system exists today as it did hundreds of years ago, lined with well-preserved houses and intersected by

charming bridges. Make the most of the cooler days in cosy cafes and enjoy its most famous sights with smaller crowds. Scenic Freechoice:
Discover more of the city on one of these excursions:

Canal cruise: See the best of the city on a one-hour canal cruise. Travel along the Gentleman's Canal, where you will see The Skinny Bridge, and The Prince's Canal, which was known for its warehouses. As the historic centre glides past, you can admire the elegant merchant's residences, churches and warehouses, dating from the Golden Age.

Amsterdam walking tour: Rug up and explore Amsterdam on foot, discovering the maze of canals and bridges in the city centre. Your guide will be covering history, modern lifestyle and Dutch culture. You also get to taste herring, a local delicacy not to be missed.

Fabrique des Lumières: Art springs to life in this impressive digital art installation, the largest in the Netherlands. Located in a former 19th century gas works, pieces from renowned artists are projected onto the 17-metre-high walls, accompanied by music to create an immersive ambience.

Rijksmuseum visit: The iconic Rijksmuseum is one of the premier museums in the Netherlands and has more than 8,000 pieces in its collection, including works from Van Gogh, Rembrandt and Vermeer. Your local guide will give you an overview before free time to explore at your leisure. This excursion is unique to seasonal departures.

Arrives On: 18 Mar 28

Day 3: Cologne (Germany)

Arrive in the 2,000-year-old city of Cologne today. Cologne suffered extensive damage during World War II but was painstakingly restored over the following decades. With a late departure tonight, you will have some free time to explore the city on your own. Scenic Freechoice:
Discover Cologne on one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Walking tour of Old Town: Set out on foot to see the Old Town, admiring its historic buildings, beautiful squares and the World Heritage-listed Cologne Cathedral.

Augustusburg Palace: Built for archbishop Clemens Augustin in 1725, Augustusburg Palace is one of Europe's most beautiful Rococo buildings. Your local guide will escort you though the palace to see the exquisite rooms heavily decorated with marble and chandeliers.

Tour of Cologne Cathedral: The Cologne Cathedral, or Kölner Dom as it is known locally, is the largest Gothic church in northern Europe and features twin towers that stand 157 metres tall. Join a local guide who will take you through this magnificent World Heritage site and learn its fascinating history as well as some quirky facts such as the story that the cathedral is said to contain the bones of the three wise men from the Bible.

Arrives On: 19 Mar 28

Day 4: Koblenz (Germany)

The ship docks in Koblenz this morning, giving you the opportunity to explore one of Germany's oldest cities. Founded by the Romans more than 2,000 years ago, it is strategically

placed where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose to explore your way with this morning's Scenic Freechoice:

Winery visit: Immerse yourself in the art of Spätlese, a late-harvest wine crafted from fully ripened grapes left to hang on the vine for optimal richness and complexity. Savour a guided tasting of this locally produced Spätlese and uncover why it is the region's signature indulgence, celebrated for its opulent sweetness, silken texture and intensely layered flavour profile.

Walking tour of Koblenz: Join your guide to explore the old town's winding streets, impressive townhouses, charming squares and historic churches, and visit the famed Florinsmarkt, the former political and economic centre of the city.

Cochem and Moselle Valley: Travel through the beautiful Moselle Valley to the town of Cochem. Take a walking tour through its picturesque centre, where cobbled lanes are lined with half-timbered houses, then visit the grand Reichsburg Castle. Relax on board this afternoon as you cruise through the majestic Rhine Gorge, where the landscapes could have been pulled from the pages of a fairytale. This 65-kilometre stretch of the river is dotted with 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.

Arrives On: 20 Mar 28

Day 5: Mannheim (Germany)

Arrive in Mannheim today. A large metropolitan centre, Mannheim still runs along its recognisable 18th century grid pattern and is known for its grand Baroque squares, fountains and palace. Scenic Freechoice:
Your Scenic Freechoice excursions today will take you away from the city to discover more of the surrounding region before you cruise to Rastatt:

Orientation tour of Heidelberg: Transfer by coach to Heidelberg for a brief walking tour of the city, including the Old Town, and then enjoy some free time. (Note: the walk is not too strenuous but there are some stairs and uneven ground).

Historical tour of Heidelberg: Take a guided tour of Heidelberg, then visit Heidelberg Castle, one of the most important Renaissance structures north of the Alps. Admire the views from the balcony and the great Heidelberg Tun, the world's largest wine barrel. (Note: the walk is not too strenuous but there are some stairs and uneven ground).

Excursion to Bad Dürkheim: Take in the stunning vine-covered landscapes as you drive to Bad Dürkheim and visit Fritz Ritter winery. This ninth-generation family-owned vineyard offers exceptional quality wine, and you will be treated to a tour and tasting. (Note: a good degree of fitness is required). Scenic Enrich
Private concert at the Baroque Palace of Rastatt: One of the most magnificent historic venues in the region, the Baroque Palace of Rastatt was modelled on the Palace of Versailles and hosts an evening of grandeur unlike any other. Explore the opulent palace and gardens, before sitting down to a private performance from accomplished a pianist and vocalists. This is an exclusive event for Scenic guests.

Arrives On: 21 Mar 28

Day 5: Rastatt (Germany)

Arrives On: 21 Mar 28

Day 6: 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 for a tasting at a local wine cellar before exploring the neighbouring town of Obernai.

Walking tour of Strasbourg: Located on the border of France and Germany, Strasbourg has been influenced by both cultures. Put on your coat and gloves to 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: 22 Mar 28

Day 7: Breisach (Germany)

Your Scenic Space-Ship will dock in Breisach for the day, giving you ample time to explore the region. There’s lots 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. 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 on 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 delicious Black Forest Cake.

Walking tour of Breisach with wine tasting: This leisurely guided walk through Breisach’s old town will take in its pastel facades and cobbled lanes. Look up to see the hilltop cathedral of St. Stephansmünster before indulging in a tasting of delicious local sparkling wine.

Arrives On: 23 Mar 28

Day 8: Basel (Switzerland)

Your cruise concludes this morning in Basel (Huningue). Enjoy one final breakfast on board, then transfer to the airport, taking with you lifelong memories of a remarkable journey. Scenic transfers are only available for flights departing out of Basel after 10:00 AM.

Scenic transfers are only available for flights departing out of Zurich after 11:30 AM. Please contact us if you wish to secure this option. 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: 24 Mar 28

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

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