Cruise Details

Name:	Rhine Highlights with Switzerland
Reference:	SCENICAMSW130427-1
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Opal
Regions:	Rhine
Departs On:	13 Apr 27
Departs From:	Amsterdam
Arrives On:	24 Apr 27
Arrives At:	Zurich
Cruise Nights:	11
Total Vacation Days:	12

Itinerary

Day 1: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise.

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. The ship remains docked overnight, so you can go ashore after dinner to sample some of its legendary nightlife.

Arrives On: 13 Apr 27

Day 2: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Spend the day 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. Often referred to as the ‘Venice of the North’, much of the World Heritage-listed canal system exists today as it did hundreds of years ago, lined with well-preserved houses and intersected by charming bridges. Scenic Freechoice:
Discover more of the city your way on one of these excursions:

Excursion to Schermerhorn and Alkmaar: Windmills are an iconic feature of Dutch culture, so get out of town, enjoy the sweeping rural landscapes in the brilliant greens of spring and explore the nearby villages of Schermerhorn, home to a number of World Heritage-listed windmills dating back to the 16th century, and Alkmaar, only with Scenic.

Excursion to Keukenhof Gardens: Spring in Holland is one of the most beautiful times of the year and a visit to Keukenhof Gardens is a must. See one of the world’s largest flower gardens in bloom, awash with colour from seven million flowering bulbs including the nation’s famed tulips. Walking tour of Amsterdam: 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.

Cycling tour: Amsterdam is known as the bicycle capital of the world. Take a small ferry to the outskirts of town for a e-bike tour. Your local guide will be on hand to offer information about everyday life of the Dutch people, many of whom you will see getting around on two wheels.

Arrives On: 14 Apr 27

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. Set out on a walking tour of the Old Town, and admire its historic buildings, beautiful squares and the World Heritage-listed Cologne Cathedral.

With a late departure tonight, you will have some free time to explore the city on your own and get a taste of the nightlife.

Arrives On: 15 Apr 27

Day 4: Koblenz (Germany)

The ship docks in Koblenz this morning, giving guests 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:

Guided 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.

Medieval Limburg: Travel by coach

to the charming medieval town of Limburg an der Lahn. Walk the historic cobblestone streets lined with perfectly preserved half-timbered houses, visit the cathedral that overlooks the city and see Alten Lahnbrücke, the Old Bridge that straddles the Lahn River.

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. The ship departs after lunch, giving you a chance to relax on board as you cruise through the picturesque 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: 16 Apr 27

Day 4: Rüdesheim (Germany)

Arrives On: 16 Apr 27

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 this morning:

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 guests are 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 an accomplished pianist and vocalists.

Arrives On: 17 Apr 27

Day 5: Rastatt (Germany)

Arrives On: 17 Apr 27

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 villages to do a tasting at a local cellar before exploring the neighbouring town of Obernai. Look out for blooming wildflowers, like the rare wild tulip, along the way.

Cycling through Strasbourg: Explore Strasbourg’s impressive bicycle trails during this active excursion. More than 500km of paths cover the city and you will explore some of these while cycling through the charming suburbs past historic buildings beautiful parklands and 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: 18 Apr 27

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. 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 house Scenic Freechoice:
Explore the region your way 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 forrest 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, ideal for a spring day

Arrives On: 19 Apr 27

Day 8: Basel (Switzerland)

After your river cruise concludes in Basel (Huningue), travel across the Swiss Alps to the picturesque lakeside resort town of Montreux. Take a short orientation tour of the town to admire the lakeside promenade, cobblestone streets and historic buildings. Check in to your luxury hotel for a two-night stay.

Arrives On: 20 Apr 27

Day 8: Montreux (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 20 Apr 27

Day 9: Montreux (Switzerland)

This morning, visit Chillon Castle. Set on the shore of Lake Geneva, it was first built in the 11th century and is one of the most visited medieval castles in Europe. Join a tour with a local guide and learn how this iconic castle has inspired poets and writers like Victor Hugo, Alexandre Dumas, Gustave Flaubert, Mary Shelley and Lord Byron. Scenic Enrich
Chaplin Museum: Learn about the life and work of one of the most influential early film stars, Charlie Chaplin. Experience an exclusive after-hours visit to the Chaplin Museum, set inside his former home.

Arrives On: 21 Apr 27

Day 10: Montreux (Switzerland)

This morning, travel to Bern. Set on the River Aare, Bern is World Heritage-listed thanks to its medieval Old Town, charming Renaissance fountains, and landmarks like the Zytglogge (Clock Tower) and Bern Cathedral. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore Bern with one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Orientation tour of Bern: Your Scenic Tour Director will take you on a short walk to explore this delightful city. See its many fountains, sandstone facades and narrow streets, and visit Bear Park, home to a family of bears that have lived along the river banks since 1857.

Swiss chocolate tasting: Switzerland is known for its chocolate, which is considered to be some of the best in the world. Enjoy a tasting of different praline and other varieties at a local producer as you learn about chocolate production and its importance for the local economy.

Arrives On: 22 Apr 27

Day 10: Bern (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 22 Apr 27

Day 11: Bern (Switzerland)

Today you'll depart for Lucerne. Its lovely Old Town, brightly coloured houses, covered bridges and cobalt blue lake make for the quintessential Swiss resort town. Your morning will start with a guided tour of the city, touching on its well-preserved and highlights such as the Museggmauer and Türme (Town Walls and Towers), Hofkirche, and the Jesuit Church.

Afterwards, you'll travel by coach to the cosmopolitan city of Zurich. The largest city in Switzerland and a global financial centre, it hugs the shoreline of the spectacular Lake Zurich. Set off on foot for a walking tour. Zurich is one of the world's great walking cities, with a flat centre, many pedestrian-only streets and historic bridges. Wander along the Bahnhofstrasse, the city's main street lined with glamorous boutiques and international flagship stores.

Check in to your luxury hotel and enjoy some free time to explore the city after dark.

Arrives On: 23 Apr 27

Day 11: Lucerne (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 23 Apr 27

Day 11: Zurich (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 23 Apr 27

Day 12: Zurich (Switzerland)

Depart after breakfast for your transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK., taking your memories of beautiful Switzerland with you. 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 Apr 27

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