Cruise Details

Name:	Romantic Rhine & Moselle with Bruges & Wonders of Switzerland & Austria
Reference:	SCENICSSBB010527-1
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:	01 Jun 27
Arrives At:	Vienna
Cruise Nights:	31
Total Vacation Days:	32

Itinerary

Day 1: Brussel (Bruxelles) (Belgium)

Welcome to Belgium. Today you'll transfer from Brussels Airport to the city of Bruges, where your European journey of discovery begins. Over the next three days, enjoy the city'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 1: Brugge (Bruges) (Belgium)

Arrives On: 01 May 27

Day 2: Brugge (Bruges) (Belgium)

This morning you will have the pleasure of exploring the beautifully preserved medieval centre as you embark on a walking tour with your local guide. 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. Tonight, join your fellow travelers for an included dinner featuring delicious Flemish cuisine.

Arrives On: 02 May 27

Day 3: Brugge (Bruges) (Belgium)

Scenic Freechoice:
Immerse yourself in Bruges with Scenic Freechoice activities:

Canal Cruise: Delight in 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. Spend the afternoon at your leisure; if you're feeling adventurous, 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)

After breakfast, farewell beautiful Bruges and join your coach transfer to Amsterdam where you will board your Scenic Space-Ship.

Arrives On: 04 May 27

Day 4: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Arrives On: 04 May 27

Day 5: Dordrecht (Netherlands)

Arrive early this morning in Dordrecht. One of the oldest cities in Holland, it dates back to the 11th century. Dordrecht was once an important merchant city, drawing its wealth from wood, grain and wine. More than 1,000 historic monuments can be found in its historic centre, many of which have been reborn as restaurants, museums and theatres. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose one of the following excursions this morning:

Walking tour of Dordrecht: Admire the city's picturesque streets, winding canals and historic buildings on a walking tour. Highlights include Groothoofd Quay, the Grote Kerk (Great Church) and the Old Water Tower.

Excursion to Delft: Travel to the nearby city of Delft, famed for its

blue and white pottery and visit the only remaining 17th century pottery factory to see the masters at work.

Excursion to Kinderdijk: Visit the traditional village of Kinderdjik to see its World Heritage listed windmills, which are an icon of Dutch culture.

Arrives On: 05 May 27

Day 6: Bruinisse (Netherlands)

Dock this morning in Bruinisse, a mussel fishing village set on an ocean estuary. Known simply as ‘Bru’ it’s a popular holiday destination for its beaches, rich heritage and delectable seafood. It’s also the gateway to the 13th century town of Veere, considered one of the prettiest in the Netherlands. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from a range of excursions this morning:

Guided tour of Veere: Travel to the nearby town of Veere for a guided tour of its many charms, including the port area, Scottish merchant houses, impressive church and 15th-century town hall. Enjoy some free time before returning to the ship.

Delta Works visit: Visit the engineering marvel that is the Delta Works, a system of dams, locks and levees that protects the towns on the delta plain against flooding.

Oyster farm visit: The crisp, cold waters of the nearby North Sea are ideal for oysters. Visit a local farm to learn how they are grown and taste some fresh from the ocean.

Arrives On: 06 May 27

Day 7: Antwerp (Belgium)

Crossing the border this morning, you’ll dock in Antwerp, Belgium’s second city and one of the world’s most important seaports. Despite being bombed extensively during World War II, it retains its medieval heart, cobbled lanes, riverside fortress and impressive cathedral. Today, Antwerp is considered one of the most vibrant cities in Europe, famed for its stylish fashion, entertainment and culinary scenes. Scenic Freechoice:
These interesting Scenic Freechoice excursions are available today:

Guided walking tour: Join your local guide on a walking tour of Antwerp, known as the diamond capital of the world. Explore sights such as the impressive Cathedral of Our Lady, Steen Castle, the Medieval fortress, and main square lined with extravagant buildings.

Excursion to Ypres & Passchendaele: On a full day excursion, visit the towns of Passchendaele and Ypres to learn about their significant WWI battles, see memorials dedicated to the 325,000 Allied troops who selflessly made the ultimate sacrifice and learn how this region was rebuilt in the aftermath. Tour includes lunch in a local restaurant.

Craft Beer & Chocolate pairing: Take your taste buds on a journey of flavour with two of Belgium's most iconic culinary delicacies – chocolate and beer.

Arrives On: 07 May 27

Day 8: Arnhem (Netherlands)

Arrive in Arnhem after lunch. Located at the edge of the Veluwe Nature Reserve, the city offers a beautiful landscape surrounded by dense forest, lush green parklands and riverside promenades. Arnhem also played an important role in World War II and the campaign ultimately helped bring about the end of the conflict. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way this afternoon with one of these excursions:

Arnhem Airborne Museum: Military buffs should visit the Airborne Museum, which gives an in-depth account of the Battle of Arnhem. 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: Learn about the lives and traditions of ordinary Dutch people through the ages at the Netherlands Open Air Museum. Your local guide will take you on an exploration of this fascinating 44-hectare outdoor museum, to see replicas of historic houses, mills and farmhouses

Palais Het Loo: Art lovers will enjoy the Palais Het Loo. Dating to 1685 it served as the royal family's summer home for centuries and is now an incredible museum showcasing the family’s rich history, elaborate décor, art collection and grand gardens.

Arrives On: 08 May 27

Day 9: Düsseldorf (Germany)

Welcome to Germany and the city of Düsseldorf, known for its art scene and fashion industry. This affluent city was dubbed ‘Little Paris’ by Napoleon and is filled with museums, galleries and luxurious shops. Its charming old town is home to around 260 pubs and bars, and the harbour precinct blends the old with new: historic quay walls, warehouses and silos rub shoulders with striking architecturally designed buildings by the likes of Frank Gehry. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from one of today’s Scenic Freechoice 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.

Dusseldorf – City of Art: Uncover the artistic heritage of Düsseldorf starting in the historic Old Town and making your way to Media Harbour, then visit the K21 Museum for a self-guided exploration of the contemporary exhibits.

Arrives On: 09 May 27

Day 11: Cochem (Germany)

A medieval gem resting on the banks of the Moselle River, Cochem will make you feel as if you are stepping directly into a fairy-tale. The traditional town is nestled on the riverbanks, with

pastel-coloured buildings, half-timbered houses, cobbled laneways and an enchanting medieval hilltop castle surrounded by sloped vineyards. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore Cochem your way this morning with your choice of one of these excursions:

Walking tour of Cochem: Explore Reichsburg Castle, which dates back to the Middle Ages and has a well-preserved Knight's Hall and Trophy Room, then enjoy some free time to walk Cochem's charming streets on your own.

Cycling tour of Cochem: Hop on an e-bike to cycle along the gentle path beside the Moselle River. Your local guide will show you Reichsburg Castle, the half-timbered houses of Cochem, and the nearby towns of Valwig and Belstein. Depart for Bernkastel this afternoon.

Arrives On: 11 May 27

Day 12: Bernkastel-Kues (Germany)

Another wonderfully preserved riverside town, Bernkastel is home to an atmospheric market square with buildings that date to the 13th century and the ruins of Landshut Castle sitting high above on a hill, where archaeological remains from the fourth and fifth centuries were uncovered in 2012. It also 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. Scenic Freechoice:
Discover Bernkastel your way on one of these excursions:

Walking tour of Bernkastel: Your expert guide will explain the local architecture and culture during a guided tour or the town's highlights, including perfectly preserved half-timbered houses and the Renaissance-style Rathaus (Town Hall). Then enjoy some time at leisure.

Excursion to Trier: Drive to Trier, a charming Roman city located near the Luxembourg border and birthplace of Karl Marx. Join a local guide to see the Porta Nigra, one of the best-preserved Roman gates in Germany, as well as the Trier Cathedral.

Wine tasting along the Moselle: The fertile banks of the Moselle River are a winemaker's paradise. Learn about the varieties that are grown and produced at one of the most renowned wineries in the region, then sample a selection of local wines. Scenic Enrich
Tonight, you are in for a special treat with a private classical concert in the breathtaking surroundings of the World Heritage-listed Liebfrauenkirche, or Church of Our Lady, in the heart of the Roman city of Trier. During the concert, admire the incredible architecture and intricate stained-glass windows of the church as you are immersed in magnificent classical music.

Arrives On: 12 May 27

Day 13: Koblenz (Germany)

One of Germany's oldest cities, Koblenz was founded by the Romans more than 2,000 years ago and is brimming with history. It sits where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet and promises a melange of French and German cultures. Koblenz is filled with parks and flowers, and is

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: 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.

Marksburg Castle visit: Drive to Marksburg Castle, perched high above the Rhine River. Dating back to 1117, it’s the only castle on the Middle Rhine that has avoided destruction over the years. (Note: This is for active guests only and requires a good degree of fitness and mobility.)

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 Alte Lahnbrucke, the Old Bridge that straddles the Lahn River. Your 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)

Relax on board this morning 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. This afternoon, disembark in Rüdesheim, a pretty town surrounded by steep vineyards that have been cultivating wine for more than two millennia. Scenic Freechoice:
Make your selection from this afternoon's Scenic Freechoice tours:

Siegfried’s Musikkabinett Museum: Visit Siegfried’s Musikkabinett Museum, where a local guide will introduce you to the weird and wonderful mechanical musical instruments. Then explore on your own or take the cable car up to the Niederwald Monument.

Hike & Cable Car: Join a local guide for a hike through the rolling vineyards of Rüdesheim and enjoy spectacular views of the countryside and Rhine River below. After your hike, board the cable car to descend to town. Your Scenic Space-Ship will depart late this evening, allowing you some free time to wander the enchanting laneways of Rüdesheim.

Arrives On: 14 May 27

Day 15: Mannheim (Germany)

Arrive in Mannheim this morning. 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. Your Scenic Freechoice excursions today will take you away from the city to discover more of the surrounding region. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose between these immersive Scenic Freechoice experiences 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 includes 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 castle's balcony and the great Heidelberg Tun, the world's largest wine barrel. (Note: the walk includes some stairs and uneven ground.)

Excursion to Bad Durkheim: It's just a short drive through stunning vine-covered landscapes to Bad Durkheim. Visit the renowned property of Fritz Ritter, a ninth-generation family-owned vineyard that offers exceptional quality wine. Enjoy a tour and tasting. This afternoon your Space-Ship will depart for Strasbourg.

Arrives On: 15 May 27

Day 16: Strasbourg (France)

Strasbourg is the capital of the Alsace wine region, where sherbert-coloured, half-timbered houses heave together on the banks of a complex network of canals. It's a captivating blend of France and Germany, of a medieval past and an innovative future. Strasbourg has an infectious, youthful energy and you'll regularly see the locals enjoying spontaneous soccer games and pop-up wine bars. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore the city and its surrounds on one of these Scenic Freechoice tours:

Walking tour of Strasbourg: See the city's most important sites on foot, like the cathedral, Petit France and the Grand Ile, and learn about its unique mixture of both French and German architecture and culture. (Note: this is an active walk.)

Alsace wine region: Travel by coach through the pretty Alsace wine region to the village of Obernai for some free time. Then visit Mittelbergheim for a wine tasting in a local cellar.

Cycle through Strasbourg: Hop on board an e-bike and explore the sights surrounding the city. Strasbourg has over 500 km of bicycle trails and you will explore some of these while cycling through the city's charming suburbs past historic buildings beautiful parklands and charming canals.

Arrives On: 16 May 27

Day 17: Breisach (Germany)

Located between the Rhine River and the legendary Black Forest, Breisach is a food and wine destination that shares its border with the Alsace region. It was almost destroyed during World War II but was meticulously rebuilt with its traditional cobbled streets and pastel houses restored to their former glory. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore the region with your choice of one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Wine tasting at Kaiserstuhl: Thanks to its 16-million-year-old volcanic soil, the Kaiserstuhl is known as a top-quality wine-producing region. Visit today and sample some of these delicious

wines.

Excursion to Colmar: Visit Colmar and step into a fairy tale. Likened to Venice due to its quaint canals, the city centre features an abundance of half-timbered houses, some dating back a thousand years, cobblestoned streets lined with charming stores and cafes, and bustling markets serving up delicious local produce.

Excursion to Freiburg: Discover picturesque Freiburg, located on the edge of the magical Black Forest. Your local guide will escort you through the medieval town centre to see the Freiburg cathedral, one of only a handful of structures that survived the bombings during WW2. Return to your Scenic Space-Ship and toast to your final evening on board.

Arrives On: 17 May 27

Day 18: Basel (Switzerland)

Farewell your Scenic Space-Ship this morning and transfer to Zurich where you will enjoy a two night stay.

Arrives On: 18 May 27

Day 18: Zurich (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 18 May 27

Day 19: Zurich (Switzerland)

Discover Zurich’s treasures on a guided walking tour. Wander through the Old Town’s winding streets, the medieval square of Niederdorf, walk across bridges over the peaceful Limmat River, and admire the ninth-century Fraumunster Church with its renowned stained-glass windows created by legendary artist Marc Chagall.

Arrives On: 19 May 27

Day 20: Zurich (Switzerland)

Enjoy a full-day excursion to two of Switzerland’s most beautiful towns. Visit lakeside Lucerne sitting at the base of the mountains and beside its eponymous lake. Join a guided tour then spend some time exploring on your own. Continue onto Engelberg, a quintessential Swiss village surrounded by spectacular mountain scenery. Later, continue via coach to Interlaken.

Arrives On: 20 May 27

Day 20: Lucerne (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 20 May 27

Day 20: Interlaken (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 20 May 27

Day 21: Interlaken (Switzerland)

As the name suggests, Interlaken sits between two lakes in the beautiful Jungfrau region. It’s a charming resort town that is famous for its grand hotels and adventure activities. Scenic Freechoice:
This morning, choose from these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Cruise on Lake Brienz, the spectacular alpine lake that offers breathtaking views of mountain scenery, picturesque villages and graceful castles.

Cogwheel train: Discover Jungfraujoch, which is one of Switzerland's most popular excursions. Take the famed cogwheel train to the top of Europe, the peak of the Jungfrau. Enjoy fabulous views of the towns and valleys below.

Arrives On: 21 May 27

Day 22: Interlaken (Switzerland)

Board the Golden Pass Train for a panoramic journey through the Alps. Running between Lucerne and Montreux, the train passes through tall mountains, green valleys, and endless vineyards. Sit back and enjoy breathtaking views of the Swiss Alps and charming villages. Enjoy an orientation tour on arrival in Montreux, before free time to explore this charming resort town. Scenic Enrich
Tonight, you will be taken to a chalet-style Swiss restaurant in the mountains overlooking Montreux where you will be treated to a delicious meal accompanied by traditional live music. Members of the Alphorn Academy of Switzerland will introduce you to the cultural importance of the Alphorn, a long wooden horn that was traditional used by shepherds to call cows in from the pastures.

Arrives On: 22 May 27

Day 22: Montreux (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 22 May 27

Day 23: Montreux (Switzerland)

This picturesque town on the banks of Lake Geneva has been home to artists ranging from Lord Byron and Tchaikovsky to Freddie Mercury. It’s still a popular retreat for the rich and famous, drawn to its gorgeous scenery and fairytale castle. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way this morning with one of these excursions:

Vaud wine region: The surrounding area is filled with rolling vineyards and this morning you will have the chance to tour one of the region’s best-known wineries. Visit the cellar door and enjoy

a tasting of fine wines in idyllic surrounds.

Chaplin’s World Museum: Visit the house, studio and park where the legendary comedian, Charlie Chaplin, lived and worked for 25 years. Learn all about one of the 20th century’s most celebrated artists.

Arrives On: 23 May 27

Day 24: Montreux (Switzerland)

This morning, transfer by coach to Zermatt. Nestled at the foot of the world’s most famous mountain, the 4,478-metre Matterhorn, the popular resort village of Zermatt looks as though it has been plucked from the pages of a fairytale. When the landscape is blanketed in thick white snow, visitors flock here for exhilarating winter sports, and in summer they come to hike more than 100 trails that weave around its valleys, lakes and ridges.

Arrives On: 24 May 27

Day 24: Zermatt (Switzerland)

Arrives On: 24 May 27

Day 25: Zermatt (Switzerland)

Zermatt is the highest mountain resort in Switzerland. This morning, go even higher as you ascend the Swiss Alps by rail to Gornergrat. Soak in the magnificent 360-degree views with the highlight being the magnificent Matterhorn.

Arrives On: 25 May 27

Day 26: Zermatt (Switzerland)

Start the day on the famed Glacier Express train, taking an unforgettable journey through the Swiss Alps to Chur. See snow-capped mountains and breathtaking valleys from the window of your seat aboard this world-famous railway. Continue by coach, travelling through Austria and Liechtenstein to reach Schwangau, Germany.

Arrives On: 26 May 27

Day 26: Schwangau (Germany)

Arrives On: 26 May 27

Day 27: Schwangau (Germany)

Schwangau is known as a health resort, revered for its clean air, lush green spaces and indulgent spas. This morning, you’re about to step into a fairytale. After a short drive you’ll arrive at

the majestic Neuschwanstein Castle, one of the most photographed buildings in the world. Explore its opulent rooms before returning to the hotel to relax.

Arrives On: 27 May 27

Day 28: Schwangau (Germany)

Travel by coach through the beautiful Salzkammergut region, often called the Lakes District of Austria. The hills truly are alive in this region, and you will recognise some of the marvellous landscape from scenes of the famous movie, The Sound of Music as you arrive at one of the most iconic musical cities in the world.

Arrives On: 28 May 27

Day 28: Salzburg (Austria)

Arrives On: 28 May 27

Day 29: Salzburg (Austria)

Surrounded by alpine peaks and sitting on the banks of the Salzach River, Salzburg is best known as the home of Mozart and The Sound of Music. This storybook city has a thriving art scene, music and concert halls filled with classical music, a Baroque old town, and Hohensalzburg, Central Europe’s largest intact fortress that sits high above the rooftops with panoramic views of the city. Join a local guide who will escort you through this spectacular city to see the iconic Mirabell Gardens, Mozarts’ birthplace and residence, the Getreidegasse shopping street, and the Old Market Square. You’ll also learn about some of the city's most famous residents including Mozart and the Von Trapp family, the inspiration for the classic movie.

Arrives On: 29 May 27

Day 30: Salzburg (Austria)

Today you’ll travel to Vienna, stopping along the way in Steyer. Your Tour Director will give you an orientation tour of this historic city before allowing you free time to explore at your leisure. This afternoon you’ll arrive in Austria’s elegant capital, Vienna, a city full of history and grandeur. Known as the City of Music, Vienna fostered the musical geniuses Mozart and Beethoven, and Sigmund Freud also lived and worked here in the late 19th century. The city boasts the world’s most beautiful boulevard, The Ringstrasse, a legacy of the Habsburg monarchy.

Arrives On: 30 May 27

Day 30: Vienna (Austria)

Arrives On: 30 May 27

Day 31: Vienna (Austria)

Wake in Vienna, a city that oozes charm with magnificent Baroque buildings, ample green spaces from parks to vineyards, a vibrant coffee-house culture and masterpiece-filled galleries and museums. Embark on a guided tour to see the city’s highlights such as the opulent Opera House, City Hall, the Hellenic-style Parliament Building, the sprawling landscaped gardens of Stadtpark, and St. Stephens Cathedral. Tonight, enjoy a special dinner at a local restaurant to farewell your fellow guests.

Arrives On: 31 May 27

Day 32: Vienna (Austria)

Depart Vienna after breakfast, taking with you memories that will last a lifetime. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons. As such, the journey may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions. Please note: Preview itinerary subject to change.

Arrives On: 01 Jun 27

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

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