



Cruise Details

Name:	Rhine Connoisseur: Lake Geneva to Belgium - Northbound
Reference:	TAUCKQMX202624052026
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	MS Inspire
Regions:	Rhine
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Departs On:	24 May 26
Departs From:	Basel
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Arrives On:	03 Jun 26
Arrives At:	Brussel (Bruxelles)
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Cruise Nights:	10
Total Vacation Days:	11

Itinerary

Day 1: Basel (Switzerland)

Tour begins: 6:00 PM. A transfer is included from Geneva Airport, Geneva train station (approximately 1.5 hour drive) or Montreux train station to Fairmont Montreux Palace, nestled on the shores of Lake Geneva in Switzerland, overlooking the Alps. Join us this evening for a welcome reception and dinner at your elegant hotel.

Arrives On: 24 May 26

Day 2: Basel (Switzerland)

Internationally famous as a terraced wine-growing region on the shores of Lake Geneva, the Lavaux region is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site dating back to the 12th century, when Cistercian monks built miles of terraces and walls on sloping glacial terrain for the cultivation of wine. Explore the vineyards on a choice of excursions, including a mini-train tour through the vineyards, a visit to one of the area's quaint villages, and a wine tasting at a local cooperative cellar;

or a gentle walk along unpaved paths through the vineyards, ending with a tasting at a local winery. You may also learn how Montreux attracted musicians with its peaceful surroundings on a walk with a local guide, who shares insights into Freddie Mercury and the time Queen spent here, using a tablet to showcase a collection of videos and photos not previously available to the public, along with the music they created here. Enjoy free time for lunch on your own along the shores of Lake Geneva, then spend the remainder of the day at leisure in Montreux. Your hotel is located in the city center, within walking distance of landmark sites and dining venues.

Arrives On: 25 May 26

Day 3: Basel (Switzerland)

Montreux has been a favorite lakeside resort destination since the 19th century, when artists and writers sought inspiration in its scenic Alpine beauty. Today, venture to Glacier 3000 for an Alpine adventure that truly makes your spirit soar. Ride a cable car to the summit and enjoy time to explore the attractions at the top. Walk across the Peak Walk by Tissot, the only suspension bridge in the world connecting two peaks, set amidst stunning views of the Matterhorn, Mont Blanc, and Jungfrau, and experience a wonderland of glacier activities at your leisure. Alternatively, you may choose to stay behind and enjoy Montreux at your own pace. Have dinner as you like in Montreux this evening.

Arrives On: 26 May 26

Day 4: Basel (Switzerland)

After breakfast, visit nearby Chillon Castle, renowned as among the best-preserved medieval European castles. On a locally guided tour, view some of its 40 rooms, including the Castellan's Dining Hall, with walls depicting painted family crests. Drive to a quaint Swiss village for free time and lunch before continuing on to Basel. Embark your riverboat in Basel; attend a Discovery Briefing and enjoy cocktails before dining onboard your ship.

Arrives On: 27 May 26

Day 5: Strasbourg (France)

Spend the morning in Strasbourg, disembarking for a choice of excursions after breakfast. Blending Franco-Germanic culture, architecture, and ambiance, this Alsatian city is nestled on the Rhine across the border from Germany and boasts a compelling and complex history. Join a local guide for an epicurean-inspired walking tour of its city center, along with tastings of wine, cheese and other Alsatian specialties. See its Gothic-inspired Notre Dame Cathedral and half-timbered houses and explore its Petite France quarter, criss-crossed by canals and a swing bridge reminiscent of days gone by. Or do as the locals do and explore the sights by bicycle as your local guide leads the way. Have lunch onboard your riverboat as it sails for the Middle Rhine Valley.

Arrives On: 28 May 26

Day 6: Koblenz (Germany)

Spend a leisurely morning cruising through the Middle Rhine Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage region renowned for iconic landscapes crowned by castles and fortresses, along with terraced vineyards established more than 1,000 years on the steep slopes of the valley. The strategic location of this dramatic stretch of the Rhine between Bingen, Rudesheim and Koblenz reflects its importance as a transportation route; the sixty small towns, terraced vineyards and the castles ruins found here reflect how prosperous this trade route once was since prehistoric times. Your Tauck Director provides commentary as you glide past vine-covered, terraced slopes, and rocky bluffs, sharing the stories of the Lorelei Rock and ancient castles standing watch onshore. Arrive in Koblenz this afternoon for a guided e-bike ride* or a scavenger hunt across the city. Enjoy dinner and musical entertainment onboard ship.

Arrives On: 29 May 26

Day 7: Düsseldorf (Germany)

Wake up in Düsseldorf, one of Germany's wealthiest cities, known for its charming Altstadt (Old Town) and avant garde architecture. Walk off the riverboat into town for your choice of a walking tour focused on the city's history, architecture and culinary traditions, along with some tasty local treats; or a craft beer tour where samplings of the varieties of dark Altbier the region is known for are sure to be a highlight. After lunch, you may either enjoy free time to explore Düsseldorf as you like, or join your Tauck Director for an optional activity. Dinner is at leisure onboard the riverboat this evening.

Arrives On: 30 May 26

Day 8: Gorinchem (Netherlands)

Voted "the most beautiful fortified town in the Netherlands," Gorinchem was founded in 1000 AD, fortified in the 13th and 14th centuries, and today boasts the largest fully intact fort in the country. This morning, choose how you explore: join a local guide for either a walking or biking tour of its historic heart, taking in charming canals, well-preserved Renaissance and medieval architecture, and pretty parks and gardens. Spend the afternoon exploring as you wish before joining us for a Tauck Exclusive reception and dinner at Slot Loevestein. Set in a nature reserve on a private island, the 14th-century castle has served as a prison, residence, and toll station, presiding over the strategic meeting point of the Maas and Waal rivers. Tonight, it is yours to enjoy exclusively, as the island and castle are open only to Tauck guests.

Arrives On: 31 May 26

Day 9: Antwerp (Belgium)

With a history dating back to the Middle Ages, the port city of Antwerp was one of Europe's most important cities in the mid-16th century. Home to the artist, Pieter Paul Rubens, it welcomes with cobblestone charms, a riverside fortress, guildhalls and a Gothic cathedral that took 169 years to build. Join a local guide for an insightful walking tour that explores the historic gems of this lively town, from bustling Grote Market to medieval guild houses, baroque churches, UNESCO World Heritage Sites and atmospheric squares. Following a morning of exploration in Antwerp proper and lunch aboard your ship, you'll be met with a choice of excursions this afternoon! One option offers you a visit to the newly renovated and recently reopened Royal Museum of Fine Arts for a look at its impressive collection of art from the 14th through the 20th century, with an impressive hall dedicated to the art of its native son, Pieter Paul Rubens. The other takes you on brewery tour across the city highlighted by tastings of the city's famous Belgian beers at local establishments. Tonight, please join us for the Chef's Signature Dinner in the Compass Rose.

Arrives On: 01 Jun 26

Day 10: Brussel (Bruxelles) (Belgium)

Explore the best of Brussels today on your choice of guided excursions, including an informative city tour that views its landmark sights or a guided look at the Art Nouveau and Art Deco architecture that's found throughout the city. Belgian chocolate is renowned the world over; a chocolate demonstration this afternoon reveals its delectable secrets. Join us tonight for a farewell toast and dinner.

Arrives On: 02 Jun 26

Day 11: Brussel (Bruxelles) (Belgium)

Tour ends: Brussels. Disembark ship by 9:00 AM. Fly home anytime; a transfer from your riverboat to Brussels Airport is included. Allow three hours for flight check-in.

Arrives On: 03 Jun 26

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

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