Cruise Details

Name:	The Rhine and Moselle - Northbound
Reference:	TAUCKRMX202711082027
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	MS Grace
Regions:	Rhine and Moselle
Departs On:	11 Aug 27
Departs From:	Basel
Arrives On:	25 Aug 27
Arrives At:	Amsterdam
Cruise Nights:	14
Total Vacation Days:	15

Itinerary

Day 1: Basel (Switzerland)

Tour begins: 4:00 PM, Basel, Switzerland. Transfers are included from EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg or Basel's SBB train station to the riverboat where embarkation begins at 4:00 PM; guests can also transfer from Zürich Airport or Zurich Hauptbahnhof (train station) to the riverboat in Basel. Join us this evening for a welcome reception followed by dinner onboard the riverboat.

Arrives On: 11 Aug 27

Day 2: Basel (Switzerland)

The Tauck Difference in European river cruising is all about where you go, what you do, and who you meet on your shore excursions – and today, you have a choice! First choice is spending the day in Basel, a beautiful city on the banks of the Rhine River. Your second choice is a trip to the town of Zürich for a guided tour and lunch. This evening enjoy a welcome briefing followed by dinner in the Compass Rose as your riverboat heads for Strasbourg, France.

Arrives On: 12 Aug 27

Day 3: Strasbourg (France)

Today, you'll have a choice as to how you'll explore Strasbourg, France, the formal seat of the European Parliament and a cultural treasure. Step back in time and explore La Petite France, noted for its medieval half-timbered houses set beside lovely canals, on a walking tour with a local guide. Visit the Gothic Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Strasbourg, where the graceful, expressive statuary of the Pilier des Anges (Pillar of Angels), and the magnificent stained glass windows are inspiring. Alternatively, embark on a 12 - 14 kilometer bike ride around the city. Return to the riverboat for lunch or stay in Strasbourg; spend the afternoon exploring the city as you please before returning to the riverboat.

Arrives On: 13 Aug 27

Day 4: Baden-Baden (Germany)

You're off this morning to the beautiful spa town of Baden-Baden where you'll discover that the elegant Belle Èpoque period is still alive and well. For many generations, wealthy folks have flocked here to see and be seen, and to take the healing thermal waters for which the town is famous. Join us on a walking tour and time spent on your own discovering some of the town's treasures ranging from the ruins of Roman baths to the ornate, 250-year-old Belle Èpoque casino, the Kurhaus, which movie star Marlene Dietrich once described as "the most beautiful casino in the world." You'll have an optional opportunity to visit the Caracalla Spa as well as the town's famous casino before returning to the riverboat for the evening.

Arrives On: 14 Aug 27

Day 5: Heidelberg (Germany)

Arrive in the port city of Mannheim. Today you'll have a choice of sightseeing. Travel to the historic college town of Heidelberg, home to one of the oldest universities in Europe as well as being the setting for the famous operetta, The Student Prince. Embark on a walking tour for a close-up look at the Old Town, and visit the imposing Heidelberger Schloss, perched 300 feet above the city; view its examples of medieval, Renaissance and Baroque architecture and have lunch at a local restaurant. Alternatively, enjoy an elegant tour of Schloss Mannheim, one of Europe's largest Baroque palaces, steeped in history and grandeur. Walk through lavishly adorned rooms showcasing ornate stucco work and period furnishings that evoke the splendor of 18th-century court life. Discover stories of the Palatinate Electors before enjoying a classical concert in the opulent Rittersaal. With its rich musical heritage, the palace provides a captivating backdrop for an evening filled with timeless melodies in a setting befitting royalty. Both excursions return to the ship midday to enjoy an afternoon of cruising.

Arrives On: 15 Aug 27

Day 6: Boppard (Germany)

While your riverboat glides through the Middle Rhine Valley en route to Boppard, listen to the legend of the Lorelei and seefor yourself why this beautiful part of the river – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – has inspiredcomposers, writers and artists for centuries. Alternatively, you can take a bicycling excursion from Boppard to Koblenz, peddling along riverside bike paths that traverse countryside, forests and winelands. Gain insights on the Lorelei Valley and legends associated with the many castles you'll pass on your way through the region from your Tauck Director. The ship – and bicycles – arrive in Boppard this morning, where you'll have an orientation tour by your Tauck Director. Return to the ship for dinner and continue on to Koblenz, where the riverboat will be docked overnight.

Arrives On: 16 Aug 27

Day 7: Cochem (Germany)

Your day begins with an introduction to the Moselle River, where your riverboat diverges from the Rhine, en route to Cochem. Stepping ashore in this Moselle Valley town is like stepping into the pages of a medieval fairy tale. Enjoy a relaxing morning aboard the riverboat before your exploration of this jewel of a town – complete with a Baroque town hall and ancient town gates – breathing in its historic charm and ambiance. Explore Cochem either on a guided walking tour accompanied with a visit to picture-perfect 1,000-year-old Reichsburg Castle, which looks down on Cochem's quaint market square or on a bicycle ride to the town of Senheim, where you'll learn about the area's centuries-old winemaking traditions with a tasting of the excellent locally produced vintages.

Arrives On: 17 Aug 27

Day 8: Luxembourg (Luxembourg)

Dock early this morning before heading to nearby Luxembourg for a choice of excursions. On one, visit the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial; where over 5,000 American casualties of World War II's Battle of the Bulge lie buried here, as does General George S. Patton followed by a walking tour through Luxembourg's historic city center, seeing sites such as the Cathedral, parliament and Palace of the Grand Duke. Alternatively, enjoy a visit to the American Cemetary and Memorial followed by an exploration of the underground tunnels known as Kasematten. Created in the 17th century, these bunkers were designed to defend against artillery fire and were heavily used as a means of defense during WWII. Dinner tonight is back aboard your ship followed by a performance by the Sandy Quartette.

Arrives On: 18 Aug 27

Day 9: Trier (Germany)

On an excursion to Trier, enjoy a guided walking tour where you'll discover an ancient city that lays claim as being one of the oldest in Germany – during a walking tour that includes both medieval treasures and sites dating back to Roman times, from a 2nd-century city gate and the 4th-century basilica to a 16th-century fountain featuring images of St. Peter. Reboard your riverboat for an afternoon of classic river cruising, watching the scenery slip by from the Sun Deck as your riverboat glides along the Moselle; enjoy dinner aboard ship tonight.

Arrives On: 19 Aug 27

Day 10: Alken (Germany)

Dock this morning in the charming spa town of Traben-Trarbach, where you have a choice of excursions. Your options are either; an orientation tour of the town highlighted with a visit to the Mittel-Mosel Museum and a tasting of local wine, or, a guided bicycle ride along the Moselle River. Late this afternoon, your ship departs Traben-Trarbach en route to Cologne.

Arrives On: 20 Aug 27

Day 11: Cologne (Germany)

This morning, in the city of Köln (Cologne), you're off on a walking tour showcasing the city's iconic sites accompanied by a local guide and highlighted with a stop at the Cologne Cathedral, the largest gothic cathedral in Northern Europe. The afternoon is free to explore pursue your own special interests. This evening, you're off for a Tauck Exclusive visit to Schloss Ehreshoven. Built in the 14th Century and later expanded in the style of a grand Baroque manor house, the estate is surrounded by a moat, landscaped gardens, and a castle park. Schloss Ehreshoven is frequently used as a film location but this evening it's the elegant setting for a cocktail reception and dinner with entertainment. Return to the ship late tonight to continue your cruise.

Arrives On: 21 Aug 27

Day 12: Arnhem (Netherlands)

Arrive in Nijmegen, where your day begins with a choice of excursion – a visit to Paleis Het Loo and gardens, the largest authentic 17th-century palace of the House of Orange-Nassau and a masterpiece of Dutch Baroque architecture or alternatively, a visit to the art-filled Kröller-Müller Museum in De Hoge Veluwe National Park. This afternoon's choices include an introductory walk through Nijmegen or a visit to the Airborne Museum at the beautifully restored Villa Hartenstein, rich with World War II history. Everyone rejoins the riverboat late afternoon; tonight, enjoy a special Chef's Signature Dinner in the Compass Rose and set sail late in the evening for Amsterdam.

Arrives On: 22 Aug 27

Day 13: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Explore Amsterdam today, beginning with a visit to the famed Rijksmuseum, home to one of the world's most important collections of artwork by the Dutch Masters. Mid-morning, take a scenic canal cruise along the 17th-century canals, where you'll be introduced to the city's remarkable architecture from a different vantage point. The remainder of the day is free to enjoy Amsterdam as you please.

Arrives On: 23 Aug 27

Day 14: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Today takes you outside of the city for a full day, guided tour through the polder landscapes of the Dutch countryside, including a visit to a tulip and vegetable nursery. Alternatively, you may choose to stay in Amsterdam to explore the city as you wish. Return to your riverboat this evening and join us for a farewell toast as your cruise comes to a close.

Arrives On: 24 Aug 27

Day 15: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Tour ends: Amsterdam. A transfer is included from the riverboat to Amsterdam's Schiphol International Airport or Centraal Train Station upon disembarking, no later than 9:00 AM; allow a minimum of 3 hours for flight check-in at the airport. We wish you a safe and pleasant journey home.

Arrives On: 25 Aug 27

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

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