



## Cruise Details

Name:	Castles on the Rhine: Family Riverboat Adventure - Northbound
Reference:	TAUCKZIX202502072025
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	MS Grace
Regions:	Dutch Waterways
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Departs On:	02 Jul 25
Departs From:	Basel
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Arrives On:	09 Jul 25
Arrives At:	Amsterdam
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Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	8

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Basel (Switzerland)

Tour begins: 4:00 PM, Basel. 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. Meet your riverboat crew for a welcome briefing, then kick off your fun family river cruise by joining your shipmates for a welcome reception and dinner aboard the riverboat this evening.

Arrives On: 02 Jul 25

### Day 2: Basel (Switzerland)

Depart your riverboat this morning for an excursion to Switzerland's Lake Lucerne area and Mt. Pilatus – where mountain peaks, forests and meadows straight out of a picture book await your family. Travel to Kriens where you'll board a cable car for your ascent to the summit of Mt. Pilatus. Mt. Pilatus, by the way, was so named because (a) ancient Roman governor Pontius Pilate was

rumored to have been buried there, or (b) it resembles the belly of a large man (perhaps Pilate) lying on his back – depending on which local legend you believe! Descending aboard the world's steepest cogwheel train from the very top (Oberhaupt), nearly 7,000 feet high, is most definitely part of the fun as you travel downward at a really steep 48° angle, while taking in the views of Alpine meadows and mountain streams. Back in Lucerne, enjoy a Swiss folklore show accompanied by a cheese fondue tasting before meeting up with your ship late this afternoon in Kembs. Tonight, your ship departs for Strasbourg, France.

Arrives On: 03 Jul 25

### Day 3: Strasbourg (France)

Wake up this morning aboard your riverboat, docked on the Rhine outside the historic city of Strasbourg, France, surrounded by the hills of southern Alsace. Renowned for its fairy-tale charm – and as the "Crossroads of Europe" for its role as home to the European Union – Strasbourg is the cultural capital of the French region of Alsace. Have some Franco-styled fun as your family becomes "French for a Day" in Strasbourg during a morning filled with learning French phrases, a sing-along featuring French songs, and a chocolate tasting! You can return to the riverboat for lunch, or stay in Strasbourg and spend the afternoon exploring as you please. Among the treasures you'll see here are the medieval canals, watchtowers and half-timbered houses of La Petite France, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; stately city residences; the modern buildings of the European Parliament' and the 11th-century Gothic Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Strasbourg. Back aboard the riverboat tonight, you'll continue your Basel – Amsterdam riverboat cruise along the Rhine to Speyer and Heidelberg, Germany.

Arrives On: 04 Jul 25

### Day 4: Bingen am Rhein (Germany)

As a major transport link across the heart of central Europe for centuries, the mighty Rhine River was a source of great riches for those who controlled the trade that plied its waters... and today, the cities, towns and castles along its banks remind us of that wealth and the power it created. You'll have a choice of excursion today. Visit the romantic ruins of Heidelberg Castle, perched high above the city of Heidelberg; you'll be awed by the castle's imposing ensemble of buildings from different centuries and architectural periods, radiating out from a central courtyard. Within its walls, you can feel the sweep of hundreds of years of history that was made here – and enjoy the sweeping views of the riverscapes from its terrace and gardens. Alternatively, visit the Technik Museum Speyer, introducing technological innovation from the underwater world to space. Return to the riverboat in Mannheim for lunch onboard and more Rhine cruising this afternoon; dock in Bingen tonight.

Arrives On: 05 Jul 25

### Day 5: Cologne (Germany)

This morning you have two choices for exploring – explore Rudesheim, including a visit to magical Siegfrieds Mechanisches Musikkabinett, home to 400 self-playing instruments, and enjoy an aerial view of the landscapes and vineyards aboard a gondola. Alternatively, join us for a bicycling tour\*. Board the riverboat mid-morning and cruise to Königswinter. During your cruise, keep your eyes peeled for riverside castles as you play our "I Spy a Castle" game, and hear legends and lore of the Lorelei – the mythical siren that was said to rise from the rocky bank of the river and bewitch passing sailors – from your Tauck Directors. Following your arrival this evening, disembark and head to Burg Satzvey, a moated castle in Germany's Rhineland region dating back to the 12th century, for a rustic dinner and evening in the castle's banquet hall that transports your family back to the Middle Ages for some medieval fun! Rejoin the riverboat in Köln (Cologne) tonight.

Arrives On: 06 Jul 25

### Day 6: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Germany's fourth-largest city, historic Köln (also known as Cologne) was founded by the Romans in the 1st century AD; nearly destroyed by Allied bombing during World War II, modern Köln's unique mix of rebuilt, restored and new structures sprawls across both sides of the Rhine. Start your exploration with a walking tour of the city, dominated by the immense, twin-spired Kölner Dom (Cologne Cathedral), whose construction only took six hundred years! Completed in 1880, this Gothic "Dom" was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995. Throughout your tour, your family will have the opportunity to partake in a virtual reality historical experience, transporting you back in time to see what life was like here during in the 1920s! The riverboat departs Köln midday for an afternoon and evening spent cruising the Rhine as you chart a course for Amsterdam.

Arrives On: 07 Jul 25

### Day 7: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Amsterdam, the remarkable capital of The Netherlands, is all about water; like Venice in Italy, it's dominated by a series of canals that link its many tiny islands. Known to the Dutch as grachten, the city's 17th-century canals fan out in crescent-shaped rings from the northern waterfront. Upon arrival, get a unique view of the city on a canal boat cruise through the historic waterways with a local guide; the city's heart feels more like a village than the compact center of a cosmopolitan city. Aboard the canal boat, you'll glide beneath curved bridges carrying walkers and cyclists – as well as trams and cars – and past the narrow former homes of merchants who stored their goods on the upper floors. Along the way, see a host of 17th- and 18th-century structures, the 19th-century Centraal Station, the city flower market and more. This afternoon, travel to Zaanse Schans, a traditional Dutch windmill village, for a visit to a working windmill, a tasting of local cheeses, and a clog-making workshop or enjoy a free afternoon to explore Amsterdam as you'd like. Back onboard this evening, please join us tonight for our farewell dinner – a great way to wrap up your family's

unforgettable Basel to Amsterdam riverboat cruise!

Arrives On: 08 Jul 25

#### Day 8: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Tour ends: Amsterdam. Disembark your riverboat this morning by 9:00 AM. A transfer is included from the riverboat to Amsterdam's Schipol Airport or Central Station. Fly home anytime. Allow 3 hours for flight check-in. For guests wishing to spend more time in Amsterdam, ask at booking about extending your stay with an additional hotel night at Tauck's hotel.

Arrives On: 09 Jul 25

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

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