

## GERMANY – NECKAR & RHINE RIVERS *Limited availability - early bookings essential*

Easy to moderate **PREMIUM PLUS** guided cycling cruise from Ludwigsburg to Koblenz



Explore the famous river valleys of the River Rhine and the Neckar with an easy to moderate itinerary of guided cycling between the famous cities of Ludwigsburg and Koblenz aboard one of our very best barges. Visit the romantic and historic cities of Heidelberg, Worms, Mainz and Koblenz, cycle through mostly flat wide river valleys, typical rural landscapes: through hillsides covered with grape vines, past medieval villages and ancient castles.

Bike and Barge cruises combine two popular ways of exploring Europe, easy to moderate cycling with river or canal cruising. They allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for leisure cyclists OR enthusiasts). Unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. These cruises are rapidly becoming the thing to do in Europe appealing to the more active mature traveller. They are ideal for first timers, couples and friends or small groups.

These guided cycling cruises offer the opportunity to explore beautiful countryside and historic cities, sampling beer, wine and local produce along the way. The cycling is interesting and varied with free time to explore each destination. Easy to moderate, mostly flat cycling along the fertile banks of the Neckar and Rhine offers diverse scenery and insights into a rich European history.

We can visit the ruins of a Roman military camp, the 13<sup>th</sup> Century castle at Heidelberg, and the 12<sup>th</sup> Century cathedral at Worms, associated with Martin Luther. The picturesque city of Koblenz was founded by the Romans over 2000 years ago and has variously been captured by the Franks, sacked by the Norse, conquered by the French, occupied by the Russians and handed over to Prussia. At the confluence of the Rhine and River Moselle at German Corner there is a statue of Kaiser Wilhelm to celebrate the unification of the German State.

We cycle through one of German's great wine-growing areas and wine tasting is on the menu too. The main varietal is Riesling, a white grape variety dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century and known as the 'Queen of grapes'.

**Cost from:** \$2360 per person twin share      Single cabin supplement on request

**Departs:** 29<sup>th</sup> September - 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2018

**Tour cost includes:** 7 nights' accommodation in a twin/double cabin with private bathroom; 7 buffet breakfasts, 6 packed lunches, 5 dinners; daily cabin cleaning service; linen and towels; drinking water, tea and coffee; welcome drink; 21-gear hybrid bicycle hire with panniers, water bottle, repair kit and lock (helmets also available); tour guide and route information; guided city tour of Heidelberg; ferry fares enroute.

**E-Bikes:** additional cost, numbers are strictly limited, please ask about cost and availability when booking.

**Not included:** Meals not mentioned, drinks and bar expenses, entrance fees other than those described, transfers to/from the cruise, travel insurance, gratuities and personal expenses.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**



**Suggested itinerary** – *subject to change at the captain's discretion - cycling distances or mooring points may vary according to local conditions. Cycling distances are approximate. Itinerary shown may operate in reverse:*

**Day 1 Saturday: Arrive in Ludwigsburg – sail to Besigheim**

Arrive by 4.00pm at the barge moored in Ludwigsburg for a welcome drink, to meet the crew and fellow passengers and learn about the week ahead. At 5.00pm the barge departs Ludwigsburg, we dine aboard while the barge cruises to the overnight mooring at Besigheim, a charming city on the Neckar River.

**Day 2 Sunday: Besigheim – Heilbronn**

**Cycling distance @ 26km**

After breakfast we cycle along the Neckar River to Benningen, a pretty town with a wealth of Roman history in the museum and ruined *castrum*. Continue to Heilbronn, a city with a history with several significant historic buildings well known as an economic centre and for the local wine industry. Dinner is not included tonight, so you are free to make your own choice from one of the many restaurants in Heilbronn.

**Day 3 Monday: Heilbronn – Eberbach**

**Cycling distance @ 42km or 56km**

We cruise to Neckarzimmern for the ride to the Castle of Hornberg, considered to be one of the most beautiful castles in the Neckar valley. The Bishop of Speyer lived here from 1259. Our destination for today is Eberbach, a pretty town with some lovely historic houses and the spectacular, well preserved Kloster Eberbach.

**Day 4 Tuesday: Eberbach – Heidelberg**

**Cycling distance @ 32km**

Today offers a wealth of sights and places to explore. In the morning, cycle to the town of Hirschhorn, with its charming castle, Carmelite Monastery and Market Church. We continue to Heidelberg where there is an optional city tour in the afternoon, visiting the Baroque Old Town and Heidelberg Castle. Dinner is not included tonight so you are free to choose from one of the many restaurants in Heidelberg.

**Day 5 Wednesday: Heidelberg – Worms**

**Cycling distance @ 42km**

We cruise to Ladenburg and then ride to Worms following the Neckar and then the Rhine. Worms has a rich history, home to the Burgundians in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century and one of the Imperial Free Cities during the Middle Ages. It is also famous for its Cathedral, its Jewish history and its association with Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. In Worms the barge moors near the famous Nibelungen tower on the bridge over the Rhine.

**Day 6 Thursday: Worms – Nierstein**

**Cycling distance 40km**

Free morning to explore Worms before cycling along the Rhine to Nierstein, an interesting historic wine village with a marketplace and St Kilian's church, set amongst vines. Before dinner there is an optional vineyard tour with wine tasting. The area is known for its white wines, dominated by Riesling, the 'Queen of Grapes.'

**Day 7 Friday: Nierstein – Mainz – Koblenz**

**Cycling distance @ 40km**

During breakfast the barge cruises to Mainz, where you disembark to visit this interesting city. After this, cycle to Rudesheim/Bingen, where you board the barge for a scenic cruise on the Rhine, past the famous '*Lorelei*' rock, as well as the beautiful castles along the Rhine River to Koblenz, an ancient city situated at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle rivers. After dinner there should be time to explore the many sights of Koblenz a little more.

**Day 8 Saturday: Depart Koblenz**

Depart the barge after breakfast.

**Outdoor Travel** offer these cruises to view the tulips and springtime flowers in Holland from early April each year. We offer the popular routes from Amsterdam to Bruges, from Bremen to Magdeburg and Berlin or along the River Main from Miltenberg to Bamberg. Ask about other inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling holidays in Europe:

**Contact Outdoor Travel or your travel agent for more details and reservations:**

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