

Moselle River Valley

Boating and Biking through the Land of Fairy Tales

August 16, 2025 – August 31, 2025

Price for Basic Cabin: \$3,900 per person (12 cabins), Price for Deluxe Cabin: \$4,450 per person (3 cabins)
Air pricing not currently available.

Sign-ups will begin at 6:30 March 6, 2024, at the Palm Garden Hotel. If necessary, a lottery will be held beginning at 7:30 p.m. on the 6th. Registration package must be received by 7:00 p.m. on the 6th to be included in the lottery. If you cannot be at the meeting on this date, then drop off or mail your registration package to Julianne Seeley. Contact Julianne at 805-722-2921 for mailing information.

This trip is for the physically fit and very active individuals.



We start our adventure in the beautiful German town of **Koblenz**, which straddles the Rhine river and Moselle river. We will be taking a guided 3-hour walking tour of the old town to visit the Ehrenbreitstein fortress, the Munzplatz, the Liebfrauenkirche, the Basilica of St. Castor churches and the Kaiser Wilhelm memorial. We will ride the Koblenz Cable Car, the largest aerial tramway in Germany, passing over the Rhine River between Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer and Greiffenklaustr on either side. We'll see incredible views and look out to the spot where the Moselle and Rhine rivers meet.

We then move on to the town of **Cochem**, where we will board the *Magnifique I*, our privately chartered boat and home for the next 7 nights. After a welcome meeting with the crew, our tour leaders will then take us for a walk through this cozy and characteristic town, exploring its steep wine-clad mountains, wooded hills, an impressive castle and a picturesque square with beautiful timber-framed houses and cafes. We will visit Cochem's majestic Reichsburg Castle.

Cochem to Zell - Following breakfast, we cycle to Beilstein, one of the best-preserved historical villages on the Moselle. The ruins of the Castle Metternich sit towering above the village, and we'll have the opportunity to explore them. After leaving Beilstein we'll pass Europe's steepest vineyard – with slopes inclining up to 60 degrees – at Bremmer Calmont. Today's bike tour ends in the wine village of Zell on the Moselle.

Zell - Bernkastel – Kues Following breakfast, we cycle from Zell to the romantic village of Traben-Trarbach, located on the Moselle's left bank and famous for its Jugendstil (Art Nouveau) architecture. From there we pass through the wine city of Kröv – well known for its popular Kröver wine – to Bernkastel-Kues, our destination for the night. The grand half-timbered houses that surround Bernkastel-Kues's marketplace date back to the Middle Ages and are a photographer's delight. We reach the boat in Kues after a tour through town.

Bernkastel - Kues - Neumagen - Schweich | Schweich - Trier From Bernkastel, the valley opens up and vineyards expand as far as the eye can see. Today on our bikes we cruise past the heavy-hitters in the wine world: Brauneberg, Piesport, Trittenheim. Piesport is beloved by the Brits for the "little golden droplets. Trittenheim lies in a sharp hairpin turn on the river surrounded by mountains coated with grapes. Around lunchtime we will arrive in Neumagen and we can decide to join the boat from here or continue by bicycle to Schweich, where again the boat will be waiting for us. Once onboard, we will cruise to Trier, the oldest city in Germany which was founded around 15BC by Caesar Augustus under the name of Augusta Treverorum. As a trading town and administrative center, Trier flourished during the late imperial age. This Roman golden age left us with a respectable number of monuments, one of the most authentic is the city gate Porta Nigra, which was built around 18AD.

Trier - Saarburg. In the morning our tour leaders will take us into Trier to learn about the Roman history. There is also time to discover and enjoy Trier on our own. After lunch, we will hop on our bicycles and follow the Moselle and Saar river to our next destination, Saarburg. Saarburg is an interesting old town situated in the most beautiful part of the Saar valley. Here, the banks of the river are densely forested. The castle of Saarburg was built here in the middle of the 10th century. In the middle of town, we will come across a waterfall 20 meters high. At the foot of this waterfall, there is an old mill, which is driven by the small river. In this part of town most of the old houses from the 17th and 18th century, which give Saarburg such a picturesque look, are still intact. Today there is no dinner on board. You can select one of the local restaurants of Saarburg for your evening dining.

Saarburg - Remich Today we have 2 cycling options. One is easy, but a bit longer along the rivers. The shorter option is a bit more challenging, through the hills. Whatever your choice is, the cycling will lead us into the Grand Duchy Luxembourg. Here the Moselle forms the border between Germany and Luxembourg. Luxembourg is a small country, but her capital is an important financial center and EU administrative city. On the way, at the Luxembourg side, we visit a wine cooperative, specialized in the so-called "Cremant", the Champagne of the Moselle. Close to Remich we can admire a Roman mosaic floor. The tile floor which lies in its original place, was once the centerpiece in a palatial Roman villa. The scene (in 3 million individual tile pieces) reveals scenes from gladiator games in the amphitheater.

Remich - Schengen | Schengen - Thionville | Thionville - Metz While having breakfast we will cruise to Schengen, where our cycling tour will start. The "Schengen agreement" is something everybody in Europe has heard of, whereas almost nobody knows that it is named after this little town in Luxembourg at the 3-country border. Soon we will cross the Luxembourg- French border and experience the outcome of this agreement: no border controls. We pass the fortress of Sierck-Les-Bains, one of the palaces inhabited by the powerful Dukes of Lorraine. The route is lovely through the French countryside, and friendly villages. Around lunchtime we will arrive in Thionville, the center of the steel industry until the 1980s. That might sound modern and industrial, but the city is ancient. The historic center shows us the medieval ramparts, lovely gardens, old streets, and St. Maximin Basilica. Here the boat is waiting to pick us up to cruise to Metz, another ancient city strategically situated on a Roman trading route. St. Etienne Cathedral is the 3rd

largest gothic church in France with flying buttresses and Marc Chagall-stained glass windows. Metz is full of stunning architecture, flowers and great cafes.

After departing the boat, we will have a guided tour of the medieval town of Metz. We then hop the train to **Reims** (about an hour away to the west) where we will explore the Champaign region of France.

In Reims, our private tour guide will meet us at our hotel and take us on a 4.5-hour tour of Reims, including a visit to the Saint Remi Basilica (the Abbey), the Cathedral, and other notable sites. The next day is a free day in Reims. In the afternoon we will take the train to **Paris**, where we will spend the next 3 nights. Paris will be free time for everyone to do as they choose.

Included in pricing:

Pre boat and post boat hotels 7 nights - all breakfasts at hotels and on the boat - 7 lunches - 6 dinners - Exclusive boat for 8 days and 7 nights - Fully guided cycling tours (2 tour leaders/2 groups) - walking tours - e-bike - use of helmet - use of waterproof pannier bag - souvenir water bottle - fees for ferries - entrance to Reichsburg Cochem - local wine tasting - Wi-Fi on boat - all gratuities.