

GERMANY – Three Rivers Rhine, Moselle & Saar, Mainz to Merzig 9-day / 8-night easy to moderate *PREMIUM PLUS* GUIDED cycling cruises

NEW TOUR



Bike & Barge through Germany immersing yourself in history and culture, beer, wine, beautiful countryside, and thriving cosmopolitan cities. One barge, one that we regard as one of the most comfortable luxury barge in our fleet, while we cruise the mighty 'father' Rhine, the ever-romantic Moselle, and beautiful rivers of the Saar. Visit the charming town of Rudesheim, the 'black cat' city of Zell, before marvelling at the famous Bernkastel and Roman city of Trier, and heading for 'Little Venice' Saarburg. Cruise along 'the Romantic Rhine' with its Lorely – the Moselle with its vineyards, and the River Saar, surrounded by mountains. Bike along these rivers and enjoy an included wine-tasting session at the well-known winery 'Storck'.

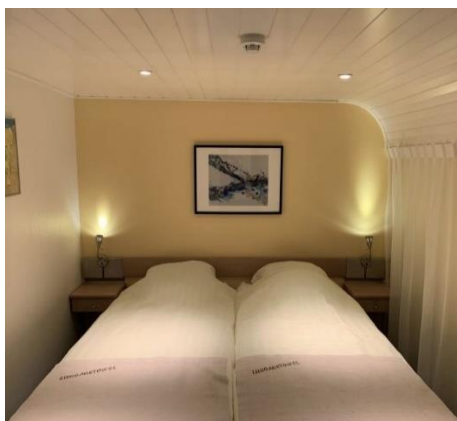
Bike and Barge cruises combine two popular ways of exploring Europe: easy to moderate cycling with river or canal cruising. They allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for leisure cyclists OR enthusiasts), you unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. The cycling is fascinating and varied, with free time to explore each destination. Multi-gear hybrid bikes are provided, and a limited number of E-Bikes are available at extra cost.

Departs: Mainz to Merzig: 3rd October, 2024 **Limited cabins - early bookings essential**

Cost from: \$4580 per person twin share Single cabin supplement on request

Includes: 8 nights of twin/double cabin accommodation (as shown) with private bathroom; buffet breakfasts, packed lunches, dinners (except on one night); drinking water; tea and coffee; welcome drink; multi-gear hybrid bicycle hire (panniers, helmet, water bottle, repair kit and lock); tour guide, route information; entrance / ferry fees.

Not included: Meals not mentioned, drinks and bar expenses; optional fees not 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: *This may change based on nautical or operational conditions at the captain / guide's discretion. Cycling distances / mooring points may vary accordingly. Itinerary may operate in reverse direction.*

Day 1: Mainz – Rüdesheim

Plan to arrive by 3:30pm, ready for a 4.30pm departure. You are welcomed on board, and we will show you your cabin, offer a welcome drink and introduce the crew and the program for the week and a safety briefing before the barge departs to Rüdesheim, where we stay overnight.

Day 2: Rüdesheim – Oberwesel – Koblenz

cycling @ 40km

The day starts with a cruising breakfast to St. Goar and then the first bike tour to Koblenz. Today is a highlight of the trip, as we cruise the 'Romantic Rhine', with its abundance of legends and castles. Pass the mighty 'Lorelei', a mountain named after a mermaid with golden hair; you might even hear her siren call as we pass by on our way to stay overnight in Koblenz, at the confluence of the Rivers Rhine and Moselle.

Day 3: Koblenz – Alken – Cochem

cycling @ 40km

During breakfast, we will sail to Alken and pass the first 2 locks on the Moselle river. Here, we start biking into the Eltztal, where we park the bikes and put your hiking shoes on. After a hike of approx. 40 minutes, you reach the beautiful Castle Eltz. Romantically situated atop a cliff, the castle is one of only a few that has never suffered destruction throughout its long history. Afterwards, we cycle to Cochem, where the our barge awaits. In Cochem, you may want to pay a visit to the famous Reichsburg, or stroll through the cosy streets of this romantic city.

Day 4: Cochem – Zell – Traben Trarbach

cycling @ 35km or 55km

After breakfast take to your bike starting in Cochem, with the small village of Beilstein as the first stop. It's well worth a visit enjoy a stroll through this medieval village, which is still completely intact. Today's ride then heads along the meandering Moselle River, we cycle on to Zell, which is famous for its 'Zeller Schwarze Katz' (black cat) vineyard. From Zell we have two options board the barge and cruise onto Traben Trarbach or extend the bike tour and cycle onto Traben Trarbach. Dinner will be served on board followed by a wine-tasting session at the Winery of Storck, a 3rd generation family-fun vineyard situated on the Moselle where together with nature they create fine passionate one-offs, playful and buoyant wines.

Day 5: Traben Trarbach – Trier

cycling @ 40km or 50km

Today's cycling tour will start by riding along the Moselle, with a first stop in Bernkastel-Kues. Here you can walk through the town and visit Germany's oldest marketplace. before cycling on to Neumagen, from where we offer you 2 options again Board the barge and enjoy cruising along the Moselle or extend the bike tour and cycle onto Mehring where you will meet the barge. Mehring is the spot where the Romans first set foot, travelling from the Rhine to the Moselle river. The Romans fell in love with this landscape more than 2000 years ago, and built splendid rural villas here. In Mehring, we board the barge again, and together we cruise towards Trier.

Day 6: Trier

cycling @ 60km

Today is different from the usual bike and barge day. The barge will stay docked in Trier for another full day and there are several choices today. Cyclists can take a bus up to rail trail and enjoy day riding through the mountains, mostly downhill. Others can walk into Trier to enjoy everything this city has to offer, a rich history including a Roman amphitheatre, good shopping and plenty of terraces on which to relax. Our guide will be happy to help you with your plans for the day. Tonight's dinner is at your own pace in one of the many restaurants.

Day 7: Trier – Saarburg

cycling @ 25km or 55km

This morning we can explore Trier some more as we arrange a local guide to teach you all about the city. Trier was the capital of the Western Roman Empire, a Roman government seat, and is well known for its enormous city gateway, Porta Nigra. In the afternoon you cycle on to Saarburg.

The cityscape of Saarburg is characterised by narrow alleys, framework houses, and Baroque structures, as well as colourful fishing cottages and seafarers' houses. The master architect of Berlin, Karl Friedrich Schinkel, already named the collection of romantic houses and small bridges on the Buttermarkt 'Little Venice' in the 19th century. Tonight you can enjoy the local German cuisine, while eating dinner out in one of the many restaurants.

Day 8: Saarburg – Merzig

cycling @ 35km

After a tour through Saarburg and a splendid view over the city and the Saar valley, we cycle on for about 15 km to the Saar-loop near Orscholz, the renowned river bend of the Saar. More than any other region, it symbolizes the "rendezvous in Saarland": a junction of water and land. An excellent viewpoint over the landscape and the Saar loop is provided by the "Cloef" above, inviting you to stay for a brief spell. Depending on the group's cycling ability, you can either bike or hike up to the viewpoint. On your way to today's destination, you may want to include an excursion to the village of Villeroy & Boch: Mettlach. In Merzig, you embark the barge for the last time. We have a farewell dinner on board and maybe a short after-dinner walk to the city.

Day 9: Depart Merzig

The tour ends after breakfast.



Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations:

- Call Toll free: 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright VIC 3741, Australia



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations