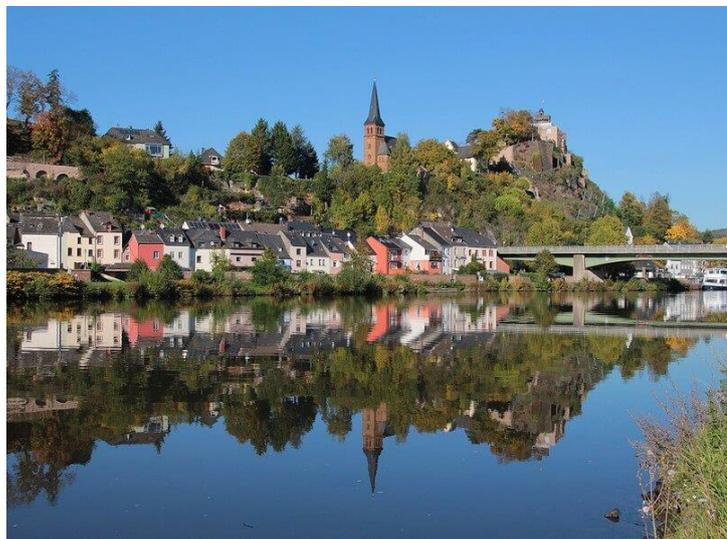


GERMANY – KOBLENZ TO MERZIG ON RIVERS MOSELLE & SAAR

8-days / 7-night easy to moderate *PREMIUM* Bike and Barge GUIDED cycling cruise



The Moselle and Saar Rivers are two of Germany's most scenic and romantic rivers offering easy-to-moderate, mainly flat cycling. The cycling is through steep hillsides with terraced vineyards known for their splendid white wines. There are towering ruined castles high above riverbanks and picturesque villages and small towns full of charm and character, many with narrow streets and crafted half-timbered houses dating back to medieval times.

Bike & Barge cycling cruises combine cycling with river or canal cruising. Partners of different abilities and interests can holiday together (trips are interesting both for leisure cyclists and 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 highly addictive and early bookings are essential given the limited capacity for each tour. Cycling cruises are ideal for those trying a cycling holiday for the first time with family or a small group of friends and singles are also welcome.

Our small, comfortable barge has just 11 twin-bed cabins on the lower deck, sleeping around 24 people, all with a small ensuite shower / toilet, heating and windows which can be opened. The barge has a saloon with bar, lounge and dining area with large windows on the upper deck. The sun deck has tables and chairs, perfect for those days when you might like to take a break from cycling and relax while the barge cruises.

Well-maintained multi-gear hybrid touring bikes are provided. Passengers can bring their own if they prefer – but space for storage is limited. The cycling is along well-defined mostly riverside sealed pathways, cycle paths and backroads with occasional busiest sections close to bigger towns. Occasionally there is the option to break into hillier country to visit areas of interest, for wine tasting, to see a castle or for a coffee stop.

A limited number of **E-Bikes are available** at extra cost – please request these when making a booking.

Departs: **Koblenz – Merzig:** Saturdays: 24, 31 August, 7, 14, 21, 28 September 2024
 Merzig – Koblenz: Saturdays: 31 August, 14, 28 September 2024

Cost from: \$2690 per person twin share Single cabin supplement from \$1245 (limited - one per departure)

Included: 7 nights' accommodation in twin cabin with lower beds and private bathroom; 7 buffet breakfasts, 6 packed lunches, 6 three-course dinners; tea / coffee during the day; welcome drink; hire of multi-gear hybrid bicycle with pannier; detailed route notes and maps (1 set per cabin); cycle tour guide, ferry fees.

Not included: Drinks and personal expenses, crew gratuities, entrance fees and excursions, transfers to/from the barge, bike and personal insurance, bike helmet hire (at extra cost, pre-paid when booking). Special diets available at extra cost.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary: Cruises operate in both directions and the day-to-day itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the captain / cycling coordinator (where necessary). Cycling distances shown are approximate.

Day 1 Saturday: Arrive in Koblenz

Plan to arrive at the barge moored in Koblenz from 2.00pm onwards. If you get there earlier, you may leave your luggage and go off to explore the town. Dinner is served after a briefing. The barge stays overnight in Koblenz.

Day 2 Sunday: Koblenz – Alken | Alken – Moselkern – Cochem **cycling @ 40km**

Cruise to Alken over breakfast. From here we cycle to Moselkern, the village is famous for its Burg Eltz one of the most impressive medieval buildings of Western Europe. If time permits, you might hike up to the castle and in the afternoon cycle on to the lovely town of Cochem with its half-timbered houses and a picturesque old centre.

Day 3 Monday: Cochem – Beilstein - Zell on the Moselle **cycling @ 40km**

Our first stop today is Beilstein, with free time to explore the ruins of the Castle Metternich towering above the village. We cycle past some of Europe's steepest white wine vineyards at Bremmer Calmont. Many wine growing areas were established here in Roman times, and you can find historical reminders of Roman occupation at many points along the river. We moor overnight near the village of Zell on the River Moselle.

Day 4 Tuesday: Zell on the Moselle – Bernkastel-Kues **cycling @ 45km**

Cycling from Zell we reach romantic Traben-Trarbach, the city of Jugendstil, and via Kröv, another town famous for its wine. Then we go on to Bernkastel where traditional half-timbered houses surround the marketplace that has been situated here since the Middle Ages. There is time to take a short tour through the town or to explore the shops and cafes before making our way to the barge in time for dinner onboard.

Day 5 Wednesday: Bernkastel-Kues – Neumagen – Schweich – Trier **cycling @ 30 to 55km**

After breakfast we ride to Piesport then to Neumagen-Dhron, one of the oldest wine growing centres in Germany perhaps take time to taste the famous local wine Piesporter Goldtröpfchen. After lunch continue to Schweich, where we board the barge and cruise to Trier, one of the oldest cities of Germany. Trier's Roman heritage is on show with impressive buildings such as the Porta Nigra, the Konstantin Basilica and the Amphitheatre.

Day 6 Thursday: Trier – Wasserbillig – Saarburg **cycling @ 40km**

We cycle alongside the Saar River from Trier and cross the border to Wasserbillig in Luxembourg. After lunch, back in Germany again, we continue to Saarburg, with its narrow streets, half-timbered houses, cafés line a 20-metre waterfall with waterwheels cascading down between Baroque buildings – the result of a 13th Century engineering project re-directing the Leuk River through the city centre. Dinner is at your own arrangements this evening, from one of the local restaurants in Saarburg.

Day 7 Friday: Saarburg – Merzig **cycling @ 40km**

Our final cycling day is past the *Saarschleife*, a natural wonder on the Saar River, the loop at Orscholz and we encourage you to take in the views from the Cloef 180m above the river. In the afternoon continue onto Mettlach home to the Villeroy & Boch factory and outlet. We re-join the barge in Merzig for a farewell dinner.

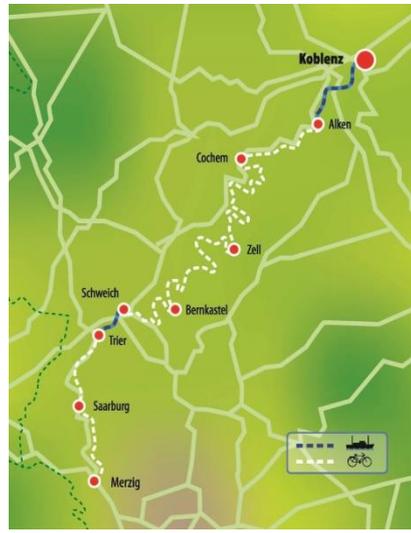
Day 8 Saturday: Merzig

Tour ends after breakfast. Local train services link with mainline stations and nearby airports such as Frankfurt.

Bike and Barge cruises are available from **Outdoor Travel** in France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Croatia, Greece and Turkey and in Vietnam. Guided or self-guided cycling tours are available throughout Europe and the UK.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia



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