



## RHINE RIVER: CASTLES, CULTURE AND CULINARY DELIGHTS

Sail along the iconic Rhine River, a spectacularly scenic route lined with stirring history, stunning landscapes and exceptional cuisine. Pass through the dramatic Rhine Gorge with its rolling hills and lush vineyards before calling on a medley of charming towns, from Germany's Mainz, Frankfurt and Heidelberg to Strasbourg and Colmar in France's Alsace region. Along the way, explore ancient castles, stroll cobblestoned streets, and indulge in private wine tastings and traditional feasts. Experience Europe's timeless allure aboard the newly chartered 120-guest Connect, a luxurious vessel rooted in sustainable design--from thoughtfully sourced build materials and green technology that minimizes food waste to environmentally friendly bath and bedding products in every spacious stateroom.



### ITINERARY

Day 1 Cologne, Germany

Arrive in Cologne and embark Connect. Relax on board with a



## The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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drink on the top deck, indulge in a rejuvenating spa treatment, enjoy a cappuccino while perusing local books in the library, and settle into your stateroom. Choose to arrive early for an optional two-day Cologne pre-voyage extension and explore one of Germany's oldest cities before embarkation.

Meals Included: Dinner

Day 2 Rhine Gorge / Rüdesheim

This morning, sail through the Rhine Gorge, one of the most breathtaking stretches of this famed river. Renowned for its dramatic cliffs, terraced vineyards and fairytale castles, this UNESCO-listed region offers a mesmerizing introduction to your journey. Your expedition staff will bring history to life with expert narration while you soak in the scenery and indulge in Frühschoppen, a traditional German mid-morning gathering filled with hearty food, local drinks and lively camaraderie.

This afternoon, embark on a walking tour of Rüdesheim, a charming town nestled in the heart of the Rhine Valley known for its picturesque vineyards, historic landmarks and lively atmosphere.

Start at the St. Hildegard Abbey, a stunning Benedictine monastery where history and spirituality intertwine. Enjoy an exclusive architectural exploration of this striking Romanesque structure followed by a private Riesling tasting led by the nuns themselves. Continue through Rüdesheim's enchanting streets, where you'll uncover its rich history and vibrant culture. Stroll

along the Drosselgasse, a lively, half-timbered alley brimming with wine taverns and charming boutiques. Pause at the Market Square, the heart of the town, surrounded by historic buildings and inviting cafes.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 Mainz / Bingen

This morning, set off to explore the charming city of Mainz. Wander through its Old Town, where narrow cobblestone streets, beautifully preserved half-timbered houses and picturesque squares create a storybook-like atmosphere. On a tour of the renowned Gutenberg Museum, which is dedicated to the revolutionary history of printing, you'll witness original copies of Gutenberg's Bible, along with demonstrations of centuries-old printing techniques.

After lunch on the ship, enjoy an exclusive, after-hours visit to the enchanting Rheinstein Castle, a quintessential medieval fortress with commanding views of the Rhine Valley. The castle's lord will personally welcome you with a champagne reception, followed by a classical music performance that enhances the elegant ambiance.

Back aboard the ship, end the day with "A Royal Affair"--an opulent welcome dinner inspired by the lavish banquets of the 19th century once held in the castles that line the Rhine.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 4 Frankfurt

This morning, immerse yourself in Frankfurt's rich cultural heritage on a walking tour that takes you through the historic Old Town, where Romerberg Square and the 16th-century Fountain of Justice transport you back in time. Experience a private tour of the Goethe House, the birthplace of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Gain insight into the life and legacy of Germany's most celebrated writer and enjoy a reading of some of his best work. Continue to Kleinmarkthalle, one of Frankfurt's oldest markets, where you'll sample local specialties.

This afternoon, delve into Frankfurt's Jewish heritage, spanning from its medieval roots to its cultural renaissance in the 19th and early-20th centuries to the devastating impact of the Holocaust. Begin at the Jewish Museum Frankfurt, housed in a former Jewish community center, followed by a visit to the New Jewish Community Center, a hub for cultural and religious life today. Stand before the Westend Synagogue, one of the few to survive the era of Nazi rule and a powerful symbol of the resilience of the city's Jewish community.

Back on board the ship, join the Captain in the two-story Forum for an insightful presentation about the ship's navigation, maritime history and life at sea before a "German Delight Dinner" featuring regional specialties that highlight the country's culinary traditions. Cap off the evening with a glassblowing demonstration showcasing the artistry and craftsmanship behind this centuries-old tradition.

Note: September departures will experience days 3 and 4 in the reverse order.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 5 Mannheim / Heidelberg

This morning, arrive in Mannheim and from there embark on a journey to Heidelberg. Home to Germany's oldest university, founded in the 14th century, Heidelberg exudes an intellectual and artistic charm that has inspired scholars and poets for centuries. Begin your exploration at Heidelberg Castle, a stunning example of Renaissance architecture and a testament to the city's enduring spirit. Perched above the Neckar River, the castle offers panoramic views of the Old Town and surrounding landscapes. Continue into the heart of the city, where cobbled streets and charming squares reflect Heidelberg's timeless elegance. Conclude your tour with lunch at a local brewery, where you'll have the unique opportunity to dine alongside students from Heidelberg University, gaining firsthand insights into academic life.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 6 Strasbourg, France

Begin your day with a tour of Strasbourg, offering a glimpse into the city's blend of historic grandeur and modern European

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influence including the political prowess of the European Parliament. Continue on foot to La Petite France, Strasbourg's most picturesque district. Stroll along the Ill River and its quaint streets, including the white-washed houses and buildings of Rue du Bain-aux-Plantes. Stop for a tasting of Tarte Flambee, Alsace's beloved thin-crust delicacy, before visiting Strasbourg Cathedral--a French Gothic masterpiece considered the symbol of the city.

This afternoon, step into the Cave Historique des Hospices de Strasbourg, one of the area's most prestigious wine cellars, housed within the historic Hotel-Dieu hospital complex. On this exclusive private tour and tasting, you'll uncover over 600 years of winemaking traditions. Marvel at 40+ ancient barrels, including one that holds wine dating back to 1472, one of the oldest drinkable wines in the world only served three times in its existence.

Return to the ship this evening for French aperitifs and an epicurean dinner, featuring regional specialties and exquisite flavors. If in session, enjoy a rare opportunity to meet with at least one member of Parliament in the Forum after dinner, and gain insights into the workings of this influential institution. In the lounge, immerse yourself in the sounds of chanson realiste, an evocative French cabaret style known for its poetic lyrics alongside the lively rhythms of bal-musette, the accordion-driven dance music that captured the hearts of Paris in the late 19th century.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 Breisach, Germany / Black Forest / Ribeauvillé, France / Riquewihr / Colmar

Arrive in Breisach where you'll choose from two options for the day:

Embark on a journey through the heart of Alsace, a former French province famed for its rolling vineyards, idyllic villages and world-class wines. Discover the medieval charm of Ribeauville and Riquewihr, where cobblestone streets and half-timbered houses transport you back in time. In Colmar, often called the "Little Venice" of France, enjoy a guided wine tasting and savor a traditional Alsatian lunch.

Alternatively, experience Germany's legendary Black Forest, a region of dense woodlands, picturesque villages and enchanting folklore. Travel through the scenic countryside to the shores of Lake Titisee, where you'll indulge in a delicious lunch featuring local specialties and take a leisurely boat tour on this serene alpine lake. Then, visit a traditional workshop for a demonstration of the art of cuckoo clock making--an iconic craft of the Black Forest.

Cap off the day and the end of your journey at a celebratory farewell dinner. Relive the highlights of the past week through a special showcase of images and videos as you enjoy an evening of fine dining, camaraderie and entertainment.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 Basel, Switzerland

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Following breakfast, disembark in Basel and transfer to the airport for flights home. Or, opt to spend more time in Switzerland on an optional two-day post-voyage extension exploring Lucerne, Interlaken and Grindelwald.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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## YOUR SHIP: CONNECT

<b>YOUR SHIP:</b>	<b>Connect</b>
<b>VESSEL TYPE:</b>	<b>River Ship</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>134.7 meters</b>
<b>PASSENGER CAPACITY:</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>BUILT/REFURBISHED:</b>	<b>2025</b>

Constructed in 2025, Connect is a brand-new, state-of-the-art European river ship launched in 2026. With cutting-edge technology, luxurious amenities and wrap-around picture windows, this sleek 120-guest ship is uniquely designed to sail through the heart of storied destinations in Germany, France, The Netherlands and beyond. Sustainability and regional connection are at her core, creating a refined and meaningful experience that elevates every journey. Discover Europe aboard an expertly crafted river ship rooted in sustainable design. Setting sail in 2026, Connect features sixty 210 square-foot elegant and spacious staterooms (convertible to 420 square-foot suites), each one well-appointed with two large wardrobe closets, smart glass spa shower and full-width floor-to-ceiling windows to take in the charming riverside towns and pastoral landscapes. An expansive top deck houses fitness zones, a lounge area and a grill and bar. From dinners to cocktail hours to movie nights, memorable alfresco events will cap off busy days spent exploring ashore. A fleet of bikes is available for those who want to enjoy some independent exploration, riding along the canals of Amsterdam or through the French countryside. Every detail is thoughtfully designed--from

carefully sourced build materials and green technology that minimizes food waste to environmentally friendly bath and



bedding products.

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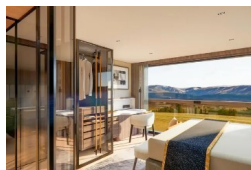


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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP

Cabin. From



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## PRICING

### 15-Jun-2026 to 22-Jun-2026

Cabin. From	£5169 GBP pp
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### 22-Jun-2026 to 29-Jun-2026

Cabin. From	£4699 GBP pp
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### 14-Sep-2026 to 21-Sep-2026

Cabin. From	£4699 GBP pp
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### 21-Sep-2026 to 28-Sep-2026

Cabin. From	£4699 GBP pp
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