



SOUL AND MOTOWN RHINE CRUISE

MAY 13TH TO 20TH 2020

SHORE EXCURSION INFORMATION

14th May 2020

STRASBOURG

The European capital and the capital of Alsace, Strasbourg exudes youthfulness and energy. Marked by its history, profoundly bicultural, Strasbourg boasts an exceptional architectural heritage! All major sights located in the city center will be visited during a 1,5h-2h stroll. Among others we will of course visit sights like the Strasbourg Cathedral, Petite France, Rohan Palace and Place Kleber all located on Grande Île, the biggest urban island in Strasbourg city surrounded by the Ill. The Strasbourg Cathedral (1015-1439) is an absolute masterpiece of Gothic art and the highlight of the walking tour. The 142 m high spire looks incredibly lightweight and made the Cathedral the highest edifice in all Christianity until the 19th century. Outside, the facade is the greatest "book" of images the Middle Ages has to offer. Hundreds of sculptures stand out from the wall accentuating the effects of shadow and light.

After the walking tour you will have the chance to discover Strasbourg on your own before we will make our way back to the ship for lunch.

Duration: appr. 2.5 hrs

Distance: appr. 2km – 2,5km

ALSACE WITH COLMAR

After lunch we will leave by bus and drive along the Alsace wine route to Colmar.

The most famous wine route proudly reveals its medieval châteaux and Renaissance houses and the flowery lanes of its charming villages. A land of tradition and wine, offering a unique experience for the visitor. Officially established as a tourist route in 1953, it celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2013. Renowned for its remarkable and simple itinerary, the Wine Route invites you to discover the region and its wine producers. The entire route winds through sloping valleys along the foothills of the Vosges for more than 170km, crossing the entire wine region from Marlenheim to Thann. For about an hour and a half we will drive along the Northern and Middle Section of the Wine Route past the Carthusian Monastery of Molsheim, Mont Saint-Odile and the village of Obernai, as well as Château du Haut-Koenigsbourg in Ribeauvillé.

After arriving in Colmar, we will then take a 1h – 1,5h walking tour and discover it's old town with cobblestone streets lined with half-timbered medieval and early Renaissance buildings. The Gothic 13th-century, Eglise Saint-Martin church stands on central Place de la Cathédrale. Besides this beautiful church we will visit the iconic neighborhood of Colmar "Little Venice". This name probably came from the original line of the houses on both sides of the river, which serves the southeast of the city. Located here is also Le quai de la Poisonnerie which seems to come straight out of a fairy tale. This fishmongers district is the place where most of the professional fisherman and boatman of Colmar lived.

As time allows you will have the chance to enjoy a coffee at one of the little café's lined up along Little Venice and discover the old town individually before heading back to Strasbourg to continue your cruise towards Speyer.

Duration: appr. 4.5hrs

Distance: appr. 2km – 2,5km

15th May 2020

SPEYER

In the morning we will visit the beautiful town of Speyer. The Cathedral and Imperial City of Speyer was at one time the lordly center of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. In 1,5h – 2h the walking tour will take you to the most significant historic attractions. Among them the Speyer Cathedral, the city hall and the old city gate.

The Imperial Cathedral is a landmark that has loomed large and powerful for 1000 years and is not far from the banks of the Rhine. It ranks as the largest preserved Romanesque church in Europe. You will be able to discover the Imperial city individually after the walking tour.

Duration: appr. 1,5h-2h

Distance: appr. 2km – 2,5km

16th May 2020

HEIDELBERG

After lunch on board we will take the bus for a 40 min drive to the beautiful city of Heidelberg. Located in southwestern Germany, it's known for venerable Heidelberg University, founded in the 14th century. The world-famous castle ruins with their legendary history, the lively old town with its medieval small winding alleys, but also the incredibly beautiful location of the city on the banks of the Neckar river, framed by hills and forests.

As part of the guided tour, you will be guided through the grounds and gardens of the world-famous castle ruins. In the barrel cellar you will also enjoy an exclusive short wine tasting, where you can enjoy some delicious wines of the region directly on site.

Toilets will be available before heading to the many picturesque sides of Heidelberg's historic Old Town as part of the Old Town walking tour. Explore the Old Bridge, the Market Square, the Untere Straße and other sights of Heidelberg, and discover well-known and less well-known spots of Heidelberg's Old Town.

If possible time will be allowed for a short individual stroll through the city before heading for Mannheim where we will reembark. The drive will take approximately 30 min.

Duration: appr. 3.5hrs

Distance: appr. 1,5km – 2km

17th May 2020

RÜDESHEIM

The morning of the 4th day will be dedicated to the charming little town of Rüdesheim.

It's known for winemaking, especially of Riesling wines. In the center, Drosselgasse is a lane lined with shops, taverns and restaurants. Nearby, Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet is a museum of automated musical instruments.

We will take a ride with the famous "Winzer Express" train through the town to Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet which showcases approximately 350 self-playing, mechanical music instruments spanning 3 centuries.

Followed by a little stroll through the romantic Drosselgasse you will have time to enjoy one of the great wines of the region before boarding the ship again for lunch and heading towards the scenic Loreley passage with its numerous castles and fortresses.

Duration: appr. 1,5h-2h

Distance: appr. 1km – 1,5km

KOBLENZ

In the afternoon we will take a 1,5h walk through the city of Koblenz where Father Rhine and Mother Moselle meet

We will see The Deutsches Eck ("German Corner").

The establishment of the Teutonic Order at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle in 1216 gave this historic site its name. Koblenz also owes its name to the meeting point of the Rhine and the Moselle - from "Castellum apud Confluentes", Latin for "fort at the confluence", which over time became the current name of Koblenz.

Discover the old town of Koblenz with its romantic narrow streets, picturesque courtyards and small, cosy squares where numerous cafés invite you to come and sit for a while.

You will start at Münzplatz square, where the Romans first founded their "Castellum apud confluentes" (fort at the confluence). From there you will get to know the romantic streets between the Liebfrauenkirche (Church of Our Lady) and the St. Castor Basilica. Depending on docking location you will have the chance before or after dinner to discover the many other picturesque squares, the Schängelbrunnen fountain at the city hall for example or visit the Kaiser Wilhelm memorial at the Deutsches Eck again and the many other sights in one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in Germany.

We will leave Koblenz late evening.

Duration: appr. 1h-1,5h

Distance: appr. 1km – 1,5km

18th May 2020

COLOGNE

Cologne was built on ground that is steeped in history. Take a trip through 2000 years of history and visit cultural monuments from the Roman Empire to modern times.

Take a stroll through the old town and visit various sights like the Great St. Martin Church, the fish market with its "Stapelhaus". Of course you mustn't miss the unique Cologne Cathedral. It can be seen from nearly every point in the city centre and from many places elsewhere: The magnificent Cologne Cathedral hovers above the roofs and chimneys of the city. It is not only used as a point of orientation but is the pride of the people in Cologne. The panorama of the city has been dominated by the Cathedral's gigantic pair of towers (the North Tower (157.38 m) is 7 cm higher than the South Tower) since their completion in 1880. The Cathedral is still the second highest building in Cologne after the telecommunications tower. Its footprint is no less impressive, with the full length of the Cathedral measuring 145 m and the cross nave 86 m. In comparison, a football pitch is "only" around 100 by 70 m. The total area of the Cathedral measures almost 8000 square metres and has room for more than 20,000 people. Hear about its 632 year building history while discovering the impressive building from the outside.

Depending on schedule you can stroll Cologne streets on your own before boarding the ship for lunch and continuing towards Antwerp.

Duration: appr. 2h-2,5h

Distance: appr. 2km – 2,5km

MECHELEN

In the evening of the 18th May we will reach Antwerp. In the morning of the following day we will take a 40 min drive to Mechelen. This Flemish city with a population of 80,000 lies on the major urban and industrial axis of Brussels-Antwerp, about 25 km from each city. In recent years the city has invested heavily in creating a liveable and accessible place for residents, traders and visitors. In late 2011, the city's car-free zone was expanded. The inner city of Mechelen is a low-car traffic zone, car-free every day between 11am and 6pm. During a walking tour of approximately 1,5h, visit the Schepenhuis, a building where the alderman bank held its meetings in the Middle Ages, walk over the great market to the imposing Saint Rumbold's Cathedral and experience this centre for artistic production during the [Northern Renaissance](#). Rumbold's Cathedral was built in the thirteenth century. From the outset it was larger and more impressive than all the other parish churches and later on it became 'the church of the archbishops'. Originally there was a triple-nave cruciform church on the site of the vast cathedral. Only after a series of building campaigns did the church become the city's star attraction. Time will be given for an individual stroll as schedule allows.

Duration: appr. 3 hrs

Distance: appr. 1,5km – 2km

19th May 2020

ANTWERP

In the afternoon after lunch we will take a closer look at Antwerp where the ship lies. Subject to the Dock allocated we will probably have a short transfer by bus to the centre. With history dating to the Middle Ages. In its center, the centuries-old Diamond District houses thousands of diamond traders, cutters and polishers. Antwerp's Flemish Renaissance architecture is typified by the Grote Market, a central square in the old town. Situated in the heart of the old city quarter, it is filled with an extravagant city hall, numerous elaborate 16th century [guildhalls](#), many restaurants and cafés. The Stadhuis (City Hall) stands on the western side of [Grote Markt](#) (Great Market Square) and was erected between 1561 and 1565 after designs made by [Cornelis Floris de Vriendt](#) and several other

architects and artists. This [Renaissance](#) building incorporates both [Flemish](#) and [Italian](#) influences. The Stadhuis is inscribed on [UNESCO's World Heritage List](#). You can already see the Cathedral of Our Lady Antwerp, the next point of interest. This [Roman Catholic cathedral](#) was built in Gothic Style who's [Diocese of Antwerp](#) started in 1352 and, although the first stage of construction was ended in 1521, has never been 'completed'. The belfry of the cathedral is included in the [Belfries of Belgium and France](#) entry in the list of [UNESCO World Heritage Sites](#). Our departure at 07:00 pm gives you enough time to experience this Flemish city on your own after this interesting city walk.

Duration: appr. 1,5h-2h

Distance: appr. 1,5km – 2km

Public toilets and refreshment stops will be available on all tours. Our Guides will be happy to assist with location.