



ACADEMY  
TRAVEL

TAILORED  
SMALL GROUP  
JOURNEYS

# ART ALONG THE RHINE

STRASBOURG TO COLOGNE

Bacharach, Germany

## OVERVIEW

The Rhine has been the heart of Western Europe since the early Middle Ages, and testaments to its influence are found throughout its heartland: Charlemagne's Palatine Chapel in Aachen, the soaring Gothic spires of Strasbourg and Cologne, and Romanesque monuments like Speyer Cathedral.

The region's rich intellectual legacy can be seen in places like Mainz, where two of Johannes Gutenberg's early printed bibles are on display, and in Germany's oldest university, Heidelberg, where Martin Luther debated his Theses. The Rhine too has inspired rich artistic traditions from medieval masters like Stephen Lochner to greats of contemporary German art like Joseph Beuys and Gerhard Richter.

Led by art history specialist Thomas Abbott, this 13-day tour from Strasbourg to Cologne will allow us a comprehensive examination of the tremendous amount of history and culture fostered along the Rhine and its environs. We'll soak in the architecture, learn the region's unique history and explore a wealth of fabulous art collections.



## TOUR LEADER

**Thomas Abbott** is a specialist in architectural history from the Baroque to the 20th century, with a wide knowledge of the fine and performing arts. Thomas will be accompanied by a trained tour manager for the duration of the tour.

## TOUR DATES

**May 29 - June 10, 2024**

## TOUR PRICE

**\$11,250** per person, twin share  
**\$2,490** single supplement

## TOUR DEPOSIT

A **\$1,000** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour.

## GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **16** in group

## ITINERARY

Strasbourg (3 nights), Heidelberg (2 nights), Frankfurt (3 nights), Cologne (4 nights)

## INCLUSIONS

**12** nights' accommodation in centrally located 4 and 5-star hotels. All breakfasts and 5 dinners. Services of an expert tour leader and an experienced tour manager throughout. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.



## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Start & Finish

The tour starts at 2.00pm on Wednesday 29 May at Zurich Airport. The tour ends after breakfast on Monday 10 June, at the Hotel Mondial am Dom, Cologne.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

### Wednesday 29 May

#### Arrival

The tour begins at Zurich Airport at 2.00pm, from which we travel by coach to Strasbourg. After settling into our hotel, we take an orientation walk around Strasbourg, followed by dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight Strasbourg. (D)

### Thursday 30 May

#### Strasbourg

A landmark of Gothic architecture, Strasbourg Cathedral was the tallest building in Europe until the Eiffel Tower. Its spire, visible across Alsace, is a testament to the wealth and power of Strasbourg throughout the Middle Ages. We tour the cathedral and the town centre in the morning, ending with the fine collection of Old Masters in the Musée des Beaux Arts. In the later afternoon, we visit Strasbourg's Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, whose collection includes a music room designed by Kandinsky and numerous works by Jean Arp, Strasbourg's most eminent artist, and Gustave Doré. The evening is at leisure. Overnight Strasbourg (B)

### Friday 31 May

#### Colmar

Alsace is renowned for its medieval heritage and Colmar is its best-preserved town. We travel by coach to Colmar today, where we explore its medieval streets and churches, including the beautiful canal district known affectionately as Little Venice. After a break for lunch, we visit the Unterlinden Museum, whose galleries are set in a medieval monastery and which has recently expanded with a new building designed by Herzog & de Meuron. Among its works is the exceptional *Ishenheim Altarpiece*, painted in the 1400s by Matthias Gruenwald. In the mid-afternoon, we return to Strasbourg along the scenic route, making our way through the vineyards. The evening is at leisure. Overnight Strasbourg (B)

### Saturday 1 June

#### Baden Baden

Today we travel to Heidelberg, stopping in Baden Baden, formerly one of Europe's premier spa towns. There, we'll visit

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

### Stunning Medieval Heritage

From Charlemagne's Palatine Chapel at Aachen to the beautifully preserved cityscapes of Colmar and Strasbourg, explore the Middle Ages in depth and learn how they shaped the present.

### Outstanding Art Collections

Enjoy 600 years of art, from old and modern masters to major works by contemporary wunderkind in some of Europe's leading galleries and fabulous private collections.

### Fascinating History

From Roman settlement to a Europe united under Charlemagne, learn the enthralling history of how a loose federation of principalities and shifting allegiances created a tremendous legacy.

### The Rhine

Soak in the beauty of the Rhine region, from the vineyards of Alsace to the romantic cliffs and castles of the Rhine Valley. The tour includes a cruise of the Middle Rhine.

### Palaces, Gardens & Castles

For centuries the Rhine region was ruled by a collection of different principalities and independent cities. Witness how each ruling family sought to leave its mark.

the Museum Frieder Burda. Designed by Richard Meier, the museum houses the private collection of a printing magnate who is one of Germany's leading art collectors. After a break for lunch and time to stroll around Baden Baden, we continue to Schloss Favorite, the opulent 18th-century summer residence of the Margravine of Baden Baden. Among other lavish details, the residence features an entire room decorated with extremely expensive Florentine pietra dura, or finely crafted stone inlay. Upon an early evening arrival in Heidelberg, we enjoy dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight Heidelberg (B, D)

### **Sunday 2 June Heidelberg**

An intellectual centre of the German Reformation, Heidelberg also hosts Germany's oldest university. This morning we tour Heidelberg Castle, an impressive accumulation of fortifications and state rooms of the Prince Elector of the Palatinate, one of the most influential figures in the Holy Roman Empire. After our tour and a break for lunch in the Old Town, we travel the short distance to Mannheim, where we visit the Kunsthalle – an excellent museum with a very good collection of New Objectivity, the post-WWI art movement born in Mannheim. Upon returning to Heidelberg, the evening is at leisure. Overnight Heidelberg (B)

### **Monday 3 June Schwetzingen & Speyer**

Today on our way to Frankfurt, we explore the history of the central Rhine region. The morning features a visit to Schwetzingen Palace, the 18th-century summer residence of the Prince Electors. After touring the apartments, we enjoy the extensive gardens, which fuse elements of the French formal garden with the new craze for the English landscape garden. We continue to Speyer where, after a break for lunch, we visit the impressive Romanesque cathedral, built by the Holy Roman Emperors and used as their burial chapel. In the mid-afternoon, we make our way to Frankfurt. After checking into our hotel, we enjoy dinner together in a local restaurant. Overnight Frankfurt (B, D)

### **Tuesday 4 June Frankfurt**

Frankfurt was not only Germany's largest medieval trading centre, but also its banking capital since World War II; and its art collections match its status. This morning we visit the Städel, an exceptional art museum with masterpieces by Jan Van Eyck, Vermeer, Botticelli, Picasso, Bacon and Baselitz. In the afternoon, there is time to explore Frankfurt's Museum

of Modern Art, the Goethe Museum or some of the excellent galleries along the riverside. Overnight Frankfurt (B)

### **Wednesday 5 June Mainz**

While Frankfurt has been a centre of the printed word – Gutenberg sold his first Bibles here – it was medieval Mainz where the magic happened. Mainz's contribution to history goes beyond Gutenberg, however: it had been the religious heart of northern Europe in the Middle Ages and the centre of Imperial administration, and there was perhaps no city north of the alps with more scribes. Our tour of Mainz today includes the excellent Gutenberg museum (which has two Gutenberg Bibles and many other early printed works on display), the mighty Romanesque cathedral and the stained-glass windows made by Marc Chagal at St Stephens. Upon return to Frankfurt, the evening is at leisure. Overnight Frankfurt (B)

### **Thursday 6 June The Middle Rhine**

With its cliffs, forests, vineyards, castles, and the enchanting Lorelai Rock, the Middle Rhine is spectacular. We tour this section of the Rhine today by boat, from Rudesheim to Boppard, where we disembark to enjoy lunch in the medieval town. In the afternoon, we continue by coach to Cologne, stopping to visit Maria Laach, one of the most beautiful Romanesque abbeys in Germany. After arriving in Cologne and settling in, we'll have dinner together near the hotel. Overnight Cologne (B, D)

### **Friday 7 June Cologne**

Cologne was founded by the Romans as a key part of the Empire's defensive network against the Germanic tribes. It quickly became a major trading city and the gateway between Roman and German worlds. On this morning's walking tour, we'll explore the city's Roman and German past. Among other wonders, we'll see the spectacular Cathedral with its priceless works of art, such as the 12th-century Reliquary of the Magi by Nicholas of Verdun, and stained-glass windows designed by Gerhard Richter. In the afternoon, there's some free time to explore the city. Overnight Cologne (B)

### **Saturday 8 June Bonn**

This morning there is some free time to explore Cologne at leisure. Later in the afternoon, we visit Bonn, the former capital of West Germany, which

## HOTELS

Hotels have been selected principally for their central location. All hotels are excellent four and five-star properties.

### **Strasbourg, Hotel Cour du Corbeau - MGallery**

(3 nights)

[www.cour-corbeau.com](http://www.cour-corbeau.com)

### **Heidelberg, Hilton Heidelberg**

(2 nights)

[www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)

### **Frankfurt, Steigenberger Frankfurter Hof**

(3 nights)

[www.steigenberger.com](http://www.steigenberger.com)

### **Cologne, Excelsior Hotel Ernst**

(4 nights)

[www.excelsiorhotelernst.com](http://www.excelsiorhotelernst.com)

## WEATHER

June is a pleasant time to travel in this part of Europe, with an average daytime maximum of 24°C.

The evenings and nights can still be a little brisk, however, and there may be showers on some days. We recommend you bring a light rainproof jacket, comfortable walking shoes and clothing that is easy to layer.

## FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

### **Grade Two**

This tour is designed for people who lead active lives and can comfortably participate in moderate physical activity. Participants should be able to do some longer walking tours, climb stairs, stand for some time in galleries and museums, negotiate uneven and unstable surfaces, and move luggage a short distance if required.

is the birthplace of Beethoven and a centre of great German culture and museums. We return to Cologne in the early evening. Overnight Cologne (B)

### **Sunday 9 June Aachen**

This morning we visit the world class Museum Ludwig, which boasts the third largest collection of paintings by Picasso, the largest collection of Russian modernism outside of Russia and an excellent collection of contemporary European art. In the early afternoon, we take the short coach journey to Aachen, the capital of Charlemagne, whose empire defined the political borders of Europe. The Palatine Chapel, the private chapel of the Emperor, is modelled on the Byzantine chapel of San Vitale in Ravenna, and is among the finest examples of early medieval architecture. After visiting the Palatine Chapel, we visit the museum of the chapel, which conserves some of the many gifts and bequests, from medieval manuscripts to carved ivory, jewellery and goldsmithing. This evening, we'll together enjoy our farewell dinner. Overnight Cologne (B, D)

### **Monday 10 June Depart**

Our tour ends this morning at the hotel. Please check your individual transfer details for your onward journey. (B)



## ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact **Jamal Fairbrother** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email:

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