

# *Discovery on the Rhine*

*8 day River Cruise: Frankfurt to Amsterdam*



A new and exciting way to river cruise and to actively discover well-known and off-the-beaten-path treasures along the Rhine. You will be introduced you to the wine of the region at a tasting in Eltville, the art of chocolate making when you visit the Chocolate Museum in Cologne, and German delicacies during a culinary tour in Duisburg. You can walk the mining corridors of an ancient volcano and visit the Zollverein Coal Mine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Perhaps a Roman Clothes Workshop will intrigue you, or you might like to try your hand with a paintbrush at a painting class in Amsterdam, join a guided walk in Cologne, take a cable car to Ehrenbreitstein Castle in Koblenz, and cruise the canals of Amsterdam. Cruise through the dramatic Rhine Gorge, also a UNESCO World Heritage site, attend a concert at Castle Engers, and enjoy onboard specialty dinners of the region. An unforgettable river cruise experience that offers something for everyone!

## Itinerary

### **DAY 1 – 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018 – ARRIVAL IN FRANKFURT ; TRANSFER TO WIESBADEN**

*Flights into Frankfurt must arrive before 3 pm. Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.*

Welcome to Frankfurt, Germany's financial capital! This afternoon, transfer by motorcoach to Wiesbaden where the AVALON FELICITY is docked.

After a mandatory safety exercise, meet your friendly crew and fellow travelers at a WELCOME RECEPTION. (D)

### **DAY 2 – 16TH JULY 2018 - WIESBADEN, EXCURSION TO ELTVILLE–RÜDESHEIM**

This morning, start your day with a delicious buffet breakfast, after which an excursion takes you to nearby Eltville. Here, CHOOSE YOUR ACTIVITY:

- On a visit to the EBERBACH MONASTERY, savor the simple beauty of the Monastery's monumental Romanesque church, and discover this outstanding backdrop to the famous movie, "The Name of the Rose," that brought the Middle Ages back to life here in this monastery, or;
- Eltville am Rhein is picturesquely situated amid forest, vineyards, and the Rhine River and is well known as "the City of Wine, Sekt (sparkling wine), and Roses." An ideal city for a GUIDED WALK through the historic Old Town and a TASTING of some of the local wine, or;
- For some exercise before lunch, HIKE around on the first-class hiking trail, "Rheinsteig." Wander through Eltville's idyllic forest or explore the numerous scenic trails through the vineyards. This afternoon is free to relax on board, explore on your own, or perhaps join a local expert for an optional guided walk of Frankfurt-on-the-Main.

(B, L, D)

Before dinner, set sail for Rüdesheim, and this evening, enjoy a dinner of Rhineland specialties, such as Sauerbraten (slow-cooked beef roast marinated in wine), Reibekuchen (potato pancakes), and more.

### **DAY 3 – 17TH JULY 2018 - RÜDESHEIM–RHINE GORGE–BOPPARD–KOBLENZ – ENGERS**

Be prepared for a day of gorgeous scenery! This morning, explore Rüdesheim—a quaint, quintessential Rhine Valley wine town—on your own. Alternatively, if you are feeling active, one of our optional excursions may be just right for you. During lunch, marvel at today's SCENIC HIGHLIGHT as you cruise through the dramatic Rhine Gorge, the most beautiful stretch of river. Here, ancient castles stand sentry on lofty cliffs rising 400 feet above the water. Cruise past the legendary rock of the Lorelei, where echoes of enchanted siren song lured unwitting sailors to their doom. This afternoon, we make a stop in Boppard, and here CHOOSE YOUR ACTIVITY:

- If you don't mind climbing steps, join an excursion to MARKSBURG, the only castle on the Middle Rhine to escape destruction or ruin. You'll be taken through the kitchens and dining area, along the battlements overlooking the Rhine, to the bedrooms and torture room, and to the chapel. Marksburg Castle is one of the principal sites of the WORLD HERITAGE Rhine Gorge, or;
- Explore the ancient city of Koblenz on a GUIDED WALK with an expert guide. Then, take a cable car ride up to historic EHRENBREITSTEIN CASTLE and soak up the beautiful panoramic view from above the banks of the Rhine, or;
- Participate in a unique VOLCANO EXPERIENCE! A short coach transfer from your ship takes you to the "LAVA CITY" of Mendig, where basalt, cold lava, was mined. Tour this labyrinth of mining corridors which, in the early 19th century, became beer storage cellars.

(B, L, D)

Rejoin your ship and spend some free time in Koblenz late this afternoon. Standing at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers, this 2,000-year-old city is the cultural and business center of the Middle Rhine region. During dinner, cruise to Engers where you dock overnight and enjoy a CONCERT performance at Castle Engers.

#### **DAY 4 – 18TH JULY 2018 - BONN–COLOGNE**

A leisurely start this morning as you head for Bonn, Germany's seat of Government before the country was reunified. The morning is yours to explore on your own, or you may prefer to participate in an optional excursion. A short sail during lunchtime brings you to Cologne, one of Germany's largest cities and capital of the Rhineland. The city straddles the Rhine and is known for its soaring, twin-steepled gothic cathedral. Step ashore and CHOOSE YOUR ACTIVITY:

- Cologne is home to unusual museums that offer a unique perspective on German history, life, and death. COLOGNE OFF THE BEATEN TRACK leaves the hubbub of well-traveled tourist attractions to explore offbeat sites, including a cemetery, and museums featuring the Olympics; tolerance; and European handicrafts. And you'll be introduced to the Kölsch lifestyle and mindset, or;
- Chocaholics may delight at visiting the CHOCOLATE MUSEUM and learn about the role of chocolate in old South American cultures, such as the Mayas and the Aztecs, and the European elite. Visitors are taken through the process of chocolate production from the farm to the candy store, continuing through a greenhouse where two species of cacao trees are grown and then on through the industrialization of chocolate production, including vintage advertising campaigns, or;
- For the more traditionally minded, a CITY WALK is a journey of discovery taking visitors through the area immediately surrounding the Cathedral and the narrow alleyways of the Old Town. The walk passes by the Romano-Germanic Museum with its famous Dionysus mosaic, the Town Hall, Alter Markt (the old market) and Gross St. Martin (Great St. Martin).

(B, L, D)

Your ship remains docked in Cologne until late tonight.

#### **DAY 5 – 19TH JULY 2018 - DÜSSELDORF–DUISBURG**

This morning, wake up in Düsseldorf where after breakfast you might like to join an optional biking tour, or visit some microbreweries to try a variety of Altbiers. Rejoin your ship for lunch and enjoy leisurely sailing to Duisburg. Located on the western edge of the Ruhr industrial area, Duisburg is renowned for its steel industry and its large inland harbor (one of the largest in the world), and is therefore an important venue for commerce. Here, CHOOSE YOUR ACTIVITY:

- Visit the ZOLLVEREIN COAL MINE, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Hundreds of coal mines produced coal in the Ruhr area, but only one has the distinction of being a World Heritage Site—with good reason: the Zollverein Coal Mine is a masterpiece of industrial architecture, or;
- For a more active option, discover the idyllic landscapes and forests around Duisburg on a GUIDED HIKE, or;
- The culinary spectrum of the multicultural Metropolis Ruhr is gigantic. Local cuisine, with both hearty and refined creations, spoils its customers. Join us on a CULINARY WALK and experience the real life of German Essen (food) on a behind-the-scenes look at the city.

(B, L, D)

Sail away from Duisburg in the early evening.

## **DAY 6 – 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018 - XANTEN**

Today you are in Xanten, a historic Roman city in the German region of North Rhine Westphalia. The city is known for its archaeological park and is altogether a treasure for archaeologists as it is the only Roman town north of the Alps which has not been built over since the collapse of the Roman Empire. This afternoon, CHOOSE YOUR ACTIVITY:

- You are invited to participate in the ROMAN GAMES at the Archaeological Park, where you will get first-hand experience of life during the Roman Empire, or;
- Take part in a ROMAN CLOTHES WORKSHOP. The course provides an opportunity to dress up in genuine Roman attire—even in antiquity it was said, “You are what you wear!” or;
- Enjoy a BIKE TOUR along the Rhine.

(B, L, D)

This evening, prepare for a special GALA FAREWELL DINNER featuring dishes that were similar to those served in Roman times.

## **DAY 7 – 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2018 - AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND**

Holland’s vibrant and sophisticated capital has a rich 700-year history and a distinct ambiance, where there is always a plethora of things to see and do. After breakfast this morning, CHOOSE YOUR ACTIVITY:

- Discover your inner artist by joining a PAINTING CLASS to discover some of the secrets of famous names like Van Gogh, Rembrandt, or Warhol! A warm welcome with coffee, tea, and petit fours sets the tone for this interesting and artistic workshop which is sure to inspire your creativity. Get to work like Van Gogh or paint a selfportrait like Rembrandt! Of course, your work of art is yours to take home with you, or;
- Perhaps a more active choice is more appealing: a RUNNING TOUR in Amsterdam is a great way to explore a city! Enjoy the beauty of Amsterdam while burning off a few calories! No need to worry about the pace—we’ll take it easy with regular stops at the major sights. The distance is about 7.5 Kms (4.6 miles) and a “running commentary” is provided by experienced runners, all native “Amsterdammers”, or;
- Take a traditional tour of the city’s grachten on a CANAL CRUISE. Besides providing a stunning backdrop to the city’s historical center, floating down Amsterdam’s canals is one of the most memorable ways to discover the city’s sights and attractions. After the canal cruise, explore some of the off-the-beaten-track parts of the city with your expert guide. Return to your ship for an excellent buffet lunch and then decide how to spend your afternoon. Perhaps you wish to venture out and explore more of the city on your own (but look out for the bicycles!), or stay busy by joining one of our optional excursions, such as biking in the Dutch countryside?

(B, L, D)

Your last dinner on board reminds you that you are in Holland and introduces you to some Dutch specialties.

## **DAY 8 – 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2018 - AMSTERDAM (DISEMBARKATION)**

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning! (B)

The transfer to the airport will be arranged for you.

\*\*\* Return home with wonderful memories \*\*\*

**Price per person on a twin-sharing basis: INR 1,54,500**

#### **Price includes**

- 8 nights' accommodation on board the Avalon Felicity (Sapphire Deck) on a twin-sharing basis
- Airport Transfers in Frankfurt to Wiesbaden on arrival and in Amsterdam on departure
- Transportation in a private vehicle for the entire duration of the trip
- All Meals as given below
  - Captain's welcome & farewell receptions with sparkling wine and canapés
  - Welcome dinner
  - Farewell dinner
  - Daily full buffet breakfast with made-to-order egg station, hot and cold menu items
  - Early and Late Riser breakfast
  - Daily lunch buffet with pasta or carving stations
  - Alternative light lunch or (weather permitting) grill fare at the Sky Bistro on the Sky Deck
  - Daily four-course à la carte dinner in the main dining room
  - Alternative dinner of petite portions or regional specialties with wines, in the Panorama Bistro
  - Daily Afternoon Tea
  - Daily Night Fare
  - Complimentary sparkling wine with breakfast; wine, beer, or soft drinks with lunch and dinner are included daily on board your vessel
- Shore excursions as per the programme given above
- Local English speaking guide
- Entrance fees where applicable
- **GST at 5% included**

#### **Price excludes**

- Air ticket for travel to and from Frankfurt / Amsterdam
- Visa for Germany
- Services of a tour escort
- Trip Cancellation Policy (*optional, but recommended at US\$ 90 pp*)
- Overseas Medical Insurance policy
- Meals and sightseeing not mentioned
- Tips (*US\$ 119 pp – mandatory*)
- Items of a personal nature
- Anything not specifically mentioned under "Price includes"

#### **Booking & Cancellation Policy**

- Booking deposit \$250 per person + Trip Protection if applicable (payable in equivalent INR)
- Balance payment due by 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018

#### **Cancellation**

90-60	days prior to commencement of services: 45% of total price*
59-30	days prior to commencement of services: 60% of total price*
29-8	days prior to commencement of services: 90% of total price*
7-0	days prior to commencement of services: 100% of total price*

## Notes:

- Rates subject to change without prior notice due to circumstances beyond our control e.g. fuel increases, rate of exchange fluctuations.
- In the event of water level problems or any problems of a technical nature, it may be necessary to operate the itinerary by motorcoach or to alter the program.
- Included visits and special features are subject to change. If a change is necessary, a substitute will be offered.
- Please note that your passport should be valid for more than 6 months beyond the date of travel and that you must have at least 2 blank pages on your passport.
- Please contact us if you would like to book pre-tour or post-tour accommodation in Frankfurt / Amsterdam
- **ROE calculated at 1 USD = Rs. 65.5 Any fluctuations at the time of payment will alter the cost**
- **Price based on a minimum of 2 people travelling together**



## About the Ship

### FELICITY

Enjoy cruising along Europe's celebrated rivers aboard this magnificent ship. Accommodating only 138 passengers, the Avalon Felicity offers the intimate feeling of a small ship while providing the spaciousness passengers have come to expect from the Avalon fleet. The roomy and well-appointed staterooms feature a minimum of 172 square feet of space and are the largest of the European rivers today. All staterooms and suites include a well-stocked minibar, spacious closet, flatscreen satellite TV and radio, Comfort Collection Beds, and a large private bathroom complete with a full shower, hairdryer, and premium bath amenities. For the more active guests, desirable onboard amenities include a Fitness Center and Sky Deck complete with whirlpool. Complimentary computer use in public areas and Wi-Fi access allow passengers to share their experience with friends and family at home.

## INCLUDED AMENITIES

- Wall-to-Wall Panoramic Windows
  - Non-smoking interior and staterooms
  - Elegant, contemporary design
  - Headsets for guided shore excursions in Europe
  - Sightseeing with Certified Local Guides
  - Room service for Continental breakfast & beverages (service fee applies)
  - Complimentary computer use in public areas
  - Hair salon
  - Self-serve beverage station with complimentary tea, hot chocolate & premium coffees, including decaf options
  - Bicycles available onboard for complimentary check-out
  - Behind-the-scenes galley tour
  - Nordic walking sticks available onboard for complimentary check-out
  - English-speaking TV channels with over 100 free movie options
  - Sky Deck game area
  - Well-stocked library
  - Full-size closet mirror
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- Sky Deck with premium lounge chairs and shade awnings
  - Elevator
  - Outside viewing deck
  - Friendly, English-speaking crew and Cruise Director
  - Onboard lectures, activities & nightly entertainment
  - Sky Deck whirlpool
  - Fitness Center
  - Lounges and upscale bar serving premium spirits
  - Biking excursions available in Amsterdam and Breisach
  - Avalon Choice® cruising experience
  - Choice of Leisurely, Traditional or Independent sightseeing pace options
  - Local Favorites<sup>SM</sup> onboard experiences to bring the customs, cultures and tastes of your destinations to life, including local entertainers, artisans & experts
  - Onboard assistance is available to recommend, reserve and further personalize your cruise
  - Complimentary Wi-Fi access
  - Fresh fruit available throughout the day

