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RÜDESHEIM & COLOGNE, RHINE & MOSELLE

08 – 15 June 2017 – 7 Nights

Cost: £865 per person sharing.

Single Supp. £110

Activity Level 2 -4



What's included:

- Return Coach Belfast – Dublin (Non-stop Aircoach)
- Return flights between Dublin & Frankfurt
- Short transfer to the hotel
- 7 nights accommodation at 3*Sup. Trapp Hotel, Rudesheim
- Bed, breakfast and 6 evening meals, with water, tea & coffee
- Surprise tour of Rudesheim
- Full day cruise on Rhine
- Full day excursion by train along the Rhine & Moselle
- Optional excursion programme
 - Excursion by train to Cologne £30
 - Walking tour with lunch £25 (Details to follow)



Flight Details:

08 June Aer Lingus EI656 Dep Dublin 16.40 Arr. Frankfurt 20.10

15 June Aer Lingus EI657 Dep Frankfurt 20.40 Arr. Dublin 21.50

Baggage Allowance 15Kgs Checked plus 10Kgs hand-luggage

Extra 5Kgs baggage allowance £20 return

Rudesheim is a picture-postcard village, nestled between the mighty River Rhine and the vineyards, which sweep down from the surrounding hills. With half-timbered houses dating back many centuries, narrow cobbled alleyways and quirky shops and cafes, you will wonder if it's all actually just a dream. As with many of the villages along the Rhine, Ruedesheim built its wealth on trade and the production of wine. In fact, The Romans introduced vines here two thousand years ago and even today, along with tourism, this is the major income in the town. Medieval castles, the former homes of knights and crusaders, provide a backdrop to the colourful, half-timbered houses which line the Oberstrasse. Everything you expect a village on the Rhine to be will be found in beautiful Ruedesheim. If you're ever going to have a holiday on the banks of the majestic Rhine, it just has to be in the heart of the UNESCO world heritage site of the Middle Rhine Valley.

Hotel Trapp, Rudesheim

We return to the 3* superior Trapp Hotel, possibly the cleanest and friendliest hotel we have ever featured. With a coveted "Feinschmecker" award for the high quality of its food and accommodation managed with meticulous care, you will be sure to enjoy your stay here. Your holiday includes a hearty breakfast and a lovely three course evening meal with tea or coffee. Rooms are all repainted annually and refurbished regularly, to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable stay. Some rooms have been completely rebuilt to a very high standard in 2015 & 2016. A recent addition to the hotel is a summer verandah, where you can relax with a book or enjoy a glass of wine before dinner. Some of our clients are returning for their third and fourth visits



Excursions

Once again, we have updated the excursions for 2017. We have kept the favourites, such as the cruise on the Rhine, stopping at the fairytale towns of Bacharach or Oberwesel. We have added a few new tours, too. There will be a full day excursion by train, featuring the Rhine and Moselle. We will visit wonderful towns and villages, such as Koblenz and Cochem, tracing the rivers and valleys and then back to Rudesheim. We will offer you an excursion by express train to Cologne, a beautiful city which balances a history dating back to the Romans with an effervescent hub-bub of street cafes, ultra-modern shopping and myriad museums. Famously destroyed during WW2, Cologne has regenerated into one of the most exciting cities in Germany. Optional excursions will involve walks in the hills, cable-car and horse-drawn carriage rides, cycling, picnics or barbecues. Some of the details of the excursions may change slightly but the overall content will hardly be affected.



River Cruise on the Rhine

This is a full-day excursion, departing the hotel immediately after breakfast at 09.00am for the ferry at 09.15am. We will travel to either Bacharach or Oberwesel, where we make a two hour stop, before continuing on to St. Goar, arriving in good time for some lunch and maybe a visit to the castle. We set sail again at 3.10pm, arriving back in Rudesheim around 6.00pm. Meals are not included on this trip.



Rhine & Moselle by train

Today we depart from the hotel at around 09.40am for the train at 10.00am to Koblenz. Travelling along the Rhine, we reach Koblenz in about an hour and have time here to explore the ancient city, try some retail therapy in the superb stores or enjoy a coffee and cake in one of the many cafes. We travel onwards to Cochem, our train snaking along the winding Moselle, through quaint villages and past hillsides, adorned with ripening vines. Cochem is a beautiful town, nestling beneath the Reichsburg Castle which has protected the region for centuries. A visit to the castle is a must! Stroll through the narrow alleyways or enjoy a one-hour sightseeing cruise on the beautiful Moselle. We stop here for our evening meal. Our train returns to Rudesheim, departing at 7.40pm and arriving at 9.50pm.



Cologne – By train

Surely one of Germany's most interesting and vibrant cities, Cologne has so much to offer every visitor. We travel today via Koblenz, departing the hotel at around 09.40am arriving in Cologne approx two hours later. Your guide and escort, Alan, will take you for a short guided tour (if you wish), telling you a little of the history of Cologne and visiting the magnificent St. Peters, the largest Gothic Cathedral in the world. You will have plenty of time to enjoy the shops, stroll through the "Altstadt", enjoy a coffee, a glass or two of Kölsch beer or dine at one of the many open-air restaurants. Why not pay a visit to the Chocolate Museum...Yum!...or to the home of Eau de Cologne at 4711 Glocknergasse. Our return journey departs from Cologne's amazing railway station at 4.45pm, getting us home in time for a great dinner. Note: The rail fare alone for this journey is normally €48, so this is an excellent offer.



Walking Tour of Rudesheim – Full of surprises.

This walking tour of Rudesheim will take about three hours in total but will cover just over one mile of walking. The content of this tour is a surprise and we are sure you will enjoy it. It will take place on the day of arrival.

Romantic Castles and Picnic Hike - £28 - Activity Level 4-5

We travel by ferry to the village of Trechtlinghausen, from where we have a steep climb up to the Burg Reichenstein, one of the Rhine's most romantic castles and museums. After a stop here to explore the museum or enjoy a coffee, we continue our walk through the forest, stopping en-route for a picnic lunch. After about 2km, we reach the Burg Rheinstein, from whose lofty height we overlook the pretty village of Assmannshausen across the river. Time for another stop before we head for home. Please do not register for this tour if you cannot manage very steep slopes, numerous steps and a hike along forest paths. It is a fairly tough hike but well worth it for the views and the experience. Too many people come to this region and never get inside one of the Rhine's world-famous castles. This is a unique opportunity to visit two in one day. The entrance fees and the ferry costs more than the cost of this tour, so it is remarkable value.