



Moselle

8 days

\$1490

Fine German wines and rich history

The tour starts in Metz, France, with her splendid cathedral. We bike through the charming French countryside with welcoming villages, where the inhabitants are proud of their sweet, smooth wines and golden "Mirabellen" liqueur (plum liqueur). We continue into Luxembourg where we spend the night in Remich. In Germany we will first follow the river Saar to charming Saarburg, with the stunning waterfalls in the city center. Then, of course, there is Trier, the oldest city of Germany with the Porta Nigra dating from the first century after Christ. After Trier we follow the Mosel downstreams along the endless vineyards and the enchanting old cities Bernkastel and Cochem. It goes without saying that we will taste the local wines whenever we can.

Sat DAY 1 Metz

This tour starts in Metz, strategically situated between Côtes de Moselle and the plateau Lorrain. These days, the rich mediaeval city is a traffic junction, an administrative center, a center of learning, but especially a lively center of trade. A visit to the St. Etienne Cathedral, one of the most beautiful gothic cathedrals in France, is a must. This cathedral sits in the middle of the old city center, where shopping is also good.

Sun DAY 2 Metz - Konigsmacher (about 30 - 50 km).

The barge leaves early today and we have breakfast during sailing. Our bike tour starts in Talange and leads us through the French countryside. There is long option to the fort Hackenberg, part of the Maginot line. The short option goes to Thionville.. We can visit a place where the French locals make eau de Vie in Petit Hettange. We meet the barge in Konigsmacher.

Mon DAY 3 Konigsmacher - Remich (about 50 km).

Today's tour leads us via the beautiful valley of the Mosel across the French border into Luxembourg. We may visit the castle of Sierck-les-Bains, beautifully situated on the banks of the Mosel river. On top of the hill there is a castle from the 11th century, which was at stake in the battle between the duke of Lorraine and the archbishop of Trier in the 12th century. We spend the night in Remich. Here the Mosel forms the border between Germany and Luxembourg and Remich is on Luxembourg ground. Close to Remich we may visit the small village of Nennung, where you can visit an old roman mansion. The nearly undamaged mosaic floor in the party hall is extremely beautiful.

Tues DAY 4 Remich - Saarburg (45 km).

Today we follow the valley of the Mosel and Saar to the north and we visit charming Saarburg. On the way we visit a winery in Wormeldange, where they make 'Cremant de Luxembourg', a sparkling wine where this region is famous for. Saarburg is an interesting old town situated in the most beautiful part of the Saar valley. The castle of Saarburg was built here in the middle

of the 10th century. In the middle of town we come across a waterfall of 20 meters high. At the foot of this waterfall there is an old mill, which is driven by the small river. In this part of town most of the old houses from the 17th and 18th century, which give Saarburg such a picturesque look, are still intact.

Wed DAY 5 Saarburg - Trier (35 km).

Today we bike on to Trier, an interesting and lively city, the oldest city in Germany. According to the Romans, Trier was founded around 15 before Christ by Caesar Augustus under the name of Augusta Treverum. As a trading town and administrative center, Trier flourished during the late imperial age. This Roman golden age has left us with a respectable number of monuments. Most authentic is the city gate Porta Nigra, which was built around 18 after Christ.

Thur DAY 6 Trier - Bernkastel Kues (approx 50 km).

Today we start sailing early and we start cycling in Schweich. From there lovely vineyards stretch out in many places. We cycle past Trittenheim and Piesport, both big names. Piesport produces a number of beautiful white wines. Especially the 'Piesporter Goldtröpfchen' enjoys great fame. Trittenheim lies in a sharp hairpin turn in the Mosel. It is surrounded by mountains covered with extensive vineyards.

Fri DAY 7 Bernkastel Kues - Cochem (45 km).

Again we join the barge in the morning for a while. Later we cycle along the Mosel downstreams past Traben-Trarbach and Zell. Traben-Trarbach is surrounded by woods and extensive vineyards and it is the major center of wine trade in the Mosel region. Zell is beautifully situated on the Mosel, where the river meanders through the hills in many loops. Our final destination is Cochem, a cosy and characteristic Mosel town, with steep wine mountains, wooded hills, mediaeval fortresses and a picturesque center with beautiful timber-framed houses.

Sat DAY 8 Cochem Departure from barge.

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Moselle Germany

Fine German wines and rich history.

The countryside on both banks of the Mosel are splendid, the cool wines taste deliciously, the picturesque little towns have rich histories and the conditions for cycling are excellent indeed. Here you find the perfect mix of ingredients for a fine bike and barge vacation. This tour takes us through a wonderful, varying region.

We follow the river Mosel, partly in France, partly in Luxembourg, and partly in Germany.

Itinerary:

Metz –Konigsmacher – Remich - Saarburg –Trier – Bernkastel - Cochem

Highlights:

Cathedral of Metz – Maginot line - Saarburg - Porta Nigra in Trier- marketplace Bernkastel - fine white wines

Dates:

Cochem – Metz:

July 2 - July 9

July 30 - August 6

Metz - Cochem:

July 23 - July 30

October 15 - October 22

Included in the price: nights spent, breakfast, packed lunch, dinner (3 courses) bed linen, bike rental/helmet and tour guide.

Not included in the price are: entrance fees for museums and the like, drinks on board, personal insurances and transfers to and from the barge.

12 double cabins with portholes, have two low beds with en-suite facilities. All the common spaces are air-conditioned. **The cabins are air conditioned.**

