

Kat's Great Adventures

Germany - Luxembourg - France - Cochem to Metz Boat and Bike Tour 2023
Guided Tour
8 Days / 7 Nights



The countryside on both banks of the Moselle is splendid, the cool wines taste deliciously, the picturesque little towns have rich histories and the conditions for cycling are excellent indeed. You follow the river Moselle, partly in Germany, partly in France and partly in Luxembourg, along the endless vineyards and the enchanting old cities like Cochem and Bernkastel. It goes without saying that you can taste the local wine as often as you like. Then, of course, there is Trier, once an imperial Roman city. You will see the remnants of this glorious past in Germany's oldest cathedral, amphitheater, the emperor's throne hall and famous "black gate", the remains of the ancient city wall. After Trier you will follow the river Saar to visit charming Saarburg, with the stunning waterfalls in the city center. Then onto Luxembourg, the only Grand Duchy in Europe. Its strategic position between two super powers (France and Germany) made it a contested area to control over the ages. The last day you cycle in France with her welcoming villages, where the inhabitants are proud of their sweet, smooth wines and golden "Mirabellen" liqueur. The tour ends in the city of Metz, with her splendid Gothic cathedral.

Itinerary Day to Day

Day 1: Cochem

Embarkation and check-in is at 2 p.m. in Cochem. After a welcome meeting with the crew, the tour leader will take you for a walk through this cozy and characteristic Moselle town, with steep wine-clad mountains, wooded hills, an impressive castle and a picturesque square with beautiful timber-framed houses and cafes. A visit to Cochem's majestic Reichsburg Castle is on the program.



Day 2: Cochem – Zell 39 km

Following breakfast, you'll cycle to Beilstein, one of the best-preserved historical villages on the Moselle. The ruins of Castle Metternich sit towering above the village, and you'll have the opportunity to explore them. After leaving Beilstein you'll pass Europe's steepest vineyard – with slopes inclining up to 60 degrees – at Bremmer Calmont. Today's tour ends in the wine village Zell on the Moselle, well known in the industry for the wine Zeller Schwarz Katz. In Zell we recommend taking the opportunity to get to know the good wines of the Moselle valley.

Day 3: Zell on the Moselle – Bernkastel-Kues 45 km

Today you'll cycle from Zell to the romantic village of Traben-Trarbach, located on the Moselle's left bank and famous for its Jugendstil (Art Nouveau) architecture. From there you pass through the wine city of Kröv – well-known for its popular Kröver wine – to Bernkastel-Kues, your destination for the night. The grand half-timbered houses that surround Bernkastel-Kues's marketplace date back to the middle Ages, and are a photographer delight. You'll reach the barge in Kues after a tour through town.



Day 4: Bernkastel-Kues – Neumagen – Schweich 28 - 54 km | Schweich – Trier

From Bernkastel, the valley opens up and vineyards expand as far as the eye can see. Today we cruise past the heavy-hitters in the wine world: Brauneberg, Piesport, Trittenheim. Piesport is beloved by the Brits for the "little golden droplets." Trittenheim lies in a sharp hairpin turn on the river surrounded by mountains coated with grapes. Around lunchtime you will arrive in Neumagen, already in Roman times an important center of wine production. You can decide to join the barge from here or continue by bicycle to Schweich, where again the barge will be waiting for you. Once on board you will cruise to Trier, the oldest city in Germany. Trier was founded around 15 BC by Caesar Augustus under the name of Augusta Treverorum. 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 AC.

Day 5: Trier – Saarburg 28 km

In the morning your tour leader will take you into Trier and walk you around in Roman history. There is also time to discover and enjoy Trier on your own. After lunch you will hop on your bicycles and follow the Mosel and Saar River to our next destination, Saarburg. Saarburg is an interesting old town situated in the most beautiful part of the Saar valley. Here the banks of the river are densely forested. The castle of Saarburg was built here in the middle of the 10th century. In the middle of town you come across a waterfall that is 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. Today there is no dinner on board. You can select one of the local restaurants of Saarburg.

Day 6: Saarburg – Remich 45 - 53 km

Today there are 2 cycling options. One is easy, but a bit longer along the rivers. The shorter option is a bit more challenging, through the hills. Whatever your choice is, the cycling will lead you into the Grand Duchy Luxembourg. Here the Moselle forms the border between Germany and Luxembourg. Luxembourg is a small country, but her capital (also called Luxembourg) is an important finance center and EU administrative city. On the way, at the Luxembourg side, we visit a wine cooperative, specialized in the so called “Cremant”, the Champagne of the Moselle. Close to Remich you can admire a Roman mosaic floor. The tile floor which lies in its original place, was once the centerpiece in a palatial Roman villa. The scene (in 3 million individual tile pieces) reveals scenes from gladiator games in the amphitheater.



Day 7: Remich – Schengen | Schengen – Thionville 30 km | Thionville – Metz

While having breakfast you will cruise to Schengen, where your cycling tour will start. The “Schengen agreement” is something everybody in Europe has heard of, whereas almost nobody knows that it is named after this little town in Luxembourg at the 3 country border. Soon we will cross the Luxembourg - French border and experience the outcome of this agreement: no border controls. We pass the fortress of Sierck-les-Bains, one of the palaces inhabited by the powerful Dukes of Lorraine. The route is lovely through French countryside, and friendly villages. Around lunchtime you will arrive in Thionville, the center of the steel industry until the 1980s. That might sound modern and industrial, but the city is ancient. The historic center shows us the medieval ramparts, lovely gardens, old streets and St. Maximin Basilica. Here the ship is waiting to pick you up to cruise to Metz, another ancient city strategically situated on a Roman trading route. St. Etienne Cathedral is the 3rd largest gothic church in France with flying buttresses and Marc Chagall stained glass windows. Metz is full of stunning architecture, flowers and great cafes.

Day 8: Metz

End of your tour. Disembarkation after breakfast until 9:30 a.m.

Route



Technical Characteristics

Tour Profile: Easy. These holidays are appropriate for anyone with good physical condition and basic cycling skills. On virtually flat terrain, with distances up to 50 kilometers. You spend about 4 hours on your bicycle.

Distance: 215 - 249 km

Travel Season: Departures Princesse Royal Saturdays from Cochem: May 13; May 27; July 22; August 19; September 16 and October 14, 2023

Departures Princesse Royal Saturdays from Metz: May 20; June 3; July 1; July 29; September 23 and October 21, 2023

Departures Magnifique III Tuesdays from Cochem: September 5; September 19; October 3 and October 17, 2023

Departures Magnifique III Tuesdays from Metz: September 12; September 26; October 10 and October 24, 2023



Price per person	Season A	Season B	Season C	Season D
Twin Cabin Lower Deck	€ 1639.00	€ 1699.00	€ 1439.00	€ 1629.00
Premium Twin Cabin Lower Deck	€ 1839.00	N/A	€ 1639.00	N/A
Suite Upper Deck	N/A	€ 2299.00	N/A	€ 2229.00
Single Cabin Lower Deck	€ 2139.00	€ 2149.00	€ 1849.00	€ 1909.00
Twin Cabin for Single Use (1 per sailing)	€ 2458.50	€ 2548.50	€ 2158.50	€ 2443.50
Rental hybrid bicycle with 11 gears, hand brakes	€ 100.00			
Rental e-bike (limited number)	€ 220.00			

Season A: Princesse Royal: departures May – September

Season B: Magnifique III: departures in September

Season C: Princesse Royal: departures in October

Season D: Magnifique III: departures in October

Included:

- 7 nights' accommodation in booked cabin category
- Full board: 7 x breakfast, 6 x packed lunches, 6 x three course dinner, coffee and tea on board
- Use of bed linen and towels
- Daily cleaning of the cabin
- Climate controlled cabin
- Welcome drink
- Daily briefings
- Fully guided cycling tours (more than 22 guests: 2 tour leaders, 2 groups)
- Some short walking tours
- Entrance Reichsburg Cochem
- Local wine tasting
- GPS tracks
- Use of a helmet, waterproof pannier bag and water bottle
- Fees for ferries
- Wi-Fi
- SGR insolvency protection

Not Included:

- 1 dinner
- Gratuities (at your discretion)
- Drinks and expenses on excursions (not mentioned under included)
- Transfers to/from docking place
- Entrance fees and excursions not mentioned under included

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The Princesse Royal



The premium barge Princesse Royal accommodates up to 30 guests and breathes an atmosphere of luxury and comfort. The 16 lower deck cabins are provided with box spring beds and a bathroom with shower, sink and toilet. On the main deck you'll see that the bar is the center of attention, especially during the evening. Around are tables and comfortable chairs where you will be seated during breakfast and when the deliciously cooked dinners are served. In front there is a sitting area and outside are some seats. Last but not least: the Jacuzzi on the aft deck



The Magnifique III



This beautiful ship has 16 lovely cabins on the lower deck, all with two very comfortable beds, an en-suite bathroom, satellite TV, mini-safe and hairdryer. The 5 suites on the upper deck also have a small sitting area and large windows. The air conditioned restaurant and lounge area are situated around the prominent bar; ideal spots to enjoy life aboard! Let's not forget about the Jacuzzi and deckchairs on the top deck.

