



Mainz - Cologne

Route Description for your individual Bike and Boat trip

Dear Cyclist,

We would like to give you a very warm welcome on board. The River Rhine has always had an important influence on the life along its banks. On the Rhine Cycle Route, cyclists can follow its history and culture as well as its commercial importance as a major artery in Europe. Dozens of ports regular the busy ship traffic. The route runs through a flat landscape and there are lots of places to indulge in good food and even finer beverages along the river bank. The track is mostly paved, in some sections water bound or you cycle on cobble roads. Enjoy the flora and fauna and discover historic towns and cities, most of them listed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The itinerary of this tour has been described from the perspective of a cyclist, the way you will experience the route from your bike seat. You will find a nearly flat terrain and a fully signposted cycle route network from Mainz to Cologne.

Aboard, your tour guide will provide you with an amply illustrated presentation and a detailed way description for the respective day leg before „setting off“.

The sights you will meet on the left and on the right hand side of the cycle tour will be presented with detailed information. We would like to point out, however, that these can only be suggestions in order to help you to design the daily legs of the trip according to your personal wishes and preferences. Please note that this route description cannot substitute a travel guide.

All **additional information** and **tips** are highlighted with colours to be easily distinguished from the mere route description. But, nobody is perfect – please note that the situation on-sight can sometimes be different from the route description due to road works, overturned or overgrown signs, new traffic signs, etc.! We and all cyclists using this route will be very thankful for every update! Perhaps there are places or stretches you would describe differently – we are always open to suggestions.

We wish you a relaxing week and a lot of fun on your bike ride.

Direction arrow (for rough orientation):

↑ Straight ahead or follow the route

← Turn left

→ Turn right

km cycled kilometers

① Roundabout

1 Map number



Kilometer (scale 1 : 60 000)

Map basis©OpenStreetMap contributors

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Day 1: Arrival at Mainz and Embarkation

Please see the information in your travel documents for the way to the mooring place. Ensure that your travel plans permit to **arrive between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. on board**. The ship stays in Mainz for the night.

Day 2: Cycle Tour Mainz - Rüdesheim, approx. 33 km

Info: For today's destination, follow the sign-posts for **Eltille** and **Rüdesheim**. Alternatively, you might see signs with **R15 or R3**.

km 0 From the mooring, turn right and cycle along the riverside road up to the bridge across the Rhine. **1**

← Here bear left onto the cycleway that crosses the bridge.

→ On the other bank, turn right onto the street called **Rheinufer**, pass under the bridge and continue straight on.

← At the **Biebricher Straße**, turn left and carry on straight onto **Rheingaustraße**

← Behind the roundabout cycle left and follow the signs to the Rhine.

km 7,3 You reach Biebrich Palace.

Info: **Biebrich Palace** was the Baroque residence of the Counts, then Dukes of Nassau, located on the bank of the Rhine in the borough of Biebrich in the city of Wiesbaden. The structure was not built in one piece but has been repeatedly expanded between 1700 and 1750, eventually the former garden house had developed to a three-wing building. As such, today it ranks among the most important Baroque palaces along the Rhine. The vast and beautiful Palace Park stretches inland from behind the Palace. It is the current home of the state's historic preservation agency and is occasionally used for representative purposes by the Hessian State Government.

↑ Follow the main road alongside the castle. Turn left onto **Uferstraße** and cross the park. Keep
 ← to the left to get back to the Rhine.

← Pass under the motorway and turn left at the next junction.

↑ At Schierstein Harbour, carry on straight onto **Hafenweg**, and behind the harbour basin, bear
 ← left to return to the Rhine. **2**

↑ → Continue straight on and after the waterworks, follow the trail to the right,
 ← then turn left onto **Werftstraße**.

↑ Continue on through the village of **Walluf**.

→ At the **Rheinallee**, turn right onto **Kirchgasse...**

← Immediately after, turn left onto Rheinstraße. Pick up the cycleway along the Rhine that leads to
km 17 Eltville.

Tip: At the **Electoral Palace** dating from the 14th century, you may want to take some time to see the Palace and its marvellous rose garden.

Cycle further along the Rhine and pass the champagne cellars of Matheus Müller.

You will pass the wine village of **Hattenheim**, with its well-preserved historic centre. **3**

km 25 The route follows the Rhine, past the historic and well-preserved wine-loading crane in **Oestrich-Winkel**.

Tip: The *historic wine crane of Oestrich-Winkel*, a monument of viticulture, is the town's landmark, and is also a nice place to have a break. The dark boarded half-timbered building stands near the Rhine bank and is the only witness for the early technique of loading and unloading ships. From April to October, it is possible to see the inside of the crane and to marvel at the old technique. The entrance is free, and trained guides will provide you an insight into the history of Oestrich-Winkel's landmark. There has also been installed a small cycle-friendly rest area with benches.

Pass the ferry in **Winkel**, and remain on the eastern bank of the Rhine.

Keep cycling alongside the Rhine, pass by the town of **Geisenheim**. The Rheingau Cathedral and Schönborn Castle invite you for a visit. **4**

Tip: *Rheingau Cathedral* is a Catholic parish church of the Holy Cross in Geisenheim, in the Rheingau district (Bischof-Blum-Platz 1, 65366 Geisenheim). The late Gothic hall church was built mainly from 1510 to 1518. It succeeded a Romanesque church first mentioned in 1146. In 1829, the Romanesque west towers had to be demolished. From 1834 to 1838, the church was adjusted in the Neo-Gothic style by architect Philipp Hoffmann, who was born in Geisenheim. Along with the reconstruction of the towers, now 46 m high, the vault of the church was changed. Though named as cathedral due to the size and regional importance, the cathedral has never been a bishopric.

Tip: *Schönborn Castle* is a Renaissance style stately home dating from the middle of the 16th century located in Geisenheim in the Rheingau district. The building is a typical example of the widespread middle Rhine and Main River manor houses, which were transformed from the Late-Gothic to the Renaissance type of open state house. The property is surrounded by a walled vineyard.

Follow the cycle path to **Rüdesheim**, and keep alongside the river.

At **Kastanienallee**, cycle into the town, and you will reach the mooring place.

km 33 You have reached your destination.

Info: To reach the town, cross the railway tracks and the A-road.

Sights worth to see in Rüdesheim

Drosselgasse: internationally known lane with wine taverns.

Niederwald-Denkmal: commemorates the unification of Germany. You can reach it by:

Kabinenseilbahn: starts in the Oberstraße and offers fantastic views over the mouth of the river Nahe and the "Binger Loch".

Day 3: Cycle Tour Rüdesheim - St. Goar/St. Goarshausen, approx. 31 km

Info: Follow the cycle path sign-posts for **St. Goar**. You are now in the World Heritage landscape of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley.

km 0 From the mooring place, turn left alongside the Rhine up to the ferry to Bingen, and there cross over to the other side of the Rhine – either by passenger ferry (every hour, e.g. 9:30 am) or by car ferry (twice an hour, e.g. 9:10 am, 9:30 am). Fare approx. 2.50 € per person **5**

Info:	The World Heritage Site of the cultural landscape “Upper Middle Rhine Valley” , otherwise called the Rhine Gorge, is a cultural landscape, which was included on the list of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites on 27th June 2002. The World Heritage area extends from Bingen/Rüdesheim to Koblenz, with a total length of 67 km, a narrow gorge where the Rhine breaks through the Rhenish Slate Mountains. The uniqueness of the cultural landscape is its extraordinary richness of cultural witness. The valley owes its special form and structure to natural formation of the river landscape as well as to human involvement. For two millennia, it has been one of the most important transport routes for cultural exchange and trade between the Mediterranean region and the North of Europe. Located in the heart of Europe, sometimes border, sometimes bridge between different cultures, the valley is intimately associated with the history of Western Europe. With its many outstanding monuments, its terraced hills full of vines, its settlements crowded on the narrow river banks, and the rows of castles lined up on the hill tops, it is considered the epitome of the Rhine romanticism. It inspired Heinrich Heine to write his famous poem “Loreley”.
Info:	There are a lot of things worth to see in Bingen! Here some suggestions:
Tip:	The Basilica of Saint Martin is located in Bingen am Rhein in Rhineland-Palatinate on the bank of the river Nahe. Since 2002, the basilica is part of the UNESCO-World Heritage Site Upper Middle Rhine Valley, additionally it is protected cultural property under the Hague Convention.
Tip:	The Historical Museum on the Rhine River – Hildegard of Bingen ist the central facility to learn about Hildegard of Bingen’s history. Here and in the attached city archive, the historical and cultural legacy of the town and the region have been collected and preserved, explored and imparted. The largest section of the house is dedicated to today’s most famous abbess of the Middle Ages, a great theologian, composer, advisor, and naturalist, Hildegard of Bingen.

Tip: **Klopp Castle** is a hill castle on a rise in the town of Bingen am Rhein, and was built between 1240 and 1277. Partly reconstructed (bridge across the moat, gatehouse, chemin de ronde and bergfried or defense tower) for Ludwig Maria Cron, the castle assumed its present form during the period of the Rhine Romanticism in the 19th century. The new Gothic building had been added from 1875 to 1879 by architect and major Eberhard Soherr, serving as bourgeois summer residence. Since 1897, it has been mayoral residence. From the current extend of the castle, you cannot deduce its original shape and extend. The only remnants of the medieval castle are the base of the Bergfried, the moat, and parts of the southern curtain wall and its chemin de ronde. During the summer months, the 37.5 m high Bergfried is open to the public and offers fine views from its platform.

Info: On the right hand side, on a small island in the Rhine, before the narrow Binger Loch, stands the **Mouse Tower of Bingen**. The Mouse Tower is 24.65 m high, and was built in the beginning of the 14th century as a toll tower. According to legend, Hatto II, the archbishop of Mainz, had erected the tower in the 10th century. During a famine, the cruel archbishop refused to help the peasants with the grain he had stored in his barns. When the poor continued to beggar, he had them all closed in an empty barn. Hatto then ordered his servants to set the barn on fire, derisively commenting on the peasants' death cries with the words "Hear the mice squeak!" According to legend, in this moment, thousands of mice came out of every corner and besieged the town. The army of mice put the servants to rout and Hatto took a boat across the river to his tower, where he thought he was save. But though he locked himself, the mice found him and ate him alive. Today the tower is used as a Rhine navigation signal station.

↑ Continue cycling along the railroad tracks. On the other bank of the Rhine, you can see **Assmanshausen**.

↑ **km 9,6** Before a camp site, underneath Reichenstein Castle, the trail bears left but you carry on straight through **Trechtinghausen** alongside the Rhine and follow the trail between railway and river. **6**

km 14

Past Sooneck Castle, you reach **Niederheimbach**. The route leads you alongside the river to **Bacharach**.

In **Bacharach**, pass Stahleck Castle. The towncenter is well worth a visit.

The cycleway leads now alongside an A-road. On the eastern bank of the Rhine, you can see the wine town of **Kaub** with Pfalzgrafenstein Castle, sitting in the middle of the Rhine. **7**

Info:

Pfalzgrafenstein Castle, otherwise known as “the Pfalz” near Kaub, was erected on an island in the Rhine near Kaub as a toll-collecting castle by Ludwig the Bavarian, the Count Palatine of the Rhine and later Roman-German king and Emperor. Its purpose was to control the collecting of a fare, which passing ships had to pay to a toll station, located across from the castle on the eastern bank of the Rhine in Kaub. For this specific function, the castle – unlike other castles along the middle Rhine – was never inhabited. The building developed in the course of the years from the tower that Ludwig the Bavarian erected from 1326 to 1327. You can visit the castle.

You reach **Oberwesel** and ride through the village alongside the A-road.

km 29

Following the course of the Rhine, on your right hand side, you see the Loreley Rock rising 130 m above the Rhine. The river width here is no more than 113 m.

Continue to follow the cycleway, and you then can see Katz Castle towering above **St. Goarshausen**.

Info:

Katz Castle is a hilltop castle, originally called Neukatzenelnbogen Castle, contracted in the vernacular to Katz Castle. Since 2002, the castle has been part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley or Rhine Gorge. In 1989, Japanese management consultant Satoshi Kosugi bought the castle for the sum of 4.3 million Deutsche Mark. His original plan to convert the castle into a hotel for Japanese tourists was never carried out. Burg Katz remains in private possession until today. The castle is not open to the public.

km 31 In the harbour of **St. Goar**, your boat is moored. You have reached your destination.

Sights worth to see in St. Goar und St. Goarshausen

Rheinfels Castle (St. Goar): Castle Ruin

Loreley (St. Goarshausen): statue of the Loreley siren on the mole of the Loreley harbour.

Stiftskirche (St. Goar): Protestant parish church.

Day 4: Cycle Tour St. Goar/St. Goarshausen - Koblenz, approx. 38 km

Info: Today follow the sign-posts for **Koblenz**, cycling alongside the Rhine.

km 0 Cycle onto **Heerstraße (B9)** through **St. Goar**. After leaving the town, pick up the cycleway again. **8**

Continue cycling up to **Bad Salzig**.

km 10 After **Bad Salzig**, continue on the cycleway that runs alongside the road. **9**

→ Before you reach Boppard, turn right and pick up the cycle path leading along the waterside,

km 14 and cycle through the village of **Boppard** onto the **Rheinallee**. At the town's exit, cycle back to the cycleway alongside the **B9 (A-road)**.

→ At the camp site „**Campingplatz Sonneneck**“, before the town of **Spay**, turn right to reach the

km 21 river. Follow the trail alongside the Rhine through Spay.

↑ Cycle onto **Brunnenstraße** through **Rhens**. Before reaching the last house, the cycleway

→ bears to the right towards the river. **10**

→ At the Koblenz Brewery, follow the trail diagonally right through the riparian forest. Pass under the motorway and under the railway bridge. **11**

← Continue onto a road called **Rheinau** and at the **Beethovenplatz Square**, turn left.



At the roundabout, continue onto **Mozartstraße** (first exit).

→ After crossing the Rheinlache (branch of the Rhine), **cycle down** to the right, pedal through the Kaiserin Augusta park along the waterside. You pass the Electoral Palace, and reach the **Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer**.

At the “Deutsches Eck”(German Corner), turn left onto **Peter-Altmeier-Ufer**, where your ship is moored.

km 38 You have reached your destination.

Sights worth to see in Koblenz

German Corner: is the name of a headland where the Moselle joins the Rhine.

Ehrenbreitstein Fortress: on the mountain on the east bank of the Rhine opposite of Koblenz. Can be reached by ferry or by cableway.

Old Town

Electoral Palace

Day 5: Cycle Tour Koblenz - Andernach, approx. 25 km

Info: Follow the cycleway sign- posts for **Andernach**.

km 0 From the mooring place, pick up **Kornpfortstraße**. **12**

→ Then turn immediately right onto a street called **Auf der Danne**, which becomes **Florinsmarkt** and then **Burgstraße**.

→ → At the traffic lights, turn right over the Moselle bridge. After crossing the bridge, bear right onto
← **Gartenstraße** and immediately left onto **Neuendorfer Straße**.

→ At the supermarket, turn right onto **Schartwiesenweg**. Follow the road, which then becomes **Am Ufer**. On your right hand side, you see the island of Niederwerth.

← At the end of the cycle path, turn left onto **Fritz-Ludwig-Straße**,
→ then turn right onto **Hans-Böckler-Straße**.

⤴ At the roundabout, turn right onto **Carl-Spaeter-Straße** (first exit) and continue onto **Kurfürst-Schönborn-Straße**. At the first junction, turn right towards the Rhine.

km 11 Pass under the Bendorf motorway bridge to reach **Kaltenengers**.

↑ In the town, carry on straight and keep near the river. **13**

↑ Ride past the village of **Urmitz** and past the **Mülheim-Kärlich** Nuclear Power Plant.

km 18 Continue alongside the Rhine through the village of **Weissenturm**.

← At the entrance to the town of **Andernach**, turn left onto **Ostkai**, **Ostkai** then changes into **Hafenstraße**. **14**

← → Turn left onto **Hans-Julius-Ahlmann-Straße**, then immediately turn right onto **Augsbergweg**.

→ At the end of the street turn right onto **Konrad-Adenauer-Allee**. Continue cycling up to the Rhine, and to the mooring place.

km 30 You have reached your destination.

Sights worth to see in Andernach

Cold Water Geyser: with eruptions of approx. 50 to 60 metres it is the world's largest cold water geyser.

Liebfrauenkirche – Mariendom: large galleried basilica with four towers located at the western border of the city.

Round Tower: landmark of the city. Opening hours: Aug./Sept. Mon-Sat 1-6 h p.m.

Rheintor (Kornforte): build in 1200 as the main entrance of the city.

Day 6: Cycle Tour Andernach - Bonn, approx. 45 km

Info: Today, follow the sign-posts for **Bonn**.

km 0 To leave **Andernach**, pick up **Konrad-Adenauer-Allee** to the right (downstream) and cycle up to the A-road. **15**

Cross the A-road and pass under the railroad tracks. Continue alongside the slope.

↑ Carry on straight through the village of **Namedy**, past the castle.

- ← → In the village of **Brohl**, at the station turn left, then immediately turn right.
- ← ↑ Pass under the bridge, keep to the right and then turn left onto **Koblenzer Straße**.
- km 8,5** Carry on straight until you reach the office building of the Brohler company.
- ← → Here turn left and pass under the railway. Then turn right.
- ↑ Continue straight on alongside the railway (**Artilleriestraße**).
- Before a bridge (over the stream Vinxtbach), turn right and pass under the railway and the road to get back to the Rhine.
- km 12** In **Bad Breisig**, the cycleway runs for **150 m** through a pedestrian area.
-  You have to walk your bike here. **16**
- Tip:* In Kripp, it is well worth to take a detour to the historic town of Linz, on the other side of the Rhine. -Ferry dock is right along the cycleway-. Linz is worth visiting, the town has colourful half-timbered houses spanning five centuries and an impressive market square. Afterwards continue your tour from Kripp, on the other side of the river.
- km 22** The tour continues alongside the river. Past the mouth of the Ahr, cycle to **Remagen**.
- Info:* You will pass the bridge in Remagen. During World War II, at Remagen, the Allies succeeded in conquering the last intact Rhine bridge, and crossed the Rhine here.
-  → Continue alongside the Rhine. In a pedestrian area in **Remagen**, you have to walk your bike again. Afterwards turn right to reach back to the Rhine **17**
- km 29** Ride past **Oberwinter** and reach **Rolandseck**. **18**
- km 37** Continue via **Mehlem** to **Bad Godesberg**. **19**

Cycle into **Bonn** and keep to the river bank until you reach **Brassertufer**. There you will find your ship.

km 45 You have reached your destination.

Sights worth to see in Bonn - here some examples:

Haus der Geschichte: Museum of the History of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Beethoven-Haus: birthplace of Ludwig van Beethoven and museum.

Botanischer Garten: one of the oldest and most traditional Botanical Gardens in Germany.

Poppelsdorfer Schloss: a palace that was built as a resort for the prince-electors in the first half of the 18th century

Kunstmuseum Bonn: Bonn Museum of Modern Art

...and lots more!

Day 7: Cycle Tour Bonn - Cologne, approx. 37 km

Info: You are about to set off for the last stretch. Today, follow the sign-posts for **Cologne/Köln**.

→ Turn right onto **Brassertufer** and pass under the Kennedybrücke. **20**

After the motorway bridge, the trail leads to the left and via **Karl-Legien-Straße** and **Kranenweg** back to the Rhine. **21**

← → Before reaching **Hersel**, at the sports ground, turn left and then turn right onto **Leinpfad** until you reach the town of **Wesseling**.

- km 16** In **Wesseling**, continue cycling along the Rhine until you reach a fork, and here turn left onto **Uferstraße**. **22**
- ← Turn right onto **Kölner Straße**, cycle up to the turnoff to the left and continue onto **Mühlenweg**.
- ① At the roundabout, turn right onto **Theodor-Heuss-Straße** (first exit). Carry on straight across the cycle path.
Cross the bridge over the industrial plants.
- ↑ Continue straight on, pass under a pedestrian bridge and under pipes.
- After the Godorf Harbour basin, turn right onto **Mühlenhof** and cycle back to the Rhine on the lower cycleway.
- km 24** Ride past **Sürth**.
Follow **Sürther Leinpfad** and the cycle path until you almost reach **Rodenkirchen**.
- ← → At a turnoff near a glade, turn left and then turn right onto **Ufer Straße**. **23**
Cycle past a camp site through the park to reach the river bank.
Carry on alongside the Rhine and pass under the motorway bridge.
Cycle onto **Gustav-Heinemann-Ufer** past the **Kölner Südbrücke**, **Severinsbrücke**, **Deuzer Brücke**, **Hohenzollernbrücke** and reach **Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer**, where your ship is moored.
- km 37** You have reached your destination.

Sights worth to see in Köln - here some examples:

Cologne Cathedral: ranks among the largest Gothic cathedrals in the world and is the city's landmark.

Cologne Zoo: founded in 1860, it is Germany's third oldest zoo.

Museum Ludwig: Museum for the 20th Century and contemporary art.

Romano - Germanic Museum: Archaeological museum and archive of the material heritage of history and of the Roman and Frankish eras.

Historic Old Town

...and lots more!

Day 8: Disembarkation in Cologne

After breakfast, it is time to say farewell. We hope you have had a beautiful time.

Now we would like to wish you a safe journey home, and we are looking forward to seeing you again on one of our ships

Your SE-Tours team!



ABOUT US

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