

HEARTCYCLE BICYCLE TOURING CLUB
GERMANY, BIKE AND BARGE ALONG THE MOSEL AND SAAR
RIVERS

- Dates:** Arrive Sept. 15, 2018 in Koblenz. Riding Sunday Sept 16- Friday Sept. 21.. Depart Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018 from Merzig, Germany at 9:00 a.m.
- Leader:** Joanne Speirs
- Rating:** Easy to Intermediate; the trip is appropriate for anyone with a good physical condition and basic cycling skills. Approximately 146 miles
- Riders:** 19 (plus Leader)
- Price:** \$1785 (Double occupancy). \$600 Deposit at registration. Balance due by 6/1/18. No Single Supplements for this tour. *We strongly encourage you to obtain Travel Insurance.*
- Cancellation:** Due to the terms of our contract, special cancellation fees will apply. Before June 1, 2018, the cancellation fee will be \$100.00. Between June 1, 2018 and July 15, 2018, the cancellation fee will be 100% of your deposit, unless the spot can be filled, then the fee will be \$100. After July 15, 2018: The cancellation fee is 100% of your total fee, unless your spot can be filled, then the fee will be \$100.00.



Join Joanne and Francien van der Lee, our experienced Dutch guide, as we tour the countryside on the banks of the Mosel and Saar rivers. The tour is 7 days and includes breakfast, packed lunch on tour, 6 dinners on board the Barge, bed linen, tour guide, bike rental and entrance fees to Burg Eltz and Reichsburg Cochem.

We will ride 25-35 miles a day on mostly dedicated bike paths. At times, we will share the road with car traffic and pass through busy intersections. Although we will be on relatively flat terrain, the weather may add an additional challenge to the day. All participants will ride as a group with Joanne and Francien.

We will travel through endless vineyards, picturesque little German towns with rich histories and Roman ruins. This is a sightseeing tour on a bike; stopping along the way to enjoy the sights, do some

wine tasting and learn a little history of southwestern Germany. We may pay a visit to a beer brewery, a winery, a museum, a castle or a cheese farm. These entrance fees are not included, except as indicated above.

The tour includes German 8 speed Gudereit hybrid bikes. Bicycle bags, panniers and water bottles are standard on all bikes. We may be able to rent an e-bike, but we will need to check to see if one is available for this trip as they are limited and there may be an additional cost. Please indicate this request when you register. It is not advised that you bring your own bike.

Our floating barge hotel, the Allure has 10 comfortable cabins. There are 9 cabins with two single beds and one with a double bed. All have a private bathroom, a hairdryer, wardrobe and a small safe. The cabins are small, so it is best to bring a collapsible soft traveling bag rather than a large, hard suitcase. There is a cozy lounge where we will enjoy our meals and socialize with fellow riders. There is also a beautiful large deck where we may enjoy meals, or simply sit and watch the scenery while we cruise the river. There is free Wi-Fi in the lounge. However, due to instability of the mobile network, your connection may not be steady. The whole barge has central heating, but air conditioning is in the lounge only. The average temperature during the day will typically range from 59 to 69 degrees.

In addition to Francine, the tour will include a Skipper, sailor, cook, and kitchen assistant. An extensive breakfast is served every morning and a three -course dinner most evenings, except for in Trier. During breakfast you will make a packed lunch to take with you. Coffee and tea will be waiting for you on board after the daily bike trip. Other drinks, such as wine, beer and soft drinks are available on board at a charge. If you want a bottle of wine that you did not purchase from the ships bar, there is a corkage fee of \$6 euro per bottle.

If you have special meal requirements, please indicate that at the time of registration. Vegetarian meals are easily arranged; in all other cases (gluten and lactose free) we will have to check if your request can be accommodated. There may be an extra charge to be paid on board.





Please Note that changes to the trip itinerary may be necessary due to nautical and technical reasons.

Itinerary: Koblenz – Cochem-Zell-Bernkastel-Kues-Trier-Saarburg-Merzig

Day 1, Saturday, September 15, 2018: Koblenz.

The Allure will be docked in Koblenz. Meet in Koblenz, Germany on Saturday, at 3:00 P.M; You may come on board at 3 pm to get settled and relax. At 6:00 pm the tour will start with a welcome drink. Dinner will follow prepared by the onboard chef. After dinner you may take a walk with Francien through Koblenz. The Romans gave that name to their camp (around 14 A.D), built where the Rhine and Mosel rivers converge. In World War II, the town was almost entirely destroyed, but monuments remain that are worth a visit. These include: the Deutsches Eck, the Romanesque Basilica St. Kastor and the Kurfurstliches Schloss. Koblenz is also a nice place to shop.

Day 2, Sunday, September 16, 2018: Koblenz – Cochem (35 km/22 miles).

We will enjoy breakfast while the Allure cruises up the Mosel. Today we ride through the middle of the wine regions and cruise past many typical picturesque Mosel towns. We will visit the queen of German fortresses, the impressive Burg Eltz. This castle dates back to the 12th Century. It has been owned by the same family for over 800 years and is spectacular inside and out. Our final destination will be Cochem. Cochem is an exceptionally scenic town and favored by visitors. It is a characteristic Mosel town, surrounded by steep wine vineyards, wooded hills, mediaeval fortresses and a town square, which is lined with half-timbered houses. We will visit the Reichsburg Cochem, which towers over the town from a nearby hill.

Day 3, Monday, September 17, 2018: Cochem – Zell (40km/ 25 miles).

Zell is a quaint town. It is believed to have been founded by the Romans and the remnants of their activities are still located beneath a part of the old town. Zell is also beautifully situated on the Mosel, where the river meanders though the hills in loops. Many vineyards surround the town and on the main pedestrian street you will find wine shops and a 16th Century castle.

Day 4, Tuesday, September 18, 2018: Zell- Bernkastel-Kues (45km/28 miles).

Today we will first cycle to Traben Trarbach, which is a lovely “double town” connected by a pedestrian friendly bridge that spans a giant bend in the river. It is surrounded by woods and extensive vineyards and is a major center of wine trade in the Mosel region. Our destination for the evening is Bernkastel-Kues. Bernkastel is also a “double town”, located in the center of the Middle Mosel. Bernkastel is a picturesque medieval town, with vineyards that are some of the oldest in Germany. We will visit wine cellars and enjoy the wine. The pride of the town is the scenic market square.



Day 5, Wednesday, September 19, 2018: Bernkastel-Kues – Trier: (40km/25 miles).

We will continue to ride upstream past lovely vineyards and thru two well-known villages of Piesport and Trittenheim. This region produces delicious white wines from the Riesling grape. There have been vineyards here since medieval times. Piesport produces “Piesporter Goldtropfchen” from a very well known vineyard. Trittenheim lies on an even slope of land which was formed by a tight bend in the river. It is surrounded by mountains and covered with vineyards. We will ride past the cemetery chapel Laurantiuskapelle, which may have been built by Rheindorfer Benedictine nuns. The chapel is located on a hillside in the middle of a vineyard. We continue on to Trier, which is the oldest city in Germany. It is claimed that the Roman, Caesar August, founded the town around 15 B.C. There are several well preserved Roman structures including the Porta Nigra, which is the city gate, roman baths and a stone bridge over the Mosel.

Day 6, Thursday, September 20, 2018: Trier-Saarburg (35km/22 miles).

Today we ride along the densely forested banks of the Saar River to our next destination Saarburg. The Saar River flows by steep sloped banks, deep valleys and mountains. We will ride by the Saarburg castle, which was built in the middle of the 10th century. A sight that cannot be missed is the waterfall of 20 meters high in the middle of town. At the foot of the waterfall is an old mill, which is driven by a small river. The surrounding houses are from the 17th and 18th century.



Day 7, Friday, September 21, 2018: Saarburg – Merzig (40km/ 25miles).

We will bike first to Orscholz. It is here that there is a sharp turn in the Saar River as it meanders through the densely forested valley. We will walk to the Cloef, a tree – top walkway from which we will see the sharp turn in the Sarr and the surrounding vistas. We will continue to Mettlach, where we will visit the famous ceramic factory of Villeroy & Boch. Villeroy & Boch have been producing elegant ceramics since 1748. We will ride on to Merzig to meet the barge and enjoy a farewell dinner.



Day 8, Saturday, September 22, 2018: Merzig

After another great breakfast aboard the Allure, we will disembark.

Getting to and from the Barge: If you are traveling directly to the Tour, it is recommended that you fly to the Frankfurt International Airport. At the Frankfurt Airport, take the train from the co-located station for a short trip (approximately 1 hour) to Koblenz. From Koblenz it is best to take a taxi to the Barge mooring. The following link to google maps indicates the mooring place:

<http://ww.eurosailtravel.com/maps/koblenz.html>.

At the conclusion of the trip, you can taxi to the train station in Merzig and then take the train from Merzig back to the Frankfurt Airport in about 3.5 hours. The crew will assist in these arrangements. A website where you can find information about the train and buy tickets is: www.db.de (also in English).

For additional information, contact Joanne Speirs at jcspeirs1@gmail.com