

Windmills, Vineyards and Paris River Cruise

15 DAYS – FLY TO AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND AND RETURN FROM PARIS, FRANCE

On this fantastic river-cruise vacation, experience Holland, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, and France...

Amsterdam with its intricate network of canals; the cheeses of Gouda; the vibrant Rotterdam harbor, Kinderdijk's unique character windmills; and the Airborne Museum Hartenstein in Arnhem. Guided sightseeing in Antwerp, Cologne and Trier; sample famous Riesling wines in pretty Rudesheim; visit Reichsburg Castle and a local wine cellar in Bernkastel. From Metz travel via high-speed train to Paris for two nights with guided sightseeing of Paris' major highlights.

DAY

- 1 HOME CITIES to AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND:** (Overnight Flight).  *Saturday.* Begin your exciting holiday with an overnight flight to Amsterdam.
- 2 AMSTERDAM:** *Sunday.* Welcome to Amsterdam! The works of famous Dutch masters can be seen in world-renowned museums such as the Rijks museum or the Van Gogh. This afternoon, board your river cruise vessel and meet your crew at a WELCOME RECEPTION. *Meals included: dinner.*

- 3 AMSTERDAM:** *Monday.* Cruise the city by CANAL BOAT past stately homes dating back to Amsterdam's "Golden Age." There is plenty of free time to explore on your own. Your Cruise Director will have suggestions. *Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner.*

- 4 AMSTERDAM to KINDERDIJK:** *Tuesday.* Gouda is famous not only for its cheese but also for the 70 stained-glass windows in ST. JOHN'S CHURCH. After visiting the town, stroll through the little lanes or have a cup of coffee alongside one of its canals. After lunch we cruise through the busy HARBOR of Rotterdam. Nearby is KINDERDIJK with its picturesque row of windmills. *Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner.*

- 5 KINDERDIJK to ANTWERP, BELGIUM:** *Wednesday.* Antwerp is Belgium's second-largest city and one of the world's most important ancient seaports. Included sightseeing shows you its superb architecture, the GROTE MARKET with its beautiful city hall, and the Church of Our Lady. *Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

- 6 ANTWERP to MAASTRICHT:** *Thursday.* Maastricht is the bustling cosmopolitan capital of the province of Limburg, distinct from the rest of the country with its almost Mediterranean atmosphere, Mosan-type stone houses, and its rolling hinterland. As we start sailing down the Maas River this afternoon, you might want to join an optional excursion across the border to Germany for a visit of Aachen, ancient seat of Charles the Great. *Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner.*

- 7 MAASTRICHT to ARNHEM, HOLLAND:** *Friday.* One of the major tragedies of World War II was the Battle of Arnhem, featured vividly in the AIRBORNE MUSEUM HARTENSTEIN. A visit to the American War Cemetery near Nijmegen is available after lunch. Tonight, sail into Germany. *Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner.*

- 8 ARNHEM to COLOGNE, GERMANY:** *Saturday.* Soaring twin steeples of the magnificent gothic cathedral dominate the river skyline of



Avalon Affinity river cruise vessel.

Cologne and the Germano-Roman Museum next to the cathedral is a must for history buffs! *Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner.*



- 9 COLOGNE to KOBLENZ:** *Sunday.* Rudesheim is the perfect example of a Rhine Valley wine town and SIEGFRIED'S MECHANICAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM is a real surprise! The dramatic RHINE GORGE is the most beautiful stretch of river. 2,000-year-old Koblenz is the cultural and business center of the Middle Rhine region. *Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner.*


- 10 KOBLENZ to COCHEM:** *Monday.* Today we sail up the Moselle River, which rises in the Vosges Mountains of northeastern France. Visit Cochem's REICHSBURG CASTLE, which sits atop a conical hill covered in vines. Moselle is well known for producing the Riesling grape. *Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner.*

- 11 COCHEM to BERNKASTEL:** *Tuesday.* In the middle of the Moselle region is the wine village of Bernkastel and its beautiful MARKET PLACE. Wine growers in this area look after Germany's largest expanse of vineyards, the most celebrated vintage being the Bernkasteler Doktor. Visit a local WINE CELLAR and taste several of this region's wines. *Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner.*

- 12 BERNKASTEL to LUXEMBOURG:** *Wednesday.* Trier is the oldest in Germany! A house on the marketplace bears the inscription, "Trier was standing 1,300 years before Rome." The famous PORTA NIGRA is the only surviving fortified gate from the original Roman settlement. This afternoon, cruise to Remich in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. *Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner.*

- 13 LUXEMBOURG to PARIS, FRANCE:** (2 nights) *Thursday.* After breakfast, transfer to Metz to board the HIGH-SPEED TRAIN for a swift and comfortable journey to Paris. *Meals included: breakfast.*

- 14 PARIS:** *Friday.* Your included city sightseeing shows you magnificent Notre Dame Cathedral, the unique Louvre Museum, the commemorative Arc de Triomphe, Opéra, Madeleine, Champs Elysées, and the Eiffel Tower. *Meals included: breakfast.*

- 15 PARIS to HOME:** *Saturday.* Your tour ends,  leaving you with many pleasant memories of a wonderful holiday. *Meals included: breakfast.*

2010 DEPARTURE DATES
15 Days: June 5, July 31,
September 25
CALL FOR PRICES
 Additional dates available



DAY YOUR ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

- 1** Overnight flight to Amsterdam
- 2 – 12** The Avalon Affinity (outside stateroom with Hotel-style beds)
- 13 – 14** PARIS: Le Meridien Montparnasse or Hilton Arc de Triomphe

HIGHLIGHTS

- 34 Meals: 13 breakfasts 10 Lunches 11 Dinners
- Canal Boat
- Rotterdam Harbour Cruise
- Grote Market
- Sigfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum
- Reichsburg Castle
- High-Speed Train
- St. John's Church
- Kinderdijk
- Airborne Museum Hartenstein
- Market Place

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