

Christmas Cruise on the Rhine

This is a Christmas cruise designed for the many clients that have joined us for river cruises over the years. We are pleased to offer this cruise on the popular MPS Esmeralda and promises to be a very enjoyable experience. Our cruise begins on the river Rhine at Cologne and continues through the Rhine Gorge to Mainz. Between Koblenz and Bingen the river narrows to a third of its normal width and forces its way through a deep gorge which, with its fairy-tale castles, terraced vineyards and picturesque villages, seems to sum up all that is most romantic about the country. We call at Königswinter, Koblenz, Boppard and Rudesheim en route with plenty of time to enjoy the local celebrations and visit the Christmas Markets as we go. All Cabins have Private Facilities, Telephone, Colour Television and Mini Safe.

ITINERARY

Sunday

An early start sees us travel to Dover and our crossing to France, leaving Calais we travel to our overnight Hotel in Lille arriving late afternoon.

Monday

Leaving our Hotel we drive through France and Belgium as we make our way to Cologne for embarkation. After boarding the vessel we can enjoy a welcome drink and a chance to meet the crew, before dinner and overnight on board.

Tuesday

The morning is at leisure in the city of Cologne with its impressive castle and spires, well known for its food and drink. Why not take the opportunity to explore one of the six Christmas Markets. We depart from Cologne after lunch for Königswinter, either enjoy the scenery as we cruise down the Rhine or join in the decorating of the Christmas Tree on board.

Wednesday Christmas Eve

Today is Christmas Eve and you will start sailing at 08.00 hrs, arriving in Koblenz just after midday. After lunch you browse through Koblenz's historic centre. Walking from St Florins Market to the Old Mint Square you will pass medieval churches and beautiful restored historic house fronts. Midnight mass is available at the local church of St Castor's, for anyone that wishes to attend, with mulled wine and cookies afterwards.

Thursday Christmas Day

You will awake in Koblenz on Christmas morning before sailing to

Boppard, maybe spend a couple of hours taking in the natural beauty and numerous monuments of the town. Make sure that you are back on board for a midday departure, where we can enjoy a traditional English Christmas Lunch as we sail towards Rudesheim. After lunch there is the opportunity to participate in the singing of Carols around the Christmas Tree and Father Christmas will pay a visit. Arriving late afternoon, there is the chance before dinner to spend time in one of the most welcoming Rheinland towns – famous for the Drosselgasse in the heart of the old town.

Friday Boxing Day

This morning we sail early from Rudesheim to Mainz, where we are then able to spend the day as we wish. Take the time to explore this city with its impressive past. See the impressive seven towers of the 1000-year-old Romanesque Cathedral, one of the finest rococo churches - St Peters and the Augustinian Friars Church with its Magnificent facade. Also enjoy a stroll through the romantic old city with its quaint shops and historic half-timbered facades bathed in festive light.

Saturday

We disembark the vessel in Mainz in the morning, where we will make our way to Calais for the short sea crossing to Dover. Leaving the channel port we return to Shropshire, arriving home late evening.

7 DAYS

21st - 27th December £ 595
No Single Rooms Insurance £ 25.00
Supplement for Promenade Deck Cabins £26.50 p.p.



Look What's Included!

- Welcome Drink and Portage on the M.P.S. Esmeralda.
- 5 Nights Bed, Buffet Breakfast, 3 Course Lunch and 4 Course Evening Meal on Board.
- Prices Based on Main Deck Cabins.
- Promenade Deck Cabins Available at a Supplement of £26.50 pp.
- Happy Hour On Board Daily.
- 1 Overnight Hotel, Three Star Standard, Bed, Breakfast and Evening Meal.
- Cruise Programme as Detailed, with on Board Entertainment.
- Return Channel Crossing.

THE M.P.S. ESMERALDA ★★★

The Esmeralda is a modern and comfortable river Vessel, both Main and Upper passenger decks have Two-Berth cabins with side by side beds. Each cabin has been attractively decorated, has good sized windows and is provided with a telephone, colour television, a mini safe and en-suite bathroom. On the Upper Deck you will find an attractive, large Old-Dutch lounge, bar and reception. The restaurant is situated on the Main Deck serving an excellent selection of dishes. Both passenger decks can be reached by convenient passenger lift and a chair lift will take you to the sun deck. The entire ship is air-conditioned and cabins have individual heating. Guests who like tradition, but, at the same time make high demands with respect to comfort will find all they need on board the Esmeralda.

