

YULE TIME ON THE RHINE

FRANKFURT TO FRANKFURT – 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS



BASEL

The spirit of Yule is alive and well! From the moment you step aboard your Riverside luxury ship in Europe's bustling financial hub of Frankfurt, you'll be immersed in Gemütlichkeit (warm, coziness). Experience Germany's long-held holiday traditions during stops in Bonn, Germany's former capital and city of Ludwig van Beethoven; awe-inspiring Cologne with its landmark cathedral and rich Jewish heritage; Koblenz, where the Rhine and Moselle Rivers come together; the quaint wine village of Rüdesheim for an unforgettable musical treat; and other alluring cities and towns. Even Mother Nature gets into the gift-giving spirit with moments you'll never forget in the castle-dotted Rhine Gorge. Time at the merry Christmas Markets rounds out the trip. You might even enjoy conducting your own Glühwein taste test since each town has its own unique recipe!

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Frankfurt	Day 5 – Koblenz/ Rhine Gorge/ Rüdesheim
Day 2 – Mainz/ Rhine Gorge	Day 6 – Mannheim/ Mainz
Day 3 – Bonn/ Cologne	Day 7 – Frankfurt
Day 4 – Düsseldorf	



DATES IN 2025

2 Dec, 14 Dec



UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE

UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE features an authentic destination experience that leaves an unforgettable impression. As you cruise through the Rhine Valley, watch an expert concoct an authentic Rüdesheimer Coffee with flaming brandy, strong coffee, a dollop of whipped cream, and other mouthwatering ingredients – then, taste one yourself!

DAY 1 – FRANKFURT

Welcome to Frankfurt, Germany's exciting hub of international business and finance. Embark the luxurious Riverside Debussy and relax as you settle in. If you arrive early, join our guided tour of Frankfurt that includes an ascent up the Main Tower and time in the medieval Old Town. See the iconic Römer Town Hall and spend time at the bustling Frankfurt Christmas Market, which dates back to 1393 and attracts 3 million visitors annually. Tonight, meet your crew and fellow traveling companions during your first onboard dinner.

DAY 2 – MAINZ / RHINE GORGE SCENIC CRUISING

Your day begins with early arrival in Mainz. Founded by the Romans in the 1st century BC, settled by the Franks, and an important part of the Holy Roman Empire, Mainz also played a big role in the Jewish community during medieval times. Most famously, though, it was the birthplace of Johannes Gutenberg, inventor of the printing press. Through a RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, explore the Old Town and visit the Gutenberg Museum to learn about the world-changing innovation; or join a costumed guide who will tell the inventor's story at various Old Town stops, followed by free time at the Christkindlmarkt (Christmas Market). Later, return to your ship for lunch and cruise through the castle-filled Rhine Gorge. Along the way, enjoy a UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE Rüdeshheimer Coffee-making demonstration and tasting of the local specialty!

DAY 3 – BONN / COLOGNE

With the light of the day comes the chance to explore Germany's former capital and birthplace of composer Ludwig van Beethoven. RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers great excursions featuring the cathedral, castle, Beethoven sites, and jolly Old Town Christmas Market. Lunch is on the ship, then it's another big highlight as we dock this afternoon in Cologne. Enjoy a guided stroll through the historic district to visit the awe-inspiring cathedral and one of Germany's most famous Christmas Markets. Immerse yourself in the festive atmosphere: twinkling lights, familiar carols, church bells, gingerbread, and, of course, original Nuremberg bratwursts, which have played a central role in the city's Advent festivities for more than 700 years!

DAY 4 – DÜSSELDORF

Welcome to Düsseldorf, an economic powerhouse and capital of Germany's most populated state.

A marvelous place to start is along the lovely cobblestones of the Altstadt (Old Town). With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, join a walking tour to see the highlights and to learn how Napoleon left an indelible mark here. You might also enjoy time at the captivating Maritime Museum or a peek into Düsseldorf's 200-year Altbier tradition as you pop into a cozy Brauhaus (brewery) for a malty, copper-colored Altbier. Later, try Düsseldorf's most festive flavors and favorite Advent specialties during a delicious guided culinary walk with time at the beautiful Christmas Market.

DAY 5 – KOBLENZ / RHINE GORGE / RÜDESHEIM

A leisurely start to the day with mid-morning arrival in Koblenz, established as a Roman military post around 8 BC. Here, you can join a RIVERSIDE CHOICE guided walk to the iconic Deutsches Eck monument, where the Rhine and Moselle Rivers meet, or visit impressive Marksburg Castle, one of the few castles along the Rhine that has never been destroyed. Back on the ship for lunch and afternoon cruising into one of the river's prettiest sections. As your ship heads the opposite direction through the Rhine Gorge, head up to the Vista Deck so you won't miss a thing. Arrive this evening in popular Rüdeshheim, where the Winzerexpress train will transport you up into the heart of town. Soak in the Christmas atmosphere along the narrow, cobblestone Drosselgasse. Surrounded by Old World architecture, browse the shops, stop at one of the many wine taverns to try a glass of the locally produced Riesling, or savor another Rüdeshheimer Coffee – in the very place it was invented!

DAY 6 – MANNHEIM / MAINZ

Two stops today, beginning in Mannheim. Join a RIVERSIDE CHOICE guided walk to hear about the city's unusual street layout, visit Europe's second-largest Baroque palace, and head to the Christmas Market for good cheer and great food. Another option is the 14th-century Baroque masterpiece of Schwetzingen Palace, whose famous gardens feature sculptures, temples, and even a Rococo theater. Later, a gourmet lunch is served on board as you cruise back to Mainz for additional RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursions or free time to explore on your own!

DAY 7 – FRANKFURT

After breakfast, disembark the Riverside Debussy and enjoy complimentary transfers to the airport, train station, or central hotel.