

Cycling the Moselle and Rhine

Superb white wines and the romantic Rhine valley

Daily distance: 20-40 km **Duration:** 8 days / 7 nights
Route profile: flat terrain, suitable for people between 18 and 81

If you love wine or just the view over gentle hillsides of grapevine, you have come to the right place. 2000 years ago the Romans brought their grapevines to the region. No wonder - the slate soil provides an excellent base for it. For cyclists too, the Moselle valley shows a constant higher temperature than the surrounding area.

Cycling down the Moselle we reach the Rhine at Koblenz. From here, we follow the Rhine through its most romantic section to Rudesheim. The charming town is famous for its narrow "Drosselgasse" lane, home to many snug taverns and restaurants.



Day 1, Sunday

We welcome you at the airport or railway station (depending on your arrangements) and bring you to our hotel in the heart of Trier. The Romans founded the city at the Moselle around 16 B.C. Many buildings from that time are still standing and open for you to enjoy: the impressive city gate Porta Nigra, the Emperor Thermal Springs and the amphitheatre, to mention but a few. In the evening we gather at the restaurant where you will meet your companions, and together be able to try the local wines a first time.



Day 2, Monday

After a restful night we will explore Trier's history by taking a special city walk in the morning. Soaked up with local tales and history, you can enjoy yourself at the historic sites or one of the many cosy cafés afterwards. In the afternoon we will start cycling down the Moselle. An easy 34 km to Leiwen should be enough for the first day. (21 miles/34 km)



Day 3, Tuesday

From the start of today's ride we pass by the local vineyards. A good time to take a tour with a winegrower through the hillsides. We will see how to distinguish the different types of grapevine and what makes the local vines so special.

Later on we cycle through typical Moselle wine villages; see the remains of the Roman period at Neumagen-Dhron, Germany's oldest wine village, and the half-timbered houses of Bernkastel-Kues. (25 miles/40 km)



Day 4, Wednesday

The river winds through the countryside and we follow it to reach Zell. The town is known for its vineyard Zell's Black Cat. In 1863 three merchants, about to purchase local wine, were very uncertain on which cask to buy. So the tasting went on and on. Finally, the winegrower's black cat leapt onto one of the casks, arched its back threateningly and hissed at anyone who came closer. Taking this as a sign, the decision was made and a famous name born. Nowadays, 80% of this wine production is sold outside Germany. (21 miles/34 km)



Days 5 and 6 ...

... did not fit in here. Please visit our website for further details.

Day 7, Saturday

Our last stage takes us past the famous Loreley rock. An old myth says that Lady Loreley sits on the rock singing and luring sailors and their ships to her. Many skippers lost their lives in the swirling waters below while bewitched by her song.

In Rudesheim we will give the Drosselgasse a visit. For more than 200 years people have gathered at the narrow lane's taverns to drink wine, exchange news and have a good time. (17 miles/27 km)

Day 8, Sunday

Sadly, it is time to depart. We really hope to see you again, but we have to say "Good bye". Our shuttle service will get you to the train station or airport of your choice.

Tour dates 2012: 17th June - 24th June

Services included:

- 7 nights in biker friendly hotels or guesthouses (double room) incl. breakfast and dinner (dinner excl. beverages)
- healthy food and refreshments will be provided along the way
- transport from and to airports/railway station in Frankfurt and Hahn
- daily luggage transportation
- one bilingual guide cycling with the group
- passenger van escort
- trekking/hybrid bicycle with panniers
- guided vineyard tour
- guided city walks in Trier and Koblenz
- all ferry boat fees

Fair price: € 1,070 p.p. (£ 855 p.p.)
single room supplement: € 190 (£ 160)

Extra nights in Trier and Rudesheim [per room and night]:
double € 90 (£ 80) / single € 60 (£ 50).

If you intend to extend your cycling holiday in Trier or Rudesheim, be aware that we will not be able to maintain our shuttle service on your day of arrival or departure.

Mercurio shuttle service: Included in each of our tours is a shuttle service from the nearest major airports and train stations. This shuttle operates throughout the day, at the beginning and at the end of your cycling holiday.

Pick-up points on arrival:
Frankfurt Airport (FRA)
Frankfurt-Hahn Airport (HHN)
Luxembourg Airport (LUX)(on arrival only)

Drop-off points on departure:
Frankfurt Airport (FRA)
Frankfurt-Hahn Airport (HHN)
Other places on request.



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www.mercurio-bike-travel.com

Guided cycling holidays in Germany and Austria

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