

AST - 7 - DAY CRUISE

Tulip time in Holland and cruise on the romantic Rhine

**AMSTERDAM – COLOGNE – RUDESHEIM – HEIDELBERG -
MANNHEIM - STRASBOURG**

DAY 1 : AMSTERDAM

Embarkation takes place in **Amsterdam** between 5.00-6.00 PM. There is time to settle comfortably into your cabin before meeting the crew during a welcome cocktail reception in the lounge. Dinner is served on board followed by an **optional guided tour** of the city on a canal boat. Overnight is in Amsterdam.

DAY 2 : AMSTERDAM

After breakfast on board, an optional city tour of **Amsterdam** is offered with a visit to a diamond merchant. The Dutch capital is a truly delightful city with a rich and fascinating history, offering its visitors a striking contrast between traditional Dutch architecture and other more unusual landmarks such as the Red Light District. Return to the ship for lunch. The afternoon may be spent on an optional **excursion to Keukenhof Gardens where tour participants are able to view the spectacular tulip fields in a most beautiful setting. After the tour, it is back to the ship for dinner on board.** Enjoy a free evening in Amsterdam. Overnight sailing begins just past 12:00 AM.

DAY 3 : AMSTERDAM – NIJMEGEN – KREFELD

Depart Amsterdam in the very early morning to begin the cruise south on the Rhine River. Breakfast and lunch are served on board while cruising towards **Nijmegen**, where we have a scheduled port call. An optional tour is offered to the **Kröller-Muller** Museum which is set in the heart of the Haute Veluwe National Park. This museum has gathered artistic works from many great modern painters and sculptors. It is not only home to a major collection of Van Gogh paintings but also works from Picasso and other impressionist painters. Return to the ship in time for dinner on board. We then begin sailing towards **Krefeld**, passing the towns of **Wesel** and **Duisburg** along the way before arriving at our destination in late evening. Overnight is in Krefeld.

DAY 4 : KREFELD – COLOGNE – KOENIGSWINTER

The ship begins sailing at 8.00 AM with breakfast served on board. On our way towards Cologne, we will pass some famous German towns like **Dusseldorf**, capital of the province of Westphalia, and Zons, a medieval city. Lunch is served on board before arriving in **Cologne** around 3.00PM, where we will have a two hour port call. You may choose to either look around at the shops, *or* for those who wish, follow the ship's hostess to tour the old parts of the city, including the magnificent Cologne cathedral. Return to the ship before cruising on towards **Bonn** (an old university town and former capital of West Germany). Dinner will be served on board before mooring for the night in **Koenigswinter**.

DAY 5 : KOENIGSWINTER – RUDESHEIM

Breakfast is served on board before cruising through the Romantic Rhine. After passing by **Koblenz**, and the legendary **Lorelei Rock**, we enter the most beautiful section of the Rhine, where castles perch high atop the hills overlooking lush vineyards and picturesque wine towns. We arrive in **Rudesheim late in the afternoon. Once there, you can choose to shop and sightsee on your own, or** take part in an optional **excursion** by minitrain. A wine tasting is offered at a local cellar, as well as, a visit to the musical instrument museum. Dinner is served on board. Afterwards, we invite you to spend a free evening in the lively **Drosselgasse**, which is world famous for its open-air restaurants and taverns with their oompah bands. Overnight is in Rudesheim.

DAY 6 : RUDESHEIM – SPEYER or MANNHEIM

We get an early start and begin sailing south while breakfast is served on board. Today, we cruise along the Rhine towards **Speyer**, passing the towns of **Wiesbaden, Nierstein and Worms** along the way. At about 1:00 PM, we arrive in **Mannheim**, and after lunch on board, an optional **coach excursion is offered** to visit **Heidelberg, the beautiful university town on the Neckar River**. Return to the ship at the end of the afternoon for dinner on board followed by a gala evening. The ship puts in for the night in **Mannheim or Speyer**, depending on the mooring points available.

DAY 7 : SPEYER or MANNHEIM –STRASBOURG

Breakfast is served on board before sailing off towards **Strasbourg**. **Along the way**, we pass the town of **Lauterbourg** and travel through the two biggest locks on the Rhine River at **Iffezheim and Gamsheim**. Lunch is served on board before arriving in **Strasbourg** between 3.00-4.00 PM where disembarkation takes place. End of the cruise.

Formalities: Passports are obligatory for U.S. citizens. Non-EU residents are advised to check with their embassy or consulate.

N.B.: For navigational reasons and passenger safety, the company and the captain reserve the right to modify the cruise itinerary if necessary.