

# Mosel & Saar



## Tour information 2020



**Go back in time and visit the Roman villas and public baths**

**You can download the photos of the tour and the barge on our  
Flickrpage: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/cycletours\\_holidays](https://www.flickr.com/photos/cycletours_holidays)**



**This tour along the Mosel and Saar combines the best of the German 'Bundesländer' Rheinland Pfalz and Saarland. While cycling from Cochem to Mettlach you'll discover the legacy of the Roman Empire, go beyond your limits and meet the 'Queen of grapes'.**

Go back in time and visit the Roman villas and public baths along the two rivers. In Trier you can visit the Porta Nigra. This ancient gateway is one of the best known monuments from the Roman era. On day six you go literally beyond your limits when we take a trip to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in the village of Wasserbillig. While cycling through one of Germany's major wine-growing areas this is an excellent occasion to taste a lot of different wines and see where they grow and how they are made. Get acquainted with the excellent but uncomplicated wines from the Saar and the so called 'Spitzenweinen' along the Mosel like the 'Zeller Schwarze Katz'. The main ingredient for those wines is the Riesling, a white grape variety which dates back to the 15th century and is crowned the 'Queen of grapes'.



### **The route from day to day Cochem to Mettlach + km**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Sunday</b> | Cohem, embarkation at 3 PM. Short cycling route  |
| Monday        | Cochem - Zell, 44                                |
| Tuesday       | Zell - Bernkastel Kues, 40                       |
| Wednesday     | Bernkastel Kues, Moselle-Maare cycling trail, 55 |
| Thursday      | Bernkastel Kues - Nearby Trier, 50               |
| Friday        | Nearby Trier - Saarschleife - Saarburg, 35       |
| Saturday      | Saarburg - Mettlach, 35                          |
| <b>Sunday</b> | Mettlach, debarkation before 10 am.              |

All distances are approximate. The above planned itinerary is subject to change due to changing wind and weather conditions and other unforeseen circumstances having to do with mooring requirements, etc. 1 km = 0.62 miles



### **Day 1 Sunday: Cochem, embarkation between 2 PM and 3 PM**

Your tour starts in the beautiful city Cochem with a lot of shops and terraces. Cochem is famous for its wines and dominated by the old Reichsburg.

### **Day 2 Monday: Cochem – Zell, 44 km**

Through five remarkable bends you'll meander along the river to the famous vineyards of Calmont. The steepest slopes have a gradient of 65%, which makes it quite difficult for the farmers to tend their vineyards. The lunch stop will be at the beautiful village of Beilstein, décor of many movies. Endpoint of today is the city of the black cat, Zell. The story goes that when a few wine merchants from Aachen had to choose which wine barrel they should buy a black cat jumped upon one of the barrels to defend it. Of course this made it clear for them which barrel they should buy.



**Beilstein**



**Zell am Mosel**

### **Day 3 Tuesday: Zell – Bernkastel-Kues, 40 km**

As if it had imbibed a drink or two, the Mosel makes its way through a green and fascinating landscape with vineyards and forests. Just after leaving Zell you will bike to the "Marienburg" where you will be awarded by a splendid view over the Mosel Meander. Along the way you'll find some beautiful towns and villages like the beautiful double city in Jugendstil, Traben Trarbach and the so called 'Winzerdorf' Wolf. The final destination is Bernkastel-Kues, a medieval town with romantic narrow streets, remarkable half-timbered houses and picturesque nooks and crannies.



**Bernkastel-Kues**



### **Day 4 Wednesday: Bernkastel-Kues, Moselle-Maare cycling trail, 55 km**

In the morning the cycle bus takes you to Daun, to the start of the Moselle-Maare cycling trail, possibly the most famous cycling trail of the central Moselle. The track is built on an old railway line. There is no simpler way to cycle to the Moselle valley than on the former railway line through the Volcanic Eifel! The road runs through the landscape of volcanoes and crater lakes, along magnificent viaducts and past old railway stations. Light as a feather, it continues to roll on the Moselle bike path to Bernkastel-Kues.



**Moselle-Maare trail**



**Moselle-Maare trail**

### **Day 5 Thursday Bernkastel-Kues – Nearby Trier, 45 km**

Along today's route you will find a lot of Roman villas and public baths but also relics of other ancient civilizations as the Celts. All those historical buildings are placed on the slopes along the ever winding river. 'Special by the day' is the 'Piesporter Goldtröpfchen', a lovely local blended white wine that we are going to taste in a local wine-bar. The visit to the town of Neumagen-Dhron is interesting for its many Roman remains. This used to be an old Roman fortress and the place where the famous Roman wine ship was found. We spend the night at a mooring place near Trier.



**Porta Nigra, Trier**



**Roman Villa, Mehring**

### **Day 6 Friday: Nearby Trier – Saarburg, 35/ 45 km**

During today's tour we first take time to pay a visit to Trier, the oldest city of Germany, where you can visit some more Roman legacies like the Porta Nigra, the Basilica of Constantine the Great and the amphitheatre. After lunch we leave the Mosel behind and go South along the Saar. Before you take 'exit Saar' we can take a detour and cross the border into the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. One thing's for sure, you're not the first tourist in the area: it was around the year 365 A.D. that the Roman teacher and poet Magnus Ausonius wrote his hymn Mosella: 'Greetings, river, framed by perfumed vineyard-covered hills, Framed by grass; river of greenest shores. Your strong waters carry ships, flowing in easy waves. Along the stream, and a glittering lake your depths emulate.' For the night you'll stay in Saarburg. Don't forget to take a walk through the old town centre with the famous waterfalls and pay a visit to the old city castle.



**Saarburg**



**Saarschleife**

### **Day 7 Saturday: Saarburg – Mettlach, 35 km**

From Saarburg you cycle south along the Saar. Around the little village of Saarlöcherbach you leave Rheinland Pfalz behind and enter the Saarland. The history of this little village goes back to the year 802 and the government of Charlemagne, also known as Charles the Great, king of Franks, king of Italy and the first Holy Roman Emperor. Today we will have lunch in Mettlach, a little town along the Saar River where you can visit the famous Villeroy & Boch porcelain museum. Today's highlight is the beautiful Saarschleife (Saar loop). You will have the opportunity to hike to a panorama-point where you can have a great view over the whole region. After this interesting hike we double back for a few kilometres to our final destination Mettlach.

### **Day 8 Sunday: Mettlach**

End of tour after breakfast: disembarkation before 10 AM.



## **Zwaan – Category ComfortPlus**

Capacity: 14/15 persons

Length/width: 34 x 6,2 m

Electricity: 220 V

Wifi on board: Yes, limited available in lounge and on deck

Windows can open? Yes

Air conditioning: Yes



### **Cabins**

**7 cabins with private hot shower/toilet and air-conditioning:**

- 2x Luxury double cabin (separate seating)
- 1x Twin cabin (beds can be placed together; small desk between the beds)
- 2x Twin cabin (beds fixed to the floor; small desk between the beds)
- 1x Triple cabin (bunk bed+single bed, beds fixed to the floor; can be booked as twin)

**1x Front double cabin, smaller cabin in the front of the barge (small double bed; can also be booked as single use); accessible with steep stairs; entrance on deck)**

Hairdryers are available on board.

Weather permitting dinners can be served on the sundeck.

Our motorised passenger vessels, about 35 - 45 metres in length, are former river vessels especially converted for this kind of holiday. The barges all comply with the strict safety regulations laid down by the Dutch Shipping Inspection Authorities. On board you find a cosy dining room, a sun deck/a deck for the bicycles. All cabins are provided with running water (hot and cold), private shower and toilet, 220 voltage and central heating. There is limited storage space in the cabin. We recommend 1 suitcase per person. You can slide the suitcase under the bed.

Do not expect a cruise ship with its passive luxury. The Bike & Barge Holidays are for people who really enjoy the physical activity of cycling and who value sociability more than wholesale luxury.

## Bicycle

After arrival on board you will be allocated a cycle suitable to your height. This cycle (a so-called Hybrid), is at your disposal during your trip until Friday at 4 PM. Your bike has 24 speeds, hand brakes, pannier bags, bike helmet, a good lock, water bottle and you can get a repair-kit. Before you make your first tour, the guide will give you instructions about the bike. We draw your attention to the fact that you will be held responsible for damage to or theft of the bike, as long as the bike is not on board. (the bike has a value of more than € 600,-). Never leave it unattended. Always lock it and fasten it to a fixed object.

You can insure this bike with Cycletours for € 20,- per bicycle! If you didn't arrange cycle insurance when booking you can do this on board (the first day). Payment in cash is required. Should you use your own bike, please bring a good lock with you!



## Electric bike

It is also possible to book an electric bike. Your bike has 24 gears, a detachable lithium-Ion battery, hand brakes, pannier bags, bike helmet, a good lock, water bottle and you can get a repair kit. We draw your attention to the fact that you will be held responsible for damage to or theft of the bike, as long as the bike is not on board. (the E-bike has a value of more than € 2000,-). Never leave it unattended. Always lock it and fasten it to a fixed object, and don't forget to remove the information panel from your steering wheel. You can insure this bike with Cycletours for € 40,- per bicycle! If you didn't arrange cycle insurance when booking you can do this on board (the first day). Payment in cash is required.



## Arrival between 2 PM and 3 PM

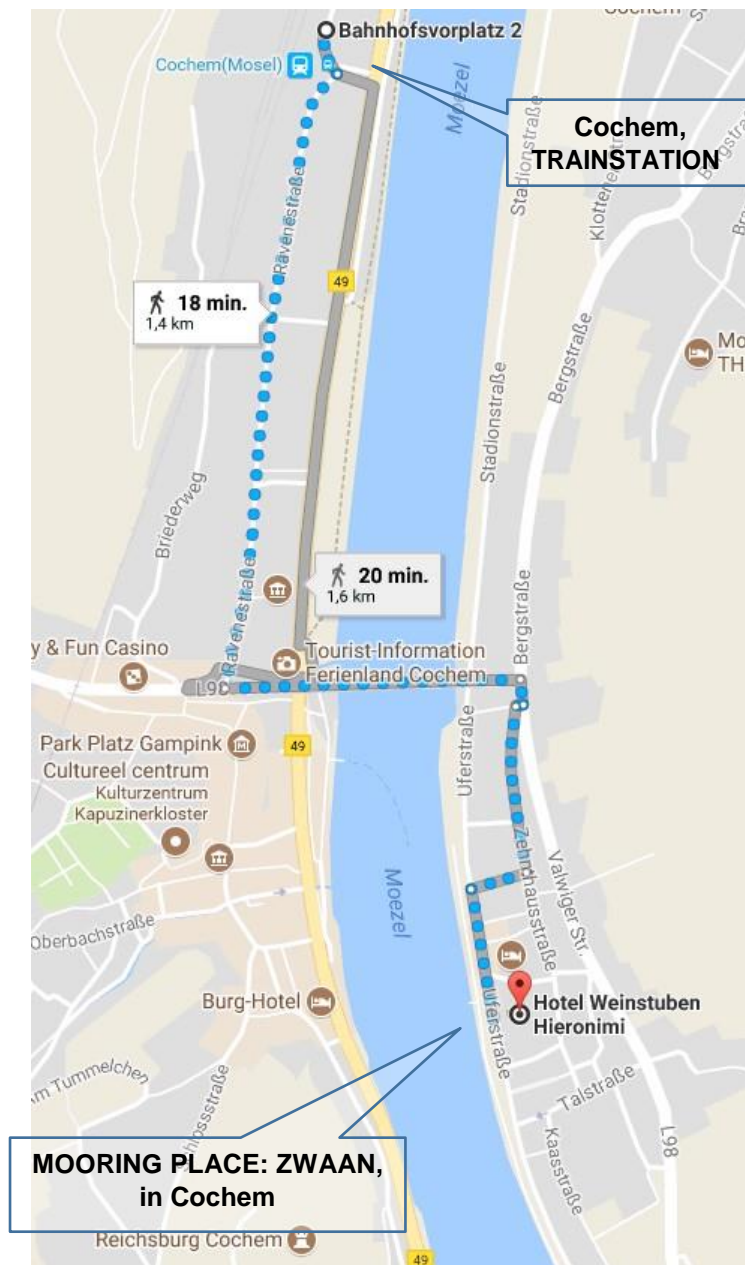
You are expected on our barge on **Sunday at 3 PM**. You can recognise the barge by the banner with 'Cycletours' written on it.

The name of your barge 'Zwaan' is printed on the voucher, which you will receive separately.

After arrival there's coffee and tea on board. Other drinks are also available on cash payment.

You can bring your luggage in advance, from 12 Noon onwards.

## The mooring place of the barge is in Cochem



### Train

From Frankfurt am Main Airport (FRA) there is a direct train connection to Cochem. It takes about 2 hrs. to travel to Cochem. The price for a train ticket from Frankfurt am Main to Cochem is about € 35,- per person for a single journey. For the exact departure times and prices check [www.db.de](http://www.db.de).

### Taxi

A taxi from Cochem station to the barge takes about 5 minutes.

## **End of the tour**

The tour ends one week later on Sunday morning after breakfast before 10 AM. You'll spend the night from Saturday on board in Mettlach.



Depending on the time of departure you can travel from Mettlach station to Frankfurt am Main Airport (FRA) by train in at least 2 hrs and 45 minutes. The train leaves every hour and a ticket costs about € 50,- per person. For the exact departure times and prices check [www.db.de](http://www.db.de).

## Travel dates 2020

| 2020      | Barge Zwaan |
|-----------|-------------|
| August    | 23/8/2020   |
| September | 6/9/2020    |
|           | 20/9/2020   |
| October   | 4/10/2020   |

## Prices per person in 2020 (Us price approx. 14% higher)

### Barge Zwaan (ComfortPlus)

|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
|                                    | All season |
| Luxury double cabin                | € 1500,-   |
| Twin cabin                         | € 1340,-   |
| Triple cabin                       | € 1300,-   |
| Smaller double front cabin         | € 1159,-   |
| Smaller front cabin for single use | € 1705,-   |

### Reduction children:

0-2 \*: free of charge

3-11 \*: 30%

\*If child is travelling together with at least 1 one full-paying person

Please note that the tour prices are based on the current fuel price.

Should the fuel price increase more than 5% (reference date Oct. 2018), then we need to ask a supplement. Even for reservations that already have been made.



## Included

- All nights on board (incl. bedding, towels, soap)
- Breakfast and dinner on board
- Lunch packages when on the road
- Coffee and tea on board
- Tour guide, cycles with the group
- Min. 3 city walks with tour guide
- Free WiFi (limited available in lounge and on deck)
- Route information
- Ferry fares on the route
- GPS-tracks on request

## Not included

- Bicycle rent (see below)
- Bicycle insurance Hybrid bike (optional) € 20,- per bicycle
- Bicycle insurance E-bike (optional) € 40,- per bicycle
- Entrance fees to museums; approx. € 15,- per tour
- Personal insurance

## Extra

- Rental bike incl. bike helmet: € 92,50  
(Hybrid bike with 24 gears, pannier bags, lock, water bottle)
- Rental E-bike incl. bike helmet: € 175,- (with 21 gears)
- Child's bike: € 60,- (incl. helmet; with 21 gears; for children from approx. 9 years and older)
- Bike seat: € 15,- (incl. helmet; suitable for children from approx. 11 months until 5 years; max. weight 25 kg)
- Trailer bike: € 55,- (incl. helmet; bike attached to adult's bike; suitable for children from approx. 5 until 9 years; max. weight 35 kg)
- Bike trailer: € 90,- (suitable for babies who can not sit by themselves; a car seat/baby seat not included)

## Special details

Please take good notice of our [Terms & Conditions](#) on our web site.

If you have special meal requirements (vegetarian meals, or if you are on a diet), we ask you to mention this when booking.

In case of **gluten free/Celiac/vegan diet** there is an additional charge of **€ 50,-** per week.

Cycletours Holidays reserves the right to cancel tours with fewer than 12 participants up to 21 days prior to the date of departure.

## Contact us for booking and more information

