



**AKORN DESTINATION MANAGEMENT**



**WEST GERMANY**  

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**Cultural Journeys**



# SWITZERLAND & WEST GERMANY

## ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the historic Old Town of Basel, Switzerland's third largest city
- Learn about one of the Black Forest's most famous inventions, the cuckoo clock
- Taste local wines of the Moselle region, home to the oldest wine region in Germany

## ACCOMMODATION

Grand Hotel Trois Rois 5\* / 2 nights

Colombi Hotel 5\* / 2 nights

Hotel Traube Tonbach 5\* / 2 nights

Wald. Weit Rheingau Hotel and Retreat 5\* / 2 nights

Moselschloesschen Spa & Resort 4\* / 1 night

Breidenbacher Hof 5\* / 2 nights

DAY 1	<p><b>ARRIVE ZURICH - BASEL</b></p> <p>On arrival you are met by your private vehicle and transferred to your hotel in Basel, Switzerland's third largest city.</p>
DAY 2	<p><b>BASEL</b></p> <p>Marvel at Basel's historic old town with its distinctive bright red town hall, see the magnificent Munster cathedral, and enjoy impressive views of the the River Rhine from the Rhine Bridge. The rest of the day is at leisure.</p>
DAY 3	<p><b>BASEL - COLMAR - FREIBURG</b></p> <p>Depart Switzerland and cross the border into France to discover the Alsace Wine Route. Visit Colmar and admire the half-timbered medieval buildings along the web of cobbled streets. Next, travel to Riqueiher, a showcase of medieval and Renaissance houses. Savour a further wine tasting before continuing into Germany.</p>
DAY 4	<p><b>FREIBURG</b></p> <p>Explore Freiburg, considered the capital of the Black Forest. See the town's most famous landmark, the 800-year-old Freiburg Minster Cathedral, which features the only Gothic church tower in Germany. This afternoon, visit the Franz Keller Winery which is best known for its dry, refreshing and fruit-forward wines and unique architecture.</p>
DAY 5	<p><b>FREIBURG - BAIERSBRONN</b></p> <p>Step back in time today and learn all about one of the region's most famous inventions, the cuckoo clock, which originated in the Black Forest village of Schönwald in the 1730s. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.</p>
DAY 6	<p><b>BAIERSBRONN</b></p> <p>Visit one of the best vineyards in the area, Schloss Neuwerier, where the vines surround a 12th century castle. Meet the owner for a tour and wine tasting. From here stop in Baden-Baden to explore.</p>
DAY 7	<p><b>BAIERSBRONN - HEIDELBERG - RUDESHEIM</b></p> <p>Leave Germany's Black Forest and transfer to the Rheingau wine region. Stop en route to explore Heidelberg, located on the banks of the beautiful Neckar river. Enjoy a private tour of the castle, before sampling local wines with the castle's own sommelier who imparts fascinating detail about the production, history and tasting notes.</p>
DAY 8	<p><b>RUDESHEIM</b></p> <p>Discover the variety and history of the towns of the Rhine Valley. Enjoy at public boat cruise along the Rhine from Boppard, witnessing the Loreley Rock from a new perspective. Continue to Rudesheim, the Rhine Valley's capital of wine production for a short tour and private wine tasting at one of the most traditional vineyards in the area.</p>
DAY 9	<p><b>RUDESHEIM - MOSEL VALLEY</b></p> <p>Transfer to Traben-Trarbach, in the heart of the Mosel Valley. Embark on a unique underground tour of the town to uncover the unique wine cellars that were constructed in the 19th century, some with vaults over 100 metres long. During your private tour visit cellars in the mystical semi-darkness and learn about the history of viticulture.</p>
DAY 10	<p><b>MOSEL VALLEY</b></p> <p>Head to Trier, one of the oldest cities in Germany where you find the Porta Nigra, one of the best-preserved Roman city gates north of the Alps. Continue on to Bernkastel-Kues; perched high above the town you can visit Landshut Castle that offers rewarding views of the Moselle region, home to the oldest wine region in Germany.</p>
DAY 11	<p><b>MOSEL VALLEY - DUSSELDORF</b></p> <p>Transfer to Dusseldorf, stopping at Stolzenfels Castle, considered the crown jewel of Rhine Romanticism.</p>
DAY 12	<p><b>DUSSELDORF</b></p> <p>Discover Dusseldorf's famous Königsallee (King's Avenue), the grand boulevard is one of the most upscale shopping streets in Europe. Learn about the history of the city's main shopping avenue, explore the alleyways and side streets to discover hidden gems. Stop at a local patisserie to try their award-winning Champagne truffles.</p>
DAY 13	<p><b>DEPART DUSSELDORF</b></p> <p>You are transferred to the airport for your departure flight.</p>



# WEST GERMANY & BRUSSELS

## ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Frankfurt's Altstadt (historic Old Town) and cruise by private boat down the River Main
- Explore Frankfurt's apple orchards by e-bike with a local pomologist
- Uncover the artistic and culinary sides to Cologne
- Embark on a canal cruise of Bruges' waterways

## ACCOMMODATION

Steigenberger Frankfurter Hof 5\* / 2 nights

Wald. Weit Rheingau Hotel and Retreat 5\* / 2 nights

Althoff Grandhotel Schloss Bensberg 5\* / 3 nights

Hotel Amigo 5\* / 2 nights

DAY 1	<p><b>ARRIVE FRANKFURT</b></p> <p>Arrive in Frankfurt today and transfer by private car to your hotel; the rest of your day is at leisure.</p>
DAY 2	<p><b>FRANKFURT</b></p> <p>Tour the heart of Frankfurt's Altstadt (Old Town) at the historic Römerberg Square, surrounded by picturesque medieval buildings, including the iconic Römer, Frankfurt's town hall. End your tour exploring the the bustling energy of the local food market hall, known as Kleinmarkthalle. Later today cruise by private open top boat down the River Main, with a welcome drink in hand whilst your captain provides interesting commentary about the city.</p>
DAY 3	<p><b>FRANKFURT - RUDESHEIM</b></p> <p>Depart Frankfurt today, make a stop in Wiesbaden, an area famous for its apples and apple wine. Explore the local villages and apple orchards by e-bike with a local pomologist. Soak up the scenery and learn about the region's cultural landscape while tasting fresh apples, before visiting an apple wine cellar where you enjoy a wine tasting.</p>
DAY 4	<p><b>RUDESHEIM</b></p> <p>Discover the variety and history of the towns of the Rhine Valley. Enjoy a public boat cruise along the Rhine from Boppard, witnessing the Loreley Rock from a new perspective. Continue to Rudesheim, the Rhine Valley's capital of wine production for a short tour and private wine tasting at one of the most traditional vineyards in the area.</p>
DAY 5	<p><b>RUDESHEIM - COLOGNE</b></p> <p>Transfer to your hotel in Cologne, stopping en route at Stolzenfels Castle, considered the crown jewel of Rhine Romanticism. This palace was a ruined 13th-century castle, given to Prussian Crown Prince Frederick William in 1823, who later had it rebuilt in the Gothic Revival style.</p>
DAY 6	<p><b>COLOGNE</b></p> <p>Discover a different side of Cologne today during your bike tour through some of its trendiest districts to see the “street studios” of the city. Long before Banksy obtained international recognition in the art scene, Cologne’s streets were filled with numerous works of graffiti art and new murals. Your specialist cyclist guide leads you through Ehrenfeld, the Belgian Quarter and the city centre to reveal how art can beautify each neighbourhood.</p>
DAY 7	<p><b>COLOGNE</b></p> <p>Explore the tastiest corners of Cologne around Rudolfplatz and the Belgian quarter as you learn interesting facts about the culinary history of the city. Sample delicacies at small speciality shops such as black bread, cheeses, deli snacks, a fresh Kölsch (beer originating in Cologne) and a sweet treat. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.</p>
DAY 8	<p><b>COLOGNE - BRUSSELS</b></p> <p>Depart Cologne, stopping at the charming town of Monschau, a hidden gem within the Eifel National Park. Walk the cobbled streets, admire half-timbered historic buildings and the river that runs through the town. Continue to Three Lands Point, where Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands converge before arriving into Brussels.</p>
DAY 9	<p><b>BRUSSELS - BRUGES - BRUSSELS</b></p> <p>Journey by road to Bruges, and stroll along tree-lined canal streets, passing the Church of the Holy Blood, the Markt and its soaring belfry, one of the tallest and most beautiful in the whole of the Flanders region. Afterwards, embark on a public canal cruise to see Bruges from the picturesque waterways, before returning to Brussels.</p>
DAY 10	<p><b>DEPART BRUSSELS</b></p> <p>You are privately transferred to Brussels airport for your departure flight.</p>

### **OPTIONAL ENHANCEMENTS** (price on request)

- After-hours meet the owners of Galerien Frankfurt Mitte, a collection of contemporary art galleries
- Learn about cologne and enjoy a private fragrance seminar to concoct your own Eau de Cologne
- Experience the highlights of Belgium’s food and drink scene with your expert culinary guide



# PARIS, STRASBOURG & BLACK FOREST

## ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the hidden vineyards of Paris' Latin Quarter with your expert wine specialist
- See Strasbourg's Petite-France Quarter, with its glorious Cathedral offering views as far as the Black Forest to the east
- Enjoy a ziplining adventure over the Black Forest

## ACCOMMODATION

Relais Christine 5\* / 3 nights

Hotel Regent Petite France 5\* / 2 nights

Colombi Hotel 5\* / 1 night

Hotel Traube Tonbach 5\* / 3 nights

Steigenberger Sonnenhof Hotel 5\* / 1 night

DAY 1	<p><b>ARRIVE PARIS</b></p> <p>Upon arrival at Charles De Gaulle Airport, you are met and transferred to your hotel an afternoon at leisure. Enjoy a nostalgic evening tour of the city travelling in a Citroen 2CV, one of France's most iconic cars.</p>
DAY 2	<p><b>PARIS</b></p> <p>Enjoy a walking tour to the world-famous Louvre Museum, originally built as a royal palace for King Francis I. This afternoon discover the hidden vineyards of the Latin Quarter with your expert wine specialist, with a history dating over 2000 years, sample wines from the city's secret gems. In the evening, enjoy a gastro walk in the buzzing Marais district.</p>
DAY 3	<p><b>PARIS</b></p> <p>Head to Versailles for a half-day tour to the vast palace, constructed in the 17th century for Louis XIV, the 'Sun King'.</p>
DAY 4	<p><b>PARIS - STRASBOURG</b></p> <p>You are privately transferred to the Paris train station where you have 1st Class seats arranged for the rail journey to Strasbourg. On arrival transfer to your hotel.</p>
DAY 5	<p><b>STRASBOURG</b></p> <p>Discover the beautiful city on foot today as you venture to the idyllic Petite-France Quarter. Visit the towering Notre Dame Cathedral, once the world's tallest building.</p>
DAY 6	<p><b>STRASBOURG - FREIBURG</b></p> <p>Depart Strasbourg and journey across the border to Germany today. First make a stop in Colmar and explore the well-preserved Old Town known for its cobblestone streets and half-timbered medieval buildings. Continue to a local vineyard renowned for producing beautiful Riesling wines before you arrive at your next hotel.</p>
DAY 7	<p><b>FREIBURG - BAIERSBRONN</b></p> <p>En route further into the heart of the Black Forest make a stop at the zipline park for a privately guided tour through the canopy. The seven zipline course crosses beautiful valleys, streams and hills and includes the longest nature zipline in the country. Continue to your next hotel.</p>
DAY 8	<p><b>BAIERSBRONN</b></p> <p>Drive along the Black Forest High Road, one of the most scenic roads in Germany to meet your hiking guide for a five-hour circular walk through stunning woodlands and past untamed waterfalls.</p>
DAY 9	<p><b>BAIERSBRONN</b></p> <p>Visit one of the best vineyards in the area, Schloss Neuwerier where the vines surround a 12th century castle. Meet the owner for a tour and wine tasting. From here stop in Baden-Baden to explore.</p>
DAY 10	<p><b>BAIERSBRONN - FRANKFURT VIA HEIDELBURG</b></p> <p>Head north to Frankfurt today and stop en route at the picturesque town of Heidelberg to explore the famous ruins of Heidelberg Castle and the turreted Alte Brucke (Old Bridge).</p>
DAY 11	<p><b>DEPART FRANKFURT</b></p> <p>Today you will be privately transferred to Frankfurt Airport for your journey home.</p>

### **OPTIONAL ENHANCEMENTS** (price on request)

- Learn the secrets of macaron making in a private lesson crafting your own delicious creations
- Embark on a private cruise along the Rhine River taking in Strasbourg's old-world medieval charm
- Private tour of Heidelberg Castle followed by tasting local wines with the castle's own sommelier