



## Eurosail Bike & Barge

### Metz – Cochem – Metz 2015

### Program

14 days Iris

**Itinerary:** Metz – Remich – Saarburg – Trier – Bernkastel – Cochem – Zell – Neumagen – Pfalz – Königsmacher - Metz

**Included:** 14 days, breakfast, packed lunch, 13 x dinner (3 courses), bed linen, tour guide, welcome drink. Bike rental is NOT included: € 140, - per bike

#### **Fine German wines, French savoir vivre and rich history.**

The countryside on both banks of the Mosel is splendid, the cool wines taste deliciously, the picturesque little towns have rich histories and the conditions for cycling are excellent indeed. Here you find the perfect mix of ingredients for a fine bike and barge vacation. This tour takes us through a wonderful, varying region.

We follow the river Mosel, partly in France, partly in Luxembourg, and partly in Germany.

The tour starts in Metz, France, with her splendid cathedral. We bike through the charming French countryside with welcoming villages, where the inhabitants are proud of their sweet, smooth wines and golden “Mirabellen” liqueur (plum liqueur). We continue into Luxembourg where we spend the night in Remich. In Germany we will first follow the river Saar to charming Saarburg, with the stunning waterfalls in the city center. Then, of course, there is Trier, the oldest city of Germany with the Porta Nigra dating from the first century after Christ. After Trier we follow the Mosel downstream along the endless vineyards and the enchanting old cities Bernkastel and Cochem. It goes without saying that we will taste the local wines whenever we can.

In Cochem, after a day of rest, we will turn around and head upstream again, visiting some other enchanting villages along the Mosel. We spend the night in Zell, famous for its Schwarze Katz wine. And we will bike to Neumagen, a place that claims the title “Germany’s Oldest Winemaking Centre”. The tour ends again in Metz.



## Day 1 (Sat): Metz

- 14.00 h Arrival in Metz, strategically situated between Côtes de Moselle and the plateau Lorrain.  
These days, the rich mediaeval city is a traffic junction, an administrative center, a center of learning, but especially a lively center of trade.  
A visit to the St.Etienne Cathedral, one of the most beautiful gothic cathedrals in France, is a must. This cathedral sits in the middle of the old city center, where shopping is also good.
- 14.30 h Introduction
- 15.30 h Visit of the city centre including the St Etienne cathedral
- 18.30 h Welcoming drink
- 19.00 h Dinner

## Day 2 (Sun): Metz - Remich

- Bike tour: ca 30/50 km
- 8 :00 h Breakfast during sailing.
- 9.15 h First possibility to start today's bike tour is from the lock of Richemont.
- 11.00 h It is also possible to stay on board a bit longer and start from Thionville. Via the beautiful valley of the Mosel we bike across the French border into Luxembourg. We pass the castle of Sierck-les-Bains, beautifully situated on the banks of the Mosel river. On top of the hill there is a castle from the 11th century, which was at stake in the battle between the duke of Lorraine and the archbishop of Trier in the 12th century. We spend the night in Remich. Here the Mosel forms the border between Germany and Luxembourg and Remich is on Luxembourg ground. Close to Remich we may visit the small village of Nening, where you can visit an old roman mansion. The nearly undamaged mosaic floor in the party hall is extremely beautiful.
- 18:30 h Dinner



### Day 3 (Mon): Remich – Saarburg

Bike tour: ca 30 / 50 km

8.00 h Breakfast

9.00 h Today we follow the valley of the Mosel and Saar to the north and we visit charming Saarburg. On the way we visit a winecellar, to taste the fresh Mosel white wine. Saarburg is an interesting old town situated in the most beautiful part of the Saar valley. Here the banks of the river are densely forested. The castle of Saarburg was built here in the middle of the 10th century. In the middle of town we come across a waterfall of 20 meters high. At the foot of this waterfall there is an old mill, which is driven by the small river. In this part of town most of the old houses from the 17th and 18th century, which give Saarburg such a picturesque look, are still intact.

18.30 h Dinner



### Day 4 (Tue): Saarburg

Biketour: ca 40 km

8.00 h Breakfast

9.00 h Today the barge stays in Saarburg. The bike ride continues in this Saar valley, where at one point it is called the 'Saarschleife', which means the river makes a sharp U-turn and where the forested slopes rise up to steep heights. Beautiful, especially at the look out point near a tiny chapel. A little further we come into Mettlach, the base of the world famous Porcelan factory of the French-German Villeroy & Boch Company. We will visit the factory.

18.30 h Dinner

20.00 h Winetasting at a local wine grower

### Day 5 (Wed): Saarburg – Trier

Bike tour: ca 35 km.

8.00 h Breakfast

9.00 h Today we bike on to Trier, an interesting and lively city, the oldest city in Germany. According to the Romans, Trier was founded around 15 before Christ by Caesar Augustus under the name of Augusta Treverum. As a trading town and administrative center, Trier flourished during the late imperial age. This Roman golden age has left us with a respectable number of monuments. Most authentic is the city gate Porta Nigra, which was built around 18 after Christ.

18.30 h Dinner

20.00 h Town walk



**Day 6(Thu): Trier**

8.00 h Breakfast

9.00 h Free day in Trier.

A bike tour will be offered, but you can also decide to visit one of the musea in Trier or take it easy and do some shopping.

Dinner in town on own account.

**Day 7 (Fri): Trier – Bernkastel**

Bike tour: ca 30 / 50 km.

7.00 h The barge leaves Trier and we will have breakfast during sailing.

9.00 h Our biketour starts in Schweich. From here lovely vineyards stretch out in many places. The white Mosel wine is a household word far abroad.

bike past Trittenheim and Piesport, both big names. Piesport produces a number of beautiful white wines. Especially the 'Piesporter Goldtröpfchen enjoys great fame. Trittenheim lies in a sharp hairpin turn in the Mosel. It is surrounded by mountains covered with extensive vineyards. The Laurantiuskapelle with its gothic choir is sitting right in the middle of the vines.

Our destination is Bernkastel-Kues. Bernkastel is a frequently visited, old and picturesque town, with the best wine regions of the Mid-Mosel. We visit wine cellars and relish the wine. Pride of the town is the market square, with its picturesque timber-framed houses.

18.30 h Dinner

20.00 h Winetasting in one of the famous winecellars.



### **Day 8 (Sat): Bernkastel – Cochem**

Bike tour: ca 30 / 50 km.

8.00 h Breakfast during sailing.

9.00 h We follow the Mosel downstreams past Traben-Trarbach (where the bike tour starts) and Zell. Traben-Trarbach is surrounded by woods and extensive vineyards and is the major center of wine trade in the Mosel region.

Our final destination is Cochem, a cosy and characteristic Mosel town, with steep wine mountains, wooded hills, mediaeval fortresses and a picturesque center with beautiful timber-framed houses. The fortress houses a museum that you can visit.

18.30 h Dinner

### **Day 9 (Sun): Cochem**

8.00 h Breakfast

9.00 h The ship stays in Cochem.

Today's bike tour brings us to the famous Burg Eltz one of the most beautiful castles in the Mosel area. We will visit the castle.

18.30 h Dinner

20.00 h Evening walk to the Reichsburg



### **Day 9 (Mon): Cochem – Zell**

Bike tour: ca 40 km.

8.00 h Breakfast

9.00 h First we visit the charming village of Beilstein.

And later we continue to Zell.

Zell is beautifully situated on the Mosel, where the river meanders through the hills in many loops. The Hoherott (452 m) and the Corraye Berg (425 m) are the best-known wine regions.

18.30 h Dinner

### Day 10(Tue): Zell – Neumagen

Bike tour: ca 40 km.

8.00 h Breakfast

9.00 h Today our biketour leads us to Neumagen-Dhron, one of a whole series of places that claim the title “Germany’s Oldest Winemaking Centre”. The winemaking village of Neumagen was founded by the Romans some 2,000 years ago as a way station on the road from Trier to Koblenz along the Moselle; the Latin name for it was Noviomagus Trevirorum. It is the place where the Neumagen Wine Ship (Neumagener Weinschiff), a ship carved out of stone now in the Rhenish State Museum in Trier, was unearthed. A copy of the Wine Ship can be seen in the village centre.

18.30 h Dinner



### Day 11(We): Neumagen – Pfalzel

8.00 h Breakfast

9.00 h Today we pass the village of Klüserath, where the nicest Mosel rieslings come from. We will find the ship in Pfalzel, a nice romantic mooring outside Trier.

18.30 h Dinner

### Day 12(Thu):Pfalzel – Königsmacher

8.00 h Breakfast

9.00 h Today we follow the Mosel into Luxembourg we pass Nittel and Wormeldange. We will also visit Schengen, where the three countries meet (Germany, Luxembourg, France).

We bike via the beautiful valley of the Mosel into France. We will pass the castle of Sierck-les-Bains, beautifully situated on the banks of the Mosel river. On top of the hill there is a castle from the 11th century, which was at stake in the battle between the duke of Lorraine and the archbishop of Trier in the 12th century.

We will spend the night at the lock of Königsmacher.

18.30 h Dinner



### **Day 13(Fri): Königsmacher – Metz**

8.00 h Breakfast

9.00 h Today there is a long but beautiful tour scheduled for the die hards. The bike tour leads us through the French countryside to the fort Hackenberg part of the Maginot line. The Maginot Line named after the French Minister of War André Maginot, was a line of concrete fortifications, tank obstacles, artillery casemates, machine gun posts, and other defenses, which France constructed along its borders with Germany and Italy, in light of its experience in World War I, and in the run-up to World War II.

But you can also opt for a short bike ride in the valley and spend the afternoon in Metz.

18.30 h Dinner

### **Day 14(Sat): Metz**

8.00 h Breakfast

9.00 h Departure.



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