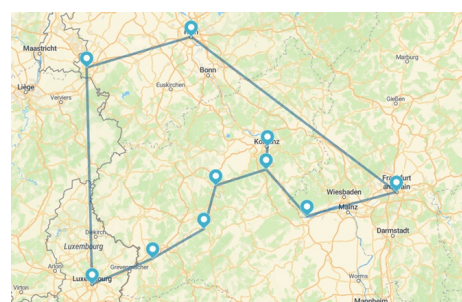




Germany and Luxemburg, 9 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route through the Rhine Valley Region

Come and discover the hidden treasures of the Rhine Valley. Our tour will depart from Frankfurt, the city of castles, culture and skyscrapers! Where better than to start this tour than in the homeland of the Brothers Grimm, who we've had so many adventures with. You'll be the first self-drivers on this tour through the Rhine Valley, a landscape dotted with medieval villages, castles, Roman ruins and rolling hills. A tour full of romanticism that will start in the wine-growing region of Rheingau, known for its incredible Rieslings (variety of white grape). Get a bird's-eye view of the vineyards aboard a cable car in Rudesheim and follow the course of the river until you reach one of the most stunning cities on its banks, Boppard. At its confluence with the River Mosel is the city of Koblenz, known as the German Corner, which we'll pass through before reaching the Moselle Valley, a place where the hillsides are adorned by countless vineyards that surround charismatic places such as Cochen and Bernkastel-Kues, where you'll be able to taste local wines at a winery. Another must-visit is Trier, the oldest city in Germany, which also has the oldest bridge in the whole country and where you can admire a host of historical monuments, all well preserved and protected by UNESCO. Once we leave the valley, we'll arrive in Luxembourg from the western border with Germany. You'll have the chance to view its most emblematic attraction, the Casemates du Bock (World War II bomb shelters dug out in the stone) and to marvel at the views from what is considered Europe's most beautiful balcony. We'll learn more about German history in Aachen, whose Cathedral has seen the coronation of thirty-eight kings and queens and is also the burial site of Charlemagne. And we'll get back to the Rhine in Cologne, one of the liveliest cities in Germany and famous around the world for its grandiose cathedral that holds the remains of the Three Wise Men. And you can't leave Germany without trying its sausages, sauerkraut and, of course, some of the 5,000 varieties of beer brewed across the country. Come and travel around the centre of Europe with us.



NATURE

CULTURAL

Departure date: Departures from July 2026 till June 2027

From: Cork, Shannon, Dublin

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - FRANKFURT

Flight departure from the city of origin to Frankfurt and rental car pick-up. Get ready to discover the best-kept secrets in the beautiful region of Bavaria! Start your journey on German soil after dropping off your bags at your central hotel and familiarising yourself with the area.

Depending on the time of arrival in Frankfurt, we suggest starting off with a stroll around the old quarter. Get lost as many times as you want because all the roads will take you to Römerberg, the city's bustling main square. This is home to the Town Hall which in turn is the seat of Der Römer, aka the Lord Mayor. A few minutes from here, the Dom St. Bartholomäus cathedral stands alongside other lay buildings. The first things that will strike you is its colour, as it was built in red sandstone, and its gigantic 96-metre spire that commands incredible views of most of the city... but only for those brave enough to climb the stairs all the way up! From here you'll be able to admire the Frankfurt skyline like nowhere else. You'll see why they call it the city of skyscrapers. Once you've admired the panorama, head back down for a dose of culture. This is another of the city's strong points, as there are lots of museums and many of them are the best of their kind in Europe. The Jewish Museum of Frankfurt is remarkable, but the most outstanding is the Städel Museum, where you can admire works by some of history's most renowned artists. There's no shortage of Picassos, Renoirs or Rembrandts. If you're travelling with children, your luck is in as you won't have to make any excuse to visit even more museums, and particularly the Kinder Museum, a space designed to fascinate the little ones. If that isn't enough, the zoo is very close by, or you could drive out to Hanau. If you're a fan of the Brothers Grimm, we won't have to tell you that it's their birthplace. Hanau is half an hour from Frankfurt and offers an enjoyable activity to experience with the family: the Tale Route. You'll see flags identifying the places that inspired the Brothers Grimm to write tales such as Little Red Riding Hood or the Pied Piper of Hamelin. Obviously, you can't visit the city without eating a Frankfurter sausage. Although it sounds very touristy, it's practically mandatory. If it's not your cup of tea, you could plump for some hearty cured pork chops. And there are also two classic drinks: either a good German beer or an Apfelwein, a low-alcohol drink made from apples.

You could always head to the Zeil for some retail therapy before dinner.

Overnight stay in Frankfurt.

● DAY 2 · FRANKFURT - RÜDESHEIM - BOPPARD

Today, we'll leave Frankfurt to explore the Rhine valley, characterised by stunning wine-growing landscapes dotted with medieval villages, superb castles and fortresses, and jagged mountain peaks. Get ready to enjoy yourself on a tour full of romanticism that starts off in the lively and picturesque village of Rudesheim, an hour and fifteen minutes away from Frankfurt on the A60. This is now the wine-growing region of Rheingau, known for its incredible Rieslings (variety of white grape). When you've parked the car, take a stroll through the centre and discover the charm of German towns, many of which were rebuilt after World War II, with their slate-roofed houses, wooden windows and wrought iron plaques. But its biggest attraction is the Seilbahn cable car over the lush green vineyards to reach the Niederwald monument, which will give you one of the very best views of the Rhine Valley. This monument commemorates the unification of Germany and the creation of the Second Reich in 1871. Head over to the Drosselgasse for some food, where you'll find an array of music bars and restaurants to savour the local cuisine washed down by some regional wine. Very close to here is the Siegfried's Mechanisches Musikkabinett, which has an often-surprising collection of 18th- and 19th-century mechanical musical instruments. If you take the A61, about forty-five minutes later you'll arrive at Boppard, one of the most stunning cities on the Rhine, as it lies in a bend of the river. Right next to the river you'll find the train tracks, the old town and the riverside promenade. This gives the town a really special charisma. Locals love to gather at the Marktplatz, located next to Oberstraße, a pedestrian shopping street and perfect for doing the typical mid-afternoon Kaffee und Kuchen (coffee and cake) or trying an apple strudel with vanilla cream. And not far to the south, you'll reach the archaeological site of Römer-Kastell. It's a Roman fort that still preserves part of its fourth-century walls and some seventh-century tombstones. The best views of the area are found at the Vierseenblick viewpoint, where you'll get a peculiar image of the river. Make sure you see the curious optical illusion from this vantage point. But if you want to capture the bend of the river, it's best to head over to Gedeonseck. You have two options to get there. You can either walk or take a twenty-minute chairlift and enjoy the aerial views of the city and its surroundings covered with vineyards as far as the eye can see.

Overnight stay in Boppard.

● DAY 3 · BOPPARD - KOBLENZ - BOPPARD

After soaking up the charms of Boppard, it's time to hit the road again. Just 20 minutes away is Koblenz, a modern metropolis located at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle rivers. An important city due to its strategic position next to the rivers and among three mountains: Hunsrück, Eifel and Westerland. That's why in ancient times the Romans built a great fortress here, the Festung Ehrenbreitstein, which remained standing until the arrival of Napoleon's troops in the early nineteenth century. It was later rebuilt by the Prussians, making it one of the most influential castles in the continent. Koblenz is known as the Deutsches Eck (the German Corner) and is where the equestrian statue of Kaiser Wilhelm I stands. The Festung isn't the only castle in the city, as you can also tour the medieval fortress towers of Schloss Stolzenfels, which was the residence of King Frederick William IV. You'll be surprised to see how the halls of the fortress are still decorated as they were at the time. If you want to find out about local history, it's best to visit the Mitterlhein-Museum. Here you'll learn about 2,000 years of history through all kinds of works of art. However, one of the greatest pleasures in Koblenz is to wander around the city or have a picnic in one of its beautiful parks full of flowers. If you have time, we suggest you pop over to Braubach today, located just 8 kilometres from Koblenz. There's a fortress here that has never been conquered: the castle of Marksburg. There are guided tours of the citadel that will take you through its kitchen, lobby and even the torture chamber. Imagine what they used to do with those artefacts and you'll be glad to be living in the 21st century. For dinner, what better than to indulge in the popular German sausages? You can choose between 1,500 different types and they usually come with bread, mustard and a tasty sauerkraut, a kind of cabbage salad. (Note. If you want a break from driving and fancy trying another means of transport, you could go on a boat trip along the Rhine that will let you marvel at the magnificent landscape of hills of vineyards crowned by castles and fortresses. Tour not included).

Overnight stay in Boppard.

● DAY 4 · BOPPARD - COCHEM - BERNKASTEL-KUES - TRIER

Say goodbye to Boppard today, because we're heading west to enter the Moselle Valley, located along the banks of the river that lends its name to the area. Today's route will follow the gentle meanders of the River Moselle, a tributary of the Rhine, surrounded by hillsides swathed in vineyards and woodland. And the best way to see them is by driving across the bridges you come across en route. The most touristic town in the area is Cochem, known for its picture-postcard panoramas. In the distance, you'll be able to make out the outline of Reichsburg Castle perched atop a verdant hill, as if it were in a fairy tale. It's an eleventh-century fortress that was rebuilt after being destroyed by the French. An array of styles that exude a special charm. If you want to feel like a knight from bygone times, medieval dinners are recreated on summer weekends, with drinks in ceramic mugs and new knights of the kingdom being appointed. What an experience! Take advantage of the visit to stroll through its medieval streets and try out local specialities such as herring with apple and onion or pork collar with mustard sauce. Obviously, you can't leave this area without savouring wines from the Moselle, which are said to be the best whites in the country. The best idea is to visit one of the wineries where they are produced. For instance, you could go to Bernkastel-Kues, where you'll find several ones offering tours and even wine-tasting train routes that run through several vineyards. With luck, if you go in September you'll coincide with the Middle Moselle Wine Festival. But Cochem isn't just about wine... there's also plenty of history. This town arose from the union in 1905 of the two towns that lay on both sides of the river Moselle: Bernkastel on the right bank, and Kues on the left. In 1970, Andel and Wehlen were also incorporated. As a result, this town is brimming with romantic 17th-century timbered houses and is ideal for strolling around and discovering curiosities such as the iron shackles on the façade of the Altes Rathaus, which criminals were shackled to in the Middle Ages. The Kues area stands on the left bank of the river. This was the birthplace in the fifteenth century of Nicholas of Cusa, a great scholar and cardinal, whose house can be visited. Also on this side is the St-Nikolaus-Hospital, with fascinating treasures stored in its library. Take your time and amble along the river bank, accompanied by ducks and swans swimming leisurely. You can't leave Bernkastel-Kues without visiting the ruins of the 12th-century Landshut Castle, used as a summer residence by the archbishops of Trier. From here you'll enjoy a magnificent view of the surrounding forests and vineyards. A perfect place to taste one of the region's beers. Then, you can get back in the car and head over to Trier, located on the banks of the Moselle. You can cross the Römerbücke, the oldest bridge in the country, whose pillars have been holding it up since the second century. Don't worry about arriving late, because tomorrow we'll spend the whole day here, so you'll have plenty of time to visit the town. Tonight, you can dine at one of its restaurants and try some potato-based German dishes such as Kartoffelsuppe (soup) or Reibekuchen (tasty pancakes).

Overnight stay in Trier.

● DAY 5 · TRIER

Today, you've got all day to enjoy Germany's oldest city, founded by the Emperor Augustus in 16 BC. The traces of its Roman past are found all across the city, while its sheer beauty and excellent state of conservation earned it the status of World Heritage Site. In fact, UNESCO has listed seven of its Roman monuments. They include a monumental door, an amphitheatre, two thermal baths, the Römerbrücke bridge (which we visited yesterday), the Basilica of Constantine and the Igel Column. Together they form one of the most important Roman sites in the whole of Germany, and undoubtedly one of the best preserved. It's worth stopping off at each one to find out about their individual history. The gateway to Trier is known as the Porta Nigra due to the darkened colour of its stone. Now a symbol of the city, you'll be surprised to see how it's still standing thanks to iron braces and the force of gravity. At the amphitheatre, you can unleash your imagination and picture the fierce gladiator fights that would have been watched by 20,000 spectators in its stands. At the thermal bath complex of Kaiserthermen, you'll discover how the Romans would relax in hot and cold water baths spread across maze-like underground chambers. These were the largest spas in the Roman Empire outside the city of Rome itself. And at the Thermen am Viehmarkt hot springs, you'll be whisked back for an instant to World War II, as they're built under anti-aircraft shelters and are today protected by a large glass cube. Another of the architectural gems is the Basilica of Constantine, which was created in the year 310 as the emperor's throne room, and is currently Germany's largest single-room Roman building still intact. A different way of discovering the attractions of what was once hailed the 'Second Rome' is through the various theatrical performances that the Municipal Tourism Office holds at the most iconic monuments, such as the amphitheatre, the thermal baths or the Porta Nigra. As you'll see, Trier is teeming with life and history. Another example of its ancient past is the Trierer Dom, the oldest Gothic church in the country. And one of the unexpected surprises is the birthplace of Karl Marx. You'll be taking photos everywhere you go, but remember that Trier is one of those cities that you should enjoy leisurely. Venture deep into its old quarter, admire its traditional houses and have a drink or some food at its many cafes and restaurants. Today is obviously the perfect day to savour the famous Black Forest gâteau, made with chocolate sponge and several layers of cream and kirsch cherries.

Overnight stay in Trier.

● DAY 6 · TRIER - LUXEMBURG CITY - AACHEN

Trier is just a two-hour drive along the E411 to Luxembourg, which lies on the western border of Germany. Thanks to the flexibility provided by your rental car, you can cross over to the neighbouring nation today. We'll explore Luxembourg and then return to Germany from the north, near the border with Holland and Belgium, to Aachen, a beautiful spa town that was the birthplace of Charlemagne himself. We'll start off the day by visiting the Duchy of Luxembourg, a pocket-sized country whose capital harmoniously fuses tradition and modernity, combining stately buildings with other stark glass-based buildings, but always with respect to the environment. You'll notice this in not just how the city is integrated with its natural surroundings, but also in the extreme cleanliness of its streets. When you get to the city, park the car and explore on foot because there are a few parking lots in the center. One of your first stops will be its old town, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This will give an idea of what awaits you among the valleys framed by the Alzette and Pétrusse rivers. You can start by visiting its very own Notre-Dame Cathedral, built in the early seventeenth century in a late Gothic style. Its interiors feature some amazing stained glass, while its soaring spires outside can be seen from a distance. Nearby is the Place de la Constitution, a square that commands outstanding panoramic views of the valley and the Pont Adolphe bridge, one of the symbols of the city. Not only is there a monument in honour of the Luxembourg victims of World War II here, but it's also the main gateway to one of the city's most emblematic monuments: the Casemates de la Pétrusse. Together with those of Bock, they are the two casemates that remain in the capital. The casemates, if you haven't yet been told by some friendly locals, are galleries dug out in the rock dating back to the 17th century and which were used as a shelter during World War II bombings. It's a very interesting place to visit, but not the best if you're with children or very old people. It's worth taking a leisurely stroll through the beautiful old town, aka the Grund district, and get lost in its fairy-tale streets dotted with highly-recommended museums. Later, you can go and see one of the great monuments of the city, the Palais Grand-Ducal, with its characteristic pointed towers. Nearby, you'll find several pretty squares such as Place Guillaume II and Place d'Armes. They're usually packed with terraces of bars and restaurants where you can savour typical national dishes such as Kuddelfleck (fried tripe with breadcrumbs) or Judd mat Gaardebounen (collar of pork with broad beans), usually served with mashed potatoes or Kachkeis cheese. With your energy regained, you can head off to the Chemin de la Cornise, considered Europe's most beautiful balcony. You'll see why when you get there and admire the stunning views over the city. We could definitely stay longer in Luxembourg, but we recommend returning to Germany before sunset. So, let's get back on the road and head north. There's a two-hour drive ahead on the E25 until reaching Aachen, which lies on the border with Belgium and Holland. Depending on the time you arrive, you can stroll around the city or head to the hotel and explore it tomorrow. And what better way to end the day than having a sandwich? Locals say that the sandwich was invented in this town. And it was all thanks to John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich, who was sent in 1746 to Aachen as commissioner to take part in the negotiations to sign a peace treaty which would put an end to the War of Austrian Succession. In his spare time, the Count would play long games of cards. He was so addicted that he wouldn't even stop to eat, so his servants had the idea of putting food between two slices of bread, allowing him to have one of his hands free and continue playing the game he loved so much.

Overnight stay in Aachen.

If you arrived late yesterday, you can take advantage of the morning to visit Aachen, a spa town that Emperor Charlemagne chose as his main residence and which has played host to innumerable peace treaties.

Aachen is today a city that combines history, modernity and a youthful ambience due to its university atmosphere, lively bars and restaurants, and well-known carnivals. One of its major landmarks is its magnificent Gothic Cathedral, which has seen the coronation of thirty-eight kings and queens. Inside, you'll find its great treasure: the Palatine Chapel, where Charlemagne is buried under the well-known Sarcophagus of Proserpina, a Roman work from the second century AD. Its large and beautiful stained glass windows have earned it the nickname of Aachen's "Glass House". This is one of the most famous historical monuments in the world, probably because the Cathedral and its treasures were the first German monument to be declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Very close to the superb Cathedral is a magical monument that will definitely capture the attention of our younger friends. It is the Puppenbrunnen, a metal-sculpted fountain with figures of puppets whose arms you can move and place as you like. Perfect for taking a fun photo with your loved ones. Although this is not the only emblematic source of the city. Behind the Elisenbrunnen building, you'll find the so-called Circle of Money Fountain (Kreislauf des Geldes), with six figures depicting the circulation of money. It's typical to throw in a coin and see whether financial affairs will take a favourable turn. Good luck! Another beautiful building is the fourteenth-century Rathaus (Town Hall). It's worth entering to see the Coronation Hall, whose frescoes reflect Charlemagne's life and where a copy of the insignia of the kingdom is kept. The Town Hall dominates Marktplatz, one of the city's liveliest squares, full of bars and cute shops where you can buy local souvenirs. Behind it is the Centre Charlemagne, the ideal place to explore the history of Aachen and take part in the "Route Charlemagne" (activity not included).

After visiting the city, we'll head back on the road.

In just an hour you'll reach Cologne, a lively and cosmopolitan city divided by the waters of the Rhine. The best thing is to stroll around the old town and eat something at its sausage stands, obviously accompanied by a Kölsch, the city beer par excellence. Cologne is known around the world for its Cathedral. It's the biggest in the whole of Germany. Just stand back and gape at its sheer size. Its spires soar to 157 metres in height and its interior is around 144 metres in length. But it's not just its size that is amazing, but also its style. It's considered the jewel of German Gothic for its undeniable beauty. It was built to house the relics of the Three Wise Men, making Cologne one of the most important pilgrimage sites of medieval times. There are big car parks around the Cathedral and the Hauptbahnhof, so you won't have any problems entering the old town. You'll probably hear the Altes Rathaus bells ringing as you stroll through the museum-packed streets. They include the Jüdisches Museum, which showcases the relics of the Roman governors' palace and the medieval treasures of the Jewish community; the National Socialism Documentation Centre, which tells the story of the city during the Third Reich; or the postmodernist Wallraf-Richartz-Museum that houses works from the 13th to 19th centuries. After so many museums, you're sure to want something sweet. The best idea is to visit the Chocolate Museum, where you can learn about the history of chocolate from its origins to the present day, as well as buying some of the very best confectionery in the city. Romantics also have a special place in Cologne to express their love. We're talking about the so-called lovers' bridge, aka Hohenzollern, which sits over the Rhine and just opposite the Cathedral. Here you can enjoy a great view and also fix your padlock as a symbol of the love you profess to your partner. In the afternoon, you can head over to the Roman fortifications or partake in some retail therapy on Hohe Straße and Schildergasse. You'll find most of the city's clothing and footwear chains here. For dinner, head to one of the restaurants near the Cathedral or pop over to Barbarossaplatz and Rudolfplatz. There are many eateries there serving all kinds of food, including the typical German ham hock.

Overnight stay in Cologne.

● DAY 8 · COLOGNE - FRANKFURT

There are a couple of options for today. Either spend the morning exploring Cologne or head back to the original departure point of Frankfurt. Remember that it will take over two hours on the A3 to reach Frankfurt.

So, organise your day well to make the most of it.

In Cologne, we recommend a couple of visits before heading back. The first is the picturesque Skulpturen Park, which as its name indicates is full of extravagant modern art sculptures. The second calls for a little bit more time, but is well worth doing: a Rhine river cruise. A different way to discover this amazing city. (Note: Boat tour not included).

We'll end this trip in the financial capital of Germany. Due to its modern skyline and location on the River Main, Frankfurt is also popularly known as "Mainhattan".

Make your final purchases in the lively pedestrian area of "Zeil", also known as the "Fifth Avenue of Germany", and say goodbye to this fascinating country by strolling along the Palmengarten or enjoying an "Apfelwein" or "Ebbelwoi" in the taverns of the Sachsenhausen district.

Overnight stay in Frankfurt.

● DAY 9 · FRANKFURT - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| ✓ Return flight. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Frankfurt. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Frankfurt. |
| ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Boppard. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Boppard. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Trier. |
| ✓ Selected meal plan in Trier. | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Aachen. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Aachen. |
| ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Cologne. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Cologne. | ✓ Rent-a-car. |

Your trip doesn't include

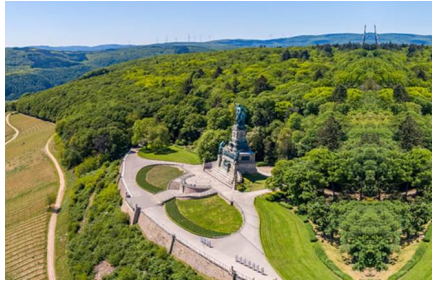
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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ✗ Accommodation taxes in Frankfurt direct payment in facility. | | |
| ✗ Accommodation taxes in Trier direct payment in facility. | | |
| ✗ Accommodation taxes in Aachen direct payment in facility. | | |
| ✗ Accommodation taxes in Cologne direct payment in facility. | ✗ Possible toll charges. | ✗ Insolvency protection. |

Destinations Visited

Frankfurt



Rüdesheim am Rhein



Boppard



Koblenz



Cochem



Bernkastel-Kues



Trier



Luxembourg



Aachen



Cologne



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.

- You must give notice that you are going to cross the border while collecting the vehicle. Authorisation may be required to drive through certain countries or areas/states (as is the case in the US and Canada). Depending on the conditions set out in the rental contract and the company hired, you might be charged a surcharge payable at the destination office.