

# Moselle: Vineyards and Romans by Barge!

October 8-16, 2010

**Day 1:** Friday, October 8, 2010: Depart US, meals served aloft.

**DAY 2:** Saturday, October 9: Arrival in Luxembourg; Grand Duchy of Luxembourg! We'll begin with a city bus-and-foot tour of this spectacular capital of one of Europe's smallest countries. Stunningly beautiful and situated high above ravines, with modern buildings interspersed with old, it's a great introduction to Europe! Then after lunch it's into the Luxembourg hills, with a stop or two, before we reach Koblenz, Germany.

All aboard! We'll board our 'home' for the next week, a converted barge, and start with a welcome drink and dinner. Not a bad start to a great week of venture! L(unch), D(inner).

**DAY 3:** Sunday, October 10: **Koblenz – Alken - Castle of Eltz - Cochem**

The barge sails...and we're on board! 'Barge' doesn't quite get it—it's a specially outfitted and converted boat with all the amenities, large cabins and a common sitting-and-dining area you won't quite believe. Toss in some super friendly staff, a fully stocked bar and a few spectacular meals on board—it's 'magic'—as you'd expect from IH!

The Moselle [or Mosel]! After a sailing breakfast we'll arrive in Alken and take a bus to Moselkern and into the Elztal to the castle of Eltz. Lying romantically on a cliff edge, the castle is one of the very few that has never been destroyed during its long history! We'll tour it, and its treasury rooms. Then on to Cochem, where our floating hotel-barge awaits. Ho hum, another on-board dinner—you could get used to this! And after--a stroll through this charming city, dominated by the ruined castle, the famous *Reichsburg*. We'll Overnight in Cochem. B(reakfast), D.

**DAY 4:** Monday, October 11: **Cochem – Beilstein – Zell – Traben Trarbach**

An early sailing to Beilstein. Here we'll wander this charming village, nicknamed the 'Pearl on the Moselle' river. This village was never been destroyed by war or fire and is used as the setting for international films. Then it's on to Zell an der Mosel, famous for its wine *Zeller Schwarze Katz*. Wine—one of the focal points of our tour, and we'll start with a tour through one of the vineyards, learning a bit and watching —after all, this **IS** wine harvest time—and then have lunch! Then we'll cruise to Traben Trarbach. Traben is well known for its Art Nouveau or Jugendstil buildings, such as the Hotel Bellevue, a perfect example of this century-old architectural style.

Trarbach is a charming little village, where you can stroll through the narrow streets and perhaps try a shop or two and find dinner—perhaps with a local wine! B, L.

**DAY 5:** Tuesday, October 12: **Traben Trarbach – Bernkastel Kues – Neumagen Drohn**

Another sailing breakfast, arriving in Bernkastel Kues. Bernkastel is one of the most charming villages on the Moselle river—another perfect place to explore and get lunch... In the afternoon it's on to Neumagen Drohn, the oldest wine village in Germany--the Roman poet Ausonius already sang of the beautiful landscape—nearly 2000 years ago! And why not; the Romans fell in love with this landscape more than 2000 years ago and built splendid country-villas here. Here we may already see the preparations for harvesting of the grapes and even try one of the first wines, the *Federweisser!* Neumagen Drohn is where the Romans set foot on the bank of the Moselle when they came from the Rhine river area, and where there are many interesting remainders of the ancient Roman times. Dinner and wine tasting at a local winery—and why not—we're not driving! B, D.

**DAY 6:** Wednesday, October 13: **Neumagen Drohn – Trier**

**Trier**, best preserved Roman city in Germany! After breakfast and lunch on board our barge it's off to explore this Roman [and charming] city—you'll love it! B, L.

**DAY 7:** Thursday, October 14: **Trier – Wasserbillig**

Another day in Trier! An amphitheatre, ancient walls, outstanding Roman Museum, and of course the famous gate, the *Porta Nigra*, will keep us busy—along with a bit of free time of course! Then it's back to the barge and sailing to Wasserbillig. A sailing dinner amid the hills of the Moselle—and into Luxembourg; it doesn't get much better than this! B, D.

**DAY 8: Friday, October 15: Wasserbillig – Remich – Luxemburg**

One last cruise on the Moselle river! Then Remich, where we'll say goodbye to our boat-home and crew, then go on by bus to Luxembourg.

The Grand Ducal Palace! We'll take a look inside [it's the only royal palace in Europe open to the public; tickets pending], then enjoy the 'town'! One of the finest squares anywhere, neat cathedral, those spectacular vistas, and maybe even a bit of shopping—not a bad last day in Europe! B, D.

**DAY 9: Saturday, October 16: Luxemburg – Hotel to Airport**

We'll transfer from the hotel to the airport for our flight home, arriving the same day!

**TRIP IINCLUDES:**

International flights and group transfers as above.

Accommodations on the barge and one night in Luxembourg, based on double occupancy. There may be a very limited number of singles available.

Wine tasting:

Neumagen Drohn, dinner included

Zeller Schwarze Katz, lunch included

Entrance fee to the Castle of Eltz including the tour and treasury room.

Grand Ducal Palace tour [pending availability]

Roman sites in Trier

**COST: \$3950**