

RHINE CASTLES & SWISS ALPS WITH LAKE COMO

September 9 – 20, 2022



Day 1, ARRIVE IN LAKE COMO, ITALY. Arrive in Lake Como and check into your hotel.

Day 2, LAKE COMO. Be treated to a walking tour of Lake Como, a former glacial lake and popular resort area for the rich and famous since Roman times. Gaze at the azure waters and impressive villas that line the lakeside from the hills above and perhaps recognize the scenery from such Hollywood blockbusters as *Ocean's Twelve* and *Casino Royale*. (B)

Day 3, LAKE COMO – BELLAGIO. Let the wind tousle your hair as you board your boat for a scenic ride along Lake Como to its stunning pearl, Bellagio. This intimate village offers postcard-perfect views whether you choose to stroll along the lakeside or venture up hill to its cobbled streets. Browse the shops or sample the local fare at Bellagio's restaurants before returning to the boat. (B)

Day 4, LAKE COMO – BELLINZONA – BASEL, SWITZERLAND. Check out of your Lake Como hotel and, en route to Basel, be treated to a Bellinzona orientation tour. Once you arrive in Basel, embark your ship for your Rhine Castles & Swiss Alps cruise. (B,D)

Day 5, BASEL – LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND. Enjoy getting to know Basel, Switzerland's third largest city. Long an important university, banking and trade center, Basel's glorious past is still evident in its medieval town hall, richly decorated market square and exquisite 18th-century patrician homes. Tour the city by foot or on a guided bike tour that takes you through three countries: Switzerland, France and Germany. Or, choose a full-day excursion in Lucerne, known for its Lion Monument – the figure of a dying lion carved into a hillside in memory of the Swiss Guards massacred during the French Revolution in 1792 – which Mark Twain described as “the most mournful and moving piece of stone in the world.” You'll also see Lucerne's spectacular medieval walls and towers, dating back to the 13th century. (B,L,D)

Day 7, LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY – RÜDESHEIM, GERMANY. Ludwigshafen is your gateway to a choice of four excursions. Visit Heidelberg, the perfectly preserved medieval city nestled in the Neckar River Valley along Germany's Castle Road. Discover the iconic red sandstone Heidelberg Castle and Great Vat, an 18th-century, 49,000-gallon wine cask. For a more active adventure while in Heidelberg, join a guided hike up the Philosopher's Path, aptly named during the Romantic Period, and enjoy panoramic views of the city. Alternatively, you can visit one of Germany's oldest cities, Speyer, known for the largest Romanesque cathedral in Europe—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—and the medieval Old Gate, Altpörtel. Or pedal along the river Neckar to the picturesque medieval city center of Ladenburg and enjoy some free time to explore the shops. Later in the day, cruise to the charming village of Rudesheim and let Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum charm you with its remarkable collection of self-playing musical instruments; or taste one of the town's special delights, Rudesheimer coffee, ceremoniously made with brandy, coffee and whipped cream. (B,L,D)

Day 8, RÜDESHEIM. Join a wine tasting to discover the flavors of the town's iconic vineyards and drink up the stunning views by soaring high above the vineyards with a gondola ride to the Niederwalddenkmal. For a more active adventure, hike through the town's beautiful vineyards or join a guided bike tour along the scenic Rhine River. Later in the day, cruise through the captivating UNESCO-designated Rhine Gorge, the most stunningly beautiful stretch of the river before reaching Lahnstein, where you will enjoy a unique evening visit at Lahneck Castle. (B,L,D)

DAY 9, COLOGNE, GERMANY. Enjoy cruising to Cologne. Join a guided tour through the Old Town and explore the UNESCO-designated Cologne Cathedral, one of Germany's most revered Gothic masterpieces. Continue to the Cologne Rathaus, Germany's oldest town hall, plus see other historic sites. For a different view, visit a local tavern to taste its famous Kölsch beer, only made in Cologne, and *reibekuchen mit apfelmus*, potato pancakes typically served with applesauce. Active adventurers will want to join a guided bike ride along the Rhine and through the historic Stadtgarten. (B,L,D)

Day 10, AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS. Or opt for a rare experience with a journey into the Netherland's Floriade Expo* in Almere – very close to Amsterdam – which will feature stunning gardens, innovative sustainable gardening exhibits, live entertainment, souvenirs and food stalls. Alternatively, get a taste of local flavor, passing iconic canals, gabled houses, narrow bridges and house boats while tasting Dutch specialties at one of Amsterdam's grand cafes. (B,L,D)

**Please note: The Floriade 2022 Expo opens from April 14 to October 9, 2022, and A Taste of Amsterdam tour depends upon docking location and may be replaced with Jordaan District Walking.*

Day 11, AMSTERDAM- DISEMBARKATION. Transfer from pier to Amsterdam hotel. Late morning/early afternoon CE seminar.

Day 12, AMSTERDAM. Depart hotel for return flights home

12 CE Credit Hours

CE Seminar Schedule (subject to change):

Lake Como- 4 hours

AmaSerena- 4 hours

Amsterdam hotel- 4 hours