

<b>Cruise - 1</b>	<b>Castles of the Rhine</b>		
Itinerary	Cologne to Cologne		
Line	European Yacht Cruises		
Ship	 <p data-bbox="459 1451 804 1480">MV Roland (docked in Cologne)</p>		
No of Days	No of Nights	Cum Nights (This Line)	Cum Nights
7	6	6	6
Cabin Number	Not known		
Cabin Standard	Basic!		
Overall Notes	Our holiday was a six-night cruise on the Rhine River with European Yacht Cruises, a small company owning just one boat, the M.V. Roland		

Day	Date	Port	Activity
1	Friday 24/09/1976	Cologne	<p>Travel from London by coach. Embarkation on ship.</p> <p>We drove up to London very early in the morning and having no traffic problems, arrived much too early. The place we had to meet was just a car park, so we had to get a taxi to find somewhere to get a cup of coffee. The only public loo was locked and as people began to congregate, we were getting quite desperate.</p> <p>The other holidaymakers were all rather older than we were.</p> <p>We had a rather sleepy journey to Dover, stopping on the Motorway for a break.</p> <p>The Channel crossing was painless, embarking and disembarking being done in the coach. The weather was misty, so the four-hour crossing to Zebbrugge was rather boring.</p> <p>The coach journey through the drizzle to Cologne took 5½ hours, mostly in the dark, passing through the North of Belgium and crossing the corner of the Netherlands.</p> <p>When we arrived, we found the boat to be less than inspiring. Our cabin was very small and sanitary arrangements were rather primitive. Things seemed better after we had eaten; the food throughout was excellent.</p> <p>We went for a walk after dinner and managed to get all of our postcards sent. The station was full of red and white clad football supporters singing exactly the same songs that we would hear at home.</p>
2	Saturday 25/09/1976	Bonn	<p>We had an early morning walk before breakfast. The boat was rapidly nicknamed The African Queen. After breakfast we set off upstream on the first stage to Bonn.</p> <p>The Rhine between Cologne and Bonn is flanked on both sides by parks and promenades, providing facilities for people to walk, exercise dogs and for children to play.</p> <p>We stopped in Bonn in the early afternoon. After a trip round Beethoven's birthplace, a real drag, we walked a little looking for somewhere to have tea. At this stage of the week, we were shocked by prices.</p> <p>Continuing upstream, we passed The bridge at Remagen, the last bridge destroyed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war as the allies pushed East. It was never rebuilt.</p> <p>We spent the night at Remagen, a singularly dull place instead of Linz, because of a fault in the landing stage at Linz.</p> <p>We were able to get an early night, but soon found out how thin the walls of the cabin were, especially when someone next door snored.</p>
3	Sunday 26/09/1976	Koblenz	<p>We set out upstream before breakfast.</p> <p>Mid morning, we stopped at Andernach, a pretty town on the West bank of the river. There was some kind of fair going on which made for an interesting walk. The weather gradually improved as we walked around.</p>

			<p>By the times we arrived at Koblenz in mid-afternoon, the weather was pretty good. Along with a couple of others, we went to the chair lift up to the castle using a ferry to cross the river.</p> <p>We spent the night docked in Koblenz. After dinner, almost everyone went to a nearby wine garden where a good number got rather drunk. It was at this event that we grouped up with a group of keen drinkers that we spent the rest of the week with.</p>
4	Monday 27/09/1976	Boppard	<p>Mid-morning, we docked at Braubach for a visit to Marksburg castle. We suffered an hour-long guided tour by a guide with almost perfect but expressionless English and completely devoid of a sense of humour.</p> <p>Although the Castle was rather dull, the view of the Rhine was terrific.</p> <p>We reached Boppard during the early afternoon and stayed for 2 nights. The water upstream was only 1.32m deep in places .. too shallow for the Roland.</p> <p>One of the “events” of the holiday was the chair lift at Boppard. Exposed, on the edge of a ridge, the lift was in places 150 feet above the ground. Sue among others was not comfortable and had to be coaxed into going back down.</p> <p>It was Wine Festival in Boppard. After dinner, several of us went into the Town Square where the main festivities were taking place. There were a number stalls selling glasses of their own particular brand of wine and others selling steak sandwiches, curried sausages etc. There was a dance floor and a typical Gernal Oom-Pah band.</p> <p>We samples a number of the wines (1DM per glass after the first one) and then later continued on deck.</p> <p>The mooring at Boppard was particularly noisy as there was a ferry very close and other boats moored to us overnight.</p>
5	Tuesday 28/09/1976	Boppard	<p>Early in the morning, mist hung over the hills.</p> <p>From where we viewed it, the Lorelei Rock looks quite innocuous. However, in the past it was quite different. Before the road was built, the cliff was sheer down to the water level. The water here is deep with dangerous currents that dragged boats on to the rocks. Any boat losing power anywhere within 20 miles upstream of the Lorelei would end up on the rocks.</p> <p>Because we were unable to travel any further upstream by boat, we continued to Bingen by bus. At Bingen, we took a ferry across to Rudesheim, where a packed lunch was provided.</p> <p>After lunch we had a tour of the Asbach Uralt brandy distillery. After the tour we took the gondola across the vineyard to the Germania memorial. The grapes were full and heavy, ripe for harvesting.</p>
6	Wednesday 29/09/1976	Cologne	<p>Today, we departed Boppard for the cruise downstream back to Cologne, passing many small towns and castles including Stolzenfels, Ehrenbreitstein, Drachenfels, Konigswinter.</p> <p>In the evening we had our farewell dinner, the culinary highlight of the week culminating in the parade of the Baked Alaska.</p>

<b>7</b>	Thursday 30/09/1976	Cologne	There was just time for a short walk around Cologne Cathedral after breakfast before we started the coach trip back to Zebrugge and London.
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