

A watercolor illustration of a riverboat on the Danube River in Germany. The boat is a grey motorboat with a blue canopy and a red cross on its mast. It is positioned in the center of the river, moving towards the viewer. The river is flanked by lush green trees and rolling hills. In the background, a small village with a church spire is visible. The sky is filled with soft, white and blue clouds. The overall style is soft and painterly.

Rolling on the Rivers

A riverboat ride
along three of
Western Europe's
classic waterways

**MS River Adagio
cruising through
the German
countryside
on the
Danube River**

The storied lands of Western and Central Europe have been attractive to despots and dreamers, peasants and kings. Its beauty remains while humanity comes and goes, sustained by the constantly evolving nature of the rivers that shaped it.

East from Amsterdam

This original party town maintains its aquarian cool in spite of millions of bawdy nighttime tourists. It's actually a fascinating place at any time, but its history, canals and legions of bicycles are more obvious in daylight.



Cologne spans the Rhine River and is loaded with artwork and large public spaces.

This monument near City Hall (right) celebrates a suitor who was rejected. In time he became rich and famous. Too late, the lady was never able to catch up and remained out of his life forever.



The Rhine River at Cologne and some wine in Winningen



Winningen is a small village surrounded by hillsides filled with Riesling grape vines.

Tourists arrive here by bus, boat and train, and while many look to sample the vintages, others are more impressed by the elaborate local train station (left).



Castles are scattered all along the **German Castle Road**, usually on a hilltop and often with spectacular views.

What remains of the castle above the university town of **Heidelberg** (left) manages to attract a million visitors a year in spite of its many wrecked ramparts.

The castle at **Wertheim** (below) however, remains in much better shape, possibly because the town mayor surrendered the town to Nazi troops without a fight, and later in 1945 two kids surrendered the town to advancing US forces.

Castles on the Rhine in Heidelberg and Wertheim





The Old Main Bridge (above) joins **Würzburg's** Old Town with the fortress on the other side of the river. This landmark bridge is lined with statues of saints and notable people.

*Exploring
cities
on the
Main River*



The marketplatz (left) that spreads out in front of **Schweinfurt's** city hall can be a restful place or one crammed with vendors, depending on the day or the season. The city rebuilt itself promptly after major WWII bombing and today is a lively and art-filled metropolis.



Along the Main River at the edge of Germany



In spite of **Nuremberg's** dark history, it has grown with the rest of the country beyond those times. On Weissgerbergasse (above), the city's oldest street, cyclists pause among its medieval half-timbered houses.

Behind **Passau's** cathedral is a beautiful fountain in the Residenz Platz (left). The sound of organ music just might be audible above cafe conversations while enjoying afternoon coffee and cake.



Regensburg's 12th century Stone Bridge (above) spans the Danube in 16 arches. While the current is quiet now under this masterwork of medieval construction, it has also survived serious flood waters.

Palaces and stonework abound

The Domplatz in **Bamberg** spreads out from the city's impressive cathedral.

Arches to the right of the New Residence library building there (right) open onto a courtyard, chapel and former stables.





As the Danube River wends west, it passes the town of **Melk** and the Benedictines' massive baroque abbey (left) high above it. Originally a royal castle, it is now a museum and school for 900 high school students.

Vienna is Austria's crown jewel. Its palaces, museums, concert halls and churches are internationally famous. Horse drawn carriages move visitors among the city sights, but they start and return to the plaza next to St. Stephens Cathedral (below), their Domplatz.

Following the Danube into Austria





And then to Hamburg

Millions of visitors to post-war Germany will testify that charm, good food & drink and beautiful scenery have made it a compelling destination.

The flatlands and gentle hills in the northern part of the country are their own attraction, and none more so than the area around Hamburg.

In the tiny village of **Plon**, close by the Baltic Sea and encircled by rolling wheat fields, there is a spa called Graf Gardens. Flowers and plants spill out of every possible corner. Pond plants and lily pads among their original thatched roof barns create a peaceful space for visitors and guests.



Mike and Kathy Killelea enjoyed the trip from Amsterdam to Vienna along the Rhine, Main and Danube Rivers. They loved the sights, sounds and company along the way. When the voyage ended, they turned north and continued to Hamburg.

Mike recorded his impressions in watercolors daily at every opportunity he could find.



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