

The Rhine River from Koblenz to Bacharach

Chris Bonnor



Source: Lencer - Own work, used: Generic Mapping Tools and SRTM3 V2-files for relief small map created with Karte_Bundesrepublik_Deutschland.svgOpenStreetMapGoogle Earth, GFDL, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=8638995Introduction>

Like so many other principals we have offspring living overseas and frequently visit them, in our case being overseas for a month at a time. This sort of frequency means we try to reduce costs.

Rather than stay with the family for the whole month we also try to do side trips, in our case from Aberdeen in Scotland to various places in the UK and continent (arguably, Aberdeen is a great place to get away from). So far this has included southern Spain, Amsterdam, Paris and the Rhine River. Next May is Norway (Bergen). Iceland would be nice, they say.

The Rhine Gorge

There are ample cruises up and down the Rhine. Ours cost about \$80 each, a tad less than the average Rhine cruise, i.e. we went on local ferries, and also on trains. We often drive in Europe but cars make less sense in places such as the Rhine Gorge. Good places to stay include Boppard, Sankt Goar and Bacharach. There are great views from hotels along the waterfront. The river was in flood at the time we were there so the bonus was watching the river traffic struggle upstream or zip downstream – and travelers walking the plank to board the ferries. Yes, we saw the Loreley (Lorelei), which excited me about as much as the dog on the tuckbox near Gundagai.

We also went to Luxembourg and would recommend a day or two there. Quite a surprise, and a stunning setting for the old city.

Train travel in Europe

Most trains up and down the Rhine are local, frequent and cheap. Longer trips are best booked well in advance (usually 90 days) and best done on local websites, e.g. Deutsche Bahn for Germany, ICE for Spain etc. Third party sites are more expensive, e.g. if you google 'Eurail' you'll easily end up in an Australian travel site... and pay for the pleasure.

Acknowledgements

Like others, we make up our own itinerary by trawling through various sites such as *TripAdvisor*. The itineraries of tour companies are always useful as a guide, including the river cruise boat itineraries.

Useful references

It is hard to go past a Rick Steve travel book for Europe travel. In this case it is his *Rhine Valley Snapshot*. I use his books (via Kindle) for planning and then access it on my iPhone, along with various map apps such as maps.me and maplets. He includes maps and guides to local sites.

Contributor details

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Chris was Principal of Asquith Boys High (1991-2000) and Davidson High (2002-2005), as well as NSWSPC Futures Principal in Bridge Street in 2001. He was President of the NSWSPC from 2002-2006. He is now a writer and advocate, in part for the Centre for Policy Development. Chris is a NSWSPC Life Member and was awarded his AM in 2007.