

HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club The Marvelous Moselle River, Germany, Luxembourg, and France

Dates:	August 4–10, 2026. Disembarkation on August 11th.
Coordinator:	Rita Kurelja
Miles:	Approximately 115-160 miles. Mostly flat but some climbing.
Rating:	Easy. Some days have options for longer or shorter rides. https://www.heartcycle.org/tour-ratings
Riders:	31
Price:	\$3,200 (double occupancy, 118 sq ft cabin; 2 twins). \$1,000 due at registration. Balance due by May 6, 2026. Limited single supplement availability +\$2,000 (all cabins hold two people). Four suite cabins (161 sq ft; 1 queen-size bed; must register with a roommate) +\$600 per person.
Cancellation:	Standard cancellation policy

Travel insurance is strongly recommended.

OVERVIEW

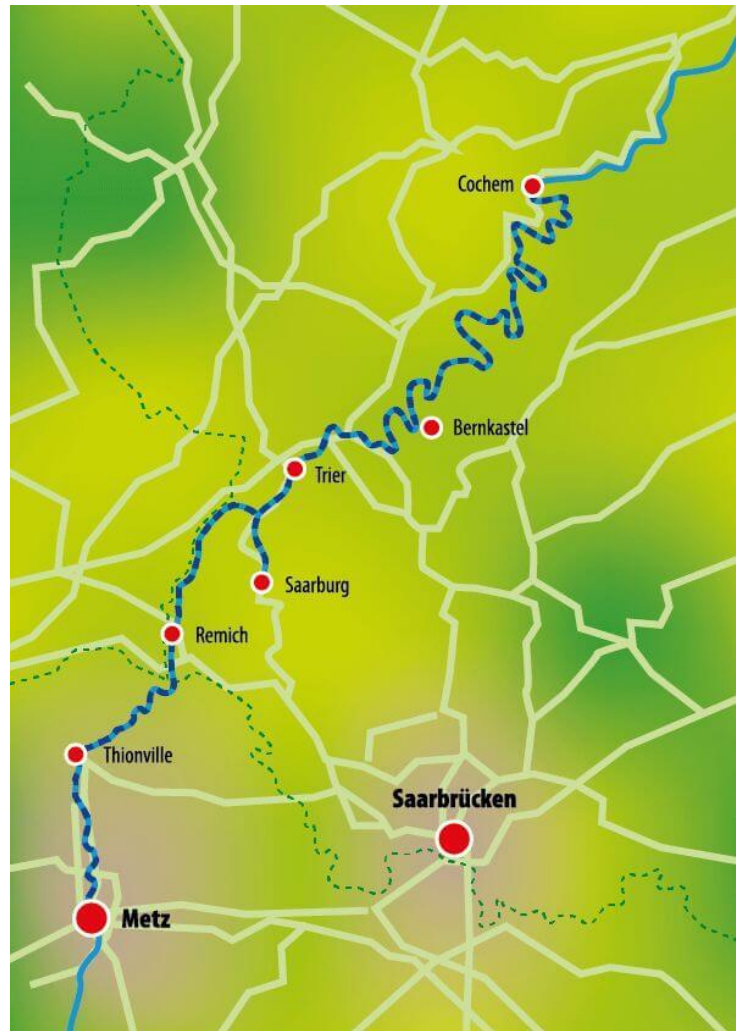
Cycle and sail on the beautiful Moselle River through Germany, Luxembourg, and France on this amazing, 8-day, 7-night tour. Starting in Cochem, Germany, we follow the river Moselle along endless vineyards and enchanting old cities like Cochem and Berkastel. In Trier, once an imperial Roman city, we will see the remnants of this glorious past in Germany's oldest cathedral, amphitheater, the emperor's throne hall, and famous Porta Nigra or "black gate," part of the remains of the ancient city wall. After Trier, we will follow the river Saar to visit charming Saarburg, with the stunning waterfall in the city center. Then onto Luxembourg, the only Grand Duchy in Europe. Its strategic position between two superpowers (France and Germany) made it a contested area to control over the ages. The last day, we cycle into France with her welcoming villages, where the inhabitants are proud of their sweet, smooth wines and golden "Mirabellen" liqueur. The tour ends in the city of Metz, with her splendid Gothic cathedral.

The newly renovated, deluxe-class barge *Magnifique I*, which joined our tour operator's fleet in 2024, will be our floating hotel for the week. The beautifully decorated cabins are on the lower deck and have en-suite bathrooms, air-conditioning, a mini-safe, and a hairdryer. The upper deck has a tastefully furnished salon with a restaurant area, a nice bar and a lounge area with sitting corners, air-conditioning, TV, and large panoramic windows.

Tour participants will be provided three meals daily onboard the *Magnifique I*. A packed lunch will be provided each morning so we can eat lunch as we cycle through the beautiful countryside. One dinner will be on our own in Saarburg. *Special dietary requests may result in an additional fee payable directly to the tour operator.* All the cabins hold two people, some with single beds, and a few junior suites each with one queen bed.

Fully Guided

Accompanied by a competent, professional, multilingual tour leader, we will visit interesting sights and places on the daily cycling tours. During the bike tour, our guide will explain the local history and culture behind the things we encounter along the way. You may also choose to ride individually with the help of Ride with GPS routes.



Bicycles appropriate for the mileage and terrain will be provided for each rider. These bikes will be comfortable, upright aluminum bikes. ***A limited number of e-bikes will be available for an additional charge of \$210.***

PLEASE NOTE: The bikes are equipped with flat pedals that are appropriate for the type of riding we will be doing. The tour company will **NOT** permit us to change the pedals.

GPS routes and cycling maps will be provided.

Included in the fees are entrance for ferries, entrance to Reichsburg Cochem, local wine tasting, and short walking tours.

Transportation to and from the barge *Magnifique I* is not included.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Embarkation and check-in are at 2 p.m. in Cochem, Germany. After a welcome meeting with the crew, the tour leader will take us for a walk through this cozy and characteristic Moselle town with steep wine-grape-clad mountains, wooded hills, an impressive castle, and a picturesque square with beautiful timber-framed houses and cafés. A visit to Cochem's majestic Reichsburg Castle is on the program.



**Day 2: Wednesday,
August 5**

Following breakfast, we'll cycle to Beilstein, one of the best-preserved historic villages on the Moselle. The ruins of Castle Metternich tower above the village, and we'll have the opportunity to explore them. After



leaving Beilstein, we'll pass Europe's steepest vineyard—with slopes up to 60 degrees—at Bremmer Calmont. Today's tour ends in the wine village of Zell on the Moselle, well known in the industry for the wine, Zeller Schwarze Katz. In Zell, taking the opportunity to get to know the good wines of the Moselle valley is recommended.



**Day 3: Thursday,
August 6**

Today, we'll cycle from Zell to the romantic village of Traben-Trarbach, located on the Moselle's left bank and famous for its Jugendstil (Art Nouveau) architecture. From there, we pass

through the wine city of Kröv—well-known for its popular Kröver wine—to Bernkastel-Kues, our destination for the night. The grand half-timbered houses that surround the marketplace of Bernkastel-Kues date back to the Middle Ages and are a photographer's delight. We'll reach the barge in Kues after a tour through town.

Day 4: Friday, August 7

From Bernkastel, the valley opens and vineyards expand as far as the eye can see. Today, we cruise past the heavy-hitters in the wine world: Brauneberg, Piesport, and Trittenheim. Piesport is beloved by the Brits for the “little golden droplets.” Trittenheim lies in a sharp hairpin turn on the river



surrounded by mountains coated with grapes. Around lunchtime, we will arrive in Neumagen, already an important center of wine production in Roman times. You can decide to join the barge from here or continue by bicycle to Schweich, where again the barge will be waiting for us. Once on board, we will cruise to Trier, the oldest city in Germany. Trier was founded around 15 BCE by Caesar Augustus under the name of Augusta Treverum. As a trading town and administrative center, Trier flourished during the late imperial age. This Roman golden age left us with a respectable number of monuments. Most authentic is the city gate Porta Nigra, which was built around 18 CE.

**Day 5: Saturday, August 8**

In the morning, our tour leader will guide us in Trier explaining the Roman history as we walk the town. You'll also have time to discover and enjoy Trier on your own. After lunch, we will hop on our bicycles and follow the Saar River to our next destination, Saarburg. Saarburg is an old town

situated in the most beautiful part of the Saar valley. Here, the banks of the river are densely forested. The castle of Saarburg was built in the middle of the 10th century. A 20-m high waterfall is in the town center. At the foot of the

waterfall is an old mill, which is driven by the small river. In this part of town, most of the old houses date to the 17th and 18th centuries, giving Saarburg a picturesque look. No dinner on board tonight; select one of the local restaurants in Saarburg.

Day 6: Sunday, August 9

Today, we'll have two cycling options. One is easy but a bit longer along the rivers. The shorter option is a bit more challenging, through the hills. Whatever your choice is, the cycling will lead us into the Grand



Duchy Luxembourg. Here, the Moselle forms the border between Germany and Luxembourg. Luxembourg is a small country, but her capital (also called Luxembourg) is an important finance center and EU administrative city. On the way, at the Luxembourg side, we visit a wine cooperative that specializes in “Cremant,” the Champagne of the Moselle. Close to Remich, we can admire a Roman mosaic floor. The tile floor was once the centerpiece in a palatial Roman villa—3 million individual tile pieces reveal scenes from gladiator games in the amphitheater.



Day 7: Monday, August 10

While having breakfast, we will cruise to Schengen, where today's cycling will begin. The “Schengen agreement” is something everybody in Europe has heard of, whereas almost nobody knows that it is

named after this little town in Luxembourg at the three-country border. Soon, we will cross the Luxembourg-French border and experience the outcome of

this agreement: no border controls. We pass the fortress of Sierck-les-Bains, one of the palaces inhabited by the powerful Dukes of Lorraine. The route is lovely through French countryside and friendly villages. Around lunchtime, we will arrive in Thionville, the center of the steel industry until the 1980s. That might sound modern and industrial, but the city is ancient.



The historic center is replete with medieval ramparts, lovely gardens, old streets, and St. Maximin basilica. Here, the ship will be waiting to pick us up to cruise to Metz, another ancient city strategically situated on a Roman trading route. St. Etienne Cathedral is the 3rd largest gothic church in France with flying buttresses and Marc Chagall-stained glass windows. Metz is full of stunning architecture, flowers, and great cafés.

Day 8: Tuesday, August 11, 2026

End of tour. Disembarkation after breakfast, till 9:30 a.m.



For more information contact:

Rita Kurelja

ritakurelja@hotmail.com

970-231-7163