

RHINE PACKAGE 2012

5 days / 4 nights duration – departing **Monday 16.04.12**

Return Executive Coach Travel with selected pick up points

Return ferry crossings from Dover - Calais

4 nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3* Rheinlust hotel in Boppard, an ideal base for discovering the Rhine - all en suite rooms

Included guided sightseeing tour of Koblenz & free time to explore at your leisure

Included visit to Sayn Palace and Butterfly Garden including a guided tour and entrance

Included visit to Rudesheim & the Lorelei Rock & a Rhine cruise

Included visit to Schloss Johannisberg with a guided tour of the wine cellars & tasting

Free time in the historic Roman town of Boppard & a mini train tour (Rhine Express)

Included stop in Valkenburg en route back to Calais

Cost from **£ 369.00pp** Twin/ double share

Single rooms very limited – on request only

Deposit £ 70.00pp (non-refundable) Balance due in full by the 01.03.12

Insurance if required is available @ £30.00pp - No upper age limit but subject to medical screening

Boppard : Not many towns on the Middle Rhine have so much to offer and to discover, from over 2000 years of cultural history, as Boppard has. However this isn't a tiresome history lesson but a living experience of the artistry and creativity of the Romans and early Christians, right through to the Middle Ages with its knights in shining armour. The Rhine valley has, in its time, seen many travellers come and go, in good and bad times, well-meaning or ill-meaning, and always leaving their mark. Boppard offers its guests so much to discover between the blue band of the Rhine and the fresh green of the Hunsrück hills: Castles and stately homes, churches and monasteries, gardens and parks but also the genius of past composers and inventors. The town's treasures can be found in many different ways...by passing romantic squares and small lanes in the old town and by strolling along the Rhine Allee, filled with trees and flowers. **Rhine Express** - The mini-train offers a 40-minute tour around Boppard, past the remains of the fortifying walls dating back to the Romans and the Middle Age, past the Romanesque and Gothic Parish Church of St. Severus and Carmelite Church, and many other historic edifices.

Rudesheim am Rhein : The picturesque landscape with its medieval castles, historic palaces, monasteries and wine-growing villages can be appreciated from the Rhine River. Since the beginning of the last century this town was a major attraction for English and German romantics. You can explore at your leisure Rudesheim's historic quarter and the famous "**Drosselgasse**" with its narrow windy streets. You may choose to take the cable car to the Niederwald monument (extra cost), one of the most beautiful viewpoints of the valley of the Rhine river. You will see the famous "**Loreley**" Cliff which towers above one of the narrowest parts of the Rhine.

Schloss Johannisberg where they have been producing wines for over 900 years. The vineyards of the castle embrace an area of 86 acres and are planted exclusively with Riesling vines. The wines have a reputation as belonging to the finest produced in Germany. Their elegance, fruit and flavour delight the connoisseur and consumer alike, whilst wines of older vintages are even prized for their medicinal qualities. Here you will have a **guided tour** of the new part of the cellar and the old historical wine cellar where you will see casks which were built in the 18th century and enjoy tastings of three different wines.

Hirzenach : You have to look twice to notice the garden which lies below the impressive Baroque building which is the Provost's Church. It lies above the houses of the suburb of Hirzenach. The Provost's Church forms the main part, behind it lies the tower of the former church and to its feet the historical Provost's Garden. The whole complex, which dates 18th century, has a baroque appearance and a terraced structure. The lawns are divided by box trees, giving the garden a very symmetrical look. **continued overleaf**

The central point is decorated by a fountain. The clear divisions have never been altered and mirror the original plan of the founder. The Provost's Garden is one of the oldest gardens on the Middle Rhine and impresses the visitor in its originality. This is especially remarkable, as most of the noble or convent gardens were destroyed in various wars during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Historic Koblenz : is situated in the middle of Europe and is a city with a true Roman history, which was over the centuries, captured by the Franks, chosen as a residence by German prince electors, conquered by the French and fortified by the Prussians - it is a truly European place. **Koblenz - Germany's Most Beautiful "Corner"** is situated in the picturesque landscape of the Rhine and Moselle and is surrounded by four low mountain ranges and is over 2000 years old. Its abundance of cultural monuments and historical buildings, its cosy lanes and narrow alleyways, the relaxed and happy atmosphere of its squares and river promenades give Koblenz its friendly face. The view from Ehrenbreitstein Fortress high above the Rhine (118 metres) across the river down to the "Deutsches Eck" landmark, with its re-erected equestrian statue of Emperor William I, is spectacular. It is an excellent starting-point for trips into the fascinating landscape along the Rhine and the Moselle. In 2002, UNESCO ranked the upper Middle Rhine valley one of the most beautiful and oldest man-made landscapes among the world cultural heritages.

Sayn Palace & Butterfly Garden, one of the most popular tourist attractions along the Rhine Valley. The reconstruction of the palace which was destroyed during World War II, was completed in summer 2000. Now the splendour of Sayn Palace ("Schloss Sayn") is restored. Together with the castle hill and the castle park, the neo-gothic residence of the Princes of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn is the centrepiece of a romantic ideal landscape. Inside, a museum has been created, where the visitor can see a multitude of artifacts from the times when Sayn was famous for its ornamental cast iron (Kunstguss). The adjacent Chamber of the Princesses, offers an insight into the history and life of 6 generations of Princesses Sayn-Wittgenstein and their children. One floor above, one can visit several staterooms, salons and cabinets, furnished with precious paintings, furniture and artifacts remaining from the original interior decoration. The palace chapel with its famous Moritz von Schwind windows, has been restored in its neogothic beauty and is open to the public for celebrations and weddings. From here we then cross into the park to the **Butterfly Garden** of Sayn Castle where you will enter a small tropical paradise, with palm and banana trees, to trickling waterfalls and the colourful flourish of exotic butterflies from South America, Africa and Asia.