

*The Potomac Ski & Adventure Club &
The Ski Club of Washington DC Jointly Present*



A Bike & Barge Cruise and an Icelandic R&R Adventure

*Explore the valleys of the Rhine and Neckar by bicycle and ship on the
MS "PATRIA"*

*Enjoy an extended R&R in Iceland to Experience the Thermal Pools, and
Midnight Sun!*

July 8-16; (July 8-19 with Iceland Extension)

Price*: \$2,960; \$3,350 with Extension

- * Price per person, double occupancy: Some Singles available at additional cost
- * Includes Current Airline airport taxes and fuel surcharges (subject to change)
- * Guaranteed Euro exchange up to \$1.12 for the land portion

Trip Includes:

- R/T Dulles to Frankfurt via Reykjavik
- 7 nights on the MS Patria in Upper Deck Cabins
- Three nights [Leifur Eriksson Hotel](#) in Reykjavik, Iceland with the Extension
- All ground transfers between the ship's ports, hotels and airports
- Daily Breakfast & Dinners on the Patria; Picnic lunches daily for the bike tours
- Daily Breakfast only in Iceland

Not Included:

- Bicycle Rentals: 70 euros for the week on 7-speed bikes. Electric bikes 165 euros
- Guided tours and entrance fees to attractions
- Trip Insurance. Strongly recommended and available through our suggested providers.

Trip Leader: [Frank Peñaranda](#) (301) 593-6472. To register, download [Registration Form](#).

Please scroll down to view additional information and link to various trip flyers

[Blue Ridge Ski Council \(BRSC\) Members](#).



The Cruise and the Biking

Travel by bicycle and ship: A unique concept, where a bike holiday and a journey on a comfortable ship are combined. Cycling cruises are ideal for those who like to cycle during the day and explore beautiful areas, without giving up a comfortable way of travelling. During our tours you don't have to pack and un-pack your suitcases every day to travel from one beautiful place to the next!

Between Koblenz and Bad Wimpfen you can enjoy a beautiful and unique cycling tour cruising and exploring the famous river valleys of the Rhine and Neckar. Beautiful scenery, very flat, mostly paved cycling tracks along the rivers, famous cities and picturesque villages.

On board the **MS Patria**, your floating hotel for the duration of this 8 day/7 night bike and barge tour, you are in for a very special treat as you explore



the most beautiful sections of the Rhine and Neckar Rivers by bicycle. While the Upper Middle Rhine is famous for its history, castles and medieval towns and villages, it is the much lesser known Neckar

valley that promises to be the surprise card on this particular tour. What you will discover along the Neckar are ornately decorated half-timbered houses, impressive churches, castles, palaces and many historic monuments. Every city and village along the river has a unique atmosphere of its own, while the natural beauty of the valley has to be seen to be believed.

The journey along the Rhine and Neckar Rivers takes you from Koblenz to Bad Wimpfen. On the Neckar we'll visit the towns of Marbach am Neckar – famous worldwide as the birthplace of the classical poet and dramatist Friedrich Schiller – the historic old town of Heidelberg, the city of romanticism, and the idyllic and romantic spa village of Bad Wimpfen. On "Father Rhine", which is associated with the famous Nibelungen saga, we'll see the Loreley rock, visit some of the best preserved medieval castles in Germany between Bingen and Koblenz, the city of Worms plus Mainz and its many museums.



Individual and self-guided bike tours with on Board tour guide



Tour program Rhine & Neckar: from Koblenz to Bad Wimpfen

Day 1 (Sat): Koblenz: Arrival and embarkation

Embarkation is from 4 PM; the crew will welcome you on board. You will spend the evening and first night in Koblenz.

Day 2 (Sun): Koblenz - Boppard | Boppard – Rudesheim (ca. 30 km / 19 miles) The ship sails down the river Rhine from Koblenz to Boppard in the UNESCO heritage site Upper Middle Rhine Valley. From there you cycle directly on the left bank along castles and through the Lorely valley to Rudesheim. Spend the night in Rudesheim or Bingen.

Day 3 (Mon): Rudesheim – Mainz (ca. 37 km / 23 miles)

Cycling tour from Rudesheim through the beautiful Rheingau and Eltville or on the quiet left bank to Mainz. In Mainz you can enjoy many churches, museums and monuments. The most important are the Dom (cathedral), the Royal Palace, the State Theatre, The Citadel and the monument of Gutenberg.

Day 4 (Tue): Mainz – Nierstein (ca. 17-26 km / 10-16 miles)

The many picturesque houses along the way through Mainz make your bike tour an experience. The tour goes via Laubenheim to Nierstein, where you will enjoy your lunch on board. You can explore a vineyard while sitting on a tractor wagon including a wine-tasting and dinner at the local winegrowers (optional excursion, bookable on board). Guest who won't join this excursion will have dinner on board.

Day 5 (Wed): Nierstein - Mannheim | Mannheim – Heidelberg (ca. 25 km / 16 miles)

Sail over the Rhine river via Worms to Mannheim. Cycling tour to the Celtic city of Ladenburg. We will end this tour in Heidelberg: this old city attracts tourists from all over the world. You can go for a walk and visit the castle on your own or you can join a guided tour through the city (optional excursion, bookable on board).

Day 6 (Thu): Heidelberg – Eberbach (ca. 38 km / 22,8 miles)

After a bike tour from Heidelberg via Ziegelhausen and through the Odenwald to Neckarsteinach you will reach picturesque Eberbach, a nice old town with narrow streets. In the evening a night watchman in traditional clothing waits for you to show you his city (optional excursion, bookable on board).

Day 7 (Fri): Eberbach – Bad Wimpfen (ca. 41 km / 25 miles)

The first stop of today's bike tour is Burg Hornsberg in Neckarzimmern. Bad Wimpfen, the destination of this tour, looks like a dream village of the Middle Ages.

Day 8 (Sat): Bad Wimpfen

After breakfast you will disembark: End of tour.

FOR ALL TOURS:

Parts printed in italics will be covered by ship. Daily self-guided cycling tours and briefings by tour leader with maps, instructions and directions. All distances are "approximate distances" of recommended bike tours. Guests can skip one or more days of cycling and stay on board instead. The tour details are barring changes as a result of nautical or technical reasons.

INCLUDED:

- Tour and accommodation on board 8 days / 7 nights (Sat.-Sat.) from/to Koblenz/Bad Wimpfen, cabin in the booked category;
- Full board (7 x breakfast, 6 x picnic lunch during bike tours, 7 x three course dinner); daily coffee and tea till 4 PM;
- Use of bed linen and towels (change of towels daily possible); daily short cleaning of the cabin;
- Welcome drink;
- Excursion through the vineyards, wine tasting and dinner at a local winery in Nierstein (incl. in full board);
- Board tour guide (German and English) with daily briefings of the bike tours;
The board tour guide doesn't cycle but can always be reached on his cell phone;
- Printed instructions and detailed maps for the daily bike tours, 1 set per cabin.



NOT INCLUDED:

Rental bicycle nor e-bike (optional), other transfers, parking fee, entrance fees & excursions, city maps, fees for ferries, drinks on board, personal insurances, gratuities (at your discretion). Dietary requirements on request / surcharges may apply...

YOUR SHIP: MS PATRIA

On the Rhine and Neckar, the 68 meters long MS Patria, which can accommodate a max. of 68 guests, is your sailing home. The ship is modernized for boat bike tours and has 34 cabins. There are only twin cabins (approx. 7 M², 2 single beds next to each other) with window (the windows on the upper deck can be opened, but for safety reasons those on the lower deck are fixed), shower + toilet, individually regulated air conditioning in all cabins on the lower deck, as well in the restaurant and salon. 15 Cabins on the lower deck and 19 cabins on the upper deck (supplement). This authentic ship has a nice salon with bar and large windows in front of the top deck and a separate restaurant on the lower deck. On the partially covered sun deck there are sitting places (tables + chairs) for all guests and a cycle shed. The ship sails under Dutch Flag and had its sailing area in The Netherlands for many years. As of 2011 its sailing area is in Germany and it is a very popular ship for cycling cruises.

RENTAL BICYCLES ETC.:

The bicycles on board are mostly unisex touring bikes with normal mount (ladies model), with 7 gears, hand brake and/or pedal brake and pannier bag. A rental bicycle is optional. Guests are also allowed to bring their own bicycles (at no extra cost). However, the crew or tour operator are in no way responsible for any damage, loss or theft of such bicycles. In Germany bikers are not obligated by law to wear a bike helmet. Bike helmets are not available on board. Guests may remain on board instead of biking on any given day.

Rental bicycle: with 7-gears, with hand- and/or backpedal brakes, pannier bag **€ 70 per week**

Rental E-Bike: € 165 per week (limited number available, only on request and after confirmation)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The interior of the ship is a no-smoking zone: smoking is only allowed on the sun deck. As a safety measure, a statutory smoking ban applies in all cabins; this means that all cabins and rooms on board are no-smoking zones.

Icelandic R&R

What is more welcome and appropriate than some rest and relaxation after an 8-day bicycle tour? This is what we are offering as a trip extension to Reykjavik, Iceland, to enjoy the relaxing thermal pools, temperate climate, and to experience the wonders of the season's mid-night sun and Northern Lights phenomena. We'll be staying at the Leifur Eriksson Hotel in the center of the city, located strategically near most of the well-known attractions.

You'll get to try not just the thermal pools of the Blue Lagoon, but the local cuisine at a variety of restaurants and clubs. Day trips to nearby volcanoes and mountains are also possible during our 4-day stay.

Airline Schedules

Bike & Barge Cruise Only

8 July Icelandic Air 8:35pm Dulles to Reykjavik Arrives 6:20am

9 July Icelandic Air 7:25am Reykjavik to Frankfurt Arrives 12:50am

16 July Icelandic Air 2:00pm Frankfurt to Reykjavik Arrives 3:35pm

16 July Icelandic Air 4:50pm Reykjavik to Dulles Arrives 7:10pm

Iceland Extension

19 July Icelandic Air 4:50pm Reykjavik to Dulles Arrives 7:10pm