



Caren Ventrone  
Owner  
Ventrone Ventures

727-519-4240  
ventroneventures@gmail.com  
<https://ventroneventures.com>



## **Rhine River Cruise; Free Airfare!**

**Apr 2, 2024 - Apr 16, 2024**

## Trip Summary

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### April 2 - Tuesday

Amsterdam - Amsterdam

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### April 3 - Wednesday

Amsterdam - Amsterdam

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### April 4 - Thursday

Cologne - Cologne

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### April 5 - Friday

Rüdesheim - Rüdesheim

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### April 6 - Saturday

Mainz - Mainz

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### April 7 - Sunday

Strasbourg - Strasbourg

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### April 8 - Monday

Breisach - Breisach

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### April 9 - Tuesday

Basel - Basel

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### April 10 - Wednesday

Tournus - Tournus

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### April 11 - Thursday

Lyon - Lyon

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### April 12 - Friday

Lyon - Lyon

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### April 13 - Saturday

Tournon - Tournon

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### April 14 - Sunday

Avignon - Avignon

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### April 15 - Monday

Arles - Arles

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### April 16 - Tuesday

Arles - Arles

## April 2 - Tuesday



### Amsterdam

#### CARRIER

#### Avalon Waterways

Immerse yourself in French and German culture on this fabulous Europe river cruise vacation along the Rhine, Saône, and Rhône Rivers. The views will be spectacular so be sure to pack your camera so you can capture the romance and splendor of this magical journey. It all begins in Holland's popular, modern capital of Amsterdam. The best way to see the treasures of this 700-year-old city is on a canal cruise along the elegant Grachten. Cologne, Germany—a 2,000-year-old city best known for its gothic architecture and famous twin-spired cathedral, comes alive on a guided walk. Sail through the dramatic Rhine Gorge, the most beautiful view of the Rhine River where ancient castles stand on cliffs 400 feet above the water. Strasbourg, France, located on the French-German border, perfectly blends the cultures of both countries. Stop in Breisach, Germany, the gateway to Germany's Black Forest—an area of unrivaled natural beauty. Lyon is a showcase of medieval and Renaissance architecture. Explore the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its maze of medieval alleyways. Continue to the city of Tournon beautifully nestled among vineyards. Here, you'll go on a guided walk of this medieval treasure with Roman ruins and a fascinating 16th-century castle. In Avignon, visit the Palace of the Popes and take pictures of the bridge in the famous song "Sur le pont d'Avignon." This remarkable river cruise will take you to Arles, the capital of the Provence region and famous for its 1st-century Roman Amphitheater. Your European river cruise on three beautiful rivers—the Rhine, Saône, and Rhône Rivers—will carry on in your favourite travel memories for a long time to come.

**Ship Information** Part of Avalon's award-winning fleet of Suite Ships, the Avalon Expression features two full decks of Panorama Suites with wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows that transform the living space into river cruising's only Open-Air Balcony. With 200 square feet, Panorama Suites are more than 30% larger than the industry standard, affording you the incomparable opportunity to wake each morning to splendid passing scenery from your window-facing bed. Stretch out on your Comfort Collection bed and cruise with the world at your feet. Onboard amenities include an alternative light dining option in the Panorama Bistro, a Fitness Center, complimentary Wi-Fi access, and a spacious Sky Deck with premium lounge chairs, whirlpool, and light al fresco lunches at the Sky Bistro on the Sky Deck. Express yourself while cruising your way on the Avalon Expression!

#### Deck Plans

[Sky Deck](#)

[Royal Deck](#)

[Sapphire Deck](#)

[Indigo Deck](#)



Amsterdam

## April 3 - Wednesday



### Amsterdam

CARRIER

**Avalon Waterways**

AMSTERDAM Canals of Colorful Amsterdam

Join your Adventure Host for today's special activities.

CLASSIC Explore the iconic waterways of Amsterdam on a Guided Canal Cruise past stately homes of Amsterdam's "Golden Age."

This afternoon choose among the Guided Optional Excursions available or take some free time to explore Amsterdam's colorful streets and canal houses, galleries, and shops.

AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO COLOGNE

(B,L,D)

**Amsterdam****April 4 - Thursday****Cologne**

CARRIER

**Avalon Waterways**

COLOGNE, GERMANY Prost! Celebrate in the Rhineland

ACTIVE Enjoy a bike ride like the locals in Cologne with your Adventure Host, OR:

DISCOVERY Choose a Guided Walking Tour of Cologne's important Jewish heritage sites, OR:

CLASSIC Take a Guided City Walk of Cologne—with its soaring twin-steepled gothic cathedral.

Spend free time over a glass of Kölsch pale lager—locally brewed for over 100 years!

Later, local musicians will join us on board for live entertainment.

OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO RÜDESHEIM

(B,L,D)

**Cologne****April 5 - Friday****Rüdesheim**

CARRIER

**Avalon Waterways**

RÜDESHEIM Eat, Drink, and Be Merry in Wine Country

En route to Rudesheim, sail through the Rhine Gorge (a UNESCO World Heritage site). Take in the breathtaking views of ancient castles perched on cliffs 400 feet above the water, and pass the legendary Rock of the Lorelei—where the mythological siren’s songs lured ill-fated sailors.

**ACTIVE** Enjoy a hike with your Avalon Adventure Host through the picturesque vineyards of Rudesheim, OR:

**DISCOVERY** Take a Guided Tour of the incredible Mechanical Music Museum for a one-of-a-kind instrumental experience; based on your departure enjoy a local special treat.

Enjoy live entertainment on board your ship this evening.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN RÜDESHEIM**

(B,L,D)



**Rudesheim**

## April 6 - Saturday



### Mainz

CARRIER

**Avalon Waterways**

**MAINZ. HEIDELBERG EXCURSION** Printing Halls, Castle Walls, and the World’s Biggest Wine Barrel

**ACTIVE** Join your Avalon Adventure Host for a Hike up Philosophers’ Way for an inspiring view of the city below, OR:

**CLASSIC** Enjoy a Guided City Walk including a visit to the Gutenberg Museum to see the captivating history of printing, OR:

**CLASSIC** Enjoy a Guided Tour to Heidelberg Castle to see the ruins of the magnificent renaissance treasure towering above the city, and its famed Great Vat, the “World’s Largest Wine Barrel.

**EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO STRASBOURG**

(B,L,D)



**Mainz**

## April 7 - Sunday



### Strasbourg

CARRIER

**Avalon Waterways**

**STRASBOURG, FRANCE** A Grand Cathedral and La Petite France

Ask about today’s energizing or relaxing Adventure Host activities.

**ACTIVE** Discover Strasbourg by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:

**CLASSIC** Join a City Sightseeing Tour, including Strasbourg’s Gothic, stained-glass cathedral with its celebrated ancient murals and astronomical clock, as well as the magical La Petite France District.

Choose a Guided Optional Excursion to the historic Maginot Line—the pre-WWII fortifications designed to protect the eastern border of France, or visit Alsace’s wine country today.

Alternatively, take some free time in Strasbourg to visit a museum, or stroll across the city center.

EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BREISACH

(B,L,D)



**Strasbourg**

## April 8 - Monday



### Breisach

CARRIER

**Avalon Waterways**

BREISACH, GERMANY. EXCURSION TO BLACK FOREST German Winemaking and the Beautiful Black Forest

DISCOVERY Join a full-day Guided Tour to the magical Black Forest to experience the Vogtsbauernhof open-air-museum, visit an authentic water mill, and see a traditional butter-making demonstration, OR:

DISCOVERY Visit to Badischer Winzerkeller, the largest German wine producer in Europe. Learn about German winemaking in the vineyards of Baden, and enjoy a wine tasting.

You may choose to join a Guided Optional Excursion to visit the charming village of Colmar in the morning, with its half-timbered medieval and early renaissance buildings.

EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BASEL

(B,L,D)



**Breisach**

## April 9 - Tuesday



### Basel

CARRIER

**Avalon Waterways**

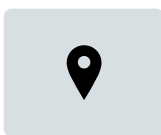
BASEL, SWITZERLAND (DISEMBARKATION) BEAUNE–CHALON-SUR-SAÔNE (EMBARKATION) Disembark your ship and drive on to Beaune.

CLASSIC Visit the Hôtel-Dieu Charity Hospital in Beaune, built in 1443, today home of the Van der Weyden’s painting of the Last Judgement.

This afternoon, travel to Chalon-sur-Saône to board your Suite Ship®.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN TOURNUS

(B,D)

**Basel**

## April 10 - Wednesday



### Tournus

CARRIER

**Avalon Waterways**

TOURNUS Pearl of Southern Burgundy

Visit the Adventure Center for today's activities with your Adventure Host.

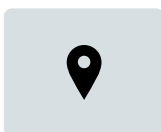
CLASSIC Tucked away in the southeast corner of Burgundy, Tournus is one of the oldest and most important monastic centers in the region, Our Local Guide will show the highlights of this delightful town.

Consider a Guided Optional Excursion to a Chardonnay wine cellar or to the Castle of Cormatin.

DISCOVERY Later, enjoy a delicious Cheese Tasting on board your ship.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN TRÉVOUX

(B,L,D)

**Tournus**

## April 11 - Thursday



### Lyon

CARRIER

**Avalon Waterways**

LYON La Vie En Rose in Lyon Sail for lovely Lyon this morning.

ACTIVE Discover Lyon's architectural district by bike with your Adventure Host, over bridges, and along the banks where the Rhône and Saône rivers meet, OR:

CLASSIC Join a Guided Sightseeing Tour to survey Lyon from Fourvière Hill with its numerous churches. You'll also explore the Old Town with its maze of medieval alleyways, and the lively cafés, monuments, and famed fountain of Place des Terreaux.

DISCOVERY Be our guest for a WWII & French Resistance Lecture on board your ship.

Later enjoy live entertainment after dinner.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN LYON

(B,L,D)

**Lyon**

## April 12 - Friday



### Lyon

CARRIER

#### Avalon Waterways

LYON Adventures in Food and Wine

CLASSIC Join a Culinary Walk through the city to discover why it is known as the gastronomic capital of France.

The rest of your day is free to explore, relax, or shop in France's third largest city. Take a bike from the ship and explore local produce markets and parks, or take a leisurely tour of the city's more than 100 murals.

EVENING CRUISE TO TOURNON

(B,L,D)



Lyon

## April 13 - Saturday



### Tournon

CARRIER

#### Avalon Waterways

TOURNON A Rendezvous with Castle Views and Vineyards

CLASSIC Take a morning Guided Walking Tour to explore Tournon—one of France's oldest medieval cities. See its 16th-century castle, and Roman ruins between the Rhône River and the granite slopes of the Hermitage.

Enjoy a leisurely sail to Viviers after lunch.

VIVIERS

World History in a Charming French Country Village

CLASSIC Explore the pale-stone buildings of Viviers on a late afternoon Guided Walking Tour of this charming village. You'll see its Romanesque cathedral and Old Town with a mix of historical Christian, Roman, and medieval influences.

Later, enjoy live entertainment onboard.

EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO AVIGNON

(B,L,D)



Tournon

## April 14 - Sunday



### Avignon

CARRIER

#### Avalon Waterways



**AVIGNON** The City of Popes in Picturesque Provence

Join your Adventure Host for today's special activities.

**CLASSIC** Take a Guided Sightseeing Tour of the fortress city of Avignon—with its ramparts encircling the city—and a visit to the amazing Palace of the Popes.

Guided Optional Excursions include a visit to the ancient Roman aqueduct of Pont du Gard, or a trip to the famed wine cellars of Chteau-neuf-du-Pape for a true taste of the Rhône wine region.

Explore Avignon on your own for the city's art and culture, theatre, and museums. Be sure to snap photos of the captivating countryside, historic monuments, and the medieval Pont Saint-Bénézet.

Later, enjoy onboard live entertainment.

**EVENING CRUISE TO ARLES**

(B,L,D)



**Avignon**

## April 15 - Monday



### Arles

CARRIER

**Avalon Waterways**

**ARLES** Inspiring Sights and Avant-Garde Lights

**ACTIVE** Get your daily dose of exercise through nordic walking in Arles with your Adventure Host, OR:

**DISCOVERY** Attend a Painting Workshop to learn techniques of Vincent van Gogh. Create your own painting in the style of the legendary artist, OR:

**CLASSIC** Enjoy a Guided Walking Tour of Arles—the captivating city of the Provence region. You'll visit the Roman Amphitheater in this visually stunning city.

Consider a Guided Optional Excursion to the Carrières de Lumières (Cathedral of Images) a unique experience of art, sound, and light in the old quarries of Val d'Enfer.

Take free time to stop in Café Van Gogh for a glass of wine.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN ARLES**

(B,L,D)



**Arles**

## April 16 - Tuesday



### Arles

CARRIER

**Avalon Waterways**

ARLES (DISEMBARKATION) Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.

Flights should not leave Marseille airport before 10 am.

(B)



**Arles**