

Amsterdam to Basel

Cruise on the Rhine & Mosel Rivers on board the *Da Vinci* September 10 – 25, 2019



Cochem, Germany



Mosel River



Swiss Alps

Highlights

Guided City Tours: Düsseldorf, Cologne, Trier, Heidelberg, Strasbourg
Guided Tour of Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum in Rudesheim
Full-Day Tours: Trier, the Black Forest, the Alsatian Wine Region, the Swiss Alps
Ample Free Time to Explore at Your Leisure

Da Vinci – An elegant and luxurious riverboat, chartered by Journeys by Van Dyke to provide an exceptional cruising experience. Your home away from home as you explore new cultures and stunning landscapes along the rivers of Europe.

European Rivers – The Rhine River is a mighty highway crossing through four countries, and the Mosel River is the perfect little country backroad that begs to be discovered.

Amsterdam, Netherlands – A vibrant and colourful city woven with canals lined by tilting gabled buildings and more bicycles than people.

Germany – Home to ancient cities, picturesque towns, and quaint villages, this is a country full of enchanting surprises and unexpected natural beauty.

Strasbourg, France – The seat of the European Parliament, this is a captivating city with a contagious energy that ensures your visit will be both exciting and memorable.

Switzerland – A rugged yet beautiful country with astounding scenery and breathtaking landscapes.

Why do we encourage you to reserve now?

As guests introduce their friends to us often, and more guests return every year, our journeys fill very quickly.

Reserve Early and Save up to 5%. Ends January 31, 2019

Be the first to know! [Join our private email newsletter today](#)

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Your 16-Day Journey

Day 1 Depart for Amsterdam, Netherlands

Enjoy your private car home pick up service. Guests departing from the Toronto airport are assisted with their check-in. Meet your Journey Manager and fellow guests, and board your flight to Amsterdam, Netherlands. Our Journey Manager travels with you to take care of all the details throughout the journey, enabling you to concentrate on your experience.

Overnight flight

Day 2 Amsterdam & Welcome Aboard

Known for its artistic heritage, elaborate canal system, energetic nightlife, and narrow houses with gabled facades, Amsterdam is the Netherlands' largest city. Along with boasting a longer canal system than Venice, cycling is also key to the city's character, with more than 760 kilometres of cycle paths and bike lanes. On arrival, transfer to the luxurious, privately chartered *Da Vinci*, your home for the next fourteen days. Enjoy a light lunch on board followed by an afternoon of leisure. Relax on board or go ashore to explore the vibrant city of Amsterdam and its picturesque streets and canals. Join us for a welcome presentation and dinner this evening before we sail to Düsseldorf. All meals will be served on board unless otherwise indicated. (L,D)

Overnight Emmerich, Da Vinci, 14 nights

Day 3 Düsseldorf, Germany

A scenic cruise this morning brings us to Düsseldorf by mid-afternoon. This bustling city is a posh and contemporary metropolis known for its fashion industry and art scene. With its historic Old Town on the east bank of the Rhine River and the city's commercial areas to the west, Düsseldorf is one of the economic centres of Germany, full of contrasts and bursting with eye-catching architecture. Our local guides take us on a walking tour of this fascinatingly modern yet ancient city. Share its magnificent gems including Altstadt (Old Town) and Königsallee, one of Europe's most fashionable boulevards. Savour a tasty dinner provided by the *Da Vinci*'s chef, and spend the evening as you please.

Overnight Düsseldorf

(B,L,D)

Day 4 Historic Cologne

The twin spires of the massive Köln Dom greet us in Cologne this afternoon. A landmark of High Gothic architecture set amid the reconstructed old town, this stunning cathedral is known for its gilded medieval reliquary and sweeping river views. Cologne is a city rich in history and culture, and while its museum landscape is especially strong when it comes to art, the whole city is like a living textbook on history and architecture. It is a treasure full of surprises, and today our famous local guides show you this fascinating city which dates back to the Middle Ages. Discover the Roman ruins, cathedrals and different squares on a leisurely walking tour followed by free time. During dinner, set sail for the romantic town of Königswinter. (B,L,D)

Overnight Königswinter

Amsterdam to Basel

Day 5 Königswinter & the Cog Railway to the Drachenfels Ruins

This morning, board the cog railway and climb to the Drachenfels Ruins to take in an exceptional view of the Rhine River Valley. Sitting atop the 321-metre high Drachenfels “Dragon’s Rock,” the ruins of this 12th-century castle gained popularity in the romantic era during the late 18th to 19th centuries and became a highlight of Rhine Romanticism. Today, they stand as a stunning silhouette against a picturesque backdrop, overlooking the majestic river valley. Enjoy a relaxing cruise to Linz during lunch, and upon arrival, take a stroll through this quaint town, fondly known as the “Colourful Town on the Rhine,” with half-timbered houses in striking pastel colours. Be sure to try the famous ice cream! Late this afternoon, we sail to Andernach. (B,L,D)

Overnight Andernach

Day 6 Mosel River Vineyards & Cochem

In Koblenz, we leave the Rhine and enter the Mosel, one of Europe’s most scenic rivers. A peaceful cruise this morning affords stunning views of the winding river valley and a chance to relax on the Sun Deck. Arriving this afternoon in Cochem, enjoy free time to take a gondola ride through the vineyards, visit the storybook Reichsburg Castle, or wander the ancient narrow streets. Offering visitors a glimpse into the life of charming small-town Germany, Cochem is widely considered one of the prettiest towns in Germany and is a popular stop on our journey. (B,L,D)

Overnight Cochem

Day 7 Picturesque Bernkastel

The Mosel River is spectacular, perfect for enjoying our 360° views from the Sun Deck. Along the way, we pass quaint villages named after local vineyards. After lunch, a visit to Bernkastel makes for a delightful afternoon in the heart of the Mosel wine region. Walk to the town’s Market Square, and find the shackles in the walls of the Rathaus for a very unique picture opportunity. St. Michael’s Fountain sits in the middle of the square and runs with wine every September during the annual Mosel Wine Festival. Enjoy a wine tasting with good friends in their generations-old family vineyard before we rejoin the *Da Vinci* in Zell, known for its white Rieslings, Zeller Schwarze Katz. (B,L,D)

Overnight Zell

Day 8 Ancient Roman City of Trier

In Trier this morning, your local guide takes you on a fascinating walking tour to visit the Roman origins of Germany’s oldest city. As a major capital of the Roman Empire, Trier features one of the finest collections of Roman monuments and the largest Roman underground tunnel system outside of Rome. Today, this marvelous city located near the Luxembourg border contains an astounding nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the Imperial Baths, the Porta Nigra (Black Gate), and the beautiful Church of Our Lady. With a local cuisine influenced by the proximity of Luxembourg and France, you choose the venue for today’s included lunch, then stroll through the many unique shops or take some time to relax in the Market Square before departing for the *Da Vinci*. (B,L,D)

Overnight Koblenz

Day 9 Boppard & the Lorelei

This morning, take in the many sights and sounds of an authentic German village, and enjoy the lovely shops and pedestrian area in medieval Boppard, a delightful little resort town, before we cruise through the Rhine Gorge. On all sides are storybook castles, ancient vineyards, picturesque villages, and endless spires, perfectly viewed from the open 360 °Sun Deck! We navigate past the Lorelei, a stunning 132-metre high, steep slate rock with a unique echo and famous legend, and on to Rudesheim to tour Siegfried’s Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum. (B,L,D)

Overnight Rudesheim

Amsterdam to Basel

Day 10 Heidelberg & Speyer

Touring Heidelberg this afternoon with a local guide is a must as they share with us the intimate details of Heidelberg's famous castle. Nestled in the hill overlooking the city, the red-sandstone ruins of this majestic castle are among the most important Renaissance structures north of the Alps and a classic example of German Romanticism. Ride the funicular down to the Old Town to discover the café-lined Market Square which is always bustling with activity, and see the imposing Church of the Holy Spirit towering above. We later dock in the Imperial city of Speyer, a wonderful town with old-world charm, and venture ashore to enjoy the beautiful cathedral façade in the evening. (B,L,D)

Overnight Speyer

Day 11 Charming Strasbourg, France

Take in the scenic views this morning as we cruise to the charming city of Strasbourg, the “town at the crossroads,” and arrive shortly after lunch. Catherine, our dear friend and one of our local guides, takes you on a walking tour of this beautiful city located on the western, French bank of the Rhine River. Strasbourg boasts of medieval islands, stunning canals and an incredible cathedral with a 14th-century astronomical clock. The Grande-Île, the historic centre of the city dominated by the remarkable Cathedral of Our Lady of Strasbourg, has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is the perfect place to spend the afternoon. Following dinner this evening, enjoy a traditional folk performance on board the *Da Vinci* presented by local dancers. (B,L,D)

Overnight Strasbourg

Day 12 Cuckoos & the Black Forest

Discover the Black Forest on your full-day excursion and delight in a visit to the Vogtsbauernhof, an interesting open-air museum where the Black Forest history and culture come to life. Characterized by the thick woodlands, luscious meadows, evergreen-clad mountains, and deep valleys, this striking landscape is straight out of a storybook. Indulge in a traditional Black Forest lunch at Hornberg Castle, and visit a custom Cuckoo Clock factory to see the incredible workmanship that goes into these unique, one-of-a-kind timepieces. Your picturesque drive continues through scenic highlands amid the Kaiser Stuhl wine region to Breisach where we rejoin the *Da Vinci*. (B,L,D)

Overnight Breisach

Day 13 Alsace Wine Region of France

The Alsatian wine region is best explored by land to discover the wealth of history, culture, wines, and distilleries. Alsace is an exuberant natural setting, a generous garden that produces a range of unrivalled wines rich with floral and fruity aromas. Visit the intimate towns and medieval villages of this charming wine region before enjoying the Alsatian gastronomy in a unique and wonderful family café. Continue through the picturesque French countryside and admire the stunning views of this beautiful region as we make our way into Switzerland and rejoin the *Da Vinci* in Basel. (B,L,D)

Overnight Basel

Day 14 Switzerland: A Sensory Experience

World-renowned and extraordinarily stunning, the Swiss Alps are home to iconic peaks such as the Eiger, Mönch, Jungfrau, and Matterhorn and offer some of the most incredible vistas in Europe. Enjoy the breathtaking views of this dramatic mountain range in Interlaken, a traditional resort town nestled between the emerald-coloured waters of Lake Thun and Lake Brienz, and along the mountain road to Grindelwald, a charming town sitting beneath the Eiger's north face. Experience the famous cog railway for a spectacular ride up to Kleine Scheidegg where a traditional Swiss hiking lunch awaits. Free time enables you to explore this mountain paradise and enjoy the magnificent mountain views.

Overnight Basel

(B,L,D)

Amsterdam to Basel

Day 15 Basel at Your Leisure

Situated on the Rhine at the juncture of the French, German and Swiss borders, Basel is a vibrant and pleasant city with a wealth of culture and history. From its beautiful Old Town with cobbled streets and picturesque alleyways to the modern architecture reminiscent of large urban centres, the city is an art-lover's paradise, known for its many internationally acclaimed museums, galleries, and iconic buildings. A full day of freedom in Basel allows you to explore the city, visit a museum, stroll through the local gardens, or relax on board. Your Journey Manager is on hand to help you decide between the endless possibilities. This evening, toast your Captain and crew during our farewell dinner.

Overnight Basel

(B,L,D)

Day 16 Farewell

This morning, we bid “auf wiedersehen” to our new friends on the *Da Vinci* and make our way to the airport for our flight home. Guests arriving at the Toronto airport are greeted and assisted to their private car home.

(B)

Looking for the Ultimate Swiss Experience?

Extend your journey with our Swiss Glacier Express, September 25 – October 6, 2019

Call our office to learn more.

All information contained in this itinerary is correct at time of printing and is subject to the terms and conditions as listed on our website at www.jerryvandyke.com or available from our office on request. We must reserve the ability to make improvements.

Ports of call and shore excursions are subject to change at the discretion of the shipping operator, ground operators or Jerry Van Dyke Travel. While we endeavour not to make changes, when we have to, changes are always intended to improve the journey experience.

Early Reservation Bonus – Save up to 5%* Ends January 31, 2019

Since we first started our company over 38 years ago, we have been rewarding our guests for reserving early. We call this our Early Reservation Bonus (ERB)!

Reserving early avoids disappointment by ensuring first pick of dates, staterooms, and flight options as our journeys do fill up quickly. It also ensures you peace of mind since your fare will not increase*.

ERB: Save 5%

Reserve prior to the Early Reservation Bonus date and pay 95% of the published fare at time of your reservation by cheque or electronic bank transfer, and we will deduct the remaining 5% off your journey fare.

ERB *flex*: Save 2%

Reserve prior to the Early Reservation Bonus date and pay 98% of the published fare at the time of your reservation by Visa, Mastercard, or American Express, and we will deduct the remaining 2% off your journey fare.

Should you not take advantage of the Early Reservation Bonus and decide to pay by cheque or electronic bank transfer at time of final payment, we will deduct **\$200 off** your journey fare.

Early Reservation Bonus ends January 31, 2019

**All journeys are subject to supplier fuel surcharges and new/increased government fees/taxes, should they arise. Please note: A deposit cheque and a post-dated final payment cheque are not considered payment in full. Final payment date is 120 days (or more, depending on journey) prior to departure. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer, unless noted otherwise.*

Amsterdam to Basel

Your Journey Includes

Outstanding Accommodation

- 14 nights on board the luxurious *Da Vinci*

Air Travel

- International flights in economy with Air Canada
- Toronto to Amsterdam
- Zurich to Toronto
- Guests join us from across Canada. Contact our office for additional air gateways.

Discover, Learn, Explore on Included Experiences

- Düsseldorf Walking City Tour
- Historic Cologne Walking Tour
- Cog Railway to the Drachenfels Ruins
- Bernkastel & the Mosel Wine Region
- The Roman Origins of Trier Walking Tour
- Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum
- The Romantic City of Heidelberg
- Charming Strasbourg City Tour
- The Black Forest with Vogtsbauernhof Museum & Cuckoo Clock Factory
- The Alsace Wine Region
- Journey Through the Swiss Alps with Cog Railway to Klein Scheidegg

Necessities – *Know your total journey cost before you leave home!*

- All taxes incl. HST, PST, VAT
- Private car home pick up & return service (where available), or a credit or hotel overnight
- All fees, port & service charges
- Gratuities on all included items: all ship staff, Journey Managers, local sightseeing guides, coach drivers, porters, etc.
- Branded overnight carry-on bag or backpack
- Portage for one piece of baggage
- Services of a professional Journey Manager throughout the journey
- Services of local guides & coach drivers, for the local perspective
- Complete pre-trip information & assistance
- All meals included: 14 breakfasts, 14 lunches, 14 dinners
- All sightseeing & entrance fees as listed

Journey Fares from Toronto – Canadian dollars per guest

	Twin	Single
Lower Deck	\$9,995	On Request
Upper Deck	\$10,695	On Request

Fuel surcharges – *These journey fares include the current known fuel surcharges. Additional supplier fuel surcharges may apply at final payment date.*

Amsterdam to Basel

Da Vinci



Designed with the old world charm of a sleek yacht, with sumptuous textile, leather furniture and dark wood, the *Da Vinci* is one of the most elegant and impressive river cruise vessels of Western Europe. The interior of the boat was specifically designed in order to offer guests maximum space: the large reception area with an open fireplace, the impressive lounge, and the spacious restaurant – all this amounts to an atmosphere of exuberant, yet comfortable luxury.

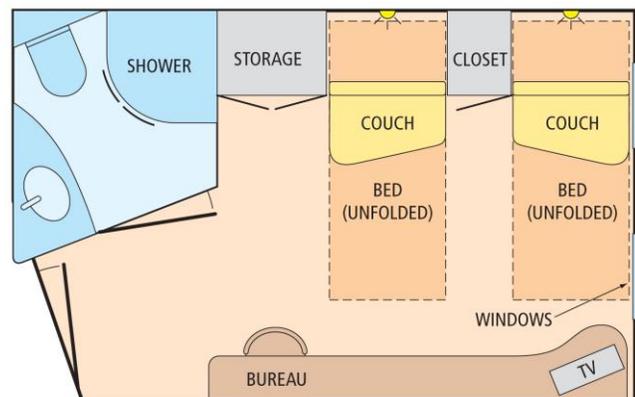
The spacious lounge looks like an inviting front room and boasts comfortable sofas and large picture windows. To make the most of the good weather, the Sun Deck serves as a welcoming living room with uninterrupted 360° views – not available on larger boats. Passengers find tranquillity and peace in the impressive library, the best place to lose oneself in a good book. Furthermore, the onboard luxury also extends to the boat's stylish restaurant with breathtaking views and a sophisticated menu.

While all cabins are outside facing and feature river valley views, the best vistas are seen from the Sun Deck which never closes. Designed with only two cabin decks, the *Da Vinci* was built to comfortably slip under low bridges without closing the Sun Deck and sail in periods of low or high water levels, reducing interruptions to the journeys.

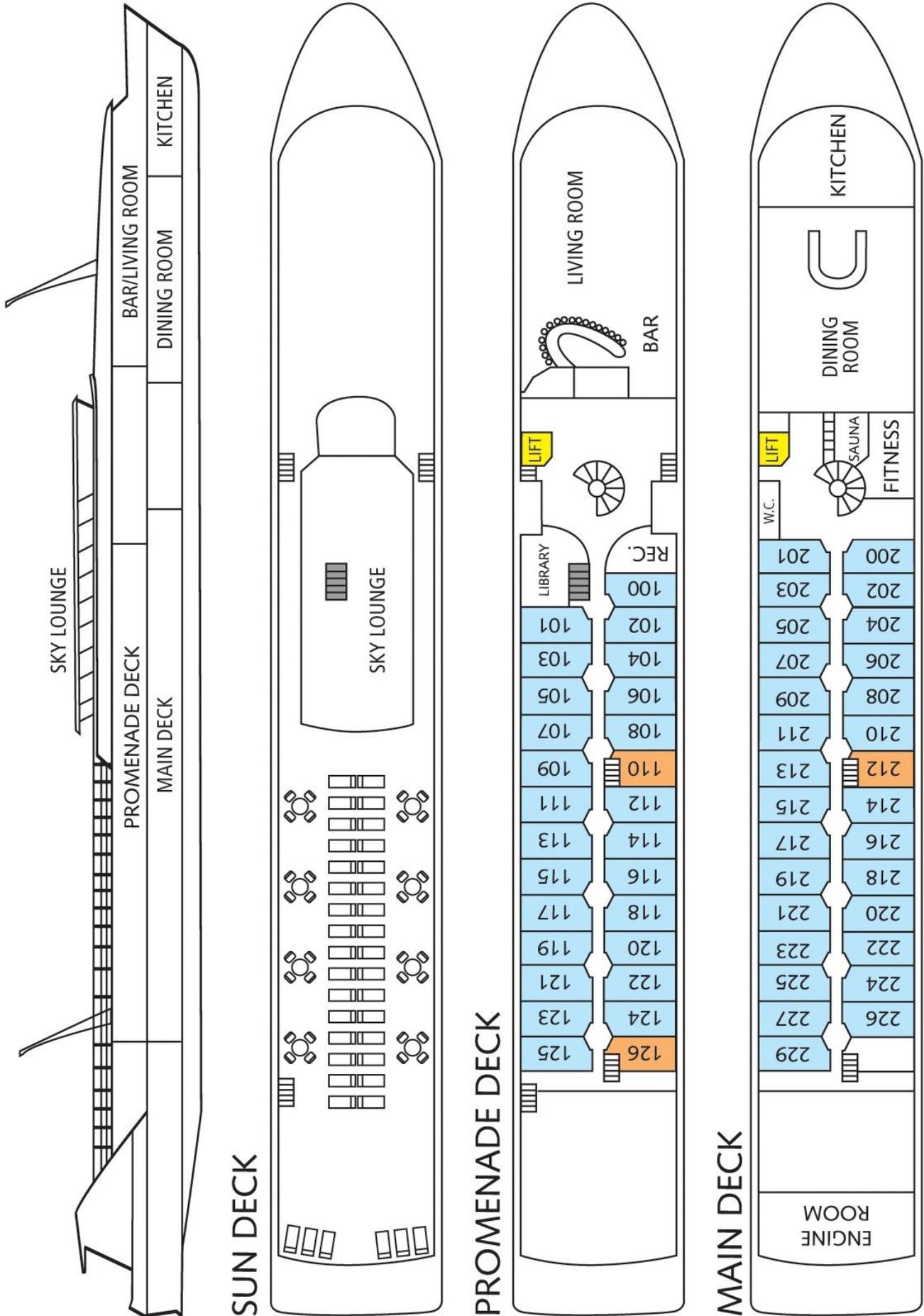
Ship's Registry: The Netherlands
Decks with Cabins: 2
Crew Members: 36

Length: 341 feet
Beam: 36 feet
Cruising Speed: 10-12 knots

Twin Cabin



Amsterdam to Basel



Personal Notes & Questions