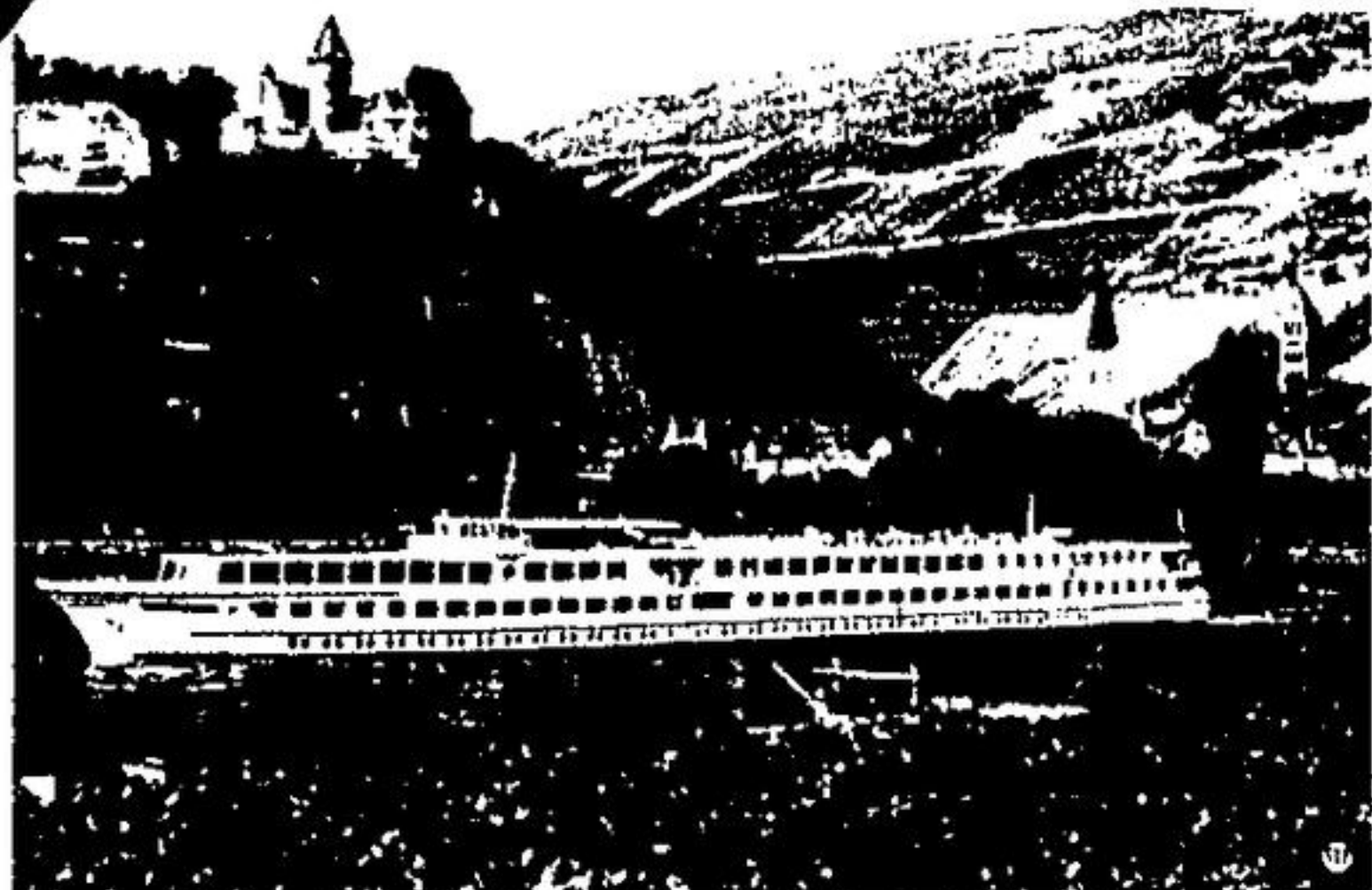


# Travel



ASPLENDID CASTLE, complete with turret, is one of many such structures which, surrounded by neatly patterned fields, overlook the winding River Rhine from dramatically high cliffs. There is no better way to see both castles and cliffs than from the deck of a luxurious cruise ship. Photo courtesy KD German Rhine Line.

## Luxurious Rhine cruise is key to enchanting vacation

Are you planning a short trip to Europe and looking for a unique way, which is restful at the same time as it is interesting, of visiting a handful of countries in a week or less?

Or, on a more extended holiday, do you wish to travel for a while at a more leisurely pace, turning a single leg of your trip, which would otherwise consist of a day-long train journey, into a vacation in itself?

In either case, you should look into the possibility of taking a Rhine River cruise. The Rhine, flowing 726 miles from its source in the glaciers of Switzerland to the North Sea, is one of Europe's major waterways.

It has borne a heavy flow of commercial traffic for centuries and, as one of the most picturesque rivers in the world, has long been, and continues to be, one of Europe's most popular tourist attractions.

There is no better way of enjoying it, no better way of combining what are usually mutually exclusive pleasures, relaxation and sight-seeing, than to sit by the rail of a luxurious ship. Watching tantalizing scenery, fascinating towns and cities, and magnificent storied castles drift by on either side, is an advantage not to be had from a train or car window.

You may visit as few as two, as many as five countries on your cruise: Holland, France, Switzerland and Belgium as well as Germany. The highlights of your cruise may include Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Zierikzee in the Netherlands; Dusseldorf, Cologne, Koblenz, Boppard, Rudesheim, Konigswinter, Bad Breisig, Gernsheim, Heidelberg, Speyer, Mainz and Mannheim, all in Germany; Strasbourg, France; Basle, Switzerland; and Antwerp, Belgium.

You may sail either up or down stream. The shortest cruise is a 4-day, 3-night, eight-day cruise. If you sail from either Rotterdam or Amsterdam on a four-country, five-day jaunt, you will pass through Germany and France en route to your destination of Basle.

The first of many treats on which you will feast your eyes will be the lowlands of Holland, dotted by windmills, criss-crossed by canals. You will dock in the elegant German metropolis of Dusseldorf on the first evening, and will have a chance to explore that city and visit its beautiful night spots.

Early the next morning, the ship will proceed to Cologne, allowing ample time there for passengers to visit the city's magnificent Gothic cathedral.

The second and third days will be spent cruising in wine country. On either side of the river, a panorama of endless, patterned stretches of vineyard climbing steep hills will unfold.

The high cliffs are dramatic, capped by prepossessing castles which keep stern guard over the countryside.

The famous Loreley Rock, home of the legendary sirens who lured many an innocent sailor to disaster with their haunting song, is a large headland, lushly overgrown.

Travel the convenient route... See Europe the same way the Europeans do

There is no better way to travel the length and breadth of Europe than by train. The entire continent is criss-crossed by train tracks. Locally, expresses and everything in-between run regularly to just about every place you can imagine.

Trains are prompt, comfortable, clean, convenient, and the most economical way to travel about Europe. Terminals are centrally located as a rule, so that in most cities a five or ten-minute ride suffices to carry the passenger to and from his or her hotel.

See the country. Best of all, train travel provides the tourist with a terrific opportunity to see long stretches of European countryside, and to meet and get to know Europeans.

A train station in a European city is a marvel, an immense beehive of activity, that is a social center as well as a point of departure.



THE MASSIVE SCHLOSS HEIDELBERG, a German Renaissance castle nestled amid tightly nestled trees, is a confection in golden stone, towering above a fairytale town and dreamy river. The turreted Bridge Gate below boasts bell-shaped roofs that were added in the 18th century.

which towers over the river near St. Gonsshausen.

Heidelberg, the picture book college town on the River Neckar, is a short distance from Gernsheim, and may be visited comfortably via a tour organized by the cruise line.

While there, don't miss Schloss Heidelberg, an imposing castle, from the terrace of which you will be treated to a breathtaking view of the town spread out below.

Halfway through the fourth day, you will enter the French portion of your journey, stopping for the night in Strasbourg, famous for its half-timbered houses and grand cathedral, a fascinating mixture of French and German influences and culture.

On the fifth day, your last on board ship, you will approach and enter Switzerland, arriving in Basle late in the afternoon, refreshed by your cruise, and eager to continue your exploration of the wonders of this part of the world.

Cruises depart regularly from March through October. There are also Christmas and New Year's cruises to add that special sparkle to the year's end, in addition to one in February at carnival time.

For detailed itineraries, ship plans, and information on dates and rates, contact your travel agent or the KD German Rhine Line c/o the Rhine Cruise Agency, 170 Hamilton Avenue, White Plains, N.Y. 10601, or 323 Geary St., San Francisco, Cal. 94102.

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## Answers to all your vacation needs are just free call away!

Full is a popular vacation season since highways, points of interest and resort areas are less congested. More and more people have found this to be a delightful time of the year to travel.

Therefore, whether you plan to travel by car, air, train or bus, sophisticated nomads know it is wise to make lodge/hotel room reservations in advance.

Most of the major chains offer a nationwide toll-free 800 number where reservationists can confirm and guarantee the accommodations of your choice.

Howard Johnson's distinctive hotels and motor lodges operate in 41 states. They have gone a bit further to service travelers in their some 525 locations located on highways, airports, downtown and resorts.

Travelers who make advance reservations through their nationwide toll-free 800 number may obtain information regarding points of interest in the area of their destination. Howard Johnson's hotel or motor lodge upon request. In addition, you have the opportunity to request

preferred room locations as ocean front, pool side or ground floor and the like. Their reservation center is conveniently open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to make your reservations, confirm if the selected property has a senior citizens program, family plan or facilities for the handicapped.

Another plus the 52-year old chain of restaurants and motor lodges offers is their 24-hour restaurant service at most locations.

Reservationists at the reservation center (800 number) can confirm the amount-the-

check food service to insure those who will arrive late or wish to depart early will have the convenience of food service which meets travel plans at any hour of the day or night.

It's a comfortable feeling to know that upon arrival at your destination, you will have quality food and lodging awaiting you in a place where an overnight stay is a vacation. Vacation time is the time to pamper yourself with pleasure.

Don't overlook the Fly-Drive packages that major airlines have available with major lodging chains.

Check with your travel agent or airlines for information concerning these money-saving plans or if you prefer to travel by bus, Greyhound has entered this segment of the travel business with their America Lodge travel savings plan in the U.S. and Canada.

Howard Johnson's, Ramada Inns and Sheraton's are the lodging chains that business travelers will enjoy in the America Lodge program.

Group travel is becoming more prevalent and Howard Johnson's has a special 800 number for group travelers to make sleeping room, meeting room, and food and beverage reservations in advance.

Travel agents can also assist group travelers, whether leisure or commercial, to see the country or hold a meeting without the hassle of making numerous phone calls for detailed arrangements.

The toll-free number for all your travel information from Howard Johnson's is 800-654-2000. For group travel information, there is a special number: 800-654-9122.

## Wheel your way through Switzerland



SYNDICATED TRAVEL NEWS -- Say what you like about the energy crisis, but at least it's helped more and more people discover the joys of bicycling!

And when you think about it, there really is no reason why we should always go everywhere by car -- not only are we adding to pollution, becoming fat and lazy, but we also miss a tremendous amount going on around us. If you're on holiday and you want to explore the countryside around you, there's no better way than by hiring a bike. Which is obviously not news to the charming and ever-helpful Swiss, who have made it incredibly easy for any tourist to hire a bike throughout the entire country.

There are in fact two plans; one operated by the Swiss Tourist Club, and the other by the Swiss Federal Railway System.

The Swiss Touring Club sign-post their suggested rides in red; and these rides are designed to take you well off the beaten track -- past old castles and through

country villages, away from the main roads and heavy traffic. You also know in advance which rides are going to lead you up the side of an Alp -- and which rides are going to be more, well, relaxing.

For example, there are 21 rides planned in the 'Cote', which is the biggest wine growing area of the Canton Vaud, above Lake Geneva.

These rides range in length from five to 40 miles, the round trip, and take you deep into the vineyards. You're particularly recommended to go in the Autumn, when the grapes are being picked and crushed.

There are six centres where you can hire bicycles (three speed, naturally) and they are in the regions of Geneva, Berne, the Jura, St. Gallen-Rhine, Aegeri and Zurich. Each centre has brochures, giving every possible ride and its mileage. Rates are from \$3.30 for four hours to \$4.80 for eight hours.

The Swiss Federal Railways has bicycles available for rental at every railway station and also at a few stations of the private railway systems, too.

One of the best advantages that the Swiss Federal Rail offer is that bicycles rented at one station do not have to be returned to the same place; you can drop the bicycle off at any station that's convenient.

Although the Federal Railways don't provide brochures, they do suggest particular destinations. You can easily plan your own route using the official Swiss road map, remembering to avoid roads marked in red and yellow if possible, as these are usually crowded with heavy traffic.

Generally speaking, the best times to bike through Switzerland are May, June and September -- and you should start early in the morning, so that you avoid the traffic and the dust!

Pricing for renting bikes (three speed) from the Swiss Federal Railways are \$1.50 for up to two hours; \$2.30 between two and six hours; \$3 between six and 12 hours; \$3.70 between 12 and 24 hours; and an extra \$2.30 for each 12 hour period over that.

And for young people between 16 and 21, the Federal Railway System has a special ticket. Costing only \$15, it's good for any journey on all Federal trains, some private railways, all postal coaches and ferry boats -- and it includes one day free cycling. It's good for a month, and can be bought at any station.

One final point: don't, unless you really are fit, go biking in the high Alps -- or any mountains for that matter; those roads can be steep, and above all you want to enjoy yourself.

Full details about bicycling in Switzerland are available from your travel agent.

### Travel footnotes:

#### Food has 'moved' mansince the Stone Age!

When modern travelers jet to far places for authentic dishes or superstar restaurants, they're following an urge set by prehistoric forebears. People have been traveling to please their stomachs since the dawn of mankind, reports Visa travel specialist Lea Ann Van Houten.

For instance, steamers on many Swiss and Austrian lakes carry pass holders for free, as do many ferries plying the sea between Germany and Scandinavia, and those which shuttle between Greece and Italy (Brindisi-Corfu-Patras) or vice-versa on the Adriatic and Hellenic Mediterranean Lines), though cabin space, if desired, is charged at full fare.

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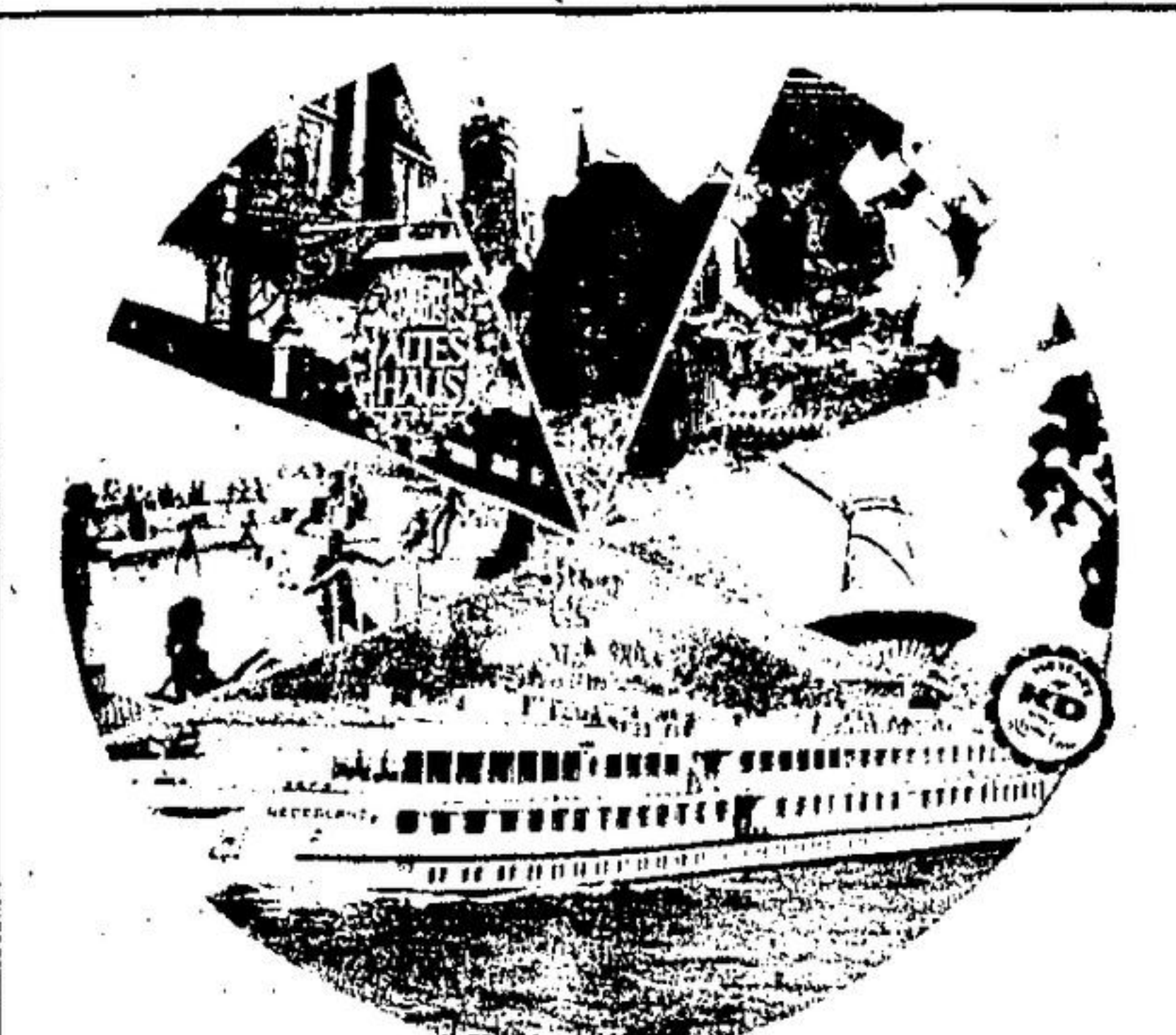
Neolithic man pursued the search with such ardor that he became the first world traveler, penetrating every habitable part of the globe.

Food also tempted Cro-Magnon man who mysteriously disappeared without a trace. Some anthropologists believe, the Visa card

system's research found, that when the great glaciers moved back from Central Europe, so did the reindeer.

Deprived of their primary food source, Cro-Magnon hunters tracked the herds into the far North and their people followed.

None were ever heard from again.



KD German Rhine Line from US \$169<sup>00</sup>

Price includes outside cabin with private facilities for two days -- all meals on board -- ship-board entertainment. A selection of two, three, four and five day cruises of Holland, Germany, France and Switzerland are available.

Price per person, double occupancy on a two day-two country cruise.

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