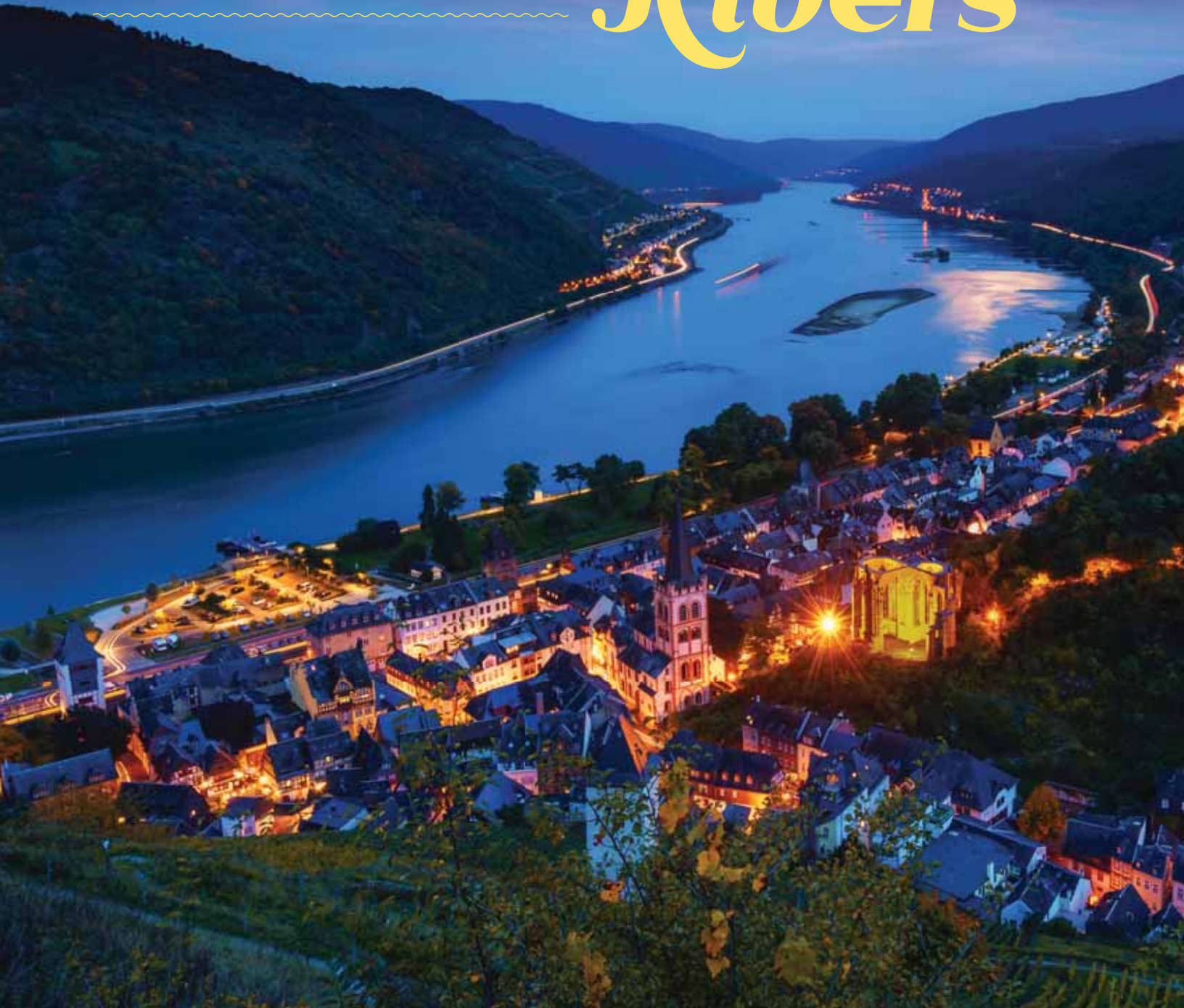


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PLAN AHEAD

By Katie Wells



BAVARIA

Kirchweihdult, Munich

OCT. 18 – 26, 2025

This traditional festival takes place three times per year (Meidult, Jakobidult, Kirchweihdult). **Kirchweihdult** is a fall fest and the last of the Auer Dult. Historically, a “dult” was a fair that attracted artisans, junk dealers, performers and more eclectic characters. The first record of the fair dates back to 1310, and since 1905 three annual fairs have been held at the town square, Mariahilfplatz. While you can find an abundance of beer tents and live music, the festival is very family-friendly with more lowkey market stalls to shop from and various fair rides like bumper cars and a swing-boat. Kids will enjoy puppet shows, acrobats and other fun forms of entertainment. Visitors can indulge in Bavarian food while shopping for a wide offering of pottery like porcelain and china as well as an array of antiques and knickknacks.



KAISERSLAUTERN

Trierer Unterwelten

OCT. 31 – NOV. 22, 2025

Considered to be Germany’s oldest city, Trier was founded by Romans in the late 1st century BC. With such a rich heritage, there are bound to be ghost stories born out of the ruins. As “spooky season” draws near, plan to go underground for an eerie festival that resides in catacombs, cellars, crypts, tunnels and more strange spaces. The **Trier Underworlds Festival** spans over three weeks and has plenty of events planned like guided tours, culinary specialties and live musical performances. Plus, there will be theatre productions, art on display, cinema screenings and readings. As you move through the festival you will learn about the history along with myths and legends of locations in the city that include: Germany’s oldest wine cellar, the Episcopal wineries and the Imperial baths.



STUTT GART

Fellbacher Herbst

OCT. 9 – 13, 2025

Give thanks for the wine harvest at the **Fellbach Thanksgiving and Wine Festival**, which is now the second-largest harvest festival in the Stuttgart region. It takes place every second weekend in October and visitors can enjoy trying fine wines of the Kappelberg region along the wine route, regional cuisines, and live music. An extensive program includes the Sepp Herberger Memorial Cup Tournament (a non-official soccer tournament that honors Sepp Herberger’s legacy coaching the West German team to victory at the 1954 World Cup), a lantern parade, musical fireworks display, a grand parade through the city center, and of course, plenty of thrilling rides. The city center will be car-free on Sunday, so you may want to plan accordingly if you travel via car.



WIESBADEN

Frankfurter Buchmesse

OCT. 15 – 19, 2025

Calling all book lovers and writers! The **Frankfurt Book Fair** is the largest trade fair for books in the world. If you loved Scholastic Book Fairs as a kid, this event is a much larger version, where you can peruse multiple genres of books and be one of the first to hear about upcoming releases. You can also meet authors and listen to seminars. Literary agents and publishing houses will be there for any writers wanting to learn more about the industry. In addition, engaging workshops and conferences are available for guests to participate in. Artists, creatives and cultural enthusiasts are a large part of the fair as well. The five-day annual event takes place on the Frankfurt Trade Fair grounds. October 15 – 19 is open for trade visitors and the opening days for the general public are from October 17 – 19. For 2025, there will be three “Guests of Honor” representing the Philippines, Czechia and Chile. ■

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The Art and Music of the Danube



CC BY-NC ((PD-US))/"DONAULANDSCHAFT MIT SCHLOSS WÖRTH" ALBRECHT ALTENDORFER (C. 1530)

By Kat Nickola

You may not know it by name, but you would instantly recognize the music of Johan Strauss' waltz "An der schönen, blauen Donau" from its use in film. Called "The Blue Danube" in English, it's a perky waltz in which the horns and woodwinds seem to flow back and forth between speedy joyful sections and slower serene moments.

The Danube River has long inspired artwork, and this was especially true during the early 16th century when a few Renaissance painters began to use it as inspiration for a new style of painting. Defined in modern times as the Danube School, their artworks are landscape-focused with rugged terrain, evocative forests, golden-hued lighting and small human elements that are dwarfed by the prominent beauty of nature. ■

Listen to a clip of
"The Blue Danube"



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TASTY TROUT OF THE TAUBER RIVER

By Tamala Malerk and Karen Bradbury

FISHING FOR TRUTH

It's thought that the Tauber River derives its name from the Celtic word for water. The source of the river is found in the small town of Rot am See, and for a short stretch, it forms the border between Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg. However, it is what lies beneath the river that may be of interest to you.

The Tauber is filled with **trout**. This means that many restaurants in the area source their trout and seafood from its waters and you are in for a tasty treat. You can even fish for your own trout, provided you follow local rules.

There is **fishing** fun to be had in Germany; however, in true German fashion, there are regulations and laws you must follow. You must have a permit to fish in Germany and obtaining one varies by state. Depending on where you are located, check with the **Landesfischereiverband Baden-Württemberg e.V.** (Baden-Württemberg State Fishing Association) or the **Landesfischereiverband Bayern e.V.** (Bavarian State Fishing Association) for rules in your area.

NOTE: Fishing without a fishing permit and/or fishing license in Germany can result in fines up to 25,000 EUR and imprisonment for up to five years!



ROMANTIC TOWNS

The Tauber River rises in a town in the district of Schwäbisch Hall and flows through the German states of Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria along an 82-mile course before pouring into the Main River in Wertheim am Main.

While there are many towns that it passes, some of the more noteworthy ones include Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Creglingen, Weikersheim, Bad Mergentheim, Königshofen and Tauberbischofsheim—all of which make up part of the tourist route known as the **Romantic Road**.



FUN ACTIVITIES

The river stretches for so long that there is guaranteed to be something fun for everyone to do.

Tauber Valley Cycle Route: This 100km (62 mi.) route promises cyclists a great mix of culture, history and food. This route starts in Rothenburg ob der Tauber and ends in Wertheim am Main and is considered rideable for bikers of most ages and abilities.

Camping Tauber Idyll: Located in Detwang, this is a fantastic spot for outdoor adventurers who want to camp in a tent or RV. There is even a temporary fishing permit for guests who want to fish without getting a full German fishing license. There are great hiking opportunities and it's only a 20-minute walk to Rothenburg's Old Town.

The Unique Museums of Creglingen: Museum and history lovers should check out this town. It is home to the Thimble Museum, Jewish Museum, Nuns' (Women's Monastery) Museum, Waldmannshofen Castle Fire Museum and the Lindlein Tower Museum.

The Taste of Tauber Initiative: Foodies will want to take part in this initiative of local restaurants that celebrates local flavors from the Tauber River area by eating regional delicacies. The Tauber River just happens to flow through three of Germany's wine-growing areas and has its own indigenous grape variety: *Tauberschwartz*. You can also enjoy one of the local apple varieties, Franconian Green Spelt, mill products, seafood (that aforementioned tasty trout) and their *Tauberschazi*, the name given to their local flocks of sheep and goats. ■



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VISIT GERMANY'S

5 *Greatest Rivers*

By Kat Nickola

The waterways of Germany have always inspired art and music. They've been a connection to the wider world and the borderlands dividing it. Today, visiting one of Germany's five largest rivers is an experience not to be missed, and each one offers something a little different.



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Flowing into the North Sea

RHINE RIVER

The Rhine and its left-bank tributary, the Mosel, are still powerhouses of industry, flowing north to connect the chemical and industrial companies of Germany with worldwide shipping lanes from ports in the Netherlands.

Modern industry mixes with history as barges trundle up and down its course, past vineyards and castles along the **Middle Rhine**, between Bingen and Bonn. In ancient times, this was frontier land to the Romans who brought their wine-making skills. You can still visit a few Roman ruins in the town of **Boppard**, where you can also check out the Rhine's largest loop. For a great view of the river, hike, take the chairlift (*sesselbahn*) or, with proper equipment, climb the local via ferrata (*klettersteig*) west of town.

Get out on the water by taking the Köln-Düsseldorfer (K-D) ferry. Stop in **Bacharach** to enjoy a meal along the cobblestone streets amongst half-timbered buildings and old city walls. Visit **Sankt Goar** where you can walk (or take a shuttle) up to the Rhine's largest castle ruin: Burg Rheinfels. Village train stations along this section of the river are all connected via the RB26, so exploring is easy.

WESER RIVER

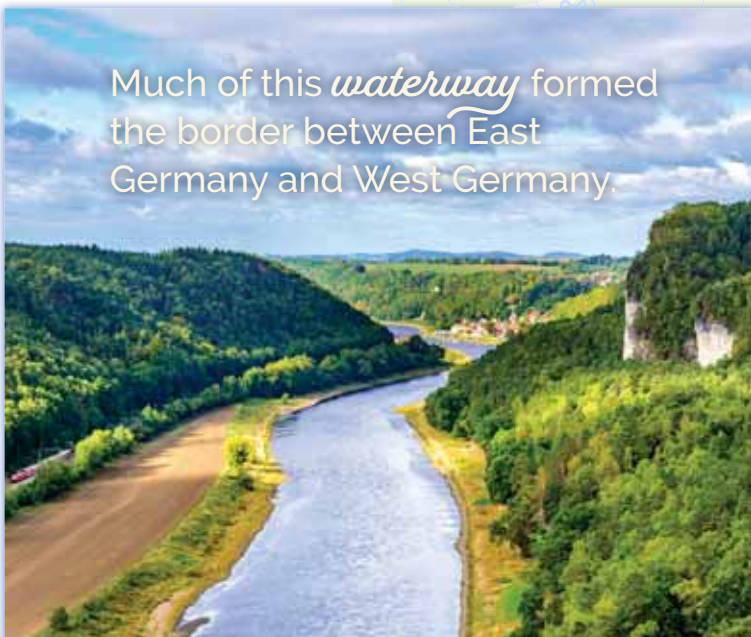
The Weser River has a hard-working history. Flowing north from the forests of central Germany, it became a major route for exporting German goods during the Middle Ages.

Thanks to the river, the city of Bremen grew into a powerhouse of trade. It became a wealthy hub for the Hanseatic League, and nowadays, the old town is still full of ships and the brick gothic architecture of guild halls. There are also quaint, colorful merchant houses in the Schnoor neighborhood which now host small shops and restaurants that spill into the tiny streets.

If being on the water is more your style, then the Weser River is a perfect destination for **canoe or kayak trips**. With few cargo ships and no dams, the Upper Weser offers 135 kilometers of navigable fun between Hann Münden and **Hamelin**. Be sure to stop into Hamelin, which leans hard into its "Pied Piper" heritage. A tourist walking trail marked by brass cobblestone rats takes you past historic buildings and all art forms representing the famous piper who led rodents to their death in the Weser River and then took the kids as payment.

ELBE RIVER

The Elbe River is unique in Germany. Much of this waterway formed the border between East Germany and West Germany. Inside the frontier zone, some of the riverbanks were fenced off to prevent escape attempts. Without human interference, these areas returned to their natural habitat, and now much of the Elbe is part of the **UNESCO Elbe River Landscape Biosphere Reserve**. In the Lower Saxonian portion of the reserve, the river spreads into a large floodplain with numerous tributaries and wetlands.



Much of this *waterway* formed the border between East Germany and West Germany.

FROM THE TOP The Rheinschleife, the Rhine River's largest loop; the "Pied Piper" of Hamelin; Saxon Switzerland National Park in Germany along the Elbe River

In the former border towns of **Popelau** and **Darchau**, you can climb up former BT-9 observation towers to look out over this former “no mans land.” Across the river from these two hamlets (via a short ferry) is the town of Neu Darchau and the Albia Kanu company which offers **canoe and kayak rentals** and shuttle services along the Elbe River.

Flowing into the Baltic Sea

ODER RIVER

The Oder River and its major tributary, the Neisse, define Germany's border with Poland. The northern portion, near its mouth in the Baltic Sea is protected by large national parks. One of the best ways to explore these wetlands and bird habitats is along the **Oder-Neisse Cycle Route**.

At the other end of the river system, the town of **Görlitz** on the Neisse River has a unique blend of past and present. With historic architecture at every turn, and a series of fortified towers, Görlitz advertises itself as the most beautiful city in Germany. The entertainment industry seems to agree. Numerous movies, such as “The Monuments Men,” “Inglorious Basterds” and “The Grand Budapest Hotel” were filmed in the city. Now dubbed **Görlitwood**,® a free tour of all 36 filming sites is available via the SmartGuide app.

Flowing into the Black Sea

DANUBE RIVER

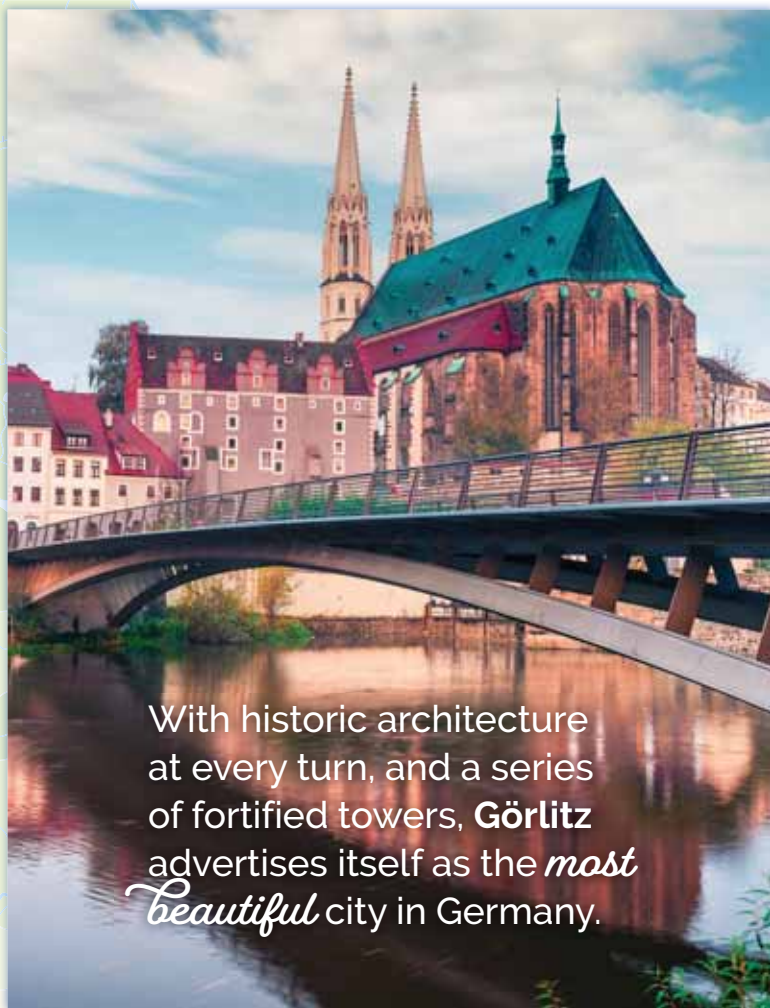
The only major German river that doesn't flow north, the Danube (Donau in German), is perhaps the most sophisticated of the bunch. From its representation in art and music, to its course across 10 different countries and through numerous major cities, it represents a mishmash of cultural icons.

To really dig into all the Danube represents, take a trip to **Regensburg**. The old town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with its architecture showing off the city's cultural and artistic heritage. Don't miss the stained glass in St. Peter's Cathedral or taking a tour at the monastery-turned-palace called **Schloss Thurn und Taxis**.

East of the city is Valhalla. Well, it's a monument called **Walhalla**, named after Woden's feast hall from Germanic mythology. A **ferry ride** on the Danube from Regensburg takes you to this memorial that honors German-speaking notables including royalty, scientists and artists.

Much of the Danube south of Regensburg flows through Hopfenland, or **Hops-growing land**, and, you guessed it, the heart of beer brewing. Even better, Germany's oldest monastic brewery, the **Kloster Weltenburg**, is still active and produces the award-winning Barock Dunkel. Tour the abbey and brewery, have a drink in the biergarten and then walk out to the stony beach and dip a toe in the waters of the Danube. ■

FROM THE TOP The town of Görlitz; the Walhalla monument along the Danube River



With historic architecture at every turn, and a series of fortified towers, **Görlitz** advertises itself as the *most beautiful* city in Germany.



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Classical Music

from the Rhine River

By Anna Leigh Bagiackas

The Rhine River has long been a source of inspiration for people. From winemakers to storytellers and poets, a trip along the Rhine will be sure to include tales of epic battles, alluring sirens atop dangerous rocks and river robberies. But did you know that the magic of the Rhine River has also found its way into classical music?

If you have spent any time listening to or learning about classical music, you probably picked up that Germany has been home to many of the powerhouse classical music composers throughout the centuries. And if the composer wasn't from Germany, they certainly made their way to this classical music hub to study, perform or be inspired.

Some well-known composers and musicians include Pachelbel, Telemann, J.S. Bach, Haydn, Beethoven, Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn, Robert and Clara Schumann, Wagner and Brahms. Germany can also claim one of the earliest recorded female composers, Hildegard von Bingen of the medieval period, whose hometown (Bingen) sits along the Rhine.

Experience some of the musical Rhine magic from the comfort of your home. Here are a couple of the necessary listens:

Symphony No. 3, nicknamed the "Rhenish" symphony by Robert Schumann

When this Romantic-era composer moved to Dusseldorf in 1850 to take a music director position, he wrote this work in just over a month and it was quickly nicknamed "Rhenish" as it reflected the sights, sounds and life along the Rhine with its folk-like sounds. Some say that it may have also been inspired and influenced by Beethoven and his famous Eroica symphony.

It was also written that the fourth movement was inspired by Schumann's visit to the Cologne Cathedral, no doubt having a powerful effect on the composer.

Siegfried's Rhine Journey by Richard Wagner

If you know the name Richard Wagner, you probably know that his music is big, bold and powerful. This piece of music is no different and as you listen to it, you might be able to envision yourself as part of one of the epic journeys you've heard about.

Part of Wagner's famous operatic "Ring Cycle," this piece is part of the beginning, or prologue, as the sun rises, and the character Siegfried ventures out on his own journey down the Rhine.

Rhine Nymphs Overture by Jacques Offenbach

Another work from an opera, the story takes place during the wars of the 16th century near Bingen and the Kreuzbach Castle. Filled with romance, battle and a little fairy magic, it is easy to imagine this as a soundtrack to a Rhine River tale.

There are so many different ways to explore the Rhine River and all the area has to offer, let a few of these composers add a little extra magic to your next visit! ■

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