Rhine River Cruise
April 2016

Bern, Switzerland
To
Amsterdam, Netherlands

The 443-foot riverboat MS Inspire cruises exclusively for Tauck on the Rhine and Moselle rivers with a maximum of 130 guests in 67 cabins.

(http://www.tauck.com)

Bern

The capital city of Switzerland was founded in 1191 and was part of the Holy Roman Empire. The city is built around the Aare River. Since the 16th century, the city has had a bear pit, the Bärengraben, to house its heraldic animals.

Pfarramt Dreifaltigkeitskirche

View of Bern and the River Aare from the Bärengraben Trail

View of Bern, the River Aare and Bern Münsterfrom the Bärengraben Trail

View of Bern and River Aare from Top of Bern Münster Tower
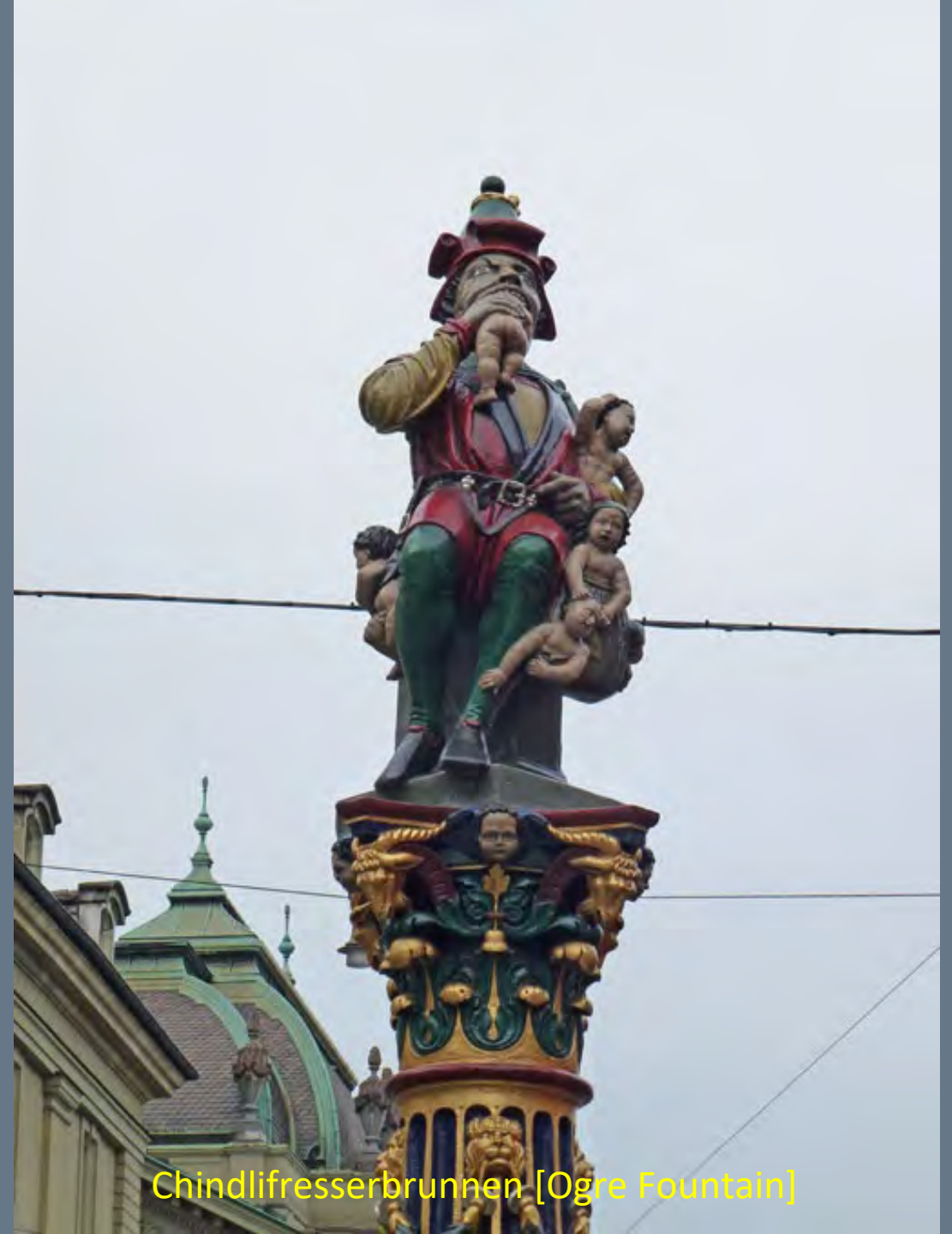
A Bern City Bear at the New Bärengraben

Houses of Parliament, Bern

Fountains in Front of Federal Palace of Switzerland

Public fountains in the Old Town of Bern have Renaissance allegorical statues, nearly all of which were created by Hans Gieng in the 16th century. One of the more interesting fountains is the Child Eater (or Ogre) Fountain which is claimed to represent a figure that scares disobedient children.

Chindlifresserbrunnen [Ogre Fountain]

Läuferbrunnen (Messenger Fountain)

Pfeiferbrunnen (Piper Fountain)

Schützenbrunnen [Marksman Fountain] and Clock

Gerechtigkeitsbrunnen (Fountain of Justice)

Zähringen Fountain

Mosesbrunnen (Moses Fountain)

Anna Seiler Brunnen (Anna Seiler Fountain)

Vennerbrunnen (Standard-Bearer Fountain)

The Clock Tower (or Zytglogge), dating from 1220, is located above the Old Town's western gate tower. This 75-foot structure displays a large astronomical clock made between 1527-1530.
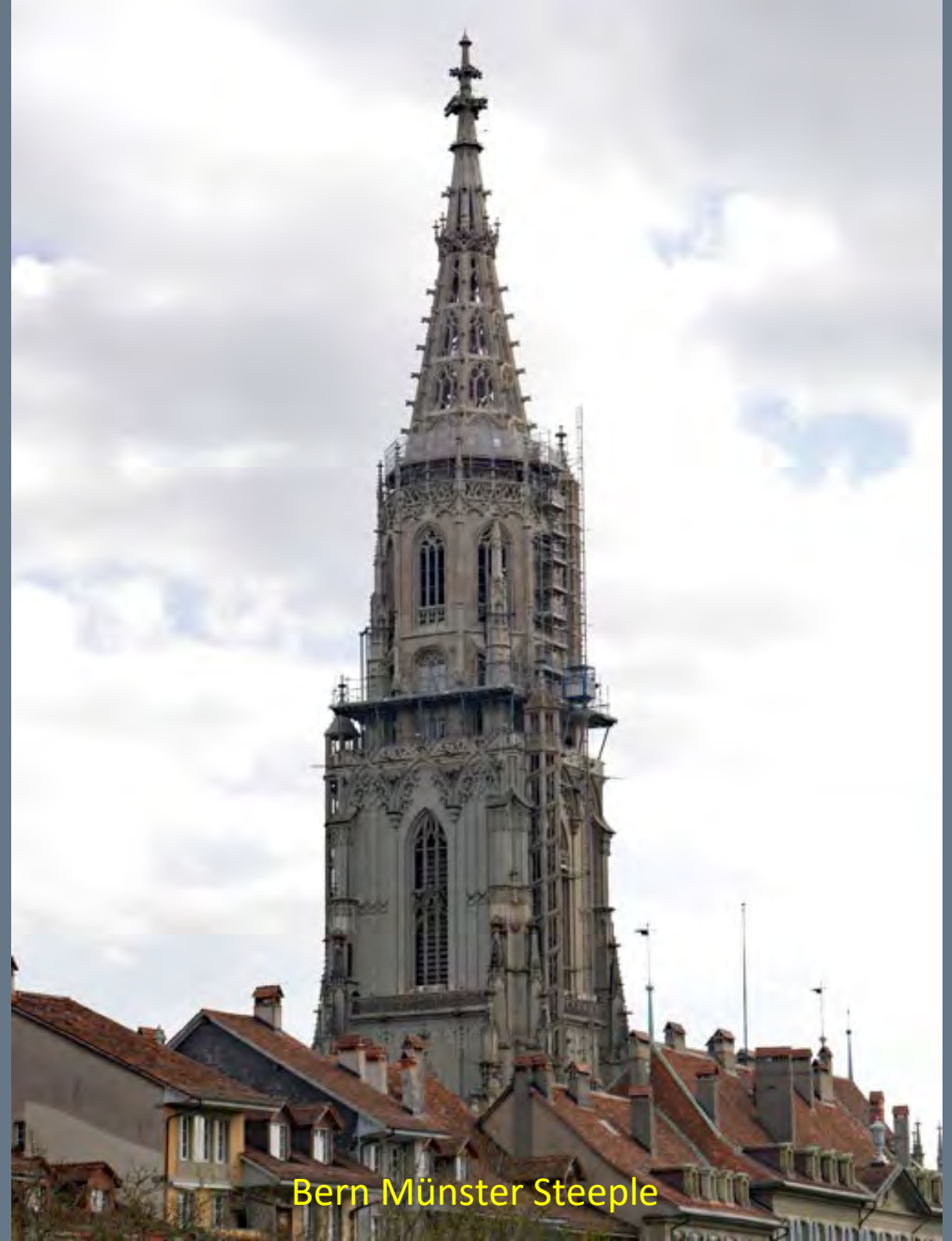
Anna Seiler Brunnen and Clock Tower

Zytglogge [Clock Tower] Clock and Astrolabe

Zytglogge [Clock Tower] Astrolabe

The Bern Münster is a Swiss Reformed cathedral, in the old city of Bern. Built in the Gothic style, its construction started in 1421. Its tower, with a height of 100.6 m, was completed in 1893. It is the tallest cathedral in Switzerland.

Bern Münster Steeple

Bern Münster from Kirchenfeldbrücke Bridge

Bern Münster Main Entrance Detail

Bern Münster Main Entrance Detail

Bern Münster Gargoyle

Stained Glass Panel in Bern Münster

Stained Glass Panel in Bern Münster

Stained Glass Window in Bern Münster

The Jungfraujoch - Top of Europe - has the highest railway station in Europe, located 3,454 m above sea level, and is one of the main summits of the Bernese Alps. Visitors enter a high-Alpine wonderland of ice, snow and rock, which can be seen from the viewing platforms or the Ice Palace, peaking at an elevation of 3,455 m (11,371 ft). The railway journey to the Jungfraujoch leads through the Eiger and the Mönch peaks.

JUNGFRAU
TOP OF EUROPE

JUNGFRAUJOCH-TOP OF EUROPE
THE SWISS MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE   3571 M/11,782FT

"Dreams of Switzerland" Diorama at Jungfraujoch

Scenery on Train Ride to Jungfraujoch

Scenery on Train Ride to Jungfraujoch

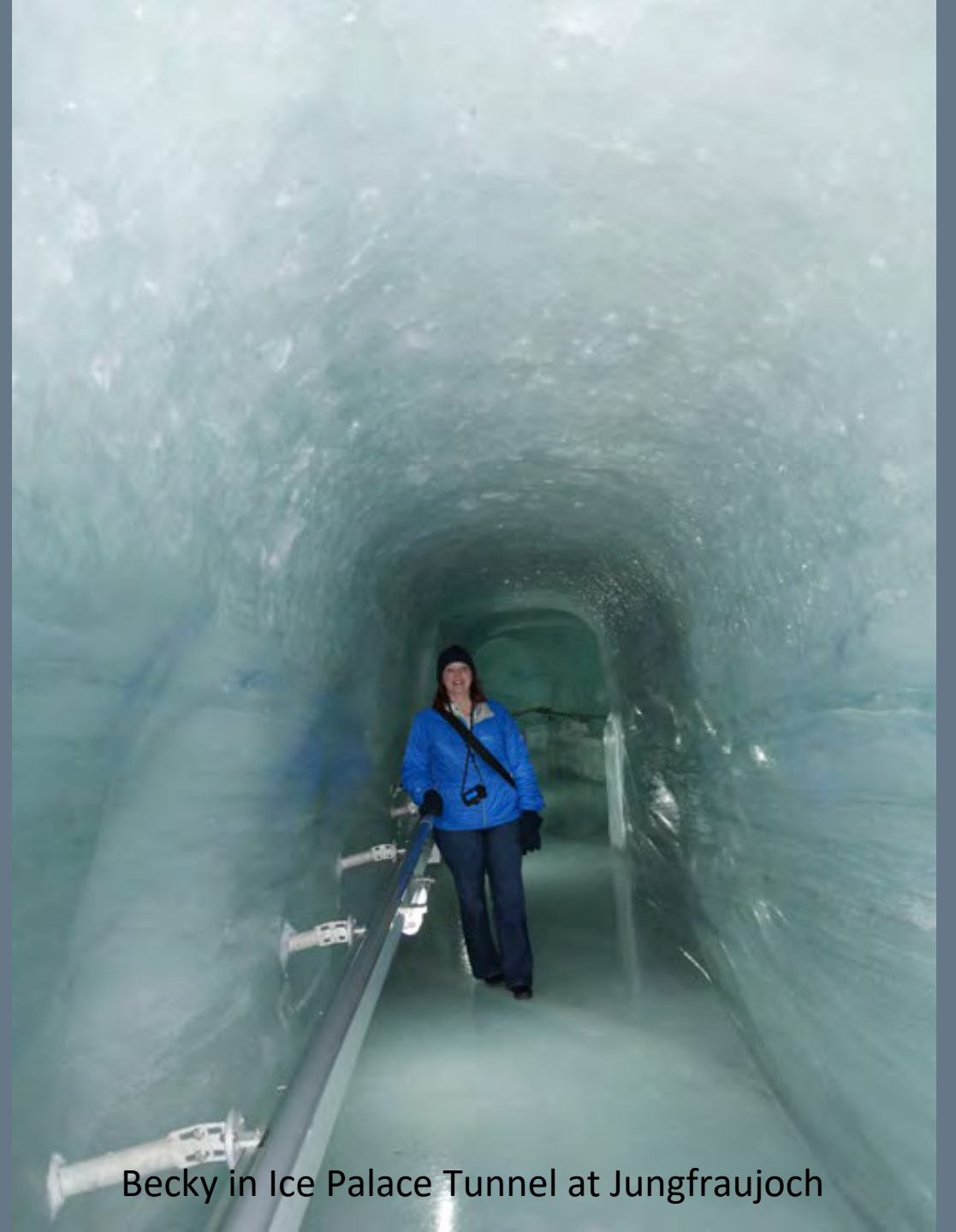Scenery on Train Ride to Jungfraujoch

Scenery on Train Ride Down from Jungfraujoch

Scenery on Train Ride Down from Jungfraujoch

Observatory at Jungfraujoch

Becky in Ice Palace Tunnel at Jungfraujoch

Ice Palace Sculpture - Eagles

Becky in Ice Palace at Jungfraujoch

Cave at Jungfraujoch

Scenery on Train Ride to Jungfraujoch

Lucerne, Switzerland

Lucerne is located in central Switzerland, straddling the Reuss River. Of its several bridges, the most famous is the Chapel Bridge (Kapellbrücke), originally built in 1333 but much of it restored in 1993 after a fire. The Spreuer Bridge (Spreuerbrücke), constructed in 1408, zigzags across the Reuss and features a series of medieval-style 17th century plague paintings by Kaspar Meglinger titled *Dance of Death*.

Spreuer Bridge and Musegg Towers

View of Reuss River and Jesuit Church

Lucerne Boat Landing and Church of St. Leodegar

Lucerne and Reuss River from Top of Männliturm

Luegislandturm and Wachtturm from Männliturm

The Church of St. Leodegar is the most important church and a landmark in the city of Lucerne. It was built from 1633 to 1639 on the foundation of the Roman basilica which had burnt in 1633. This church is one of the largest and art-history rich churches of the German late renaissance period.

Church of St. Leodegar

Church of St. Leodegar Entrance Arch and Clock

Church of St. Leodegar Entrance Statue and Rose Window

Lucerne Lion Monument

Lucerne Lion Monument

Chapel Bridge

Statue of Fritschi in Kapellplatz

The Musegg wall with its nine towers is part of the ramparts built in the 14th century to protect the town of Lucerne. The accessible towers from west to east are: the Männli tower, adorned with a figure of a soldier, the Wacht tower, the Zyt tower with its clock dating from 1535 and the Schirmer tower.

Luegislandturm and Wachtturm from Männliturm

Sentinel at Top of Männliturm

Wacht or Heuturm

The Dächli Tower

Colmar, France

Colmar is home to the Unterlinden Museum, housed in a 13th-century Dominican religious convent and extended into a 1906 former public baths building. The museum is home to the Isenheim Altarpiece, an altarpiece sculpted and painted in 1512-1516. With the wings of the altarpiece closed, it depicts the Crucifixion framed on the left by the martyrdom of Saint Sebastian and on the right by Saint Anthony the Great. With the innermost wings opened, it shows the sculptures of Saint Augustine and Guy Guers, Two Bearers of Offerings, Saint Jerome, Christ and the Twelve Apostles.

MS Inspire at Landing in Colmar, France

Exterior of Unterlinden Museum, Colmar, France

Unterlinden Museum Inner Courtyard and Well

Exterior of Unterlinden Museum, Colmar, France

**Isenheim Altarpiece Outer Panel
The Crucifixion**

Isenheim Altarpiece Inner Panel
Annunciation, Nativity, and Resurrection

Isenheim Altarpiece Inner Panel
St. Anthony Tormented by Demons

Isenheim Altarpiece Inner Panel
The Resurrection

Sculptures and Stained Glass, Unterlinden Museum

Isenheim Altarpiece Inner Sculptures, St. Augustine et al.

Collegiate Church of Saint Martin, Colmar, France

Street Scene, Colmar, France

Schwendi Fountain, Colmar, France

Cologne & Stuttgart, Germany

Cologne, located on both sides of the Rhine River, is the fourth largest city in Germany. The city was founded in the first century AD and served as the capital of the Roman province of Germania Inferior for several centuries. During medieval and Renaissance times it was one of the largest cities north of the Alps.

Many of the churches in Cologne were destroyed during World War II bombings, but were rebuilt in a campaign that finished in the 1990s. The city's famous Cologne Cathedral (Kölner Dom) is a Gothic church that was started in 1248 and completed in 1880. The cathedral is said to contain relics of the Three Magi.
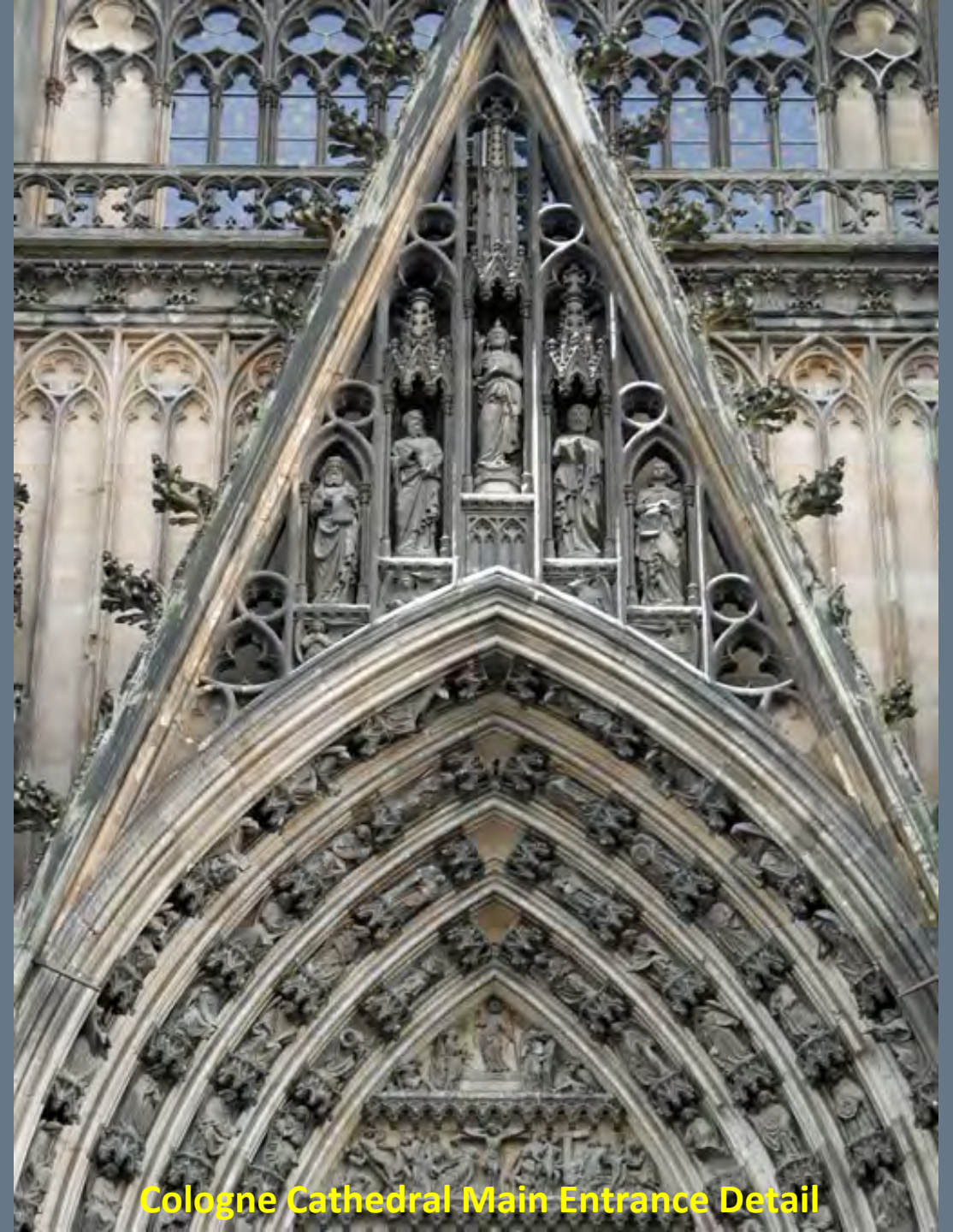
Cologne Cathedral

Cologne Cathedral

Cologne Cathedral Main Entrance Detail

Cologne Cathedral Main Entrance Detail

Cologne Cathedral Twin Spires

Cologne Cathedral Gargoyles

Cologne Cathedral Peasant Gargoyle

Greater St. Martin Church, Cologne

Fischmarkt and Greater St. Martin Church

Greater St. Martin Church Entrance Detail

Roman Ruins Under Greater St. Martin Church Yard

Cologne City Hall Tower

Jan von Werth Fountain in Alter Markt and City Hall Tower

Cologne City Hall Loggia

Cologne City Hall Loggia Detail

Hohenzollern Bridge and Kaiser Wilhelm II Statue

Statue of King Friedrich Wilhelm III, Cologne

Becky and Mr. Happy Aboard MS Inspire at Cologne

The Römisch-
Germanisches Museum,

Dionysos Mosaic, 40 AD, Roman-Germanic Museum

1st Century Roman Tombstone
Roman-Germanic Museum

Reconstructed Sepulcher of Poblicius, 40 AD
Roman-Germanic Museum

Stuttgart, Germany

Stiftskirche (Collegiate Church) at Schillerplatz

Stiftskirche

Jubiläumssäule in Schlossplatz, Stuttgart

Base of Jubiläumssäule in Schlossplatz, Stuttgart

Schiller Memorial, Stuttgart

Fountain in Schlossplatz, Stuttgart

Statues at Base of Schlossplatz Fountain, Stuttgart

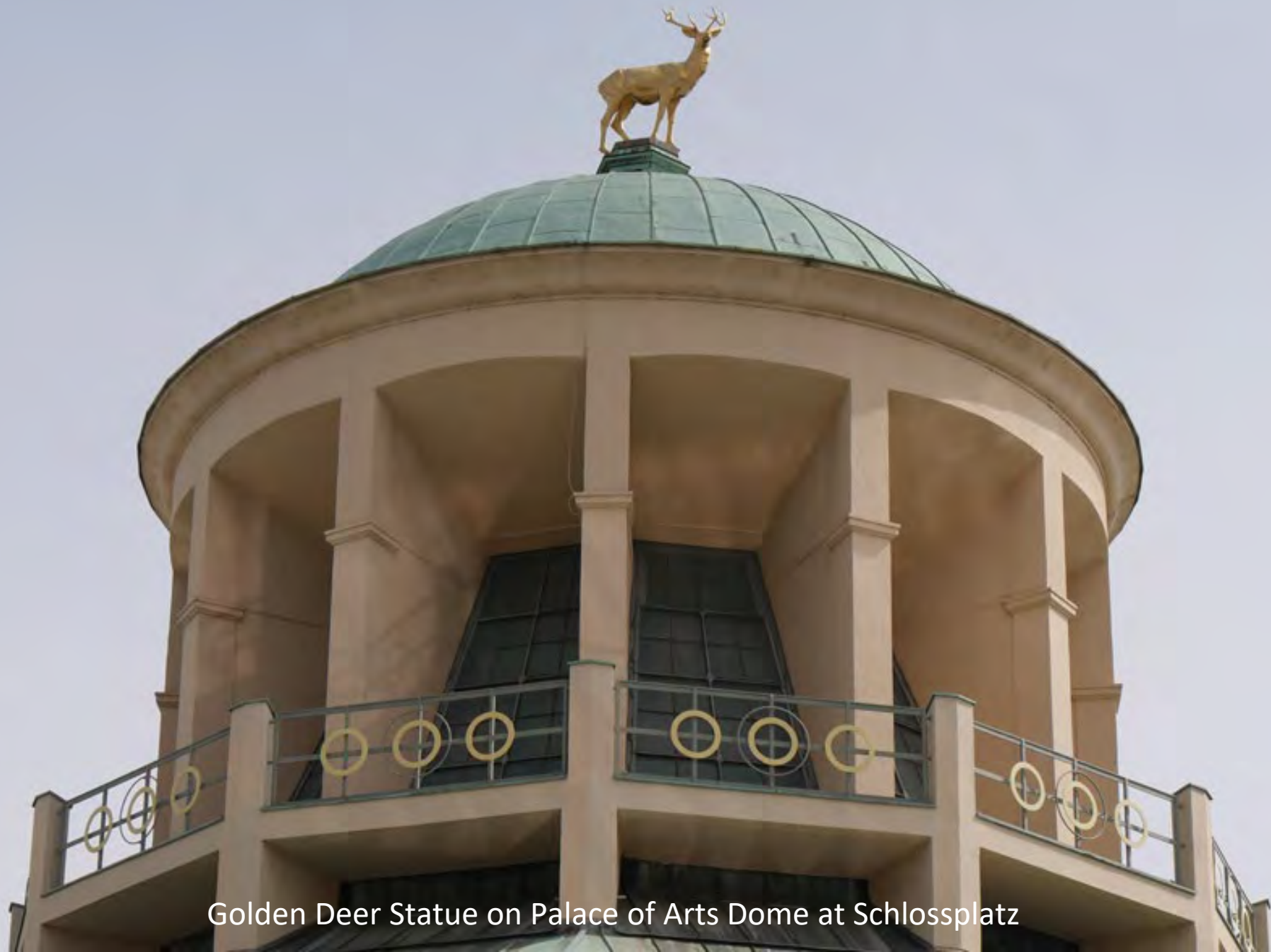The Altes Schloss (Old Palace), Stuttgart

Statue at Entrance to Neues Schloss, Stuttgart

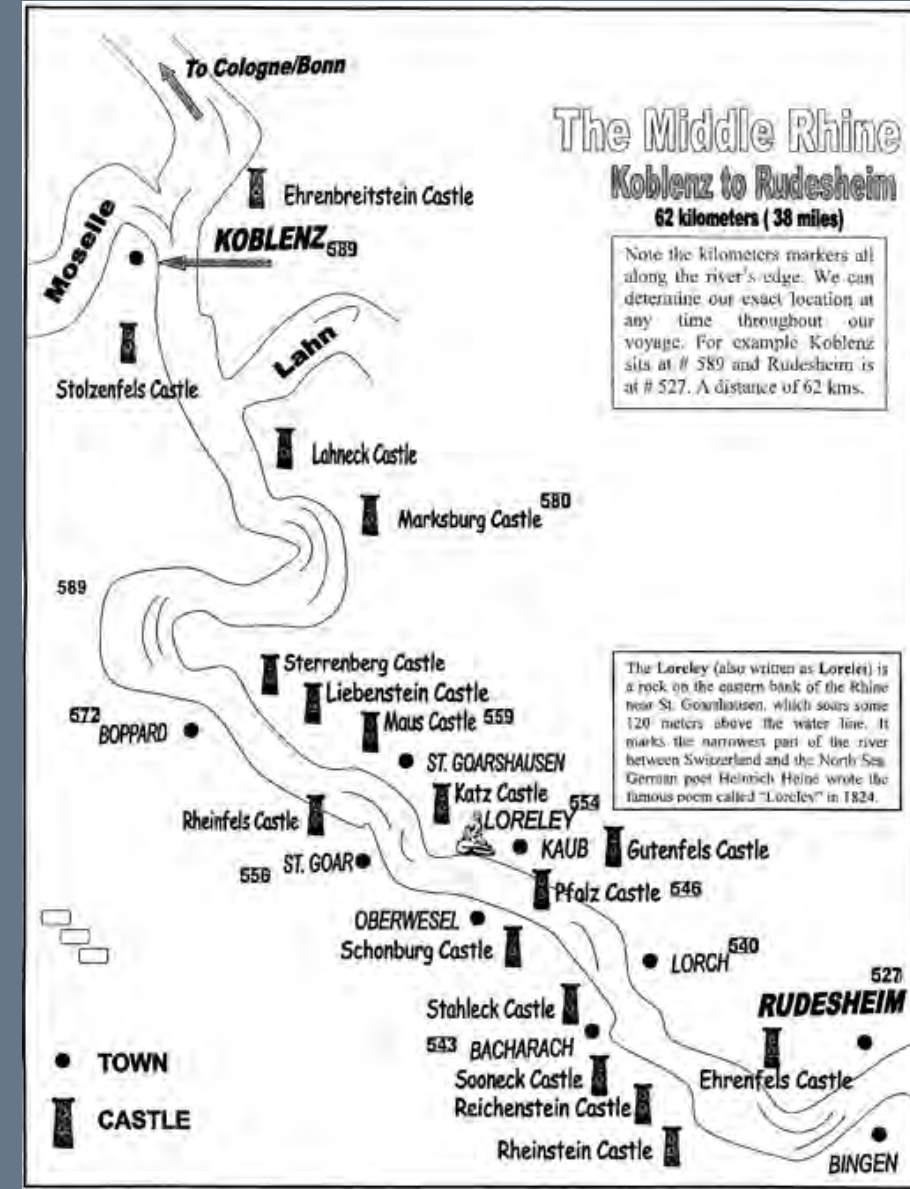Neues Schloss, Stuttgart

Neues Schloss, Stuttgart

Golden Deer Statue on Palace of Arts Dome at Schlossplatz

Becky at Porsche Museum, Stuttgart

Rudesheim, Germany & Rhine River Castles

Rüdesheim am Rhein is a town in the Rhine Gorge, that lies near the beginning of approximately 60 km of the Rhine River dotted with medieval castles and castle ruins leading to the town of Koblenz.

Rudesheim Main Street and Niederwald Monument

St. Jakobus Church - Rudesheim, Germany

St. Jakobus Church - Rudesheim, Germany

Marktbrunnen (Market Fountain) - Rudesheim

Broemser Castle - Ruedesheim

Pfalzgrafenstein Toll Station and Gutenfels Castle

Pfalzgrafenstein Toll Station

Onboard MS Inspire Approaching Rheinstein Castle

The secion of the river contains what is said to be the most dangerous spot on the river, Lorelei Rock. Legend holds that it was the siren Lorelei whose song lured sailors to their doom at this point. Today a statue on the river memorializes Lorelei.

Lorelei Statue

Schönburg Castle

Rheinstein Castle

Klopp Castle - Bingen am Rhein, Germany

Ehrenfels Castle Ruin

Ehrenfels Castle Ruin

Reichenstein Castle - Trechtingshausen, Germany

Nollig Castle Ruin Above Lorch am Rhein

Fürstenberg Castle Ruin

Mäuseturm Toll Tower

Approaching Sooneck Castle

Sooneck Castle

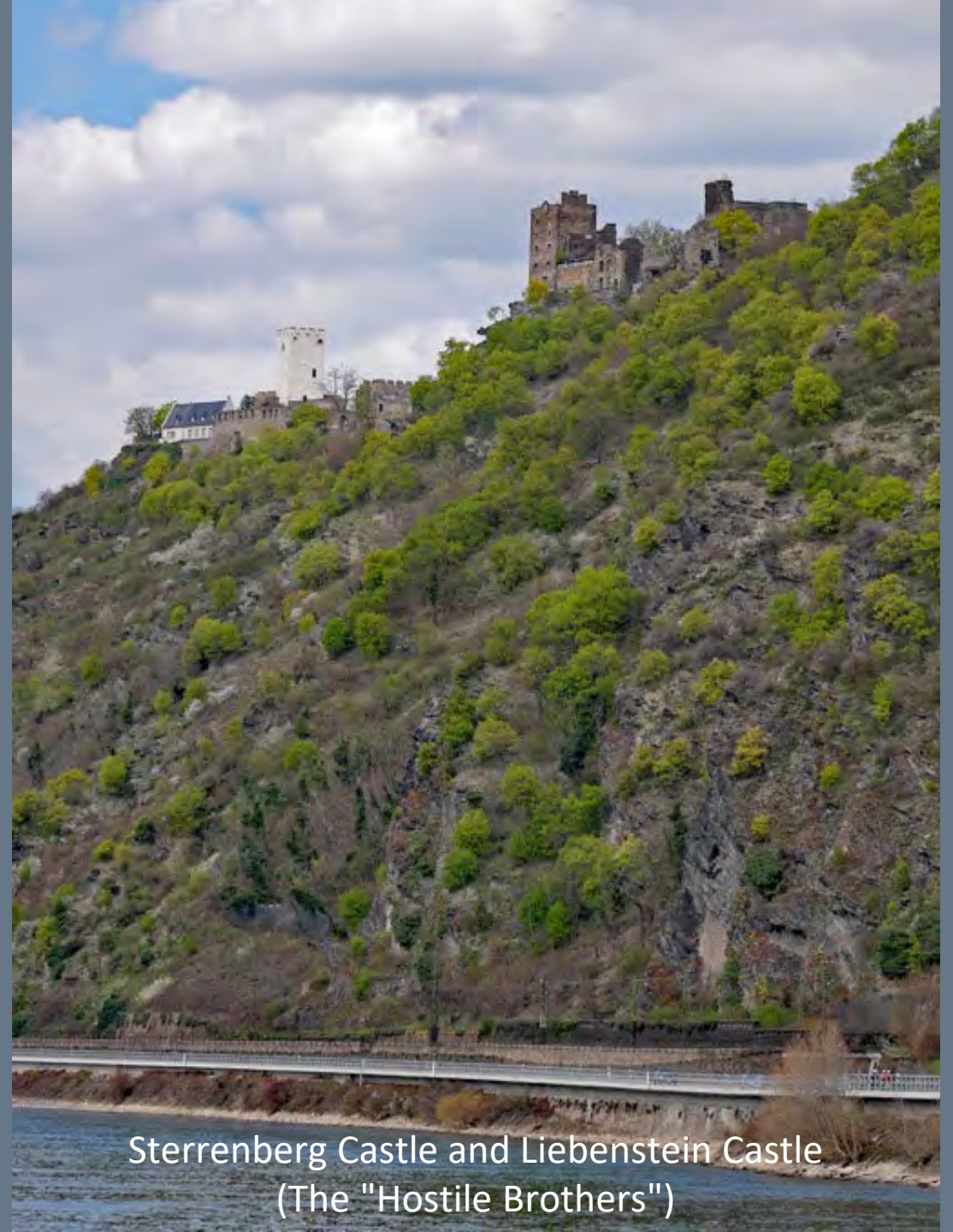Liebfrauenkirche - Oberwesel am Rhein, Germany

Tower at Oberwesel am Rhein

Katz Castle

Waterfront and Gutenfels Castle - Kaub, Germany

Sterrenberg Castle and Liebenstein Castle
(The "Hostile Brothers")

Rheinfels Fortress

Maus Castle (Thurnberg)

Sterrenberg Castle and Liebenstein Castle Above Kamp-Bornhofen

Marksburg Castle Above Braubach, Germany

Lahneck Castle - Lahnstein, Germany)

Stolzenfels Palace

Fortress Ehrenbreitstein

Statue of Emperor Wilhelm I at Deutsches Eck

Deutsches Eck (German Corner) at the Confluence of
the Rhein and Mosel Rivers

Schloss Ehreshoven

Courtyard of Schloss Ehreshoven

Becky and Jim at Schloss Ehreshoven Reception

Dordrecht, Kinderdijk, Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Dordrecht, located in the province of South Holland, is the oldest city in the Holland area and has a rich history and culture.

The Old Catholic Church of S. Maria Maior

Dordrecht Street Entrance Passage

Dordrecht Groothoofdspoort (City Gate)

Dordrecht Maiden Relief Detail

Passageway Facia Carving

Dordrecht Street Scene

Dordrecht Canal Scene

Dordrecht Canal Scene with Grote Kerk

Dordrecht Canal Scene with Grote Kerk

Dordrecht Canal and Bridge Scene

Last Windmill in Dordrecht (Kyck over den Dyck-1612)

Dordrecht Water Tower

Dordrecht Grote Kerk (Church of Our Lady)

Dordrecht Grote Kerk (Church of Our Lady)

Dordrecht Grote Kerk Clock Tower

Kinderdijk is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with a system of 19 windmills that were built around 1740. This group of mills is the largest concentration of old windmills in the Netherlands.

Village of Kinderdijk Canal and Windmills

Kinderdijk Windmill

Village of Kinderdijk Canal and Windmills

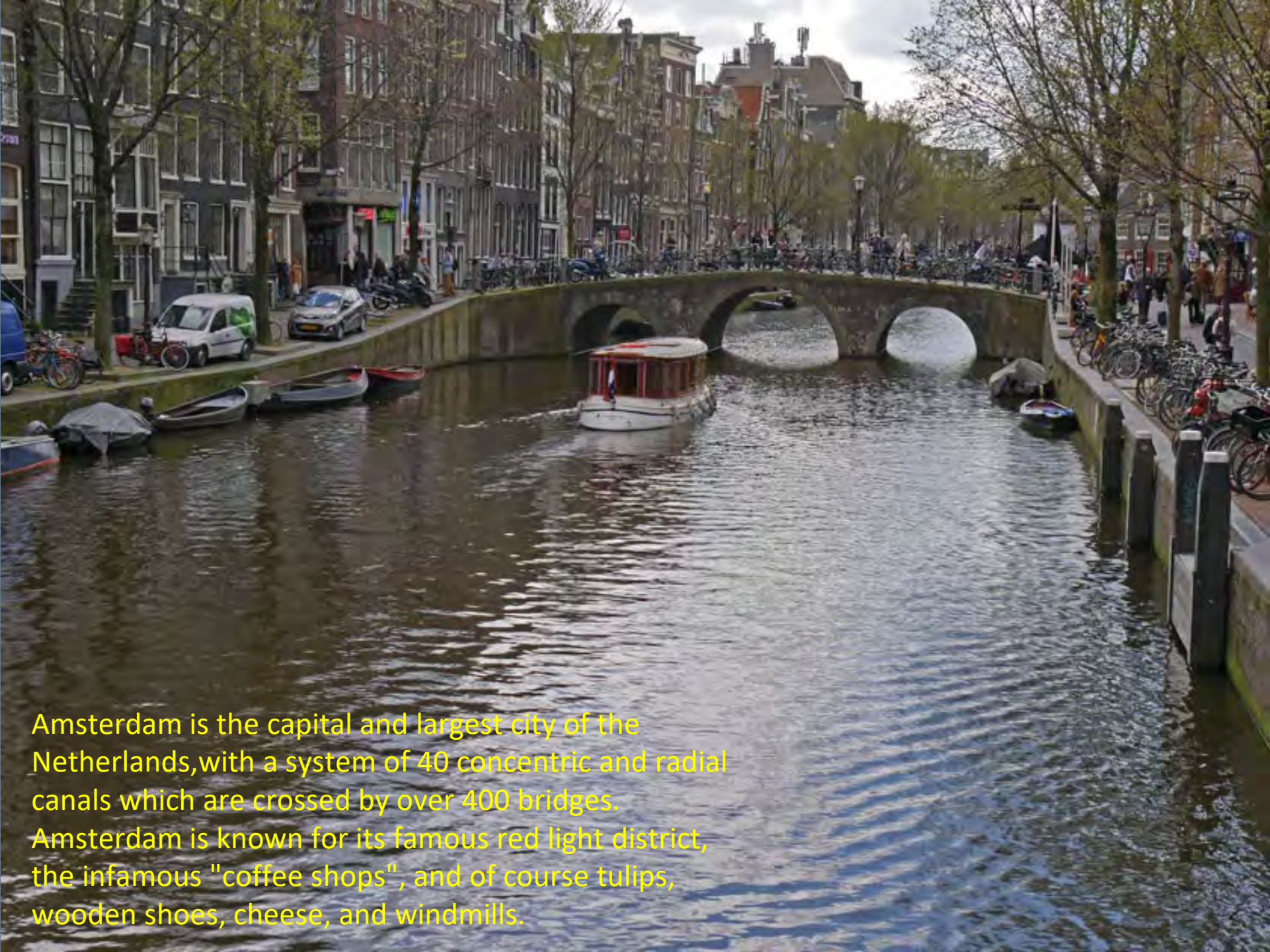Becky at Kinderdijk

Kinderdijk Windmill

Kinderdijk Windmill

Village of Kinderdijk Canal and Windmills

Kinderdijk Windmills

Kinderdijk Windmill

Amsterdam is the capital and largest city of the Netherlands,with a system of 40 concentric and radial canals which are crossed by over 400 bridges. Amsterdam is known for its famous red light district, the infamous "coffee shops", and of course tulips, wooden shoes, cheese, and windmills.

Amsterdam Canal Scene

Amsterdam Canal Scene

Entrance to Rijksmuseum - Amsterdam

Rembrandt's "The Night Watch"

Main Train Station - Amsterdam

Royal Palace on Dam Square

Royal Palace on Dam Square - Clock Tower

Basilica of St. Nicholas - Amsterdam

The Oude Kerk - Amsterdam

Nieuwekirk - Amsterdam

Sant' Egidio Church (Church of Moses and Aaron)

Kinderdijk Windmill

Kinderdijk Windmill