

## **Travelsuggestion for Quiche-Lorraine-Tour from/to Merzig, Saar**

### **Day 1: Merzig / Arrival**

Formalities take place between 2 and 6pm. Taking over of the boat follows, as soon as the technical preparations and cleaning are done with. A technician will explain to you the equipment and navigation on your boat.

### **Day 2: Merzig / Saarbrücken (46 km – 2 locks)**

“The valley of the Saar can only be described as delightful. Wooded slopes stretch until the shore. Sometime, a small vineyard, now and then a small village. Particularly worth mentioning: Saarburg, with a waterfall in the middle of the village, fortress ruins, the restored old town, connected to the Buttermarkt by a tunnel. Mettlach, on the border between Germany, Luxemburg and France, Merzig with a kids indoor park and an adventure pool directly next to the marina, Dillingen, the green industrial city, Saarlouis, named after Louis XIV who had a fortress constructed by his architect Vauban. Völklingen, which was nearly destroyed during the steel crisis, and of course the capital city of the Land, Saarbrücken, with a pedestrian zone that one must look a long time for”, writes Doris Stutter in a travel report on the internet (see below).

### **Day 3: Saarbrücken / Sarralbe (39 km – 11 locks)**

We recommend a walk through Saarbrücken. Fresh supplies can be bought on the market. In Sarreguemines, the Saar-Kohlen canal (in French, Canal des Houillères de la Sarre) begins. In Sarralbe, the canal crosses the river Albe by the means of a canal bridge, which served as a model for the canal bridge of Briare.

### **Day 4: Sarralbe / Gondrexange (41 km – 20 locks)**

Past Harskirchen, you will navigate nearly solely through deciduous forests. In Mittersheim, there are good bathing opportunities in the lake which carries the same name, as well as in Etang de Stock or in the Gondrexange lake. You will spend your night in Gondrexange. Shopping opportunities, restaurants.

### **Day 5: Gondrexange / Lutzelbourg (28 km – 3 locks, 1 ship lift, 2 tunnels)**

Passage through both tunnels, ship lift of Arzviller. The landscape then changes, you will again be in a deep valley surrounded by pink granite stone. Soon, the castle towers of Lutzelbourg will appear.

Lutzelbourg is a picturesque village, which origin goes all the way back to the 12th century, as shown by the castle ruins dated from this period that stand on the 230 meters-high hill. Besides, Lutzelbourg is famous for its traditional crystal ware factory, Cristallerie Wurm. Bakeries, grocery stores and restaurants are available.

**Day 6: Lutzelbourg / Héming (25 km – 3 locks, 1 ship lift, 2 tunnels)**

After 3 locks, you will soon reach the ship lift of Arzviller, followed by 2 tunnels. The landscape changes into rich green meadows and fruit orchards. You will pass Niderviller, famous for its ceramics factory, and Xouaxange, a beautiful village with a worth-seeing church and castle ruins. You can spend the night there (restaurant available), or you can continue to the village of Héming, 2km away (mooring spot, restaurant).

**Day 7: Héming / Parroy (36 km – 10 locks)**

Past Grondexange you will navigate between lakes that feed the canal. The lake Le Petit Etang offers good bathing opportunities (sand beaches). With a total height of 15.4 meters, the lock of Réchicourt is the second biggest in France. A thrilling experience! From Parroy, an expedition to the castle of Lunéville is worth making.

**Day 8: Parroy / Nancy (36 km – 11 locks)**

Nancy is indisputably the one of the summits of the journey, although you must make a halt before Nancy in St.-Nicolas-de-Port. The basilica, with its big belfry, is worth seeing. If you like beer, you can have a beer tasting at the brewery museum. Nancy comprises the beautiful marine Saint-George, located in the city centre, from which the worth-seeing centre and the Place Stanislas can be reached within less than 5 minutes. The Place Stanislas, the Place de la Carrière and the Place de l'Hémicycle are all part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites since 1938. Nancy was at the centre of Art Nouveau, which can be seen in the Art Nouveau museum. If you are in Lorraine for the first time, you must absolutely try the famous Mirabelle liquor and cake, as well as the no less famous Quiche-Lorraine.

**Day 9: Nancy / Pont-à-Mousson (28 km – 4 locks)**

Approx. 6km away from Nancy, the canal joins the river Moselle. You will navigate partly on the river, partly on the canal. Pont-à-Mousson offers good mooring opportunities, such as a marina. The old town, on the left bank of the canal, is very lively. Pont-à-Mousson is also famous for the abbey of the Prémontrés (on the right bank).

**Day 10: Pont-à-Mousson / Metz (30 km – 2 locks)**

In Jouy-aux-Arches, you will find the ruins of a roman aqueduct. The marina of Matz is very convenient. Metz has a lot to offer: the old town, the cathedral with its stained-glass windows from Chagall, many worth-seeing museums (like the newly opened branch of the Parisian Pompidou museum). Traces of its German past are present on many buildings. Directly next to the port, the park Jardin des Régates calls for a walk around the swan lake.

**Day 11: Metz / Thionville (29km – 4 locks)**

Between Metz and Thionville, the landscape is partly shaped by industry: old blast furnaces are remnants of the 19th century industrial revolution. Some were declared historical monuments. Amnéville-les-Thermes offers an extensive range of leisure activities: zoo, motorcycle and bicycle museum, golf course, casino. In Thionville, impressive architecture awaits you: the 1907 post office, the Lycée Charlemagne, the imperial elite school of engineers, the cloister of St. Claire from the 17th century.

**Day 12: Thionville / Schwebsange (Luxemburg) (31km – 2 locks)**

Sierck-les-Bains shines through its castle, from which one has a very beautiful view over the horseshoe bends of the Moselle. Shortly after Apach, you will reach Luxemburg and the city of Schengen, known because of the Schengen Agreement. The Moselle marks the frontier between Luxemburg and Germany. In the small and picturesque village of Schwebsange, you can visit the open-air museum. On the first weekend of September, the traditional wine festival takes place: instead of water, cheap wine flows from the fountain in front of the church.

**Day 13: Schwebsange / Saarburg (48 km – 3 locks)**

The Saar is the biggest tributary of the Moselle, and unfairly stands in its shadow. It is at least as beautiful as the Moselle, if not more, as some say! Under the old fortress of Saarburg lies the idyllic small town of Saarburg, across and on the Saar, surrounded by vineyards and forests. The 20 meters-high waterfall of Leukbach in the middle of city is a particularly impressive spectacle. A chair lift carries strollers without effort to the forests overlooking the city. Saarburg has a marina that is the starting point for many boats during high season.

**Day 14: Saarburg / Merzig (33km – 2 locks)**

During Saarburg and Merzig, you will navigate through vineyards. The marina of Merzig offers moorage rental. Merzig is worth seeing: the Romanesque church St. Peter shows the history of the village. The Feinmechanisches Museum Fellenbergmühle depicts the times of the industrial revolution very well.

**We recommend that you take 3 weeks to do this thrilling tour with its many attractions. Because of strong demand from our customers, we have laid out the route proposal for this wonderful tour on 2 weeks.**