



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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Rhineland Tour - Germany (Years 9 and 10 studying GCSE German) Sunday 14th – Wednesday 17th July 2024

July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

We are very pleased to launch a new visit for pupils studying German to explore the Rhineland. The trip will take place in the area around Bonn and Cologne (Köln) in Germany. We have been able to secure a very competitive price for next summer with [Connect Studies](#), however this is provisional on booking and paying deposits in September 2023.

This full and varied programme will take place over four days (see the itinerary below), and we feel this is a worthwhile and valuable linguistic and cultural experience, which would give pupils a chance to visit this fascinating region of Germany and also have the opportunity to put their language skills into action.

Proposed Itinerary (may be subject to minor alterations):

Day 1 – Sunday 14th July 2024 – 07.00 Depart School by Coach

- [DFDS Ferry](#) crossing to Dunkirk with meal on board
- Onward journey to Bonn and arrival at our accommodation
- [DJH Youth Hostel Bonn - Offers + more - North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany](#)
- Dinner and Quiz

Day 2 – Monday 15th July 2024 – Cologne (Köln) & Bonn

- After breakfast, we will depart for a day sightseeing in Cologne and Bonn.
- In Bonn, we will spend time at the [History Museum](#) before free time shopping in the pedestrian area **or** a visit to [Beethoven House](#).
- We shall then head for Cologne and look at the [Cathedral](#) before heading to the [Lindt chocolate factory](#).
- Evening meal at 18.00 - a Schnitzel at [Kleine Glocke](#)

Day 3 – Tuesday 16th July 2024 – Koblenz & The Rhine

- After breakfast, we will head to [Koblenz](#) for a ride on the cable car and a short visit to the [Deutsches Eck](#) (the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle rivers) where we will have [Spaghettiseeis](#) before rejoining our coach.
- Onwards for a guided visit to the [Marksburg castle](#).
- The group will then enjoy a [Rhine river cruise](#) from Saint Goarshausen to Kaub, viewing the [Burg Rheinfels](#) the [Loreley](#) rock and the [Burg Maus](#) and [Burg Katz](#) en route to [Rudesheim](#).
- Continuing by coach to [Rudesheim](#), the group will complete a town trail. Option to go to the [Niederwalddenkmal](#) by chair lift.
- Return to the accommodation and evening meal.

Day 4 – Wednesday 17th July 2024 – Phantasialand & return

- After breakfast, we will check out of the hostel and leave by German coach for [Phantasialand](#).
- Finally, we will leave Germany for the journey to Dunkirk (stopping en route for food) and arriving at school at approximately 11.00pm.

The cost of the 4 day, 3 night visit (assuming no significant change in the exchange rate), will be **£550*** based on a minimum of 25 pupils participating. This will cover travel by an air-conditioned coach throughout, return crossings by DFDS ferry, three night's board and accommodation (i.e. bed in an ensuite dormitory for BHGS pupils only, continental breakfast, packed lunch** and evening meal) and insurance for the whole period of the trip. A small amount of pocket money is advised for additional snacks, drinks or small souvenirs.

* The final per capita cost may be reduced if more than 25 pupils participate.

**Excluding lunch at the *Phantasialand* theme park.

All pupils travelling will need and will have to have their **own passport**. Please apply for, or renew your child's passport as soon as possible to avoid any last minute problems. Passports should be valid for at least 6 months

after the return date of the trip. **Any pupil travelling on a non-UK passport is responsible for obtaining any additional travel documents required.**

In order to be considered for a place on this residential trip, please complete the slip below and pay a non-refundable deposit of £100 (#see below). This is required by Friday 23rd September 2024 to secure the competitive price of the trip. The balance of the residential trip is payable in 2 further instalments. Alternatively the total cost of the trip can be paid in full.

- i) A **£100** initial non-refundable deposit by **Friday 23rd September 2023**
- ii) A further £150 by **Friday 24th November 2023**
- iii) A further £150 by **Friday 1th March 2024**
- iv) The balance of £150 to be paid by **Friday 4rd May 2024** (may be less - see above*)
- # Payments accepted via Wisepay as from 4th September only

This is an optional residential trip and unless sufficient pupils subscribe to cover costs (minimum 25), the trip will not take place. Please make payment of the deposit or full amount via WisePay by **Friday 23rd September 2023**. 50% of the cost of the trip will automatically be met by the school for pupils in receipt of free school meals.

Please note there are limited places available based on the coach capacity. *Only those pupils for whom we have received parent/carer permission and payment of deposit/full amount via WisePay by the deadline of Friday 23rd September 2023 will be considered for a place. **If pupil numbers exceed the number of places available, then a ballot will be held.** Those unsuccessful in the ballot will receive a full refund and be given priority for any subsequent MFL trips offered.* If we do not receive payment via WisePay by Friday 23rd September 2023, we will assume that you do **not** wish your child to be considered for a place.

If you would like your child to participate, please copy and paste the slip below, completing the necessary details and send it by email to rtaylor@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk by **Wednesday 19th July**. **No payment is required at this stage.** If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via the same email address.

Yours sincerely,

RJ Taylor, *Head of MFL Faculty*

RHINELAND TRIP - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - Return by Wednesday 19th July 2023

Pupil's full name	
Current Tutor Group (8 or 9)	
Parent's full name and contact email	
	<i>I would like my child to participate in the Rhineland Trip as detailed in the letter (July 2023)</i>

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Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School Terms and Conditions for Residential Trips:

Participation in residential trips is dependent on:

- Pupil of attendance of above 95% unless the absence is authorised by the school;
- An outstanding level of behaviour.

In the unlikely event that your child is unable to go on the trip due to illness, or any other insured event, supporting evidence will need to be submitted to the school Finance Office so that an insurance claim can be made.

If an amount for cancellation/amendment is charged by the Travel Company this will be deducted from any refund paid.

If your child **chooses to withdraw** from the trip for any other reason, a refund will only be possible if another pupil is able to take her place. An administration fee may be deducted to effect the change of name.

In the instance where a trip with limited spaces is oversubscribed a ballot for places will take place and be supervised by a member of the leadership team.

Failure to adhere to the payment schedule may result in your child being withdrawn from the trip.

Travel Documentation and Brexit:

We recommend that you review the [latest Government advice](#) regarding Brexit. Connect Studies information can be found [here](#). Please ensure that your child has a valid passport and/or visa. Any non-British Passport holders need to check with their own Embassy for validity and any additional visas required for them to be able to travel. Requirements may change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure.

GHIC (Global Health Insurance Card) - It is a requirement that all participants have a valid GHIC and can prove this before departure. An application can be made online [here](#).

Insurance:

The school has a bespoke insurance policy for trips of this nature, a copy of which can be made available on request.

General Health Requirements:

Details of any compulsory health requirements applicable to British citizens for the tour are shown www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice. You should note that covid-19 regulations are subject to change, and it is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of all compulsory and recommended vaccinations and health requirements (whether relating to Covid-19 or otherwise) in good time before departure. Details are also available from your GP surgery and from the National Travel Health Network and Centre www.nathnac.org Information on health is contained in the Department of Health leaflet T7 (Health Advice for Travellers) available from the Department of Health by telephone on 0870 1555455 or via its website www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care and from most Post Offices.

For tours in the EU / EEA you should obtain a **Global Health Insurance Card - GHIC** ([Apply for a UK Global Health Insurance Card \(GHIC\) - GOV.UK](#)) prior to departure from the Department of Health on the NHS website. As stated, health requirements and recommendations may change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure.

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