## CASTLE REFERENCE GUIDE

580

This Viking guide lists kilometer signs along the river to help you identify castles as we cruise the Middle Rhine.

km marker	Castle/Fortress Name	Built (est.)
592	Ehrenbreitstein	1000
584	Lahneck	1244
585	Stolzenfels	1242
580	Marksburg	1117
566	Sterrenberg	1190
566	Liebenstein	1284
558	Maus	1353
556	Rheinfels	1245
555	Katz	1371
549	Schönburg	966
546	Gutenfels	1220
545	Pfalzgrafenstein	1326
543	Stahleck	1135
539	Nollig	1300
539	Heimburg	1294
537	Sooneck	1271
534	Reichenstein	1100
533	Rheinstein	1316
530	Mouse Tower	1298
530	Ehrenfels	1212
526	Klopp	1277

Marksburg Castle
Front cover: Stahleck Castle
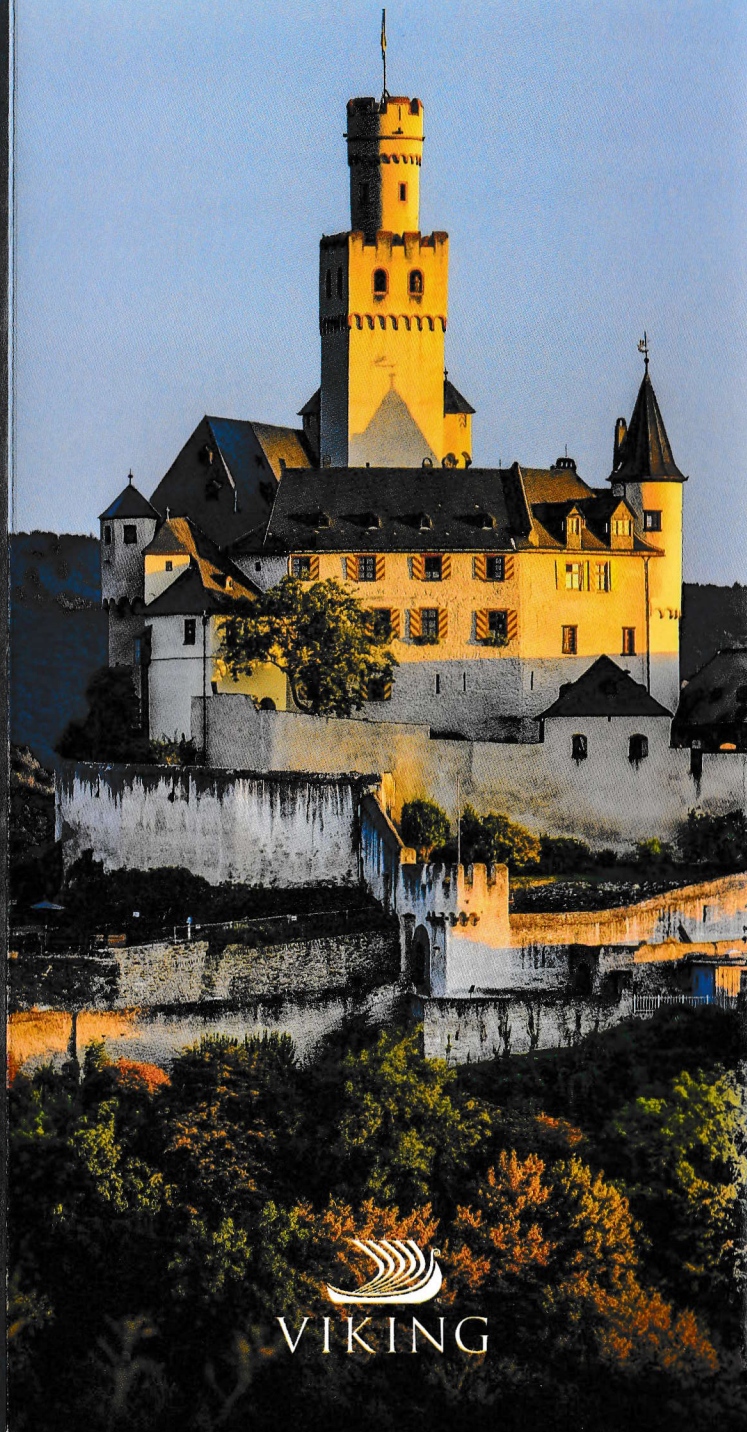
VIKING

CASTLES

OF THE
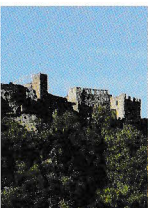
MIDDLE RHINE
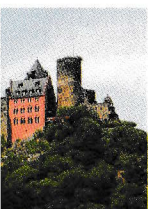
VIKING
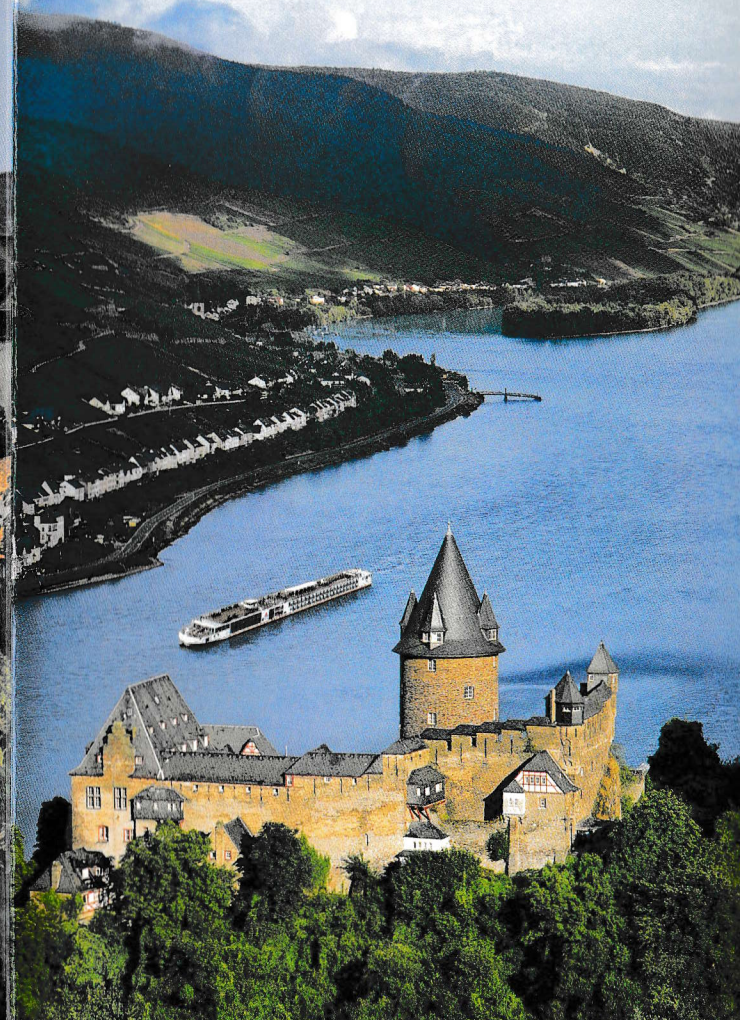
CASTLES ON THE LEFT BANK

km 585
STOLZENFELS CASTLE
A 19th-century Prussian king rebuilt this charming 13th-century castle, which features works of the Rhine Romantic period.

km 556
RHEINFELS CASTLE
High on a cliff above the Rhine, perch the ruins of a mighty 13th-century fortress. Today, this castle is home to a hotel and museum.
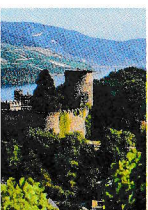

km 549
SCHÖNBURG CASTLE
Built in 966 and burned by French troops in 1689, this reconstructed castle combines three medieval fortresses and towers with a renowned hotel and restaurant.
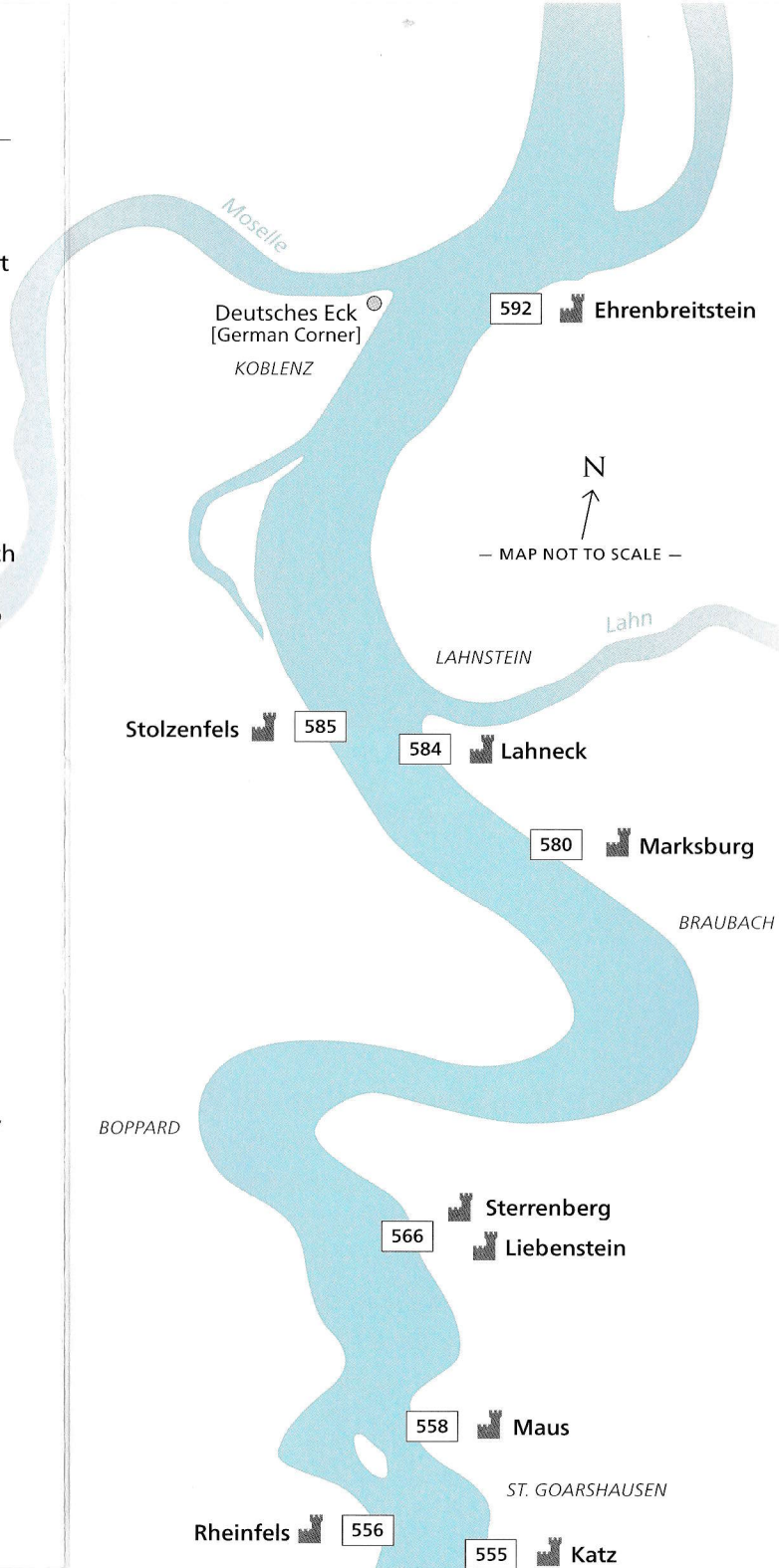

km 543
STAHLECK CASTLE
This 12th-century castle, repeatedly attacked during 17th-century wars, lay in ruins for 237 years. Rebuilt in 1909, it now houses a youth hostel.
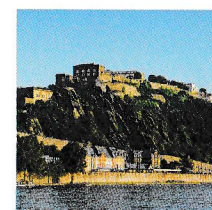

km 539
HEIMBURG CASTLE
This 13th-century castle, destroyed under Louis XIV and rebuilt in the 19th century, presents an imposing neo-Gothic style and square layout.
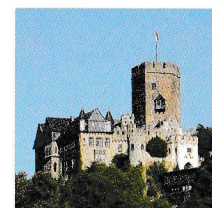
CASTLES ON THE RIGHT BANK

km 592
EHRENBREITSTEIN FORTRESS
The Rhine and the Moselle converge below this formidable fortress built by the Prussians which was once the strongest in Europe.
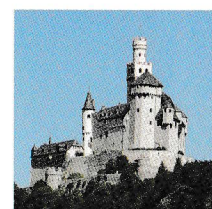

km 586
LAHNECK CASTLE
Originally built in 1244, Lahneck portrays medieval life through its furnishings and portraits in the chapel, knight's hall and servants' kitchen.


km 580
MARKSBURG CASTLE
This structure, beautifully preserved through the ages, attracts visitors who want to experience a medieval castle with its distinctive free-standing tower.
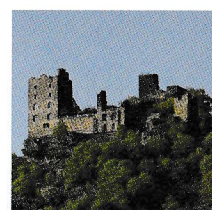

km 566
STERRENBERG CASTLE
This 12th-century castle shared a defensive wall with Liebenstein Castle, and is still known as one of the two "Hostile Brothers"—a relic from a 16th-century story of their rivalry.
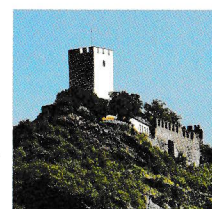
km 566
LIEBENSTEIN CASTLE
Built in the 13th century, Liebenstein is the highest castle on the Middle Rhine. Its tower now contains a restaurant and hotel.

Map

Moselle

Deutsches Eck [German Corner]

KOBLENZ

592 Ehrenbreitstein

N

— MAP NOT TO SCALE —

Lahn

LAHNSTEIN

Stolzenfels 585

584 Lahneck

580 Marksburg

BRAUBACH

BOPPARD

Sterrenberg
566 Liebenstein

558 Maus

ST. GOARSHAUSEN

Rheinfels 556

555 Katz

km 537

SOONECK CASTLE

Sooneck's romantic style dates to 1834, when the crown prince of Prussia rebuilt it. The central tower is an impressive sight along the Rhine.

km 534

REICHENSTEIN CASTLE

Also called Falkenburg, Reichenstein is a stunning example of neo-Gothic reconstruction. Its collection of porcelain, furniture and weapons spans five centuries.

km 533

RHEINSTEIN CASTLE

This romantic 14th-century castle features a drawbridge, ivy-covered battlements and spectacular views of the Rhine.

km 530

MOUSE TOWER

This former toll tower built on an island, served as a shipping signal station until 1974. According to legend, mice ate an archbishop imprisoned here.


km 526

KLOPP CASTLE

A modified and rebuilt castle dating back to the 13th century, Klopp Castle occupies the site of a former Roman fortress.

ST. GOAR

Lorelei

OBERWESEL

Schönburg 549

KAUB

546 Gutenfels

545 Pfalzgrafenstein

Stahleck 543

BACHARACH

Heimburg 539 Nollig

LORCH

Sooneck 537

Reichenstein 534

Rheinstein 533

Mouse Tower 530

Ehrenfels

Niederwald Monument

Nahe

BINGEN

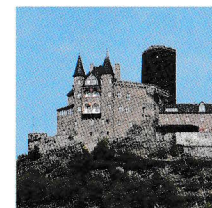RÜDESHEIM

Klopp 526

km 558

MAUS CASTLE

Dubbed "Mouse Castle" by the counts of the larger Katz Castle, this restored complex boasts splendid architectural features and abundant medieval charm.
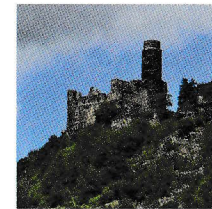
km 555

KATZ CASTLE

A familiar presence on the Rhine since the 14th century, Katz Castle was heavily damaged by Napoleon's forces in 1806 and rebuilt in the Victorian era.

km 545 / 546

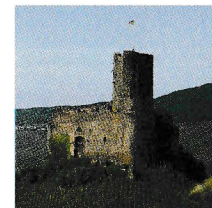## PFALZGRAFENSTEIN & GUTENFELS CASTLES

Known as "the Pfalz," this toll station and the nearby Gutenfels Castle together made for a formidable toll stop on the Rhine.
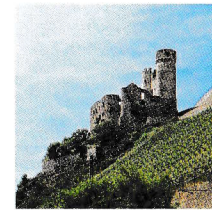

km 539

NOLLIG CASTLE

Dating from 1300, these ruins above the river were never a true castle but part of fortifications for the town of Lorch am Rhein.


km 530

EHRENFELS CASTLE

This picturesque 13th-century castle surrounded by ancient vineyards, keeps watch over the narrow Rhine Valley.

CASTLES OF THE MIDDLE RHINE

peckled with medieval castles, ancient owns and verdant vineyards first begun y the Romans, the 40-mile stretch of the hine River between Koblenz and Bingen not just stunningly alluring, it is also a NESCO World Heritage Site. Today, as ou sail past the steep hillsides that climb rom the river, you will see many castles long the heights—each strategically placed to maximize its defensive position. Remarkably, there are more than 28 castles, each seemingly more picturesque than the last. Their fairy-tale presence today makes for wonderful photo opportunities, but in centuries past these castles enabled feudal lords to control trade along the river—a vital "highway" since the beginning of time.
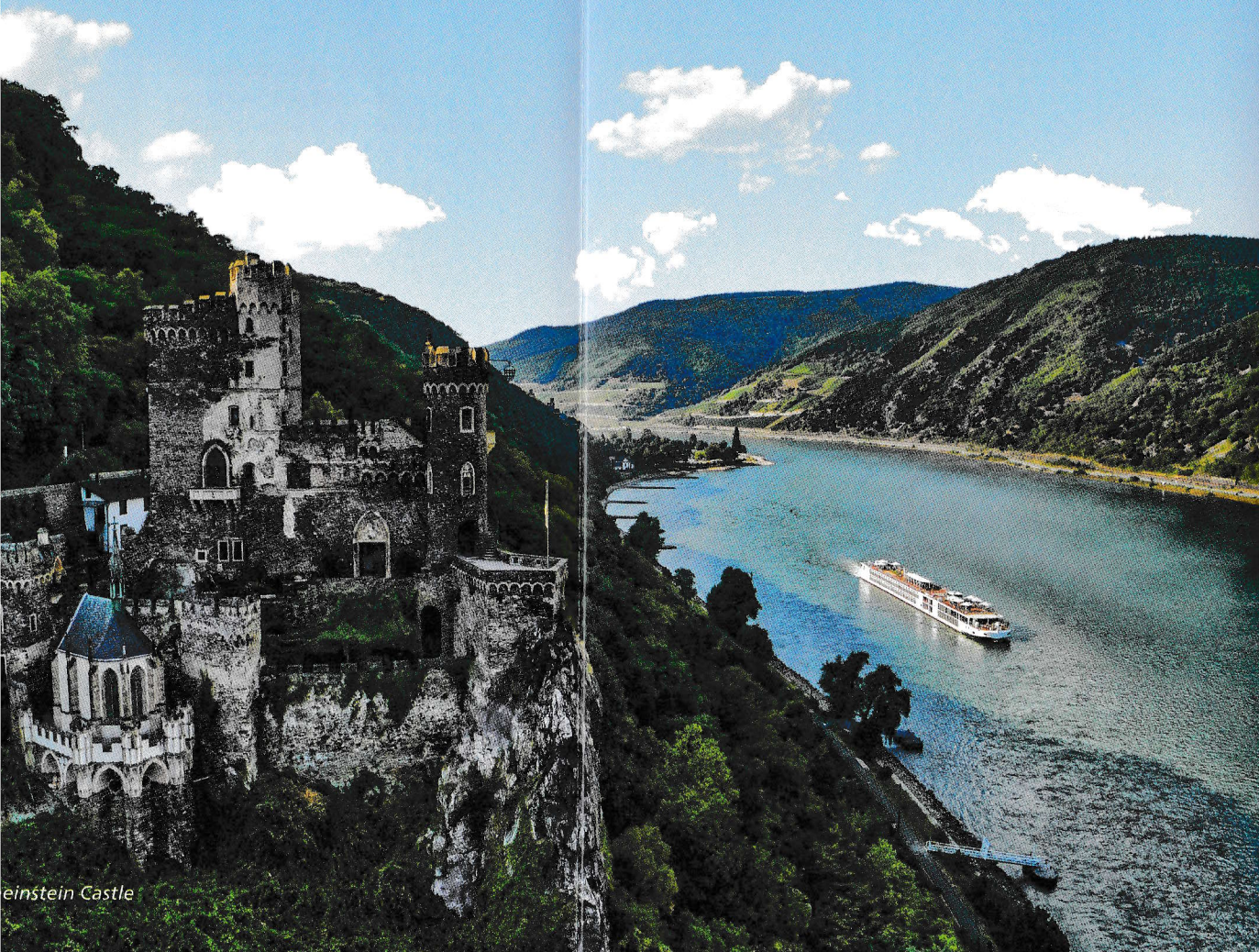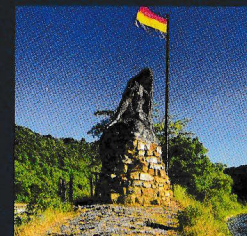
einstein Castle

TOP SIGHTS OF THE MIDDLE RHINE

The Middle Rhine counts many famous historic sights. These three can easily be seen from the river:
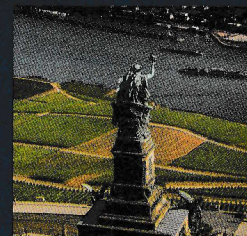
LORELEI

This rock was made famous in the story of a maiden who—betrayed by her lover—committed suicide by leaping into the Rhine and became a siren, who lured sailors to their deaths.

NIEDERWALD MONUMENT

An impressive statue of Germania crowns this memorial to the rebirth of the German Empire after the Franco-Prussian War (1870–1871).

DEUTSCHES ECK

The "German Corner" monument at Koblenz features an imposing statue of Kaiser Wilhelm I, honoring his 1871 unification of Germany.