

# Navigate

CRUISE INSPIRATION | WINTER 2025



## Where will you set sail to in 2025?

Lucy has just booked a 10-night Med cruise.  
Let us help you get that just booked feeling too!

SIX REASONS TO CRUISE • MINI CRUISES • RIVER VS OCEAN CRUISING

SAIL AROUND



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\*Terms and conditions apply. Based on 4529N.

# Welcome to your 2025 Winter issue of Navigate magazine



We have European classics to far-flung destinations, sustainable cruise lines making waves and thrilling Arctic expeditions – there's an itinerary to suit every taste and, in this issue of Navigate we have just about covered it all. No matter where and when you choose to set sail, there's something really special about that 'just booked' feeling and the excitement that comes with it. Those holiday daydreams can begin; whether you're doing the supermarket shop, waiting for your dentist appointment or on the train to work, it'll bring an immediate hit of anticipation and relief that a break from the everyday is coming up. In this issue of Navigate, we certainly hope that we can help you choose your next adventure so you can experience that 'just booked' feeling we all love. Read on to find out about what's in store in this issue...

Navigate magazine is your gateway to the unparalleled experiences cruise lines offer. Indulge in fine dining, world-class entertainment, luxurious spas, and so much more. As cruise experts, we're here to equip you with everything you need to know – ensuring you get the most value for your money and a cruise holiday that ticks all the boxes.

In this issue of Navigate, we share first-hand accounts of family fun cruises to the Caribbean as well as short first-time cruising escapes. You'll also find expert recommendations on the best expedition cruises for wildlife enthusiasts, three mini cruises perfect for testing the waters, and six compelling reasons to take the plunge if you've never cruised before. Plus, we highlight one of the hottest river cruise destinations of the year! With each page, you will discover an array of possibilities that the world of cruising has to offer you for 2025 and beyond.

We're thrilled to embark on this journey with you and can't wait to help you plan your next cruising adventure so you can get that 'just booked' feeling!



**P18**  
Cruise Lines Making a Big Impact

## DID YOU KNOW?

We're a member of The Advantage Travel Partnership, the UK's largest group of independently owned travel agents, meaning we have access to the widest choice of great value, financially protected holidays. So, whether you're looking for culture, adventure or relaxation, we are ideally placed to help you find your dream holiday.





# Family cruising

## WITH ROYAL CARIBBEAN



By Kelly Cookes



**Having been lucky enough to experience many fantastic ocean and river ships during my career in the travel industry, last Easter I decided that it was time to take the family on board for our first ever family cruise.**

As our first foray into the cruising world, we opted for a shorter sailing as a taster. Having a very energetic 7- and 5-year-old, on-board facilities, and in particular

lots of things aimed at younger children, was key. After much debate (and negotiation around the dining table), we decided to join Royal Caribbean's *Freedom of the Seas* for a 4-night sailing, from Miami, visiting CocoCay and Nassau.

The ship itself is impressive but it is the thought behind the design plus the service that really blew us away. We made the most of the activities available on board and spent time at the kids' splashzone, mini golf, climbing wall and sports courts. In fact, there was so much on offer that we didn't get the chance to try everything we wanted to. An excuse to go back for a longer cruise!



Entertainment was constant and varied enough that there was something to suit everyone. We loved the parade and the afternoon quizzes. We didn't use





*Perfect Day at CocoCay*

### PERFECT DAY AT COCOCAY

If any member of your party needs a wheelchair or a pushchair, ones with thick tyres that can go on the sand are available on the island – these are given on a first come, first served basis.

There are free trams that take you around the island. These go every 15 minutes and it takes 10 minutes to go around the full island.

Split your day and spend time in different areas rather than staying in one place. There are so many beautiful parts of the island.

Your drinks package works on the island and food is included. Our favourites were the mozzarella sticks and funnel cake. Maps are dotted around the island making everything easy to find.

South Beach is a great spot if you want to do activities as it has sports courts, ping pong and even a bar in the sea. You can also hire cabanas with slides!

Oasis Lagoon is another great spot – it is a huge zero-entry swimming pool to make it feel like a natural beach.

We finished the day at Jill's Galleon Pirate Ship play area with a cocktail in hand, watching the children play.

the children's club but it was huge with lots on offer, and I liked that there was time scheduled for families to do things together in the children's area as well – a really nice touch.

*“Our favourite dining spot was Chops Grille. The food and service were both excellent, with the waiter even designing a dish for my picky 7-year-old!”*

Giovanni's Italian Kitchen was another big hit. For a lunchtime snack, El Loca was also a firm favourite, serving Mexican food – and we managed a few slices of pizza at Sorrento's Pizza too.

One of the highlights of the trip for us was spending the day at Royal Caribbean's own island 'Perfect Day at CocoCay'. Make sure you take advantage of everything that the island has to offer by spending the full day here.

Needless to say that the cruise was a huge success and we are already planning our next one!

### LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT FAMILY CRUISE?

Royal Caribbean offers a wide range of itineraries across the world, suitable for all ages. Contact your local travel agent today to find out more.



*Explore time*

# The Caribbean calls...

Discover the breathtaking beauty of the Caribbean on a once-in-a-lifetime cruise adventure. MSC Cruises' luxurious Southern Caribbean cruises offer a seamless blend of relaxation and exploration. Setting sail from Barbados, you will wake up to a new destination every day, visiting iconic destinations such as St. Lucia, Antigua, the Grenadines and more. Whether you're seeking adventure, romance or pure relaxation, an MSC cruise promises an unforgettable experience.

## AMENITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT

MSC Virtuosa has five outstanding and unique pools, including one of the biggest and most intricate waterparks at sea. Enjoy fun new



Les Anses d'Arlet Bay, Martinique



Shirley Heights, Antigua

MSC Virtuosa

*Have you ever wondered how many islands are in the Caribbean? More than 700! Don't know where to start? MSC cruises' Southern Caribbean cruises are your ultimate tropical escape!*

experiences around the clock, from enriching indoor and outdoor activities during the day to magical night-time entertainment, including six different shows every week - a world of glamour and imagination, music and spectacle that moves and enthralls.

## EXCURSIONS

Can a day trip last a lifetime? With MSC's incredible range of shore excursions, they can. Whether you prefer adventure, nature, culture or history, MSC Cruises offers the chance to create lifelong memories. Excursions in St. Lucia offer something for everyone. Take a trolley train through the busy streets of the city of Castries. Cruise by catamaran to the Pitons for scenic views of Petit Piton and

Gros Piton, at an altitude of around 2,500 feet. Or breeze past banana plantations and visit picturesque Marigot Bay, named the most beautiful bay of the Caribbean by the late American novelist James Michener.

## GETTING THERE

Flying straight to paradise from Manchester or London to embark on a Caribbean adventure couldn't be easier. And for fans of MSC Virtuosa, she'll be sailing in the Caribbean both this winter and next winter.



Guadeloupe

## CAN YOU HEAR THE CARIBBEAN CALLING YOUR NAME?

If you answered yes, don't worry - you're not going mad; it tends to have that effect on people. Get in touch with us today to find out more or to book your Caribbean escape.





# Be one step ahead with no-fly cruising

Peel Entertainment

Welcome to Ambassador Cruise Line, Britain's authentic no-fly cruise line offering affordable quality and sailing from eight regional UK ports. When sailing with Ambassador, you'll enjoy breathtaking destinations, amazing West End-style entertainment, excellent service and outstanding cuisine, all for the best value.

But what does this mean? Well, you'll get a decent cup of tea, as well as a traditional afternoon tea, and great British entertainment - all served with the warmest of welcomes at an affordable price.

*Ambassador's sustainability efforts are supporting the next era of cruising, both with on-board improvements and charity partnerships.*

Ambassador's ships visit countries all around the world, leaving it up to you to decide when and where you want to enjoy yourself next.

Their first lady of the sea is *Ambience*. Derived from the French word for 'surrounding', the cruise

Ambassador's Fleet



line's ambition is to create the optimum atmosphere on board: one that brings out the best in each of us. The perfect ambience - sailing from London Tilbury.

Her sister, *Ambition*, is aptly named to further emphasise Ambassador's commitment to delight and inspire every guest to enjoy an authentic cruise experience effortlessly and sustainably. *Ambition* will sail from eight regional ports, including Bristol, Dundee, Portsmouth and Liverpool.

## ARE YOU READY TO ENJOY YOURSELF?

Contact us, your local travel agent, today to find out more or to book, and you'll soon find out why 94% of guests would recommend Ambassador.

Buckingham Restaurant





UP TO \$1,000<sup>USD</sup> ONBOARD CREDIT\*

OVER \$4,500 IN VALUE WITH ALWAYS AZAMARA INCLUSIONS

TO FIND OUT MORE OR TO BOOK, SPEAK WITH YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT

\*The \$1,000 USD Onboard Credit offer applies to new and individual bookings created before 31 March 2025. For full terms and conditions visit [Azamara.com](https://Azamara.com).  
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ALWAYS INCLUDED+



Variety of Dining Venues & 24-hour Room Service



Beer, Wine, and Spirits All Day & Night



Signature Astonishing Evenings



Unlimited Self-Service Laundry



Tips & Gratuities

ALWAYS EXPECTED+



Overnights & Extended Destination Days



Unique & Iconic Destinations



No Heels, No Crowds



Warm & Attentive Service

## Adventure awaits...

Sail All Inclusive with Marella Cruises, and **Live Happy** in legendary locations like Sicily and St Lucia.

MARELLA CRUISES



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Marella Cruises' terms and conditions apply. ABTA No: Y6722 and ATOL No: 11878.



# Experience the best of both worlds

What if we told you that, for your next adventure, you don't have to choose between a relaxing ocean cruise or a thrilling escorted tour over land because, with Wendy Wu Tours, you can enjoy both in one unforgettable trip!

A cruise and tour holiday with Wendy Wu Tours combines the very best of the world's ocean cruises with award-winning touring itineraries to create truly remarkable getaways. Their fully inclusive touring ethos, where everything is taken care of, is the perfect match for a carefree voyage to exotic corners of the world.

Working with renowned cruise lines such as Royal Caribbean, Azamara and Celebrity, Wendy Wu Tours has curated unique journeys that weave together inspirational

cruise itineraries with their most popular tours to Asia and beyond, providing you with the best of both worlds.

Where the ocean ends, Wendy Wu Tours begin. Connecting seamlessly with your cruise, the land element of your holiday will take you to the places cruise ships simply cannot reach.



Singapore



## WHAT'S INCLUDED

On a Wendy Wu Cruise & Tour holiday, everything is included, beginning with return flights from the UK and all connecting transfers. Cruises include outside or balcony staterooms, dining, drinks and on-board entertainment, whilst your land touring includes 4\* hotels, all meals, an expert guide, and all daily touring and entrance fees.



Taj Mahal, India



Great Wall of China



Fushimi Inari Shrine, Japan

*Fully escorted by Wendy Wu Tours' famous National Escorts, you'll see iconic attractions and hidden gems, all whilst immersing yourself in the local culture.*

## READY TO EXPLORE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS?

If the idea of a combination holiday is sending your excitement levels into overdrive like it does ours, get in touch today and we can start planning the perfect cruise and touring holiday in your dream destination.

### LIMITED OFFER

Choose from some of Asia's hottest destinations for your cruise and tour holiday, including China, Japan, India, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Singapore, or head further afield for an adventure in Southern Africa. Book by 28 February and choose Partner Flies Free or 50% off solo airfares.



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UP  
TO **35%**  
OFF

1ST & 2ND GUEST\*

+ UP TO **£200 OFF FLIGHTS\***

+ **BOOKING FLEXIBILITY\***

A man and a woman are smiling and laughing in the foreground. The man is wearing sunglasses and a dark shirt, and the woman is wearing a blue shirt. They are standing in front of a large, ornate mosque with multiple minarets and a large dome. A palm tree is visible to the right of the couple. The background is a clear blue sky.

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL  
AGENT TO BOOK OR FIND OUT MORE**





# Magical Mediterranean cruises to remember

*Mykonos, Greece*

**Embark on your very own Mediterranean adventure directly from Southampton or soak up the region's magical highlights on a Fly-Cruise. Home to some of the oldest cities in the world, the rich history of the Mediterranean is beyond compare.**

Walk in the footsteps of gladiators, explore ancient archaeological sites, and revel in the tranquillity of islands where life seems to move at an altogether slower pace.

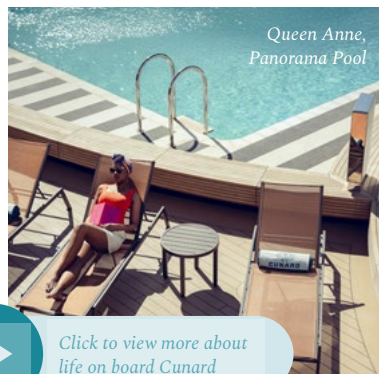
There are a range of itineraries to choose from, with some including overnight stays in Istanbul, sipping on rich Turkish coffee or getting lost in bazaars filled with colourful pottery, fabrics and sweet treats. Nestled in eastern Italy, close to the border with Slovenia, Trieste

brings a chance to explore Italian, Slovenian and Austro-Hungarian influences, especially in the medieval old city. Explore ancient Roman ruins in Croatia, and gaze in awe at Gaudi's unmissable Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, the spires of which are an iconic sight on the city's skyline.

In Rome's 'Eternal City', the Colosseum and Vatican City are just two of the historical highlights



*Vatican City, Rome, Italy*



*Queen Anne,  
Panorama Pool*



*Click to view more about  
life on board Cunard*

worthy of a visit. Naples, meanwhile, brings the wonders of Pompeii, and Pisa's leaning tower is easily accessed on a tour from Livorno. Selected voyages also offer the opportunity to transit the Messina Strait or stop in Cagliari to admire its beautiful hilltop Castello.

Then of course there are the Greek islands of Cephalonia, Corfu, Mykonos and Santorini, where the sea seems to glint an otherworldly shade of blue. These, together with the Balearic Islands of Mallorca and Ibiza, are sure to inspire lasting holiday memories.

## READY TO SET SAIL?

The Mediterranean cruises available are vast and unique, and we're positive we can find the right one for you that ticks all the boxes. Get in touch today and start planning your next Mediterranean cruise with Cunard.

# Set sail on a Spring adventure

Discover the magic of Greece and the Adriatic this spring with a fly-stay and cruise holiday that promises endless azure seas, historic ports and unforgettable memories.

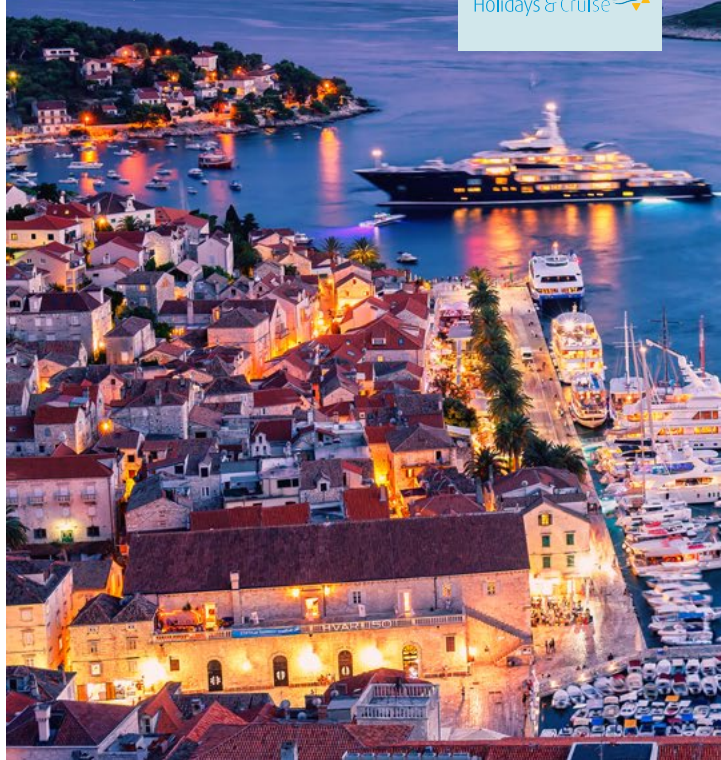
## GREECE AND THE ADRIATIC

Cruising in Greece and the Adriatic offers a unique way to explore this enchanting region. With a cruise, you unpack once and wake up to a new destination every day, effortlessly hopping between Greece's idyllic islands and the Adriatic's picturesque ports. From the breathtaking caldera views of Santorini to the charming Venetian architecture of Kotor, cruising allows you to experience the highlights of these coastal gems without the hassle of coordinating transport, hotels or multiple connections.

## BENEFITS OF CRUISING IN SPRING

Spring is the perfect time to sail through Greece and the Adriatic, offering several advantages over the busier summer months. For

*Hvar Harbour with Pakleni Islands at dusk, Croatia*



starters, you'll enjoy better prices, making your dream fly-stay and cruise more affordable. The milder weather is another major perk – pleasant temperatures and gentle breezes create the ideal environment for exploring ancient ruins, relaxing on deck or strolling

around picturesque ports without the intense summer heat. Plus, with fewer tourists, you'll have a more intimate and authentic experience of these iconic destinations, from uncrowded beaches to leisurely sightseeing in charming villages.

Back on board, you can enjoy fantastic accommodations, excellent dining options and a variety of entertainment, ensuring every moment of your journey is unforgettable.

## PRE- AND POST-CRUISE STAYS, TRANSFERS AND EXCURSIONS

With help from our friends at Advantage Holidays & Cruise, we can expertly curate packages to make your adventure truly seamless, blending the

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Advantage  
Holidays & Cruise 

*Santorini, Greece*







*Perast at Bay of  
Kotor, Montenegro*

unparalleled experience of cruising with thoughtful planning that ensures every detail is covered. We can source premium pre-cruise accommodations and smooth airport transfers to personalised itineraries tailored to your interests. Whether you're seeking cultural immersion, natural beauty or pure relaxation, we can provide the perfect balance of adventure and ease.

#### **READY TO SET SAIL THIS SPRING?**

This spring, escape the ordinary and embrace the extraordinary with a cruise through the stunning Greek Isles and Adriatic coastline. Visit or call us to start planning today and let the adventure begin!





# Australia by land and sea: A cruise like no other

Whitehaven Beach, Whitsunday Island



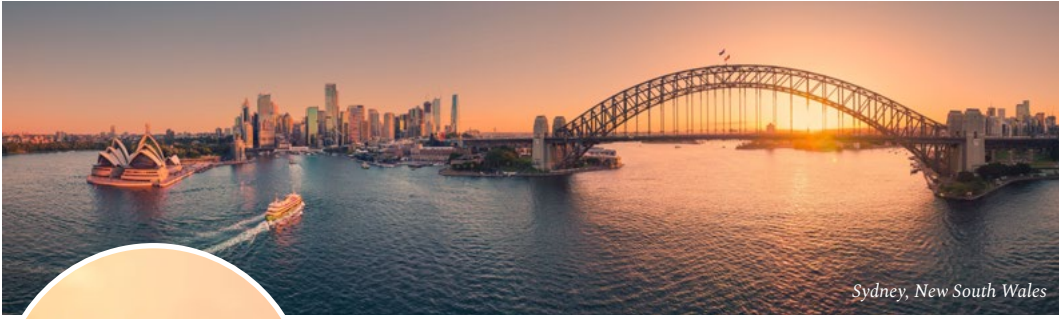
*Emma Gorge, El Questro  
Wilderness Park*

A country so vast and diverse that you may find you hardly know where to start – enter the magic of cruise! Ready-made luxury itineraries await, blending natural beauty, vibrant marine life and rich cultural experiences. Set sail alongside the modern masterpiece that is the Sydney Opera House and head out to discover remarkable reefs, ancient Aboriginal lands and remote wilderness regions – cruising offers an unparalleled way to explore everything there is on offer Down Under. And the best part? These journeys bring you right to Australia's doorstep, combining ease, adventure and luxury.

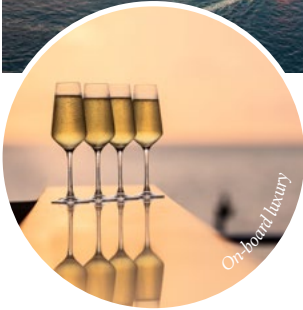
## **DIVE INTO ADVENTURE: THE EAST COAST'S HIDDEN WONDERS**

Australia's east coast has a lot to love, with the Great Barrier Reef and the idyllic Whitsunday Islands just waiting to be explored. Cruises like Scenic's Auckland to Cairns itinerary on *Eclipse II* allow travellers to experience this marine paradise in style. As a smaller vessel, it means you'll get intimate access to hidden coves, pristine reefs and less crowded destinations. After a





Sydney, New South Wales



On-board luxury

long day discovering the wonders under the water, you'll return to *Eclipse II* to enjoy on-board luxury, with fine dining aplenty, live entertainment and wellness facilities ready to pamper you.

### INTO THE OUTBACK: EXPLORING THE UNTAMED KIMBERLEY

The Kimberley region, in Australia's north-west, is truly a wild frontier – renowned for its dramatic landscapes, ancient cultural heritage and incredible biodiversity. Seabourn's Broome to Darwin luxury all-inclusive expedition cruise provides exclusive access to this remote wilderness. On board, you'll enjoy personalised service

whilst embarking on Zodiac tours to see towering waterfalls, ancient rock art and unique geological formations. Led by expert naturalists and cultural historians, these journeys reveal the Kimberley's rugged beauty and deep Aboriginal significance. Each day promises incredible wildlife sightings, from saltwater crocodiles and vibrant birdlife to playful dolphins, ensuring a truly unforgettable experience filled with natural wonders.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA: WHERE REMOTE BEAUTY MEETS PRISTINE WATERS

Western Australia provides exceptional opportunities for wildlife lovers to get up close and personal with an abundance of marine animals. The coastline is home to whale sharks, dolphins, Australian sea lions, saltwater crocodiles and even the occasional humpback whale! Birdwatchers can spot majestic species like the wedge-tailed eagle and terns along

the shores, whilst the Abrolhos Islands offer additional chances to observe rare seabirds and playful sea lions. Luxury cruises, such as those offered by Silversea, allow guests to explore these wild, untamed areas in comfort. With all-suite accommodations, fine dining and expert-guided excursions, every moment becomes a blend of adventure and indulgence.

### WHY CHOOSE CRUISING IN AUSTRALIA?

Australia is the ultimate destination for adventurers. Discover a land of unique experiences and animals that exist nowhere else on Earth. Meet local celebrities – kangaroos, koalas and quokkas – whilst exploring habitats as diverse as the Outback and the coastline. Delve into Australia's rich cultural heritage and learn about the fascinating history of this vast country. Combine all this adventure with the luxury and relaxation of a beautiful cruise ship – could there be anything better? Whether it's for wildlife, landscapes or cultural encounters, there's an unforgettable voyage waiting for everyone.

### AUSTRALIA IS CALLING...

To plan your ultimate cruise adventure Down Under, speak to us, your local travel agent, today.



Great Barrier Reef, Queensland

# Drift off before you float away.

Start your holiday early and stay at a port hotel the night before you set sail.



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Parking



Airport  
Hotels



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To book, contact your local travel agent.

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Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

OCEAN CRUISES

# A cruise to incredible Iceland

Thanks to the adventurous spirit of three brothers in a small town on the shores of Oslofjord in Norway, Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines have been sailing the world for 175 years. And every little thing they've learned along the way has informed the cruise you take with them today.

An Iceland cruise with Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines offers a wonderful blend of experiences. Located in the North Atlantic, Iceland boasts stunning landscapes, ranging from glaciers and icebergs to geysers and hot springs. With its vast stretches of unspoiled nature, Iceland is an ideal destination for outdoor enthusiasts looking to hike, bike or explore on horseback. You will also have the opportunity to spend time with friendly locals, who will tell you stories of trolls and elves and their significance in national folklore, or go horseback

riding across the scenic countryside.

A cruise to Iceland with Fred. Olsen will allow you the opportunity to discover waterfalls and glaciers when they're at their strongest, search for humpback whales and puffins as you sail along the Icelandic coastline or even have the chance to witness the solar eclipse in August 2026.

Fred. Olsen believe that a cruise is very different from a holiday. A cruise is about being out there on the ocean, exploring the world from the vantage point of the sea, enjoying the journey itself, not just the destinations. This is why, on selected Icelandic sailings, ORCA Ocean Conservationists will be on board and on hand throughout your cruise. The conservationist team's objective will be to locate

whales and dolphins, observe their behaviours, and to provide guests with a unique experience, offering you the opportunity to take an active role in marine science and conservation.

## READY TO EXPERIENCE ICELAND AT ITS BEST?

Iceland has so much to offer and, with Fred. Olsen, you'll be able to explore beyond the city for a trip to write home about, so if you're ready to choose from one of their incredible itineraries, get in touch with us today to book or to find out more.



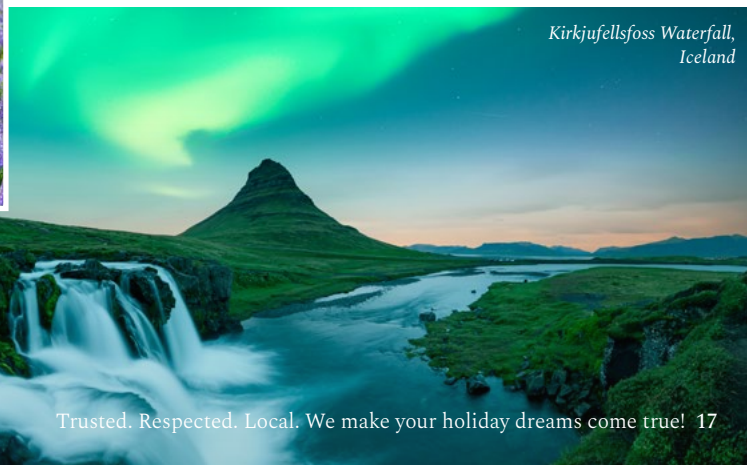
Horseriding at Skogafoss Waterfall, Iceland



Bahraal docked in Aukureyi, Iceland



Strokkur Geyser erupting, Haukadalur, Iceland



Kirkjufellsfoss Waterfall, Iceland



# Cruise lines making a big impact



By Lucy Ruthnum

Striving for excellence, innovation and change, there have been some thrilling shifts towards the future of cruising with brands that pride themselves on an experience that goes beyond just escapism and are leading the charge when it comes to driving social impact.

Travellers are looking beyond bucket-list ticks and once-in-a-lifetime experiences, as we move towards an era of purpose-led travel where cruisers move with intention, and they expect the brands to keep up. So, we're putting a spotlight on the ones that are making a positive impact on the industry - the ones who are setting the standards for sustainability, inclusivity and responsible tourism.

## INCLUSIVITY

At the forefront of inclusivity, Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruises have developed their autism-friendly cruises for families who are living with autism, Down's syndrome and other developmental disabilities. With specialised offerings for children, teenagers and adults, they provide a bespoke



Local communities, Hurtigruten

## DID YOU KNOW?

Cruise lines are continuing to reduce their emissions in pursuit of net zero emissions by 2050, according to Cruise Lines International Association.

Hurtigruten is currently working on their Sea Zero project to create their first emission-free ship by 2030.

Hurtigruten is also the first (and currently the only) travel brand to receive the 'Made in Norway' certification from the Norwegian government. Made in Norway is only granted to Norwegian products, services and companies that truly care about taking responsibility for the people, society and environment of Norway.

service with access to sensory friendly films and toys, dietary menu options and priority check-in, boarding and departure. The companies provide their teams with autism-friendly training and will even have additional professionally trained staff at a ratio of one staff member to every 2-3 additional needs guests.

## ENVIRONMENTALLY AWARE

Keeping their finger on the pulse of sustainability, MSC and Explora Journeys have looked in depth at their impact on the environment and their responsibility to help tackle climate change, prevent pollution, and support and protect ocean biodiversity. They have set a goal of delivering net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and are looking at renewable fuel providers to find innovative solutions. They've also taken a closer look at water consumption, waste management on board and their recycling rate, which increased from 35.3% in 2022 to 41.1% in 2023 on board MSC cruises.



MSC cruises

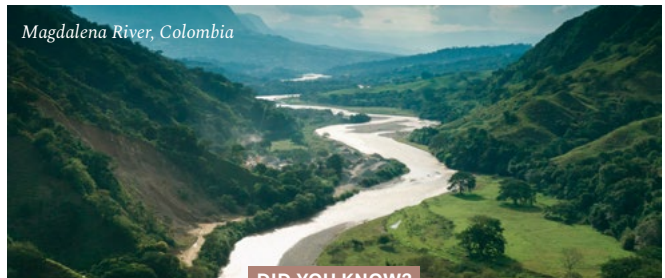


Inclusivity with  
Celebrity cruises

*“How far we’ve come — from the first pioneers to stand on deck, to modern-day cruisers knowing and expecting their choice of ship to positively impact communities and their environment.”*

#### RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Hurtigruten and AmaWaterways are brands that are paving the way for responsible tourism and giving back to the local communities. But why is this so important? Hurtigruten is a brand that assures travellers they will receive a unique, authentic experience when they visit Norway: one where they can completely immerse themselves in the local culture, whilst the cruise line does its bit to support the coast and local communities. Meanwhile, AmaWaterways works closely with experienced local guides to enhance the cultural



Magdalena River, Colombia

#### DID YOU KNOW?

In 2025, AmaWaterways will be launching a new route and will become the first major river cruise line to navigate Colombia's Magdalena River. The cruise line will be providing nine bespoke excursion boats that will allow guests to explore secluded biodiverse areas and to interact with indigenous communities. Local guides will lead these excursions, providing employment opportunities for riverside communities.

experience for travellers and provide curated tours that create jobs for the local community. Not only does it provide cruisers with richer and more unique experiences, but AmaWaterways works with the local communities to make sure activities are sustainable and respectful of the culture and environment.

#### READY TO TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY?

If you're looking for a cruise in 2025 that ticks all the boxes, we can help you find one that is sustainable, inclusive and responsible – whilst still visiting your dream destinations and never having to make any sacrifices!

# Six reasons why you should try a cruise holiday

Not sure if cruise holidays are for you but keen to find out? We've got 6 reasons for you to consider why cruise holidays will be ideal for you! Read on to discover the benefits of cruising and, if you find yourself saying 'that sounds like my cup of tea', then you'll know it's time to take the plunge.



## No-fly cruise options

With several cruise terminals located across the UK, including Ireland, Scotland, Southampton and various ports in between, there are plenty of no-fly cruise options for you to consider. So, whether you're travelling on a budget and are looking to remove the flight cost from the equation or simply don't like flying, the perfect cruise holiday for you is just a booking away!



## Multiple destinations in one holiday

When you don't know which Canary, Caribbean or Greek island to visit, why restrict yourself to just one? The beauty of cruise holidays is that you usually get to visit an average of five different ports of call on a typical 7-day itinerary. Prefer the idea of visiting different countries on the same holiday? That's also possible! There are plenty of itineraries to choose from.







## ► Range of amenities, entertainment and activities

From zip-lining, sky diving and surf simulators to educational guest lecturers, West-End-style shows, parties, workshops and themed gala nights, cruise ships have all that a land-based resort would have, if not more! No matter the age group you're travelling with, you'll never be bored sailing at sea.

## Stress-free

Usually, such extensive itineraries require a lot of planning. With cruise holidays, all transportation between each destination, accommodation and having to unpack and repack over and over again is taken care of – all you have to do is remember your cabin number!



Designed by Freepik

## ▼ Meet new people

Cruising holidays always have a sense of community, making it very easy to meet people and make new friends – especially on smaller ships. Some cruise companies even provide solo occupancy and arrange social events specifically for solo cruisers to mingle.

## ► Value for money

Despite what you may think, cruise holidays are superb value for money once you consider all of the amenities, entertainment and activities included on board. In some cases, even land-based excursions and transportation is included too!

### READY TO GO FOR A CRUISE?

We'll help find the right cruise for you. Whether you are a first timer or looking to try something new - there's a cruise for everyone.

# A mini cruise with Star Clippers

## THE STORY OF A NEWLY FORMED CRUISE ENTHUSIAST



By Petya Lyutova

**In July 2024 I had the incredible opportunity to go on my first ever cruise on board Star Clippers' sailing ship, Royal Clipper. Inspired by the tall ship *Preussen*, the *Royal Clipper* has the proud distinction of being the largest and only five-masted full-rigged sailing ship built since her predecessor was launched at the beginning of the last century. You might think she was an apparition from the grand age of sail, but *Royal Clipper* is as new as tomorrow, boasting state-of-the-art navigation systems and all the comfort of today.**

My 3-night cruise started from Rome/Civitavecchia, stopping at Elba and Porto Ercole and finishing back in Rome. I'd never considered cruising before now because I had the false preconception that it was geared towards an older generation and that there might not be much to do – and how wrong I was! Those 3 nights on board were just enough to make me fall in love with the ship and to turn me into a cruise enthusiast.

### FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Even though *Royal Clipper* is the largest full-rigged sailing ship in the world, carrying 227 guests,

embarkation was very smooth and I was on board within just 10 minutes and was welcomed with a refreshing drink. I was immediately wowed by the elegant interior of the ship and the grandness of the restaurant.

I stayed in a Standard Interior Cabin that was nicely decorated with the amenities you would expect from a 4-5\* luxury hotel. Since it was my first time on a tall ship, I wasn't sure what to expect and was nervous about sea sickness. What really impressed me was how smooth it felt on board and how easy it was to forget that you are on a ship rather than on dry land.

*"We were treated to a magical light show where the masts were adorned with different lights on the first night. That was the moment I knew I had a great holiday ahead of me."*

### ON-BOARD DINING

Dining was very relaxing as there are no pre-seating arrangements. You can choose where to sit, either by yourself or share a table with a newly made friend. There is no dress code for breakfast and lunch, but I did use the opportunity to glam up for dinner. The food was simply amazing, with loads of



options to choose from, and it took a lot of willpower to stay away from the dessert section as the variety there was incredible!

There is a themed buffet lunch that changes daily with a live cooking station, but dinner however is very different, as there is a sit-down menu with a wide variety, including chef specials. As a seafood lover, I opted for the most amazing ceviche as a starter followed by a delicious baked sea bass with roasted potatoes and asparagus, and even managed to squeeze in a Bloody Mary sorbet which was divine.

### GOOD TO KNOW

Drinks are not included in Star Clipper packages and cannot be pre-paid, but the cost to my surprise was very reasonable – a glass of champagne was about €7.50 and the cost for a cocktail was around €8.00. A bottle of decent wine is around €25.00 and if you cannot finish it, you can either take it to your cabin or the restaurant can keep it for you until your next meal.

If you do feel guilty – as I did – after the evening feast, there is a small but well-equipped gym you can visit as well as a spa.





Royal Clipper



Climbing the mast

### ENTERTAINMENT

Some of the crew put on a talent show and performed with some seriously good singing and dancing skills, but there is a twist – the passengers are also invited to take part if anyone has any hidden talents. A brave couple from Finland sang for us, which put the crowd in great spirits!

If you feel adventurous, you can climb the masts, which I highly recommend as you get a great view of the ship and the scenery as well as being lots of fun. Another must-do is to relax on the bowsprit net that is suspended above the sea where you can let all your troubles float away.



On-board light show

### READY TO SET SAIL?

If Petya's cruise experience with Star Clippers has you curious to try it for yourself, contact us to learn more about the cruise line's various itineraries. You can also check out the next page where you can find out more about the wide range of mini cruises available for you to choose from.

### TOP TIP

Make sure you have a pair of trainers if you'd like to take part in mast climbing on board, as open top shoes are not allowed.

# Test the waters with these top mini cruises

Cruises have experienced somewhat of a renaissance in recent years and suddenly it seems like everyone is hopping on the trend. You're tempted, but you're not quite sure if a cruise is the right choice for you. Imagine the spark of excitement as you wake up each day in a new place and explore idyllic destinations. Here, we show you three of the best mini cruises out there so you can test the waters.

Eiffel Tower, Paris



## SAY OUI OUI TO A CRUISE FROM PARIS

**DATE:** 20 MARCH 2025

**DEPARTURE:** LONDON (INCLUDES EUROSTAR TRANSPORTATION)

Riviera offers a winning combination of a 3-night cruise along the scenic River Seine from Paris, including your Eurostar travel. You'll be aboard the newly refurbished MS *Jane Austen*, a five-star ship, enjoying first-class service.

## SET SAIL FOR A EUROVISION PARTY LIKE NO OTHER

**DATE:** 11 MAY 2025

**DEPARTURE:** BARCELONA

For something a little different, experience the magic of Eurovision with Royal Caribbean to mark the 68th Eurovision Song Contest with a unique 7-night cruise. Superfans should expect non-stop fun, Eurovision cocktails, a special Gala dinner and the Grand Final Viewing Party.

## ADULT'S ONLY FESTIVE FUN ON THE THAMES

**DATE:** 19 DECEMBER 2025

**DEPARTURE:** LONDON TILBURY

Join Ambassador Cruise Line for a 2-night celebration at sea and an authentic cruise experience on the River Thames. Head to its on-board venues, The Cavern Club or The Palladium, where they really push the boat out with live entertainment.

*You could spend hours researching, but you'll never truly know if you're harbouring a secret love for cruising until you try.*

## READY TO GET YOUR SEA LEGS?

We can provide booking information as well as alternative mini cruises and departure points – contact us today!





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Terms, conditions, restrictions, and capacity controls apply. The New Year Sale expires 31 January 2025 and is available on select categories, select sailings, and is capacity controlled. Mention Code: DCWV. Promotion may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. Please ask your Travel Agent for complete Terms & Conditions. DEC2402110



# A luxury voyage to Japan

Silversea's small luxury ships are designed for those who delight in discovery and indulge in luxury. All ships in the fleet feature spacious, ocean-view suites with butler service, and most include private verandas, meaning you can sip your champagne from the comfort of your deck whilst watching the vistas beyond. Silversea's ships sail pole-to-pole on all seven continents, leaving (almost) no part of coastline uncovered.

## SAVE UP TO £4,000

There are many reasons to sail with Silversea, from several immersive and authentic experiences to the most personalised service at sea. Best of all, from now through to 28 February 2025 we think you'll like up to £4,000 savings per suite.



Watch this video for a glimpse of authentic, luxury cruising with Silversea

Sensoji Temple, Tokyo, Japan

From the moment you cross the threshold of any Silversea ship to the final champagne toast goodbye, your journey seamlessly unfolds with quiet perfection that is both unseen and flawless, leaving you free to immerse yourself in the joyful discovery of each moment.

The small size of these all-suite ships – hosting just 100 to 728 guests – allows you to sail into the heart of regions where larger ships simply cannot go. Silversea's ocean-going voyages offer one excursion per port, per day, along with a rich selection of optional experiences; shore excursions are

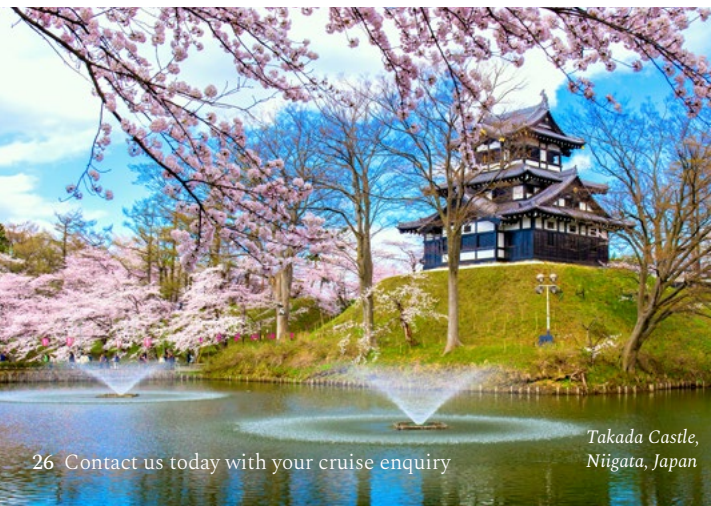
included on all expedition cruises. Voyages of varying length appeal to all schedules, featuring multiple overnights, extended stays in port, and optional pre- and post-cruise adventures.

## VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

During this roundtrip voyage, you'll experience a spectacular fusion of modernity and traditional charm in Kobe. Marvel at active volcano Sakurajima, which dominates Kagoshima, whilst Nagasaki offers hope for a peaceful future. Discover the beauty of South Korea's Busan, then savour the delights of Fukuoka and Beppu. Days at sea and authentic Japanese cuisine complete your adventure. This exceptional voyage ensures you'll witness Japan in exquisite style. Fares for this 10-night itinerary departing 20 April start from £5,400pp.

## READY FOR A LUXURY VOYAGE?

If you're one for the finer things in life, we're certain Silversea can more than deliver. Contact us today to book this itinerary or enquire about the many other luxurious voyages to be had with Silversea today.



Takada Castle,  
Niigata, Japan



Save up to 15% on Select 2025-6 Cruises & Expeditions  
and Enjoy Up to \$1,000USD per suite shipboard credit

## JUST A FEW OF OUR OFFERS

### 10-Day Tyrrhenian Treasures & Malta

25\* Apr; 7 May^; 21 Jul; 30  
Aug; 20 Sep~; 9 Oct 2025  
SEABOURN OVATION

#### Monte Carlo to Barcelona

**Cruise from £4,279pp  
Inclusive Air**

Visits: Porto Santo Stefano;  
Capri; Taormina; Valletta  
(overnight); Mgarr; Ajaccio; St  
Tropez; Palamos.

#### • Overnight stay in Valletta

\*Lead in fare based on 25/4/25.  
~20 Sep is 9-nights.

^Operated on Seabourn Sojourn

### 14-Day Exotic Caribbean in Depth

10\*, 24 Jan; 14, 28 Feb;  
21 Mar 2026

SEABOURN OVATION  
**Roundtrip Barbados**

**Cruise from £6,119pp  
Fly/cruise – please ask**

Visits: Castries; Monserrat;  
St Johns Antigua; Carambola  
Beach^; Jost van Dyke; St Maarten;  
Sopers Hole; Carambola Beach^;  
Martinique; Bequia; Grenada.

#### • ^Seabourn's Caviar on the Surf Beach Party

\*Lead in fare based on 10/1/26.

### 11-Day The Great White Continent Expedition

16^, 26^ Nov; 6^,  
8\*, 18 Dec 2025; 5^, 7, 15^,  
17 Jan; 6^, 8, 16^;  
28 Feb; 10 Mar 2026

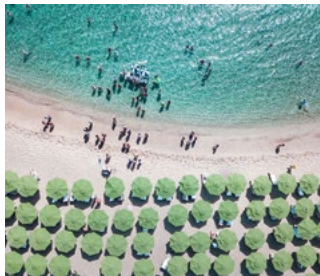
SEABOURN VENTURE  
& SEABOURN PURSUIT^

#### Roundtrip Buenos Aires

**Cruise from £9,959pp  
Fly/cruise – please ask**

Visits: → Fly Buenos Aires/Ushuaia;  
5-day Antarctic Experience,  
→ Fly Ushuaia/Buenos Aires

\*Lead fare based on 8/12/25



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Sail of the Year® Terms and conditions apply.

All prices shown include savings and are subject to availability at the time of booking.





# River vs ocean cruising

Facing the challenge of booking your next cruise, but feeling overwhelmed by choice? Gone are the days of your only decision being beach vs city break. Now you're left debating the benefits of robotic bartenders, unique themed itineraries, culinary masterpieces and West End entertainment. Luckily for you, we've taken on the task of exploring whether the growing trend of river cruises is any competition for the classic ocean cruises. We'll let you decide on the winner as we take a deep dive into the world of cruising...

## RIVER CRUISING

Imagine arriving at your next destination and being docked in the heart of the city, ready to start exploring without having to plan for long ground transportation or making sure you're back at the ship on time. River cruising is a great option for cruisers who want more time in their destination and less time waiting. River cruise lines also often cover everything with no hidden extras, from complimentary bike rentals and guided tours to drinks and flights, so it's great value for money!

For the destination-led traveller, those long sea days can become tedious no matter what amenities might be on board the ship. River cruising gives you the opportunity to stop at more destinations during a shorter itinerary. For example, APT's Magnificent Europe



*Complimentary bike rental, Moselle*

itinerary allows you to explore 18 locations in just 15 days from Amsterdam to Budapest.

The cruising industry prides itself on a high level of service, but did you know that river cruises offer an impeccable service due to the smaller ships and a higher staff to passenger ratio? Tauck's river cruises are known for having one of the best ratios in the industry, providing a completely customised service both on board and ashore.

If you are looking for a truly unique cruising experience, why not try a themed cruise along the waterways? These immersive cruises offer authentic experiences including wine cruises with AmaWaterways, Tauck's music cruises along the Danube and Riviera's gardens and natural beauty cruises. There are even women-only cruises available through Uniworld!



*Amsterdam bridge*


*Icon of the Seas, Royal Caribbean*

## OCEAN CRUISING

Whilst the off-board experience of exploring multi-destinations might appeal to some, other travellers may prefer the on-board entertainment, and this is where ocean cruising has the edge. Their biggest ships are packed with entertainment, from West-End shows and ice skating to zip-lining and even surf simulators! Meanwhile, river ships are often far smaller and will only have a live singer or a DJ on board.

These vast ocean liners are packed with an incredible array of amenities including gyms and swimming pools. Did you know that Royal Caribbean's *Icon of the Seas* has a total of seven pools on board? Unleash your competitive side with NCL's sports complex and go kart track or try a unique take on mixology with MSC's robotic bartender. Explore the ocean floor with Seabourn's submarines or take a closer

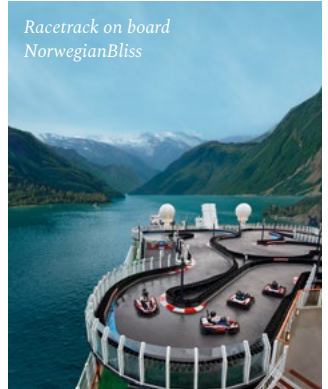
*Ocean  
cruisers will  
often feature  
an overnight  
stay or two, so  
you can spend  
more time in  
your dream  
destinations.*

look at the stars with Cunard's planetarium. The opportunities are endless.

Naturally, the breadth of choice aboard an ocean cruiser stretches to its extensive dining options. Explora Journeys offer nine distinct culinary experiences including their Chef Invité Series, which saw them joined by their first French guest chef, Thierry Marx. Oceania Cruises is a cruise line built by foodies, for foodies. Explora Journeys is the only cruise line to boast two Master Chefs of France. Virgin Voyages offer access to over 20 eateries on board, from food truck faves to 10-course feasts.

## DECIDED ON A WINNER?

If you're undecided on your next cruise – we can recommend the best cruise line for you depending on whether river or ocean cruising reigns supreme!


*Racetrack on board  
Norwegian Bliss*

*Seabourn submarine*



# Ever dreamt of a river cruise with the *very best*?

Choose from over 60 cruises with the UK's leading river cruise line

7 night river cruises from £1,599<sup>PP</sup>

## UNBEATABLE VALUE

*which always includes*



Direct flights from 12 airports with no regional supplements, plus transfers



7 nights on our five-star ship with impeccable on-board service



Spacious cabins with window or French balcony



Delicious full board dining, plus the Chef's Dinner



Free drinks package\*



Expert Riviera Cruise Director and Concierge looking after you throughout



EXCELLENT



4.6 OUT OF 5

feefo



Trustpilot



Book with your local travel agent



Forever Curious



# Small details, big difference

Avalon Waterways invites you to embark on a river cruise adventure where meticulous attention to detail makes all the difference. The cruise line's exclusive all-suite ships sail across 24 countries, spanning Europe, Asia, South America and Egypt. Each carefully curated voyage showcases the unique charm and captivating landscapes of these stunning destinations.

## SHIP SPACE

Experience spacious suites, which feature plush Comfort Collection(SM) beds, premium pillows, and luxurious L'Occitane® toiletries. These intimate vessels accommodate an average of 150 guests, ensuring a relaxed and uncrowded atmosphere as you navigate iconic waterways such as the Rhine, the Danube, and the Nile.

Unwind with a premium spirit from the bar or a rich coffee

in the Club Lounge. Maintain your healthy lifestyle with the state-of-the-art fitness centre, complimentary bicycles in select ports and a rejuvenating whirlpool on the Sky Deck.

*From regional wine and beer to on-board cultural presentations and local entertainment, Avalon's All-inclusive amenities elevate your journey.*

## EXCURSIONS

Personalise your experience with a range of excursions, from classic guided tours to hands-on discovery experiences and active adventures. The AvalonGO mobile app helps you manage your free time, allowing you to explore independently and create lasting memories. The Adventure Centre offers gear and guidance

for custom explorations, whilst the inclusive wifi ensures you stay connected with loved ones back home.

## GASTRONOMY

Indulge with exceptional FlexDining® options, offering a variety of venues and menus that celebrate local flavours and cater to every palate. Savour fresh,



locally sourced ingredients transformed into exquisite dishes by skilled chefs. Whether you prefer a casual bistro setting or a sophisticated four-course dinner, Avalon's commitment to culinary excellence shines through in every meal.

## READY TO SET SAIL?

Book your Avalon Waterways adventure today and discover how the cruise line's passion for small details creates an unforgettable cruise experience. Flight-inclusive prices start from just £1,999 per person, with convenient departures from London Heathrow, Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh. Get ready to set sail and witness the Avalon difference first-hand, where small details add up to big memories.

# Cruise the renowned wine region of Bordeaux

**Bordeaux is one of the most desirable places in France to visit, with its waterfront rich in architecture and bustling with locals and visitors promenading, sipping coffee or wine from the area's celebrated vineyards, a landscape that's dotted with beautiful castles. Bordeaux's wine production has been refined to an art and some of the best wines in the world are made there.**

With a wine region comes extraordinary undulating landscapes, lush green vistas and delicious fare prepared with French finesse, and we've hand-picked two top itineraries

from Scenic for you to choose from for your next indulgent escape.

## **BORDEAUX AFFAIR ITINERARY**

Scenic's 8-day Bordeaux Affair is the perfect cruise for fine wines and culinary experiences, all whilst sailing in All-inclusive ultra-luxury on board the 147-guest ship *Scenic Diamond*. With Scenic Freechoice, you'll be immersed in the essence of Bordeaux, savouring tastings at prestigious wine estates, discovering the art of caviar production at a local sturgeon farm and exploring on cycling excursions.

## **BEAUTIFUL BORDEAUX ITINERARY**

Only with Scenic can you enjoy an 11-day cruise to experience even more of what this spectacular region can provide. The Beautiful Bordeaux itinerary offers an immersive cruise through this



Watch the video to find out more about Scenic's Space-Ship experience



*Chateau d'Agassac*

idyllic region. You'll enjoy after-hours access to Les Bassins des Lumières grand digital art installation, tastings at prized wine estates or the renowned Rémy Martin Cognac estate and more.

## **EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES**

On both Bordeaux itineraries, you'll enjoy an exclusive classical concert at Chateau d'Agassac with Scenic Enrich. And, with Scenic's on-board cooking school, Scenic Culinaire, you'll join a professional chef at the markets as you source fresh, locally harvested produce to take back to your Space-Ship for an interactive cooking demonstration. Then, you'll master the art of creating exquisite French cuisine using regional recipes.

## **READY TO EXPLORE FRANCE'S FAMOUS WINE REGIONS?**

From butler service to on-board dining and a selection of complimentary beverages, everything you need is included to ensure a stress-free cruise. Speak with us, your local travel agent, today to find out more or to book your 2025 cruise to the famous wine regions of France.



*Scenic Diamond in Bordeaux, France*




**EMERALD<sup>o</sup>**  
CRUISES

# Discover the Douro River

A symbol of Portugal's birth and growth as a nation, the Douro has long been the country's lifeline. Winding its way from Spain across northern Portugal, the Douro River reveals sun-drenched riverscapes brimming with quaint villages and towns, each with centuries-old traditions, historic landscapes and terraced vineyards where family-run estates produce specialities of the region. At the centre of Europe's celebrated wine scene, the Douro Valley is home to the world-renowned authentic port wine.

## EMERALD RADIANCE

*Emerald Radiance* is Emerald Cruises' most intimate European Star-Ship, with a maximum of



*Emerald Radiance on the Douro River, Portugal*



Watch the video for a glimpse of life on board Emerald's Star Ship fleet

only 112 guests sailing on the beautiful Douro River. *Emerald Radiance* is your home away from home, a boutique floating hotel that provides guests with luxurious surroundings, a wealth of amenities, and unique innovations such as the spa-style Serenity Pool on the Sun Deck. You'll benefit from an attentive level of service as you dock in the heart of exciting destinations that line the banks of the river.

## EMERALDPLUS

With extra-special EmeraldPLUS experiences included to help you uncover rare sights and authentic hidden gems, like guided tours, exclusive performances and on-board workshops, as well as wine tastings, you'll enjoy rare insights into what makes this a remarkable destination.

## EMERALDACTIVE

If you prefer things to move at a faster pace, the expertly created EmeraldACTIVE programme will bring a new perspective to each destination. Explore the river by kayak, then on to rolling vineyards and historic sites such as the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies, with Emerald Cruises' active experts leading the way.

## READY TO DISCOVER THE DOURO RIVER?

If you're ready to delve into the quaint riverscapes of the Douro, speak to us, your local travel agent, today to find out more or to book your 2025 cruise. Plus, if you'd like to explore more of Portugal or Spain, Emerald Cruises offer extensions in both Lisbon and Madrid.



*Kayaking on the Douro River*





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\*T&C's apply. Book by 28 February 2025.

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*Featuring a luxury expedition through the Peruvian Amazon on the 16-suite  
Aria Amazon, combined with ultra luxury accommodation and small group  
VIP experiences in Rio De Janeiro, Iguazu Falls, Lima and Machu Picchu*

21 DAYS FROM £16,669 PER PERSON - LIMITED AVAILABILITY FOR 2025



TO BOOK OR TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT

# Douro daydreaming

Douro River Valley

Portugal's Douro region has captured the imagination of cruisers and become one of the hottest cruising destinations for 2025. This year, why not immerse yourself in the traditional Portuguese culture whilst exploring the idyllic countryside of the region. From flamenco and folk music to Portuguese barbecues and exploring some of the country's best kept secrets, you'll soon see for yourself why this has become such a trendy destination for 2025. If you've loved visiting Porto previously, this is the best way to delve deeper into Portugal and go beyond the city.

## TOP TIPS

Nestled alongside the Douro River is one of Europe's most breathtaking train journeys, the Linha do Douro: visit Pinhão and the northern village of Pocinho.

Visit Vega de Terron in Castelo Rodrigo, one of Portugal's 12 historically significant villages, where you can find ancient ruins and the stone statue of Santiago Matamoras.

Wine enthusiasts will love a wine tasting tour with AmaWaterways. The cruise line is due to launch a third ship on the Douro, the *AmaSintra*, as one of the company's most in-demand routes of 2024. Meanwhile, Tauck's Douro River Valley cruise includes a port wine cocktail-making workshop!

With many cruising routes available in the Douro Valley, look for unique experiences in lesser-known destinations such as Peso da Régua, the Mateus Palace and Gardens, or Salamanca, arguably one of the most beautiful cities in Spain. APT Touring's Douro Discovery cruise offers an immersive experience that celebrates the local culture, including dining at a local quinta – a Portuguese winery – a Portuguese language lesson and live performances.

## Wine tasting with AmaWaterways



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Douro River is the third longest river in Iberia and is considered one of Europe's most scenic rivers.

The Douro is more than just a port producer, with many quintas starting to produce table wine as well.

Europe's longest river boundary, the Douro River forms a natural border between Spain and Portugal spanning 120km.

The Alto Douro wine region is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a testament to 2,000 years of wine-making tradition.

## DREAMING OF A DOURO RIVER CRUISE?

Contact us to find the perfect Douro escape for you, or let us help you find the right destination for your next adventure.

*Mateus Palace*





# Expedition cruises

## FOR THE NATURE AND WILDLIFE ENTHUSIAST



**There's something alluring about the great unknown. It's the reason we have always had explorers who push the boundaries as they discover the most secluded parts of our world. Today, a new wave of expedition cruises offer an unparalleled educational experience that has captivated the nature and wildlife enthusiasts amongst us.**

It's becoming clear that, whilst cruises might be more traditionally known for their lively nightlife, ocean crossing routes and popular destinations, they might have so much more to offer. As travellers move towards more purposeful travel, expedition cruising is a

favourite with travellers craving a more immersive itinerary, with opportunities to witness wildlife existing authentically in their natural habitat without interference from humans. These cruises skip the West End entertainment and amenities we have come to associate with ocean cruises and instead focus on creating core memories that will last long after the ship docks. Popular destinations for expedition cruises include off-the-beaten-track destinations such as Antarctica, the Arctic, the Galápagos Islands and the Amazon River.

### ANTARCTIC CIRCLE

The ultimate bucket-list cruise – Quark Expeditions offers the opportunity to visit the 7th continent, an adventure only a select few travellers will experience. Taking an

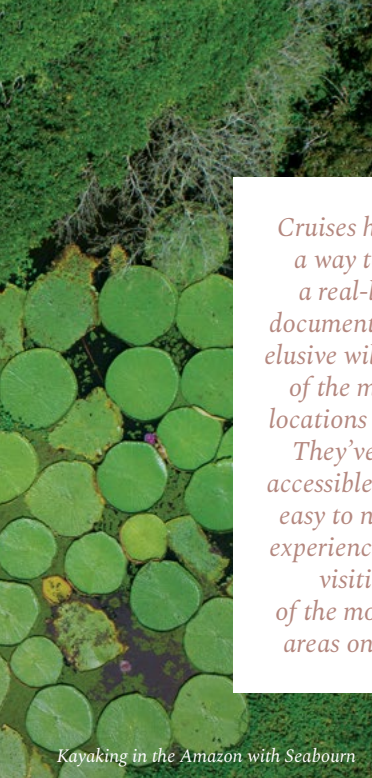
unforgettable polar expedition across the iconic Antarctic Circle, these hardy seafarers will be rewarded with sightings of humpback whales, leopard seals and penguins in their natural habitat, undisturbed by man. Passengers will have Zodiacs and helicopters on board, and they will be given a photographic journal documenting their expedition.

### TOP TIPS

Many expedition cruises will provide essential gear for excursions. Check in with us ahead of your trip to make sure you know what is provided.

Be prepared for your itinerary to change – if visiting remote areas, your cruise could be impacted by weather changes, particularly in Antarctica.





Kayaking in the Amazon with Seabourn

*Cruises have become a way to step into a real-life nature documentary, spotting elusive wildlife in some of the most remote locations in the world. They've made less accessible destinations easy to navigate and experience, even when visiting some of the most protected areas on the planet.*



Marine iguanas, the Galápagos Islands

## THE AMAZON

Those seeking warmer climates can delve into a lush paradise that is teeming with wildlife, the Amazon, where Seabourn Expeditions will take you on a safari at sea with their unique itineraries. Take Zodiac tours along the river at dusk and night-time as you peek into the nocturnal world of the Amazon várzea ecosystem. Other highlights include kayaking, pink dolphin tours with a visit to the Lake Acajatuba community, and wildlife encounters with spider monkeys, scarlet macaws, hoatzin, squirrel monkeys and many more.

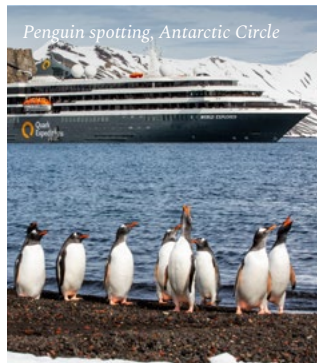
## THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

The Galápagos Islands are one of the most protected places on Earth and have become great places for cruising. Travellers visiting the archipelago via land or sea are only permitted into

established visitor areas and 70% of these are accessible by boat, including Rábida Island which is home to a red sand beach and where you can spot sea lions and Galápagos warblers. Fernandina Island is where you can see hundreds of marine iguanas and sea turtles in the wild. These trips will also include lots of free excursions such as kayaking and snorkelling trips, plus hiking and Zodiac cruises, so cruising really is the best way to access the islands.

## READY TO EXPLORE YOUR WILD SIDE?

Bring out your inner explorer with an expedition cruise you'll never forget. Contact us today to find out more about these cruises or other itineraries such as the Kimberley in Australia and the Solomon Islands.



Penguin spotting, Antarctic Circle

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can get a taste for what you can expect from a Quark Expeditions cruise with their 360° Virtual Reality Antarctic Experience, where you will be transported on a virtual journey to one of the world's wildest and most remote destinations, from your mobile phone or computer.

# Witness the greatest light show on Earth

Get unique insight and knowledge about the Arctic sky and the greatest light show on Earth, the Aurora Borealis (also known as the Northern Lights), on this popular voyage along the beautiful Norwegian coast. This unique voyage is accompanied by special lecturers - experts on astronomy and expeditions to see the Northern Lights.

Tom Kerss from the Royal Astronomical Society, and Chief Aurora Chaser at Hurtigruten, has compiled a list of tips to help you spot the Northern Lights.

Lofoten, Norway

**ASTRONOMY VOYAGE WITH TOM KERSS****DATES:**

Various departure dates between September 2025 and March 2026

**DURATION:**

12 days

**PRICE:**

Starting from £2,864pp

**INCLUDING:**

Flights from London, transfers in Norway, full board dining, tour manager and lectures from a renowned astronomer, exclusive excursion to the Planetarium in Tromsø

**NORTHERN LIGHTS PROMISE:**

See the Northern Lights or Hurtigruten will give you a FREE 6 or 7-day cruise for the next Northern Lights Season - T&Cs apply

**WAIT FOR THE LIGHTS TO RULE THE SKY**

The auroral oval is an ever-present phenomenon in the Earth's upper atmosphere but to see it we need a dark sky, so you should schedule your aurora-chasing adventure between mid-September and late March. Speaking of September and March, these months host the spring and autumn equinoxes. A combination of physical processes produces the equinoctial effect,

in which aurora activity is slightly enhanced at these times. Should a geomagnetic storm occur, it is more likely to produce strong auroras around the equinoxes.

**TAKE AN ARCTIC ADVENTURE**

There's nothing like seeing the Northern Lights in the Arctic during the autumn or winter months, where they are a part of the natural nightlife. Arctic auroras, such as those visible off the coast of the far north of Norway, can be absolutely dazzling – bright enough to read under, and remarkably colourful. The wild landscapes and seascapes that are characteristic of the Arctic add even more magic to the displays.

**DO IT IN THE DARK**

In every sense, we want to keep our surroundings dark to enjoy the Northern Lights. Your aurora-chasing spot should be away from light pollution from towns, cities or nearby roads. That's why being on a ship off the coast is a perfect way to chase the Northern Lights.

**ON FORECASTING**

Much has been made of aurora-forecasting, which has become quite sophisticated. However, in most cases, aurora-chasing trips must be booked long in advance, well before we can make inferences about the likelihood of a good display. The fact is that if you're outside in the Arctic on a clear night during the aurora season, your odds of seeing the Northern



Lights are good. Give yourself several nights to chase, be outside after sunset and stay up until at least an hour after midnight, and you'll be rewarded.

**FEEL EVERYTHING**

The Northern Lights are a visual subject, full of marvellous imagery. Of course, we tend to focus on what we'll see, because it's all about seeing something incredible. But aurora-chasing is beguiling in so many ways that aren't based on sight: the bite of the Arctic air; the sound around you – perhaps silent snow or the shared excitement of other people; the smell of the sea or a flask of cocoa. Allow yourself to feel everything.

**READY, SET, CHASE!**

If you're ready to chase the Northern Lights this year, get in touch with us today and we will help you book an Astronomy cruise you'll never forget.

*MS Polarlys, Norway*





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