



By Amy Price
Travel Advisor

Are you someone who feels the more you are around people the more you love your pets? Is sailing on a mega liner with its hustle and bustle and up to 7,000 guests sound terrible? Are you someone who loves history, quaint little towns, and unique and authentic experiences? Do you love exploring and seeing different places without packing and unpacking? Then a river voyage might be the perfect vacation for you!

River cruising gives you a leisurely experience with access to some of the oldest off the beaten path towns offering an abundance of history and charm. These towns are typically close together, allowing you to spend most of your time in port and less time on the waterways. River cruising offers a relaxed atmosphere with less than 200 guests, personalized service, and freedom to explore. River Cruising used to target the 55 and over crowd. Over the last few years, the top river cruise lines have been updating their ship designs, pricing, and menus to entice the younger healthier traveler. They are offering adventure-focused port excursions, fitness facilities, sun decks, pools or whirlpools, and activities making this a great option for couples, singles, and multi-generational vacations.

AMAWATERWAYS

AmaWaterways invited me on my first river cruise. They say you always remember your first and this was no exception. I will forever be a river cruiser thanks to AmaWaterways. "Ama: means love and they show it. Ama is about people, experiences, and culture. They offer an innovative fleet with unparalleled service. Their ships offer entertainment on demand and ship wide WI-FI all complimentary. Their ships also offer options to stay active while onboard, including wellness activities, a fitness center, a whirlpool, and a pool with a swim up bar. Onboard you will find award-winning culinary experiences mixed with health-conscious, vegetarian, and gluten-free

IS RIVER CRUISING FOR YOU?

options. Complimentary sparkling wine and juices at breakfast; beer, soft drinks and unlimited wines at lunch and dinner; a sip and sail cocktail hour with complimentary wine, beer, and spirits; plus, gourmet coffee, tea, and water 24/7.

Ama offers one complimentary excursion at each port with a variety of choices for the early and late risers and the gentle, regular, and active paces led by local expert guides. Ama also offers immersive culinary-themed special interest tours on their 28 river boats in Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America and attract passengers in their 50's looking for comfortable luxury. They cater to couples, families with children 7 and above and solo cruisers. Ama is a great option for multi-generational vacation and those couples and singles looking for active and cultural experiences.

VIKING

I think I first fell in love with the idea of river cruising while watching Downton Abbey. You couldn't watch an episode without seeing those amazing Viking commercials. Viking offers 86 longships in Europe, Asia and recently adding service on the Mississippi. Viking is very destination focused. Viking includes one free walking tour per port with a provided personal listening device. By providing pre and post night add-ons you can enjoy every city you visit. By adding their Silver Spirits package, you can have an all-inclusive option. Viking tends to attract the over 55 English speaking guests- all guests must be over 18. They offer many bucket list experiences with scenic shore excursions, comfortable rooms, and top-notch service. Viking is a great cruise for those retiring couples wanting to try out river cruising with lots of options and great service.

AMERICAN CRUISE LINE

American Cruise offers an All-American Experience, they are American built, flagged, and crewed ships. They offer 50 cruise itineraries to 35 states in America. ACL does small ship

Not sure when to try river cruising? Try themed sailings catering to:

Art Lovers
Garden Lovers
Culinary Lovers
History and Politics Lovers
Holiday Season Lovers
Music Lovers
Wine Lovers

cruising perfect with the most options for sailing in the USA. Their modern fleet of small ships and riverboats are designed for comfort with private balconies offering panoramic river views from every angle. Every stateroom category is among the most spacious in the industry. They offer daily entertainment with musicians, historians, and naturalists. Meals are locally sourced and regionally inspired by master chefs with no set dining times or buffets. ACL includes a complimentary shore excursion per port, gratuities, drinks, top shelf liquor, port transfers, and some offer complimentary laundry service and some sailings include a complimentary pre-hotel night.

I have sailed in Europe on both the Danube and the Rhine in late November. I was able to visit multiple Christmas Markets and have decided a Christmas themed river cruise is my favorite winter vacation. It is the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit. July is a great month to plan your Christmas Market River Cruise or 2023/2024 winter getaway.

Planning milestone vacations, family vacations, and multi-generation vacations is our specialty. There are so many options out there. Allow us to be your trusted Travel Advisors and help you navigate those hard to make vacation decisions. You can count on us for great value and dependable service.

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