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Discover

RIVER CRUISING BEYOND EUROPE



GLOBALRIVERCRUISING

Table of Contents



WELCOME

Founders' Note	3
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INTRODUCTION

Why choose River Cruising?	4
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INDIA - GANGES RIVER

Overview	5
Key Highlights & Experiences	6
Onboard Experience	8
Travel Practicalities	10

VIETNAM & CAMBODIA - MEKONG RIVER

Overview	11
Key Highlights & Experiences	12
Onboard Experience	14
Laos Mekong	16
Travel Practicalities	17

EGYPT - NILE RIVER

Overview	18
Key Highlights & Experiences	19
Onboard Experience	21
Travel Practicalities	23



Simon Gregory



I had no idea about river cruising but Simeon helped make sure I was ready for my first trip from Amsterdam to Budapest. Treated like royalty for 2 weeks with plenty to see and do along the way all for a reasonable price!



Ann Holt

All of my questions are answered quickly and concisely. My advisor listened to my wishes and offered the perfect cruise for us. I would recommend Global River Cruising to anyone needing help planning a river cruise.

Welcome

to the world of river cruising!

At Global River Cruising, we've spent over a decade helping people discover the unique experience of exploring the world by river. Since 2011, we've handpicked river cruise holidays that offer not just comfort and style, but a true sense of connection with each destination. However, if you think river cruising is just through Europe, then it's time to think again!



This guide is here to open up the world of river cruising in **India, South East Asia** and **Africa** - on the iconic rivers of *The Ganges*, *The Mekong* and *The Nile*. These cruises aren't just holidays. They're immersive journeys through rich cultures, spectacular landscapes, and extraordinary wildlife.

We'll explain how river cruising works in these regions, how it's different from European cruising and how we can tailor-make your wider itinerary into a trip of a lifetime. Whether that means adding a few days in Angkor Wat, enjoying Diwali in colourful Varanasi on The Ganges or watching the sunrise over Abu Simbel, we'll help you build a journey that's as seamless as it is unforgettable.

Whether you're an experienced traveller looking for something different, or you're completely new to the idea of river cruising, we hope this guide gives you the inspiration and confidence to try something truly special. So, take a few moments to explore what's possible. Your next adventure might just begin on one of the world's most remarkable rivers.

Alex & Simon

Founders of Global River Cruising



Why choose River Cruising?



WHAT IS INCLUDED IN A RIVER CRUISE?

A typical river cruise includes a cabin suitable for double occupancy on board the ship, full board dining (breakfast, lunch, and dinner), a selection of drinks with meals and guided excursions, usually organised each day to explore towns, cities, or cultural landmarks along the river. Most cruises also include overseas airport transfers to the ship and the services of local guides and a Cruise Manager who organises the day to day itinerary for each voyage, taking into account the river conditions.

Whilst the places that are visited might appear to be the same on many cruises covering the same river, the level of inclusions goes up with the quality of the cruise. A luxury level cruise will include more options and higher standards for dining and drinks. There will also be more excursions which are taken in smaller groups, with potentially private tours to the highlights of each destination, all within the upfront price.

→ EVER CHANGING VIEWS

Enjoy stunning scenery from your cabin or the main deck, from historic temples to floating markets to rich vegetation and wildlife. Unlike ocean cruises, river cruises offer continuous sights during daytime travel.

→ DREAM DESTINATIONS

Explore UNESCO World Heritage sites and iconic landmarks like The Valley of The Kings, Cambodia's Angkor temples & India's Taj Mahal to name but a few.

→ EXPERT GUIDANCE

Cruise itineraries are crafted to include top attractions with knowledgeable guides. Staff are also available to help with tips for independent exploration.

→ INCLUSIVE PRICING

Most cruises include all essentials: transport, accommodation, dining, excursions and entrance fees making budgeting straightforward

→ ACCESSIBILITY

Every boat is different and the infrastructure on each river differs, especially in India, South East Asia and Africa. Most boats feature minimal steps, shallow ramps, lifts and some accessible cabins. Guided tours use headset systems for clear commentary. If you have specific needs, please speak to us and we can advise further.

→ UNPACK ONCE

Your cabin is your private, floating hotel for the length of your cruise - and always in the centre of town.

→ VARIETY OF CHOICES

Global River Cruising offers a wide selection of rivers, itineraries, & cabins to suit any preference and budget.

→ ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMES

Onboard activities often include local cooking classes, language lessons, historical lectures, and live regional entertainment, usually included in the fare.

→ EFFORTLESS TRAVEL

Access to top sights without the hassle of tenders and long coach journeys. Many cruises also offer free bicycles to explore independently along the river banks and towns.

→ INTIMATE ATMOSPHERE

With around 28-130 guests, river cruises offer a relaxed and very social environment with small lounges and bar areas to meet fellow like-minded travellers and enjoy personalised dining and onboard local entertainment.

→ LUXURY FLOATING HOTELS

Many river ships offer luxurious amenities, including full balcony suites, resembling boutique hotels on water.

Ganges River

The Ganges is India's **longest river** (about 1,569 miles) originating in the Himalayas and flowing to the Bay of Bengal. A Ganges cruise immerses you in India's vibrant culture and spiritual heritage – from bustling riverside ghats in sacred Varanasi to tranquil rural villages along the banks. The river is considered holy in Hinduism, so cruising it offers a rare window into daily rituals, temple ceremonies, and centuries-old traditions. **India's cruising style** is often an intimate journey on boutique riverboats, combined with land tours to must-see sights.

Example Itineraries

India's Golden Triangle & the Sacred Ganges

13 Days | New Delhi - Kolkata

UNIWORLD
EXOTIC TRAVEL & TOURS

The All Ganges River

15 Days | Kolkata to Varanasi.

PANDAW

The Upper Ganges River

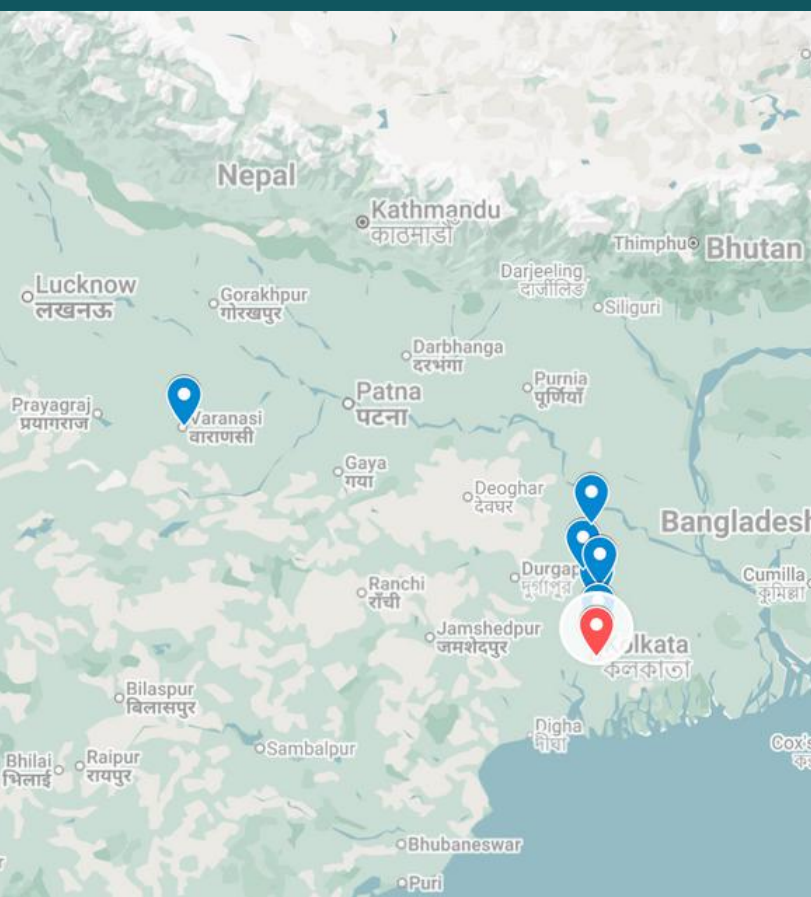
8 Days | Farakka to Varanasi.

PANDAW

The Lower Ganges River

8 Days | Kolkata - Farakka

PANDAW



Key Highlights and Experiences

River cruising in India offers a unique perspective on the country, allowing travellers to witness the stunning scenery, vibrant cities, and rich history all from the comfort of a luxurious river cruise ship. Unlike traditional land travel, river cruising provides a more intimate and serene journey, as you glide along the waterways, past bustling cities, ancient temples, and picturesque villages, all while enjoying first-class amenities and service.

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE OF INDIA

Delhi – Explore the dynamic contrasts of India’s capital. From the majestic Red Fort and Jama Masjid to colonial-era boulevards like Rajpath, the city blends history with modern vibrancy. Rickshaw rides through Chandni Chowk, the scent of street food, and bustling spice markets immerse you fully in local life.

Agra – Witness the ethereal beauty of the Taj Mahal at sunrise—a timeless symbol of love and the jewel of Mughal architecture. Visit Agra Fort and the nearby Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah (“Baby Taj”), and enjoy serene views of the Yamuna River.

Jaipur – Known as the Pink City, Jaipur offers a feast of colour and craftsmanship. Explore the hilltop Amber Fort with its mirrored palace chambers, marvel at the Palace of the Winds (Hawa Mahal), and shop for block prints, gemstones, and marigold garlands in the city’s vivid bazaars.

UPPER GANGES RIVER CRUISES

Varanasi – The sacred city where time feels suspended. Witness the Ganga Aarti ceremonies—flames, chants, and floating diyas lighting up the night. Float by cremation ghats at dawn and see pilgrims bathe in the holy waters as the sun rises over the riverbanks.

Munger – A small riverside city known for its ancient fort and its role in yoga heritage. Guests often visit the Bihar School of Yoga,

walk through sleepy lanes, and see how religion shapes everyday life here.

Optional Patna Extension – Visit the capital of Bihar, steeped in Buddhist and Sikh history. Stops may include the Golghar granary, Gurdwaras, and bustling markets that reflect the diversity of this region.

LOWER GANGES RIVER CRUISES

Kolkata – Former capital of the British Raj, Kolkata reveals a mix of colonial charm and Bengali soul. Visit the stately Victoria Memorial, walk through lively flower and book markets, and enjoy glimpses of the Howrah Bridge and St. Paul’s Cathedral.

Kalna – Famous for its 108 terracotta temples arranged in concentric circles. The Rajbari temple complex is a marvel of carved brickwork depicting mythological scenes.

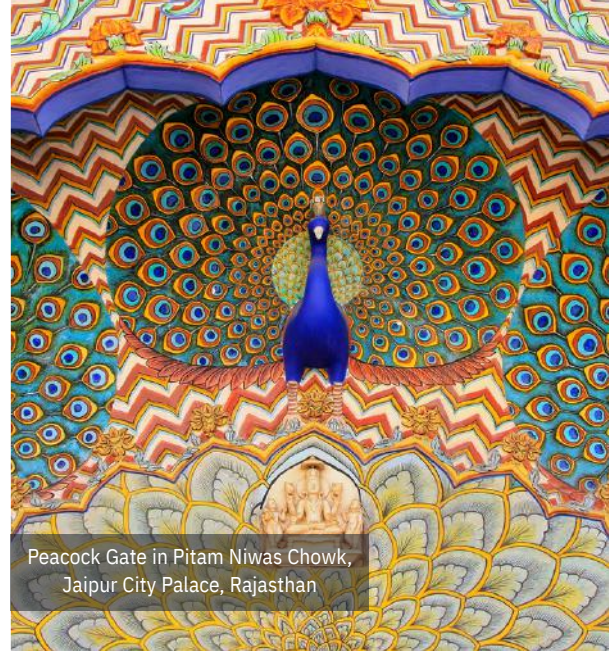
Matuari – A village known for its centuries-old brass-making traditions. Watch artisans hand-hammer metal into water pots and ornaments in open-air workshops.

Murshidabad – Once the capital of Bengal, home to the ornate Hazarduari Palace, with a thousand real and false doors, and remnants of British and Nawabi rule.

Mayapur & Chandannagar – Visit the global HQ of ISKCON in Mayapur, a tranquil riverside pilgrimage site, and explore the French colonial heritage of Chandannagar, complete with riverside promenades and pastel-coloured mansions.



Agra Fort, Agra, Uttar Pradesh



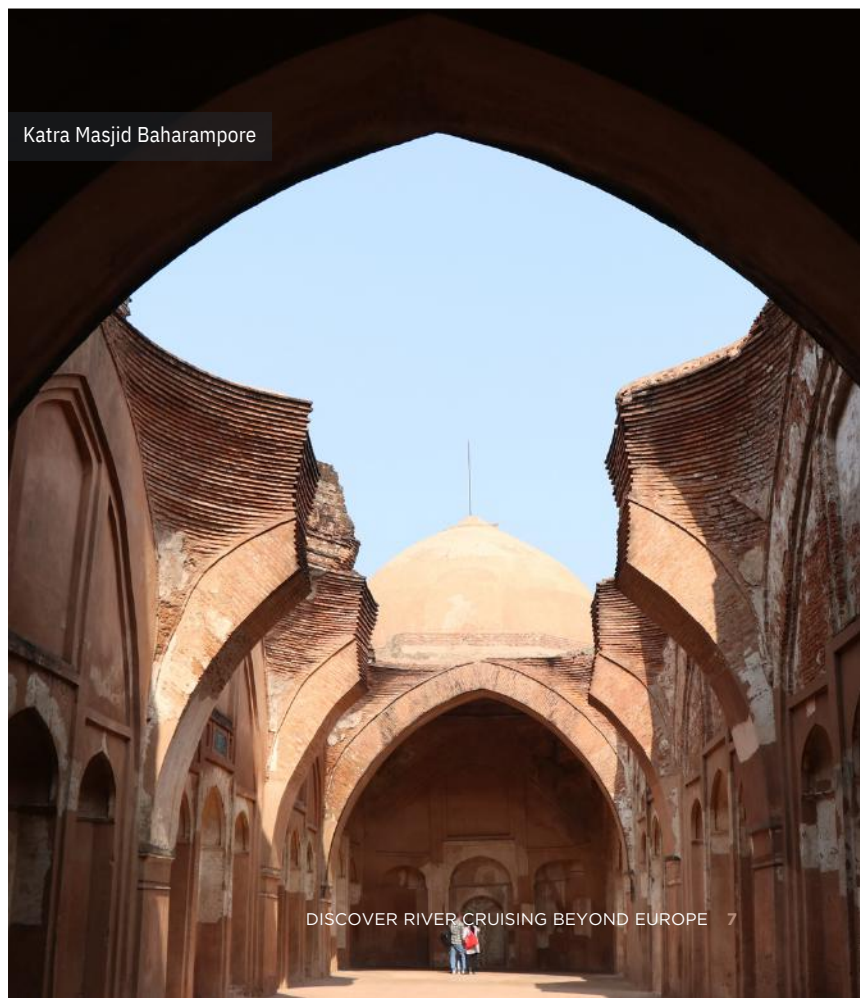
Peacock Gate in Pitam Niwas Chowk,
Jaipur City Palace, Rajasthan



Flowers at the flower market in Kolkata



View of Taj Mahal at sunset in Agra



Katra Masjid Baharampore

Onboard Experience



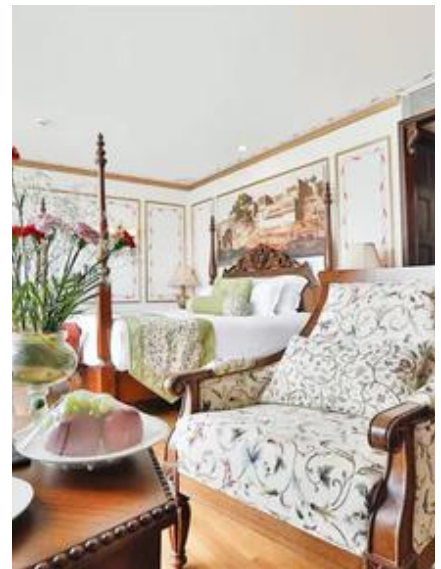
GANGES VOYAGER II

The magnificent design and décor onboard this ship draw inspiration from the colours and gorgeous scenery throughout India.

Relax in the air-conditioned lounge, or in the shade out on the sundeck and watch this amazing world drift by. Dining is provided in the East India restaurant where a selection of Indian and European dishes are served. Breakfast and lunch are buffets with silver service for the evening meals.

Catering for just 56 guests the Ganges Voyager II provides accommodation in elegant, spacious suites with high ceilings, hand painted murals and the finest linens. Floor to ceiling windows in all suites provide uninterrupted river views.

Keep in shape, or just pamper yourself, in the Spa & fitness rooms with a range of treatments, wellness activities & equipment available.



Accommodation & Amenities

The ship's spacious, high-ceilinged suites are a serene sanctuary, with beautiful hand-painted murals and all the comforts of a five-star hotel. All suites have a cosy sitting area and a French balcony with floor-to-ceiling glass doors. A bed dressed in soft linens, with a choice of pillows.

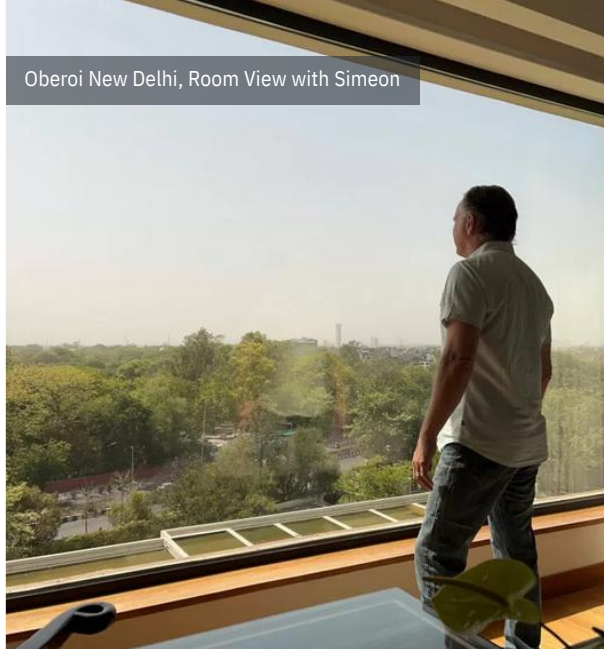
The roomy bathroom has a rain shower, comfy robes and slippers, and spa-quality bath products. Other high-end amenities include a generous amount of closet space, under-bed storage, a flat-screen television with a wide selection of on-demand movies, individual climate control, bottled water replenished daily, fresh fruit and flowers upon arrival, an iPhone docking station with alarm clock, makeup mirrors, and universal electrical plugs.

Onboard Features & Facilities

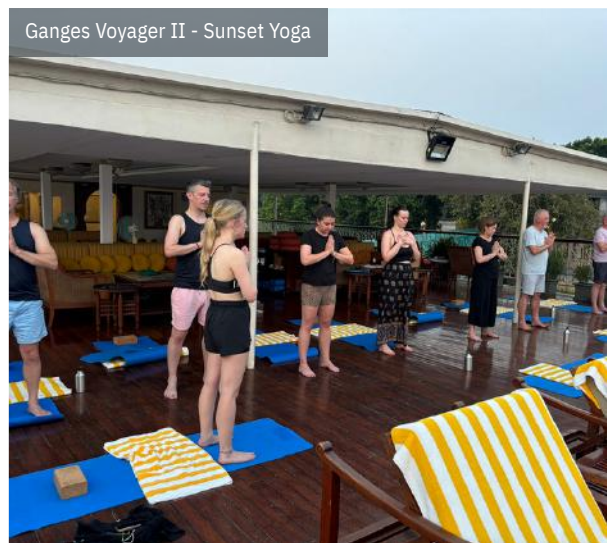
- 28 staterooms and suites catering for just 56 guests
- Dining room serving locally inspired and European dishes
- Panoramic lounge & bar
- Covered sundeck with loungers and chairs
- Open air observation deck with chairs and tables
- Spa and Fitness room



Simeon on Taj Mahal Diana bench



Oberoi New Delhi, Room View with Simeon



Ganges Voyager II - Sunset Yoga



Cooking Demonstration Ganges Voyager II



Oberoi Armavilas - Traditional Dining

Travel Practicalities

BEST MONTH'S TO TRAVEL

September to March would be the best time to avoid the really hot and wet summer months. December and January can be quite cool, so a good time to travel if you want to avoid the heat. You will need pack some warmer clothes for the mornings and evenings this time of year.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

UK travelers need a 30-day e-visa. Apply online 30 days before departure with your passport and some personal history details. The visa costs about USD \$10 and is usually processed within two to three days.

HEALTH/TRAVEL ADVICE

The UK Government provides health advice for travellers via the Travel Health Pro site in England & Wales and Fit for Travel in Scotland. You should discuss your specific requirements with your GP or Practice nurse who will usually use these sites as the basis for discussion

<https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country/105/india>

<https://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/asia-east/india>

What Should I Pack?

Pack layers for fluctuating temperatures, especially between cool mornings and warm afternoons. Bring comfortable shoes, a hat, and modest clothing for visits to religious sites.

Can I drink the water?

Yes, on the Ganges Voyager II and at Oberoi hotels, the water is filtered and safe. Bottled water is also available for excursions. Avoid drinks with ice outside of the ship or hotels.

What's the Flight Experience Like?

Direct flights from London to Delhi are available, but there are no direct options from Kolkata to the UK. One-stop options exist from regional airports. Adding a Varanasi extension allows you to fly back from Delhi, with better connections.

What Are the Hotels Like?

The tour includes stays at luxurious Oberoi hotels in New Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, offering premium accommodations. Each hotel has unique characteristics, excellent amenities, and attentive but non-intrusive service.

What Excursions are Included?

Excursions cover cultural landmarks, local markets, and historic sites. Highlights include visits to the Taj Mahal, with both evening and early morning tours to experience the monument's changing colours in different lights.

How Fit Do I Need to Be?

A reasonable level of fitness is required, as there are no elevators on the ship, and some excursions involve walking on uneven surfaces and climbing steps. The ship sometimes uses a tender vessel to reach shore, requiring additional steps.

Mekong River

Cruising the Mekong offers a journey through Southeast Asia's lush landscapes, rare wildlife, and vibrant culture. Most itineraries focus on the lower Mekong between Cambodia and Vietnam, where travellers experience Angkor Wat's temples, the colonial charm of Phnom Penh, and the lively markets of the Mekong Delta. The **cruising style** is relaxed and immersive. Guests travel on small river ships (28-80 passengers), with frequent stops by tuk-tuk or boat to explore villages, monasteries, and landmarks. Many cruises include land stays in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, contrasting Cambodia's Buddhist heritage with Vietnam's urban energy and French architecture.

Example Itineraries

Riches of the Mekong



13 Days | Siem Reap - Ho Chi Minh City

Vietnam & Cambodia Highlights



15 Days | Ho Chi Minh City - Siem Reap

Vietnam & Cambodia Discovery



19 Days | Hanoi - Ho Chi Minh City

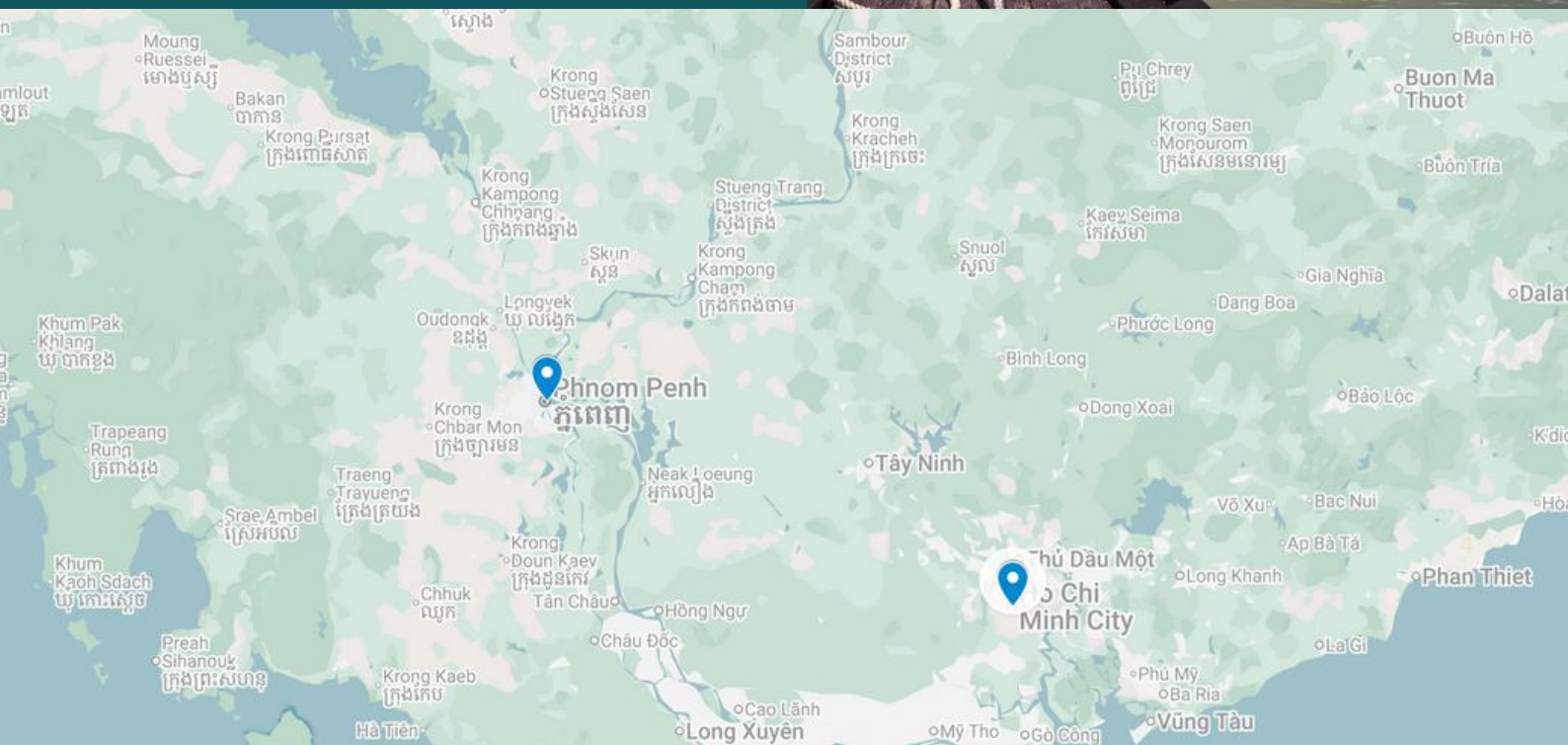
Best of Vietnam & Cambodia



23 Days | Hanoi - Siem Reap

Wonders of Vietnam Cambodia & the Mekong

15 Days | Siem Reap - Ho Chi Minh City



Key Highlights and Experiences

Discover a journey that blends Cambodia and Vietnam's cultural heartlands with immersive river life. From the temples of Angkor and Phnom Penh's royal legacy to the buzz of Ho Chi Minh City, each stop offers a rich sense of place. Along the way, sampan rides, floating markets, and village visits bring the Mekong's everyday rhythm to life.

SIEM REAP

Angkor Wat & Temple Complexes – At the heart of any visit, explore the grandeur of Angkor Wat at sunrise, the enigmatic Bayon faces, the tree-entwined Ta Prohm, and red sandstone Banteay Srei (“Citadel of Women”)

Cultural performances – Enjoy the Apsara dance show, a vibrant, traditional Khmer performance often included in evening programme post-temple visits .

PHNOM PENH

Royal Palace & Silver Pagoda – Begin with a cyclo ride through the city to visit royal heritage sites and the adjacent National Museum, showcasing Angkor-era treasures

Historical Reflection – Take an optional (but important) side trip to the Killing Fields and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum to deepen understanding of Cambodia's recent past

HO CHI MINH CITY

City Highlights – Visit the Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, the French-designed Central Post Office, and the War Remnants Museum; explore Ben Thanh Market and vibrant Cholon District via rickshaw – capturing the city's pulse

Cu Chi Tunnels – Venture outside the city to navigate the vast underground tunnel network used during the Vietnam War (typically a half-day excursion) .

KEY EXCURSIONS ALONG THE MEKONG

Silk Island Experience (Koh Oknha Tey)

– Onboard lectures accompanied by visits to silk-weaving workshops, with guests often introduced to the traditional weaving process and martial arts demonstrations (e.g., Bokator)

Floating Village Visits – Sampan journeys through narrow canals in places like Ben Tre or Cai Be, with stops to see coconut farming, fish farms, and local floating markets that showcase daily life on the water

Riverside Village Walks & Ox-Cart Rides

– Explore remote riverside communities in Oudong, Kampong Tralach, and Tan Chau, including school visits, local temple blessings, and hands-on cultural exchanges

Culinary Demonstrations & Local

Markets – Onboard chefs lead cooking demonstrations; onshore, guests visit central markets like Sa Dec and Ben Tre to discover regional ingredients and have the chance to taste locally made delicacies

Monk Blessing Ceremonies – In smaller temples (e.g., Oudong), participate in traditional Buddhist ceremonies with local monks—often part of the enrichment options



Buu Long pagoda at District 9, Ho Chi Minh City

Ha Long Bay Red Ship



Floating Market



Angkor Wat



Kuang Si Waterfalls, Luang Prabang, Laos

Onboard Experience



AMADARA

The 124-passenger AmaDara, launched in 2015, is styled with elegant French Colonial décor and Mekong artefacts crafted by local artisans. Staterooms start at 251 sq. ft., while suites range up to 502 sq. ft., all featuring twin balconies—both French and full—along with a sitting area, in-room safe, mini bar, and climate control. Bathrooms are spacious, with robes, slippers, and hairdryers; suites add separate tubs and enhanced amenities.

Onboard, guests can enjoy a spa, fitness centre, hair salon, boutique, and a Sun Deck pool. The Saigon Lounge hosts vibrant local performances, including traditional Khmer Apsara dance. Dining includes regional dishes and Western favourites, with unlimited complimentary wine, local beer, soft drinks, and house spirits served with lunch and dinner. For a more intimate culinary experience, guests can also dine at the ship's specialty venue, **The Chef's Table**.

Accommodation & Amenities

The AmaWaterways AmaDara river ship contains 62 spacious, elegantly appointed staterooms and suites range in size from 251-502 sq. ft, all feature a French balcony and outside balcony, so you can enjoy the ever-changing scenery however you wish. Suites feature added enhancements, including a larger sitting area and bathrooms with both a shower and a separate bath, staterooms and suites amenities include Entertainment-On-Demand, climate-controlled air conditioning; plush towels, bathrobes and slippers telephone, safe and hair dryer, mini bar with bottled water replenished daily, and an in-room safe.

Onboard Features & Facilities

- 48 spacious staterooms and 14 luxurious suites, all with both French and full balconies
- Mekong restaurant with panoramic views
- Saigon lounge with full service bar
- Canopied Observation Lounge & Pool
- Chef's Table Restaurant
- Library & reading room
- Internet Café
- Fitness suite, hair salon & spa
- Gift shop

RV APSARA



RV Apsara (formerly AmaLotus) is Travelmarvel's stylish river ship, offering sophisticated design and premium onboard facilities. With nearly one staff member for every two guests, the service is intuitive, warm, and attentive. Spacious public areas include an air-conditioned lounge that opens onto the Sun Deck, complete with a plunge pool—perfect for enjoying scenic riverside views in comfort. The ship also features the elegant Le Việt Nam Café, a French-inspired, air-conditioned venue with large windows for relaxed viewing, as well as the Apsara Spa & Wellness Centre for added indulgence.

Cruise and Tour Directors are friendly, English-speaking locals renowned for their expertise and dedication, ensuring every aspect of your journey is smooth, engaging, and memorable.

Accommodation & Amenities

The top deck features an enclosed air-conditioned dining room, lounge and bar, as well as an open-air Sun Deck complete with a plunge pool. On the middle deck the Saigon lounge & bar is a great place to relax, have a drink and enjoy a selection of books, games and DVDs. The Mekong restaurant on the lower deck offers indulgent local and international dishes freshly prepared by your chef.

The 54 suites, including two Mekong suites and 10 Sadec suites, feature air-conditioning and a private balcony where you can enjoy unobstructed views. The larger Sadec and Mekong suites offer more space to relax and feature bathrooms with separate shower and bathtub.

Onboard Features & Facilities

- 54 spacious suites, each with a private balcony, panoramic and outside views, and individual climate control
- En-suite bathrooms with hairdryer, bathrobes, slippers, and toiletries
- Mekong Restaurant serving local and international cuisine with panoramic views
- Lounge and Saigon bar with floor-to-ceiling windows
- Le Việt Nam Café – French-inspired, adjoining the Sun Deck, perfect for afternoon tea
- Sun Deck with a plunge pool
- Apsara Spa & Wellness Centre
- Eco-friendly ship design
- Attentive, professional service with nearly 1 staff member per 2 guests

Laos Mekong

River cruises on the Lao Mekong offer a unique way to explore one of Southeast Asia's most remote and beautiful regions. Travelling between Vientiane and the Golden Triangle, these voyages take guests deep into the heart of Laos, passing jungle-clad mountains, remote riverside villages, and tranquil stretches of the Mekong rarely seen by tourists.



What to Expect on a Pandaw Laos Mekong Cruise

The ships are built with shallow drafts, allowing access to hidden parts of the river. Onboard, guests enjoy teak-lined cabins, open decks, and a relaxed, informal atmosphere. With fewer passengers than most cruises, the experience is intimate and peaceful. Daily excursions include visits to tribal communities, ancient temples, and local markets, offering genuine cultural encounters far from the tourist trail.

A highlight of the journey is the UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang, where French colonial charm meets Buddhist tradition. Elsewhere, the cruise winds through dramatic gorges and dense forests, with time to spot wildlife or simply watch life unfold on the riverbanks.

Pandaw is known for its commitment to low-impact travel, working closely with local communities and preserving the natural environment. These cruises combine adventure with comfort, appealing to travellers looking for authentic experiences without compromising on quality. The Lao Mekong is one of Pandaw's most exclusive and rewarding routes—offering timeless scenery, rich culture, and a true sense of discovery.



Travel Practicalities

BEST MONTH'S TO TRAVEL

The Mekong Delta is in the south of Vietnam, west and south of Ho Chi Minh City and experiences two main seasons, the wet season and the dry season. Rainy season is from May to November with the most rain in June/July. It's very hot and humid. Coolest and driest tends to be November.

Dry and sunny is from December to the end of April. Prices tend to be highest in Dec through to March as this is seen as the most comfortable weather to travel in this part of South East Asia. Just remember though that if you are aiming to add on other bits to your trip such as Ha Long Bay and Laos, then the weather here will still be different again.

DO I NEED A VISA?

If you are travelling in the Mekong Delta then you are travelling to Vietnam and Cambodia. You can start in Cambodia in Siem Reap. Or you can start in Vietnam.

You need a visa for Cambodia but at the moment you don't need a visa for Vietnam if you are a UK citizen. If you then travel across to Cambodia on the river ship, then the crew will take your passports and this will be done on your behalf.

If you start in Cambodia, then you can get a visa at the airport on arrival. There is an e-visa for Cambodia, but this won't help if you are travelling to Cambodia from Vietnam on the ship. We are here to help, so don't worry.

TOP TIPS TO REMEMBER

1. Bring insect repellent. The late evenings will be worse for the insects but even during the day, the gnats and fire ants can be a bother.

2. As well as the insect spray, a healthy amount of sun screen is also required.

3. Avoid the animals too. The dogs, cats and even monkeys will have a lot of diseases.

4. Learn the street rules. In the major cities like Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh, the crossing rules for pedestrians are not the same as in the UK. The best choice is waiting for no cars, and calmly walking out, and let the motor vehicles like bikes zig zag around you. If this isn't appealing, walk across with the locals in a group.

5. Be adventurous with your eating. In South East Asia, the food will be something you might have never tried before, and trying something different is always fun – but be careful. Staying away from dairy, ice in drinks, and fruit and veg is wise. Bottled water is the safest option for drinking, and is much needed in the heat.

6. Pack loose clothing, and pack extra tops for the inevitable amount of sweating. Tight clothes won't be comfortable in the humidity, and when you return to the cruise ship, you will want to wear some fresh clothes and stay cool.

EXTENSIONS: ANGKOR WAT & HA LONG BAY

Many Mekong cruises include land extensions. Siem Reap (for Angkor Wat) is a popular pre- or post-cruise highlight, offering guided access to Cambodia's most iconic temple complex. In Vietnam, an overnight Ha Long Bay cruise offers a chance to sail past limestone karsts and floating villages—often combined with stays in Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City.

Nile & Cairo

A Nile cruise is a captivating blend of breathtaking sights, vibrant culture, and unparalleled learning through expert Egyptologists who accompany every trip. It's the ideal way to immerse yourself in the Egyptian atmosphere, forge new connections, and unwind amidst the renowned Egyptian hospitality. With the northern stretch of the Nile now accessible, you can cruise all the way from Cairo to Aswan, although most cruises focus on the southern Nile between Luxor and Aswan.

Example Itineraries

Secrets of Egypt & The Nile



12 Days | Cairo - Luxor - Edfu - Aswan
- Edna - Luxor - Cairo

Secrets of Egypt & The Nile



(7 night Nile Cruise)

8 Days | Luxor - Edfu - Aswan - Edna - Luxor

Splendours of Egypt and the Nile



12 Days | Cairo to Cairo



Key Highlights and Experiences

A Nile cruise is not just a holiday; it's a journey through ancient history, wrapped in breathtaking sights, vibrant culture, and unparalleled luxury. As you sail along the sacred waters of the Nile, you're privy to Egypt's ancient secrets and stunning landscapes. The Egyptian hospitality is renowned, and a luxury cruise allows you to forge new connections, unwind, and immerse yourself in this historical atmosphere.

CAIRO

Egypt's capital is a bustling metropolis that straddles the Nile, combining ancient wonders with modern flair. Don't miss the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, which houses an unrivaled collection of ancient artifacts, and the Citadel of Salah al-Din with the exquisite Alabaster Mosque. Cairo can be visited as part of a land tour included as part of your Egyptian adventure, usually as a 2 night stay before flying onwards to the starting point of your 7 night Nile Cruise.

LUXOR

This city was once the capital of Egypt and offers a treasure trove of ancient Egyptian history. Visit the tombs of the Pharaohs, explore the Luxor Museum, and immerse yourself in the vibrant local bazaars and souks.

AGILIKA AND THE ASWAN HIGH DAM

Visit the Island of Agilika and explore the Temple of Philae, dedicated to Isis. Marvel at the Aswan High Dam, an impressive engineering feat designed to control the Nile's floodwaters and create the vast Lake Nassar.

GIZA

Located on the outskirts of Cairo, Giza is home to the most iconic monuments in the world – the Great Pyramids and the Sphinx.

EDFU/KOM OMBO

Discover the exceptionally preserved 2,000-year-old Temple of Horus in Edfu. Further down the river, the temple of Kom Ombo honors the crocodile-headed god Sobek.

THEBES AND THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS

Cross the Nile to the western bank and explore Thebes and the Valley of the Kings. Uncover the secrets of Tutankhamun's tomb and visit iconic sites like the terrace temple of Queen Hatshepsut and the temples of Karnak and Luxor.

KARNAK

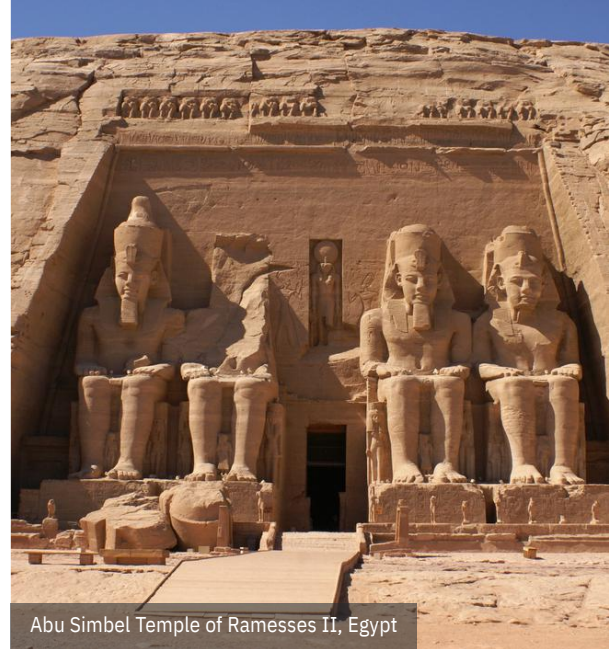
Step into the vast open-air museum of Karnak, the largest ancient religious site in the world. With its towering pylons, chapels, and temples, Karnak showcases the remarkable architectural achievements of over 30 Pharaohs.

ALEXANDRIA

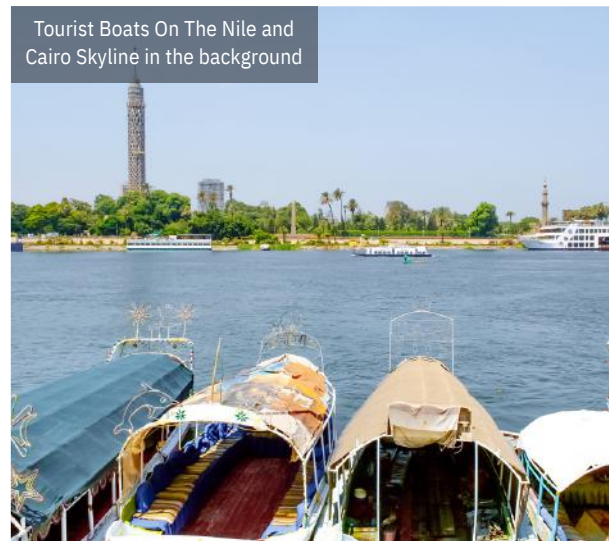
Just a short distance from Cairo, Alexandria is Egypt's second-largest city. Delve into its rich history, including the ancient wonders of the lighthouse (one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World) and the great library.



Entrance of the Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut Luxor Egypt



Abu Simbel Temple of Ramesses II, Egypt



Tourist Boats On The Nile and
Cairo Skyline in the background



Cairo - Sunset over Nile



Pyramids of Giza, Egypt

Onboard Experience



AMALILIA

Launched in 2024, AmaWaterways' stunning AmaLilia is a true treasure of the Nile. Specially curated with upscale regionally inspired décor and 41 staterooms, including 13 marvelous suites, AmaLilia carries you through Egypt in style with the luxurious amenities and exclusive experiences only AmaWaterways provides.

Savour both exquisite western and local fare infused with Middle Eastern spices at the Main Restaurant and enjoy one special evening sampling your way through the multi-course tasting menu at The Chef's Table.

Treat yourself to a massage, manicure or pedicure on board and emerge anew. Plus, expand your mind by listening to the commentary of our expert Egyptologist, who will be joining you throughout your journey on board this lovely river cruise ship.



Accommodation & Amenities

AmaLilia features just 13 spacious suites designed with comfort and style in mind. Most include AmaWaterways' signature twin balconies—one French and one full—offering panoramic views of the Nile. Each suite comes with a marble bathroom complete with a deep bathtub and a multi-jet shower.

Onboard, guests can relax on the expansive Sun Deck, where a shaded lounge and refreshing pool offer the perfect setting to take in the river views. The ship also features inviting public areas, including a main lounge and elegant dining venues: the Main Restaurant and The Chef's Table specialty restaurant.

Throughout your stay, enjoy unlimited complimentary local beer, wine, and soft drinks during lunch and dinner. With just 82 guests onboard, AmaLilia offers a refined, spacious atmosphere—backed by attentive service and every modern convenience.

Onboard Features & Facilities

- 41 spacious staterooms and suites, most with French or full balconies
- Sun-deck with heated pool and bar
- Main Restaurant and AI-Fresco Chef's Table dining
- Panoramic lounge with bar
- Hair & nail salon, massage room and fitness suite
- Lift to accommodation decks

UNIWORLD SS SPINX



SS Sphinx's reimagined design brings the beauty of the region to life onboard, with locally sourced Egyptian fabrics, artwork and hand-carved furnishings. SS Sphinx will take you to bucket-list destinations, filling you with wonder and intrigue as you sail past man-made marvels, wonders of the world and ancient temple complexes.

This ship features 42 staterooms and suites, two gourmet dining venues, a massage room, a swimming pool and, not to mention, sweeping views of the longest river in the world.



Accommodation & Amenities

The ship offers a truly authentic and immersive onboard experience. The bespoke decor by local artisans, and regionally sourced fine Egyptian cottons, marble and hand-carved blonde wood, highlight Egyptian craftsmanship whilst minimizing the carbon footprint of the vessel.

All staterooms and suites have floor to ceiling windows providing expansive views of the passing scenery and feature the following amenities:

- beds draped in fine linens
- built-in closets
- a vanity and makeup mirror
- hair dryer
- safe
- individual thermostat for air-conditioning
- direct-dial phone
- LCD television with a selection of viewing choices
- a bathroom with robes and bath amenities, and slippers

Onboard Features & Facilities

- 42 staterooms and suites catering for just 84 guests
- Main restaurant and bistro fine dining venues
- Panoramic lounge & bar
- Expansive sundeck with pool, cabanas, loungers and chairs
- Massage room
- Gym & fitness room
- Lift to all accommodation decks
- 24hr coffee and tea room
- Gift shop

Travel Practicalities

BEST MONTH'S TO TRAVEL

The best time to cruise the Nile is between **December and March**, when daytime temperatures are comfortable for sightseeing—usually under 30 °C. These months offer cooler weather, clearer skies, and are ideal for visiting temples and archaeological sites. The summer months (May–August) can reach 40 °C or higher and are not recommended unless you're comfortable with intense heat.

TRAVEL LOGISTICS

Most Nile cruises operate between **Luxor and Aswan**, either northbound or southbound. Flights are included from Cairo to Luxor or Aswan depending on the direction of travel. Longer itineraries (such as 12-night trips) often begin with a 3-night stay in **Cairo**, visiting the Pyramids, the Egyptian Museum, and Old Cairo before flying south to join the cruise.

TIPPING

Gratuities are not automatically included and are typically collected at the end of the trip. Global River Cruising suggests that guests will be advised of tipping amounts in their pre-departure documents. As a general guide, it's customary to tip cruise staff, drivers, and Egyptologist guides.

DRESS CODE

Casual, lightweight clothing is suitable during the day. For temple visits and religious sites, modest dress is required—cover shoulders and knees. Evenings on board are relaxed and smart casual (no need for formalwear). Pack sun protection, a scarf or shawl for mosque visits, and layers for cooler evenings during winter months.

TOP TIPS FOR TRAVELLING THE NILE

- Bring small denominations (Egyptian pounds or USD) for tipping and market shopping.
- Stay hydrated – bottled water is provided on board and recommended at all times.
- Pack a scarf or shawl – useful for sun protection and required for mosque visits.
- Don't forget insect repellent – especially useful in the evenings near the river.
- Download a currency converter app – useful when bargaining in local markets.
- Ask your Egyptologist questions – they're incredibly knowledgeable and happy to share insights beyond the guided tours.
- Use the onboard laundry service – helpful if extending your trip in Cairo or beyond.

GLOBALRIVERCRUISING



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CRUISE OR BOOK YOUR
HOLIDAY WITH US**



0800 471 4754
+44 (0) 161 669 6262



enquiries@globalrivercruising.co.uk