

GLOBAL **RIVER** CRUISING

*Guide to*  
Worldwide River Cruising



[globalrivercruising.co.uk](http://globalrivercruising.co.uk)



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# Welcome

*to the world of river cruising!*

**A**t Global River Cruising, we've spent over a decade helping travelers like you discover the magic of exploring the world's waterways. Since 2011, we've been sharing our passion for river cruising by handpicking river cruise holidays that showcase the best of each destination—from Europe's iconic rivers to the exotic landscapes of Southeast Asia and Africa. We only work with the best cruise companies in the industry, so you can be confident your holiday will be comfortable, aspirational and unforgettable.



This guide is here to introduce you to what we consider one of the best ways to travel. On a river cruise, every day brings new food and wine discoveries, local excursions, and opportunities to step right into the culture and history of each region. You'll learn how river cruising differs from other types of holidays, the destinations we cover, what to pack, the best times to sail, and how to get the most out of your trip. We've filled it with insider tips and personal recommendations because we want every one of our travelers to fall in love with river cruising just like we did.

Whether you're a seasoned traveler or just curious about life on the river, we hope this guide will give you all the inspiration you need to start planning your next adventure. So, grab a coffee, settle in, and let us share a bit of our world with you.

*Here's to new experiences, unforgettable memories, and incredible discoveries on the rivers of the world!*

*Alex & Simon*

Founders of Global River Cruising



# River Cruising

River cruising is a relaxing way to discover new places from the comfort of a floating hotel. With an intimacy that is not available on an ocean-going cruiser and an accessibility to areas that a car cannot get, they are the best way to discover some of the world's greatest treasures, both natural and man-made.



## WHY CHOOSE RIVER CRUISING?

### ↪ EVER CHANGING VIEWS

Enjoy stunning scenery from your cabin or the main deck, from mountains & vineyards to historic cities and fairytale castles. Unlike ocean cruises, river cruises offer continuous sights during daytime travel.

### ↪ DREAM DESTINATIONS

Explore UNESCO World Heritage sites and iconic landmarks like Germany's Rhine Gorge, the historic windmills of Kinderdijk, Cambodia's Angkor temples and 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.

### ↪ UNPACK ONCE

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

### ↪ INCLUSIVE PRICING

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

### ↪ VARIETY OF CHOICES

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

### ↪ ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

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

### ↪ EFFORTLESS TRAVEL

Access top sights without the hassle of driving or parking. Many cruises offer free bikes for exploring car-free areas.

### ↪ LUXURY FLOATING HOTELS

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

### ↪ INTIMATE ATMOSPHERE

With around 150 guests, river cruises offer relaxed social areas, personalised dining, and quiet lounges without the busy feel of large liners.

### ↪ ACCESSIBILITY

Boats feature minimal steps, shallow ramps, lifts, and accessible cabins. Guided tours use headset systems for clear commentary.

# Ocean Cruise vs River Cruise

*-What's the difference?*



## OCEAN CRUISE

### 1. Scenic Views & Proximity to Destinations

Primarily sail on open sea, with limited views until reaching ports, which are often located on the outskirts of cities.

### 2. Ship Size & Atmosphere

Larger vessels carry thousands of passengers, offering a lively and bustling environment with a wide range of activities and entertainment.

### 3. Excursions & Accessibility

Excursions are often optional add-ons, with a variety of activities that might include more extensive travel from port to destinations.

### 4. Entertainment & Activities

Offer an array of entertainment, from theaters and casinos to pools and nightclubs, creating a diverse and active onboard experience.

### 5. Inclusions & Value

Often require additional payment for excursions, specialty dining, and drinks, resulting in a more variable total cost.

### 6. Seasonality & Destinations

Run year-round, with destinations spanning diverse regions including the Caribbean, Mediterranean, and beyond.

### 7. Movement & Comfort

Ocean conditions vary, and passengers may experience more noticeable movement, especially during adverse weather.

### 8. Dining Experience

Provide multiple dining options, including buffets & specialty restaurants, catering to diverse tastes and preferences.

## RIVER CRUISE

### 1. Scenic Views & Proximity to Destinations

Travel through the heart of cities and scenic landscapes, offering constant views from the deck and cabins. The proximity to landmarks allows you to dock right in city centers.

### 2. Ship Size & Atmosphere

Smaller, more intimate ships accommodate around 100-200 guests, fostering a relaxed, personal atmosphere.

### 3. Excursions & Accessibility

Excursions are typically included in the fare, focusing on local culture and landmarks accessible directly from the ship.

### 4. Entertainment & Activities

Feature cultural enrichment programs, like cooking classes, historical lectures, and regional performances, with limited onboard entertainment venues.

### 5. Inclusions & Value

Commonly offer all-inclusive pricing covering excursions, meals, and sometimes beverages and tips.

### 6. Seasonality & Destinations

Operate primarily during specific seasons (e.g., Europe from spring to Christmas) and focus on destination immersion along rivers like the Rhine, Danube, or Mekong.

### 7. Movement & Comfort

Smoother journeys along calm rivers mean little motion, ideal for travelers prone to seasickness.

### 8. Dining Experience

Emphasis on regional cuisine with a focus on quality dining experiences. Some ships offer open dining, while newer ships provide a selection of restaurants.

## Top Luxury River Cruise Operators

Luxury river cruising offers an unparalleled way to explore the world's most scenic waterways, blending exceptional service, elegant accommodations, and immersive cultural experiences. Whether it's savoring fine dining, enjoying spacious suites, or embarking on unique excursions, these operators redefine luxury on the water. Here are our top luxury river cruise operators:



**AMAWATERWAYS**

Known for their award-winning service, **AMAWaterways** delivers luxurious experiences with modern ships and exceptional dining. Highlights include:

- Spacious staterooms, many with twin balconies.
- Locally inspired cuisine and fine wines included at every meal.
- Wellness programs featuring guided hikes, fitness classes, and onboard wellness hosts.



**UNIWORLD**  
WORLDWIDE RIVER CRUISE OPERATOR

**Uniworld** sets the gold standard for elegance with its boutique-style ships. Every vessel is uniquely designed and reflects the regions it sails. Features include:

- All-inclusive pricing covering gourmet meals, unlimited beverages, and gratuities.
- Onboard activities like cooking classes and cultural enrichment programs.
- Luxurious staterooms with handcrafted furniture and marble bathrooms.



**APT TRAVEL MARVEL**

**APT** combines luxury and flexibility, offering a range of inclusions to suit every traveler.

Guests can enjoy:

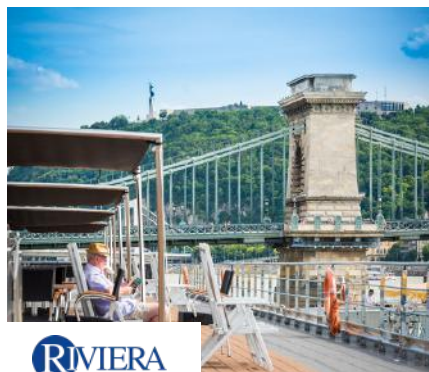
- Freedom to choose excursions tailored to their interests.
- Five-star dining and beverages, including regional specialties.
- Unmatched service with butlers in select suites and personal attention throughout the journey.



**SCENIC**  
LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS

**Scenic** redefines all-inclusive luxury with fully immersive travel experiences. Every detail is taken care of, with features like:

- Complimentary shore excursions and Scenic Enrich experiences.
- Fine dining across multiple onboard restaurants.
- Personal butler service & luxurious suites, including Scenic's signature Sun Lounges.



**RIVIERA TRAVEL**

Offering exceptional value for luxury, **Riviera Travel** focuses on enriching experiences for all guests. Features include:

- Expertly crafted itineraries and guided tours in every destination.
- Elegantly designed ships with spacious staterooms and gourmet dining.
- A relaxed yet refined onboard atmosphere with attentive service.



**AMADEUS RIVER CRUISES**

**Amadeus** is celebrated for its timeless European elegance and commitment to quality. Guests can enjoy:

- Gourmet dining with regional specialties and locally sourced ingredients.
- Spacious staterooms and suites, many with panoramic balconies.
- Engaging excursions, including wine tastings, city tours, & cycling adventures.

*Each luxury operator brings its own unique touch to river cruising, from exclusive excursions and exquisite dining to world-class service. Whether you're seeking the ultimate in indulgence or an enriching cultural journey, these operators offer the perfect balance of relaxation and exploration. Let us help you find the luxury river cruise that matches your style and expectations!*




## *River Cruising for Travellers with* **Limited Mobility**

**R**iver cruising is a wonderful holiday option for travelers of all ages, including those with limited mobility or walking difficulties. With effortless travel from port to port and constantly changing scenery, river cruises offer a unique experience. However, it's essential to understand the specific challenges and how they can be managed to ensure a smooth journey.

### → TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

- **Air Travel:** Airports can be challenging due to the distances and time pressures involved. Assistance, available from check-in to the departure gate, can be arranged in advance. If climbing steps is an issue, lifts can also be provided.
- **Rail Travel:** Rail options, such as Eurostar, can be a more accessible way to reach European destinations while avoiding airport hassle. However, travel times can be longer (e.g., up to two or three days to reach Budapest by rail). For an elegant and leisurely journey, consider the Venice Simplon Orient-Express.

 **Tip:** Cruise operators may conduct a health assessment to confirm that your travel needs are adequately met.

### → LIFE ON BOARD

River cruise ships are designed to fit narrow locks and low bridges, which influences their layout:

- **Corridors and Cabins:** Ships have relatively narrow corridors, and accessible cabins are typically available only in larger, higher-priced categories on modern ships.
- **Elevators:** Many ships feature elevators, though these may not reach all decks, such as the lower deck cabins or the Sun Deck. Most ships have easily accessible terrace areas off main lounges.
- **Docking Procedures:** In busy ports, ships often dock alongside each other. You may need to cross other ships to reach the shore, which could involve navigating stairs, especially if accessing sun decks.


### → WHEELCHAIRS AND MOBILITY AIDS

- **Wheelchairs and Mobility Scooters:** Most ships are not fully wheelchair accessible, as the vessel's size limits space. Small folding wheelchairs or collapsible scooters can be brought on board but must be stored in cabins.
- **Onboard Assistance:** Some ships keep a few wheelchairs onboard for emergencies, but these cannot be reserved. Walking frames and canes are usually the most practical mobility aids to use while onboard.

### → TOURS AND EXCURSIONS

Excursions are a highlight of river cruising, but accessibility varies:

- **Tour Types:** Tours typically involve a mix of walking and coach travel, sometimes over uneven ground. If boarding a coach is challenging, some excursions may not be available.
- **Mobility Levels:** Some operators offer excursions at different activity levels, allowing you to choose tours based on your mobility and energy level. For gentle walkers, there are options to accommodate a slower pace.
- **Onboard Relaxation:** For those who prefer a more relaxed experience, staying aboard the ship during excursions is always an option. Many guests enjoy the serene atmosphere onboard while companions explore ashore.

 **Tip:** Some cruises exclude tours in the base price, letting you select excursions as desired based on your energy level each day.

# When is the Best Time to Go on a River Cruise?

Choosing the right time to embark on a river cruise can significantly enhance your experience. Here's a seasonal guide to help you decide when to set sail.

## 1 SPRING (MARCH TO MAY)



➔ **RIVER CRUISES IN EUROPE**  
Spring is the ideal time to explore the Dutch and Belgian waterways on a Tulip river cruise, with peak bloom in March, April, and May. The Netherlands bursts into color with vibrant tulip fields, windmills, and canals—a must-see bucket list experience. March offers cooler weather and fewer crowds, making it a great time to find deals on European river cruises while still enjoying the same quality in ships, excursions, and service.



➔ **RIVER CRUISES IN ASIA**  
The best time for a Mekong river cruise is during the dry season, from November to March, when temperatures are comfortable and humidity is lower. This is the most popular time, so prices are higher. For a good balance of cost, weather, and fewer tourists, consider traveling in March or April, when conditions are still pleasant, and prices may be lower. Exploring the Mekong on a river cruise is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



➔ **MISSISSIPPI RIVER CRUISES**  
A journey along the Mississippi is a lesson in America's Civil War history, as well as a chance to visit grand plantation homes and storybook towns of the Deep South. This is Mark Twain territory, after all. In general, the best time to river cruise on the Lower Mississippi is from February to early June/late May. Spring offers mild temperatures and is in general the most pleasant times to visit.

## 2 SUMMER (JUNE TO AUGUST)



➔ **RIVER CRUISES IN EUROPE**  
May, June and September are peak season for European river cruises on the Rhine, Danube, and rivers in France, Portugal, and Italy. Interestingly July and August offer a chance to find lower prices, as some River Cruise travellers prefer to avoid this time of year. Luxury cruise operators enhance peak season experiences with inclusive activities like cycling, guided hikes, and up to four daily excursions, many exclusive. Some even offer kayaking or yoga classes on deck at no extra cost, providing a rich, active experience both on and off the ship.



### 3 AUTUMN (SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER)



#### → RIVER CRUISES IN EUROPE

Late September to November is an excellent time for European river cruises, offering pleasant weather, fewer crowds, and lower prices than peak summer. The autumn foliage is breathtaking, and seasonal festivities like farmer's markets and wine festivals add to the charm. November is especially ideal for wine-themed cruises on rivers like the Rhône, where you can enjoy local vintages with winemakers post-harvest. As December approaches, Europe's festive Christmas markets begin, transforming riverside cities in France, Germany, Austria, and more. Southern European rivers, like the lower Danube and Portugal's Douro, also stay warmer later in the season, extending the cruising opportunity.



#### → RIVER CRUISES IN INDIA

India offers a rich, immersive experience for adventurous travelers, with vibrant contrasts of culture and spirituality. A river cruise on the Ganges isn't for everyone, but for those who embrace India's unique energy, it's unforgettable. Global River Cruising offers a number of cruises in India operating through the cooler, dry season from September to March.



#### → RIVER CRUISES IN THE USA

Mississippi river cruises are divided into Upper and Lower itineraries. Upper Mississippi cruises run from St. Louis, Missouri, to St. Paul, Minnesota, and are best enjoyed in October and November, when cooler weather reduces mosquito activity. Lower Mississippi cruises, on the other hand, peak in spring, offering scenic views and warmer temperatures. As well as the ever popular Mississippi cruises America also offers other great locations. How about 'New England in the Fall' with the vibrant autumn colours? Of venture to the North West in the footsteps of Lewis and Clarke along the Colombia and Snake rivers.

### 4 WINTER (DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY)



#### → RIVER CRUISES IN ASIA

The best time for a Mekong river cruise is during the dry season, from November to April, with November to January offering ideal conditions. During this period, skies are clear, waters are calm, and the weather is comfortably warm after the wet season.

A Mekong cruise in the dry season allows you to immerse yourself in local culture and explore new places without weather worries, making for a relaxing and memorable experience.



#### → RIVER CRUISES IN EUROPE

The winter season is all about the build-up to Christmas and the New Year celebrations. Christmas Markets in the cities along the Danube, Rhine and Moselle make a cruise at this time of year downright magical. Yes, it's cold, but there are Glühwein and cheer to keep you toasty. Christmas river cruise on the Danube If you're a keen shopper that likes to find unique Christmas presents, then a Christmas river cruise is a must. Bring winter coats, hats, gloves and other ways to stay warm. It can get very cold and with a bit of luck even snow.

# Rhine

**A** Rhine River cruise allows you to explore one of Europe's most important and scenic rivers, stretching 830km from the Swiss Alps to the North Sea. Flowing through Switzerland, France, Germany and The Netherlands, the Rhine is lined with renowned wine valleys, stunning castles, and charming medieval towns, offering a truly captivating experience.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF A RHINE RIVER CRUISE



### → COLOGNE

**The Dom Cathedral:** Cologne's gothic cathedral, Kölner Dom, is one of the largest in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Remarkably rebuilt after the city was bombed in World War II, it stands as a testament to the city's resilience.

**Beer Gardens:** Cologne's beer gardens offer local pilsners paired perfectly with salty soft pretzels, making for a relaxing stop in this lively city.



### → HEIDELBERG

**Heidelberg Castle:** Perched above the town, the red sandstone ruins of Heidelberg Castle offer panoramic views of the surrounding valley. The medieval market town below features narrow cobbled streets perfect for exploring quaint cafes and people-watching.



### → KOBLENZ

**Marksburg Castle:** Over 700 years old, Marksburg Castle is a well-preserved medieval fortress offering a glimpse into the region's past.

**Confluence of Rivers:** Situated at the junction of the Rhine and Moselle rivers, Koblenz is a town rich in history. A must-do excursion is the aerial tram ride from the city center to Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, Europe's oldest, dating back to 1,000 BC.



## SOME OF OUR LUXURY RHINE RIVER CRUISES

**SCENIC<sup>®</sup>**  
LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS

### RHINE HIGHLIGHTS

8 Days | Amsterdam - Basel

[View Cruise](#)



**UNIWORLD**  
UNIQUE DISCOVERY CRUISES

### CASTLES ALONG THE RHINE

8 Days | Amsterdam - Basel

[View Cruise](#)



**AMAWATERWAYS<sup>™</sup>**

### RHINE & MOSELLE DELIGHTS

11 Days | Basel - Amsterdam

[View Cruise](#)



**EMERALD**  
CRUISES

### THE MAJESTIC RHINE

8 Days | Frankfurt - Basel

[View Cruise](#)



[View More Cruises](#)

# Danube

*Discover Europe's Most Historic Waterway*

**F**lowing from the Black Forest in Germany to the Black Sea, the Danube is Europe's second-longest river and a cradle of ancient European culture. Passing through 10 countries, including Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania, it has inspired composers and artists for centuries, offering travelers a journey through diverse landscapes and historic cities.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF A DANUBE RIVER CRUISE



➔ **BUDAPEST**  
**The Queen of the Danube:** Budapest, with its iconic Chain Bridge linking Buda's hills and Pest's flatlands, is a vibrant blend of East and West, medieval and modern. The city's riverside location offers stunning views and historical landmarks, making it one of Eastern Europe's most cosmopolitan cities.



➔ **VIENNA**  
**City of Music:** Vienna, home to legendary composers like Mozart, Beethoven, and Strauss, is steeped in musical heritage. Travelers can enjoy the city's vibrant arts scene and savor a slice of sachertorte with a smooth Viennese coffee at one of its historic coffee houses.

## SOME OF OUR LUXURY DANUBE RIVER CRUISES

**UNIWORLD**  
EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION

### ENCHANTING DANUBE

8 Days | Budapest - Passau.

[View Cruise](#)



**SCENIC**<sup>°</sup>  
LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS

### LOWER DANUBE DISCOVERY

16 Days | Bucharest - Black Sea - Budapest

[View Cruise](#)



[View More Cruises](#)



## 1 RHÔNE & SAÔNE [View Cruises](#)

The Rhône flows from Switzerland's Rhône Glacier, through Lake Geneva, and into France, joining the Saône at Lyon before reaching the Mediterranean. A Rhône cruise offers a scenic journey through Burgundy and Provence, regions celebrated for their landscapes, medieval villages, and world-renowned food and wine.

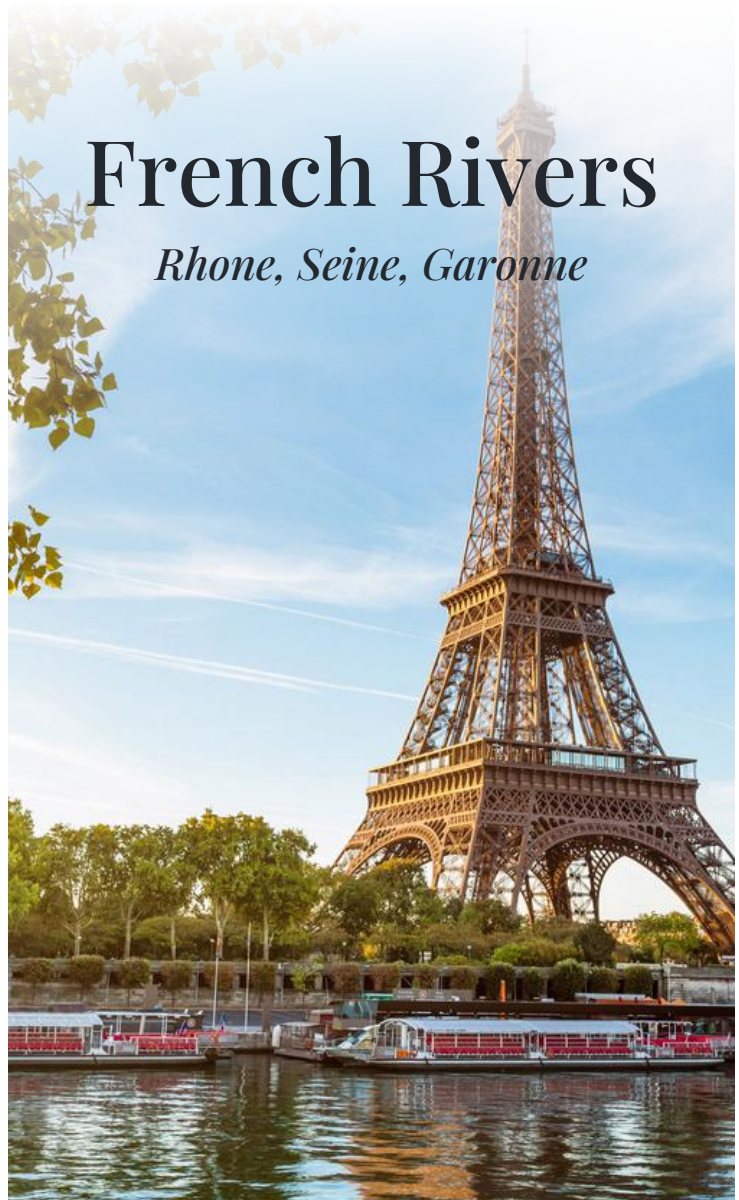
- ➔ **Arles:** Known for its Roman ruins, including Les Arènes arena and the Church of Saint-Trophime.
- ➔ **Avignon:** The "City of Popes," home to seven popes in the 14th century.
- ➔ **Lyon:** A UNESCO World Heritage Site with historic traboules (secret passageways) and stunning views from the Notre Dame Basilica.

Cruising the Rhône & Saône treats travelers to views of vineyards, farms, and castles, with opportunities to explore Provence's markets, villages, and lavender fields.

## 2 SEINE [View Cruises](#)

The Seine River flows from Burgundy through the heart of Paris, winding through Normandy's picturesque landscapes before reaching the English Channel. A Seine cruise offers travelers the chance to experience French art, culture, and history up close.

- ➔ **Rouen:** The medieval capital of Normandy, known for the Gothic Notre Dame Cathedral, painted by Monet, and the 16th-century Gros Horloge clock in Old Town.
- ➔ **Paris:** Explore iconic sights like the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Louvre, and the Palace of Versailles, capturing the essence of French elegance and culture.
- ➔ **Vernon and Giverny:** Just outside Vernon, visit Claude Monet's residence in Giverny, with its famous gardens and the Japanese bridge that inspired his masterpieces.



# French Rivers

*Rhone, Seine, Garonne*

## 3 GARONNE [View Cruises](#)

Cruising the Garonne River offers a rich exploration of France's famed Bordeaux region, renowned for its world-class wines, historic architecture, and picturesque vineyards. The Garonne, along with the Dordogne River, creates the Gironde Estuary, giving travelers access to one of France's most scenic wine-producing areas.

- ➔ **Bordeaux:** The heart of French wine country and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Bordeaux boasts neoclassical architecture, the iconic Place de la Bourse, and countless wine-tasting opportunities.
- ➔ **Saint-Émilion:** Known for its medieval charm, Saint-Émilion is a UNESCO-listed village surrounded by renowned vineyards, offering wine cellars, ancient churches, and cobblestone streets.
- ➔ **Blaye:** This historic town is home to the 17th-century Blaye Citadel, a UNESCO site with panoramic views of the Gironde Estuary, offering a glimpse into France's military past.

# Douro

## Discover Portugal's Scenic Wine Valley

**C**ruising Portugal's Douro River offers a unique way to explore the Mediterranean landscapes of olives, vineyards, and historic hilltop villages. The Douro flows 560 miles from Spain to its outlet in Porto, with scenic views of terraced hills, charming towns, and traditional rabelo boats carrying port wine.

The best times for a Douro river cruise are spring (May and June) and harvest season (September and October). Travelers can enjoy local activities, from tasting pastéis de nata in Porto's Mercado do Bolhão to watching flamenco in Salamanca.

A Douro cruise is filled with sightseeing, from ancient castles to Portugal's famous wineries, offering panoramic views and a deep dive into the culture and history of the Douro Valley. For an extended trip, consider adding Lisbon to your itinerary.

### SOME OF OUR LUXURY DOURO RIVER CRUISES



#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DOURO VALLEY & SALAMANCA WITH LISBON EXTENSION

11 Days | Porto to Lisbon

[View Cruise](#)



#### DOURO DISCOVERY

8 Days | Porto Round Trip

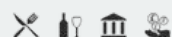
[View Cruise](#)



#### SECRETS OF THE DOURO

8 Days | Porto Round Trip

[View Cruise](#)



[View More Cruises](#)

#### → PORTO

Discover Porto's historic quarter, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, including landmarks like the Cathedral and São Bento Railway Station, adorned with iconic blue and white tiles.

#### → SALAMANCA

A UNESCO-listed city in Spain, known for its golden sandstone architecture, twin cathedrals, and historic university, Salamanca provides a glimpse into medieval life.



# Dutch & Belgian Waterways

## *Tulip Time River Cruises*



**E**xplore the picturesque network of rivers and canals weaving through the Netherlands and Belgium on a springtime Tulip Time river cruise. These cruises showcase the region's famous blooms and horticultural wonders, including:

→ **KEUKENHOF GARDENS**

Near Amsterdam, this 79-acre garden is a springtime delight, filled with breathtaking flower displays.

→ **AMSTERDAM**

The Netherlands' largest city, known for its scenic canals, world-class museums like the Rijksmuseum and Van Gogh Museum, vibrant theaters, & charming café-lined streets.

→ **HOORN**

Hoorn was once a base for the Dutch East India Company, making it a prosperous and powerful trading town. Today, this 13th century town is home to many listed buildings and the former Oostereiland prison.

→ **KINDERDIJK**

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Kinderdijk features 19 historic windmills and innovative flood control systems from the 18th century. Tour a working windmill to learn about its pumping mechanism and historical living quarters.



## SOME OF OUR LUXURY DUTCH AND BELGIUM WATERWAYS RIVER CRUISES



**GRAND RHINE & DUTCH CANALS**

15 Days | Amsterdam - Basel or vice versa

[View Cruise](#)



**TULIP SERENADE**

8 Days | Amsterdam Round Trip

[View Cruise](#)



**BRUGES, MEDIEVAL FLANDERS, AMSTERDAM & THE DUTCH BULBFIELDS**

8 Days | Amsterdam Round Trip

[View Cruise](#)



**WINDMILLS, TULIPS & BELGIAN DELIGHTS**

8 Days | Amsterdam Round Trip

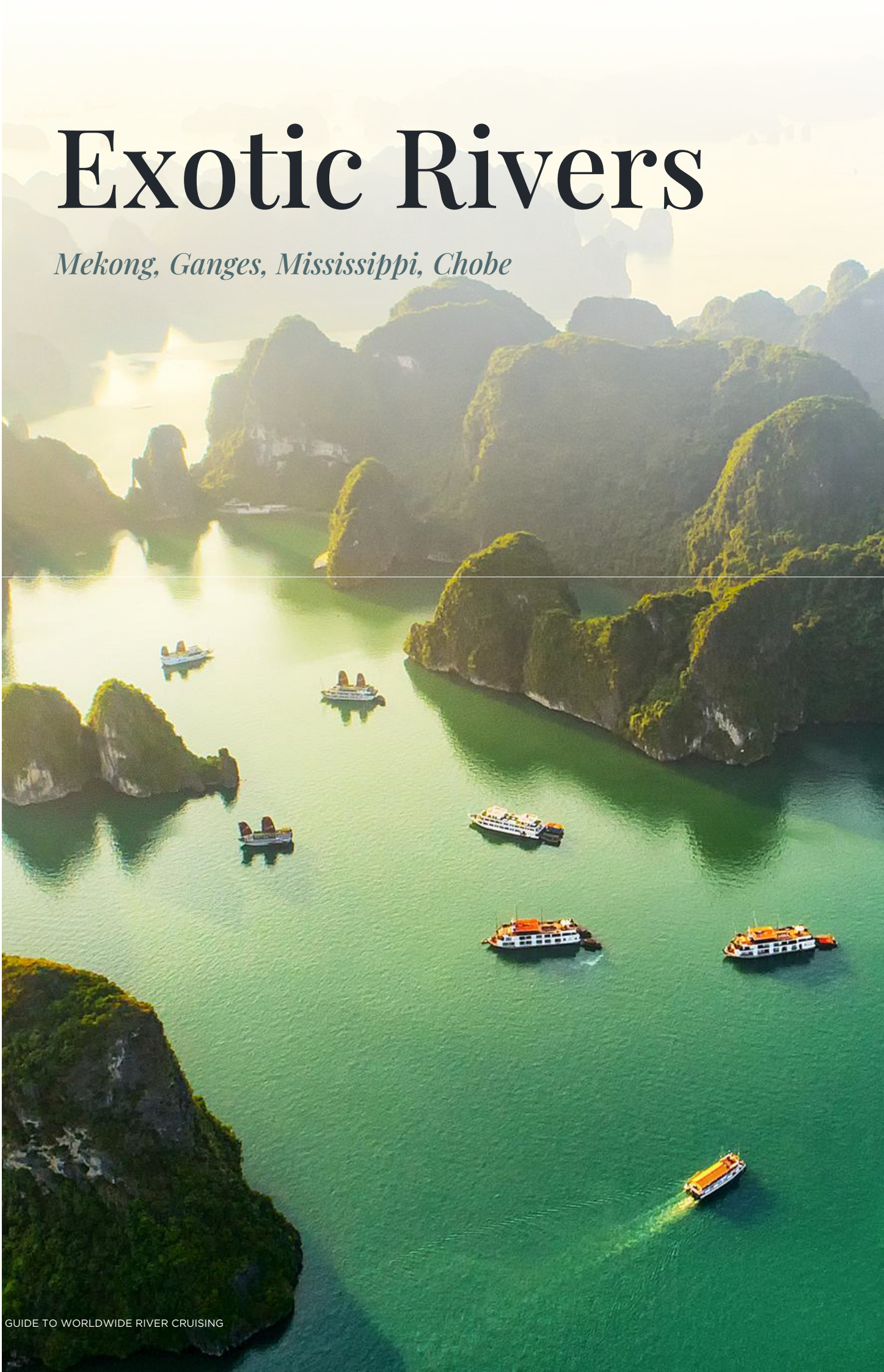
[View Cruise](#)



[View More Cruises](#)

# Exotic Rivers

*Mekong, Ganges, Mississippi, Chobe*







## 1 MEKONG RIVER

Embark on an unforgettable journey along the Mekong River, one of the world's mightiest and most biodiverse waterways. Originating in the Tibetan Plateau, the Mekong flows through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam, offering stunning landscapes and rich history along its banks.

[View Cruises](#)

### → HANOI

Discover Hanoi's French colonial charm and rich cultural heritage with its many temples and lively streets. From Hanoi, visit Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famous for its emerald waters and towering limestone islands.

### → HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON)

Vietnam's largest city blends historic French architecture with bustling markets and landmarks like the Reunification Palace and Notre-Dame Cathedral. Its vibrant energy and unique character create a memorable experience.

### → SIEM REAP

Home to the iconic Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's greatest archaeological treasures. Explore the intricate carvings and ancient ruins that tell the story of Cambodia's rich history.

## 2 GANGES RIVER [View Cruises](#)

Cruise through tranquil landscapes of Bengal from Kolkata. Many of the destinations along this stretch of the river can only be practically accessed via the river and so take you away from the main tourist route to experience the real India.

### → UPPER GANGES

Discover the spiritual energy of Varanasi with its ancient ghats and Ganga Aarti ceremonies. Explore Bodh Gaya, where Buddha attained enlightenment, & Patna, rich in cultural heritage.

### → LOWER GANGES

Cruise through tranquil landscapes to Kolkata, renowned for its colonial charm, and the Sundarbans National Park, a UNESCO site home to Bengal tigers & lush mangroves.

### → THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE OF INDIA

Many cruises include the iconic Golden Triangle—Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur—featuring the Taj Mahal, Red Fort, and Amber Fort, offering a deeper dive into India's history and architecture.

### → WHAT TO EXPECT

Immerse yourself in India's vibrant culture, from bustling markets to serene temples. Encounter sacred cows, colorful festivals, and warm hospitality as you enjoy traditional meals and local experiences.



#### 💡 BEST TIME TO CRUISE

The ideal time to cruise the Ganges is from October to March, with cooler, more comfortable weather perfect for sightseeing.

#### 💡 ESSENTIAL PACKING TIPS

Pack lightweight clothing, comfortable shoes, sun protection, insect repellent, and a camera to capture the unforgettable sights.



### 3 CHOBE

Flowing through South-Central Africa the Chobe River boundaries the Chobe national park and is where elephant herds congregate gratefully during the dry season, before it flows into the Zambezi River.

 **DISCOVER AFRICA**  
 10 Days | Cape Town to Victoria Falls  
[View Cruise](#)  


### 4 MISSISSIPPI RIVER [View Cruises](#)

The mighty Mississippi River, spanning 2,350 miles, has inspired generations of artists, writers, and musicians. A Mississippi River cruise offers a unique opportunity to discover its rich history, cultural traditions, and stunning landscapes, all while cruising on an iconic paddle-wheeler or modern riverboat.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF A MISSISSIPPI RIVER CRUISE

- Festive French Quarter and Creole Cuisine in New Orleans
- Cajun heritage in Baton Rouge
- Civil War history at Vicksburg National Military Park
- Memphis BBQ, Graceland and appreciation of the Delta Blues
- Sailing with diverse wildlife sightings
- Mark Twain's boyhood home and America's literary history
- Gateway Arch in St. Louis and the pioneering spirit of the Midwest
- Intricate locks and dams of the Upper Mississippi



# Christmas & New Year

*Celebrate the Season in Style*

**C**elebrate the holiday season with an unforgettable river cruise through Europe's most scenic landscapes along the Rhine, Danube, France, or Portugal. Offering a mix of onboard festivities, gala meals, & cultural exploration, these cruises provide a unique and joyous way to spend Christmas and New Year.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CRUISES

- **Varied Itineraries** : Choose from 6-night round trips from Budapest or Cologne to 14-night luxury cruises from Amsterdam to Budapest, all offering a blend of relaxation and exploration.
- **Festive Atmosphere**: Enjoy a cheerful, relaxed vibe onboard with special holiday treats, dining, and drinks included.
- **Exceptional Service**: Crews go above and beyond to create an unforgettable holiday, making these cruises a favorite for repeat guests.
- **Cultural Immersion**: Explore Europe's festive towns, markets, and landmarks while sailing through stunning beauty spots.

## CHRISTMAS MARKETS RIVER CRUISES

A highlight of Christmas river cruises, visiting Germany's Christmas markets along the scenic Rhine Valley is a magical experience. Dating back to the Middle Ages, these Christkindlmarkts are filled with festive cheer, twinkling lights, and seasonal treats like mulled wine and roasted chestnuts. From giant Christmas trees to Nativity scenes and carol singing, these markets offer a sensory feast.

One of the best ways to explore several markets in one trip is through a river cruise in November or early December. Tailored itineraries ensure you experience the festive charm of Europe's most iconic holiday destinations.

[View Cruises](#)



# GLOBAL RIVER CRUISING



## ENQUIRE ABOUT A CRUISE OR BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY WITH US



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