

# Ultimate River Cruise

# FAQ GUIDE





# FAQ'S

## **Q: Why should I choose a river cruise over other types of vacations?**

A: Unpack once, visit multiple cities, all-inclusive pricing, small intimate ships (102 guests), every cabin has a river view, dock in city centers, and no seasickness.

**Q: Who is the ideal river cruise passenger?** A: Travelers who enjoy cultural experiences, good food and wine, smaller ships, historic cities, and hassle-free all-inclusive vacations.

## **Q: What types of cabins are available?**

A: Water-level (small windows), French balcony (floor-to-ceiling windows), Balcony (step-out balconies), and Suites (larger rooms).

## **Q: Are there inside cabins on river ships?**

A: No! Every cabin has a river view because ships are too narrow for inside cabins.





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**Q: Which rivers are best for wine lovers?** A: Rhône River (France), Douro River (Portugal), and Rhine River (Germany).

**Q: What are meals like on a river cruise?** A: Breakfast/lunch: buffet plus à la carte. Dinner: full-service, 1.5-2 hours, no assigned tables.

**Q: Can dietary restrictions be accommodated?** A: Yes! Vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and allergies with advance notice. Kosher requires special arrangements.

**Q: Is the food quality good?** A: Yes, most offer excellent cuisine. AmaWaterways is often rated best for food quality.

**Q: What's the dress code on river cruises?** A: "Casual elegant." Daytime: comfortable walking clothes. Evening: business casual. No formal wear required.

**Q: What should I pack for a European river cruise?** A: Comfortable walking shoes, layered clothing, a light rain jacket, sun protection, and casual, elegant dinner attire.



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**Q: What shore excursions are included?** A: Walking tours of historic centers, castle visits, cultural sites, and local guide commentary.

**Q: Are there excursions for people with limited mobility?** A: AMA Waterways offers gentle, regular, active, and late riser options.

**Q: Can I explore on my own instead of taking excursions?** A: Yes! Many lines provide maps and recommendations. Some offer GPS devices for self-guided tours.

**Q: What amenities are available onboard?**

A: Sun deck with walking track, lounge/bar areas, small fitness center, library, gift shop, and elevator.

**Q: Do river ships have swimming pools?** A: Some have small pools or whirlpools, but they're not standard and much smaller than ocean ships.



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**Q: Are there gyms and fitness facilities?** A: Most have small fitness centers with basic equipment. Some offer wellness instructors and classes.

**Q: Is there onboard entertainment?** A: Evening entertainment includes piano players, local performances, and destination lectures. More low-key than ocean cruises.

**Q: Is Wi-Fi available onboard?** A: Yes, most lines offer complimentary Wi-Fi, though quality varies and can be interrupted in locks.

**Q: Are there TVs in the cabins?** A: Yes, most cabins have TVs with movies and basic programming. Some offer streaming services.

**Q: Can I use my cell phone?** A: Yes, but international roaming charges may apply. Check with your carrier about European plans.

**Q: What's the weather like during river cruise season?** A: Spring/fall: 50-70°F, Summer: 70-80°F, Winter: 30-50°F. Weather changes quickly, so pack layers.



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**Q: When should I book my river cruise?** A: Book early (6-12 months) for best selection and prices.

**Q: Do I need travel insurance?** A: Yes, especially for water level issues. Consider comprehensive coverage, including medical and trip cancellation.

**Q: What documents do I need?** A: Valid passport with 6+ months remaining. Check European entry requirements and visa needs.

**Q: Should I book pre- and post-cruise extensions?** A: Extensions can offer good value and convenience, but quality may vary. Consider your interests and energy level.

**Q: Are river cruises safe?** A: Very safe. European rivers have strict safety standards. Ships built after 2007 can float even with two flooded compartments.

**Q: Can I smoke onboard?** A: No smoking in cabins or balconies. Designated smoking areas available on deck.

**Q: Are there medical facilities onboard?** A: Most ships don't have medical facilities due to size, but can arrange shore-based medical care.

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**Q: Are river cruises suitable for children?**

A: Depends on the line. Viking is adults-only (18+), while AmaWaterways, Tauck, and Uniworld offer family programs.

**Q: What's the typical age of river cruise passengers?**

A: Most passengers are 50+ years old, though family-friendly lines attract broader ages.

**Q: Are there solo traveler programs?** A: Some lines offer solo traveler meetups and waived single supplements during certain periods.

**Q: How do I prepare for my first river cruise?** A: Research itinerary highlights, understand physical requirements, pack for the season, arrange documents, and consider insurance.

**Q: What if I get seasick easily?** A: You won't get seasick! Rivers are calm and protected, unlike ocean cruises.

**Q: Can I do laundry onboard?** A: Laundry service available for a fee. Some ships have limited self-service facilities.

**Q: What's the best way to get the most value from my cruise?** A: Take advantage of included excursions, enjoy included beverages, participate in onboard activities.





# THAT'S A WRAP!

*Thank You!*

*Lillian*

I hope you found this guide helpful in deciding on your next vacation. I'd love to help you get started!

You are just one click away!

**Schedule a**  
**15-minute call (HERE).**

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