

What's All the Buzz About a European River Cruise?

Discover what you can expect and what to look for before booking



Ever Think About Ancestry Travel?

A river cruise abroad is the perfect way to explore your roots



Love Cruising?

You'll love where a European river cruise can take you



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What's All the Buzz About a European River Cruise?

Discover what you can expect and what to look for before booking

by **Avalon Waterways (Paid Content)** | Comments: 0




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When you're floating down the world's fabled rivers, past castles and cathedrals, everything else flows beautifully too. No packing and unpacking, no traffic, congestion or crowds and no rigid itinerary – you set the pace, and the river will take you there.

A Not-So-Typical Day

From scenic old-country villages and spectacular cities to temples and breathtaking scenery, you'll arise each day greeted by a new vista. Be sure when doing your research, you book with a cruise company that will take care of navigating the details, so you have more time to dream.



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The 3 C's to Consider Before You Book Your Trip

- Comfort: Only the Best Will Do.** From large suites to wall-to-wall windows, be sure you have all the comforts of home, plus the luxurious amenities you've worked hard for. The difference is in the details - think optional guided onshore excursions, regional wine and beer and state-of-the-art fitness centers.
- Choice: Cruise Your Way.** Look for a company that offers a wide variety of programs and activities that best fit your interests and abilities. From active excursions through sights and villages, to exploring the great outdoors, to indulging that lifelong passion for photography, art or food and wine, find a cruise that's all about what you love, at your pace.
- Cuisine: Indulge Yourself.** There's no better way to know a place than through its food. From German sauerbraten to coq au vin in France, you'll savor every experience authentically. While onboard, you'll have options to try regional wine and beer with each meal. And on shore, tour local markets or participate in cooking classes.


Now's the time to make it happen. Explore the many places you can go.

Click here. Avalon Waterways® offers endless possibilities with the comfort, choice and cuisine you deserve and savings up to \$500 per couple.

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Many of us are immigrants - a country full of people from faraway places. Take a trip through the past to discover some of the places that make up our country's melting pot. Visit Germany, France or Holland - isn't it time for a voyage to experience some of the roots of our origins?

Follow these 5 sample itineraries for a cruise through parts of the world that that can connect with your family's ancestry:

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1. To explore family ties to **Germany**, float down the Main or Rhine River past medieval castles and through storybook villages where art, fine dining and history converge. Tour the courts of Nuremberg and discover the hidden secrets of the Black Forest, all by way of the scenic forests and gorges carved by these great rivers.
2. In **France**, cruise the Seine and Saône Rivers to see what has drawn people to this region for ages, from the Romans to the Celts and the Gauls. Follow in the footsteps of history to experience vineyards, architecture and food and wine for the ages.

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3. Your Netherland scenic river cruise gets underway from **Holland's** popular, modern capital of Amsterdam. This 700-year-old city offers an abundance of classic architecture, cafés and restaurants to explore before you embark on your river cruise through Holland and Belgium. Sail through Rotterdam's harbor, said to be the world's busiest port. Garden enthusiasts will delight in a visit to see the breathtaking colors of Keukenhof, also known as the "Garden of Europe."

4. Step back into Jewish history on an adventure through **Central Europe** to learn firsthand about the sites and events that played roles in Jewish heritage. Visit the world's second-largest synagogue. Explore the remains of a medieval Jewish ghetto and ancient synagogue. Hear chilling stories about the daily lives of Jews imprisoned in a Czechoslovakian concentration camp and visit the poignant memorial.



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5. Want to learn more about **Hungary and Austria**? Cruise the Danube River and walk the medieval fortresses, churches, museums and concert halls that gave birth to Mozart, Beethoven and Liszt.


TIP: On your cruise, join an optional excursion to a storybook town or spend your day exploring on your own. Make your own history and immerse yourself in the experience with the locals.

So, if you've ever wondered what it must have been like for your ancestors - what they saw, what they ate and where they lived - wonder no longer. A river cruise to these faraway places offers an up-close and personal experience with your family's history that can be truly transformative. And the best part, it's a no-hassle way to vacation. Now's the time to make it happen.


Click here. Avalon Waterways® will transport you back in time and get you finding your roots, with savings up to \$500 per couple.


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On a river cruise, no two days are alike. Each sunrise brings something new to see, to taste, to experience, to explore, and each day is as fast or slow-paced as you want it to be. Take a bike out for a spin or kick up your feet and soak in the views as you sail on to the next town. An all-suite fleet of ships means you have plenty of room to relax. See the world float by from your stateroom - the possibilities are as wide-open as the views from a panorama suite or an open-air balcony.


Trips for Any Season

With so many destinations, there's something special happening all year long. It's always the perfect time to travel and experience for yourself, up close and personal.




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- **Spring** is tulip time! If you've dreamed of a view filled with windmills and blooming fields of color in Holland and Belgium, it all comes true on a European river cruise from Amsterdam to Brussels. For horticultural inspiration, visit a fruit and flower farm to hear the history of a 15th-century windmill, or add a little fauna to your flora with a carriage ride through a nature reserve to watch for herons, storks, birds of prey and wild horses.




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- **Winter** is all about holiday festivals - experience the holiday season the European way! Enjoy the jolly atmosphere as you delight in the sights, smells and tastes of local traditions. Visit Christmas markets in several ports of call, where locals and visitors alike flock to charming market stalls adorned with beautiful lights. Shop for everything from warm mulled wines, sweets and hearty regional delicacies to an array of crafts, gifts and holiday décor.



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- The long days of **summer** were made for wining and dining. Take in the beautiful countryside as you sail through the most captivating views of France. Sniff, swirl and sip your way past the rolling vineyards of Burgundy and the lavender fields of Provence. After days spent walking along the hallowed halls of the ancient cellars of winemakers, masters and merchants or hiking through vineyards, spend the evenings learning the perfect pairings for every delicacy from cheese to chocolate.



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- Southeast Asia is cool and enchanting in **autumn**. Take a unique and inspiring Southeast Asia river cruise through Vietnam and Cambodia. You'll be immersed in culture and ancient traditions as you sightsee and spend time with locals in the most interesting places along the mighty Mekong River.

3 Tips to Make Your Trip a Reality

1. Start with research to identify the kind of vacation you want.
2. Make a plan a few months out and budget now to make your trip a reality.
3. Ensure your passport is valid and you're up-to-date on any required vaccinations for your destination.

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Family Vacations Designed to Delight

Connect as you cruise through unforgettable adventures

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Raising children and watching them blossom into adults is probably life's greatest gift. Now their lives are busy with work, community commitments and families of their own, so it's no surprise that it's challenging to stay connected. The cure? Carve out some special time for a memorable and relaxing vacation with one of these worry-free itineraries.

A Mother-Daughter Trip Through Wine Country in Central Europe

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Cruise along the peaceful Danube River through Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and Germany with your very own "Master of Wine." Learn from the best with wine tastings, lectures and tips for pairing different wines with foods as you travel. Enjoy the magnificent views as your river cruise takes you through the picturesque wine region of the Wachau Valley – with stops for a guided walk in Dürnstein, a wine experience in a 900-year-old wine cellar and a visit to the impressive Benedictine Abbey of Melk. In Linz, walk around the Hauptplatz, Austria's largest medieval square, which forms the center of the city. Take a guided walk around Passau, Germany, known for its maze of narrow cobblestone streets and St. Stephen's Cathedral – a masterpiece of baroque architecture. Enjoy guided sightseeing in Regensburg, before heading to beautiful Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. Here, you'll be amazed at St. Vitus Cathedral and Old Town's Astronomical Clock, a unique and intricate piece of art unlike anything else in the world. The views will be spectacular, so be sure to pack your camera and capture the romance and splendor of this magical journey!

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Father-Son Bonding With History and Beer



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Hefeweizen, Dunkles and Lambic - oh my! A visit to Europe is even better when it includes a discovery of regional beers via a river cruise vacation. Visit historic breweries, attend special beer tastings and learn about European beer-brewing techniques during fascinating onboard lectures and workshops. Later, enjoy a special dinner hosted by your onboard beer expert. From the first Prost to the final Gesundheit, this is one heady experience! History more your thing? Revisit dramatic and heroic history on a WWII Remembrance and History Cruise on the Seine River to Normandy. An onboard history expert reveals the stories behind famous sites. You can walk together in the footsteps of the heroes of Normandy landing beaches, stand on the site of the largest amphibious landing in history and visit memorials to the Allied forces who fought and sacrificed there.

A Trip With Something for Everyone!



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On an Active and Discovery Cruise, there's something for everyone - from casual and leisurely to cultural and active. In addition to classic sightseeing and relaxed free time, you can visit an oyster farm, bike through Camargue Regional Nature Park to spot flamingos or take a painting workshop in Arles. Take a kayak excursion or linger in a corner café. Stroll Avignon's papal palace or attend a wine tasting in an underground cave. Admire the lovely scenery of the French countryside or join a culinary walk to discover architecture and local specialties. With so many choices, everyone will find the perfect way to spend each day!

A Treasured Keepsake

Create a unique scrapbook to preserve your favorite moments from the trip. Here are some tips!

- **Write It Down** - Keeping a travel journal along the way will help you recreate the special details of the trip once you're home.
- **File It Away** - Bring along a large manila envelope to collect the menus, trinkets, museum passes, postcards and theater tickets that will bring back special memories.
- **Map It** - Pick up tourist maps in each destination and mark your favorite sights, memorable meals and walking routes to retrace your footsteps later.

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Passion Places: Beautiful Destinations and Immersive Experiences

Rekindle relationships and wake up your senses
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Do you have a pastime or pursuit that drives your creative spirit? Don't set sail without it! A themed river cruise is the perfect opportunity to meet like-minded travelers and indulge in shared interests. A Special Interest Cruise is ideal for anyone who wants to learn something new or dive deeper into inspiring topics ranging from photography, history and food and wine, to architecture and horticulture. A wide range of activities means you can choose just how active you want to be. **Here's a Taste!**

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1. Photography Enthusiasts Take Aim

What better place than France to capture light, landscapes and legendary inspiration? A Seine River cruise is designed for photography enthusiasts and aspiring shutterbugs alike. Cruise with seasoned photographers of international backgrounds who will inspire and instruct - no matter your photography skill level. Explore the picture-perfect beauty of France and share the fun with like-minded traveling companions with a common passion for capturing the perfect shot.

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2. Nature Lovers Get Swept Away

Passionate about gardening? The inspirational horticultural art of the most beautiful gardens and parks throughout Holland and Belgium will make for the trip of a lifetime. The gardens of Keukenhof in Lisse offer over 70 acres of parkland with lakes, sculpture gardens and greenhouses to explore. In Amsterdam, a local guide reveals the secret hidden gardens right in the heart of the city. The 17th-century homes along the canals have some spectacular private gardens and courtyards, which go unseen by many tourists. Don't miss getting an inside look!



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3. History Buffs Find Your Place

Revisit the dramatic and heroic history of WWI and WWII. On the Rhine River through Belgium and Holland or on the Seine River to Normandy, a history expert reveals the stories behind the famous sites. Visit the underground world in the city of Maastricht, the Ardennes Battlefields, the memorial sites in Bastogne and the legendary battlefields of Eastern Flanders. Join excursions to northern France to walk in the footsteps of the heroes of Normandy landing beaches. Relive the stories and stand on the site of the largest amphibious landing in history and visit memorials to the Allied forces who fought and sacrificed there.



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4. Foodies Get Your Fill

Enter a food-lover's paradise in the land of haute cuisine – France! Immerse yourself in the country's delectable flavors, decadent aromas and delightful textures. Visit cheese farms, join pastry demonstrations and enjoy special food-and-wine-pairing dinners back on board. Wine lovers can sniff, swirl and sip their way past the rolling vineyards of Europe as a certified Master of Wine walks them through perfect pairings for every delicacy from cheese to chocolate. *Bon appétit!*

You've worked hard for your "someday" vacation - make that someday today.

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