

16 REASONS TO TAKE A RIVER CRUISE



1. **You see more.** You sail upclose, whether its through the countryside or right through towns and cities. Often you can wave or greet people ashore.
2. **You sail on calm rivers,** within sight of land. There are no concerns about seasickness or rough waters.
3. **You visit the rich heart of Europe, Asia and Russia,** places inaccessible to large ocean-going ships.
4. **Virtually every expense is included:** The fares on the better river cruises include elegant accommodations, superb dining throughout the day, shore excursions, evening entertainment, wine or beer with your evening meal, even complimentary recent-release movies and Internet.
5. **You only unpack once.** If you were to visit the same places on a tour or on a self-drive trip, you would change hotels every day or two. On a river cruise, your 'hotel' moves with you as you cruise through the beautiful countryside.
6. **Bike away on your own.** Most of the best river cruise companies provide top quality bikes for your use, along with helmets and locks. You can go off on your own as you like. Some shore excursions are offered by bike.
7. **Enjoy excursions more with "Quiet Vox" headsets.** These personal sound systems are offered on most excursions. It's much easier to hear (and understand) the guide, even if you've lingered behind a block or two.
8. **Top quality guides provide better excursions.** The best guides want to work for the river cruise lines since they provide frequent assignments, (their ships arrive almost every day or two).

WHAT SETS CRUISE MASTERS APART FROM ALL THE OTHERS?

ONE. We've personally cruised on 11 of the best riverboats in Europe as well as on rivers in Asia and Egypt. We provide advice based upon our personal experience.

TWO. We've personally cruised on nearly every European river cruise itinerary, some of them on several occasions. We can advise you what to look for, the best excursions to take, what to shop for and how to prepare.

THREE. Our service just begins when you make your deposit. We serve as your personal travel advisor, right from the beginning until we welcome you home. We'll help you with airfare, transfers, pre- or post-cruise hotels and other travel arrangements. We've traveled through most of the world's major airports and can advise you the best ways to travel and the pitfalls to avoid.

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9. **Enjoy personal service in an intimate environment.** The typical passenger count on the better river ships is 125-150 guests. The crew soon remembers your name and that you prefer a dry white wine. When you go ashore, there's just 100-150 guests, not 2,500 or more when the ocean-going ships head into port. You simply walk ashore with no long lines or formalities.
10. **English-speaking environment.** The staff on most river cruise lines oriented to North American travelers all speak English. No tedious multi-lingual announcements.
11. **Non-Smoking environment.** Except for a restricted space on the outside deck, most river cruise ships are entirely non-smoking.
12. **Convenient berths.** In most instances, when a river boat docks in a city or community, you find yourself in the heart of the city. Typically no expensive taxis or transfers are required.
13. **The best sights, including the charming places you never heard of.** Your itinerary includes the major cities you'll want to see (Vienna, Cologne, Paris etc.) as well as smaller cities and communities filled with charm that are often overlooked by travelers. Examples include Avignon, France; Dresden, Germany; Bratislava, Slovakia; Ghent, Belgium and many more.
14. **Longer days ashore.** Often riverboats arrive in the morning and remain in the city well into the evening, allowing you maximum time to explore and enjoy the cities and towns you visit. After all, the captain sails the ship at night, while you sleep, so you have the days on your own.
15. **Outstanding travel value.** When you consider everything you receive for your travel dollar along with all the pleasure, river cruising is one of Europe's (and Russia's and Asia's) best travel values.
16. **Casual Dress.** Dress is often very casual on board riverboats. For those occasional special evenings, ladies wear a nice dress and gentlemen bring a sport coat and slacks (tie optional!).

FOUR. We've been selected by *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine since the year 2000 as one of North America's top 135 travel specialists. Since 2005, we've been listed on *Travel + Leisure* magazine's "A-List" of the top 125 travel organizations in the United States. These designations come from our first hand knowledge and client recommendations.



Cruise Masters



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