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# Welcome to your Complete Guide to River Cruising in 2021

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# Welcome to your Complete Guide to River Cruising in 2021

Following the unforeseen circumstances caused by Coronavirus only a couple of months ago, along with government advice to cease all non-essential travel, countries are now beginning to ease travel restrictions. Without doubt, we are going to see changes in the way that we cruise in the future. Health checks and immunity certificates could be brought into operation, social distancing will continue, and more relaxed cancellation policies are being introduced. You may even see some ships reducing their number of passengers on board.

That said and done, the fundamentals that underpin luxury river cruising will ultimately remain the same. The exceptional service, cultural experiences and fabulous destinations will be just as good as they always were.

Due to the more recent easing of lockdown restrictions across Europe, already we're seeing several cruise lines making preparations to recommence operations within the next few weeks. With river cruising much more likely to resume sooner than ocean cruising, it's estimated that we could see some river cruise lines up and running as early as September.

In recent years, the popularity of river cruising has grown exponentially. Each year we see bigger and better vessels come into play. But it's not just the ships that pique the interest of seasoned cruisers, the itineraries and destinations continue to improve year on year.

A good example of potential changes comes from Uniworld who recently published an article announcing new onboard health and safety protocols. Ellen Bettridge, President and CEO of Uniworld commented:

"At Uniworld, the health and wellbeing of our guests and our crew are paramount. As we prepare to join the world community in reopening our homes, businesses, ships and lives to one another, we have carefully reviewed protocols and procedures to ensure that the touchpoints

between the people we care about the very most are managed with intention, respect and utmost care."

## **The new health and safety protocols will include:**

- Any communal items that could previously be shared by guests such as books and magazines are currently under review.
- Any food items such as fruit, nuts, bread and butter will be served by the crew to each individual.
- Health screening prior to embarkation.
- Disinfectant wipes will be available in public areas.
- Contactless payment to be used on board the ships and credit card machines to be cleaned after every pin entry.
- Reserved seating in the restaurants with guests seated at the same table with the same people every day.
- Hand sanitiser, gloves and face masks will be available for all guests.
- Fewer guests to be allowed on excursion buses

Crystal have also begun making significant changes to their health and safety protocols with pre-embarkation screening and plans for regular onboard sanitisation. Owing to their existing low capacities on board, spacious dining areas and capped capacity during shore excursions, social distancing will be relatively straightforward for Crystal to enforce.



# AmaWaterways™

With an impressive 25 ships, this award-winning river cruise line is a serious contender for industry leader, and AmaWaterways have definitely raised the bar for river cruising.

AmaMagna is one of the latest additions to the fleet. Dominating the Danube, this extraordinary ship has some pretty spectacular itineraries under her belt. Sailing among iconic cities such as Budapest, Prague and Vienna, guests are privy to intriguing European cultures and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. There's something utterly romantic about the Danube, and Christmas Market cruises offer a winter escape filled with magic.

On board AmaMagna, you'll find spacious suites with balconies, luxe onboard cinema, two spas, fitness centre, and multiple dining options including The Chef's Table and an alfresco venue.

Other notable ships within the fleet include AmaDouro, AmaDara, Zambezi Queen and AmaStella. Gracing the waterways of Portugal and Spain's Douro Valley, AmaDouro offers scenic journeys among lush hillsides and vineyards. A round trip from Porto introduces you to some of Europe's most untouched destinations where you'll sample regional wines and visit sites such as the Golden City of Salamanca and Baca d'Alva.



# AmaWaterways™



If you prefer to explore further afield, the distinctive, all-white Zambezi Queen offers luxury like no other ship that sails along Africa's legendary Chobe River.

This remarkable vessel was designed for game viewing, bringing you closer to the African wildlife. Luxurious Staterooms with panoramic views allow you to come face to face with magnificent beasts such as elephants, leopards, giraffes and rhino.

## AmaWaterways cruise destinations and major rivers:

**Europe**- Danube, Douro, Main, Rhine, Rhone, Seine

**Asia** – Mekong

**Africa** – Chobe River, Zambezi

**Egypt** – Nile

# Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

Boutique design that is lavished with ornate furnishings sets Uniworld apart from other river cruise lines. Although there are 19 vessels in the river fleet, each one has its own personality. In some of the balcony suites you'll find handcrafted Savoir Beds and marble bathrooms – there's something rather classical about Uniworld.



Uniworld takes all-inclusive river cruising to another level with its boutique hotel concept. This goes hand in hand with the exceptional service and world-class dining that's inspired by the destinations you visit. With the finest regional wines and farm-to-shop philosophy, the dining experience on board is on a par with Michelin Star quality.

Four new ships were launched in 2020, including S.S. Sphinx, Mekong Jewel, S.S. la Venezia and S.S. São Gabriel. Set to sail through Northern Italy, S.S. la Venezia takes inspiration from the Venetian culture and features three dining venues that pay a culinary tribute to the vibrant flavours of Italy. There are several itineraries that let you take in the many charms of the city. Sailing along the Po River, a cruise on board S.S. la Venezia takes in iconic sites such as St Mark's Basilica before navigating the waterways to Burano, Mazzorbo and Torcello.

# Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

Mekong Jewel was launched in January 2020 and is arguably the finest ship that sails the Mekong River.

Its classical design creates a peaceful setting with elegant balcony suites where you can inhale the sublime backdrop. Guests can discover the timeless wonders of Vietnam, Cambodia and the Mekong on an all-inclusive, 13-day cruise from Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap. Pass floating villages and disembark at intriguing towns and cities where you'll uncover unique culture and history.

Immersive excursions take you into the heart of Angkor Wat and on to the hustle and bustle of Phnom Penh, where you'll witness the colourful contrasts of Southeast Asia.



## Uniworld river cruise destinations and major rivers:

**Europe**- Danube, Rhine, Main, Rhone, Seine

**Egypt** - Nile

**Asia** - Mekong, Yangtze

**India** - Ganges

**Russia** - Volga, Svir, Neva

**Peru** - Ucayali, Maranon, Amazon



# Scenic River Cruises

One of the more familiar names in river cruising, Scenic River Cruises have notched up many awards for their innovative Space-Ships and exceptional service. Cruising the European waterways, Scenic Space-Ships are packed with ultra-luxury amenities. As well as boasting up to six dining venues, world-class chefs rustle up dishes that take you on a culinary journey of Europe. Gastronomy plays a huge part in the Scenic experience.

As well as covering the European waterways, Scenic River Cruises also visits part of Southeast Asia and Russia. The Space-Ships redefine river cruising and incorporate state-of-the-art technologies. Each of the 10 Europe Space-Ships is beautifully designed with contemporary interiors. The newer ships feature Balcony Suites with a Scenic Sun Lounge that converts into an all-weather conservatory with just the flick of a switch.



# Scenic River Cruises



Scenic Jasper, Opal and Amber are the newest vessels in the Space-Ship fleet. No stone has gone unturned to ensure they deliver the most luxurious river cruise experience.

Each vessel offers unrivalled intimacy with accommodation for just 169 passengers, a 1:3 crew to passenger ratio, modern dining, Panorama Deck and Vitality Pool. Sailing along the Rhine, Main and Danube, you're transported to many of Europe's most celebrated sites and landmarks where you can marvel at historic castles, picturesque valleys and architectural wonders that line the rivers.



## Scenic River Cruises destinations and major rivers:

**Europe** – Danube, Main, Rhine, Rhone, Douro, Seine

**Russia** – Volga

**Southeast Asia** – Mekong

**Scenic Space** – Ships images

# Major European Rivers



## The River Danube

Flowing among Central and Eastern Europe, the River Danube possesses centuries old history that has influenced the many destinations along its route. Stopping at places such as Budapest, Prague and Vienna, you're greeted by infectious cities that are home to World Heritage Sites and inspiring architecture.



## The Douro River

Discover the undeniable charisma of Portugal and Spain on a cruise along the Douro River. Known for its serene backdrop, the Douro plays host to vibrant cities that combine Portugal's old and new sites. Also renowned for its wonderful wine region, the Douro Valley offers wine tasting opportunities. Explore the history and architecture of Salamanca, step back in time in Pinhão and immerse yourself in the vibrancy of Porto city



## The Main River

Linking the Danube and the Rhine, the Main River flows among some of the most beautiful parts of Germany. Bavarian influences are evident in the houses that fringe the banks of the Main. The river stretches among the prettiest scenery that looks like it belongs in a storybook. Some of the highlights of Main River cruises include the World Heritage Site of Bamberg Old Town, medieval Nuremberg and Würzburg, where you can discover the well-preserved Baroque architecture of the palace.



## The Rhine River

Home to some of Europe's most incredible sites, the Rhine River embodies the culture and history of each of the six cities it flows through. Running from the Swiss Alps to the Netherlands, the Rhine passes through enchanting cities and towns. For centuries, the river has influenced great artists and composers with its romantic scenery and fairytale castles. Explore places such as the Black Forest, Cologne, and the Moselle Valley. During the winter months, the Rhine comes alive with twinkling fairy lights and irresistible wafts of glühwein as the cities are transformed into Christmas wonderlands

## The River Seine

Meandering through the heart of France and beginning its journey in Paris, the River Seine exudes romance. As it passes through picturesque towns and cities, you're introduced to the golden beaches and cultural regions of France. While one day you're discovering the Normandy history and ruins, the next you're sampling cider in Les Andelys. The Seine is a river that keeps on giving and you'll follow in the footsteps of many famous figures such as King Richard I, Monet and Vincent Van Gogh.



# Major Russian Rivers



## The Volga River

Flowing from Moscow to the Caspian Sea, The Volga River is the largest in Europe. Lined with the most breathtaking skylines that are pierced by the ornate spires of Moscow and St Petersburg, the backdrop on a Volga River cruise is something else. St Petersburg is an immense city with magnificent architecture and landmarks such as Winter Palace, St Isaac's Cathedral, the Hermitage Museum and Catherine's Palace. Explore Moscow, Russia's capital city, and discover the famous sights of Red Square, the Kremlin, and St Basil's Cathedral. Although the buildings of Russia demand attention, you'll also be lured into the country's intoxicating culture.



# Major Asia Rivers

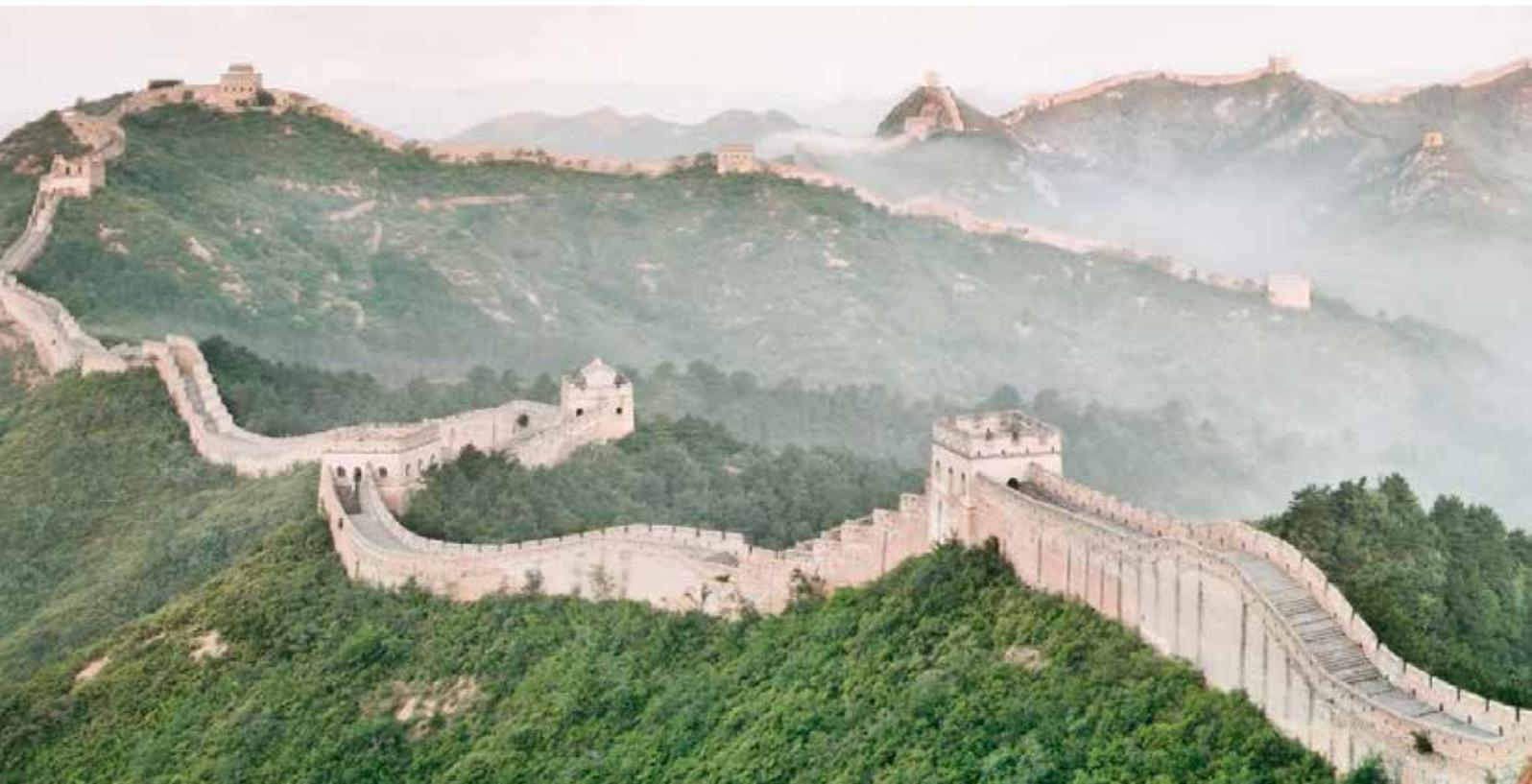


## The Mekong River

Possibly one of the most epic rivers in the world, the Mekong River flows through Southeast Asia connecting Cambodia, Vietnam, China, and Thailand. River cruises along the Mekong take you on a soul warming journey to ancient cities where you'll discover a rich tapestry of culture, antiquities and enriching scenery. Immersive excursions let you dig deeper to expose hidden treasures and magnificent wildlife. Visit mystical places such as Angkor Wat, Halong Bay and the Cu Chi tunnels.

## Yangtze River

The Yangtze is the longest river in Asia, twisting and turning from the Plateau of Tibet to the East China Sea. This captivating journey leads you through thousands of years of Chinese history and culture. From bustling cities such as Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai, you'll experience its diversity first hand. Set foot on the Great Wall of China, one of the greatest wonders of the world, learn about the history behind the Terracotta Army and get up close to China's giant pandas.



# Major Africa Rivers



## Chobe River

Africa is home to incredible landscapes where much of the planet's greatest animals roam. The Chobe River steers you right through the heart of the continent to the Zambezi River. Stopping at many iconic places such as Botswana, Chobe National Park and Victoria Falls. Highlights of a Chobe River voyage include a cruise along the Zambezi River and a game drive through Greater Kruger National Park, where you'll come close to the Big Five.



# Major Egypt Rivers

## The Nile

Flowing through northeast Africa, the Nile River is the longest in the world. Its sacred waters have played a pivotal role in Egypt's history and play host to a wealth of World Heritage sites and ancient wonders which surround the riverbanks. The Temple of Luxor, the Great Sphinx and the Pyramids of Giza are just a few of the highlights of a Nile River cruise. Walk in the footsteps of the pharaohs as you journey into this enchanting world of history and intrigue.





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