OUR SERIES OF EXPERT GUIDES TO TRAVEL IN 2018

50 AMAZING RIVER CRUISES

From adventures on the Ganges to musical magic on the Mississippi, our experts provide a steer through the best waterway journeys in the world

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Australians travel
Go with the flow in a world of water wonder

Exploring great rivers on a ship can be as simple, luxurious or lively as you like, writes Teresa Machan

Ever since river cruise companies began throwing serious money at their hardware, river cruising’s status has been on the ascendant. Old hands who remember the early Nineties, when river cruising was considered more a cross-country bus tour than a luxury trip, will make a point of telling anyone who will listen of their pre-money journeys – marbling around dark, unlit ships, the only light emanating from the occasional four-star cabins. It was a far cry from the marble vistas, antiques and four-star suites most of today’s riverside hotels have to offer. But even then, river cruising was changing for the better – and is now a completely new experience – not only in terms of the ships but also the destinations and itineraries. From spas and top-deck pools to white-linen cruises, river cruising today would pass the oligarch test with flying colours. On the best ships you can expect butler service, exceptionally comfy beds, complimentary fine wines served with dinner and, ashore, dinners in Michelin-starred restaurants and exclusive access to some of the world’s finest buildings.

As you’ll discover in the following pages, river cruising has extended to almost every continent and most of the world’s navigable rivers. The emphasis is on activity-based adventure experiences, not just for older couples but families and younger travellers, too. This year millions of people will once again choose river cruising, in addition to traditional cruising. River cruising can be asellar as you like, from ‘sleeper’ trains to luxury suites; you can even wake up to the sight of children in the royal suites of the world’s finest palaces. How many three- or four-star hotels include gourmet meals in the rate? And how many of them move? Fares include flights unless otherwise stated.

50 AMAZING RIVER CRUISES

MOUNTAIN RIVERS

Cruise the Columbia River on a traditional paddlewheel vessel, right

Go with the flow in a world of water wonder

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Go with the flow in a world of water wonder
**EUROPE**

**REMEMBERING THE GREAT WAR**

A beer expert brings an informal sling to Anheuser-Busch spring cruises. (0800 656 9919; travel.saga.co.uk.)

**ATTEND THE LAST POST CEREMONY AT THE MENIN GATE.**

**CENTRAL EUROPE ON A BUDGET**

Tasting in three of central Europe’s most iconic cities. Avalon cruise holidays on board the Olympia with

**VIVE LA RIVIERE!**

French farmer and former Welsh Guards first World War historians Barrie

2018 (0800 012 6683; aptouring.co.uk).

**FROM £4,145 per person for a seven-night Grand Bordeaux course in the Médoc.**

in Bordeaux, the golf at the 18-hole Les Château de Cazeneuve. The cycling is

**MÉDOC WINE REGIONS AND INCLUDES A TRIP TO THE KUEHNHOF TULIP GARDENS.**

Starting and ending in Amsterdam, the trip visits the historic city of Antwerp. The itinerary includes a visit to Menin Gate.

**In Ypres, attend the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate.**

**IT'S A NEW PRIVATE DINING ROOM AT THE BACK OF THE VESSEL, WHILE NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS REPRESENTS GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY.**

**NEWMARKET HOLIDAYS REPRESENTS GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY.**

Among the highlights of the Blue Danube’s 750 miles of itinerary are beautiful viaducts, Benedictine abbeys, castles and medieval churches, and the smallest working cathedral in France.

**WHY I LOVE RIVER CRUISING**

Jane Archer, cruise expert on a week-long Europe cruise around the Blue Danube and a Tale of Three Rivers.

**VIVIERS IS A SLEEPY LITTLE TOWN ON THE RIVER RHÔNE.**

Viviers is a sleepy little town on the Rhône with cobbled streets and the smallest working cathedral in France.

**GET THE RED-CARPET TREATMENT**

See Europe blossom on a springtime cruise

**Tulip Time luxury river cruise**

8 days · Amsterdam to Amsterdam

**7 nights on board**

**Amsterdam Canals**

Discover the treasures of this iconic city on a canal cruise aboard Su Wargrave.

**Antwerp**

Visit the famous Grote Markt, lined with 17th-century houses and the Church of Our Lady, started in 1352.

**Ghent**

Enjoy guided sightseeing of the city and visit St. Bavo’s Cathedral, home to the most important work in Flemish art.

**£ Panorama suite from £2,499**

Deluxe stateroom from £2,065

Based on 6 April 2018 from London Gatwick

**Low deposit of £999**

Book by 28 February 2018

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**TAKE A BOW**

Viviers is a sleepy little town on the Rhône with cobbled streets and the smallest working cathedral in France.

**BEER, CHURCHES AND TULIPS**

A beer expert brings an informal sling to Anheuser-Busch spring cruises. (0800 656 9919; travel.saga.co.uk.)

**FROM £1,179 per person for a seven-night Great War cruise departing Sept 26 2018.**

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9 **BELGRADE TO THE BLACK SEA**

Belgrade to Bucharest is among the most-visited river cruise routes and UK travel company Intrepid Travel’s new offering along the Danube is sure to please fans. Departing Dec 22, 2018, the cruise kicks off in Belgrade, home of the famous Belgrade Fortress, before making its way to Bucharest, the capital of Romania. The route includes visits to historic cities such as Bratislava, Brno, and Vienna, and offers plenty of opportunities for exploration off the beaten track. The price for a seven-night cruise starts from £2,050 per person (based on two people sharing a cabin).

10 **FESTIVE ESCAPE**

Nothing says ‘Christmas’ like a festive river cruise. From traditional Christmas markets to the snowy scenes of the Alps, there are plenty of options available. One such cruise is offered by Uniworld on their five-star River Renaissance. The cruise, departing Dec 6, 2018, includes visits to Bratislava, Vienna, Budapest, and Prague, among other cities. The price starts from £3,485 per person (based on two people sharing a cabin).

**VIENNA LAGER VS VIENNA LAGER**

When it comes to beer, Vienna is a true epicentre. The city is home to a number of world-famous breweries, including the famous Hofbräuhaus. However, when it comes to lagers, things get a little more complicated. The city is known for its Viennese lager, which is a lighter, more refreshing option compared to the darker, robust Bavarian lagers. The price of a six-pack of Vienna lager will vary depending on the location, but expect to pay around €4–€6.

**TRAPPIST BEER IN BVD**

Belgium is a country renowned for its Trappist beer, which is brewed in traditional Trappist monasteries. The beer is known for its high quality and unique character. A six-pack of Trappist beer will cost around €10–€15.

**AMBER ALE IN ANTWERP**

Amber ale is another popular beer style in Belgium, particularly in the city of Antwerp. A six-pack of Antwerp amber ale will cost around €10–€15.

**SCHWECHAT**

In Austria, the town of Schwechat is known for its beer culture. A six-pack of Schwechat beer will cost around €10–€15.

**REINHARD SCHMID/4CORNERS IMAGES; ALAMY**
COOKING TO DANCING – YOU CAN DO ALL THIS AND MORE

DAGON BY BALLOON

FROM A SUNSET TINGE TO A MOONLIT VIEW 

Steeped in tradition and history, the gold-encrusted Neuburg Palace in Trier, or take a balloon ride over the surrounding countryside. Enjoy a sumptuous picnic lunch in the grounds of the Neuburg Palace and take in the view to the Moselle Valley. Admire the stunning views of the Moselle Valley from the Neuburg Palace, enjoy a sumptuous picnic lunch and take in the view to the Rhineland-Palatinate. 

A VENETIAN WIND

TO BE TREATED TO A VENETIAN WIND

At Venice’s Palaisa leger, the dance

partner Martin Savoldi inspired giggles and oohs from everyone in the crowd. “I think he

didn’t have a very good grip on my floor length

shoes,” he said. “I was very scared to

slip and fall.” A visit to Venice while

Austrian Creams’ Arctic Suite is a dream come true, with a nightly exploring of the

will also see the new additions to the

same deck.

19 THE BRIDGE AT REMAGEN

-legends have it that Archduke Charles

was so impressed he invited the

soldiers to dinner at his castle. But

the bridge wasn’t destroyed by

the Allies after all and it remains an

important link between the

Riverine lakes, sailing and cycling tours. Choose a

from April to November.

a wine-tasting cruise through the

Rhône.

the free-flowing champagne provided by Scenic – all

FREE UNLIMITED SHORE EXCURSIONS IN EVERY PORT OF CALL

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PERSONALIZE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH UP TO 10 FREE SHORE EXCURSIONS

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12 JULY 2018 | 10 NIGHTS

personas that can cruise between Amsterdam and Basel includes a cooking tour of food from Bordeaux, a visit to the rooftop bar at the Scenic Hotel Grand in Amsterdam, a visit to the rooftop bar at the Scenic Hotel Grand in Amsterdam, and a visit to the rooftop bar at the Scenic Hotel Grand in Amsterdam.

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OUTSTANDING SAVINGS – PLAY A REDUCED TEN DEPOSIT™

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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH SATURDAY 27 JANUARY 2018

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22 OVER THE ZEE
HOLLAND
Dutch scenery and a very long cycle ride in the early 20th century

A family favourite is a five-night cycling cruise from Amsterdam, the Zaanse Schans to Alkmaar, taking in the Keukenhof tulip garden, windmills and the Zuiderzee Museum Enkhuizen. From €410pp inc. bikes.

19 THE OFF FOR FRANCE
France cruises under the gaze of golf

The French sun was shining again on this 2018 French Riviera cruise,适宜 for news and golfers on-board. The P&O Pommery with a 21st birthday party, an English or French-speaking guide, a driver, a chef, a sommelier and a baggage handler.

18 FAMILY FUN

Family fun at the French Riviera, with a 10-night trip to France, with a single child and two adults, from €2,775p/p. The New Year 2019 cruise, with a child under 12 years, is €2,000p/p for each additional child.

17 STRICTLY FOR MILLENNIALS

A river cruise brand aimed squarely at millennials aged 25-35 offers a chance to enjoy a relaxing break on board with friends or family. The cruise is on the Seine, from Paris to Rouen, staying at the five-star Novotel Paris Centre Eiffel Tower. From €2,858 inc. flights and transfers.

20 BEST BARGAINS

For under-15s, the best value for money includes a £1,225p/p cruise on the Seine, with a single child in the family and two adults, from £2,025p/p. The cruise is from Paris to Rouen, staying at the five-star Novotel Paris Centre Eiffel Tower. From €2,025p/p for each additional child.

WHY I LOVE RIVER CRUISING

Evelynn Bean, 36

‘I think the best thing about river cruising is the time spent with friends and family, and the opportunity to explore new places together.’

23 CHANGE TO THE OPERA

A night at the well-preserved Roman amphitheatre in Verona would be a highlight of this cruise, with a visit to the island of the Grignan and a visit to the town of Arles. From €3,125p/p. The cruise is from Paris to Lyon, via Arles, Arles, Avignon, Tournon and Mâcon. In Chalon-sur-Saône, Wonnacott will talk about his mission to uncover antiques linked to Napoleon.

21 CRUISE HUNT

Jane McDonald, 47

‘I enjoyed the buffet style of the A-Rosa cruises, with a great variety of food and drink. The River A yacht is a wonderful way to travel, with plenty of opportunities to explore the local culture.’

FAM ILY FUN

Under the river, live with aύ, enjoy a night at Verona’s spectacular opera, and see some of the most beautiful scenery on the Rhône, Sautern and Moselle.

FAMILY HOLIDAYS

MILLENNIALS

FAM ILY FUN

A river cruise brand aimed squarely at millennials aged 25-35 offers a chance to enjoy a relaxing break on board with friends or family. The cruise is on the Seine, from Paris to Rouen, staying at the five-star Novotel Paris Centre Eiffel Tower. From €2,858 inc. flights and transfers.

FAM ILY FUn

Jackson, 12

‘I loved the opportunity to explore new places and meet new people on my first river cruise. The food was amazing, and the staff were very friendly.’
Flights on Eurostar now included – plus savings of up to 36%
It was hard to leave our cocoon of splendour

Tim Jeppson finds

standout pleasures in a luxury train fit for a king as part of his cruise through Europe

On the first day of his trip, Austria’s capital, Vienna, proved to be a fitting introduction to the journey. To begin, the City Hall, the suburb of Schonbrunn and the Schönbrunn Palace, with its magnificent gardens, acres of frescoes and, amid all the elegance, a massive golden fountain. Inside all the pièce de résistance are the apartments of the emperors, each one of the Habsburgs’ most celebrated palaces, where the emperors and empresses reigned for over 300 years. The throne room in the Schönbrunn Palace is a tribute to the lavish living of the Habsburgs, with its gilded walls, crystal chandeliers and grand reception rooms. The state apartments are a true testament to the grandeur and opulence of the Habsburg dynasty. With its 1,441 rooms, it is one of the most visited tourist attractions in Europe. The Schönbrunn Palace is a perfect example of the luxurious living of the Habsburgs, who ruled over Austria for over 400 years. The palace is now a museum and is a must-see for anyone visiting Vienna.

The recreation of the Majestic Imperator has been a highlight of the journey. The ship is a replica of the Majestic Imperator, a luxury train that operated in the early 20th century. The Majestic Imperator was designed to evoke the opulence of royal travel in the 19th century, with its luxurious fittings and sumptuous decor. The Majestic Imperator was a symbol of the Habsburg dynasty’s power and wealth, and it is now a symbol of Viennese culture and history.

The Majestic Imperator was designed with the finest materials, including gold and precious metals. The ship’s interior is a blend of elegance and comfort, with its plush carpets, ornate murals and beautiful chandeliers. The Majestic Imperator was designed to be a symbol of the Habsburg dynasty’s wealth and power, and it is now a symbol of Viennese culture and history.

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**MYANMAR**

**34 EVENING INIRISHOE**

Relax in your own room cruising in Myanmar. Its traditional-style houseboats have得ton of character and attractively

complimentary drinks, butler service and shoe loss for sale.

**35 PURE ESCAPISM**

Pandaw cruises offer a uniquely authentic experience for seven nights, which involves fishing, river exploration, and cooking lessons.

**36 AN IMAGINE**

Temple-studded plain. Fine dining, monasteries and marvel at Bagan’s ancient pagodas, temples, teak-built and breathtaking vistas from series of sunset oil-lamp lighting ritual.

Pagoda tour and participate in a traditional bell-ringing ceremony.

**37 LUXURY ON THE YANGTZE**

Visit in China’s ancient cities and China’s spectacular Shwedagon Scenic’s 16-day Mystical Irrawaddy journey from Yangon to Mandalay includes a two-night hotel stay in September-December departures also.

**38 CHANCE TO VISIT TIBET**

Tibet remains relatively unexplored, but Unwired offers a 16-day Beijing to Singapore tour that combines a Yangtze cruise with three nights in Shanghai journey that combines a Yangtze cruise with three nights in Shanghai.

**CHINA AND TIBET**

Tourists go to Ayeyarwady, visit markets, reveal many aspects and rituals of city’s spectacular Shwedagon Pagoda.

**INDOCHINA**

Avalon Waterways offers a 14-day Beijing to Singapore tour that combines a Yangtze cruise with three nights in Shanghai and three nights in Ho Chi Minh City.

**AFRICA**

CroisiEurope’s African Dream, you’ll search for elephants, lions, giraffes, and rhinos, and set out on boat or Jeep safari in search of elephants, lions, giraffes, and rhinos, and set out on boat or Jeep safari.

**50 AMAZING RIVER CRUISES**

**ALL INCLUSIVE & ALL EXCURSIONS INCLUDED**

The selection of river cruises introduces you to a relaxed and convenient way to explore Europe. Enjoy many interesting destinations while experiencing unique culture and cuisine.

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- GUARANTEED PRICE MATCH
- GUARANTEED PRICE PROMISE
FAMILY FUN ON THE YANGTZE

Would a long-haul river cruise suit a four-year-old? Sally Peck finds out

It’s rare that a parent signs up for a cruise down the great rivers of China, just to ensure their four-year-old gets a good view. But why does it need to be a ‘good view’? As Sally Peck discovers, the Yangtze is a river with a myriad of attractions, including ancient history and natural wonders.

On our new Yangtze Explorer cruise from Chongqing to Yichang, the price of our four-night ‘Family Fun’ package includes all meals and on-board activities, from calligraphy lessons to a scavenger hunt for the Chinese pickles and the Chinese children who have been made to promise they’ll not eat them. But for the children, the highlight was an opportunity to experience the river in motion, to see the scale of the great gorges, and to marvel at the lesser marvels of the Yangtze in China.

On our first night, Henry was holding hands with his new friend, Yic, a Chinese girl his own age. He seemed awestruck at the scale of the Three Gorges Dam, before being transferred into the “seeker” off-course. He was still having too much fun steering the paddle wheel. American Song is a luxury river cruise that operates on the Yangtze and Red River in Vietnam, on the Mekong, along the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, the Irrawaddy, 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50 AMAZING RIVER CRUISES

in large river travel offices and online, including four single vessels that all other major companies have identified as the so-called ‘American Queen.

Mississippi riverboat, American Queen.

The American Queen is the largest and most luxurious river-cruise ship in the world, accommodating 292 passengers in 142 suites and staterooms. The ship features four decks, a full-service spa, a fitness center, a pool, and a cinema. The American Queen sails on the Mississippi River and its tributaries, offering a variety of itineraries that vary from 1- to 7-night cruises. The ship is known for its luxury accommodations and high-quality service.

17 MUSIC ON THE BIG WOOD

Radio 2 DJ Clive Tiley is making a podcast appearance on a cruise on Caledonia’s river-cruise ship, the Avalon Waterways. The ship will sail from Memphis to New Orleans, offering a range of musical experiences, including live music by local bands and an “American River Cruise” itinerary. The ship is known for its luxury accommodations and high-quality service.

REST OF THE WORLD

AMAZON

18 ANIMAL MAGIC

Walk with the animals on Noble Caledonia’s wildlife adventure cruise, which takes in the Amazon. The trip includes a visit to the Amazon jungle, a night in a lodge, and a chance to see a variety of wildlife, including monkeys, parrots, and toucans. The trip is offered from November to March and is suitable for both solo and group travelers.

WHAT IS A RIVERLOWIAN?

Pat Richardson meets the man who ‘reads’ rivers on a Mississippi paddlewheel ship

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All you know about the Mississippi are facts from your school history book, right?

No way, Jerry Hay.

Jerry Hay

“Of course it’s a fact that our rivers are the veins of our nation, but there’s a lot more to them than meets the eye.”

Pat Richardson

“Jerry, you’ve been cleaning up rivers for years. How can you tell if a river is healthy?”

Jerry Hay

“I don’t do the cleaning, I just read the river.”

Pat Richardson

“Read the river?”

Jerry Hay

“Yeah, that’s what I do. I measure the water flow, track the sediment, and interpret the data.”

Pat Richardson

“Wow, that sounds like a lot of work.”

Jerry Hay

“It is, but it’s also very rewarding. I get to work with nature, and I love what I do.”

Pat Richardson

“Tell me more about this ‘reading’ thing.”

Jerry Hay

“Imagine you’re a doctor. You look at a patient’s blood pressure and heart rate, and you can tell if they’re healthy. Similarly, I look at a river’s flow and temperature, and I can tell if it’s healthy.”

Pat Richardson

“Interesting. So, you’re like a river doctor?”

Jerry Hay

“Exactly. I use my knowledge of river systems to help protect them.”

Pat Richardson

“Thanks for sharing your insights, Jerry.”

Jerry Hay

“Anytime. It’s important to appreciate the beauty and complexity of our rivers.”

Pat Richardson

“Absolutely.”

Ad Awaiting SUBSTITUTE PD