

BOOK #016

Choosing the Right Itinerary

Chapter 1 – Why Your Itinerary Matters

Many travelers begin planning a cruise by looking at ships, cabins, or cruise lines. While those decisions are important, your itinerary often has the greatest impact on your overall vacation experience.

The destinations you visit determine the scenery you'll enjoy, the activities you'll experience, the culture you'll discover, and the memories you'll take home. Whether you're watching whales in Alaska, relaxing on a Caribbean beach, exploring ancient ruins in the Mediterranean, or strolling through a Christmas Market along the Rhine, every itinerary offers something unique.

What Should You Consider?

Before choosing your itinerary, think about: Your interests and hobbies Your available vacation time Your travel budget Your preferred climate Your activity level Who you're traveling with

Ocean vs. River Cruises

Ocean cruises typically visit larger ports and offer extensive onboard entertainment, while river cruises focus on smaller towns, cultural experiences, and scenic sailing through the heart of each destination. Neither is better—they simply provide different vacation experiences.

■ Aimee's Travel Tip

One of the first questions I ask my clients is, *"What kind of memories do you want to make?"* Once we answer that question, choosing the right itinerary becomes much easier. The destination should fit your dreams—not just your schedule.