

BOOK #016

Choosing the Right Itinerary

Chapter 5 – European River Cruises

European river cruises offer a completely different experience from traditional ocean cruises. Instead of spending days at sea, you'll sail through the heart of historic cities and charming villages, often docking just steps from the places you came to explore.

■ The Rhine River

Famous for fairy-tale castles, vineyard-covered hillsides, and picturesque towns, the Rhine is an excellent choice for first-time river cruisers and wine lovers.

■ The Danube River

Flowing through multiple countries, the Danube features grand capitals like Vienna, Budapest, and Bratislava, along with beautiful scenery and centuries of history.

■ Christmas Market Cruises

During late November and December, Europe's rivers transform into a festive wonderland filled with holiday lights, traditional markets, seasonal foods, and handcrafted gifts.

■ How River Cruises Differ

River ships are smaller, typically carrying fewer than 200 guests. Most itineraries include guided shore excursions, and the relaxed pace allows for a deeper connection with each destination.

■ Aimee's Travel Tip

If you enjoy history, culture, scenic landscapes, and unpacking only once while visiting multiple destinations, a European river cruise may become your favorite way to travel. It's one of the most immersive and relaxing vacation experiences available.