

River Cruise Guide

Chapter 17: Choosing the Right Stateroom

Your stateroom is your home away from home. While river cruise cabins are generally smaller than hotel rooms, they are thoughtfully designed for comfort and efficiency. Choosing the right category depends on your budget, how much time you expect to spend in your cabin, and the experience you want.

Stateroom Type	Best For	What to Expect
Fixed Window	Value-minded travelers	Picture window that does not open, often on the lower deck.
French Balcony	Most popular choice	Floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door with a railing for fresh air and scenic views.
Full Balcony	Travelers who enjoy private outdoor space	Full balcony available on select ships and cruise lines.
Suite	Luxury travelers	Larger living space, premium amenities, and often additional services.

Location Matters

Cabins located mid-ship are often preferred by travelers who want easy access to the lounge and dining room. Because river ships are relatively small, most public areas are only a short walk away regardless of your cabin location.

Should You Upgrade?

If you enjoy relaxing in your cabin while watching castles, vineyards, and villages pass by, a French Balcony or Full Balcony can enhance your experience. If you plan to spend most of your time exploring ashore or socializing onboard, a lower-priced cabin may be an excellent value.

Aimee's Tip: There isn't a single 'best' cabin for everyone. During our planning conversation, I'll help you weigh the differences in price, location, and amenities so you can choose the stateroom that best fits your vacation goals.

Coming Up: Chapter 18 will help you budget for your river cruise, including airfare, hotels, gratuities, optional excursions, and other expenses to consider.