

# River Cruise Guide

## Chapter 3: What's Included...and What's Not

River cruising is known for providing excellent value because many of the costs that are extra on ocean cruises are already included in your fare. While every cruise line is a little different, understanding what is typically included makes it much easier to compare itineraries and budget for your vacation.

### Typically Included

- Comfortable accommodations
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner (varies slightly by cruise line)
- Guided shore excursions in many ports
- Wi-Fi on board
- Port charges and taxes
- Coffee, tea, and bottled water throughout the day
- Evening entertainment and onboard enrichment programs

### May Cost Extra

- Premium wines, spirits, or specialty beverages (on some lines)
- Optional premium excursions
- Spa services
- Gratuities (included on some cruise lines, optional or recommended on others)
- Flights and pre- or post-cruise hotel stays unless purchased as a package
- Travel insurance

**Aimee's Tip:** Don't compare river cruise pricing to an ocean cruise based only on the headline fare. Once you factor in excursions, dining, transportation, and other inclusions, the overall value is often much closer than many travelers expect.

**Coming Up:** Chapter 4 will help you compare the major river cruise lines and discover which one best fits your travel style.