

River Cruise Guide

Chapter 4: Comparing the Major River Cruise Lines

Every river cruise line offers beautiful itineraries, but each has its own personality. Some focus on cultural immersion, others emphasize luxury, wellness, or included amenities. Choosing the right cruise line is just as important as choosing the right river.

Cruise Line	Best For	Luxury	Notable Features
Viking	First-time cruisers	★★★★■	Elegant ships, cultural focus, adults only.
AmaWaterways	Active travelers	★★★★★	Bike tours, wellness programs, excellent dining.
Avalon Waterways	Scenic relaxation	★★★★■	Panorama Suites with wall-to-wall windows.
Uniworld	Luxury seekers	★★★★★	Boutique-style décor, all-inclusive experience.
Scenic	Ultra-luxury	★★★★★	Butler service, many inclusions, upscale amenities.
Tauck	Premium guided travel	★★★★★	Exceptional land experiences and personalized service.

Aimee's Tip: There isn't one 'best' river cruise line—there's simply the best one for *you*. During our planning conversation, I'll help match your budget, travel style, activity level, and expectations with the cruise line that fits you best.

Coming Up: Chapter 5 explores the best time of year to take a river cruise, including spring tulips, summer vineyards, fall colors, and magical Christmas Markets.