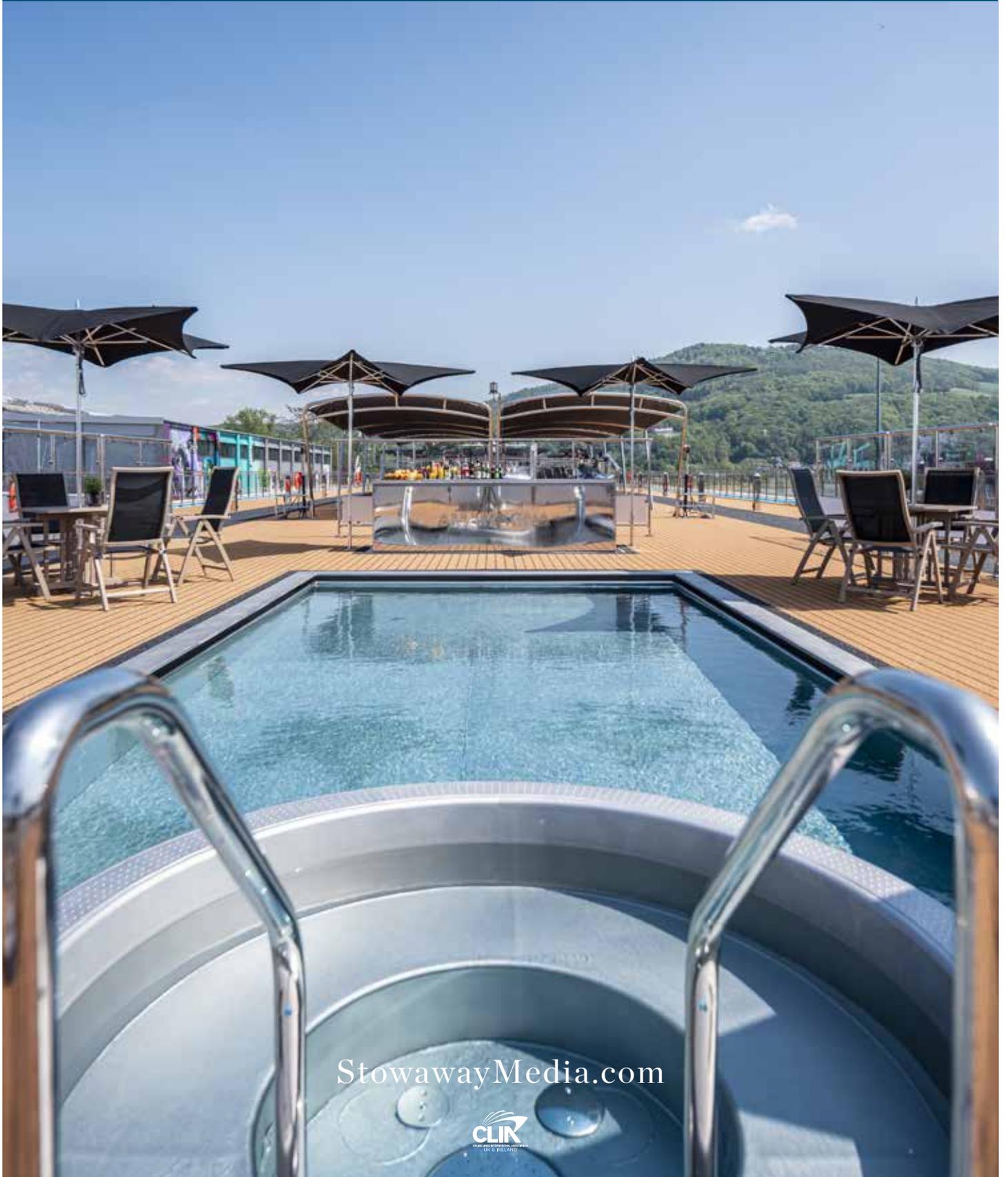


RIVER

CRUISE DIARY 2020 | 2021

EUROPE | ASIA | AFRICA | USA | LONG HAUL | EXOTIC



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– Which? Report



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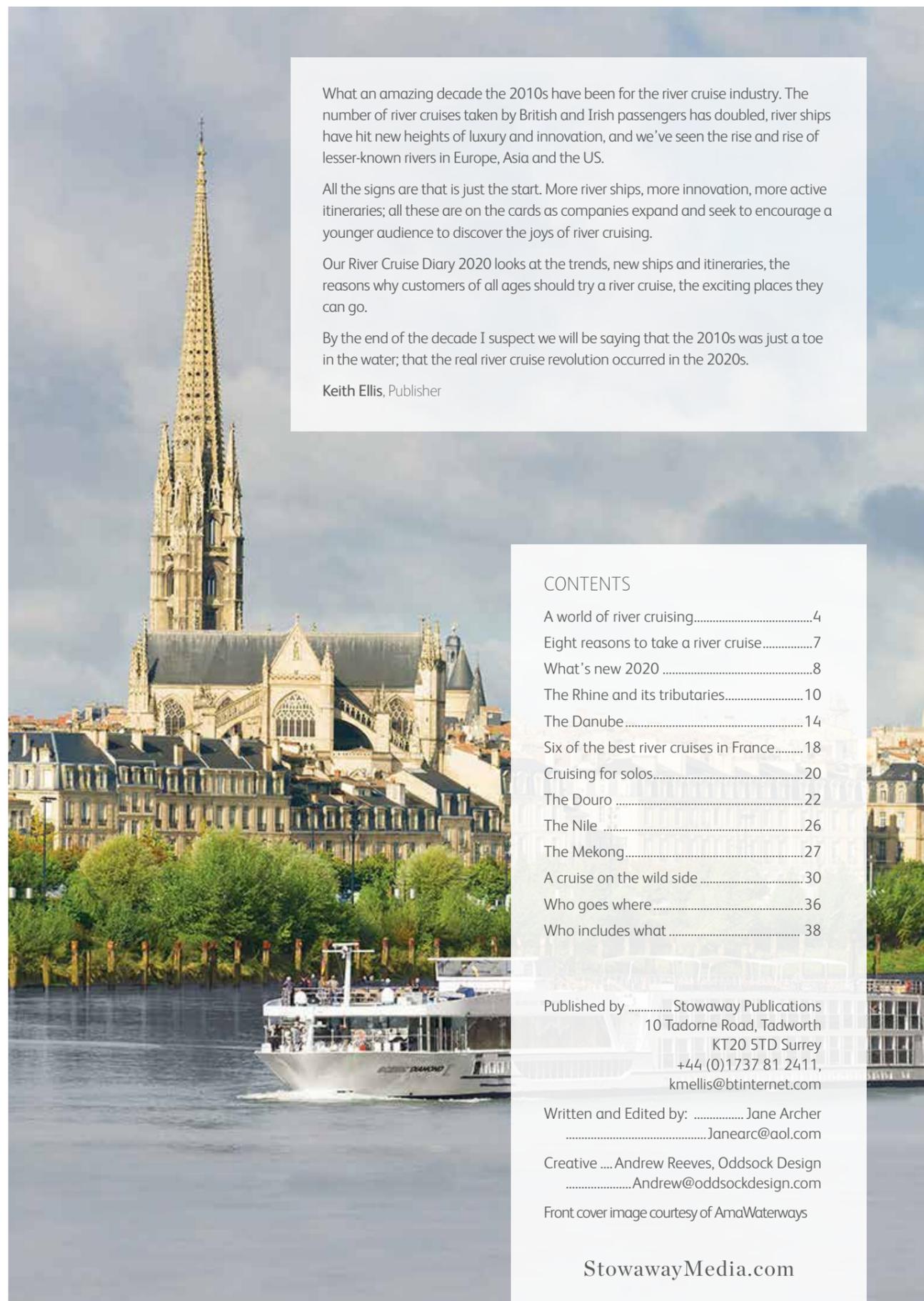


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What an amazing decade the 2010s have been for the river cruise industry. The number of river cruises taken by British and Irish passengers has doubled, river ships have hit new heights of luxury and innovation, and we've seen the rise and rise of lesser-known rivers in Europe, Asia and the US.

All the signs are that it is just the start. More river ships, more innovation, more active itineraries; all these are on the cards as companies expand and seek to encourage a younger audience to discover the joys of river cruising.

Our River Cruise Diary 2020 looks at the trends, new ships and itineraries, the reasons why customers of all ages should try a river cruise, the exciting places they can go.

By the end of the decade I suspect we will be saying that the 2010s was just a toe in the water; that the real river cruise revolution occurred in the 2020s.

Keith Ellis, Publisher

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A world OF RIVER CRUISING



VINEYARDS, RUDESHEIM

There's never been a better time to discover the joys of cruising on the world's greatest waterways

River cruising has become the go-to holiday for thousands of British travellers looking to see the world in style. It's an inspired choice.

There is always something to see along the river banks - churches and castles in Europe, remote villages in Asia - and when vessels dock, it is often close to the action, a big city or busy town maybe, so passengers can just walk ashore and discover new sights, sounds and tastes. All that and the additional bonus of just unpacking once as their floating hotel glides from one place to another.

It's a very different style of travel to ocean cruising. River ships carry an average of just 150 passengers, and they navigate rivers and canals rather than sailing vast oceans. It means passengers always have a view and travel through countries instead of just visiting.

The quality of the vessels is superb. Most now offer cabins with balconies and a choice of places to eat, while a growing number have sophisticated spas. AmaMagna, a river ship launched last summer by AmaWaterways, is twice the width of other river cruise vessels, has four places to eat, a wellness studio, a cinema and rear watersports platform.

Over the past decade river cruise fares have become increasingly inclusive, covering everything from drinks and excursions to tips and dining. It makes them great value and also very appealing, especially for those concerned about exchange rates as the UK leaves the European Union. Details of who includes what can be found on p38-39.

FOLLOW THE TRENDS

One of the big trends in river cruising is a move to more rigorous excursions and activities as 60 becomes the new 40 and lines look to attract a younger generation.

Companies including Uniworld River Cruises, AmaWaterways, Crystal River Cruises, Scenic and Emerald Waterways carry bikes that passengers can borrow for guided cycle rides or to explore alone, while hiking tours increasingly figure among excursion choices.

Avalon Waterways has dedicated active cruises on the Rhine, Danube and the Rhône in France, while AmaWaterways has wellness instructors on all its cruises this year. Those sailing the Rhine or Danube with U River Cruises can go kayaking in Ghent, canoeing in Serbia, sailing in Middelburg and get their kicks climbing trees in an adventure park near Frankfurt.

Family river cruises are also growing in popularity. Uniworld, Tauck and A-Rosa have dedicated family departures with special activities and excursions to keep youngsters amused.

On A-Rosa, children aged up to 15 travel for free when sharing a cabin with an adult. The company is launching a new river ship in 2021 with family cabins that sleep up to five people. Asia river cruise specialist Pandaw offers free cruises for the under 18s on selected sailings in school holidays

ROOMS WITH A VIEW

All rooms on river ship face the water but there are a multitude of designs, from cabins with French windows that open to a rail (Juliet balconies) to panoramic windows that open part way at the touch of a button.

AmaWaterways' vessels have split balconies so passengers can sit inside or out as they prefer (and the weather dictates); cabins on Avalon Waterways' vessels have wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling glass windows that open two-thirds the width of the room.

New river ships have an increasing number of suites to cope with demand for bigger accommodation. 'Standard' suites on AmaMagna, for instance, are more than three times the size of an average cabin.

Most river ships also have lower-deck cabins with a high fixed window at the water line so the view is limited. These are ideal for clients on a budget and often designated as single cabins with no supplement.

Whatever the category, all rooms are en-suite and equipped with hairdryers, safes and TVs. Scenic and Crystal River Cruises provide butlers for all. Cabins and suites on Amadeus River Cruises' and Crystal's vessels have walk-in wardrobes.



How to increase your river cruise sales

Target ocean cruisers looking for smaller vessels or a change of scenery.

Switch-sell escorted tour passengers to a river cruise. They'll still be touring but only have to unpack once and enjoy the comfort of a river ship.

Attract non-cruisers by packaging a river cruise into a land-based itinerary, for instance a tour of South-east Asia with a week on the Mekong, or the Ganges with a tour of India's Golden Triangle.

Get to know the rivers so you can talk with confidence and inspire clients.

Suggest a river cruise in Asia to clients planning their first long-haul holiday but nervous of travelling alone.

Grab every opportunity offered by Clia and its river cruise members to get on board their river ships so you get first-hand product knowledge.



BUDAPEST



PANDAS, CHINA

EUROPE'S RIVERS

More than half of British river cruise passengers choose the Rhine or Danube (Clia river cruise report, 2018) thanks to a range of attractions that appeals to all ages. Big cities, historic towns, scenic landscapes, picturesque castles, vineyards and wineries. You name it, you find it on these rivers, and also the Rhine's major tributaries, the Moselle and Main.

For those who can't decide, two-week itineraries between Amsterdam and Budapest take passengers down the Rhine, Main, Main-Danube Canal and Danube Rivers.

There are plenty more rivers to explore. The Douro in Northern Portugal; the waterways between Moscow and St Petersburg; spring-time cruises through the Dutch and Belgian waterways when the tulips are in bloom. There are voyages on the Elbe between Berlin and Prague; sailings on the Guadalquivir in Spain, cruises on the Canal Bianco in Italy.

In France, the Rhône and Seine are the big two, but there are also one-week sailings on the Garonne, Gironde and Dordogne Rivers in Aquitaine and cruises on the Loire.

DISCOVERING THE REST OF THE WORLD

Further afield, cruises on the Mekong River between Siem Reap and Ho Chi Minh City are hugely popular thanks to an exhilarating combination of ancient temples, exciting cities and exotic markets.

Adventurers can get off the beaten track on a cruise on the Upper Mekong in Laos, the Red River in Vietnam or the Ganges and Brahmaputra in India. There are cruises on the Irrawaddy in Myanmar and three and four-night cruises through the towering three gorges on the Yangtze in China.

In Egypt, the Nile is back on the river cruise radar; in southern Africa three and four-night safari cruises on the Chobe River in Botswana or Lake Kariba on the Zambezi River go in search of elephants, giraffe, leopards and more.

In America, paddlewheel boat cruises on the Mississippi and Columbia and Snake Rivers bring to life stories about the history of rock and pop music, the American Civil War and Mark Twain.

- 1 **SMALL AND FRIENDLY**
With an average capacity of 150 passengers and open seating dining on most river ships, there is no excuse for not making new friends. Throw in the included wine at meal times most river cruise lines now include in the price, and it all makes for a very convivial atmosphere.
- 2 **THE EASY WAY TO TRAVEL**
Once on board, unpack and relax as your floating hotel takes you on a journey to iconic towns, cities and villages. River ships often moor close to the attractions so it's easy to walk ashore and see the sights.
- 3 **IT'S SO INCLUSIVE**
Accommodation and food is always included in the price, and many river cruise lines either serve complimentary wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner, or include drinks at all times. Wi-Fi, shore excursions and tips are among other items that might be included. Who includes what, p38-39.
- 4 **A ROOM WITH A VIEW**
Cabins and suites on river ships face outwards and have either balconies, floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows that open at the touch of a button or French windows with a guard rail. Most river ships also have a handful of lower-deck cabins with fixed windows.

Eight reasons
TO TAKE A RIVER CRUISE

- 5 **WINDOW ON THE WORLD**
Wherever you are sailing, there is always something to see, be it towns, villages, castles or countryside. Sailing time is often used for wine or beer-tasting sessions, cookery demonstrations or guest talks.
- 6 **FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY**
A river cruise is great for all ages, from curious 10-year-olds to inquisitive parents and adventurous grandparents. Several river cruise lines have cabins with connecting doors or family rooms, as well as dedicated sailings with family-friendly excursions.
- 7 **A WORLD TO EXPLORE**
River cruises in Europe are a great way to see France, Germany, Austria, the former Eastern Europe and Portugal. If something more exotic appeals, there are cruises on the Nile in Egypt, the Mekong in Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, the Yangtze in China, the Ayeyarwady in Myanmar and the Chobe and Lake Kariba in southern Africa. In the US, river cruises explore the Mississippi and Columbia and Snake Rivers.
- 8 **NO NEED TO FLY**
Rail-cruise holidays from Amsterdam, Paris and Lyon are very do-able using Eurostar services from London and if time is no object passengers can take the train to Budapest or Vienna to pick up a cruise on the Danube, or to Bordeaux for a cruise in Aquitaine.



LUCIA ROWE
UK & Ireland Managing Director,
A-Rosa River Cruises

- IN A WORD...**
HOME IS? Cardiff.
- FAVOURITE CITY?**
Sibiu, Transylvania.
- FAVOURITE PASTIME?**
Running, hiking with my kids and reading.
- FAVOURITE RIVER?**
The Rhône.
- FAVOURITE DINNER?**
Anything Greek.

Why I love river cruising

Have you always worked in the river cruise industry?
My first job as a Travel and Tourism student was on board a river cruise ship, as their cruise manager. Following that, I experienced lots of other market segments, everything from ocean cruise to a private yacht company; but I've always gone back to river cruising as it was my 'first love'.

When did you join A-Rosa?
I was part of the team that started A-Rosa in 2000/2001. We looked at the pre-conceptions surrounding river cruise, turned them upside down and designed a contemporary product that allowed us to prove that river cruising could compete with other types of holidays such as city breaks, spa breaks and family/multi-generational vacations.

What was your first river cruise?
On the Danube, with the magnificent European capital cities of Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava, Belgrade and Bucharest. I was hooked immediately.

Why do you love river cruising?
River cruising is such a lovely way to explore the wonders of Europe. My children (Helena 13 and Sasha 11) love it. They get excited that after a busy day exploring a destination, they get back on board to a crew who they always adore, to great food, and they love playing games on the sundeck and cooling off in the pool. Another great attraction for kids and adults alike is the many locks a river cruise ship goes through during the journey. These pieces of incredible engineering are fascinating for everyone and to be part of that process and so close while you are on board makes one appreciate the amazing waterways we are sailing on today.

Which river is on your hit list for 2020?
Definitely the Moselle with its incredible landscapes, full of medieval castles and exquisite vineyards. It is one of the most beautiful and romantic journeys in Europe and so many people simply don't know about it.

WHAT'S NEW 2020

ALL THAT JAZZ

American Cruise Lines has named its next river boat American Jazz. Due to launch on the Mississippi in August 2020, the vessel is one of a series being built by ACL along the lines of a European river ship. There's no paddlewheel, as is traditional on US river boats, but like the paddlewheels, access ashore is via the bow. American Jazz will have all-balcony accommodation for up to 194 passengers, a dining room and café, and glass-topped atrium.



MUSIC MAESTRO

Saga is celebrating the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth with a special river cruise accompanied by Classic FM broadcaster John Suchet, author of *Beethoven – the Man Revealed*. Suchet will be giving three talks during the 11-night cruise, which departs on October 19, calls into Cologne and Rudesheim and includes a tour of the house, now a museum, in Bonn where the composer was born and an evening of live music at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw.

LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN

Christmas might only just be over but it's never too early to start planning a festive cruise for the end of year. Cue Crystal Cruises, which is touting an 11-night Rhine voyage from Basel next December that is in Strasbourg on Christmas Day and spends two nights in Amsterdam at journey's end so passengers can enjoy the city's New Year's Eve celebrations. Prefer the Danube? A Christmas cruise from Vienna to Budapest is in Melk on the Big Day.



MORE ON THE MEKONG

Where better to get a taste of the exotic than in Indochine, the speciality restaurant on APT's new river ship, AmaMekong, which will feature a special menu devised by Vietnamese Australian chef Luke Nguyen. The vessel will hold 88 passengers, have an outdoor café and swimming pool and sail weekly cruises between Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and Siem Reap in Cambodia starting in October.



DOURO DEBUT

Demand for Northern Portugal has prompted Tauck to launch its first river ship on the Douro. The 84-passenger Andorinha, named after a Portuguese swallow, will have a top deck of suites, two dining venues and sail one-week voyages round-trip from Porto that include plenty of wining and dining trips ashore and can be paired with two nights in Lisbon and two in Madrid.



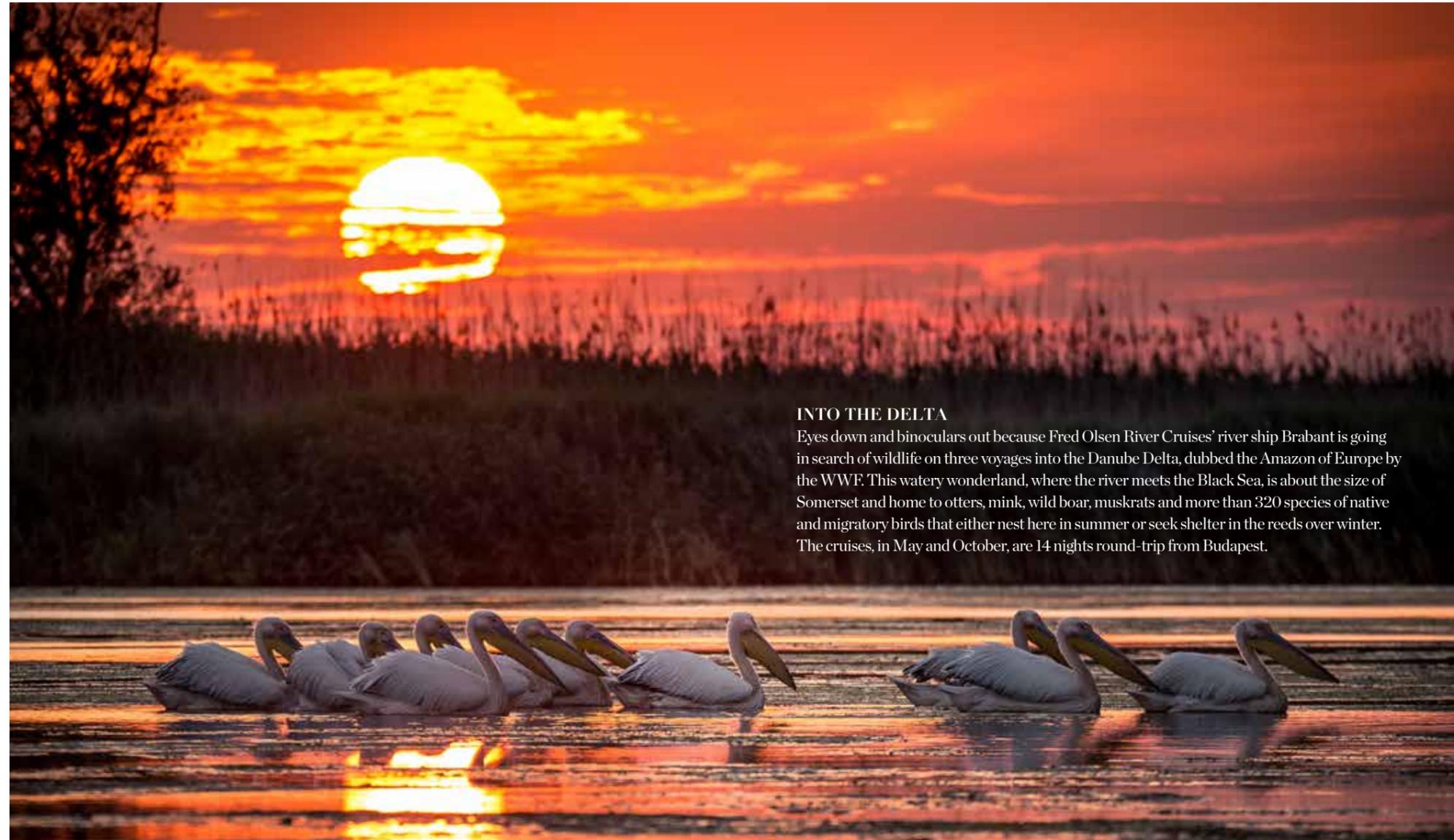
COME IN NUMBER 16

Amadeus River Cruises is launching its 16th river ship in April. Amadeus Imperial will debut with a couple of tulip-themed cruises on the Dutch and Belgian waterways before a busy year sailing the Rhine, Main and Danube. The vessel will accommodate up to 168 passengers in a mix of cabins with panoramic drop-down windows and suites with outdoor balconies.



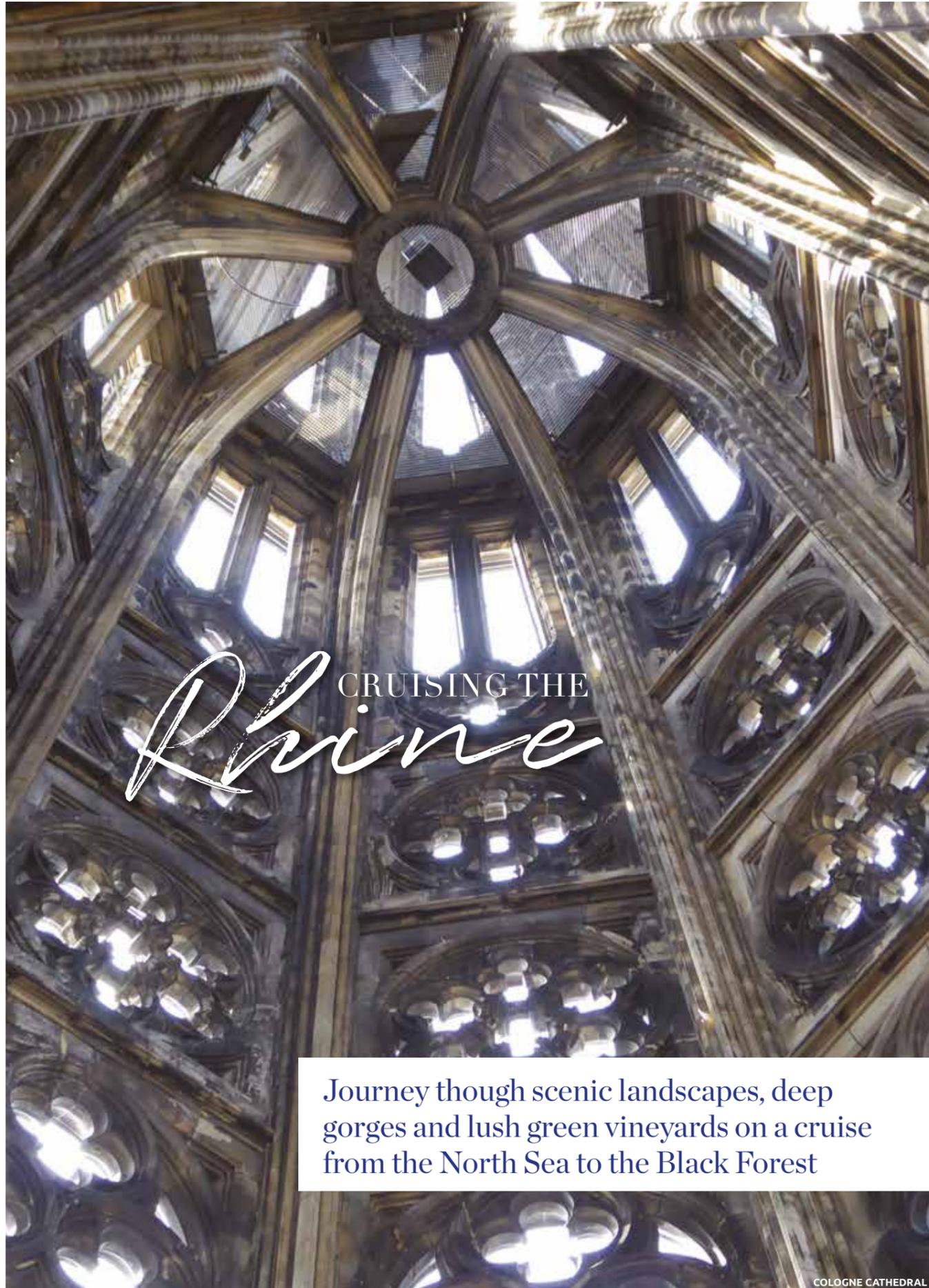
CANAL VISION

It's all change in Italy for CroisiEurope, which has new seven-day cruises between Venice and Mantua along the Canal Bianco on the Michelangelo. Optional tours include a walk around Venice, a lesson in the life and loves of Casanova at the Doge's Palace, excursions to the Venetian islands of Murano and Burano, a peek inside the Roman amphitheatre in Verona, and a taste of cheese and charcuterie in Parma.



INTO THE DELTA

Eyes down and binoculars out because Fred Olsen River Cruises' river ship Brabant is going in search of wildlife on three voyages into the Danube Delta, dubbed the Amazon of Europe by the WWF. This watery wonderland, where the river meets the Black Sea, is about the size of Somerset and home to otters, mink, wild boar, muskrats and more than 320 species of native and migratory birds that either nest here in summer or seek shelter in the reeds over winter. The cruises, in May and October, are 14-nights round-trip from Budapest.



CRUISING THE
Rhine

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COLOGNE CATHEDRAL



RHINE GORGE

Fact file

WHERE? The Rhine rises in Switzerland and flows north through France, Germany and Holland, emptying in the North Sea.

KEY STOPS: Amsterdam, Cologne, Koblenz, Rudesheim, Mannheim (for Heidelberg), Speyer, Strasbourg, Breisach, Basel.

TOP-SELLING ITINERARY: One-week cruises from Amsterdam to Basel or vice-versa.

With its centuries of history, fairytale castles and quirky cultures, it's no wonder the Rhine is a perennial favourite when it comes to river cruising in Europe.

Most cruises start in Amsterdam, a city of canals and world-class art galleries, and swing on down to Cologne, where you can visit a chocolate museum and learn the art of drinking Kölsch, the local beer (in a nutshell, waiters will just continue refilling your glass, and racking up your bill, until you say no).

In Speyer, visit what was once the biggest cathedral in the Western world, built by Conrad II, the Holy Roman Emperor between 1027 until 1039, to show how important he was. In Mainz, the city's at the confluence of the Rhine and Main Rivers, tours visit the Gutenberg Museum to see a

Bible printed in 1455 by Johannes Gutenberg, the father of modern printing.

A model of the world's first car in Mannheim pays tribute to the city's famous son, Karl Benz, while nearby Heidelberg has an imposing castle and weird former student gaol, where young miscreants were locked up for getting drunk, womanising, duelling and other misdemeanours.

All Rhine cruises visit Strasbourg, a city that has changed hands between France and Germany eight times over history. Most stop in Koblenz, where an enormous equestrian statue of Kaiser Wilhelm I marks the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle. A cable car goes across the river to Ehrenbreitstein castle, a vast fortress high above the river.

And all cruises also pass through the Rhine Gorge, the prettiest part of the river, with fairytale castles, spires, churches, precipitous riverside vineyards and the Lorelei Rock.

According to legend, this is where a beautiful maiden threw herself to her death over a faithless lover and then proceeded to lure sailors to their deaths with her hypnotic singing.

One of the reasons for the Rhine's popularity is that it is easily combined with other rivers. Various tributaries feed miles of waterways through Holland and Belgium and it can also be paired with the Moselle or the Main Rivers.

The Main then connects with the Main-Danube Canal and the Danube to create a two-week holiday from Amsterdam to Budapest. If time allows, passengers can even sail for three weeks, all the way from Amsterdam to Romania on the Black Sea.

Highlights on the Moselle include Cochem,

a pretty town dominated by the imposing Reichsburg Castle. It was built in the 1100s, destroyed by the French in 1689, rebuilt 200 years later and is now a museum housing collections of Renaissance and Baroque furniture.

A few itineraries visit Trier, which the Romans founded in 16BC – the mighty Porta Nigra (Black Gate) and a 20,000-seat amphitheatre are reminders of their time here; a few go to Remich across the border in Luxembourg.

On the Main, cruises visit Würzburg, from where tours visit the Baroque Bishop's Residence and Rothenberg, a walled city where snowballs (balls of pastry coated with icing sugar), a Christmas shop open year-round and beautiful medieval architecture are the main attractions.

Bamberg has strange-tasting smoked beer; in Nuremberg, tours visit the Nazi rally grounds and Documentation Centre, which charts Hitler's rise to power. In the old town, taste the local Nuremberg sausage, said to be the best wurst in Germany, and visit the Church of our Lady on the huge market square. Come December, this holds one of Germany's biggest Christmas markets.

Highlights

The spectacular castles and fortresses from the Middle Ages that sit atop the cliffs that tower over the Rhine Gorge.

Cologne cathedral took 630 years to build and is truly magnificent. Admire the interior, then climb the 533 steps to the top for views over the city and river.

Strasbourg old town is a picture-perfect collection of half-timbered houses, canals, cafés and quaint restaurants serving Franco-German dishes such as choucroute (sauerkraut with meat and potatoes) and flammekueche (flatbread with cheese and ham).

The quirky collection of automatic musical instruments from the past 200 years in Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Cabinet in Rudesheim.

An Amsterdam canal cruise is the easy way to discover the history and culture of the Netherlands' favourite city.



JANET PARTON
UK & Ireland Sales Director,
Avalon Waterways

Why I love the Rhine

Cruising the Rhine takes in some of my favourite destinations, sailing effortlessly from one bucket-list-worthy city to the next. Yet it still feels like a journey off the beaten track, like I've stumbled across a well-kept secret. It's beautiful and romantic, plus full of opportunities for adventure.

Bordering no less than five countries, there is a Rhine cruise for every taste. Tick off the tulips in Holland, Amsterdam's canals, and Germany's cultural hubs like Dusseldorf.

The choice of sailings keeps me returning time and time again. My favourites? Cologne's chocolate museum, the forest views in Breisach, Germany; the castles high above the water along the Rhine Gorge.

Come winter, the Rhine experience is transformed, as villages sprinkling the river bank light-up with festive decorations. One of my best cruising memories is relaxing in my Panorama suite, watching the Christmas lights glow as we sailed along, feeling suitably festive. The traditional half-timbered houses in Strasbourg are such a charming sight in the colder months, and visiting the finest winter markets is a must too... oh, and then of course there's the glühwein!

It's no wonder our customers love the Rhine at any time of year (as do I).

DANUBE RIVER

CRUISING THE Danube

Set sail on a spectacular journey that ticks off ornate palaces, performing horses, gilded abbeys, deep gorges and picturesque valleys

The Danube might not be as blue as Johann Strauss would have us believe, but it's an intriguing waterway nonetheless, flowing through seven countries as it makes its way from the Black Forest in Germany to the Black Sea in Romania.

Budapest, the capital of Hungary, has the largest Jewish synagogue in Europe, a spectacular parliament building, a grand market overloaded with paprika and spas with hot pools and saunas.

Vienna is the jewel in the Danube's crown, with spectacular palaces – the Hofburg, from where the Habsburgs ruled Austria for 700 years, and Schönbrunn, their summer residence – and grand baroque architecture.

Stable tours take visitors to see the famous Lipizzaner horses at the Spanish Riding School (performances are usually only at weekends and book up well in advance so it's tricky for river cruisers to catch a show) and Gustav Klimt's famous painting, The Kiss, in

the Belvedere Palace. Strike off alone to get a glimpse of local life at the Naschmarkt, a lively spot full of restaurants, bars and stalls selling spices, and stop off for coffee and cake at one of the grand coffee houses. An evening trip to a Mozart and Strauss concert is a must.

Most cruises call into Melk for tours of the gilded Benedictine Abbey that dominates the town and pause for a few hours in the villages of Durnstein or Weissenkirchen in the Wachau Valley. River ships that carry bikes – as many do these days – usually offer guided cycle rides between Melk and Durnstein. It is mostly flat but 32km so it helps to be fit.

From Linz in Austria, full-day excursions go to Salzburg or Cesky Krumlov, a pretty town in the Czech Republic. In Passau, walk ashore to find St Stephen's Cathedral, which houses the world's largest cathedral organ.

Cruises on the Lower Danube mostly sail from Budapest to Giurgiu, a small town about an hour from the Romanian capital of

CRYSTAL

WHERE LUXURY IS PERSONAL



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Fares are per person, cruise only in UK sterling based on double occupancy in the specified stateroom grade for the first two full-fare guests and include port, security and handling charges, which vary by departure. All fares, offers and itineraries are subject to change and availability and can be withdrawn at any time. Fares may fluctuate and should be used as a guide only. Prices may go up or down. You should contact us on 0207 399 7604 before booking, or visit our website www.crystalcruises.co.uk. The fares are available to new bookings only and are only available to UK & Eire residents. Restrictions apply. See crystalcruises.co.uk for complete terms and conditions of all offers. © 2020 Crystal Cruises, Inc., Ships' registry: The Bahamas.

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BRATISLAVA



THE DANUBE IN BUDAPEST

Fact file

WHERE? The Danube rises in Germany and flows through Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania, where it empties into the Black Sea.

KEY STOPS: Linz (for Salzburg or Cesky Krumlov), Melk, Dürnstein, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, Kalocsa, Vukovar, Belgrade, Vidin, Roussé and Giurgiu (for Bucharest).

TOP-SELLING ITINERARY: An eight-day voyage from Passau, Vilshofen or Nuremberg to Budapest or vice-versa.

Bucharest, or vice-versa, and call into the Serbian capital of Belgrade, where attractions include Sveti Sava, the world's biggest Orthodox church.

As it's a shame to miss seeing Bucharest itself, cruises often start or end with a hotel night in the city and a tour of the vast Palace of Parliament. It was built by dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and is quite forbidding to look at but ornate inside with marble floors, grand chandeliers and fine silk panels.

Attractions in Eastern Europe are less well known than those on the upper reaches of the river and usually require a lengthy coach transfer. Favourite tours from Roussé visit fresco-filled churches hewn out of rocks

and the town of Veliko Turnavo, the capital of Bulgaria when it was under Ottoman rule. From the Bulgarian town of Vidin, tours visit a former Roman rock fortress in Belogradchik; from Kostolac in Serbia, they

go to the ruins of the ancient Roman city of Viminacium; from Vukovar in Croatia, there are wine-tasting tours or trips to the city of Osijek.

All sail through the spectacular Iron Gate Gorge, which divides the Balkan and Carpathian Mountains, and narrows to just 150 metres at one point. If coming from the east, you'll enter through giant locks that lift boats almost 27 metres in 60 minutes. A 40-foot-high statue of King Decebalus marks the entrance.



KING DECEBALUS ROCK STATUE

Highlights

Salzburg, the city where Mozart was born, really loves its composer son. You can buy Mozart chocolates, Mozart lighters, even Mozart rubber ducks.

Vienna's beautiful Ringstrasse, built on the former city walls, is fabulous by day, but gorgeous at night when the buildings are all lit up.

The view of Budapest from Fishermen's Bastion on the hilly side of the city (it's a steep climb, or take the funicular) followed by an authentic Hungarian goulash for lunch.

Tours to the Hungarian Puszta, to see Hungary's whip-cracking cowboys in action. Their horsemanship is spectacular and there is usually local food and wine to make the trip go with a swing.

The ruins of the castle in Durnstein where Richard the Lionheart was held captive on his way home from the third crusade in 1192.

Did you know?

It's all about beer in Bamberg, where two breweries retain the tradition of drying their malt over smoke kilns. The resulting brew is a bit like liquid ham but you have to try it once. For research purposes of course.



ELAINE GILLARD
Marketing Director,
Crystal Cruises

Why I love the Danube

For me, the Danube has it all – big name cities that keep you captivated for days (vibrant Vienna, Budapest and Bratislava, with their spectacular historical sights, restaurants, bars and shops) as well as smaller towns and villages such as beautiful Dürnstein and Melk with its stunning 11th-century abbey; where you can meander through the town, taste the local wine, or take a bike and cycle along the river bank.

The journey between these places can't be beaten either – scenic cruising in the Wachau Valley is simply stunning with its rolling hills, vineyards and fortresses.

If, like me, you love food then you'll love cruising the Danube. My favourite places are the Great Market Hall in Budapest where you can buy typical Hungarian sausage and paprika, the famous Naschmarkt in Vienna for Viennese Schnitzel and the Old Market Hall in Bratislava with its numerous street food markets and cultural events.

And don't miss out on the local wines. The Wachau Valley is famous for its dry white wines which taste wonderful when paired with the region's famous apricot dumplings.

SIX OF THE BEST RIVER CRUISES IN France

With voyages through four very different regions to choose from, picking a river cruise in France is not easy

Clients planning a river cruise in France can take in history on the Seine, indulge in chocolate on the Rhone, taste Grand Cru wine on sailings from Bordeaux and visit grand chateaux on the Loire.
And if it's too difficult to pick just one, Uniworld River

Cruises and APT make things easier by offering cruises that combine two or three rivers to create a grand tour of France.
Here's a taste of some of the cruises available on the country's waterways.



WINE IN BORDEAUX

You're never too far from a glass or two of something red on AmaWaterways' Taste of Bordeaux cruise, which journeys along the Garonne, Gironde and Dordogne Rivers and includes complimentary excursions to France's premier wine-producing areas. Passengers will taste Grand Crus and sweet dessert wines in the St Emilion, Médoc and Sauternes regions, tuck into local specialities in Libourne and be the honoured guests at an exclusive wine festival in medieval Bourg, with music, dancing and free-flowing wine. The cruises end with a day in Bordeaux and tours to the local wine museum.

BOOK IT: From £2,880 per person cruise-only for a seven-night Taste of Bordeaux cruise round-trip from Bordeaux departing April 16.

KEEPING FIT ON THE SEINE

With daily bike rides among excursion options, staying in shape on A-Rosa Cruises' voyages on the Seine is easy. There are cycling tours through Normandy from Les Andelys and Caudebec-en-Caux (respectively 23km and 32km), and bike rides in the footsteps of Joan of Arc in Rouen and around the city of love on a last day in Paris. From Vernon, cycle tours go to Giverny, to see French impressionist painter Claude Monet's famous lily ponds, or swap pedals for paddles and go kayaking on the Eure River.

BOOK IT: From £1,099 per person for Shearings Holidays' nine-night Paris and the Seine Valley to Normandy cruise round-trip from Paris departing May 6, including coach travel and one pre-cruise hotel night.



WARTIME MEMORIES IN NORMANDY

The First and Second World Wars come under the spotlight on Scenic's Seine voyage through Normandy. This is an 11-day trip in memory of the British, Australian, New Zealand and Canadian troops who died during the conflicts, with complimentary excursions to the Somme battlefields and Thiepval Memorial from Rouen, and a tour from Honfleur to the D-Day landing beaches, museums and cemeteries. Richard the Lionheart's ruined castle at Les Andelys, the picturesque limestone cliffs at Etretat, the former home of Empress Josephine and two nights in Paris complete the cruise.

BOOK IT: From £4,330 per person for an 11-day Normandy and Gems of the Seine cruise round-trip from Paris departing June 30, including flights.

ART AND HISTORY ON THE RHÔNE

What did the Romans do for river cruising? All will be revealed on a river cruise along the Rhône with Avalon Waterways that calls into Arles, Avignon and Lyon, where a spectacular amphitheatre, the stunning Pont du Gard aqueduct outside Avignon and the remains of a Roman theatre are among highlights. It's not all about the Romans through. Viviers is a medieval gem; the Popes Palace in Avignon a gothic wonder. When you're done with history, art awaits in Arles, where story boards highlight scenes immortalised in oil by Vincent Van Gogh when he lived in the town in 1888 and 1889.

BOOK IT: From £1,649 per person for an eight-night Burgundy and Provence cruise from St Jean de Loine to Port St Louis departing March 31 including flights.



A TASTE OF PROVENCE

It's all about food on three gastronomic cruises along the Rhône with Emerald Waterways that feature truffle hunting in Burgundy and a gourmet chocolate fest in Valrhona's Cité du Chocolat in Tain L'Hermitage. Wine tasting is on the menu in Châteauneuf-du-Pape, and a feast awaits in Avignon as French chef Fabien Morreale comes on board to prepare a Provençal dinner for the entire ship. In case more sustenance is needed, guides lead mouth-watering tours around stalls laden with charcuterie, chocolate, cheese and bread in Lyon's famous Les Halles. A bike ride alternative is available.

BOOK IT: From £1,745 per person for an eight-day Flavours of Burgundy and Provence cruise round-trip from Lyon departing July 11 including flights.

CHATEAUX OF THE LOIRE

A tour of the chateaux of Azay-le-Rideau, Villandry and the fairytale-like Ussé is the highlight of a cruise on the Loire but there is plenty more to enjoy on this voyage, which is exclusive to CroisiEurope. A trip to the Chateau d'Angers reveals textiles sewn in the 14th century, known collectively as the Apocalypse Tapestry, that depict the struggle between good and evil, and there's a tour and tasting in France's Muscadet wine region. For something very different, excursions visit Chantiers de l'Atlantique, the yard in St Nazaire that builds ocean-going ships for MSC Cruises, Celebrity Cruises and others.

BOOK IT: From £1,193 per person cruise-only for a six-night Loire Valley cruise round-trip from Nantes departing April 8.





GOING IT
alone
It's hard to beat a river cruise when it comes to holidaying alone

Christmas on the rivers

As November draws to an end, European towns and cities come alive with colourful Christmas markets that sell everything from gingerbread and wooden toys to baubles to decorate the tree and glühwein (mulled wine).

That's the cue for river cruise lines to tweak their itineraries so passengers can top up their Christmas shopping with unusual gifts or just enjoy the fun as the markets come alive after dark.

Those keen to see the markets should go in the lead up to Christmas as many shut, especially in the small towns, on December 23. Most river cruise lines have dedicated cruises on the Rhine and Danube that take in three or four markets over a few days.

Small river ships, no or low single supplements, a house party atmosphere. No wonder river cruising is considered one of the best holidays for anyone travelling on their own.

The all-inclusive nature of river cruising helps enormously. Free drinks with meals, now offered by a majority of river cruise lines, adds to the convivial ambiance, while having excursions included takes the worry not only out of going ashore alone but also of busting the budget.

Open-sitting dining, also offered by most river cruise lines, gives solo travellers an easy way to meet different people each night although it's not unusual for single passengers to find each other early during the cruise and buddy up for the duration of the holiday.

Riviera and Saga Cruises have dedicated solo river cruises that are free of supplements and perfect for anyone travelling alone, as well as friends who want to go on holiday together but not share a cabin.

Saga has eight cruises for solo travellers in 2020 and 2021, including a couple of

tulip-themed trips in spring, a 10-night holiday in November 2020 that pairs three nights in Lisbon with a week on the Douro in Northern Portugal and a seven-night Castles and Vineyards voyage in October 2021 on its new river ship Spirit of the Rhine.

Riviera has dedicated solo cruises on the Seine, Danube, Rhine and Rhone next year, as well as two eight-day voyages on the Nile in March and September. Its website is full of useful tips for those travelling alone for the first time.

CroisiEurope and Emerald Waterways have solo cabins on selected river ships, while Fred Olsen River Cruises, Avalon Waterways and Uniworld River Cruises are among those that waive the single charge on twin-share rooms on the lower deck on selected sailings. In Asia, Pandaw has several departures with no single supplement.

Tauck is consistently good for solo travellers, with no single supplement on any category 1 cabin on its European river cruises and savings for those travelling alone on other grades of cabins on selected sailings.

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ST PETERSBURG

THE RUSSIAN WATERWAYS

A cruise along the canals, lakes and rivers that link Moscow and St Petersburg is a wonderful journey through ancient Russian cities that have fascinating stories to tell.

Places such as Uglich, where a church marks the spot that Dmitri, the son of Tsar Ivan the Terrible, was murdered; ancient Yaroslavl, a city of churches, cathedrals and monasteries; the 14th-century Monastery of St Cyril near Kirilov, which houses a superb icon museum.

Itineraries include at least two days each in Moscow and St Petersburg so there is time to see all these cities have to enthral.

In St Petersburg, highlights include the priceless artworks by the likes of Rubens, Raphael and Rembrandt in the Hermitage Museum; the gilded Peter and Paul Fortress; the Battleship Aurora, which fired the first shot of the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917; and the Church of the Spilled Blood, built where Tsar Alexander II was assassinated.

In Moscow, tours make a bee-line for the Kremlin, a vast fortress that houses palaces and the Assumption Cathedral where the tsars were crowned; Red Square; and the ornate Metro stations resplendent with chandeliers, sculptures and frescoes.



CRUISING THE Douro

Fact file

WHERE? The Douro rises in Spain and flows south-west through Northern Portugal, emptying into the Atlantic at Porto.

KEY STOPS: Porto, Entre-en-Rios, Pinhão; Régua, Barca d'Alva, Vega de Terrón.

TOP-SELLING ITINERARY: A one-week cruise from Porto to Vega de Terrón on the border with Spain and back.

Once a raging torrent, the Douro in Portugal was tamed by five deep locks built last century and these days is a dream destination for river cruise enthusiasts who want to relax and take it easy in the sun.

The scenery is gorgeous, veering from sheer rock cliffs to steep valleys and acres of verdant vineyards dotted here and there with pretty wisteria-clad quintas, the local name for wine houses.

There are also some pretty places to see along the way, including Guimarães, where Portugal's first king was crowned almost 900 years ago, and the baroque Mateus Palace at Vila Real – if it looks familiar it's because it features on the label of Mateus rosé wine.

Lamego has a pilgrimage church that anyone feeling energetic can reach via an ornate outdoor staircase with 686 steps

The Douro River is the top spot for folk seeking a scenic cruise, sunny days, charming excursions and plenty of port wine

Highlights

Salamanca's grand Plaza Mayor, one of the biggest squares in Spain, the city's 12th-century Romanesque cathedral and 300-year-old basilica next door.

Dining out at one of Portugal's quintas.

A tour and tasting in one of the port lodges in Gaia, across the river from Porto.



(if that sounds too much like hard work, excursion coaches will take passengers to the top). Régua has an excellent museum dedicated to the history of wine production in Portugal.

But the stars of these cruises are the cities of Porto, a grand metropolis with narrow cobbled streets and majestic squares that gave its name to Portugal's famous fortified wine, and Salamanca in Spain, home to one of Europe's oldest universities and a market packed with mouth-watering jamon iberico (cured ham), olives, oil and cheeses.



STUART PERL
UK Managing Director,
AmaWaterways

Why I love the Douro

The Douro offers a very different experience to other European river cruises insofar as the itinerary meanders through beautiful landscapes interspersed with small towns and villages rather than being peppered with signature cities. Notwithstanding, vibrant, hilly Porto and the beautiful historic city of Salamanca are undoubtedly highlights, providing visitors with a multitude of cultural activities to become immersed in. Combine these cities with the more tranquil and off the beaten track areas and for me, you get a perfect blend of experiences.

It is easy to see why the Douro is a designated UNESCO heritage site. Visitors can amble through the vineyards and charming native farms that cling to the steep sides of the valley or explore the picturesque towns and villages along the route. One of my personal highlights was visiting Lamego, where we hiked up the 686 steps of the Baroque staircase to enjoy beautiful views over the town before indulging in a selection of local specialities to allay our hunger.

Let's not also forget that the Douro is the world's oldest demarcated wine region – for those who wish, there are many opportunities to savour the fortified wines for which the region has become known.

Did you know?

If you see a queue in the street in Porto, chances are it's for Livraria Lello, a beautiful olde-worlde bookshop said to have inspired JK Rowling's Harry Potter series. Entrance is €5.50 (book online, refunded if you buy a book).

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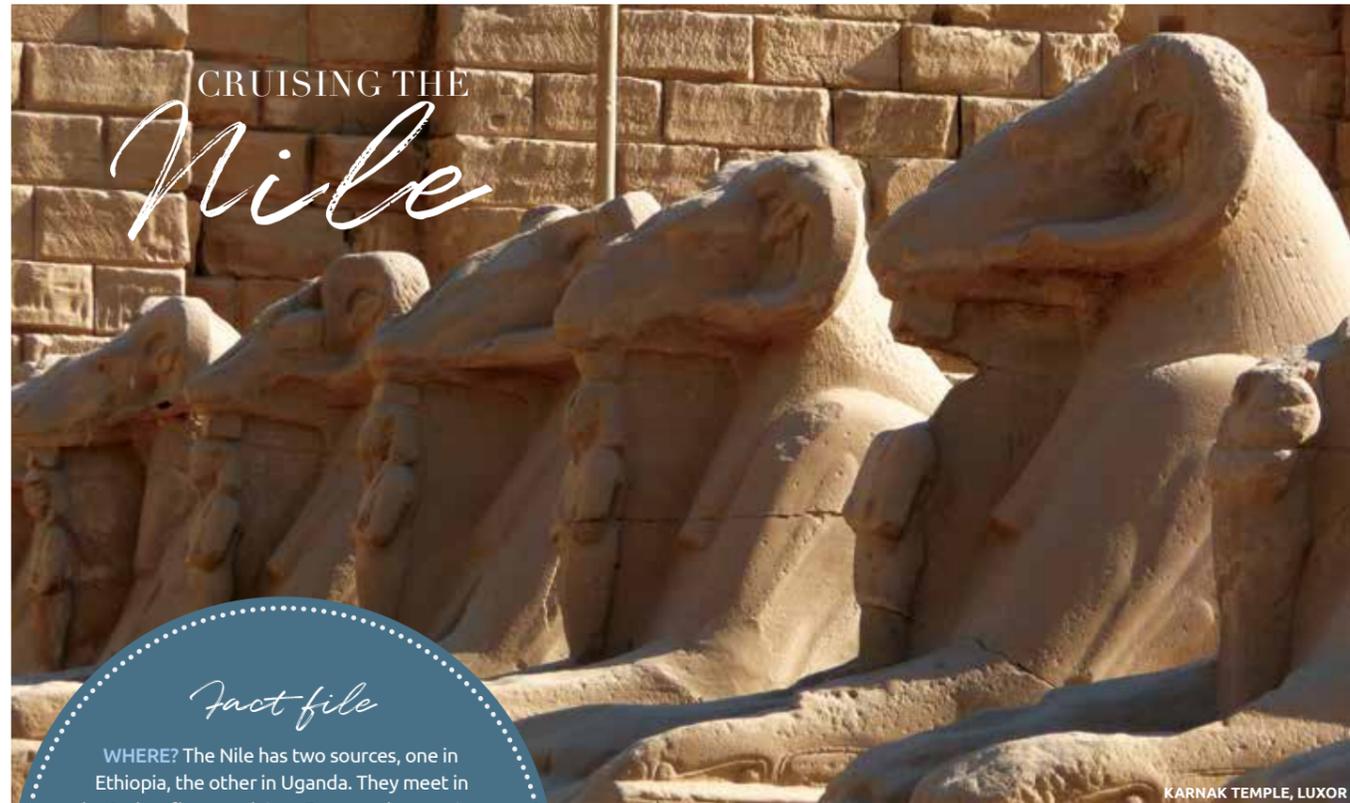
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KARNAK TEMPLE, LUXOR

Fact file

WHERE? The Nile has two sources, one in Ethiopia, the other in Uganda. They meet in the Sudan, flow north into Egypt and empty into the Mediterranean.

KEY SIGHTS: The temples of Luxor, Karnak, Queen Hatshepsut, Esna, Edfu, Kom Ombo, Philae and Abu Simbel; the Valley of the Kings; the unfinished obelisk.

TOP-SELLING ITINERARY: Four-night cruises from Luxor to Aswan and vice-versa.

Temples, tombs and tales of murderous gods and randy pharaohs await as river cruise lines including Avalon and Uniworld flock back to the Nile now the political situation in Egypt has stabilised following the Arab Spring in 2011. This is a fascinating journey back in time, to the days when pharaohs ruled the lands around the Nile and artisans learned the art of building obelisks and carving hieroglyphics. Cruises start or end in Luxor, the jewel in the Nile because there is such a lot to see: The temples of Karnak and Luxor, Queen Hatshepsut's shrine, the Valley of the Kings, where the pharaohs were buried. Passengers will see them all, and also a

string of other temples as they sail from Luxor to Aswan with guides who travel on the boats and spice up their tours with stories about the pharaohs (Ramesis II, who fathered more than 200 children; Queen Hatshepsut, who dressed like a man to be accepted as ruler) and the gods (Osiris, who was killed by his brother Set and avenged by his son Horus, who then chopped off his mother's head). In Aswan, there are trips to Philae Temple, an obelisk that was never finished and optional tours to the Temple of Abu Simbel, which is as notable for the fact it was moved to its present position to escape being submerged in Lake Nasser after the Aswan High Dam opened in 1968 as the four 60-foot high statues of Ramesis II that sit guarding the entrance.

Who goes there?

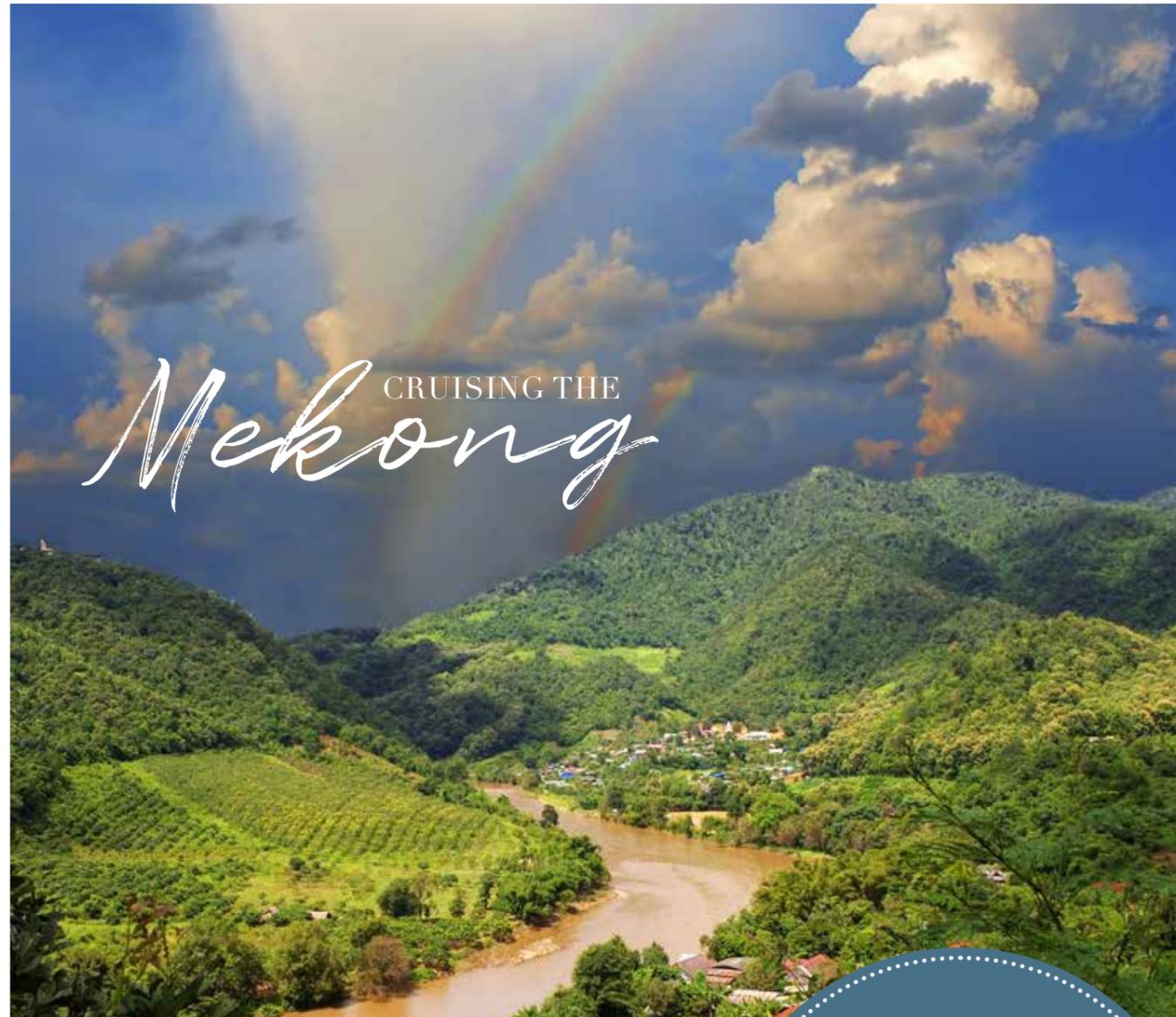
Avalon Waterways is returning to the Nile in September with a 10-day Taste of Egypt holiday that combines four-night cruises from Luxor to Aswan on the 124-passenger boat Farah with pre and post-cruise stays in Cairo.

CroisiEurope is making its Nile debut in February with eight-day cruises round-trip from Luxor on the 106-passenger Steigenberger Royale that include tours to temples. An 11-day option pairs the cruise with three nights in Cairo.

Uniworld River Cruises' Splendours of Egypt and the Nile holiday pairs a one-week cruise round-trip from Luxor on Sphinx, a new vessel launched in January that holds 84 passengers, with four nights in Cairo and tours to the pyramids.

Emerald Waterways pairs Cairo with a four-night cruise from Luxor to Aswan on the 142-passenger Hamees. Included excursions visit eight temples including Abu Simbel. Departures available from September 2020.

Scenic offers a 12-day cruise-and-stay holiday that pairs four nights on the Nile on the luxurious 36-passenger Sanctuary Sun Boat III with Cairo or cruise-tours that add overnights in Giza and the Red Sea, or sightseeing in Jordan.



With its alluring combination of exotic sights, fascinating history and friendly people, the Mekong has become the top-selling river cruise in Asia

Ancient temples, colourful markets, floating villages. Cruising the Mekong River through Vietnam and Cambodia offers an array of exotic sights and experiences that no one will ever forget. This is an incredible opportunity to dip into local life, see artisans at work, visit schools, discover local culture and learn more about the tragic history that has shaped both nations. At least two days should be devoted to exploring Ho Chi Minh City and Siem Reap, the cities at either end of the cruise, to see

Cambodia's stunning Angkor Wat temples, visit markets and temples, and crawl through the underground tunnels where the Viet Cong lived during the Vietnam War. Once on the river, the experiences come thick and fast as the river ships call into small towns and villages. There are tours to Buddhist temples and food markets, rides in ox-carts, boat trips to floating villages. Cruisers will learn the art of weaving silk, see how rattan mats are made, maybe brave a sip of rice wine flavoured with snake.

Fact file

WHERE? The Mekong rises in the Tibetan Plateau in China and flows through Myanmar (Burma) and Laos into Cambodia and Vietnam, emptying into the South China Sea south of Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

KEY CALLS: Siem Reap, Phnom Penh, Tan Chau, Sa Dec, Cai Be, My Tho, Ho Chi Minh City.

TOP-SELLING ITINERARY: Seven-night cruise from My Tho (for Ho Chi Minh City) to Siem Reap or vice-versa paired with pre and post-cruise hotel stays in both cities.



There's so much to see in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, that many river ships stay a couple of nights in the city. Tours visit the Central Market, a massive emporium selling everything from flowers and food to clothes, watches and jewellery, and the Silver Pagoda in the Royal Palace to see a bejewelled Emerald Buddha statue.

Tours in Phnom Penh also visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and one of the Killing Fields where thousands were murdered by the Khmer Rouge. It's heart-breaking but important to learn what happened during the regime's terrifying 14 years in power and ensure those who died are never forgotten.

Highlights

Exploring the phenomenal temples of Angkor Wat in Siem Reap.

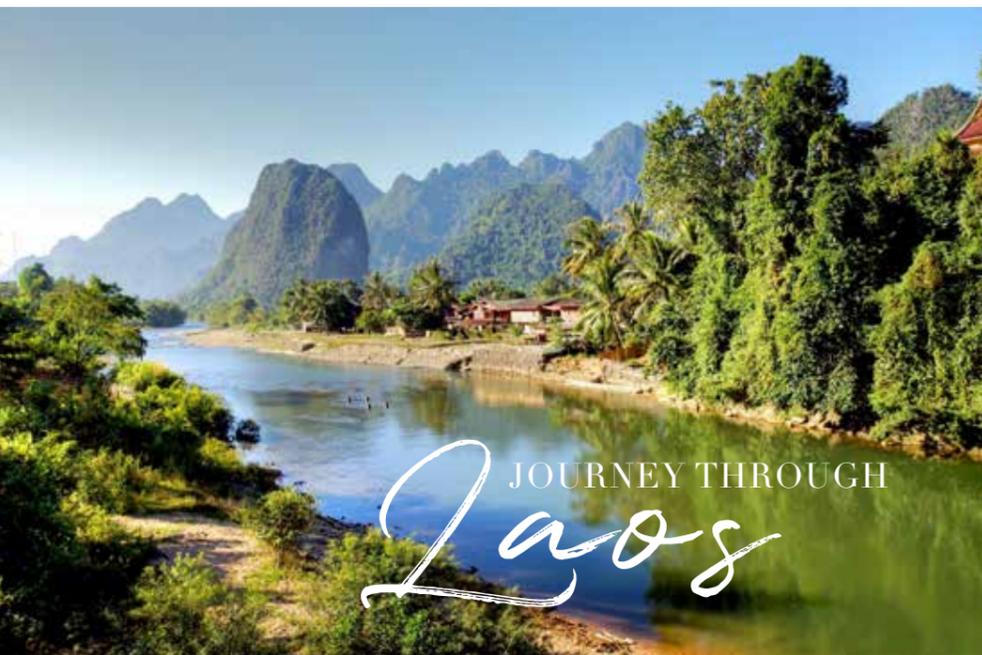
A tuk-tuk ride to Phnom Penh's bustling Central Market.

Delving into local life with rickshaw rides, trips to local markets and being blessed by monks.

Vietnam's Cu Chi Tunnels, a network of underground tunnels where the Viet Cong lived during the Vietnam War.

Did you know?

Foodie favourites in Cambodian include deep fried tarantulas and crickets.



This is another cruise on the Mekong, but this time on the upper reaches of the river, between Chiang Rai in Thailand and the Laotian capital of Vientiane, where the water races southwards in its haste to reach the sea.

It's a fascinating journey visiting remote jungle villages, limestone caves housing thousands of Buddha statues and the gushing Khaung Si Waterfall.

River ships negotiate rapids, cruise through the massive Xayaburi lock, pull up on muddy

river banks for trips ashore. An adventurous spirit is a must.

There are two nights in Luang Prabang, a lively city with museums, temples and a bustling morning market, where locals sell vegetables, meat, fish, crabs, crickets, even live bats.

Highlights in Vientiane include the gold-covered Pha That Luang, the Arc de Triomphe-style Patuxai victory monument and temples of Pra Keo and Sisaket.



DAVID WINTERTON

Director of Marketing & Global Brand Curator, Emerald Waterways

Why I love the Mekong

There's something very special about a river cruise along the Mekong and it all starts with the light. You are instantly aware that you are sailing through a region that is rich in culture and history; and I think that has something to do with the way the sun makes every colour so vivid and alive.

I was lucky enough to do the journey when we launched our brand new luxury Star-Ship, Emerald Harmony; in August 2019. The Mekong just seems directly connected to the region's history.

As you sail along its length you are transported through history; you see people in traditional villages going about their daily lives and learn so much about the civilisations that have lived here over hundreds of years. It is quite awe inspiring.

For me, a sunrise visit to Angkor Wat was a definite highlight, and well worth getting up early for. Gates open from 5am and you have to get there early to get the best viewing spot. As the sun rises the sky switches colour in the most remarkable way; from black to violet to orange. The crowd can get quite big, but there is still a chance for quiet reflection as you take in the temples and what they meant to the people who built them.

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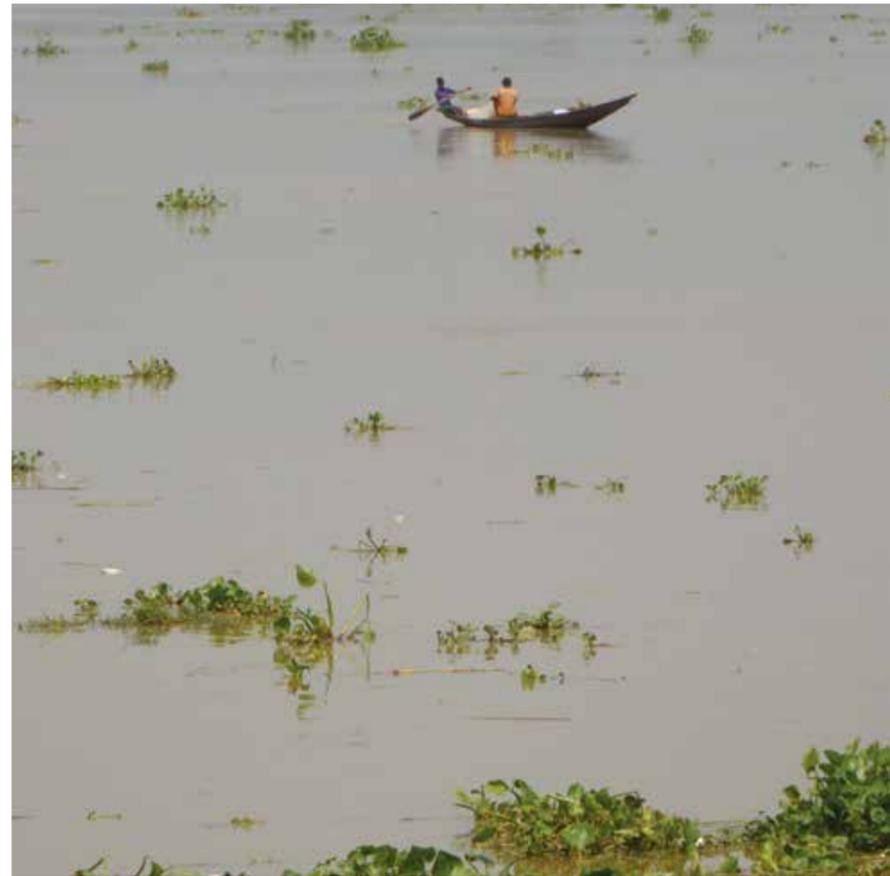
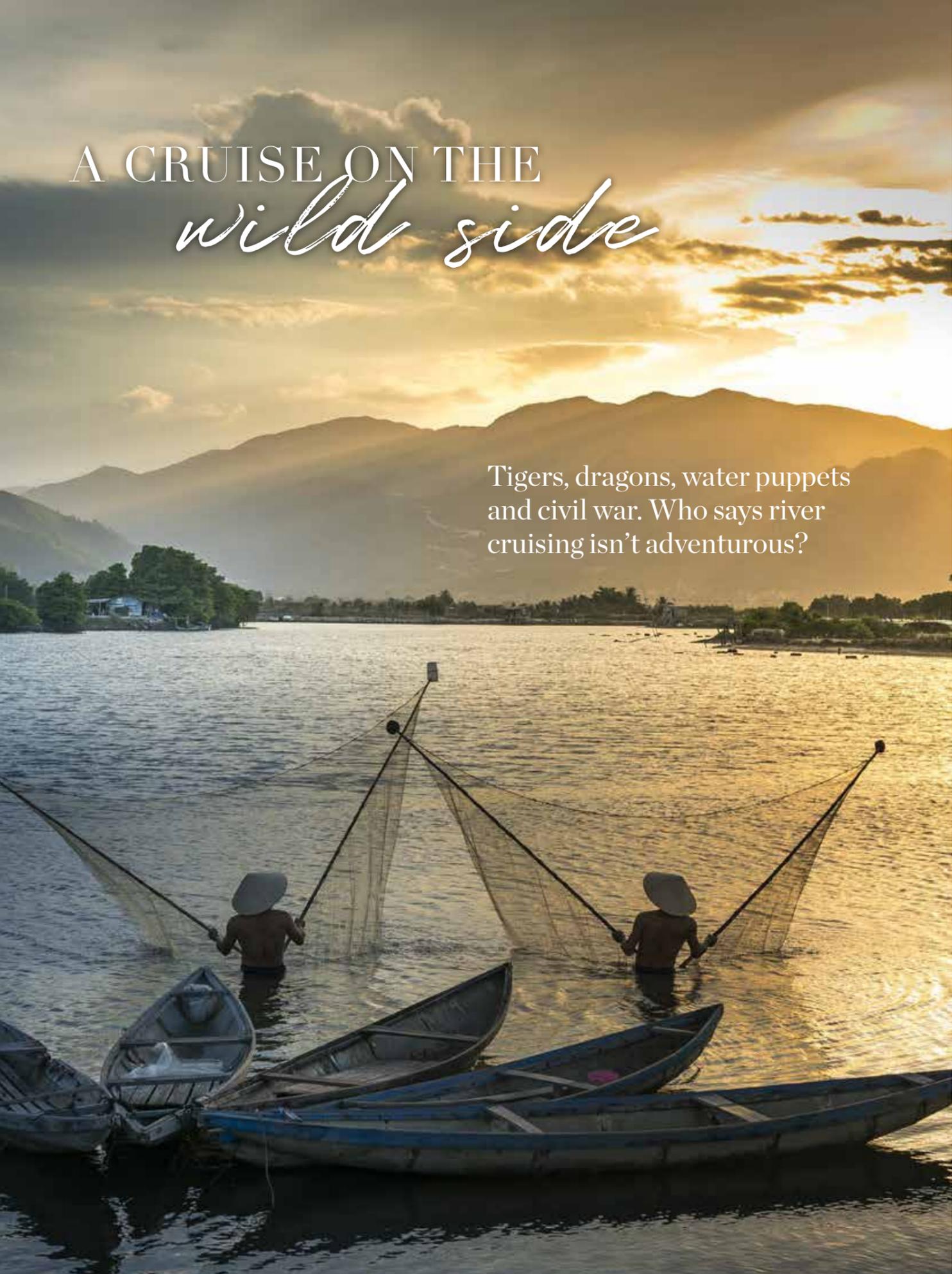
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A CRUISE ON THE *wild side*

Tigers, dragons, water puppets and civil war. Who says river cruising isn't adventurous?



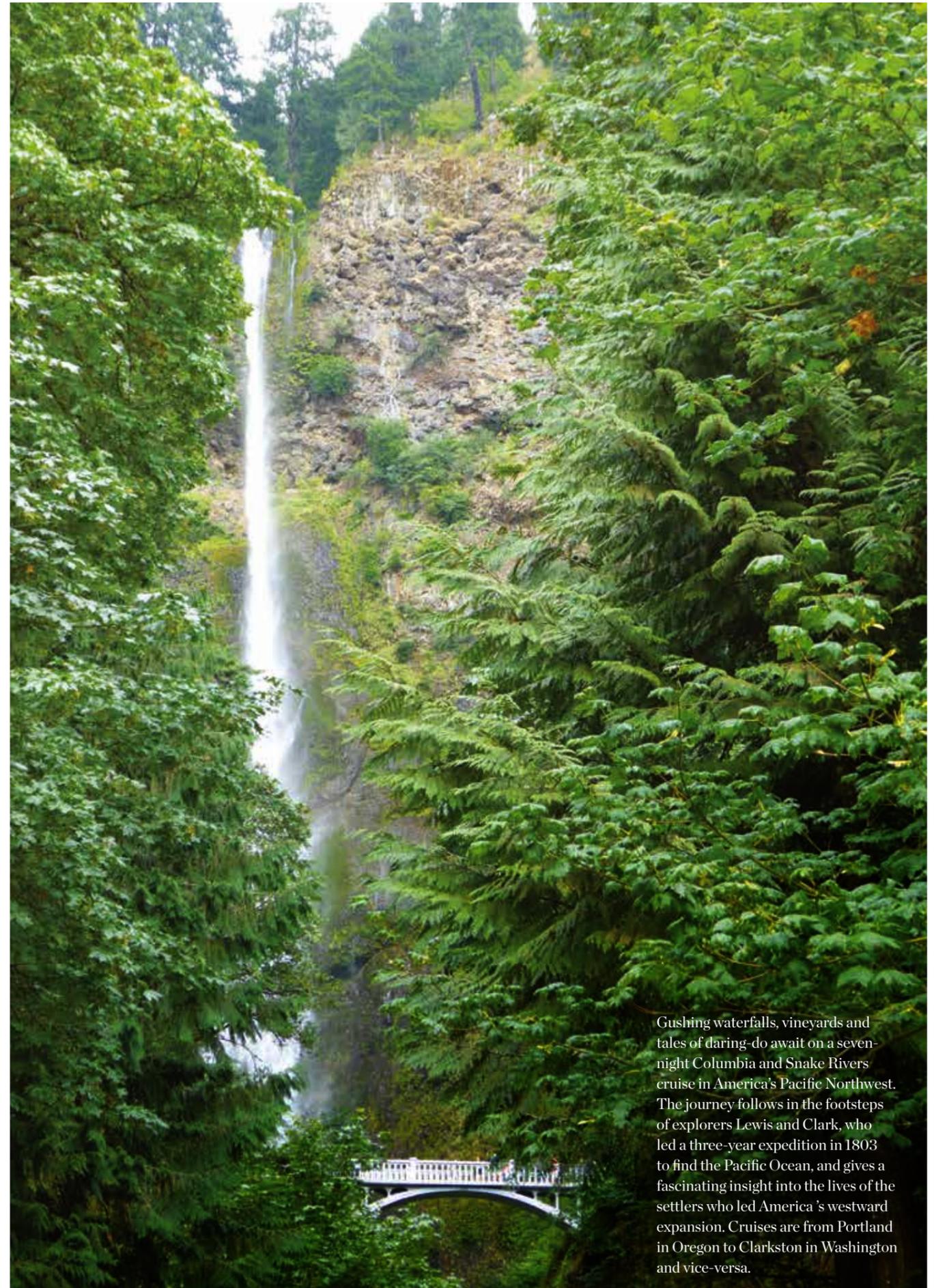
The Ganges in India is an exciting journey visiting remote towns, villages, mosques, temples and museums. Over the course of a seven-night sailing from Kolkata, passengers ride in horse-drawn carts and trishaws and call into Mayapur, where the Krishna Consciousness Movement has its headquarters. Fourteen-night holidays with Pandaw include two nights in Varanasi.



Three mist-covered gorges, myths about dragons and goddesses, and the largest hydroelectric dam in the world are among highlights of river cruises on the Yangtze in China. Itineraries are mostly three or four days and paired with land tours that take in Beijing, Shanghai and Xian, site of a huge army of terracotta warriors modelled 2,000 years ago.



The Red River in Northern Vietnam might not be the best-known waterway in the world but it certainly packs a punch when it comes to excitement. Cruises start or end in Halong Bay and over the course of 10 nights call into remote towns and villages to visit markets, watch water puppet shows and taste sticky rice wine. There's also a day in Hanoi, the busy capital of Vietnam.



Gushing waterfalls, vineyards and tales of daring-do await on a seven-night Columbia and Snake Rivers cruise in America's Pacific Northwest. The journey follows in the footsteps of explorers Lewis and Clark, who led a three-year expedition in 1803 to find the Pacific Ocean, and gives a fascinating insight into the lives of the settlers who led America's westward expansion. Cruises are from Portland in Oregon to Clarkston in Washington and vice-versa.



The Brahmaputra is wild, blazing a trail through the Indian state of Assam and leaving deep gorges, ever-moving sandbanks and the most diverse river cruise imaginable in its trail. The cruise, seven nights from Jorhat to Guwahati or vice-versa, is a real adventure, where going ashore might mean landing on muddy river banks one day, dodging around cows, people and cars on roads the next. There are early-morning yoga lessons on sandbanks and boat safaris around Kaziranga National Park in search of tigers, turtles, dolphins, kingfishers and water buffalo and dolphins.



It's all about steamboats, Elvis, Civil War and jazz on the Lower Mississippi, a journey from Memphis to New Orleans or vice-versa. Venture further north to see the giant arch in St Louis that marks the spot from where settlers set off in search of a new life in the west and the Missouri town of Hannibal where Mark Twain grew up. Most cruises are eight days; two or three-week voyages take passengers the length of the Mississippi from St Paul to New Orleans.



With everything from stunning golden pagodas towering some 100 metres of more into the air to hot air balloon rides over ancient Bagan and the longest teak bridge in the world, river cruising on the Irrawaddy in Myanmar is always an adventure. Three or four-night cruises between Mandalay and Bagan are popular additions to land tours. Seven and 14-night voyages between Yangon and Bagan or Mandalay are the comfortable way to see more.



WHO GOES WHERE - EUROPE (Cria members only)

Cruise line	Dutch waterways/ Rhine	Danube	Rhone	Seine	Bordeaux	Loire	Douro	Elbe	Po/Canal Bianco	Russia	Guadalquivir	Website
Amadeus River Cruises	✓	✓	✓	✓								amadeus-rivercruises.co.uk
AmaWaterways	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					amawaterways.co.uk
APT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		aptouring.co.uk
A-Rosa	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					arosa-cruises.co.uk
Avalon Waterways	✓	✓	✓	✓								avaloncruises.co.uk
CroisiEurope	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	croisieurope.co.uk
Crystal River Cruises	✓	✓										crystalcruises.co.uk
Emerald Waterways	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓		emeraldwaterways.co.uk
Fred Olsen River Cruises	✓	✓										fredolsencruises.com
Riviera Travel	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓		rivieratravel.co.uk
Saga ¹ (exclusive whole season charters only)	✓	✓					✓	✓				saga.co.uk
Scenic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		scenic.co.uk
Shearings (exclusive whole season charters only)	✓	✓										shearingsagent.com
Tauck	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					tauck.co.uk
Titan Travel (own river ships only)	✓	✓										titantravel.co.uk
TUI River Cruises ²	✓	✓										tui.co.uk
U River Cruises	✓	✓										ubyuniworld.com
Uniworld River Cruises	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		uniworld.com

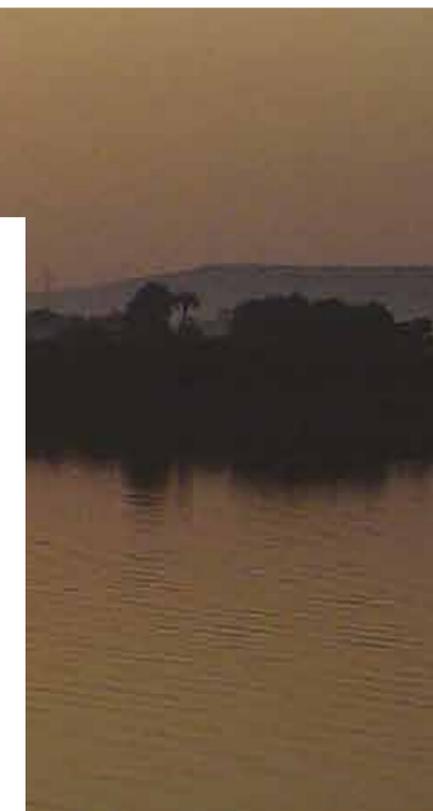
1 For over-50s only 2 For 18s and over only



WHO GOES WHERE - REST OF THE WORLD (Cria members only)

Cruise line	Mekong	Yangtze	Irrawaddy	Ganges/ Brahmaputra	Red River	Nile	Chobe/Lake Kariba	Mississippi/ Columbia River	Amazon	Website
AmaWaterways	✓						✓			amawaterways.co.uk
American Cruise Lines								✓		fredrivercruises.co.uk (gsa)
APT	✓	✓	✓							aptouring.co.uk
Avalon Waterways	✓			✓						avaloncruises.co.uk
Belmond			✓							belmond.com
CroisiEurope	✓						✓			croisieurope.co.uk
Emerald Waterways	✓					✓				emeraldwaterways.co.uk
Pandaw	✓		✓	✓	✓					fredrivercruises.co.uk
Riviera Travel	✓	✓				✓				rivieratravel.co.uk
Scenic	✓		✓			✓				scenic.co.uk
Uniworld River Cruises	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓*	uniworld.com

* On sale now for departures starting September 2020



WHO INCLUDES WHAT (Ctia members only)

Cruise line	Flights	UK home transfers	Transfers	All drinks	Drinks with meals ¹	Excursions	Gratuities	Speciality dining	Wi-Fi	Website
Amadeus River Cruises	✓		✓		✓				✓	amadeus-rivercruises.co.uk
AmaWaterways					✓	✓		✓	✓	amawaterways.co.uk
American Cruise Lines						✓			✓	fredrivercruises.co.uk
APT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	aptouring.co.uk
A-Rosa ²				✓	✓			³	✓	arosa-cruises.co.uk
Avalon Waterways	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	avaloncruises.co.uk
Belmond					✓	✓			✓	belmond.com
CroisiEurope				✓	✓				✓	croisieurope.co.uk
Crystal River Cruises			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	³	✓	crystalcruises.co.uk
Emerald Waterways	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	emeraldwaterways.co.uk
Fred Olsen River Cruises	✓		✓						✓	fredolsencruises.com
Pandaw	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	fredrivercruises.co.uk
Riviera Travel	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	rivieratravel.co.uk
Saga (exclusive whole season charters only)	✓	✓	✓		✓ ⁴	✓ ⁵			✓	saga.co.uk
Scenic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	scenic.co.uk
Shearings (exclusive whole season charters only)	✓ ⁶		✓		✓ ⁷	✓ ⁸				shearingsagent.com
Tauck				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	tauck.co.uk
Titan Travel (own river ships only)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓ ⁸			✓	titantravel.co.uk
TUI River Cruises	✓		✓		✓	✓ ⁹	✓		✓	tui.co.uk
U River Cruises						✓	✓		✓	ubyuniworld.com
Uniworld River Cruises	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	uniworld.com

1 - Wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner
2 - Flight inclusive packages sold via selected UK operators

3 - A-Rosa and Crystal offer speciality restaurants at an extra charge
4 - Not included on Elbe or Douro cruises

5 - Excursions are included on selected itineraries
6 - Coach, rail or flight available
7 - Selected cruises on Virginia only

8 - Selected excursions only
9 - £120pp cruise credit provided to cover excursions

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