

CLIA FACTSHEET

TOP REASONS TO TAKE A RIVER CRUISE



FLOATING CITY BREAK

Sailings along Europe's rivers take guests into the heart of the Continent's most beautiful and historical cities, including Budapest, Bratislava and Vienna on the Danube; Cologne and Strasbourg on the Rhine; Lyon on the Rhone; and Paris and Rouen on the Seine.



INTO THE WILDERNESS

Far-flung waterways enable passengers to delve into depths of the jungle along the Amazon; through the tropical landscapes along the Mekong in Vietnam and Cambodia; past golden temples gleaming alongside the Irrawaddy and Chindwin rivers in Myanmar; and headlong into the cultural marvels of the Ganges.



ACTIVE AND RELAXING

Sitting on deck and admiring the constantly-changing views is one of the biggest pleasures of river cruising, but then so is exploring ashore on cycling trips, hiking treks, walking excursions and even jogging tours. Enthusiasts can also make a splash on kayaking and canoeing outings.



SOCIABLE AND INTIMATE

With the largest vessels taking up to 200 passengers and the smallest accommodating just a handful of guests, river cruising resembles more a floating house party where the camaraderie flows as smoothly as the waterways thanks to a relaxed ambience that lends itself to convivial conversation.



CLASSILY CASUAL

Guests don't need to pack their poshest glad-rags as there are no black-tie events and the dress code is as laidback as the onboard lifestyle. Exclusive nights at private concerts ashore and the Captain's dinner, often on the penultimate evening, are the main occasions that call for smarter attire.

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TOP MARKS FOR VALUE

While river cruise prices are generally higher than for ocean cruises, much more is included. In addition to accommodation and food, rates often include drinks either with meals or 24/7, free wifi, gratuities, shore excursions and activities.



SOAK UP THE VIEWS

River sailings offer some of the best vantage points to take in some of the world's most incredible views, from the dramatic castle-topped hills of the Unesco-listed Rhine Gorge to the Gothic glories of Budapest's parliament building (beautifully illuminated at night) and the majestic Iron Gate Gorge east of Belgrade.



RIPE FOR EXPLORING

Excursions tend to be informative and offer a cultural flavour of the destinations visited with walking tours a popular mainstay, plus concerts and recitals, wine-tastings, cookery classes and trips to local points of interest, museums and castles.



CULINARY FEASTS

Expect to dine royally on river cruises with haute cuisine three or four-course dinners that follow expansive breakfasts and lunches, plus the chance to top-up in-between with a mid-morning snack and afternoon tea. Early risers can dip in before breakfast with early-morning coffee and pastries too.



SMOOTH SAILING

Nervous sailors or those who suffer from seasickness do not need to worry about rough conditions on rivers. Vessels tend to sail during the evening and moor up late at night, so as not to disturb guests, before starting off again early the following morning.