

DISCOVER YOUR NEXT RIVER CRUISE



ABSOLUTELY THE BEST WAY TO CRUISE AND SEE EUROPE

CUSTOM EUROPEAN EXPERIENCES FROM LIFE IS BETTER TRAVELING



Oceans take you to countries,
Rivers take you through them



WELCOME

TO LIFE IS BETTER TRAVELING

Welcome to the Life is Better Traveling's resource guide for European river cruising. A river cruise is a relaxing journey down inland waterways. It allows you to immerse yourself in multiple cultures through new smells, tastes, and sights.

Our travel agents help clients every year plan their river cruise vacations. Choosing the right river cruise can be an overwhelming decision from where to start, which cruise line to choose, and which destinations. This resource guide provides information to help you feel less overwhelmed and more confident in taking that river cruise.

When you are ready to book your European river cruise, our Life is Better Traveling travel agents are ready to help you plan.



Reasons to take a River Cruise



ALL-INCLUSIVE REASON #1



From a variety of daily shore excursions to a multi-course tasting menu at The Chef's Table to high-quality Wi-Fi to various beverages, your all-inclusive journey awaits.

Each river cruise line is different in what they include in their pricing. Most river cruise lines include shore excursions, meals, and some alcoholic beverages. If you are looking for pure luxury and pampering, some river cruise lines include gratuities, spa, transfers, and pre & post city excursions in addition to the aforementioned. You want to make sure your Life is Better Traveling travel agent talks with you about what is included and which of Life is Better Traveling preferred river cruise lines offer additional amenities

**A LIFE IS BETTER TRAVELING
FAVORITE ALL-INCLUSIVE
PART IS THE CHEF'S TABLE
ON ALL AMAWATERWAY'S
RIVER CRUISES. WE
ENJOYED AT LEAST ONE
NIGHT AT THE CHEF'S TABLE
WITH MULTI-COURSE
DELICIOUS MENU PAIRED
WITH LOCAL WINES.**

"Sonja is very professional and personable. She responds to inquiries very quickly and is very thorough. She was able to answer all of our questions and made sure we took care of all of our needs."

*-- Lisa
(Murrysville, PA)*

INTIMATE SETTING

REASON #2



A river cruise provides a relaxing environment for those who don't want large crowds. If you are not looking to be part of a pre-set motorcoach tour or an ocean liner cruise, then a river cruise would be a good fit. There are several relaxing areas on the ship to grab a cocktail or coffee and unwind. These spaces are designed to give passengers enough room so you don't feel as though you are crowded together.

As there are various excursions to choose from, some of the excursions may be small groups of 15 people or less. These smaller groups really help in immersive excursions making you feel like a local.

AT LIFE IS BETTER TRAVELING
ONE OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS ON
THE SHIP IS THE BARISTA
MACHINE AVAILABLE TO GUESTS
24/7. THIS HELPS US KEEP UP
OUR ENERGY ALL DAY LONG SO
WE DON'T MISS A THING.

"Sonja has been EXTREMELY helpful through this entire process. From picking wonderful tours, to changing things for us when we wanted something added, to even rescheduling our entire trip due to COVID. I would continue to book through Sonja anytime we need anything! She communicates effectively and answers every question we had."

-- Michelle
(Pittsburgh, PA)

SPACIOUS CABINS

REASON #3



Each cabin has a view that allows plenty of sunlight into your cabin as you take in the ever-changing scenery. You have the best of worlds with a small balcony inside your cabin and an outside balcony so you can choose where to sip your coffee.

Each room gives passengers space so they feel like they are staying in a boutique hotel. Large bathrooms with heated floors, sitting areas, and queen size beds with luxury linens makes everyone feel like royalty. Some cruise lines even have in-cabin entertainment systems giving you port updates in real time and your favorite shows and movies. If you can't leave work at home, settle into your sitting area and tap into the onboard WiFi, included in pricing. Get some work done before enjoying the next city.

AT LIFE IS BETTER TRAVELING ONE OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS DO TO IN OUR CABIN IS DRINK OUR COFFEE ON THE BALCONY IN THE MORNING WHILE WE TAKE IN THE SCENERY OF THE NEWEST CITY.

"Sonja was the absolute perfect travel agent. We had visited Italy independently numerous times before traveling with Sonja. Sonja was willing to accept our input, but she made certain to give us the easiest & most rewarding trip possible. She arranged everything we asked, & always made a range of suggestions. My husband & I were amazed how Sonja was able to accommodate everyone in our group. It was our easiest trip to Italy,, & we will contact Sonja for future travel."

-- Cinzia
(Pittsburgh, PA)

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

REASON #4



If you want to immerse yourself into various cultures, visit bustling cities and quintessential European villages while only unpacking once, then a river cruise is for you.

Some European river cruise itineraries will stop in 5 countries in one week. Docking in the heart of the city allows you to choose between a tour or an afternoon of adventure on your own. If you are in Vienna along the Danube you may want to opt for a food tour. Enjoy various strudels and coffee.

While on the Rhone river, Tournon is a great small french city to mill around visiting the Tournon Castle which includes a museum of this beautiful French town.

AVIGNON, IN PROVENCE REGION, WAS THE SEAT OF THE CATHOLIC POPES. IT REMAINED UNDER PAPAL RULE UNTIL BECOMING PART OF FRANCE IN 1791. VISIT THE MASSIVE PALAIS DES PAPES (POPES' PALACE) IN THE CITY CENTER.

"Sonja is enthusiastic and and cheerful. Her goals were the same as ours, best experience first best rate second. We had to change plans last minute since a hurricane was landing in Florida. She helped us switch flights with no up charge, find a great hotel in Vegas and booked activities last minute. She is awesome! ." -- Tinker

UNPACK ONCE

REASON #5



Taking a river cruise is a great way to see multiple countries in one vacation. Depending on the itinerary you could travel through 14 different European countries, if you have 45 days to mill around Europe. Other itineraries may have you immersing yourself in one country, and other itineraries, up to five countries in your seven night journey.

After boarding the ship, unpack once and enjoy your journey seeing multiple cities while learning about new cultures.

AT LIFE IS BETTER TRAVELING
TWO OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS TO
PACK WHEN WE GO TO EUROPE IS
MULTI-COUNTRY ADAPTER AND A
SMALL LAUNDRY BAG.

←————→
"Sonja was great! Our accommodations/transportation were perfect. Whenever I needed to add services, her response was quick. She is super friendly and a pleasure to plan vacations. I will definitely recommend her services and will call her for any upcoming trips."

-- Beth
(Pittsburgh, PA)

LONGER TIMES IN PORT

REASON #6



A river cruise is much different from an ocean liner cruise. The ships are not restricted to ports and towns like an ocean liner cruise.

The ships can dock right in the city center so all you have to do is walk right off the ship and be in the city. One of our favorite recommendations is to take advantage of being in the city at night.

After-dinner take a stroll through the city, pop in a pub or a church, and see how different the city looks at night.

AT LIFE IS BETTER TRAVELING WE LOVE TO HEAD BACK OUT INTO THE CITY AFTER DINNER TO DRINK WITH THE LOCALS. WE HAVE MET SO MANY AMAZING PEOPLE AT VARIOUS PUBS AND BARS.

"During the trip she made sure we were aware of daily plans and/or changes and spent time with us as both a great travel agent and a friend. We were thrilled to visit so many places and see so many sites! Thanks to Sonja, she truly helped make this travel experience one that we thoroughly enjoyed and will always remember."

-- Karen

(Canonsburg, PA)

MORE SPACE ON THE SHIP

REASON #7



A river cruise may hold up to 200 passengers on their ship compared to an ocean line cruise which can hold up to 3000 or more passengers. A river cruise allows you to stay in port longer. The ship will dock in the city and stay there most of the day, sometimes even into the night. Some ships travel at night to get from city to city as some ports are only three hours apart.

If you are prone to motion sickness, a river cruise may be a great option for you as there is less motion on the smaller ships. At Life is Better Traveling we like to call a river cruise ship a floating hotel helping you see many amazing European cities in one trip.

AT LIFE IS BETTER TRAVELING WE LOVE THAT THE SHIPS MOVE FROM PORT TO PORT AT NIGHT OR WHILE WE ARE ON OUR EXCURSIONS.

←

"We have had a great experience working with Sonja so far. She has been extremely responsive to all of our questions and has been proactively providing lots of information before we even think or have a chance to ask! I would highly recommend Sonja!"

-- Lisa
(Pittsburgh, PA)

QUICK BOARDING PROCESS

REASON #8



Boarding a river cruise is also an easy process. Unlike immigration when boarding an ocean liner cruise, you simply come to the gangway of your river cruise and check-in.

Once you have checked in, you board the ship. No lines to get onto the ship, and the crew will make sure that your luggage gets to your cabin.

If you board early before the your cabin is available, enjoy the top deck with a few drinks or enjoy lunch.

After lunch, take a stroll around the city maybe taking in a museum or historical sight.

AT LIFE IS BETTER TRAVELING WE BOARD EARLY SO WE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HAVING LUNCH ON THE SHIP AND THEN HEADING INTO THE CITY TO EXPLORE.

← ————— →
"" Sonja listens well and makes suggestions that suited our interests. Our guides were superior and the sites spectacular!"

-- Kathryn
(Pittsburgh, PA)

NO LANGUAGE BARRIERS

REASON #9



Traveling to multiple countries means that you will get to immerse yourself in various cultures and learn new languages. Even if you don't speak the language, several of the crew members and tour guides speak multiple languages including English.

AT LIFE IS BETTER TRAVELING WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE CREW MEMBERS WHO SPEAK MULTIPLE LANGUAGES ON BOARD AND AS TOUR GUIDES FOR THE EXCURSIONS.

←—————→

"In a "nut shell" it would be it would be extremely difficult for someone to exceed the organizational skills coupled with the holiday choices that Sonja made and I can only give her a "perfect plus" score and would recommend her exceptional quality services to anyone wanting an excellent , unforgettable vacation."

-- Mancunian

ONBOARD ENTERTAINMENT

REASON #10



Even though river cruise ships are small with no theaters to provide Broadway style shows, many companies bring on local entertainment. Whether it's traditional Bavarian music, a local quartet or modern piano favorites, there is an eclectic schedule of entertainment on board daily.

On the nights when the ship is docked later, getting off the ship for some after dinner drinks at the local pub is another great way to immerse yourself into the culture.

AT LIFE IS BETTER TRAVELING WE LOVED SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS WHILE ON A CHRISTMAS TIME CRUISE. IT REALLY PUTS YOU IN THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAYS.

← ————— →

"My husband and I had never used a travel agent before, and had this strange idea that we would automatically be roped into lots of large group tours and overly-typical tourist destinations. Everything we assumed was wrong, and we couldn't have been happier."

-- Danielle
(New Jersey)

1 WEEK DANUBE

SAMPLE ITINERARY



Destination

Budapest, Hungary



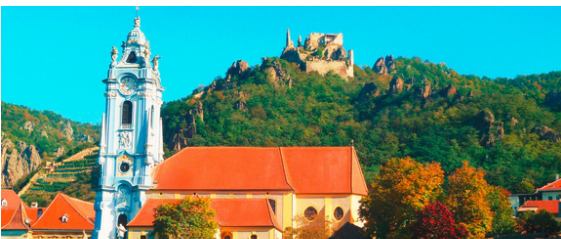
Destination

Bratislava, Slovakia



Destination

Vienna, Austria



Destination

Durnstein, Austria



Destination

Linz, Austria



Destination

Passau, Germany

1 WEEK RHINE

SAMPLE ITINERARY



Destination

Cologne, Germany



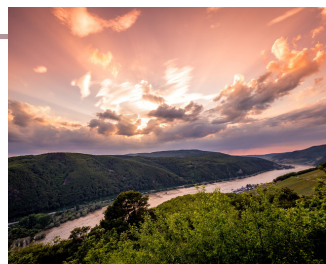
Destination

Amsterdam, Netherlands



Destination

Heidelberg, Germany



Destination

Rudesheim, Germany



Destination

Riquewihr, France



Destination

Strasbourg, Germany



Destination

Basel, Switzerland

EUROPEAN ITINERARIES



RHINE RIVER ITINERARY

- Visit 4 countries: Netherlands, Germany, France, and Switzerland
- Multiple quintessential Germany towns, and mesmerizing historical sites.
- Include a pre-stay and post-stay onto your itinerary in Zurich, Lucerne, and/or Amsterdam

PRICING STARTING FROM \$3699 PER PERSON



DANUBE RIVER ITINERARY

- Visit up to 4 countries: Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, and Germany
- Visit beautiful cities that almost seem stuck in time, and eat like kings with strudel and schnitzel.
- Include a pre-stay and post-stay onto your itinerary in Budapest and/or Prague

PRICING STARTING FROM \$2899 PER PERSON



RHONE RIVER ITINERARY

- Visit the Provence Region of France
- Visit Papal towns, artistic epicenters, and savor the beauty of legendary vineyards.
- Include a pre-stay and post-stay onto your itinerary in Barcelona and/or Paris.

PRICING STARTING FROM \$3299 PER PERSON

HOW TO BOOK:

Contact Sonja Hester at Life is Better Traveling.

Email: Sonja@lifeisbettertraveling.com

or

Phone: 412-463-3018

OCEANS TAKE YOU TO COUNTRIES
RIVERS TAKE YOU THROUGH THEM



LIFE IS BETTER TRAVELING HAS
11 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE HELPING
CLIENTS PAIR THE PERFECT RIVER CRUISE.
LET'S PAIR THE RIGHT CRUISE FOR YOU!



QUESTIONS

TO ASK YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

WE HAVE PROVIDED YOU SOME SPACE
TO WRITE DOWN YOUR QUESTIONS

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Your next step is to contact Sonja Hester at
[Life is Better Traveling](https://www.lifeisbettertraveling.com) to help you plan.

Email: Sonja@lifeisbettertraveling.com

or

Phone: 412-463-3018

NEXT STEPS

WHERE TO START TO PLAN YOUR RIVER CRUISE

1. Fill out the "Questions for your Travel Agent" page.
2. Contact Sonja Hester at Life is Better Traveling, see Sonja's information below.
3. Sonja will contact you to set-up a time to talk on the phone to start the planning process including deciding which rivers you want to sail.
4. Sonja will plan with you, give you tips, and help you pick the perfect river cruise for you.

Your next step is to contact Sonja Hester at Life is Better Traveling to help you plan.

Email: Sonja@lifeisbettertraveling.com

or

Phone: 412-463-3018

ABOUT LIFE IS BETTER TRAVELING AND SONJA HESTER

Life is Better Traveling has 11 years of experience helping clients pair the perfect river cruise. We have helped thousands of people plan their European vacations.

We have won multiple awards including 3 Magellan awards for being the "best" in the travel industry.

Sonja Hester herself has helped hundreds of clients plan amazing European vacations from river cruises to a more customized experience.

She has grown her travel business with repeat clients and referrals.

She earned her Certified Travel Associate or CTA with the Travel Institute. One of a few certifications recognized in the travel industry.

She loves to travel to Europe at least once every two years to visit her extended family in Italy.

