



# Europe River Cruises

Hank Schrader

Accredited Cruise Counselor

Certified Europe Destination Specialist

# Overview

- What is a Europe River Cruise?
- Comparing an Ocean Cruise vs. a River Cruise
- What does a River Cruise Ship look like?
- Europe River Cruise Line Comparisons
- Why should you use us?
- Possible Europe River Cruise Choices
- 5 Europe River cruises we have taken

# What is a European River Cruise?

- It is a 7-21 day or more cruise on one or more of Europe's navigable rivers with meals, lodging & destination tours included on a small sized ship (usually 130-190 passengers).
- Major Rivers are Rhine, Mosel, Main-Danube Canal, Danube & Rhone.
- Others: Douro, Seine & Volga-Baltic Waterways.

# Some of Europe's Major Rivers



# Seine River



# Rhine—Waal River Loop



# Douro River



# Volga-Baltic Waterway





# Comparing An Ocean Cruise vs. A River Cruise

# Ocean Cruise

## Advantages

- Less Cost to get on ship
- Ship On Board Experiences
- Multiple Dining Options
- Includes room, food entertainment & visits to ports on itinerary

## Disadvantages

- Usually Extra Costs during cruise
- Size—too many people?
- Larger Distances between Ports
- Shore Excursions cost extra

# River Cruise

## Advantages

- Smaller, more contact with crew every day
- A lot more chance to visit historic centers with minimum hassles—see more in less time
- All inclusive—food, wine/beer, shore tours all included
- Always something to see

## Disadvantages

- Higher price
- Limited entertainment—no casino or big shows
- People with mobility issues may have limits to participate in all activities

# A River Cruise Is

- No waves—always shore near—port every day
- No tenders (smaller boats to get ashore)
- More socialization w/crew/guests
- Meals at specific hours
- Everything is near cabin
- More contact with the ship officers
- Shore excursions included/free Wi-Fi

What do River Cruise ships look like?

# 3 Typical Europe River Boats in port



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# French Balcony Cabin

Photo Anne Schrader  
[www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Balcony River Cruise Boat



Photo Anne Schrader  
[www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# French Balcony Cabin 2012



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Some Cabin Friends



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Infotainment System

Photo Anne Schrader  
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# Aft Lounge



Photo Anne Schrader  
[www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Evolving—now specialty Aft Dining Room 2012



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Exercise Room

Photo Anne Schrader  
[www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Whirlpool 2009 Cruise



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# River Cruise ships are evolving bigger Pools—now with an outside bar 2012



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Bicycle Storage Area

Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Main Lounge

Photo Anne Schrader  
[www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Restaurant



# Main River Cruise Companies for the US Market

- **AMAWaterways**—“Leading the Way in River Cruising”
- **Avalon**-- “Comfortably upscale... more-spacious-than-average-cabins.”
- **Tauck**—“Never Settle for Ordinary”
- **Uniworld**-- “the world's only authentic boutique cruise line”
- **Viking**— “Exploring the world in comfort”

# My Personal River Cruise Line Ratings

- # 1 AMAWaterways
  - Best food/wine; best overall
- # 4 Avalon
  - Operated by Globus
- # 2 Tauck
  - Best Tours
- # 2 Uniworld
  - Elegant Cabins
- # 5 Viking
  - Best price, only 2 choices for some meals; some extras, not CLIA member



AMAWATERWAYS™

LEADING THE WAY IN RIVER CRUISING

# AMAWATERWAYS Overview

- AMAWATERWAY'S dream is to provide the most exceptional river cruise experience possible. They believe they achieve this by:
- Providing custom-designed ships
- Providing the Premium Experience
- Being the only River Cruise Line inducted into the Chaines Des Rotisseurs, the oldest & largest food & wine society in the world—most observers feel they have the best food & wine in Europe River Cruising
- Small group Excursions led by expert local guides
- Providing Complimentary Limited Edition Tours.
- Complimentary Bicycles & guided bicycle excursions

AVALON

WATERWAYS®

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Legendary river cruises. Inspired design.™



# Avalon Overview

- **Avalon has two goals in their approach to river cruising.**
- **First, they believe their clients deserve more choices and they follow through with a long list of options that can be added for an extra fee.**
- **Second, they want to be known as the “floating room with a view”—most cabins have floor to ceiling windows that open up.**

TAUCK



RIVER CRUISING

# Tauk River Cruise Overview

- **4 Cornerstones of Tauk River Cruising**
- **Uncommon Access to included shore excursions**
- **All-inclusive Value**
- **Personalized Cruising from 4 on-board Tauk staff**
- **Intimate Club-like atmosphere**



UNI**WORLD**®

BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION®

# Uniworld Overview

- The world's only authentic boutique river cruise line
- All-inclusive
- one-of-a-kind ships—operates 13 in Europe-- each is different
- stylish décor
- thoughtful personal touches
- welcoming ambiance
- superb cuisine
- gracious service



VIKING  
CRUISES

*Exploring the World in Comfort®*

# Viking Overview #1

- Viking provides All-inclusive itineraries—a great value.
- A Viking journey includes:
  - Exceptional Accommodations
  - Attentive Service
  - Enriching Daily Shore Excursions
  - Engaging Cultural Enrichment
  - All Onboard Meals
  - Complimentary wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & diner
  - Free onboard internet service

# Viking Overview # 2

- Has 55 ships deployed in Europe (they have introduced 18 or 19 new ships in the last 2 years & seem determined to keep up this pace). 40 are longships (135 m or 443 ft) & carry 190 passengers.
- Has over 50% of all river cruises ships in Europe.
- Heavy advertising campaign—brand is most well known river cruise company



Why Use Us?

**WE ARE RIVER CRUISE EXPERTS!**



# Anne Schrader

- Certified Travel Counselor (CTC) & Accredited Cruise Counselor (ACC)
- Certified Destination Specialist Western Europe
- '86 U of Houston grad in hotel & restaurant management
- Earned over 20 specialty designations from individual travel vendors



# Hank Schrader

- West Point '71, MS U. of Washington, MBA Long Island U
- Accredited Cruise Counselor (ACC)
- Certified Destination Specialist Western Europe
- Visited 66 countries—Europe at least 10 times
- Retired HS World Geography & AP Human Geography Teacher

# Why You Should Use Us #1

- **#1 Reason—It costs you nothing for us to plan your travel!**
- 18 years experience—we are **true professionals**
- We help you avoid the hassle & get the best value for your dollar--**saves time & money**
- We will help **you protect your travel investment**
- We can **help you avoid problems** & help you resolve travel problems—book it yourself & you are on your own

# Why You Should Use Us #2

- We will **research & advise** you on the **best possible trip**
- We are honest, hard working with one goal—**to serve you**—we will do what is best for you, not us
- We are small enough to give you **personalized service**, but big enough & experienced enough **to get you the right trip**

# Possible River Cruise Choices

## **Route/River**

Rhone/Douro

Rhine—Waal Loop

Middle Rhine/Mosel

Upper Danube

Lower Danube

## **Why Go on this Cruise?**

Best for Wine lovers/single country

Tulip time March/April, Netherlands/Belgium

Castles/Scenery/half timbered villages

4 countries

Eastern Europe

# Rhone Trip Map



# Historic sights



**Les Baux de Provence Battering Ram**



**Town Walls Avignon France**



**Roman Amphitheater Arles France**



**Popes Palace Avignon France**



# Wine Cruise



Grignan France

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Vienne France Roman Temple



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Lyon France



Wine Tasting Tournon France

# Tulip Time Cruise



# Sights



**Amsterdam Canals, Netherlands**



**Town Hall Antwerp Belgium**



**Giant Frites, Antwerp Belgium**

# Northern Europe



Photo Anne Schrader  
www.dreamdestinations.com

**Windmill Netherlands**



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

**Ghent Canals, Ghent Belgium**



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

**Keukenhof Gardens Netherlands**

# Middle Rhine/Mosel Trip Map



# Cool Towns



**Residenz Palace Wurzburg Germany**



**Town Hall Bamberg Germany**



**Miltenberg Germany**



**Rudesheim Germany Wine Stubbe**

# Castles



**Pfalzgrafenstein Toll Station, Germany**



**Reichsburg Castle Cochem Germany**



**Rheinstein Castle, Rhine River Castles**



**Marksburg Castle, Germany**

# Upper Danube Trip Map





# Capital Cities



**Budapest Hungary**



**Bratislava, Slovakia**



**Schonbrunn Palce, Vienna, Austria**

# Wachau Valley & Danube



**Dunstein Austria**



**Schonbuhl Castle, Austria**



**Melk Abby, Melk Austria**



**Regensburg Germany**

# Black Sea Voyage—the lower Danube



# Mighty Fortresses



**Belogradchik Fortress**



**Baba Vida Fortress**



**Kalemegdan Fortress**



**Petrovaradin Fortress**

# Bucharest Romania



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

**Open Air Museum—Rustic homes reassembled**



Photo Anne Schrader  
[www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

**Vlad Tepes in the Lipsican district,**



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

**Palace of the Parliament**

# Belgrade Serbia



**St Sava Cathedral**

**Parliament**



# Stunning River Scenes The Iron Gates



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



Photo Anne Schrader  
[www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



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# Dream Destinations

*Your Journey Begins Here!*

*Dream Destinations*



*Your journey begins here!*

- **We want to be your travel consultants!**
- **Please contact us at:**
- [aschrader@dreamdestinations.com](mailto:aschrader@dreamdestinations.com) or
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- Or visit at [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)
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