

SELECT WATERWAYS

Your River and Small Ship Cruise Insiders



INSIDER GUIDE

2018 EDITION

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Your River and Small Ship Cruise Insiders

“Select Waterways’ insider perspective is both refreshing and informative, certainly an advantage to any prospective waterway cruiser, either newbie or veteran.”

– Debbie M., Kansas City, MO

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PHOTO COURTESY OF TOBIAS FISHER / HURTIGRUTEN

WHY CHOOSE SELECT WATERWAYS

"Select Waterways' friendly attitude and knowledge make every interaction a pleasure."

Jaime B., New York, NY

THE BENEFIT OF EXPERIENCE

You can trust Select Waterways and our Insider Concierges as your dedicated river and small ship cruise insiders because we can draw from our wide breadth of experience in the cruising world, both from within the travel industry and as travelers ourselves.

— SW —

A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE

You can trust Select Waterways and our Insider Concierges as your dedicated river and small ship cruise insiders because we have:

- Sailed on over 130 voyages
- Cruised on more than 70 different vessels
- First-hand experience with 150 destinations worldwide
- Visited 30 different countries
- Spent a total of 500 days sailing the world's rivers and coasts
- Worked as insiders at three different cruise lines
- Marketed the launch of two river cruise lines
- Published articles in *Porthole Cruise* and *Cruise Travel* magazines
- Certification of expertise in AmaWaterways, Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection & Viking River Cruises
- Membership in prestigious industry associations such as The Affluent Travel Collection, Travel Savers, the International Association of Travel Agents Network, and the American Society of Travel Agents

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION

CURATED JUST FOR YOU

In total, we've spent a combined 500 days sailing the world's rivers and coasts. We know what questions to ask, the insider perspective on river and small ship cruises, and how to match you with your perfect vacation. We can even create a customized pre- or post-cruise land package in cities such as Paris, Amsterdam, Budapest, New Orleans, Saigon or Beijing. From a Euro-flavored Novotel to a posh St. Regis, we can find just the right accommodations for your schedule and budget.

We'll even arrange high-speed train transportation or intercontinental flights. Let us put our considerable experience to work for you. At Select Waterways, we are the river and small ship cruise insiders.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF VIKING RIVER CRUISES

EACH CRUISE IS UNIQUE

Not all cruises are created the same. Nor are all travel advisors. Our Insider Concierges do more than take a booking. We work with you to get to know your likes and dislikes, your preferences and your interests, to match you with the cruise that's just right for you, and only you. We will spend as much time with you as you need to be confident you're making the right vacation choice with your hard-earned dollars. At Select Waterways, we have vast experience that spans the travel spectrum.



While travel is a dream for many, it is our passion and our profession. Select Waterways was founded by James Lida, a former cruise line and travel industry executive, and Camilo Fontecilla, a world traveler born in Spain to Chilean parents and raised in America.

WE'VE BEEN THERE

We have taken more than 130 voyages on over than 70 different vessels. We've been to more than 150 destinations from Russia to Mississippi, from Alaska to Egypt, and from the Tennessee River to the Danube. We've sipped wine in Bordeaux, apricot liqueur in Vienna, mint juleps at Oak Alley, and aquavit in Oslo.

In the last three decades, we spent our careers heading marketing and public relations for three different cruise lines, creating social media and branding for the launch of two river cruise companies, leading marketing for the world's largest cruise line association and providing targeted marketing programs for a consortium of travel agencies. We've even written dozens of cruising articles for publications such as *Cruise Travel* and *Porthole Cruise Magazine* and been interviewed by everyone from *USA Today* to *Univision*.

SELECTING YOUR CRUISE

“Select Waterways’ vast experience is invaluable in deciding which itinerary is the best match for travel time and budget.”

— Gail N., Ft. Lauderdale, FL

SO MANY CHOICES

You know you want to go somewhere, but what do you need to decide? Other than figuring out your budget and how much time you have, you’ll need to decide where you want to travel. Beaches and tropical drinks or castles and wineries? Ziplines or museums? Fine dining or outdoor cafes? River cruise or ocean adventure?

Then, of course, you need to choose your stateroom. Near stairs or tucked in a corner? Tub or shower? Windowless, porthole, wall of glass or balcony? Do you want to entertain in your stateroom or get away from everyone to your special haven?



TIMING IS EVERYTHING

You’ll also need to decide when you want to travel to your chosen destination. If you go during the most popular times, the prices will be a bit higher and the weather better, but you can expect more crowds. Or do you want to compromise?

You also should weigh the pros and cons of when to book your cruise, although we always suggest that earlier is better. Keep in mind that the longer or more exotic the vacation the further in advance you’ll want to make your reservations to lock in the best rates and have the broadest selection of ships, sail dates and accommodations.

That’s why Select Waterways is your partner in travel. Our Insider Concierges will walk you through all the choices and always keep your interests and wishes in mind to find you that one cruise that feels as if it was created just for you.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMA WATERWAYS

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR CRUISE

When choosing a cruise, there is no right or wrong selection. There is only the decision that is best for you. At Select Waterways, we are committed to finding the river or small ship cruise that best matches your vacation goals and the parameters you have set for things like budget, destination, and length of stay. Each of these bigger decisions will have an impact on what you do, when you travel and where you go. In our experience, we've discovered that the following are the biggest choices you'll need to make:



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIKING RIVER CRUISES



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS

1 BUDGET

This is always the elephant in the room. It would be nice to buy an oceanfront house with six bedrooms and an infinity pool in Malibu for a mere \$100,000 but, well, that's just not possible. Likewise, a once-in-a-lifetime trip on the Yangtze River in China with a pre-cruise stay in Beijing for \$1,000 including airfare is just not possible. Be aware your budget choice sets the fence around all your other decisions. We can find you some of the best deals around, but we can't turn jelly beans into caviar.

In our own travels, we've found that it helps to be flexible with the budget. If you want to go to China, then go to China. Life is to be lived and it's all about experiences. We'd prefer a safari in Africa and buying a Chevrolet for our next car than a three-night Bahamas cruise and driving a Cadillac. But that's just us.

2 LENGTH

The longer you can vacation, the farther you can travel and the more it is likely to cost. People often target a seven-day vacation from weekend to weekend. We always encourage people not to vacation from one Saturday to the next but go for 10 or 11 days instead. Travel from a Friday to the following Sunday. It only takes one extra day off work and it's well worth it.

You can take a Caribbean, Mediterranean or Alaska cruise, and even some European and American rivers voyages, in seven days. For the Caribbean or American rivers, that can work out just fine. But if you're flying to Europe for a river or Med cruise, take some extra time to see more. If you want to travel to Asia or the Polar Regions, plan on two weeks. Our favorite length of time to travel, depending on the destination, is in the 11- to 17-day range. We're left wanting more with less than 11 days and after about 17 days, we're ready to return home.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION

3 WEATHER

This is an easy question to answer. Do you want to go somewhere cold or somewhere warm? Depending on what you want, your time of travel will have to follow in step. You might want to go to Alaska in February, but you won't find a single cruise at that time of the year. If you want fair weather in the Baltic at Christmas, you're out of luck. If you want a warm getaway to Australia over the summer, that's their winter down under. Also keep in mind that while there are Mediterranean cruises in the winter, they can get chilly in ports of call. But traveling in an off-season or shoulder season can have its own rewards.

On a recent Danube river cruise in November, we had temperatures in the 40s during the day but also very few crowds at each of our destinations. It was as though we had Europe all to ourselves. By the same token, we're not fans of a Mississippi River cruise from New Orleans in August. The sights are fantastic, but melting into a puddle from the high heat and humidity is not. We also generally avoid the Caribbean in the middle of summer for the same reason.



4 DESTINATION

Though this seems like an easy question to answer, it may be harder than you think. Sometimes, we've been fixated on going to a particular place with our own visions of what the trip would be like. When we got there, it was completely different than we anticipated. That's where the Insider Concierges at Select Waterways come in handy. We know each destination and can tell you if it will meet your expectations and, if not, suggest alternatives more in tune with the type of vacation you're seeking. If you want a European river cruise but love nightlife and going to bars, ziplines, and bungee jumping, then a European river cruise is probably not the best choice. If you want a restful vacation with attentive personal service, fine dining, and historical and cultural shore excursions, then a short cruise to the Bahamas is not a good match but a longer cruise in Tahiti or the Greek Isles would be.

5 SIZE OF SHIP

We will match you to whatever vacation best suits your desires and interests, but we'll say it right up front: we are not big fans of the big ships. They offer a completely different vacation experience than a smaller vessel. It's like the difference between a 4,000-room Las Vegas resort and a small boutique hotel in a European city. Select Waterways are the insider specialists when it comes to river and small ship cruising because we want to share our passion for this style of travel with the world.

But even among smaller ships, there are size differences. You can be among 68 people on a Yangtze River cruise or 930 on a Mediterranean sailing. In general, the smaller the ship, the better and more personalized the service. But on smaller ships, be prepared to make friends quickly as you'll be seeing a lot of your fellow travelers. Not to worry, they have chosen such a unique voyage that you'll find you have an enormous amount in common, including the good sense to not intrude on people's private moments or conversations.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WINDSTAR CRUISES

6 YOUR VACATION STYLE

This consideration ties into your budget as well. But rest assured, if you're used to a Ritz-Carlton experience, then our Insider Concierges are not going to steer you to a floating Motel 6. If you prefer to stay at the Mandarin Oriental when you travel and want to take a European river cruise, then you'd be happiest on Uniworld, Scenic or Crystal River Cruises. If you normally stay at a Hilton, you'll love Viking River Cruises and if an Intercontinental Hotel is your thing, then AmaWaterways is for you.

Also, what are your interests and hobbies? If you like to golf, go out to dinner and pop into the occasional museum, then a Europe river cruise is perfect. If you like to play tennis, swim in the pool, and go hiking, then a Caribbean cruise might be just the ticket.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN QUEEN STEAMBOAT COMPANY

7 MAL DE MER

Seasickness. It's the subject everyone likes to avoid. There is one inescapable reality of a ship: it moves. But where and when you sail as well as the size of the ship make a big difference. We have been on sailing ships with as few as 30 guests and megaships as large as 6,296 passengers. The sailing ship spent a week cruising a sheltered bay while the megaship hit a big storm. We didn't get seasick on either, but one moved much more than the other.

We specialize in river cruises because we love the style of travel, the things you can see, and the added bonus that a river has no waves. You will never feel the slightest bit queasy on a river cruise anywhere in the world at any time. Other small ships may move a bit with the ocean. The seas off Antarctica and in the middle of the Pacific or Atlantic can be rough at times. The Caribbean is choppier in the winter than in the summer, as is the Mediterranean. But a well-designed ship with motion stabilizers alleviates most, if not all, of the sway.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SILVERSEA



HOW TO PICK A STATEROOM

Choosing the best stateroom or suite can be just as important as selecting the right ship, cruise line and destinations. Though you'll be out and exploring, you'll still spend more time in your stateroom than any other place on the ship, so you want it to be a restful retreat of just the right size with just the right amenities.

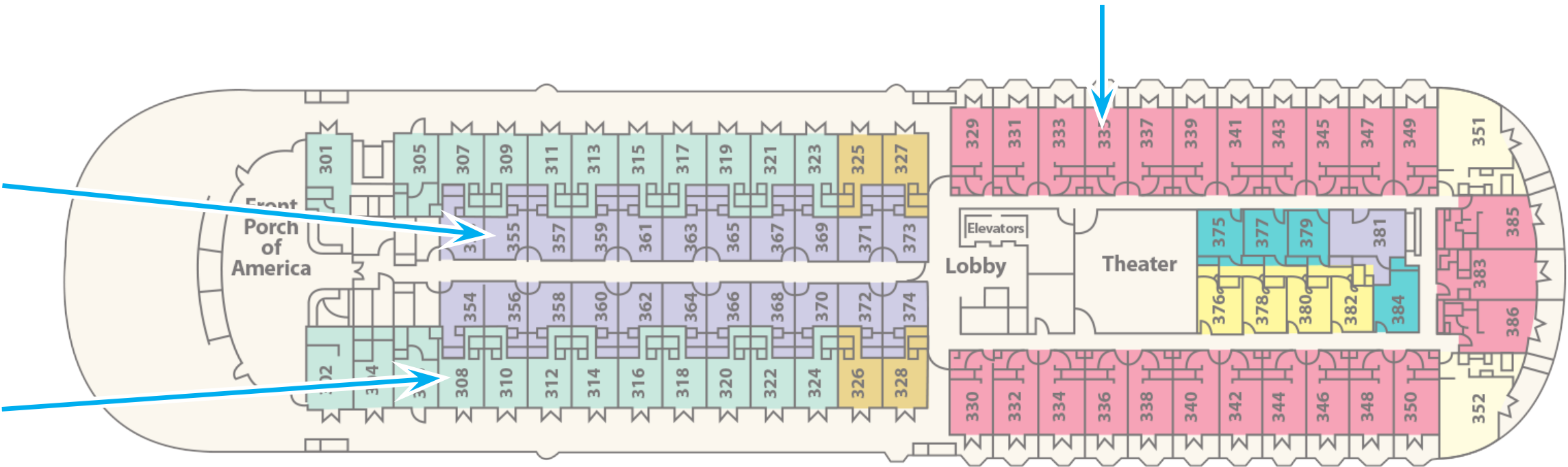
We've stayed in tiny inside staterooms on river ships, expansive luxury suites on larger ships, and virtually everything in between, so we know the pros and cons of every type of accommodation. You'll want to consider how close you want to be to certain shipboard features, whether you're a light or heavy sleeper, and how important it is to have fresh air or a view.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN QUEEN STEAMBOAT COMPANY



PHOTOS AND DECK PLAN
COURTESY OF AMERICAN QUEEN STEAMBOAT COMPANY



INSIDE OR OUTSIDE

Because of their diminutive size, most small ships and river cruisers have very few, if any, inside staterooms (staterooms with no porthole, window, or veranda). We always suggest going for the natural light that comes with an outside stateroom for a small additional cost. That said, not all outside staterooms are created the same. On many river ships, the accommodations on the lowest deck have a window set high in the wall which means you must stand to see outside. Some staterooms on small ships may have views partially blocked by lifeboats or other equipment. At Select Waterways, we can help navigate you to the best stateroom or suite at the best price with the best view.

SIZE

For some people, the more space the better, no matter what the cost. Yes, suites are more expansive than a regular stateroom but only you can decide if the extra space is worth it. Unless the suite comes with additional amenities such as butler service, we steer toward larger staterooms with verandas. On expedition and river ships, you'll spend little time in your stateroom but on small ocean-going ships, especially on longer voyages with extra days at sea, your accommodations might become your private haven. If you like to host small cocktail parties with friends, you'll want a bigger stateroom and, perhaps, a suite.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS

LOCATION

Where your suite or stateroom is located can determine everything from noise levels and movement to convenience to the dining room or elevators.

If you're a very heavy sleeper, it won't matter if your stateroom is near a late-night lounge or next to the kitchen. If you're a light sleeper, go for accommodations surrounded above and below as well as on either side by other staterooms, and located near the end of a hallway so there are fewer people talking in the corridor as they pass by,

If you're not comfortable walking long distances, then select a location near the elevators, dining room or main lounge. If you like to lay in the sun, then a stateroom just below the sun deck and pools might be perfect for you.

If you have any concerns about motion sickness, choose a spot right in the middle of the ship, preferably down low as that's the center of gravity. On an ocean-going ship, there's more movement the higher you go and the closer you get to the bow and stern. On a river vessel, there is no movement, so these considerations are irrelevant.

VERANDA

There's nothing quite like sitting on your own private veranda, enjoying the fresh air and a glass of sunset wine or cup of morning coffee. If it's within your budget, we always recommend upgrading to a veranda stateroom or suite. Keep in mind that the verandas can be quite small, but once settled into your chair with your feet up, it just doesn't matter.

That said, verandas mean a loss of privacy in certain situations, especially on river ships. We have made the mistake of strolling out of the bathroom after a shower in nothing but a towel to find our balcony facing a town square full of people. And if your ship is docked directly next to another ship, you can almost step out onto your veranda and shake hands with the folks on the other vessel.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS

AMENITIES

Suites and staterooms have virtually every modern convenience you can think of, from USB outlets to charge your phone to illuminated hanging rods in the closet. But keep in mind that not all bathrooms have tubs and not all staterooms will have a seating area. Think of how you use a hotel room when on vacation to decide what you can't live without. We can help you find the stateroom, ship and cruise line that has just what you're looking for.



WHEN TO BOOK YOUR CRUISE

Don't expect a lot of deals and offers at the last minute these days. Most cruise lines actually offer the lowest prices as far in advance as possible and then gradually raise the price as the sailing nears. It's called yield management and the cruise lines have become masters of this strategy. They want to fill a ship as full as possible with people paying as much as possible. Select Waterways will endeavor to find you the right cruise at just the right price and though these strategies might seem incompatible, they actually aren't.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIKING RIVER CRUISES



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS

BOOK EARLY

For the best offers, book early. The earlier the better. If for any reason the cruise line lowers the price after you book, almost all will match the new lower prices for you if it's brought to their attention. Sometimes, they'll even do it on their own.

You also want to book early to get the suite or stateroom of your choice. Many lines will not

just guarantee you a certain category of accommodations, but will allow you to request a specific stateroom. If you wait too long, it won't be available. In fact, sometimes the pricing category you wanted will not even be available.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIKING RIVER CRUISES

FREE UPGRADES

Another advantage to booking early is that there is a greater chance we can work with the cruise line to get you a free upgrade. Generally, ships are booked from the bottom up and the top down. That simply means that both the cheapest and most expensive accommodations are reserved first. If you book earlier and you're not already in a top suite, cruise lines will often upgrade guests in lower categories to

higher categories located in the center of the ship or even higher up to make room for new customers who, if they can't get a lower-priced accommodation, won't book at all.

KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING

As a general rule, the longer the cruise or the more exotic the destination, the earlier you should book. There are fewer longer cruises and fewer ships going to exotic destinations which means they are in higher demand and book faster. Also, if the cruise requires long flights, such as an Antarctic cruise, an Amazon River cruise or cruises in China, Vietnam and Australia, people plan further in advance for their once-in-a-lifetime vacation.



For cruises in North America (American rivers, Alaska, Canada/New England), we suggest booking 4 to 9 months in advance. For Europe, you should firm up your plans 6 to 12 months in advance. For more far-flung destinations such as the South Pacific, Australia/New Zealand, Asia, Africa, India, and South America, you should try to make reservations 10 to 15 months in advance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN JONES / HURTIGRUTEN

IT'S RARELY TOO LATE

But don't worry if you just now decided today that you want to be in Europe on a river cruise in 2 months. We can probably still find you a spot but there will be fewer ships, stateroom categories and destinations from which to choose.

WHEN TO TRAVEL WHERE

The following chart is a suggestion on the best times to travel to certain destinations. If you travel when the weather is nicest, you'll likely find plenty of crowds, so there's going to be a compromise. In shoulder seasons, you take a bit of a chance on the weather, but there are fewer crowds which, in popular destinations like Europe, can make a big difference in the type of vacation you experience. In off seasons, the weather can be extremely cold or hot and you may run the risk of natural disasters like hurricanes or nuisances like mosquitoes.

And then there are those destinations you simply can't get to at certain times of year. There is no such thing as a December cruise through the Northwest Passage or a July cruise to Antarctica since the frigid cold and ice during the winters prevent navigation (don't forget that in the southern hemisphere, our summer is their winter). Keep in mind that high season pricing can be significantly more than low season rates.

LEGEND

Perfect

- The best weather, but also be prepared for more crowds and higher fares

Good

- Weather can be variable, slightly fewer crowds, better pricing

Less Ideal

- Weather is generally not good, although there are very few crowds and the rates are lowest

Avoid If Possible

- Bad weather and voyages sometimes not offered at this time of year

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
RIVER CRUISES												
DANUBE RIVER												
RHINE RIVER												
FRENCH RIVERS												
LOW COUNTRY WATERWAYS (HOLLAND/BELGIUM)												
PO RIVER (ITALY)												
DOURO RIVER (PORTUGAL/SPAIN)												
LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
OHIO/TENNESSEE RIVER												
COLUMBIA/SNAKE RIVER												
AMAZON RIVER (BRAZIL)												
YANGTZE RIVER (CHINA)												
MEKONG RIVER (VIETNAM/CAMBODIA)												
VOLGA RIVER (RUSSIA)												

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CALL US AT 1.844.SWCRUISE (1.844.792.7847)

PLEASE VISIT SELECTWATERWAYS.COM

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INSIDER TRAVEL TIPS

"The Select Waterways team knows more about river cruising than any agency I have ever come across."

— Allyson L., Chicago, IL

STRESS-FREE TRAVEL

Traveling need not be stressful. Hopefully, that's why you've chosen Select Waterways to curate your river or small ship cruise vacation. With our decades of experience, we can help navigate the unfamiliar and put you at ease. Learn how cultures vary from place to place, how much and when to tip, the secrets to arriving at your destination rested and refreshed after a long-haul flight, how to get money back on foreign purchases, take a great picture and what to read to put you in the mood for your trip of a lifetime.



WE HAVE THE ANSWERS

Can I touch food with my left hand in Africa? Should I expect to eat late in Brazil? What's the proper way to accept a gift in Vietnam? Can I bargain for purchases in Russia? How much and who should I tip? Can I pre-pay gratuities? Should I drink champagne on my flight to Europe? What kind of shoes should I wear when I fly? How do I take a good picture with my smartphone or tablet? Should I worry about DVT? How do I deal with TSA? What is the VAT and how on earth do I get a VAT refund?

Don't worry – we can address all your concerns to keep your dream vacation from becoming somewhat less than what you envisioned. That's the Select Waterways difference.

FEELING AT HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Toto, we're not in Kansas anymore. Unless you're on an American river or coastal cruise, those words will ring truer than you think. Part of the joy of traveling is getting to know new people and experience new cultures, cuisines and destinations. We find that it's useful to keep a few of the local customs in mind when traveling; it just makes things easier and more fun for everyone. Remembering these simple travel tips can make for a much more enjoyable, and rewarding, vacation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIKING RIVER CRUISES

EUROPE

- While there are many cultural quirks endemic to specific countries, some rules apply across all of Europe, such as the tradition of greeting a shopkeeper when you enter a boutique and saying goodbye when you leave.
- Try not to over-tip when traveling in Europe. Simply rounding up the bill is considered sufficient.
- While Americans like to ask for menus substitutions and alterations to the way food is served like requesting a sauce on the side, such requests are considered rude in many parts of Europe. Chefs take great pride in their dishes, which are created to be served in a specific way. Don't rock the boat; just go with the flow.

RUSSIA

- Always remove your gloves before shaking hands. It is considered bad form to do otherwise.
- You can bargain on price for souvenirs, but be nice. Aggressive tactics will not work and don't expect to get half or more off. On average, don't expect more than 25% to 30% off the asking price.
- As a tourist, you'll pay more for museums and other attractions. Expect pricing on tourist admission tickets to be two or three times greater than for native Russians. You can try to enlist a Russian-speaking person to buy you a discounted ticket, but you'll still likely get caught and be told, sternly, to pay the difference.

CHINA

- When dining with native Chinese, move through your meal at the same pace as those around you. It is considered uncouth to race through a meal and rude to keep others waiting.
- How you handle your chopsticks is important in China. Don't lick them, spear your food with them or point at people with them while eating. And for goodness' sake, don't leave them sticking out of a bowl of rice like a mini-skyscraper. That's how the graves of the dead are honored.
- While you might read that you don't need to tip in China, we still suggest you do since most Chinese know that Americans are quite used to tipping and may take offense if you don't.

JAPAN

- Bow gently when meeting others and only shake hands if the person greeting you offers theirs first.
- Slurping your noodles isn't bad table manners in Japan. Instead, it means you are enjoying your meal. So, slurp away at that bowl of udon!
- Don't talk on your cellphone in small spaces such as in buses or on trains. If you speak to your companions in such situations, do so in a low, quiet voice. Japan is a small country with a lot of people and each values their solitude, even in a public setting.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS

SOUTH AMERICA

- Brazilians have a zest for life and will often reach out and touch you when communicating, interrupt and speak loudly. Don't flinch as such behavior is normal, even with strangers.
- At a restaurant in Chile, whether your service is superb or somewhat lacking, always tip the standard 10%. To do otherwise is frowned upon.
- As in many South American countries, Argentines eat late. Very late. Most restaurants don't open for dinner until at least 8pm and don't get crowded until 10pm or later. If you're thinking about dining ashore, plan accordingly.

AFRICA

- Use only your right hand when eating or touching food and, in a related gesture, only shake hands using your right hand. The left hand is considered unclean.
- Don't be startled if someone starts hissing or smacking their lips. It might seem unsettling, but it is a common and accepted way of getting another person's attention.

INDIA

- Just like in Africa and for the very same reasons, only eat, touch food or shake hands with your right hand.
- Always check with your guide before taking any pictures inside temples, especially in Hindu shrines, as it is a closely-held superstition that doing so is both bad luck and can rob a deity of its power.
- Save your public displays of affection for private moments. In public, kissing and hugging are considered a sexual act and to engage in such behavior in public is akin to exhibitionism.

VIETNAM / CAMBODIA

- Avoid putting your hands on your hips or crossing your arms when dealing with native Vietnamese or Cambodians as these are considered aggressive gestures.
- Wear long pants when touring in Vietnam as it is a sign of respect when entering temples and meeting the elderly, whom the Vietnamese revere.
- If you're trying to get someone's attention, never point since this is how animals are often summoned.
- If you are given a gift, reach out to accept it with both hands as this gesture shows deep and sincere gratitude.



TIPS ON TIPPING

We're all used to tipping in a shoreside restaurant, tipping a valet or tipping the porter at the airport. But tipping on a cruise seems far more intimidating when, in fact, it couldn't be simpler.

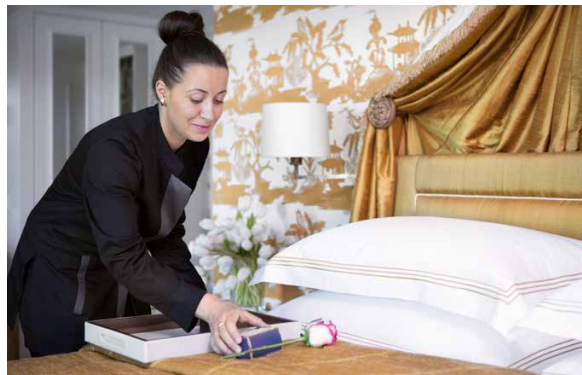


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION

SHIPBOARD STAFF

On every voyage offered by Select Waterways, you really don't have to worry about a thing. All lines will automatically take care of charging gratuities with no need for you to feel like you need to slip a staff member some cash for every special request. Many will charge a daily rate for gratuities to your onboard account. Depending on the cruise line, this amount may vary from as little as \$12 to as much as \$25 per person per day. Once aboard, you simply let the purser know this is how you would like to handle tipping.

But we suggest you go the pre-paid gratuities route. These days, most lines will simply add the cost of gratuities to your fare at the time you pay for your booking—the ship is notified that you have pre-paid gratuities, and there's nothing else you need to do. It's completely hassle-free and the service is so exceptional you won't even blink at the gratuity surcharge.



PORTERS

This can get tricky. When traveling independently, we always extend a small tip of \$1 to \$2 per bag to those who transfer our bags to or from our rooms in a hotel, at the airport or when boarding or disembarking a ship.

However, keep in mind that a great many of the cruises featured by Select Waterways are so all-inclusive that if they include transfers between airports, hotels and ships, you won't be expected to tip at all since all costs are covered by the cruise line.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION

BUS DRIVERS AND SHORE EXCURSION GUIDES

Though not everyone does, we find it's nice to extend a small gratuity to your motorcoach driver and tour guide following a shore excursion. Keeping in mind that in most cases on our voyages the shore excursions are included, it feels nice to reward those who made your day ashore so pleasant. We usually reserve \$1 to \$2 per person for the driver and \$2 to \$5 per person for the tour guide. Tip at the low end for half-day excursions and the higher end for full-day excursions.

If you're dissatisfied with the experience don't tip at all. Fortunately, we've only encountered that situation once in all our years of travel, in Tunis, when a tour guide was reluctant to follow the itinerary and take us to the ruins of Carthage. On some luxury lines, you'll find that tipping of any kind is discouraged entirely so follow the lead of your cruise line's guidelines and your fellow guests.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS

SHIPBOARD BARTENDERS

On most of the cruises in the Select Waterways collections, onboard beverages are either completely complimentary or offered at no charge at certain times, such as champagne, Bloody Mary and mimosas at breakfast, and wine and beer at lunch and dinner.

When the beverage is included, there's no need to tip. If you buy a top shelf drink with a charge, the gratuity is usually included in the bill when you sign it to your shipboard account. Once aboard ship, you need carry no cash at all.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SILVERSEA

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

We know that shipboard staff work hard and often spend many months at a time away from their families, yet somehow they are always smiling, cheerful and eager to please.

If we have special requests, such as asking for a small birthday party to be arranged in the corner of a lounge or a small gathering in our suite, we will sometimes extend an additional gratuity at the end of the cruise by either asking the purser to specifically reward someone by name and bill it to our shipboard account, or presenting an envelope with cash to the star crew member at the end of the voyage.

Luxury lines actively discourage tipping of this kind, however, because of their all-inclusive nature and the expectation that staff will always go that extra mile for their guests.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS

SHORESIDE DINING

In America, we tip 15% to 25% on a restaurant bill depending on the quality of the service. Abroad, service fees or VATs are usually added to the bill and any additional tipping is unnecessary. In fact, in some countries it is considered offensive to offer an additional tip, as it is viewed as demeaning. When tipping does occur, it usually consists of just rounding up the bill to the nearest euro, dollar or the like.

ONBOARD SPA TREATMENTS

Massages and other spa treatments don't require tipping because an automatic gratuity of 15% to 20% is added to your bill.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION

THE MYSTERY OF THE VAT

WHAT IS VAT?

The Value Added Tax, or VAT, in the European Union is a general, broadly based consumption tax assessed on the value added to goods and services. It applies more or less to all goods and services that are bought and sold for use or consumption in the European Union. You'll find that a standard VAT is about 15% to 25% depending on the specific country and it's added to everything from a hotel bill or restaurant bill to a small purchase at a boutique or a ticket to a museum.

However, goods that are sold for export or services sold to customers abroad are normally not subject to VAT. That means that if you're bringing goods back into the United States, you can often get a VAT refund. Getting a VAT refund is, quite frankly, a hassle. We're not huge shoppers so we don't find it worth the time and effort. But if you plan on buying thousands of dollars in jewelry or electronic equipment, it might be worth your while to seek a refund.



HOW TO GET A VAT REFUND

The VAT you pay on hotels, meals or other services is not refundable. Only merchandise qualifies for a VAT refund, but the process can be rather complicated.

- 1 Bring your passport with you when shopping
- 2 Ask the merchant if they participate in VAT refunds
- 3 If they do, ask the merchant to fill out the required tax-free form and then attach your receipt to the form as you leave
- 4 Some stores will work with you at the time of purchase to get you a refund by asking that once the forms are stamped at the border, you mail them back to them and they can then credit your charge card at a later date
- 5 If a store does not work with you on-site for a VAT refund, bring all your paperwork and receipts of your major purchases (in most cases, each individual purchase must exceed a set amount ranging as high as \$300 depending on the specific country) to the airport or border crossing
- 6 For purchases made in the European Union, you can't collect a VAT refund until you depart the last country in the European Union
- 7 Get your documents stamped at customs as you leave Europe but be prepared for long lines of others doing the same thing
- 8 Be prepared to show the goods you've purchased if you are asked to do so by the customs officer; if your purchases are not in your carry-on luggage, don't check your bags until you've completed this step
- 9 If the merchant belongs to a refund service, you'll need to find the desk for that service at the airport or border crossing; Global Blue and Premier Tax Free are the most common
- 10 You may get a cash refund right then and there from a refund service or you might have to then mail the documents to the refund service
- 11 Be patient, because it can take several weeks or even months before a VAT refund shows up on your credit card or a check arrives in the mail
- 12 Remember that your refund will be paid in the same currency used for the purchase, such as the Euro, which means you will pay a currency exchange fee in order to convert the payment to US dollars

SURVIVING LONG-HAUL FLIGHTS

We love airplanes and we love to travel but, well, we don't necessarily like to fly. Long flights to Europe, South America or the Pacific Rim can be trying. What to do? We always follow the advice of our friends at Smarter Travel. Their website at SmarterTravel.com has tips on everything from packing, to destinations, to luggage to, you guessed it, flying. Check it out. Here's what they, and we, recommend:

UPGRADE



When traveling long-haul, you have no better friend on the planet than your frequent flier miles. You almost need to know nothing more than this—by hook or crook, try to get an upgrade. Or, work with Select Waterways and pay for at least a Business Class seat. The extra comfort will be priceless.

ESCAPE



You will want to have a rock-solid plan for frittering away several hours of your flight. You want these hours to disappear almost without a trace. Think headphones and Hollywood blockbusters. Spring for the airline's headphones, pay for and watch every movie, swipe your card for the DirecTV, and bring your iPad crammed with your favorite flicks. Or grab your Kindle and download those books you've been dying to read. Better yet, read a book about your destination and your vacation will begin the moment you crack open the cover.



YOUR COMFORT ZONE



When it comes to surviving flights, we swear by our neck pillows, eye masks, earplugs, noise-canceling headphones, etc. Your body and brain will thank you for every small comfort you can provide.

LIMIT YOUR CARRY ON



While checked baggage fees are inspiring travelers to carry on more and more stuff, on a long-haul flight this could burn you; anything that is under the seat in front of you just means less leg room and a more cramped living space for 6 to 16 hours. Don't bring so much on board that you compete for your own sleeping space.

BOARD RELATIVELY RESTED



Don't count on a long-haul flight as a good place to catch up on sleep. As attractive and intuitive as it seems to get on a long-haul flight extremely tired, hoping to sleep the whole way, you are in for a world of hurt if you can't sleep for any reason. You will be on the plane long enough to catch a few winks even if you are somewhat rested, and our advice is to take it when it comes; if your eyes start to droop, get out the eye covers and earplugs, and go with it.

CONSIDER A SLEEP AID



If you are planning to use sleep aids (including "natural" methods such as melatonin or prescription drugs such as Ambien), try them before you fly with them. We were on a Danube river cruise recently and shared a dinner table with a flight attendant from a major American carrier. He shared some pretty harrowing stories of people taking sleep aids for the first time, only to wander like zombies around the cabin, curl up in the aisle or disrobe in bathrooms. It's quite amusing, unless it happens to you. Test your sleep aids before traveling to make sure you can handle any side effects.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH



Hydration: Avoid alcoholic drinks since they will dehydrate you. Focus on bottled water or drinks with electrolytes such as Gatorade. The recirculated air on jets has low humidity and that numb, sleepy feeling you have at your destinations is primarily from not drinking enough fluids. Don't fall into this trap. If you have to get up frequently to use the bathroom, it's a small price to pay.



Deep Vein Thrombosis: DVT, the formation of blood clots in deep veins, is a known (if occasionally overstated) risk on longer flights. According to the National Institutes of Health, the risk of developing DVT increases when flights go longer than four hours. The NIH's tips include walking up and down the aisles of the plane; moving, flexing and stretching your legs to encourage blood flow, especially in your calves; wearing loose and comfortable clothing; drinking plenty of fluids; and avoiding alcohol. Also, if you're at increased risk for DVT, your doctor may recommend wearing compression stockings while traveling or taking a blood-thinning medicine before you fly.



Avoiding the Flu: No one wants to get sick on their dream vacation, and in an airplane you're spending many hours breathing the same recycled air as the guy three rows behind you that sounds as if he is dying of tuberculosis. If you are particularly susceptible to catching colds or the flu or would face other medical complications from picking up a bug, go ahead and bring along a surgical mask on the plane. You might get a few stares (unless you're flying to Japan where the practice is common) but an illness-free cruise is its own reward.

Tips courtesy of SmarterTravel.com

HOW TO BREEZE THROUGH TSA

Even if you're used to flying frequently, getting through the TSA security checkpoint can still be a hassle if you're not prepared. We find that as much as we travel, it's easy to forget some of the most basic do's and don'ts when we're leaving on a vacation versus just doing a quick hop for business. We always keep this list handy to ensure our trips get off to a smooth start.



BEFORE PACKING

- Liquids, gels and aerosols packed in carry-on must follow the 3-1-1 liquids rule:
 - 3.4 ounces or less per container
 - 1 quart size clear plastic zip top bag (all liquids must fit in bag)
 - 1 bag per passenger
- Review the prohibited items list for both carry-on and checked baggage
- If purchasing a baggage lock, be sure to look for those that are TSA recognized
- Tape a card with your name and contact information on your electronics



WHEN PACKING

- Pack items in layers (shoes one layer, clothes one layer, electronics one layer, etc.)
- Although firearms are only allowed in checked baggage and must be unloaded, placed in a locked, hard-sided container and declared to your airline, we're fairly certain you're not going to need a pistol on your Danube river cruise
- All fireworks contain explosive materials and are not permitted in checked or carry-on baggage. Besides, why would you bring fireworks on a cruise?
- Pack large electronics on the top layer of carry-on for screening accessibility



BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE AIRPORT

- Give yourself enough time to arrive at the airport early
- Wear easily removable shoes
- Passengers with a disability or medical condition may call ahead to the TSA Cares toll-free helpline at (855) 787-2227



BEFORE ENTERING THE CHECKPOINT

- Eligible passengers look for the TSA PreV® lane for expedited screening at participating airports
- Have your ID and boarding pass out for inspection



STANDARD SCREENING LANE

- Remove the 3-1-1 liquids bag and place it in the bin
- Ensure pockets are empty (keys, tissues, currency, wallets, cell phones, etc.) and remove bulky jewelry (valuable items can be placed in carry-on)
- Remove your shoes and place them directly on the X-ray belt
- Remove personal electronic devices larger than a cell phone from your carry-on bag and place them into a bin with nothing placed on or under them for X-ray screening. (E.g. laptops, tablets, e-readers and hand-held game consoles.)
- Remember to check the bins and collect all belongings after going through screening

PICTURE POSTCARD PERFECT

One of the best things about today’s smartphones such as iPhones or Androids is that they have cameras. Really good cameras. The latest generations of these phones have cameras better than your average professional digital camera just 10 or 15 years ago. Our friends at Popular Photography (check out their website at PopPhoto.com) have some great tips on how to take better photos with your smartphone. And who doesn’t want to come back from vacation with images worthy of a postcard?



CROP VS ZOOM

Try to avoid using the zoom feature on your smartphone since it will make your picture grainy. It’s better to go back later and crop out the edges. When you zoom in too much, the camera uses its tiny little electronic brain to guess at what it’s seeing and fills it in with smudgy pixels, hence the blur.

EDIT, DON’T FILTER

While it may be fun to choose a sepia tone, a throwback 70s format or other trick for your photo courtesy of your phone’s built-in features and options, avoid the urge. It just makes your picture look like everyone else’s. Get an actual app that lets you edit your image so you can have more control over things like brightening colors. If you want to get serious about photography, you’ll love editing apps like SnapSeed, Photoshop Express, or Apple Photos.

FOCUS ON FOCUS

Today’s phones have an impressive depth of field, meaning that things both near and far remain in focus. But sometimes you want to make things a bit more dramatic with, say, a rose in sharp detail and the bustling background in a town square more blurred. Adding blur in an editing app looks fake since it can’t simulate the nuances of depth of field as items go from in focus to out of focus. Instead, get closer to your subject so the background becomes naturally blurry. It’s what the professionals do.

SKIP THE FLASH

Unless you just want to capture a casual moment as a reminder of a fun time, such as drinks with friends in a dimly-lit bar, we recommend not using your flash. The flash washes out its subjects and creates harsh shadows. Most newer smartphones have such good cameras that they can produce wonderful pictures even in low light situations. Trust us, your pictures will look more realistic and the colors will be more true.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID VARGAS PHOTOGRAPHY / LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS

Tips courtesy of Popular Photography

insider pick

If you want to take a step beyond your smartphone and get serious about photography, this is our current favorite choice for a digital camera. You can change lenses to have flexibility and control all aspects of the photo such as exposure and aperture settings or let it do its magic on automatic mode.



OUR FAVORITE CAMERA

Nikon D3400

With the D3400's great autofocus system and fast-burst shooting, you can take photos and video of stationary churches, fast-moving trains, and slow-moving riverboats. Take pictures of wine tastings in extremely low light without a problem. Freeze fast action in its tracks. Create portraits with rich, natural skin tones and beautifully blurred backgrounds. The photos you share will amaze everyone.



AVOID LENS FLARE

If the sun is in just the right position in relation to the lens of your camera, it can create bright spots on your image due to an optical phenomenon known as lens flare. If you're shooting into the sun you won't always get lens flare, but pay attention and switch angles, move to one side or get closer or farther away so the sun doesn't leave its signature on your pictures. If you know what you're doing, lens flare can add a quirky artistic element to your photos. But most of us don't have the skill to pull that off!

KEEP YOUR LENS CLEAN

This seems like a simple tip but it's surprising how many people forget to wipe down the tiny lens on their smartphone before taking a picture. No one wants blurred images or vacations that look like they took place completely in a dense fog bank. Think of how smudged your phone can get in your pocket, sitting on tables at restaurants or on park benches. Clean your lens regularly with a quick wipe.

FOLLOW THE RULES

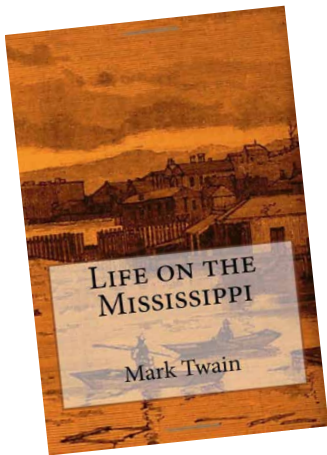
What truly makes a good photo isn't after-the-fact filters, apps and other tricks. Good composition and interesting subjects are key. Whether using a smartphone or an expensive old-school camera, follow the basic rules. Keep backgrounds simple. Use focus to emphasize your subject. Catch people who aren't aware of the camera for a natural feel. Follow the rule of thirds and try not to place the horizon or your subject in the absolute center (unless, of course, it's a symmetrical object that would benefit from mathematical precision in its placement). Instead, offset it to one third of the area of the photo. And remember, sometimes the best way to capture the feeling of that quaint street in Tuscany is to take a picture of a weathered wooden door or colorful flower pot on the stoop than a poorly lit panorama of the entire street, peppered by other tourists. Good photography doesn't just preserve an image, it captures a sense of place and the emotion and mood of the moment.

Tips courtesy of Popular Photography

INSIDER READING LIST

Whenever we travel, we always select one book or two books that feature the region to which we are journeying. It might be a novel set in Venice or a non-fictional look at a quirky Parisian inventor. Each book helps us forget about our current world and transports us to another place and time, even as we see the sights described in our books for ourselves. It greatly enhances our experience and makes each trip richer and more colorful. When you book your cruise with Select Waterways, we'll suggest one can't-live-without book to read about the history, culture or cuisine you'll discover on your journey.

Courtesy of descriptions from Amazon, here are a few of our favorites. Keep in mind that Amazon also sells the Kindle version of most of the books on our list as well, if that is your preferred method of reading. But for us, there's something delightfully old-school and satisfying about turning each crisp page of a real book.

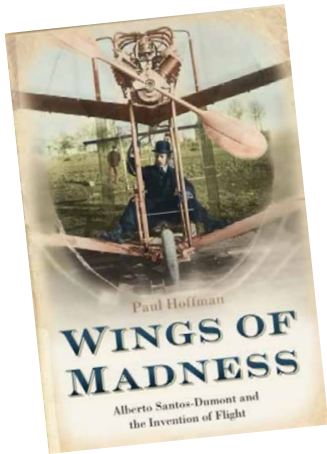


LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI

Author: Mark Twain

Best Paired With: Mississippi River cruises

Life on the Mississippi (1883) is Mark Twain's memoir of his days as a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi River before the American Civil War, and also a travel book, recounting his trip along the Mississippi River from St. Louis to New Orleans many years after the war.

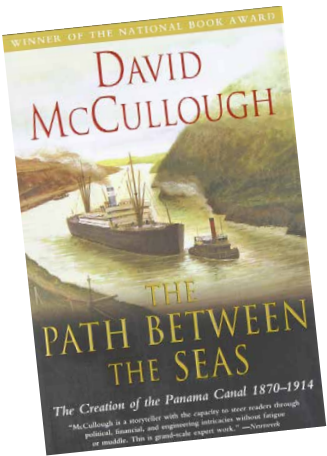


WINGS OF MADNESS: ALBERTO SANTOS-DUMONT AND THE INVENTION OF FLIGHT

Author: Paul Hoffman

Best Paired With: Seine River cruises

When Santos-Dumont took to the skies in 1906, the dashing, impeccably dressed inventor entertained Paris with his airborne antics—barhopping in a little dirigible that he tied to lampposts, circling above crowds around the Eiffel Tower, and crashing into rooftops. A man celebrated, even pursued by the press in Paris, London, and New York, Santos-Dumont dined regularly with the Cartiers, the Rothschilds, and the Roosevelts. *Wings of Madness* offers a fascinating glimpse into the mind of an extraordinary and tormented man, vividly depicting the sights and sounds of turn-of-the-century Paris.

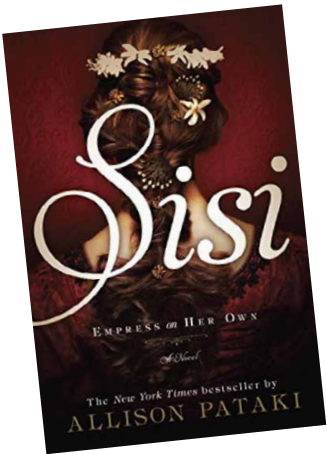


PATH BETWEEN THE SEAS

Author: David McCullough

Best Paired With: Panama Canal cruises

The National Book Award-winning epic chronicle of the creation of the Panama Canal, as told by master historian David McCullough, is a first-rate drama of the bold and brilliant engineering feat that was filled with both tragedy and triumph.

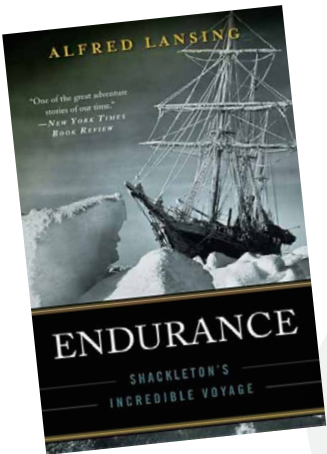


SISI: EMPRESS ON HER OWN – A NOVEL

Author: Allison Pataki

Best Paired With: Danube River cruises

Sisi tells the little-known story of Empress Elisabeth of Austria-Hungary, the Princess Diana of her time, in an enthralling work of historical fiction that is also a gripping page-turner.



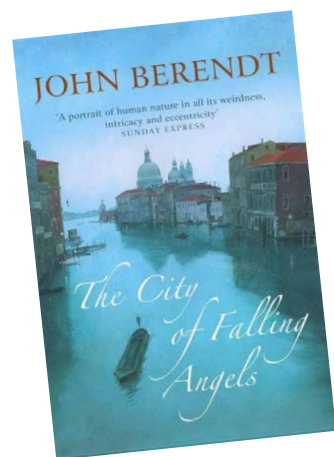
ENDURANCE: SHACKLETON'S INCREDIBLE VOYAGE

Author: Alfred Lansing

Best Paired With: Antarctica expedition cruises

In this definitive account of Ernest Shackleton's fateful trip, Alfred Lansing brilliantly narrates the harrowing and miraculous voyage that has defined heroism for the modern age. In August 1914, polar explorer Ernest Shackleton boarded the *Endurance* and set sail for Antarctica. For ten months the ice-moored *Endurance* drifted northwest before it was finally crushed between two ice floes. With no options left, Shackleton and a skeleton crew attempted a near-impossible journey over 850 miles of the South Atlantic's heaviest seas to the closest outpost of civilization.

Summaries courtesy of Amazon.com

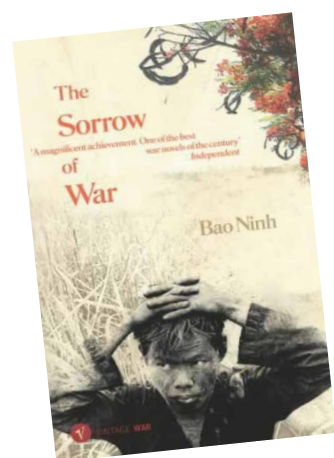


THE CITY OF FALLING ANGELS

Author: John Berendt

Best Paired With: Po River cruises or any voyage to Venice

The City of Falling Angels is Berendt's first book since *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, and it immediately reminds one what all the fuss was about. Turning to the magic, mystery, and decadence of Venice, Berendt gradually reveals the truth behind a sensational fire that in 1996 destroyed the historic La Fenice opera house. Encountering a rich cast of characters, Berendt tells a tale full of atmosphere and surprise as the stories build, one after the other, ultimately coming together to portray a world as finely drawn as a still-life painting.

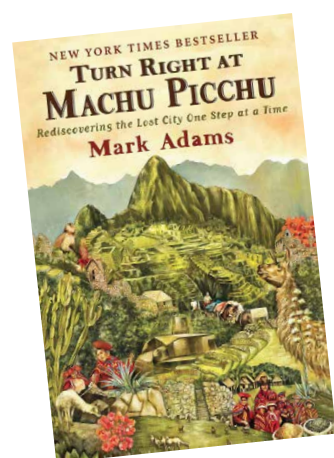


THE SORROW OF WAR: A NOVEL OF NORTH VIETNAM

Author: Bao Ninh

Best Paired With: Mekong River cruises

Bao Ninh, a former North Vietnamese soldier, provides a strikingly honest look at how the Vietnam War forever changed his life, his country, and the people who live there. Originally published against government wishes in Vietnam because of its non-heroic, non-ideological tone, *The Sorrow of War* has won worldwide acclaim and become an international bestseller.



TURN RIGHT AT MACHU PICCHU

Author: Mark Adams

Best Paired With: South America cruises

In 1911, Hiram Bingham III climbed into the Andes Mountains of Peru and "discovered" Machu Picchu. While history has recast Bingham as a villain who stole both priceless artifacts and credit for finding the great archaeological site, Mark Adams set out to retrace the explorer's perilous path in search of the truth. *Turn Right at Machu Picchu* is Adams' fascinating and funny account of his journey through some of the world's most majestic, historic, and remote landscapes guided only by a hard-as-nails Australian survivalist and one nagging question: Just what was Machu Picchu?

Summaries courtesy of Amazon.com



INSIDER PACKING TIPS

“Few companies are founded by people with as much passion for travel as Select Waterways.”

— Annie C., Seattle, WA

ANTICIPATION IS BUILDING

You’ve worked with Select Waterways and consulted with our Insider Concierge, you’ve chosen your cruise, picked your flights, purchased your pre- or post-cruise hotel stay in a fascinating city and now all you have to do is wait for that magical day when your vacation begins. Everything seems perfect.

There’s just one little hurdle remaining. No one really enjoys packing. It always somehow feels stressful, no matter how exciting the destination to which we’re headed. You worry about bringing too much or too little. You’re not sure exactly what to carry with you. You don’t want to forget anything essential.



THE JOYS OF PACKING (NOT)

Fortunately, at Select Waterways we’ve got you covered. We’ve been at the Pyramids of Giza without sunscreen, we’ve put muddy shoes next to our dress slacks, we’ve packed into our checked luggage the books we planned to read on our flight, and we’ve even managed to leave our cruise tickets at home on the kitchen counter. It happens to everyone and it used to happen to us when we first started traveling extensively 30 years ago.

But now, each trip is a breeze because we’ve learned the do’s and don’t of packing thanks to a lot of hard-earned experience and some silly mistakes. Let us share a few of our insider travel tips with you to make your Select Waterways vacation smooth, free of hassles and devoid of stress.

PACKING HACKS

Let's be honest. Packing is a hassle. No matter how excited you are about your upcoming vacation, the act of choosing what to bring and how to fit it into your suitcase can seem a daunting task. But it doesn't have to be, with a few ingenious packing shortcuts and insider tricks. The list below was garnered from our own experience, and some of that experience was enhanced by tips we've received from others. There are plenty of online sources with packing tips but we've found that our go-to stalwart for honest, insightful travel advice is *Travel + Leisure* magazine, and we'll freely admit that many of our packing tips came from within their glossy pages. If you don't have a subscription, we'd suggest you spring for one. A year's subscription of 12 issues was recently as low as \$12 on their website at TravelandLeisure.com.

PACKING CHECKLIST

Make a list. That's the most important thing you can do before packing. Keep a permanent list of all the basics such as toothpaste, extra contacts, eyeglasses, medications, etc. We find it's useful to just write down everything we use over the course of a week, from deodorant to cotton swabs, and that becomes the basis for our list of essentials.

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

Separate your essential items into individual plastic bags by either category or time of day that you use them. It's nice to grab one bag knowing it contains all your skin care items rather than hunting endlessly through several bags of mismatched items. Or grabbing a single bag knowing it has everything in it you need for your morning routine.

IN-FLIGHT ESSENTIALS

Keep your critical items with you in your carry-on luggage but go one step further and keep the most important of those items, such as ear plugs, medications you'll need to take while flying, aspirin, and gum, in a separate Ziploc bag for easy access.

ROLLING ON THE RIVER

Though it might seem counter-intuitive when it comes to preventing wrinkles, always fold and then roll your clothes into a tube. They really will get less wrinkled and you can fit more items into your suitcase.

ORGANIZE BY OUTFITS

Don't just throw seven shirts, four pairs of pants, two skirts, two jackets and four pairs of shoes into your luggage. Pack by outfit instead and you'll find yourself mixing and matching, which cuts down on how much you bring and ensures that you always have the perfect outfit available when you need it.

LEAVE ROOM FOR GIFTS

Don't stuff your suitcase completely full. Leave some wiggle room to bring home your purchases on vacation, whether it be a bottle of amazing wine or a small silver trinket you just can't live without.

SOFT-SIDED BAGS RULE

This one's a no-brainer. Hard-sided luggage is unforgiving of overpacking. Soft-sided luggage expands, especially for that extra space for purchases made abroad.

SHOES, THEN SOCKS

Save space. Roll up your socks and stuff them inside your shoes. If there's extra room, roll up belts and put them inside as well. Also, if you're bringing a hat you don't want to be crushed, fill the inside with socks or undergarments so it maintains its shape in a crowded suitcase.

List courtesy of *Travel + Leisure*

BAG IT

Bring a laundry bag or plastic bag to keep your dirty clothes separate from your clean clothes. No one wants to smell clothing to see if it's clean or dirty. Also bring an extra plastic bag for damp clothes, such as bathing suits, and another one for dirty shoes.

WHEN IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT

Over the years, we've taken a lot of our clothes on vacations and yet they never saw a single thing because they never left the suitcase. Lay out everything you think you need on your bed, then get rid of anywhere from a quarter to half of it. It's not gauche to wear the same slacks three times during a cruise with a different shirt or blouse each time. No one will notice and, in fact, most of your fellow guests are doing the same thing. This isn't a voyage around the world in 80 days.

JEWELRY SIMPLIFIED

First of all, you're going to need far less jewelry than you think you do. Secondly, no one travels with elaborate or expensive jewelry these days. The atmosphere on board most cruises is casual. But if you do bring jewelry such as necklaces, put each in its own bag so they don't get tangled. You can also put earrings in a daily pill planner, one pair per compartment so they don't get lost.

DRYER SHEETS

Toss a couple of dryer sheets into your luggage when you're done packing. It ensures your clothes will smell fresh and clean when you arrive at your destination. Trust us; it's wonderful.

LOOSE WIRES

Pack loose wires such as phone cords, cords for razors, etc. in an empty sunglass case. It keeps them protected and makes them easily accessible.

X MARKS THE SPOT

Make sure to put an identifying piece of colored tape or fabric on the outside of your suitcase, for example tied to one of the handles, so it's easy to locate among similar-looking luggage on a baggage carousel.

BOTTOM HEAVY

Pack your heaviest items, such as shoes, at the bottom of your suitcase closest to the wheels. Otherwise, once your suitcase is upright and merrily rolling through the airport, your heaviest items will be making a beeline for the bottom and leaving a wrinkled mess in their wake.

BE YOURSELF

Scatter some business cards or pieces of paper with your name, address, phone number and email throughout the inside of your checked bags so that if the tags on the outside are torn off or removed, anyone looking inside will know who owns the suitcase. Do the same for your carry-on in case you misplace it.

MONEY BALM

Our last tip is one of our favorites and most ingenious. Fanny packs aren't really "in" these days so if you want to keep a secret stash of cash with you or in your room (almost all ships and many hotels have in-room safes so don't be too worried), roll your bills tightly and put them into an empty lip balm tube, such as Chapstick. No one will ever find it, except you.

List courtesy of Travel + Leisure

JUST THE BASICS

PACK FOR YOU

What you pack is dictated not just by where and when you are sailing but also your personal taste. You might want a light wrap for a cool night on the Yangtze River and an insulated winter coat for a trip to Antarctica. Dress shoes might be de rigueur for a special candlelight dinner along an Amsterdam canal but comfortable hiking boots perfect for hiking through Costa Rica's rainforest. However, we've found that no matter where we travel, we never leave home without certain essentials. AmaWaterways has some great guidelines that we always follow.

TRAVEL LIGHT

Once again, the best advice is, "if in doubt, leave it out." Adopt a simple color scheme for your travel wardrobe to reduce the amount of clothing required. Pack wrinkle-resistant, easy-care cotton/polyester clothing and bring enough underwear and socks so frequent laundry is not necessary. You may wish to bring a few smart casual outfits and something a little dressier to wear to the Captain's Dinner or an evening concert. Pack comfortable work-out clothing if you will be participating in any wellness activities. Bring comfortable walking shoes for shore excursions and one pair of dressier shoes.



EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA, CARIBBEAN, SOUTH PACIFIC, RUSSIA

You may be traveling through different climates and altitudes, so layering is advisable, even in the Caribbean or South Pacific, where evenings on deck can get a bit chilly with the ocean breeze. In a destination like Europe, for example, it can be quite warm in the summer, so short-sleeve shirts, shorts, skirts, sundresses and a wide-brimmed hat are good items to pack. Bring a raincoat and warm sweater for chilly evenings, especially in the spring and fall, and warmer clothing and a heavy coat for winter cruises.

Recommended Items

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, comb or hair brush, razor, feminine products and cosmetics
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Bathing suit
- Tissues and antibacterial wipes
- Basic first aid kit: medications for upset stomach, prescriptions, aspirin, antiseptic cream, cold medicine, vitamins and bandages
- Prescription eyeglasses or contact lenses
- Mini flashlight
- Small calculator or calculator app (for currency conversions)
- Converters, adapters, chargers and power cords
- Travel umbrella
- Camera and extra memory cards
- Smartphone
- Photocopies of your passport, credit cards, and important documents

List courtesy of AmaWaterways



AFRICA

When traveling through Africa, it is always advisable to travel light. A safari calls for casual, easy-care clothing that includes some long-sleeved items for protection from mosquitoes and sun. If you plan on dining at a fine restaurant in a city such as Cape Town or Johannesburg, “smart casual” is the norm – no ties for men or evening dresses for women are necessary. For those traveling to South Africa during the winter months (April - September), it is wise to bring some warm clothes for chilly early-morning and late-night

temperatures. Dressing in layers is also recommended, as temperatures rise quickly during the day.

Recommended Items

- Shorts, jeans and/or long cotton pants (preferably beige or other light colors)
- T-shirts and long-sleeved cotton shirts
- Sweater, sweatshirt or warm wrap
- Cotton/wool socks
- Sturdy tennis shoes/walking shoes
- Bathing suit, cover-up and flip flops (for use at lodge/hotel)
- Small flashlight and binoculars

- Camera equipment and extra batteries/accessories
- Converter and electrical adapter (220v) with a 3-prong plug
- Travel-sized deodorant, toothpaste, disinfectant wipes and razors
- Prescription medications in original containers
- Non-prescription products: aspirin, eye drops, antibacterial cream, etc.
- Feminine products and cosmetics
- Sun protection: hat with brim and neck strap, lip balm, sunscreen (SPF 40+)

- Insect repellent, especially for mosquitoes
- Money belt or other secure place to keep passport and cash
- Backpack or ‘fanny pack’ large enough to hold camera, binoculars, etc.
- Small calculator or app (for currency conversions)
- Travel umbrella
- Camera and extra memory cards
- Smartphone
- Photocopies of your passport, credit cards, and important documents

List courtesy of AmaWaterways





PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL S. NOLAN / LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS

POLAR REGIONS

Lindblad Expeditions is the expert on travel to polar regions such as the Arctic and Antarctica. In fact, when you travel with them, you fill out an order form for a complimentary parka which will be waiting for you aboard your expedition vessel. First of all, the atmosphere aboard is casual. There is no expectation of any formal dress whatsoever; after all, it is an expedition.

Recommended Items

- One waterproof rain jacket for rainy or windy weather
- One pair of waterproof pants (made of Gore-Tex or similar waterproof, breathable fabric) that are loose enough to wear over a regular pair of trousers. You will need these for almost every Zodiac landing.
- One or two pairs of waterproof ski mittens or gloves. You might bring a pair of thin, polypropylene gloves that fit under your ski mittens so you can take your mittens off during photography without your hands getting cold. You may want to bring an extra pair of mittens in case your first pair gets wet.
- One wool ski cap and a scarf if the cap cannot be pulled down to cover your neck
- One pair of fully waterproof knee-high rubber boots with sturdy, high-traction soles. We stress the importance of boots that are completely waterproof so that your feet will not get wet when you step into shallow, icy water during Zodiac landings. Additionally, boots should have good traction because you are likely to encounter poor footing on ice and rough terrain.

Also, comfort is important – if your boots are too heavy or bulky, your footing will be awkward during hikes. Wellington boots, “muck” boots or XtraTufs can be purchased at sporting goods stores, fishing supply stores, and from outdoor clothing suppliers.

- Comfortable walking shoes with rubber soles for use aboard the ship
- Three or four pairs of warm, sturdy, tall wool socks and an equal number of thin socks to wear underneath for extra insulation. Silk or polypropylene sock liners do well. (Make sure you bring several pairs of socks since your feet may perspire to the point of wetness.)
- An assortment of fleeces, sweaters, and other layered clothing
- One full set of thermal or silk long underwear

- One or two bathing suits (for the onboard sauna or a possible “polar plunge”)
- Workout clothing, for use in the ship’s fitness center
- Water resistant backpack for carrying cameras or other equipment.
- Sunglasses
- Binoculars
- Electrical converter and adapter for your hotel stay (220V to 110V).
- Travel alarm clock
- Camera, lenses, instruction manual, plenty of memory cards/film, battery charger and extra batteries
- Smartphone
- Photocopies of your passport and other important documents

List courtesy of Lindblad Expeditions



VIETNAM / CAMBODIA

Vietnam and Cambodia are tropical countries with hot and humid weather. Bring lightweight easy-care clothing that includes some long-sleeved items for protection from mosquitoes and sun, rain gear, and sturdy and comfortable walking shoes that you won't mind getting wet or muddy. You might also pack a few smart casual items to wear at the Welcome and Farewell dinners.

Recommended Items

- Shorts and/or long cotton pants
- T-shirts and long-sleeved cotton shirt
- Sweater, sweatshirt, or warm wrap for chilly nights
- Bathing suit, cover-up and flip flop
- Small flashlight
- Camera equipment and extra batteries, memory cards and chargers/accessories
- Converter and electrical adapter (220v)

- Travel-sized deodorant, toothpaste, disinfectant wipes, insect repellent, etc.
- Prescription medications in original containers (to be packed in carry-on bag, not checked luggage)
- Small first aid kit with aspirin, antibacterial cream, etc.
- Feminine products and cosmetics
- Hat with brim, sunscreen, lip balm, sunglasses
- Money belt or other secure place to keep passport and cash
- Day pack large enough to hold camera, binoculars, etc.
- Small calculator or app (for currency conversions)
- Travel umbrella
- Smartphone
- Photocopies of your passport and other important documents

List courtesy of AmaWaterways

MEDICATION CLOSE AT HAND

Almost everyone brings some sort of prescription medication with them when traveling these days. During our decades of traveling abroad, we've spilled pills on a plane, left a prescription bottle in a hotel room, and one time, much to our environmentally-conscious chagrin, managed to drop an entire packet of prescription antacids off our stateroom's veranda into the middle of the Caribbean. The point is not that we might sometimes be clumsy or forgetful, but how to mitigate these unforced errors:

- Use your smartphone and take photos of each bottle of medication you're taking with you so the prescription number, doctor name, drug name, and number of remaining refills are fully visible
- If possible, bring the actual written prescriptions in case you need to fill one while you are traveling; if you drop pills or lose a bottle, this is a necessity
- Don't transfer your pills to a daily pill container when traveling because some countries require that all pills be inside prescription containers to easily verify the type of medication
- Never pack your medication in your checked luggage; always have them nearby in a carry-on in case of lost luggage or an emergency



PROTECTING IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Getting ready for a river or small ship cruise is an exciting time, but it might seem as though you have a lot of papers to keep track of. We’ve learned from experience (it was rather awkward not having any idea what the name of our ship was when we arrived at the port) how to keep things organized and always have what we need at our fingertips.

- Never pack your passport, any required visas, airline tickets, cruise tickets, train tickets, travel protection policies, hotel or meal vouchers, daily itineraries, metro maps, or other travel documents in your checked luggage; keep them in your carry-on or on your person
- Bring the contact information for Select Waterways, including phone number or email, in case you need to reach us or we can do anything to make your journey smoother
- Have the contact phone number and email for your cruise line, your airline and any hotels you are staying in before or after your cruise
- Carry a card with your emergency contact information in your wallet or purse at all times and, while traveling on a Select Waterways booking, our contact information as well; we can be of assistance in returning you home mid-cruise, making flight arrangements, and working directly with the cruise line should unfortunate circumstances arise
- Also bring the phone numbers of your credit card companies in case your card is lost, stolen or rejected; be sure to notify your credit card companies you are traveling overseas so they don’t accidentally deny an unusual charge from a foreign country.
- As a final safeguard, use your smartphone to take and store pictures of your passport, driver’s license, credit cards, airline tickets, cruise tickets and any other important papers so that you have a record if anything is misplaced or purloined; and make sure to use the passcode or thumbprint feature on your phone so that only you can access the information

insider
pick

Sometimes, the only thing more important than what you pack is what you pack it in. Not all luggage is created equal. We have purchased expensive suitcases that, within two or three trips, had their wheels ripped off by baggage handlers, carry-on bags with zippers that broke before the plane even landed, and designer luggage that burst open on the baggage carousel. We’ve learned to shop smart and invest in quality, even if it’s not a familiar or name brand.

OUR FAVORITE CARRY-ON

Biaggi Contempo Four-Wheel Spinner Collapsible

Biaggi’s Contempo carry-on uses patented hinge-lock technology so that your bag can fold and be stored away in a signature branded storage bag when not in use. The carry on blends a fashionable jewel toned nylon with high end functionality including 4 spinner wheels, a multi-stage telescoping handle, and multiple inner and outer zippered pockets.

Weight: 8.4 lbs.



OUR FAVORITE CHECKED LUGGAGE

Briggs & Riley Baseline Large Expandable Spinner

Pack absolutely everything you desire for your travels in this large expandable spinner. Heavy cargo is no match for 4 re-engineered double swivel wheels which provide (almost) effortless 360° navigation. A cavernous main compartment means two weeks’ worth of clothing and essentials, and increases to 26% more with special expandable technology. One simple pull will expand the bag, and one simple push will compress it back down to original size for flat, secure contents.

Weight: 11.9 lbs.





OUR FAVORITE SHIPS

“I’ve already recommended Select Waterways to several friends for their next European river cruise booking.”

– Paige B., Ann Arbor, MI

LIKE A ROSE, EACH IS UNIQUE

A ship is a ship is a ship, right? In reality, we’ve found nothing could be further from the truth. While there are hundreds upon hundreds of river and small-ship vessels, they are quite different, even among ships of the same class. Viking River Cruises, for example, has almost 50 river ships all built to the same specifications right down to the upholstery in the dining room. Yet, the destination, the staff and even your fellow passengers can easily make one ship your favorite over all others. Sometimes, our favorite ships become our favorites due mainly to an emotional attachment fueled by pleasant memories.

SW

SIZE MATTERS

All that said, the size, design and sometimes the age of a ship makes a difference. We prefer smaller ships for a more personalized service experience and because it is easier to get to know our fellow guests. That’s why Select Waterways is focused only on river and small-ship cruising. Megaships carrying 5,000 passengers or more have their place and we have sailed quite a few through the years, but it’s just not the type of vacation we’re looking for any longer or that we’re comfortable recommending to our clients.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIKING RIVER CRUISES



WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE?

Some ships have a design that flows naturally, with everything seeming as if it has been perfectly placed in the right spot. One ship may have more amenities, such as a pool and fitness center, compared to another. Not all ships were built at the same time, either, so age plays a factor. In some cases, the newest ships have the most amenities. In other cases, we might prefer an older ship because that line’s newer ships are too large for our tastes. In the following pages, you’ll find our personal favorites and the reasons we love each so dearly. Though we’ve sailed well over 100 cruises on 70 different ships, what we love might not be your choice. That’s why we work with each of our clients to discover your likes, dislikes, interests and passions – all so we can find you *your* next favorite ship.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS

AMASERENA

AmaWaterways

Capacity: 164 guests | **Length:** 433 feet | **Size:** 5,000 tons | **Built:** 2015

Cruising Regions: Danube, Main and Rhine rivers in Europe

One of eight structurally identical ships in its class, the *AmaSerena* has its own distinctive decorative scheme, carpets, fabrics, drapes and furniture. The cool and sophisticated Euro-style design works on so many levels. For example, the dining room is not a large open room with identical tables. Instead, it features a center area of booths and a built-in buffet serving island that makes the ship seem even more intimate.

The main lounge feels like a large living room and the Chef’s Table specialty restaurant with its curving floor-to-ceiling glass walls overlooking the stern is the perfect spot for AmaWaterways’ exquisite, reservations-only dining experience.

What we love most about the *AmaSerena*, however, is that it was the ship on which we enjoyed our first AmaWaterways cruise. It was a Thanksgiving cruise on the Danube that took in the Christmas markets along the way. Though it was a bit chilly, the weather was perfect and the memories of that trip are still some of our fondest. After all, who could possibly ever forget sipping a midnight glass of sweet Riesling at the heated pool’s swim-up bar while surrounded by the illuminated church towers and fortresses of Passau? Certainly not us!



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIKING RIVER CRUISES



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION

VIKING LONGSHIP VAR

Viking River Cruises

Capacity: 190 guests | **Length:** 443 feet | **Size:** 5,000 tons | **Built:** 2013

Cruising Regions: Danube, Main and Rhine rivers in Europe

When we first set foot on the *Viking Longship Var* in Budapest, we immediately saw what all the fuss was about. Viking River Cruises launched a program to build a massive fleet of identical river vessels, now numbering almost 50, but each has its own special feeling thanks to the crew and the rivers on which they sail. That said, the modern Scandinavian style might seem at odds with voyages through the heart of historic Europe's castles and cathedrals, but it works beautifully. Though unlike some competitors the ship doesn't have a swimming pool up top, the benefits of the fresh herb garden on the sun deck are enjoyed each night in the dining room.

The ship was named after the Norse goddess of oaths, Var, a truth seeker. She oversees all agreements and contracts, particularly marriage vows made between men and women, which were known as *várar* in old Norse. Hence, she is the goddess of betrothal. It's not surprising the *Viking Longship Var* feels romantic, no doubt a lovely offshoot of her name.

Though the dining room, two-deck lobby and main lounge are attractive and make use of sensible Scandinavian design, the Aquavit Terrace is a home run. This indoor/outdoor space at the very bow of the ship is one of the most pleasant spots to enjoy all the sights and sounds of a European river cruise.

MEKONG NAVIGATOR

Uniworld Boutique River Collection

Capacity: 68 guests | **Length:** 230 feet | **Size:** 950 tons | **Built:** 2017

Cruising Region: Mekong River in Vietnam/Cambodia

Though this ship is quite new, it doesn't look anything like Uniworld's other river vessels for one very good reason: Uniworld designs, builds and decorates its ships individually so each reflects the region in which it is sailing. With a design reminiscent of the French Colonial-era manor homes that once lined the streets of Old Saigon, the all-suite *Mekong Navigator* features a sophisticated and comfortable ambiance.

It's also an intimate all-suite vessel carrying just 68 guests, which assures gracious and attentive service. This ship is a real looker; every suite is a beautiful and tranquil retreat, a blend of timeless

elegance and modern conveniences and luxuries. Public areas include the inviting Le Salon Lounge with full-service bar on the Sun Deck, La Bibliothèque Library & Internet Lounge, the Observation Lounge, Le Marché Restaurant, and the La Vie Spa and Fitness Center. There is nothing quite like watching the shimmering sun set into the rippling waters of the Mekong River from the Le Salon Lounge while nursing a glass of sticky rice wine.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN QUEEN STEAMBOAT COMPANY



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID COTHAN / LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS

AMERICAN QUEEN

American Queen Steamboat Company

Capacity: 436 guests | **Length:** 418 feet | **Size:** 3,707 tons | **Built:** 1994

Cruising Regions: Mississippi and Ohio rivers in the United States of America

The largest and most opulent authentic paddlewheel steamboat ever built, the *American Queen* is nothing short of stunning. The attention to detail in the recreation of the décor, style and overall feel of a 19th-century riverboat is truly extraordinary. The rich mahogany woods of the Mark Twain gallery and its cozy seating are like a big Southern hug, the Grand Saloon where lectures and production shows take place is a dead ringer for a turn-of-the 20th century opera house in a small river town, and the J.M. White Dining Room's two deck windows and ornate fretwork are akin to a grand Victorian home.

James Lida, CEO of Select Waterways, has a particular affinity for the *American Queen* since he worked for its owner, Delta Queen Steamboat Company, and then later when the ship passed to the American Queen Steamboat Company, he helped launch the new brand as a consultant. Clearly, we have a lot of reasons to love the *American Queen*, but perhaps none is greater than the joy of sitting on deck in a rocking chair sipping a sweet tea or mint julep and watching that bright red paddlewheel churn its way from the present into the past.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

Lindblad Expeditions

Capacity: 106 guests | **Length:** 337 feet | **Size:** 3,984 tons | **Built:** 2003

Cruising Regions: Antarctica, Chilean Fjords, South Pacific

Designed and purpose-built in Germany in 2003 specifically for expedition travel, *National Geographic Orion* was created from the outset to explore the far corners of the Earth in complete self-sufficiency. Her public rooms include a dramatic window-lined main lounge, as well as an observation lounge and library perched at the very top of the ship, with plentiful observation decks.

The spacious lounge is the heart of the ship and is suited for spirited cocktail hours, informative presentations and a nightly tradition of Recap, where guests share the experiences they had earlier that day and guides explain in more depth what everyone has seen. We

adore this idea of sharing tales with one another, and it is one of the reasons we love this ship.

Two of our favorite extra touches are an outdoor dining area which, on selected nights and weather permitting, the full dining room menu is served under the stars, and the glass-bottom Zodiac that enables remarkably clear, gratifying observations of the undersea for those who prefer to stay dry.





PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMAS NEUMANN / HURTIGRUTEN



PHOTO COURTESY OF SILVERSEA

FRAM

Hurtigruten

Capacity: 318 guests | **Length:** 347 feet | **Size:** 11,647 tons | **Built:** 2007

Cruising Regions: Antarctica, Arctic, Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard, Northwest Passage, Central America, South America

Constructed in 2007, the *Fram* was Hurtigruten's first purpose-built expedition ship. Though they have 125 years of experience sailing the coast of Norway, a dedicated ship for polar regions was a new direction. But this was a tough choice for one of our favorite ships, since Hurtigruten's 1964-built *Lofoten* and her Norwegian coastal itinerary are like a step back into another era. However, the *Fram*'s amazing destinations are what wins us over.

For cruising in Greenland, Iceland, the Arctic and Antarctica, the *Fram* has a higher ice-class rating, chart drawing tools, ship depth sounding database,

extractable forward sounding sonar, iceberg search lights, autonomous tracking system, oversized oil retention system for self-sufficiency, and a full 'expedition tools-deck' equivalent to a car-deck that holds 25 vehicles. Not to mention that she is comfortable and cozy, with an observation lounge complete with complimentary binoculars and, at the far end of the restaurant, she boasts a balcony for taking pictures when wildlife show up during a meal.

SILVER CLOUD

Silversea Expeditions

Capacity: 254 guests | **Length:** 511 feet | **Size:** 16,800 tons | **Built:** 1994

Cruising Regions: Antarctic, Africa, Arctic, Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard

We love this ship because she launched Silversea Cruises back in 1994 and has just been completely refurbished into an expedition vessel. While expedition ships often aim for a luxury experience, she is one of the first luxury ships to go expedition voyaging, not to mention the most spacious and comfortable ice-class vessel of her kind. Her large suites, her destination itineraries and her unparalleled service make her truly special.

Since 80% of her suites include a veranda, watching a breaching whale or a few cavorting penguins has never been so personal. Broad, sweeping decks with multiple open spaces and a swimming

pool complete what is surely the most distinctive expedition ship sailing today.

A limited number of guests, particularly with just 200 when in polar waters, means that *Silver Cloud* has the highest space-to-guest and crew-to-guest ratios in expedition cruising. With her 16 Zodiacs and 10 kayaks, the possibilities are almost limitless, affording everyone on the ship simultaneous explorations. Finally, a team of up to 22 passionate and dedicated expedition experts are always on hand. What's not to love about the *Silver Cloud*?





PHOTO COURTESY OF WINDSTAR CRUISES



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIKING RIVER CRUISES

WIND SURF

Windstar Cruises

Capacity: 310 guests | **Length:** 614 feet | **Size:** 14,745 tons | **Built:** 1990

Cruising Regions: Mediterranean, Caribbean

Though she is the flagship and largest ship in Windstar's six-ship fleet, she's still just the right size to deliver comfort and intimacy with a unique twist: sails! Though Windstar has three motor yachts and two other smaller sailing ships, the *Wind Surf* is the star, and this special status colors the onboard environment. The crew is proud, the guests excited, and the enormous sails rising on masts 221 feet high awe-inspiring.

Though the *Wind Surf* has all the amenities you'd expect on a ship of her size, such as a pool, fitness club and

ample lounges and gathering spots, we love her water sports platform, an enormous steel gate that folds down from the stern and from which you can take off on a sailboard, paddleboard, kayak or jet ski. Or you can just go swimming...right from the ship! The ship's open bridge policy, which allows you to stroll up to the command center and have a chat with the captain, is a wonderful extra touch.

VIKING STAR

Viking Ocean Cruises

Capacity: 930 guests | **Length:** 745 feet | **Size:** 47,800 tons | **Built:** 2015

Cruising Regions: Mediterranean, Scandinavia, Canada/New England, Caribbean/Cuba, Panama Canal

Viking Ocean Cruises has a fleet of identical ships with several more under construction, but the *Viking Star* was the first. She launched the new company with her debut in 2015 and is our favorite of the fleet. She holds a special place in the short history of this line, and you can sense all the care, attention and detail that was lavished on the firstborn. We adore her modern Scandinavian design that is sleek and chic yet somehow still warm and comforting.

Staterooms are spacious without being overwhelming, the Explorer's Lounge above the bridge is a wonderful spot to

watch the world pass by, and the Viking Living Room is a cozy hideaway to chat with new friends. Our favorite location by far is the glass-roofed Wintergarden, a contemporary nod to the palm courts of the great ocean liners of yesteryear. And for sheer drama, nothing tops the infinity pool at the stern, the first ever fitted aboard a cruise ship.





PHOTO COURTESY OF SILVERSEA



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIKING RIVER CRUISES

SILVER SHADOW

Silversea Cruises

Capacity: 383 guests | **Length:** 610 feet | **Size:** 28,258 tons | **Built:** 2000

Cruising Regions: Australia/New Zealand, Asia, Alaska, Mediterranean

Despite not being the newest of Silversea’s ships, we prefer the *Silver Shadow* (or her sister ship *Silver Whisper*) because we find her just the right size for a luxury voyage. At just over 28,000 tons, she is just small enough compared to her 36,000-ton and 40,000-ton newer brethren to feel like an exclusive luxury vacation experience. She’s more billionaire private yacht than luxury boutique hotel.

Silver Shadow retains Silversea’s essence of spacious suites and superior service paired with a lively cosmopolitan

atmosphere and enhanced amenities. There are complimentary Pilates and yoga classes in the expanded fitness center, which you’ll need to work off the calories from the fine wines and regional culinary creations in Le Champagne, the only Wine Restaurant by Relais & Châteaux at sea.



OUR FAVORITE SHIPBOARD DINING SPOTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN QUEEN STEAMBOAT COMPANY



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIKING RIVER CRUISES

THE CHEF’S TABLE

AmaWaterways (All Ships)

Join a few of your fellow travelers at The Chef’s Table, where the fully-visible kitchen becomes part of the entertainment. You’ll have the opportunity to watch the chef prepare a special, multi-course meal right in front of you. The menu here is unique, making this a truly distinct gastronomic experience. Indulge in delectable dishes paired with unlimited fine wines, hand-selected just for this dinner. You’ll need reservations but don’t worry—everyone aboard gets their chance. We always try to dine at The Chef’s Table on the last night of our voyage. It ends the cruise on a culinary high note.

J.M. WHITE DINING ROOM

American Queen Steamboat Company (American Queen)

With its ornate fretwork and galleries rising two decks high framed by narrow, Victorian-draped windows, this elegant room is one of our favorites because it feels completely authentic. It’s easy to imagine you’re drifting along the Mississippi with Mark Twain as a charming table companion 125 years ago. Along the way, indulge in Southern favorites like bourbon pecan pie, Cajun shrimp and cheese grits, spicy gumbo, fried green tomatoes and, of course, a refreshing mint julep.

ALL RESTAURANTS

Uniworld River Cruises

Uniworld boasts the only Zagat-rated restaurants on the rivers, and it shows. When dining onboard, you’ll be treated to world-class cuisine made from fresh ingredients, locally sourced from the destinations you visit. For example, a dinner menu on the *Catherine*, en route to Avignon, features delicacies such as cod loin in bouillabaisse jus, barigoule artichoke, broad beans and saffron potatoes; roasted rack of lamb in mustard herb crust, olive and sweet garlic sauce, eggplant mash, tomato provençale and boulangère potatoes; iced Montélimar nougat parfait with red berry sauce; and French lemon tart with homemade melon ice cream. Delicious!

MAMSEN’S

Viking Ocean Cruises (All Ships)

Though it’s a simple deli tucked into the corner of the Explorer’s Lounge in comparison to more elaborate specialty restaurants also found aboard the ships of Viking Ocean Cruises, this is still our favorite because it is tied to the family history of owner Tor Hagen. Named for “Mamsen,” the Hagen family matriarch, this venue offers Norwegian specialties for breakfast, lunch, an afternoon snack or evening treat. The array of menu items includes Scandinavian pastries and cakes; waffles (lovingly made according to Mamsen’s recipes), served with either Norwegian goat cheese or jam; salmon gravlax and other open-faced sandwiches; and late-night split pea soup to warm the heart and soothe the soul.

A TASTE FOR TRAVEL



“Every moment was perfect!”

– Tina G., Boston, MA

CULINARY JOURNEYS

When we think of travel, we traditionally think of the attractions, panoramic views, incredible landscapes and historical sites of the places we will be visiting. But in all our cruises, we have found that the most powerful memories frequently come not from our eyes but from our taste buds.



UNFORGETTABLE DINING

We remember the amazing illuminated red ornaments and draped lace of the Christmas lights in Vienna, of course, but our favorite moment was stopping at a small café off Kärntner Straße, the main shopping street, for a slice of Sachertorte, a rich chocolate cake that is a chocolate lover’s dream. Spending an afternoon lying in the grass beneath the Eiffel Tower was remarkable, but the Cream of Chardonnay soup we enjoyed that evening in a restaurant across the Seine was the true highlight.

Sitting on deck as our river vessel, the *AmaPrima*, drifted along the Rhine in the shadows of fairytale castles was a soothing journey into the past, but the comforting and traditional German sauerbraten served that night in the dining room summarized our feelings about the entire day.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION



PREVIEW FOR THE PALATE

Despite our many voyages (125 and still counting), we get excited about each and every one of them. One thing we like to do before each trip is to find a unique recipe from the region we’re going to be visiting and make that dish a few days before departure. From the instant we taste the flavors of another culture, we feel like we’re on vacation before it has even begun. Then, of course, we like to have a dinner party with dear friends and family upon our return, featuring the flavors of our trip, as we regale them with stories and photos of a special voyage we will forever cherish.

Here you’ll discover a few of our favorite dishes. All recipes and descriptions are courtesy of AmaWaterways, perhaps our favorite cruise line for European river trips. We find they have just the right combination of quality, value and cuisine. Oh, that glorious cuisine!



A TASTE OF VIENNA

Sachertorte

Chocolate lovers everywhere, rejoice! And set your sights on Vienna, that glittering city of kaffehaus culture and scrumptious cakes.

The crème-de-la-crème of cake wizardry here is the iconic Sachertorte, available at the renowned Hotel Sacher. Rich dark chocolate, apricot jam and utter deliciousness will send your taste buds spiraling into sensory overload. Always served with a side-dollop of schlag, aka whipped cream, this cake promises to indulge your most delightful champagne wishes and decadent dreams.

Celebrating its own national holiday on December 5th, the Sachertorte had its not so-humble beginnings in 1832 when Franz Sacher first created the dessert for Prince Wenzel von Metternich and his very important guests. Just sixteen years old at the time, the young chef-in-training received this lucky break when his boss, the Prince’s actual chef, fell ill. It’s been said that the older man cautioned his apprentice with ‘Let there be no shame on me tonight!’ — and the rest, as they say, is the chocolate history dreams are made of.

Fueled by the cake’s immense popularity, Sacher’s son Eduard ultimately built the Hotel Sacher, a luxury hotel which has hosted such notable guests as Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip, JFK, Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier III, John Lennon and Yoko Ono, Plácido Domingo, José Carreras and Leonard Bernstein over the years. Some of these guests’ famous signatures can even be found on one of four tablecloths the hotel keeps on display. There is also a stunning art gallery with works from the 19th century, so stop by here for an extra slice of culture. Of course, you

can find variations of the Sachertorte throughout the city (most notably at the Demel Bakery, which waged a legal war for decades for the right to the name), but many consider the hotel’s to be the most authentic.

While in Vienna, experience a true taste of Austria. It is a treat for the taste buds as much as the senses.

Ingredients

- 4.5 oz. butter, softened
- 1/2 cup dark chocolate, melted
- 2 tbsp. sugar
- 7 egg yolks
- 7 egg whites, whipped
- 7 oz. flour
- 2 tbsp. apricot Jam
- Ganache:
 - 1/2 cup heavy cream
 - 1/2 cup dark chocolate
 - 1 stick butter

Preparation Method

Mix butter, sugar, and egg yolks together until creamy. Fold the melted chocolate into the mixture. In a separate bowl, fold the whipped egg whites and flour together. Combine with the egg yolk and chocolate mixture. Pour into a greased 9” round cake pan. Bake for approximately 45 min. at 370 F°. Let the cake cool and remove from pan. When fully cooled, cut the cake in half horizontally. Fill with apricot jam and glaze top of cake with the ganache.

Makes 8 servings.

Recipe courtesy of AmaWaterways



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS

A TASTE OF THE RHINE

Traditional German Sauerbraten

To many of us who grew up in America’s heartland, pot roast tastes and smells of home. “Sauerbraten” is essentially a German-style pot roast. The key to this recipe is to allow the roast to marinate for a full three days. Originally developed by the Romans, there are many legends attributing it to being inspired by Julius Caesar, who ordered meat to be marinated to keep it fresh for transport from Rome to the newly founded colony of Cologne. However, others believe that the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne created the dish around the 9th century. Ever since, this dish has been gracing the tables and menus of German homes and restaurants.

This meat dish can be described as a tender German pot roast and can be prepared with a variety of meats, most often beef, but venison, lamb or pork can be used, all of which should be marinated in a blend of red wine, vinegar and/or water. In the Rhine Valley, raisins and sugar beet syrup are sometimes blended into the marinade. Most often enjoyed with beer (German beer of course), it also pairs well with such wines as Burgundy, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Gewürztraminer, Pinot Noir, Riesling and Syrah.

Ingredients

- 3 lbs. beef pot roast
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 1 lbs. mirepoix (diced carrots, celery, onions & leek)
- 2 oz. tomato paste
- 2 tbsp. flour
- 6 cups veal stock
- Marinade:
 - 2 cups dry red wine
 - 1 oz. red wine vinegar
 - 4 oz. mirepoix (diced carrots, celery, onions, leek) 2 bay leaves
 - 1 tsp. peppercorns
 - ½ tsp. juniper berries
 - 1 garlic clove

Preparation Method

Combine marinade ingredients and bring to a boil for 10 minutes. Allow to cool completely. Spread onto the beef and refrigerate up to 3 days. Strain and reserve the marinade, vegetables and herbs separately. Bring the strained marinade to a boil and skim off any foam. Heat the oil in a large skillet, add the meat and sear on all sides. Remove the meat and set aside. Add the mirepoix and reserved vegetables and herbs from the marinade. Let them brown lightly. Add the tomato paste. Deglaze the pan with the marinade and reduce the liquid. Add the flour and combine the mixture thoroughly. Add the veal stock and whip out any lumps. Return the meat to the pan, cover and simmer until tender. Remove the meat and reduce the sauce to desired consistency and strain. Garnish with sour cream and parsley. Serve with potato dumplings and marinated red cabbage.

Makes 8 servings.

Recipe courtesy of AmaWaterways



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS

A TASTE OF PROVENCE

Lavender Crème Brûlée

When in Rome, do as the Romans do—and when in France, savor crème brûlée, one of the quintessential French desserts. With a smooth, rich, creamy custard beneath a brittle, caramelized topping, this delectable treat has been enjoyed by the French since 1691.

Crème brûlée is traditionally flavored with vanilla but to give the classic dessert a bit of Provençal oomph, add culinary lavender, which is just as delightfully sweet to taste as it is to breathe in. Lavender is a strong scent so a little goes a long way.

Sweet and fragrant, lavender has been cultivated for centuries for its beauty, essential oils, therapeutic gifts and of course culinary uses. A romantic flower, lavender’s lovely perfume complements a variety of both sweet and savory tastes. Pair with strawberries, blueberries, pears, lemon, orange, honey, sage, rosemary, oregano, thyme, black pepper, lemon juice, lemon zest and chocolate for delicious flavor combinations.

Use lavender from your garden or purchase in the store, just make sure you are choosing culinary lavender as not all forms of the flower are edible.

Ingredients

- 1 cup whole milk
- 6 egg yolks
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 tsp. lavender
- 2 cups crème fraîche
- ⅔ cup raw sugar

Preparation Method

Boil the milk. Remove from heat and add lavender. Chill for 12 hours. In a small mixing bowl, add egg yolks and whip them while incorporating the sugar until the mixture is nearly white. Strain the chilled milk and place in a saucepan under low heat. Add the crème fraîche slowly while whisking. Let sit for 45 minutes. Rinse eight ramekins with cold water and don’t wipe dry. Pour the cream into the ramekins and put them into a water bath with water to mid-height. Place in a 350°F oven for 20 minutes. To serve, sprinkle raw sugar on top of the crèmes and caramelize using a kitchen torch (or broil for 5 minutes).

Makes 8 servings.

Recipe courtesy of AmaWaterways



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS

A TASTE OF FRANCE

Cream of Chardonnay Soup

One of the most delicious aspects of traveling is to indulge in the incredible cuisine of the places you visit. Inspired by French velouté soups, this rich and flavorful Cream of Chardonnay soup is made and paired with Chardonnay, of course. Leeks at the peak of their freshness, and the bright sweetness of white grapes combine with butter and cream to create the perfect springtime comfort food. You can serve it as an appetizer or make it the star of the meal, served along with rustic French bread.

Try this recipe for Cream of Chardonnay Soup that's often served onboard. Chardonnay contributes the most richness of any dry white wine commonly used for cooking. For rich, creamy soups, wine can provide a welcome note of freshness and contrast — almost like a squeeze of lemon or an extra layer of flavor. The creamier a soup is, the more full-bodied a wine it can take.

Ingredients

- 3½ tablespoons of unsalted butter
- ½ cup onions, chopped
- ½ cup white leeks, chopped
- 1 cup white flour (or wheat flour)
- 2 cups Chardonnay
- 10 ½ cups vegetable stock
- 1½ cups of heavy cream
- 1½ cups of white grapes
- ½ cup of fresh parsley, chopped
- Salt to taste
- Pepper to taste

Preparation Method

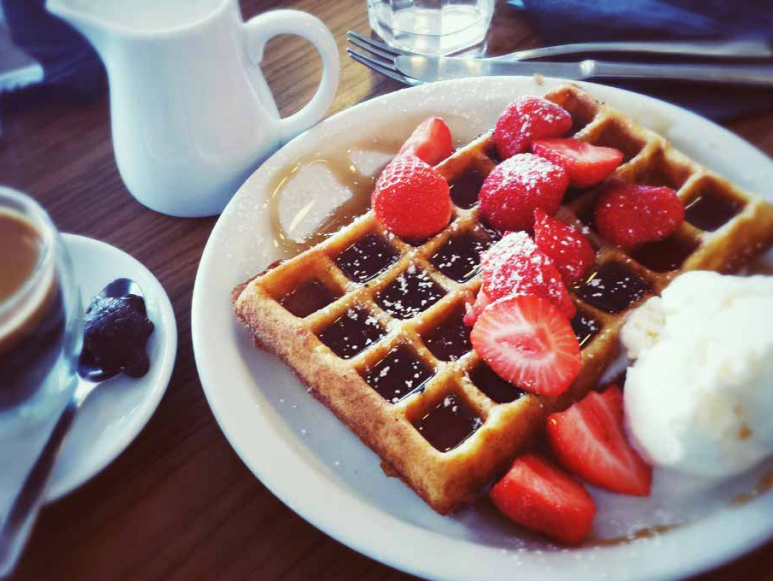
Wash produce thoroughly. Chop onions and leeks into small cubes and set aside. Peel white grapes, remove seeds and slice. Wash parsley, chop and pat dry.

Use a large pot on medium heat to sautéed onions and leeks with butter until golden, then gradually add in the flour to thicken. Pour in 1 cup of Chardonnay and all of the vegetable stock. Season with salt and pepper and let the soup simmer for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Strain soup through a mesh cloth and add in the rest of the Chardonnay. Add heavy cream to soup. Garnish with warm grapes and parsley before serving.

Makes 10 servings.

Recipe courtesy of AmaWaterways

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAWATERWAYS



A TASTE OF BELGIUM

Belgian Waffles

Known for its incredible selection of cheeses, chocolates, fries, and beer, Belgium is a foodie paradise, with a long tradition of epicurean delights. For example, cheese-making traditions can date back to the Middle Ages! Chocolate, one of Belgium’s leading industries, has been produced here since the early seventeenth century. And while it may be difficult to pinpoint just when and where waffles can trace their origins (the first reference of the Dutch waffle can be found in the 13th century, while researchers have located writings on the French waffle in 1185), one thing is certain: waffles are synonymous with Belgium.

Belgian Waffles are one of the most beloved treats in the country. Brought to the United States at the World’s Fair in the 1960’s, waffles have been a mainstay of Belgian diets for centuries. There are over a dozen classifications of waffles, including the famous *stroopwafel* of the Netherlands. But the Belgian Waffle is distinct from all others as it is recognized for its lighter batter, larger squares and deeper waffle pockets

(they are made from 1½-inch-depth irons). Traditionally, this waffle is meant to be eaten as street food, but it is also found in tea rooms, commonly known as *gaufferies*. To experience a true taste of Belgium, you can’t do better than waffles, a treat for the taste buds as much as the senses.

Ingredients

- 2 cups flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Preparation Method

Oil the waffle maker. Sift the dry ingredients together in a large bowl. In another bowl, separate the egg whites and beat until stiff peaks form. Mix together the egg yolks, milk, oil, and vanilla, then stir slightly. Add to dry ingredients and mix well. Fold in egg whites. Cook in waffle iron on medium-high heat for around 5-10 minutes.

Makes 4-6 servings.

Recipe courtesy of AmaWaterways



A TASTE OF BUDAPEST

Hungarian Goulash

This classic Hungarian dish harkens back to cool fall nights in Hungarian fields. Imagine the herdsman in Hungarian days of yore gathering to stir and savor Hungarian Goulash, the cold air nipping at their noses but a warm and tasty meal to keep them comfortable cooking over an open fire. Made with the freshest ingredients the Hungarian countryside can provide, this style of goulash has been a cultural favorite for centuries. Everyone from shepherds to nobles fought off the chill with a bowl a goulash, but the dish owes its name to the aforementioned herdsman, or “gulyás” in Hungarian, that first filled their cauldrons with the stewy combination of meat, spices, and wild vegetables. Hungarian Goulash is unique for its use of the spice that sets the country’s cuisine apart from the crowd — paprika. Considered the national spice by many, paprika was introduced to Hungary by the Turks around the 16th century. Since then, pinches of the rich, sweet, peppery powder have defined not just Hungarian Goulash but an entire culinary culture in which an abundance of paprika can be

found in kitchens, gardens, and restaurants throughout the country. While in Budapest, experience a true taste of Central Europe.

Ingredients

- 2 onions, sliced
- ½ cup corn oil
- 1 tsp. Caraway seeds
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 lbs. boneless chuck roast, cut into bite-size pieces
- 2 tbsp. sweet Hungarian paprika
- 2 cups hot water
- 2 tsp. salt
- 3 bay leaves
- OPTIONAL: Potatoes, chopped fresh parsley

Preparation Method

Heat the oil in a heavy skillet; add the onions and sauté lightly. Add the garlic and continue to sauté. Next add the meat, stir well with the other ingredients, and season with salt. Cover and let cook gently until meat browns. Add the sweet paprika, caraway seeds and bay leaves. Cover and cook on low heat for 10 to 15 minutes until meat has picked up the flavor of the seasonings. Adjust heat so that the goulash simmers very gently and let it cook for approximately one hour or until meat is fork tender. Serve over potatoes, buttered noodles or rice.

Makes 6 servings.

Recipe courtesy of AmaWaterways



TRAVEL WORKSHEET

No travel agent, even Select Waterways’ Insider Concierges, can choose the right cruise for you without getting to know you a bit better. That’s why we always ask our clients to answer a few questions to help us figure out the best possible maritime match. Sometimes, telling us what you don’t like is as important as telling us what you do.

What follows are a few of the questions we ask potential cruisers. Take a look and you’ll find that thinking about the answers on your own will help you better define the type of cruise you want. Don’t worry if you don’t have the answer to some of the questions—Select Waterways will gladly assist you in honing in on your best cruise match.

We also feature an online traveler questionnaire at selectwaterways.com/client if you would like to use your answers as a springboard for a conversation with an Insider Concierge, or give us a call at 1.844.SWCRUISE (844.792.7847).

the basics

WHAT IS YOUR TOTAL BUDGET, PER PERSON? \$ _____

HOW LONG DO YOU WANT TO BE GONE? DAYS / WEEKS

WHEN DO YOU WANT TO GO? SPRING / SUMMER / FALL / WINTER YEAR 20 _____

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

HOW MOBILE ARE YOU? ARE THERE ANY PHYSICAL CHALLENGES THAT MIGHT LIMIT YOUR ACTIVITY?

ARE YOU COMFORTABLE FLYING TO BOARD YOUR SHIP? Y / N

WHAT IS THE AGE RANGE OF THOSE WHO WILL BE TRAVELING (SO WE CAN CHECK IF ANY SENIOR DISCOUNTS APPLY OR IF WE NEED TO FIND A VACATION WITH CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES)? TO _____

HAS ANYONE TRAVELING SERVED IN THE US MILITARY (SO WE CAN CHECK IF MILITARY DISCOUNTS APPLY)? Y / N

HOW OPEN ARE YOU TO ENTIRELY NEW EXPERIENCES? (MARK AN X ALONG THE LINE FROM ‘EXTREMELY’ TO ‘NOT AT ALL’) NOT AT ALL <—————> EXTREMELY

ARE YOU CELEBRATING ANY SPECIAL EVENT? Y / N

IF YES, WHAT IS IT?

getting to know you

DO YOU LIKE PEACE AND QUIET OR DO YOU ENJOY NIGHTLIFE?
PEACE / NIGHTLIFE / HOW ABOUT BOTH?

HOW IMPORTANT IS FOOD AND DINING TO YOUR VACATION EXPERIENCE? (MARK AN X ALONG THE LINE FROM ‘EXTREMELY’ TO ‘NOT AT ALL’) NOT AT ALL <—————> EXTREMELY

ARE YOU A WINE CONNOISSEUR? Y / N / I’D LIKE TO KNOW MORE

DO YOU LIKE LOCAL CUISINE OR PREFER TO STICK TO TRIED-AND-TRUE CLASSIC DISHES YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH? CLASSICS / LOCAL / IT’S ALL FOOD!

WHAT ARE YOUR MOST AND LEAST FAVORITE TYPES OF CUISINE?

MOST

LEAST

WOULD YOU RATHER GO TO A FAMOUS MUSEUM OR A HIKE IN THE MOUNTAINS? MUSEUM / HIKE / IS THERE TIME FOR BOTH?

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS?

.....

.....

WHAT GROUPS OR CLUBS DO YOU BELONG TO?

.....

.....

WHAT ARE YOUR PET PEEVES?

.....

.....

traveling likes and dislikes

WHAT WERE YOUR LAST THREE VACATIONS AND WHEN?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT EACH OF THEM AND WHY?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN IMPROVED ABOUT EACH AND WHY?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

HOW OFTEN DO YOU TRAVEL? _____ TIME(S) EVERY _____ YEAR(S)

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE VACATION MOMENT OF YOUR LIFE AND WHY IS IT SO SPECIAL?

WHAT IS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE VACATION MEMORY AND WHY DID YOU DISLIKE IT SO MUCH?

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU WANT YOUR NEXT VACATION TO BE LIKE PRIOR VACATIONS?

cruise experience

WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED A CRUISE IS THE RIGHT VACATION FOR YOU?

HAVE YOU CRUISED BEFORE? IF SO, HOW MANY TIMES, WHERE TO, AND ON WHAT CRUISE LINES?

WHAT TYPE OF CRUISING EXPERIENCE DO YOU WANT TO HAVE? _____

LUXURY / ADVENTUROUS / CASUAL / A COMBINATION OF THESE

HOW DO YOU WANT TO FEEL WHEN YOUR VACATION IS OVER? _____

RELAXED / EXHILARATED / WINED AND DINED / ENRICHED WITH HISTORY AND THE ARTS

WHAT KIND OF ATTIRE WOULD YOU LIKE TO WEAR FOR EVENING WEAR? _____

CASUAL / COUNTRY CLUB / FORMAL / I CAN DO THEM ALL!

DO YOU WANT A QUIET CRUISE OR ONE FULL OF ACTIVITIES? (MARK AN X ALONG THE LINE FROM 'QUIET' TO 'FULL') _____ QUIET <-----> FULL

DO YOU LIKE THE BEACH AND BEING IN THE WATER OR WOULD YOU PREFER AN INDOOR OR MORE REFINED ACTIVITY? _____ BEACH / REFINED

HOW IMPORTANT TO YOU IS SHOPPING WHILE ON VACATION? (MARK AN X ALONG THE LINE FROM 'EXTREMELY' TO 'NOT AT ALL') _____ NOT AT ALL <-----> EXTREMELY



cruise experience (cont'd)

WHAT TYPE OF AMENITIES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU WHEN YOU TRAVEL? FITNESS CENTER? ROOM SERVICE? FINE DINING? FASCINATING LECTURES? CONNECTIVITY TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD? BUTLERS? BEER, WINE, AND SPIRITS INCLUDED?

WHAT TYPES OF HOTEL EXPERIENCE DO YOU NORMALLY PREFER?
AMERICAN CHAIN / BOUTIQUE HOTEL / QUIRKY LOCAL HOTEL

IF THERE IS A SPECIFIC HOTEL CHAIN YOU PREFER, TELL US WHICH ONE AND WHY

WHAT TYPE OF EVENING ENTERTAINMENT DO YOU LIKE?



YOU'VE REACHED THE END OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE! HOPEFULLY IT HAS HELPED YOU FOCUS ON WHAT YOU DESIRE FROM YOUR NEXT GREAT VACATION. IF YOU'D LIKE, YOU CAN SCAN AND SEND IT TO US AT INFO@SELECTWATERWAYS.COM AND AN INSIDER CONCIERGE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU SHORTLY OR GIVE US A CALL AT 1.844.SWCRUISE AND WE'LL REVIEW YOUR ANSWERS WITH YOU RIGHT NOW.

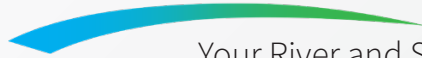
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