



THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO RIVER CRUISING



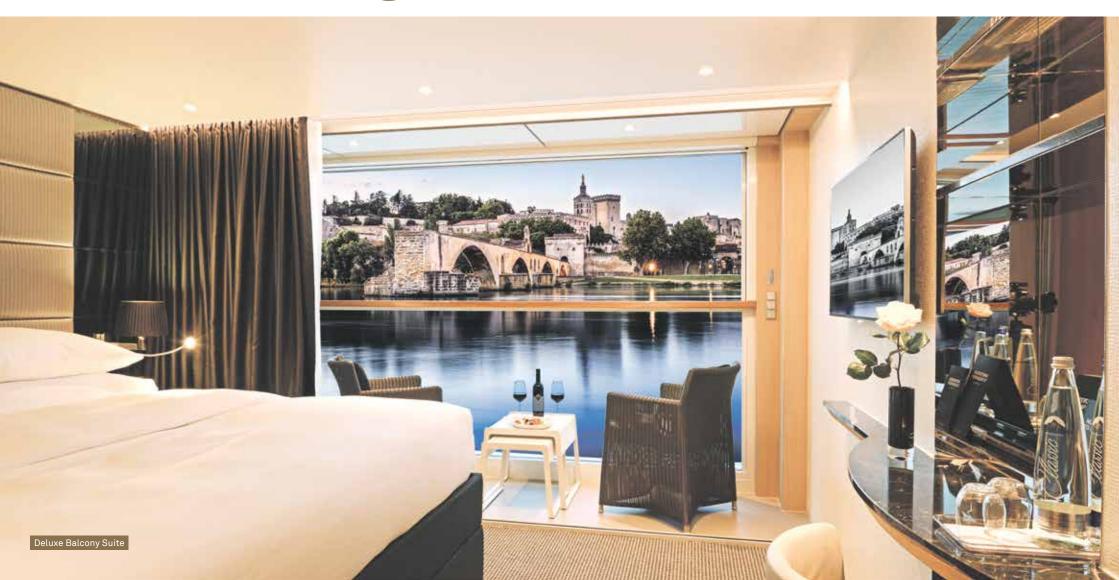
BarrheadTravel

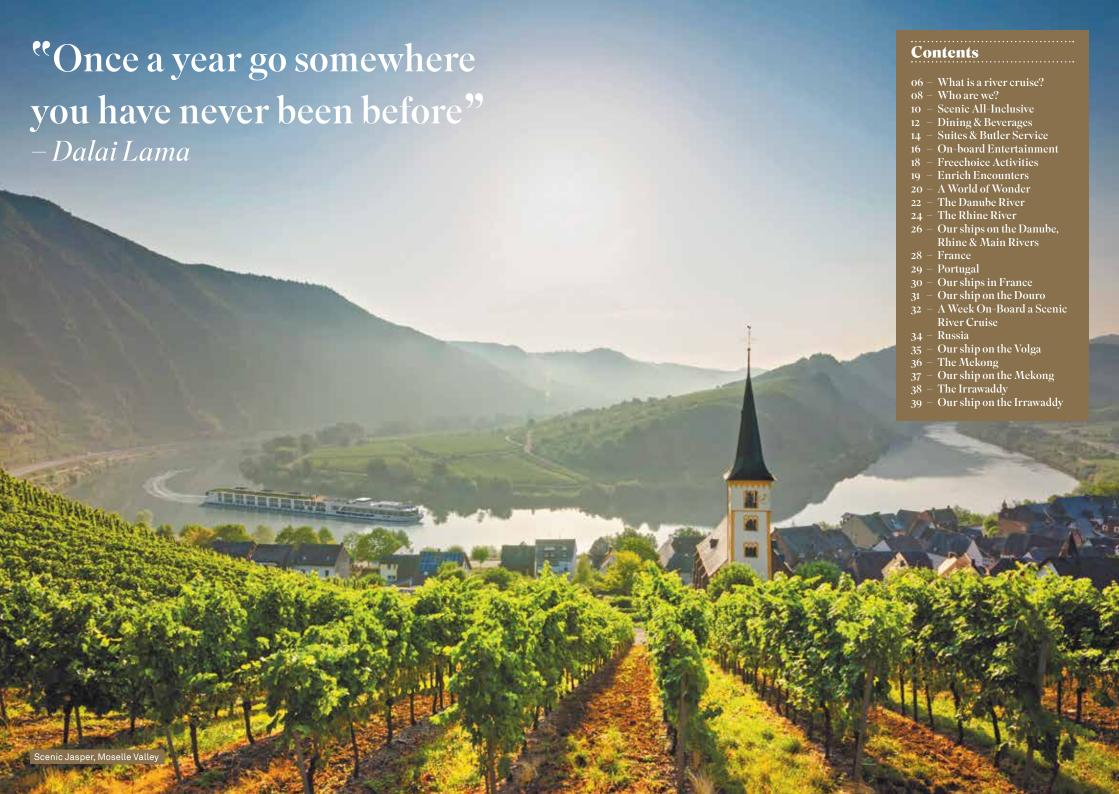
The Holiday & Cruise Specialists

Your Essential Guide to Luxury River Cruising

Many rivers are steeped in history, having one time or another been the method for the transportation of goods and people. Such history makes these waterways of constant intrigue to worldwide travellers and, a result, creates the perfect platform for an exciting adventure.

This helpful handbook is here to guide first-time river cruisers through their journey on the water. What can you expect from your luxury floating hotel? How will you explore the culture and heritage of each wonderful location? And how will it differ from that of an ocean cruise?





What is a River Cruise?

A river cruise is avoyage of discovery along the world's most fascinating rivers, stopping in the heart of iconic cities, towns and villages along the way.



A Luxury Floating Hotel

Scenic's 5-star Space-Ships boast all the amenities you would expect from that of a world-class hotel. With custom-built, spacious communal areas, beautifully-appointed suites with balcony options and a choice of dining venues, guests can also spend their time on-board relaxing in the rooftop Vitality Pool, keeping fit in the gym, or indulging in a treatment at the on-board spa and salon.

The difference? This floating hotel passes beautiful landscapes, historic monuments and rolling hills, before docking centrally so you can learn about the culture of the many towns and cities that line the river banks.

Destinations in Depth

With 15 river cruise ships across Europe, France, the Douro region of Portugal, and South East Asia, getting up close and personal with the day-to-day life of these wonderful destinations is a perfect way to learn about their heritage and culture. What's more, river cruises introduce travellers to hidden hideaways that they may not have visited otherwise, UNESCO World Heritagelisted Bamberg in Germany, the sun-soaked, vineyard-laden French south coast, or the historically magnificent Austrian capital, Vienna, are just some of the breath-taking locations you can look forward to exploring.







Scenic's award winning shore excursions are the best in class. Taking guests into the heart of each destination with a choice of included excursions. Freechoice literally means 'freedom to choose' a tour to suit you and your interests. You could be witnessing the beauty of Melk's Benedictine Abbey on a guided walking tour, or perusing a market in Avignon with your on-board chef. Day trips are included to neighbouring countries to ensure you get the most from your adventure. while on-board e-bikes and group hiking trips will please the more active. Organised exclusive evening events, like classical concerts in palatial settings, showcase the work of local composers, such as Johann Strauss II and Mozart, while Sundowner evenings offer the opportunity to watch the sunset on castle terraces, while enjoying an aperitif.

On-Board Our Space-Ships

With Scenic, the on-board service is as highly considered as the onshore excursions so that every minute on-board is as relaxing and luxurious as possible. Your butler ensures you have everything you need, while spacious suites range from 15m2 to 47m2, most of which are home to our innovative Sun-Lounge system. allowing guests to transform their balcony into an all-weather conservatory-style space, at the touch of a button. Spacious communal areas are perfect for making new friends, relaxing with a book, or simply enjoying the scenery as it passes by the window. An evening meal in a choice of restaurants can be followed by traditional entertainment in the Bar and Lounge, where complimentary drinks are served all day every day. Your dining options on-board range from thoughtfully-prepared breakfasts, lunches and dinners, to speciality fine-dining with wine pairing, and a chef's degustation table.







Who Are We?

Scenic Luxury Cruises and Tours are an independent, Australian-owned company, founded in 1986 by CEO Glen Moroney. Since, we've grown into a global business, with offices around the world, in the UK, Canada, the US, New Zealand and Switzerland.

Throughout our fleet of 15 Space-Ships we combine innovative technology with opulent designer finishes, and we've won awards for our ships, including 'Favourite River Cruise Line' three years running at the Telegraph Travel Awards. Our unrivalled Sun-Lounge system is ingenious, while our impressive staff-to-guest ratio of 1:3 and butler service makes sure guests receive 5-star treatment from the minute they join us on-board. Our butlers have all graduated from our Scenic Butler Academy so, whether you fancy a light lunch in your suite or require your clothing to be pressed in preparation for the evening, no request is too troublesome.

We think loyalty should be rewarded so, as a result, every time you satisfy your wanderlust with us, we'll reward you as part of our Scenic Club Loyalty Program. Membership is free and you automatically become a member after your first adventure, so you can begin making the most of the benefits straight away. Access to exclusive deals, discounts and offers are just some of the perks and differ depending on your status of either Scenic Gold, Platinum, Diamond or Emerald.

Scenic are leaders in luxury river cruising and offer a truly all-inclusive 5-star service.















ALL-INCLUSIVE

With Scenic, the perks and privileges come included. Our Space-Ships are truly an all-inclusive luxury package.



Space-Ships



Suites



Butler



Dining & Beverages



Enrich



Freechoice



Tailormade

On board

- Return flights from a selection of up to 15 UK airports or NO FLY option via Standard Premier Eurostar and First Class rail on selected cruises
- 5-Star Scenic Space-Ships
- Balcony suites, including a Scenic Sun Lounge
- Butler service for all guests
- Laundry concierge
- Complimentary beverages all day, every day*
- Six dining options, from casual to fine dining
- Exclusive Scenic Tailormade GPS for self-guided touring and on board commentary
- Authentic local entertainment
- Wellness Area and Fitness Centre
- The freedom of our e-bikes electronically assisted bicycles
- Cruise Directors to guide and assist
- Expert local guides
- Complimentary Wi-Fi internet
- Return airport transfers
- All tipping, taxes & gratuities

Onshore

- Scenic Enrich unforgettable and exclusive once in-a-lifetime experiences
- Scenic Sundowners exclusive hosted cocktails in some of Europe's most beautiful locations
- Scenic Freechoice a choice of wonderful activities throughout your journey











Dining & Beverages Where to eat and drink on board





A Wealth of Choice

A big part of how you explore a country comes in the tasting of its wares. Scenic's aim is to take every guest on a gastronomical journey of the continent's much-loved flavours. Whether you're enjoying breakfast, lunch or dinner in our Crystal Dining restaurant, sampling Italian fine-dining with wine pairing at the delightful Portobellos, or relaxing in your suite with room service on your balcony, all ingredients are fresh and locally-sourced.







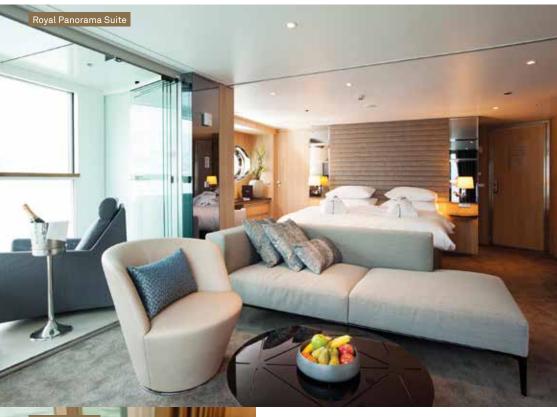
Unlimited Premium Branded Drinks*

Considering the thought that goes into our dining options, it would only be right to pair it with the perfect liquid accompaniments. Our wide selection of cocktails, regional wines, top shelf spirits, local beers and soft drinks are complimentary all day every day, so you can enjoy a glass of Moët with breakfast or, perhaps, a selection of teas or coffee, wherever the mood takes you.

One bedroom Royal Owner's Suite

Suites & Butler Service

The perfect way to relax and unwind







Butler Service

Part of what makes a Scenic river cruise so special is the attention to detail from our butlers who provide guests with 24-hour service. No request is too troublesome and we will do our best to help with anything we can. If breakfast in bed or lunch on your balcony takes your fancy, your choice of food and beverage will be delivered to your door. Additionally, a complimentary laundry concierge is available, or you can make the most of our nightly turndown service.



Suites

Our suites are some of the most spacious on Europe's rivers. Exclusively designed to combine the latest innovative technology with award-winning comfort, luxurious flourishes like slumber beds, an Apple TV, complimentary L'Occitane toiletries and mini bar, transforms your cabin into your own private retreat. All of our Balcony Suites boast our Scenic Sun Lounge function, transforming your balcony into an all-weather conservatory style space at the push of a button. Flick through our pillow menu and relax in a fleecy bathrobe and slippers for the ultimate relaxation.

°On-Board Entertainment

Simple, refined and enjoyable evenings





Bar & Lounge

Sit back and relax with a cocktail, glass of wine, local beer or something stronger, in the comfort of our bar and lounge. An extensive drinks menu is sure to satisfy even the most sophisticated of palettes, while our comfortable seating means you can recline on the sofa with a whiskey or sit around the table and play a game of cards with new-found friends.

Entertainment

The traditional music of a country can tell a thousand tales, and we like to share these with guests during our post-dinner entertainment. From Bavarian oom-pah bands to Hungarian dance groups, be swept up in the energy and excitement of music that dates back centuries, complete with authentic costumes and instruments.



Freechoice Activities

A plethora of included excursions



Freechoice Activities

We believe choice is a wonderful thing and part of what makes a Scenic adventure so special is that guests can choose to do as much or as little as they please, at a pace that suits them. Daily Freechoice activities may come in the form of guided city tours or perusals of historically-significant castles, or it might be a bicycle ride along the river bank or a shopping trip around a local market with your chef. Selected by expert Journey Designers, and at no additional cost, these fascinating opportunities are yours to take advantage of, as and when you please.



Enrich Encounters

Once-in-a-lifetime events & experiences



Enrich Excursions

An exclusive world is opened up to Scenic guests that offers unprecedented access to some of Europe's most illustrious cultural hotspots. These once-in-a-lifetime experiences are handpicked by our expert Journey Designers and all included in the price of your trip. Soak up the magnificence of the Baroque Palace of Rastatt, the oldest Baroque residence in the Upper Rhine Valley, as you're treated to a classical concert, or enjoy a Medieval banquet in the brooding halls of Germany's Marksburg Castle.







The Danube River

Known as a river cruiser's rite of passage, the Danube is Europe's second-longest river, passing through 10 countries. From its source in Germany's Black Forest, to its mouth in the Black Sea, it is clear why this stunning waterway has been the muse for many an artist, composer and poet.

Perfect For:

- O Classical music enthusiasts: Vienna & Salzburg, Austria
- Architecture aficionados: Budapest, Hungary
- O Nature-lovers: The Wachau Valley, Austria
- History buffs: Nuremburg, Germany









Highlights

Vienna's artistic and intellectual legacy, combined with its imperial palaces, make the capital a must-see for fans of architecture and history alike, while Budapest's vibrancy and individualism makes it the perfect stop for artists and culture vultures. Outstanding natural beauty and UNESCO World Heritage-listed sites are at every turn, whether it's the awe-inspiring Wachau Valley or the beautiful Medieval city of Regensburg.

The Rhine River

The Rhine River

Starting its life in the Swiss Alps and finishing its journey in the North Sea off the Netherlands, the delightful Rhine river navigates through central Germany. Waterside villages and ancient cities boast signs of regional folklore, appealing to an adventurer's wanderlust time and again.







Perfect For:

- Wine connoisseurs: Strasbourg, France
- Architecture enthusiasts: Cologne, Germany
- O Nature-lovers: The Rhine Gorge, Germany
- Creatives: The Black Forest and The Rhine Gorge, Germany

24 Cologne



Highlights

The 2,000-year-old city of Cologne boasts Gothic architecture, a twin-spired cathedral and breath-taking views of the river, while the evergreen landscape of the Black Forest's quaint villages and mountainous surroundings are often compared to settings for fairy tales and folklore. Freiburg, the region's largest town is also known for its Gothic buildings, with bountiful vineyards as a contrasting backdrop, while the Rhine Gorge has long been a powerful influence on writers, artists and composers with its dramatic and varied natural landscapes.

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Our Ships on the Danube,

Scenic Jasper, Opal, Amber, Crystal, Jewel & Jade

Built 2012-2016 | Length 135 metres | Passengers 169 | Cabins 85 | Crew 53 | Gross tonnage 2,721

Rhine & Main Rivers

Scenic Ruby & Pearl

Rebuilt 2013 | Length 135 metres | Passengers 167 | Cabins 84 | Crew 53 | Gross tonnage 2,721







Crystal Dining

Our spacious main restaurant serves buffet and á la carte menus at breakfast, lunch and dinner, from awardwinning chefs.



Portobellos

Our fine-dining speciality restaurant offers five courses of traditional cuisine with paired wines to a select group of just 30 guests in a stunning setting at the rear of the ship.



Table La Rive

Exclusive dining for Diamond Deck and Royal Suite guests. Enjoy a six-course degustation menu crafted by a team of expert chefs and accompanied by a selection of sommelierpaired wines.



World-Class Suites

All of our Balcony Suites are spacious with luxury amenities and feature our exclusive Scenic Sun Lounge system, transforming your balcony into an all-weather conservatory-style space at the touch of a button.



Riverview Terrace & Sun Deck

Watch the unfolding tapestry of Europe's beguiling landscape float by as you enjoy the scenery from the Riverview Terrace, equipped with sun loungers, and enjoy High Tea on the Sun Deck.



Vitality Pool

Our three newest Space-Ships feature a Vitality Pool on the Sun Deck. Enjoy a morning dip to get you ready for the day, or simply sit and relax with a cocktail as you watch the beautiful sights pass by. (Select ships only)



Wellness & Fitness Area

For a little extra pampering, head to our on-board Wellness Area for a massage or treatment. The Fitness Centre and Walking Track will help keep you active during your trip.



Panorama Lounge

The Panorama Lounge is where most of the entertainment takes place, with emphasis on simple, refined and relaxed evenings, enjoy traditional performances and music from our resident pianist.

France

Avignon

Paris

The Seine, Rhône & Saône Rivers

Gastronomy, art and natural beauty, combine. With the chic city streets and pastel-coloured serenity of the north, and the bright lavender fields and Medieval villages of the south, France truly is a magical treasure trove for the senses. Fall in love and discover your joie de vivre as you explore the world's most popular tourist destination.



Portugal

The Douro River

Dramatic landscapes set the scene for a sun-drenched river cruise down the Iberian Peninsula's major waterway. Home to the production of port wine, remarkable buildings used for such purposes line its banks, as well as unique cities, prehistoric wonders and impressive quintas adorning the lands.



Highlights

Explore charming Porto as you listen to tales of the sea from fisherman of the Afurada village on return from an excursion, and embark on a guided tour of the beautiful capital, Lisbon, with its pastel-coloured buildings and hilly landscapes, before a relaxing day by the sea. Not forgetting Salamanca in north-western Spain, with its sandstone architecture, dating back to the Celtic era, where you'll dine on traditional Spanish cuisine before a Flamenco dance performance.



Highlights

Visit the Somme battlegrounds and experience what it may have been like for those in battle during the First World War on a day excursion commemorating 101 years. Enjoy a four-course dining experience, expertly paired with Grand Cru wine and accompanied by live classical music, indulge in an Enrich dinner at the Benedictine Palace in Fécamp or visit Monet's House and Gardens in Giverny.

Cognac's famous brandy

Perfect For:

- O Explorers: Lisbon, Porto and Salamanca
- O History buffs: Côa Valley Museum, Pochinho and the Douro Museum, Régua
- Architecture enthusiasts: Ducal Palace, Entre-os-Rios
- O Wine-lovers: Quinta da Aveleda and Portogardens, Giverny



- Military historians: Somme battlefields and Normandy D-Day beaches
- Art enthusiasts: Monet's house and gardens, Giverny





Perfect For:

- Wine-connoisseurs: Bordeaux and Burgundy
- O Foodies: Bordeaux and Bergerac

Our Ships in France

Scenic Gem, Sapphire & Diamond

Rebuilt 2017 | Built 2008/2009 | Length 135 metres | Passengers 155 | Cabins 78 | Crew 53 | Gross tonnage 2,721

Our Ship on the Douro

Scenic Azure

Built 2016 | Length 80 metres | Passengers 96 | Cabins 48 | Crew 36 |







Scenic Culinaire

Exclusive to our Bordeaux and Rhône Space-Ships, Scenic Culinaire is a series of intimate on-board cooking classes, taught by experts featuring the finest in local ingredients.



New Royal Owner's Suites

As part of the upgrades for 2017, the Scenic Diamond and Sapphire will feature two new one-bedroom Royal Owner's suites. At 47m², these suites boast opulent furnishings and all the extra touches Scenic is famous for.



L'Amour

Exclusive to our French ships, L'Amour offers guests a five-course menu of the very best regional cuisine paired expertly with the finest local wines, in a stunning panoramic setting.



Table d'Or

Exclusive to the Douro river, Diamond Deck and Royal Suite guests will experience a six-course degustation menu crafted by a team of expert chefs and sommelierpaired wines with each course.



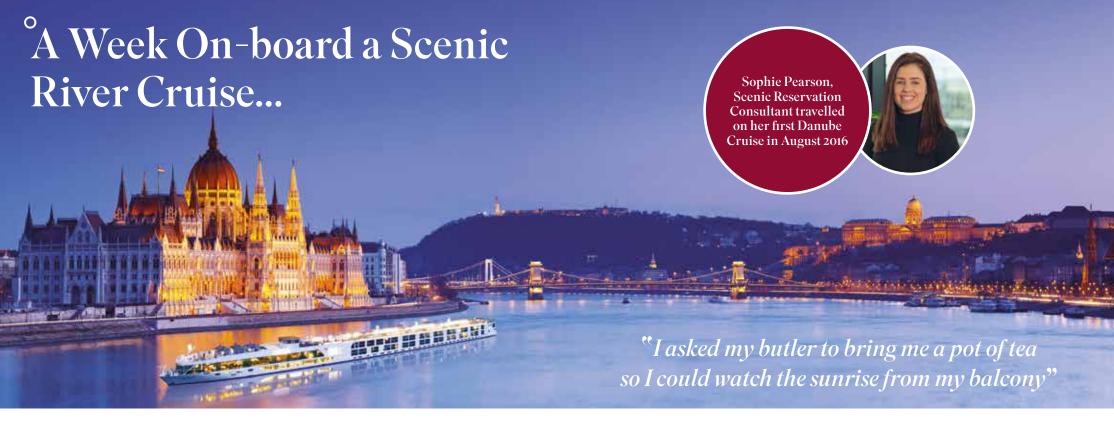
Panorama Lounge Bar

The perfect place to unwind and take in the endless scenery or chat to new friends. Help yourself to a selection of specialty teas and coffees or enjoy a complimentary beverage from the bar.



Special Events

Weather permitting, a lunchtime barbecue is held on the Sun Deck offering guests the best in local seafood and produce.





Day 1

We were met in Munich by a Scenic representative and taken to the ship in Nuremburg.

I was given a hot towel and a glass of champagne on arrival before my butler showed me to my suite. It was spacious, with a fully-stocked mini bar and balcony area. The welcome dinner was three courses, with unlimited drinks.



Day 2

After breakfast, it was time to explore Nuremburg on a tour of the WWII sites.

The guide was excellent, supported by my personal GPS device. We were docked in the heart of the city meaning we could explore more after lunch. Dinner did not disappoint; four courses were paired with delicious German wines.



Day 3

I asked my butler to bring me a pot of tea so I could sit on my balcony and watch the sunrise.

A ferry took us to view historic Weltenburg Abbey. I sampled beer from one of the oldest breweries in the world. This evening I dined at Portobellos.

Five Italian courses were paired with local wines.



Day 4

Today included a full day in the Czech town of Cesky Krumlov. The tour showcased the UNESCO highlights and quaint squares.

Later, I enjoyed a relaxing massage before ordering room service and watching movies in my suite.



Day 5

The beautiful Benedictine Abbey was the highlight of today, as well as a guided tour through Melk. I sampled the electric bikes and rode along the river bank.

The day was topped off by a private cocktail party overlooking the Wachau Vallev.



Day 6

This morning, we docked in the heart of Vienna. A guided walking tour with visits to the famous Schonbrunn Palace offered a great insight into the city.

This evening was spent at Palais Liechtenstein for a private classical concert featuring the music of Strauss and Mozart. I've never encountered anything so special.



Day 7

I woke in one of Europe's most beautiful cities, Budapest, and enjoyed a guided walking tour with piano recital.

My final night on-board was spent with newfound friends, enjoying dinner and drinks.



Day 8

After breakfast our transfers arrived and we began our journey home.

Russia





St Petersburg

The Volga River

A remarkable country, rich with historic cities, idyllic countryside and culture. The Volga river is a magnificent way to see the best of Russia's vast offering, opening the doors to hidden treasures, world-famous art and imposing architecture. A landscape boasting tundra, forests and subtropical beaches, this remarkable country is one to be thoroughly explored.



Perfect For:

- Performance art enthusiasts: Catherine's Palace, St. Petersburg and the Russian Circus, Moscow
- O Vodka-lovers: On-board tasting session
- Scientists: Memorial Museum of Cosmonautics, Moscow
- O Historians: Peterhof Palace and Yaroslavl

Highlights In St. Petersburg,

In St. Petersburg, visit Catherine's Palace, famous for its grandiose white and gold façade and its elaborate gardens, taking in a private ballet performance. Visit the charming museum village of Mandrogi which was reconstructed after First World War, and embark on a city tour of the ancient city of Yaroslavl, dating back to 1010. In Moscow, attend the internationally renowned Russian Circus and take part in a meet and greet with a real Russian cosmonaut as you learn about space exploration.

Our Ship on the Volga

Scenic Tsar

Reconstructed and Renovated 2012 | Passengers 112 | Cabins 56 | Gross tonnage 3,019





Finest Suites

Amongst the most spacious on Russia's rivers, our suites are embellished with luxury features, elegant appointments and the finest amenities akin to a luxury hotel.



Everything You Need

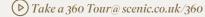
Intimate and friendly, Scenic Tsar is an incomparable blend of luxury, comfort and cultural immersion.
On board you'll have access to WiFi, entertainment and a Wellness Area.



Fully-Inclusive

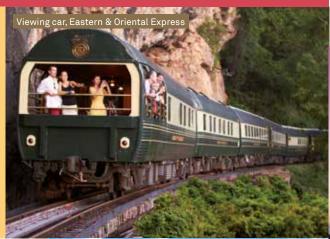
There's a choice of delicious dining options, including in-room dining, airport transfers and a range of fascinating shore excursions.

Allow your cruise director and ever member of our team to create a perfect river cruise experience.

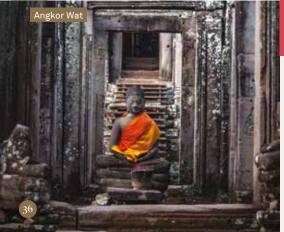


The Mekong

Beginning in the Tibetan Plateau and twisting its way across South East Asia's unique landscape, the Mekong is the lifeblood of the people who call the banks home. Passing through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, rice paddies, French Colonial architecture, temples and busy cities are a breath-taking contrast.









Highlights

In Siem Reap, marvel at the magnificence of Angkor Wat and, while in Ho Chi Minh City, visit the Cu Chi Tunnels used during the Vietnam war.

Bask in colonial-style elegance as you embark on a breath-taking journey along the route of the Mekong aboard the world-renowned Eastern and Oriental Express train.

Perfect For:

- O Historians: Ho Chi Minh City
- O Culture vultures: Angkor Wat
- Railway enthusiasts: Eastern and Oriental Express train journey
- Foodies: Phnom Penh, local food market and Khmer cooking demonstration

Our Ship on the Mekong

Scenic Spirit

Built 2016 | Passengers 68 | Suites 34 | Crew 50 | Length 85 metres





Largest Suites on the Mekong

Our balcony suites are the most spacious on the Mekong and offer modern and elegant furnishings, HDTV, individual climate control and a pillow menu.



Diverse and Delicious Dining Experiences

Our chefs draw inspiration from the regions you travel. Our food is seasonal and freshly prepared.



Luxurious Public Spaces

With a resort-style pool, library, lounge and bar, our public areas are the sort of facilities you would expect to find in a world-class hotel.

The Irrawaddy



Flowing from north to south Myanmar, the Irrawaddy is known as 'The Road to Mandalay'. Opening up doors to hidden civilisations, the river is the best way to see life through the eyes of locals. Discover the history of the beautiful country in a way that wouldn't be possible through other forms of transport and you'll soon understand why Rudyard Kipling once described Myanmar as 'unlike any other place you know'.

Highlights

In Yangon, hunt for antiques at Bogyoke Aung San market or sample its unique art scene. Admire colonial architecture and visit Myanmar's oldest golf course while in Thayetmyo, embark on a journey of spiritual enlightenment at the Monastic Education School, complete with lunch in the ancient capitals of Sagaing and Inwa, and don't miss out on drinks beneath the U-Bein Bridge during sunset.



Mingun Monywa • Sagaing • Mandalay Yandabo • Inwa • Amarapura • Pindaya Caves Heho • Taunggyl Salay Mount Popa Inle Lake Minha Thayetmyo Pyay • Sri Ksetra (Prome) Myanmar Yangon • Thailand

Perfect For:

- Antique-lovers: Bogyoke Aung San market, Yangon
- Architecture enthusiasts: Thayetmyo, Myanmar
- Culture vultures: Sagaing and Inwa, Monastic Education School, Myanmar
- Wine-lovers: Red Mountain Estate vineyards, Mandalay

Our Ship on the Irrawaddy

Scenic Aura

Built 2016 | Passengers 44 | Suites 22 | Crew 35 | Length 65 metres





An Intimate Setting

The smallest ship in the Scenic fleet and accommodating just 44 passengers, the Scenic Aura provides an intimate and relaxed setting.



Personal Service

With an almost 1:1 staff-to-guest ratio, and a butler for every guest, the Scenic Aura provides a level of service not seen on other river cruises.



Open-Air Cinema

Enjoyed relaxed evenings at the Open Air Cinema, located on the Sun Deck - the perfect spot to watch a selection of films.

Other Destinations

South East Asia River Cruising

Scenic Eclipse

Australia

New Zealand

USA

Canada & Alaska

South America











To book call Barrhead Travel 0800 484 0314







