CRUISE PORTS EUROPEAN RIVERS

A GUIDE TO PERFECT DAYS ON SHORE

Andy Symington, Mark Baker, Oliver Berry, Kerry Christiani, Gregor Clark, Marc Di Duca, Steve Fallon, Damian Harper, Catherine Le Nevez, Leonid Ragozin, Kevin Raub, Simon Richmond, Brendan Sainsbury, Andrea Schulte-Peevers, Regis St Louis, Benedict Walker, Nicola Williams.

Welcome to European Rivers

Sip your wine while watching pictureperfect European scenery breeze past – castles, medieval villages and fields of flowers. European river cruises are elegantly casual affairs, perfect for exploring the arts and culture that beckon ashore.

Active travellers, nature and culture aficionados, as well as families of all sizes, have discovered that cruising down a quiet, traffic-free river, surrounded by scenic riverfront views, is an ideal way to see Europe. This change in European travel is unfolding in real time, as each year more and more cruise lines offer immersive learning experiences such as cooking classes and home visits, or activities like bicycle trips and long hikes. In fact, a river cruise is often the best way to experience destinations for the first time.

And, of course, there's the food. Many cruise lines offer a regional menu or serve almost solely local cuisine. They know their guests are keen to indulge and cook accordingly. Look for cruises offering cooking classes with the chef as an added bonus.

By necessity, European riverboats are far smaller than the vessels that cruise the Mediterranean and Baltic Seas. Passenger numbers are usually fewer than 200, making these cruises a far more social and intimate experience. More frequent stops mean much more onshore activity.

Additionally, there are no inside cabins on a European river cruise. Cabins come with a large window at the very least, and a great many have their own balcony or floor-to-ceiling panoramic views. You might even forego the ship's entertainment just to watch the scenery breeze past.

> picture-perfect European scenery: castles, medieval villages and fields of flowers

Passau, Germany (p88) MICHAEL RUNKEL/ROBERTHARDING/GETTY IMAGES ©



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Schwarzwälder kirschtorte (Black Forest cherry cake) ANNA_PUSTYNNIKOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

Behind the Scenes

Acknowledgements

Cover photograph: Cochem Castle, Moselle Valley, Germany; Calle Montes/ Getty Images ©

Climate map data adapted from Peel MC, Finlayson BL & McMahon TA (2007) 'Updated World Map of the Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification', Hydrology and Earth System Sciences, 11, 163344.

Illustrations pp122–3, 206–7 and 214–5 by Javier Zarracina.

This Book

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Cover Researcher Naomi Parker

Thanks to Brooke Giacomin, Sandra Henriques Gajjar, Evan Godt, Kate Mathews, Kirsten Rawlings, Alison Ridgway

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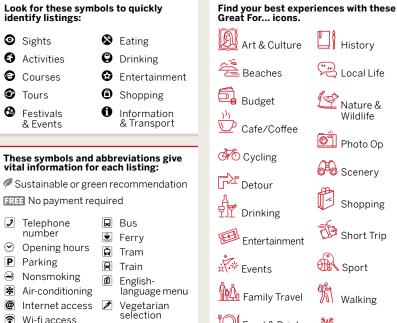
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Wi-fi access

* Swimming pool

	selection
ŧ	Family-friendly

Sights

- 0 Beach
- **Bird Sanctuary** G A Buddhist
- 0 Castle/Palace
- Christian 0
- Ð Confucian
- Hindu
- 0 Islamic
- 0 0 Jain
- \odot lewish
- Õ Monument
- Museum/Gallery/ 6 Historic Building
- 0 Ruin
- 1 Shinto
- @ Sikh Ø
- Taoist Winery/Vineyard
- 0 6 Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- 0 Other Sight

Points of Interest

- 0 Bodysurfing
- Camping
- 0 Cafe
- Canoeing/Kayaking
 - Course/Tour
- Diving
- Q Drinking & Nightlife
- Eating
- â Entertainment
- S Sento Hot Baths/ Onsen
- 0 Shopping
- 0 Skiing
- Sleeping
 - Snorkelling
- ē 0 Surfing
 - Swimming/Pool
- ā Walking
- 0 Windsurfing
- Ā Other Activity

Information

- Bank 6
- C Embassy/Consulate
- 0 Hospital/Medical
- 0 Internet
- Police \odot
- Post Office
- Ø Telephone
- ᠿ Toilet
- **Tourist Information** A
- Other Information .

Geographic

- Ø Beach
- ▶-4 Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- 630 Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- 6 Oasis
- Ô Park
-) Pass
- 0 Picnic Area
- 0 Waterfall

Transport

- 3 Airport
- BART station 0
- Border crossing \otimes
- Boston T station **n**
- **Bus**
- + 🔁 ++ Cable car/Funicular

Winter Travel

- 60 Cycling
- Ferrv
- 0 Metro/MRT station
- Monorail
- Parking Ð
- O Petrol station
- 0 Subway/S-Bahn/ Skytrain station
- Θ Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground/ O **U-Bahn station**
- Other Transport .

- Art & Culture History Local Life Nature & Wildlife Cafe/Coffee Photo Op Scenery Shopping
 - Short Trip Entertainment Sport Family Travel Walking

Food & Drink

Simon Richmond

Journalist and photographer Simon Richmond has specialised as a travel writer since the early 1990s and first worked for Lonely Planet in 1999 on their Central Asia guide. He's long since stopped counting the number of guidebooks he's researched and written for the company, but countries covered include Australia, China, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Poland, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar (Burma), Russia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey and the USA. For Lonely Planet's website he's penned features on topics from the world's best swimming pools to the joys of Urban Sketching – follow him on Instagram (simonrich mond) to see some of his photos and sketches.

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Born and raised in the UK in a town that never merits a mention in any guidebook (Andover, Hampshire). Brendan spent the holidays of his youth caravanning in the English Lake District and didn't leave Blighty until he was 19. Making up for lost time, he's since squeezed 70 countries into a sometimes precarious existence as a writer and professional vagabond. When not scribbling research notes, Brendan likes partaking in ridiculous 'endurance' races, strumming old Clash songs on the guitar, and experiencing the pain and occasional pleasures of following Southampton Football Club.

Andrea Schulte-Peevers

Born and raised in Germany and educated in London and at UCLA, Andrea has travelled the distance to the moon and back in her visits to some 75 countries. She has earned her living as a professional travel writer for over two decades and authored or contributed to nearly 100 Lonely Planet titles as well as to newspapers, magazines and websites around the world. She also works as a travel consultant, translator and editor. Andrea's destination expertise is especially strong when it comes to Germany, Dubai and the UAE, Crete and the Caribbean Islands. She makes her home in Berlin.

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Regis grew up in a small town in the American Midwest – the kind of place that fuels big dreams of travel – and he developed an early fascination with foreign dialects and world cultures. He spent his formative years learning Russian and a handful of Romance languages, which served him well on journeys across much of the globe. Regis has contributed to more than 50 Lonely Planet titles, covering destinations across six continents. His travels have taken him from the mountains of Kamchatka to remote island villages in Melanesia, and to many grand urban landscapes. When not on the road, he lives in New Orleans. Follow him on Instagram @regisstlouis.

Benedict Walker

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Gregor Clark is a US-based writer whose love of foreign languages and curiosity about what's around the next bend have taken him to dozens of countries on five continents. Since 2000, Gregor has regularly contributed to Lonely Planet guides, with a focus on Europe and the Americas. Titles include Italy, France, Brazil, Costa Rica, Argentina, Portugal, Switzerland, Mexico, South America on a Shoestring, Montreal & Quebec City, France Trips, New England Trips, cycling guides to Italy and California and coffee-table pictorials such as Food Trails, The USA Book and The LP Guide to the Middle of Nowhere.

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Catherine Le Nevez

Catherine's wanderlust kicked in when she roadtripped across Europe from her Parisian base aged four, and she's been hitting the road at every opportunity since, travelling to some 60 countries and completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing, Masters in Professional Writing, and postgrad qualifications in Editing and Publishing along the way. Over the past decade-and-a-half she's written scores of Lonely Planet guides and articles covering Paris, France, Europe and far beyond. Topping Catherine's list of travel tips is to travel without any expectations.

Leonid Ragozin

Leonid Ragozin studied beach dynamics at the Moscow State University, but for want of decent beaches in Russia, he switched to journalism and spent 12 years voyaging through different parts of the BBC, with a break for a four-year stint as a foreign correspondent for the Russian Newsweek. Leonid is currently a freelance journalist focusing largely on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine (both his Lonely Planet destinations), which prompted him to leave Moscow and find a new home in Riga.

Kevin Raub

Atlanta native Kevin Raub started his career as a music journalist in New York, working for *Men's Journal* and *Rolling Stone* magazines. He ditched the rock 'n' roll lifestyle for travel writing and has written more than 70 Lonely Planet guides, focused mainly on Brazil, Chile, Colombia, USA, India, the Caribbean and Portugal. Raub also contributes to a variety of travel magazines in both the USA and UK. Along the way, the self-confessed hophead is in constant search of wildly high IBUs in local beers. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram (@RaubOnTheRoad).



Our Story

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide. Across Asia on the Cheap. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born. Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne,

Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

Our Writers



Andy Symington

Andy has written or worked on more than a hundred books and other updates for Lonely Planet (especially in Europe and Latin America) and other publishing companies, and has published articles on numerous subjects for a variety of newspapers, magazines and websites. He part-owns and operates a rock bar, has written a novel and is currently working on several fiction and non-fiction writing projects. Andy, from Australia, moved to Northern Spain many years ago. When he's not off with a backpack in some far-flung corner of the world, he can probably be found watching the tragically poor local football team or tasting local wines after a long walk in the nearby mountains.

Mark Baker

Mark Baker is a freelance travel writer with a penchant for offbeat stories and forgotten places. He's originally from the United States, but now makes his home in the Czech capital, Prague. He writes mainly on Eastern and Central Europe for Lonely Planet as well as other leading travel publishers, but finds real satisfaction in digging up stories in places that are too remote or quirky for the guides. Prior to becoming an author, he worked as a journalist for The Economist, Bloomberg News and Radio Free Europe, among other organisations. Instagram & Twitter: @markbakerprague.

Oliver Berry

Oliver Berry is a writer and photographer from Cornwall. He has worked for Lonely Planet for more than a decade, covering destinations from Cornwall to the Cook Islands, and has worked on more than 30 guidebooks. He is also a regular contributor to many newspapers and magazines, including Lonely Planet Traveller. His writing has won several awards, including The Guardian Young Travel Writer of the Year and the TNT Magazine People's Choice Award. His latest work is published at www.oliverberry.com.

More Writers

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