

AMAWATERWAYS®

# Beyond

THE RIVERBANKS™

Why Mekong Cruises  
APPEAL TO ALL AGES

Which Danube River  
CRUISE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

UNWRAP YOUR IDEAL  
Holiday Cruise

3 Cocktails  
TO RING IN 2024

DECEMBER 2023

## Dear Valued Guest,

We are so happy to reintroduce – or perhaps introduce to you for the very first time – *Beyond the Riverbanks*, our magazine, filled with guest stories, interviews, destination highlights, recipes, special savings and more. We hope these pages fill you with as much delight as they do us, inspiring your future travels on the rivers our beautiful ships call home.

Every time we embark on one of our stunning river cruise ships, we feel as if we are coming home – and we want more than anything for you to feel that way as well. Whether you join us in Europe, Asia, Africa or South America, in every season we welcome you with open arms.

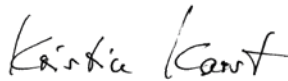
Should you have a story you wish to share or a suggestion for a future article, we welcome you to contact us at [myamastory@amawaterways.com](mailto:myamastory@amawaterways.com). We would be delighted to hear from you!

In the meantime, we wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and a safe, happy New Year. We have so many exciting things in store for you in 2024 and cannot wait for you to experience them all firsthand!

Happy Holidays,



**RUDI SCHREINER**  
Co-Founder  
and President



**KRISTIN KARST**  
Co-Founder and Executive  
Vice President



**GARY MURPHY**  
Co-Owner







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## UNWRAP THE GIFT OF A HOLIDAY CRUISE

Why you should consider visiting Europe's Christmas Markets with us in 2024

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### INSIDE SCOOP

# *Unwrap the Gift of* Christmas Markets River Cruises



## IMAGINE A FESTIVE WINTER WONDERLAND

As you are walking down a charming cobblestone street, the delicious smell of roasted cinnamon and nutmeg catches your attention. Following your nose, you weave your way through the lines of booths selling a diverse array of colorful trinkets – intricate glass-blown ornaments, miniature replicas of the timbered houses lining your path, wooden carvings showcasing the season's joys and artistically packaged Christmas sweets. Your gaze takes in the mouthwatering delicacies on display, from *baguettes flambées* topped with melted cheese and sausage to the savory potato treats being fried right before your eyes. The sight is too much to resist, and in no time, you find yourself digging into a steaming plate of *reibekuchen*, a garlicky German potato pancake enjoyed with a bit of applesauce on the side – the perfect way to stave off the winter chill as you continue exploring.

As the sun sinks lower in the sky, the twinkling holiday lights seem to shine even brighter, illuminating the seasonal festivities and smiling faces that surround you. Soon, you will return to your brilliantly decorated river cruise ship, where you will be greeted with a hot beverage such as *glühwein*. After you settle back in, you will enjoy an exquisite dinner and the onboard nightly entertainment of live music and dancing or trivia with your fellow cruisers before you return to your stateroom for the evening to rest and relax, looking forward to exploring another wonderful destination and its unique Christmas Markets tomorrow.



## OUR ONBOARD EXPERIENCE

AmaWaterways offers more than 10 Holiday Cruise itineraries beginning mid-November and extending through New Year's Day. During your Holiday Cruise, you will experience more than the captivating Christmas Markets in many of the towns and cities you visit – you will also immerse yourself in the seasonal atmosphere that AmaWaterways provides both on board and on shore. Embark on one of the most well-decorated ships on the rivers and be whisked away on a magical winter journey through Europe!

During your enchanting river journey, you will enjoy special onboard holiday celebrations. Delight in decorating Christmas trees with your fellow cruisers in the Main Lounge. Partake in a German tradition as you hunt for the "hidden pickle" ornament concealed by your Cruise Manager. Savor a holiday dinner with all the trimmings – and a table with traditional Hanukkah specialties during the 8-night festival. On one memorable night of your river cruise, you can even enjoy the cherished European tradition of leaving a shoe outside for St. Nicholas – he may surprise you with a gift!



# *A Taste of* Christmas Markets

Many holiday markets open their doors in celebration of the season as early as mid-November. During these first few weeks, the crowds that the main December Advent season brings have yet to arrive and airfare is typically less expensive, making this window the perfect time to explore one or two Christmas Markets along the Danube or Rhine rivers on our *Taste of Christmas Markets* sailings. You may even celebrate two holidays in one river journey if you sail during American Thanksgiving, when AmaWaterways' skilled chefs prepare a spectacular holiday feast for all guests to enjoy. Some of our *Taste of Christmas Markets* sailings also embark in late December, allowing you to visit limited Christmas Markets after the main crowds have departed while welcoming the new year with your joyful AmaFamily.



*Scan this QR code to learn more  
about Taste of Christmas cruises*





# Featured Holiday Cruises

*Would you like to cruise during the holidays next year?*

JOIN US ON ONE OF THESE DEPARTURES



## Hanukkah

DECEMBER 25, 2024 - JANUARY 2, 2025

### *Enchanting Rhine*

7 nights from Amsterdam, Netherlands to Basel, Switzerland  
Departing December 26 and 28, 2024

### *Best of Holland & Belgium*

7 nights roundtrip from Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Departing December 26 and 28, 2024



## Christmas Day

### *Majestic Capitals of the Danube*

5 nights from Budapest, Hungary to Vienna, Austria  
Departing December 22 and 23, 2024

### *Colors of Provence*

7 nights from Lyon, France to Arles, France  
Departing December 19, 2024



## New Year's Day

### *Colors of Provence*

7 nights from Arles, France to Lyon, France  
Departing December 26, 2024  
with New Year's Eve in Avignon, France

### *Majestic Capitals of the Danube*

5 nights from Vienna, Austria to Budapest, Hungary  
Departing December 27 and December 28, 2024  
with New Year's Eve in Budapest, Hungary on both departures

*To learn more about these enchanting Holiday Cruises, ask your preferred travel advisor or scan the QR code to visit our website!*





*A Storybook Sojourn on the Rhine*

# COLMAR

Nestled in the heart of the Alsace region in northeastern France, picturesque Colmar seems to have sprung straight from the pages of a storybook. In fact, it even inspired the town in the award-winning film *Howl's Moving Castle*.

With its rustic cobblestone streets, German-influenced architecture and meandering canals, a visit to Colmar feels like stepping into a familiar childhood memory. We invite you to experience this beautiful French destination for yourself beginning in 2024 on select Rhine River itineraries.

Your excursion through Colmar will reveal the distinct charms that have made it a favorite destination amongst local and international travelers alike. In the old city

center you will find the grand Koifhus, or “customs house”, a marvelous showcase of medieval architecture that serves as a multi-purpose venue to this day. Venture further into the city through its winding pathways and encounter the Gothic beauty of St. Martin’s Church, with its ornate entrance portals and imposing structure. In the “Little Venice” district, you will wander along the rows of vibrantly colored, half-timbered homes that rest on the banks of gently flowing canals.

## BIRTHPLACE OF LIBERTY

Beyond its captivating fairytale appeal, a visit to Colmar also reveals its unique connection to an emblem of international accord. Colmar was the home of Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, the visionary designer behind the Statue of Liberty, which the city celebrates with a smaller-scale replica located along one of the city's primary thoroughfares. As you wander through Colmar's enchanting streets, you may come across small displays that pay homage to this symbol of friendship, peace and international unity. Look down and you may even spot markers with a visage of the Statue of Liberty embedded in the pavement. These references to Bartholdi's work are a testament to the enduring legacy of this charming town and its contribution to global heritage.



## CHRISTMAS IN COLMAR

While Colmar's allure is undeniable year-round, it takes on an entirely different life during the holiday season when elaborate displays take over store windows and an array of lights illuminates the city. At the heart of Colmar's holiday enchantment lies its various Christmas Markets. Each market boasts a unique theme, making it a delightful experience to explore them all. Stalls brim with artisan-crafted ornaments, nutcrackers of every conceivable size and enchanting snow globes that capture the whimsy of the season. These markets are a feast for all the senses, as the air fills with the scents of delicious pastries and regional treats like *kugelhopf* and *tarte flambée*. And no Christmas Market experience in Colmar is complete without savoring classic holiday treats like roasted chestnuts or a mug of delicious *glühwein*.

From its historic ties to the world to its delightful Christmas Markets, Colmar offers a unique blend of history and charm that will linger in your imagination for a lifetime. Join us in 2024 on our *Christmas Markets on the Rhine* itinerary!

# Which DANUBE RIVER CRUISE is right for you?

## 1. Who's coming with you on your next vacation?

- A. Me, myself and I!
- B. I am traveling with a large group
- C. Taking my best friends on a girls' or guys' getaway
- D. My extended family
- E. My partner or spouse

## 2. It's date night – where do you find yourself?

- A. At a 12-person cooking class
- B. Forget date night – we're taking the whole weekend at a luxurious spa resort
- C. A pub crawl or themed food tour
- D. Walking around a popular promenade, seeing where the night takes us
- E. We've got tickets to the symphony, opera or ballet

## 3. The weekend has arrived – what's your plan?

- A. Museum hopping
- B. Golfing in the morning, relaxing with a movie in the evening
- C. Taking a long bike ride
- D. Shopping till I drop!
- E. Playing old records and sipping wine

## 4. It's a miracle – I have an hour of free time all to myself! I'm going to unwind by:

- A. Baking a loaf of sourdough for my friends and family
- B. Watching *Rick Steves' Europe* or HGTV
- C. Cracking into a World War II history book
- D. Planning my next birthday or holiday celebration
- E. Strumming my guitar or listening to NPR

## 5. What do you typically remember the most from your past travels?

- A. The tour guides, the locals and their powerful stories
- B. All the amenities included with our vacation package or hotel
- C. Wandering, getting lost and finding incredible local restaurants, art galleries, bakeries and more
- D. The arts, crafts, souvenirs and local delicacies you can only find in that region of the world
- E. Going to a special event, concert or music festival

## 6. What gives you the biggest rush when traveling?

- A. Seeing immense fortresses and castles
- B. Knowing that I'm experiencing something exclusive
- C. Active tours and feeling the wind in my hair
- D. Being with my family and making memories
- E. Standing in the midst of historic spots where famous people lived and worked

## 7. What drink are you most likely to order?

- A. Brandy
- B. White wine, like Riesling
- C. Craft beer
- D. A hot toddy
- E. Coffee – the stronger the better!

## 8. You're trying out a new restaurant – what kind of meal are you looking for?

- A. Something adventurous and international
- B. Family-style with lots of options
- C. A classic hot dog joint with a variety of bratwursts and sausages
- D. Tapas or appetizers so I can try a little of everything
- E. Who cares about dinner? I want something chocolatey and rich.

## 9. Which best describes your travel personality?

- A. Always venturing off the beaten path, discovering things my other friends haven't seen
- B. I like to play it by ear and prefer lots of options for activities in case I change my mind
- C. I enjoy exploring the world through my taste buds
- D. I love seasonal events, like summer festivals, apple picking in autumn and ice skating in winter
- E. I'm culturally inquisitive and love tour guides who will answer all my questions about historical sites, museums, cathedrals, castles and theaters

## 10. Which phrase below makes your heart sing the most?

- A. An epic mountain range, beautiful scenery and my camera in hand
- B. The quiet, reflective space of a cathedral, surrounded by stained glass and relics
- C. A captivating class or lecture on history, technology or engineering
- D. Snow falling into the glow of streetlamps
- E. A mesmerizing sound bath, eyes closed... transcendence

See Next Page to View Your Results!



IF YOU SELECTED MOSTLY **A'S**:

## Gems of Southeast Europe

Venturing to the lesser visited Eastern European countries of Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania, this itinerary is perfect for guests who have sailed the Danube before and are looking for a new experience. Epic landscapes, rich cultural traditions, compelling history and unique beverages from Hungarian and Croatian wine to Serbian brandy are all a part of this very special itinerary. Plus, you can extend your journey with a pre- or post-cruise land package into Transylvania, visiting sites associated with Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.



IF YOU SELECTED MOSTLY **B'S**:

## Magna on the Danube

With four unique restaurants, an expansive wellness studio and the first-ever full-sized pickleball court on the river, our *AmaMagna* is reimagining river cruising on the Danube and is the ideal ship for families and groups. This special 7-night itinerary is filled with amenities and exclusive experiences, including our Oktoberfest in Vilshofen, Germany, and a wine tasting in Spitz, Austria, where no other ship can dock when *AmaMagna* is in port. It also includes both of our Co-Founder Rudi Schreiner's favorite cities: Vienna and Budapest.



IF YOU SELECTED MOSTLY **C'S**:

## Legendary Danube

From the historic Nuremberg trials to Bavarian pretzels to the wonders of Austria's magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Site, Melk Abbey, this 7-night itinerary from Nuremberg, Germany, to Budapest, Hungary, encompasses German history. Tempt your palate with local delicacies such as Nuremberger bratwurst, red beer, *lebkuchen* (gingerbread), Bavarian *bretzels* and more. Engineers and scientific minds, especially those river cruising for the first time, should prepare to be fascinated while cruising through the manmade Main-Danube Canal.



IF YOU SELECTED MOSTLY **D'S**:

## Christmas Markets on the Danube

Lights strung across shopping streets, Christmas Markets setting cathedrals aglow, the aroma of roasted chestnuts and fresh baked treats lingering in the air...the romance of Europe's grandest holiday markets attracts scores of locals and tourists alike. But there's something to be said for bringing your whole family along as you cruise between Budapest and Vilshofen, flitting from stall to stall browsing for handicrafts, sipping hot mulled wine and returning to one of the most elegantly decorated ships on the river.



IF YOU SELECTED MOSTLY **E'S**:

## Celebration of Classical Music: The Danube

This itinerary, offering limited departures from spring through autumn, highlights the rich musical heritage along the Danube River with special live performances, visits to sought-after sites such as the Budapest Opera House and Mozart House, and excursions exclusively tracing the footsteps and accomplishments of visionary composers such as Mozart and Strauss. It is a lovely itinerary for couples celebrating a special occasion, as well as those who enjoy a night at the symphony or opera, and the finer things in life.

We offer many more itineraries on the Danube River. Scan to see them all.



# Dynamic Danube Across the Seasons

## SEASONAL TRAVEL MAKES FOR A SEASONED TRAVELER

If you revisit a city after a few years away, you will probably notice some changes. But on the Danube River, destinations are constantly transforming — four times a year, to be exact. Some river cruisers are treated to the sight of an autumnal Wachau Valley, its rolling hills streaked with crimson and gold. Others enjoy the scent of blooming cherry blossoms in the springtime or indulge in a hot mulled cider on a snowy evening.

The countries on the Danube are known for their dynamic seasons, and are equally renowned for the seasonal events that capture the essence of the times. In Austria, the changing seasons are commemorated at a *Heuriger*, a tavern celebration hosted by local winemakers sharing a rotating roster of varietals. There's nothing quite like strolling through Bratislava on a balmy summer evening; Budapest's thermal spas are best accompanied by gentle snowfall.

Perhaps the most stunning seasonal attractions on the Danube are the Christmas Markets. Only during the holiday season do Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Linz and Passau play host to this timeless tradition, full of festivities and elegant holiday pageantry. Our *Christmas Markets on the Danube* itinerary features all the glittering lights, pealing church bells and wintertime delicacies that any holiday celebrant could hope for.

Europe's glittering Christmas Markets represent only one of the four incredible seasons on the Danube River, each of which draws even the most seasoned travelers back time and again. It may be easy to discount a region you feel you have explored to the fullest on a past sailing. However, if you have only visited the Danube once, there is plenty more to return to throughout the year.





# What's New on the Danube in 2025?

## *7-night Imperial Danube*

SAILS ROUNDTRIP FROM BUDAPEST, HUNGARY FROM FEBRUARY THROUGH OCTOBER

Highlights of this itinerary include charming Dürnstein, visits to Austria's magnificent Melk and Klosterneuburg abbeys, and the opportunity to explore Vienna's famed Schönbrunn Palace and Gardens. While there are three guided hikes and two guided bike tours available, this itinerary also features a full day of scenic cruising through the Danube Bend during which you can spot the Börzsöny and Visegrád hills and some of Hungary's oldest settlements. Plus, take advantage of panoramic views as

well as your ship's amenities, from the refreshing sun-deck pool to attractively priced massages and more.

As one of Europe's grandest rivers, the Danube is unmatched in its cultural breadth and diversity of interests. Whether you are a classical music aficionado, a lover of royalty and architecture, or a caroler looking to get swept up in the holiday spirit, the Danube River has exactly what you are looking for.

*Contact your preferred travel advisor to reserve your next Danube River cruise today!*

# Winter Holiday Traditions

## *along the Lower Danube*

Beyond the German stretches of the legendary Danube River lies the fascinating Lower Danube region. Steeped in their own unique holiday traditions, the Orthodox countries of Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia extend their Christmas festivities until January 7th when they celebrate the holiday, allowing guests on our *Gems of Southeast Europe (Christmas)* itinerary to immerse themselves in an extra delightful holiday season. Here is a small peek into the thriving heritage put on display during this merry time.



### SHINING STARS OF ROMANIA

Music plays a large role in Romania's festivities, and caroling takes on a unique form. On December 25th, children and other carolers may march along the streets, hoisting a large wooden star called a *steaua* as they parade along in joyful celebration. Emblazoned with the nativity scene, the star is also decorated with color ribbons and adorned with bells, reflecting the cheer of this seasonal celebration that Romanians such as Cruise Manager Ioana know and love.



### NEW YEAR'S BLESSINGS IN BULGARIA

One traditional way that Bulgarians such as Cruise Manager Radi welcome the New Year is *Survakane*. During this yearly custom, the youngest member of the family takes an intricately decorated stick called a *survaknitsa* and taps it on each person's back, reciting a special verse inviting prosperity to the person in the coming year. Afterwards, the family member is rewarded with treats such as sweets or small gifts of money.





# Take in these traditions for yourself on our *Gems of Southeast Europe (Christmas)*

itinerary in 2024!

Starting in 2024, our *Gems of Southeast Europe* itineraries will include the Vucedol Museum in Vukovar, Croatia. Situated on one of the most significant archaeological sites in Europe, this museum showcases the prehistoric culture that once was prominent in this region!

## CHRISTMAS WREATHS OF CROATIA

In each traditional Croatian home during the holiday season sits a special Advent wreath. An old Catholic tradition, the entire family will gather each Sunday leading up to Christmas Day and watch the candles alight. In modern times, the lighting of the first Advent candle signals the Christmas Markets are open for the season as well – an occasion that Croatians such as Cruise Manager Ana look forward to every year!



## SERBIAN CHRISTMAS TREES

In Serbia, the Christmas trees that many recognize are considered “New Year’s fir trees.” Serbian Christmas trees are young oak trees called *badnjak*. According to Cruise Manager Jasmina, obtaining these *badnjak* are a family tradition, and even in large Serbian cities, visitors can see booths in the Christmas Markets selling *badnjak* bouquets, crafted from the branches of these symbolic trees.

Scan this QR code to learn more about these unique seasonal sailings.





## *Budapest's Jewish History*

# Remembrance and Revival

As millions across the globe are lighting 9-stemmed menorahs known as *hanukiyot* in celebration of the Festival of Lights, Budapest too is unwrapping its annual holiday rituals. Christmas Markets dominate the scene in Széchenyi Square, but for a brief period each winter, the historic Jewish Quarter is filled with song, light and celebration. This is Hanukkah in Budapest – and the city is rife with Jewish history and culture year-round.

### SHOES ON THE DANUBE

Standing mere inches tall amidst immense landmarks, Budapest's poignant "Shoes on the Danube" memorial hauntingly commemorates the 3,500 people who were executed along the Danube riverbank during World War II. Erected in 2005 at the water's edge, this subtle iron monument encompasses 60 pairs of shoes in various

sizes and styles, representing the diversity of the men, women and children who lost their lives at the hands of the Nazis. Visitors often set flowers, candles and keepsakes inside – and our local tour guides always try to include a stop at this monument with time for guests who wish to pay their respects.

## THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE

Standing at an imposing 173-feet-tall with a predominantly rose-colored brick façade, Budapest's exquisite Dohány Street Synagogue is the largest synagogue in Europe, accommodating up to 3,000 parishioners at a time. It was designed in the Moorish Revival style and inaugurated in 1859, its beauty rivaling that of the centuries-old cathedrals that typically dominate European capitals. Its interior is a sight to behold, with high ceilings boasting intricate patterns and chandeliers with Star of David motifs.

Tragically ensconced in the Jewish Ghetto that was cordoned off in the city beginning in 1944, the synagogue complex today houses the Hungarian Jewish Museum, as well as a historic 5,000-pipe organ once played by legendary composer Franz Liszt. Nestled in the courtyard outside the synagogue, a moving weeping willow sculpture stands, each of its metal leaves inscribed with the name of a victim of the Holocaust. Included on our "Hidden Budapest" excursion on select Danube River itineraries, the Great Synagogue is one of the city's top 10 most visited sights and immerses guests in Hungary's Jewish history and heritage.



## SHINING A LIGHT ON BUDAPEST

Although reminders of Hungary's dark past are scattered throughout Budapest, this once war-torn neighborhood has experienced a revival of Jewish culture. Today, the vibrant Jewish Quarter boasts a variety of restaurants, bakeries, quirky bars and shops. During Hanukkah, ritual hanukiyah lightings are hosted in three main squares, often accompanied by Eastern European *klezmer* music, dancing, flash mobs and *sufganiyot* (jelly doughnuts). As part of Budapest's Quarter 6 Quarter 7 Festival, named for the districts that comprise the Jewish Quarter, you can even spot rabbis on ice skates at City Park Ice Rink, where thousands of residents gather to light a giant hanukiyah each year during the first night of the holiday.

***Would you like to celebrate Hanukkah in Budapest next year?***

*Ask your travel advisor about our 5-night Majestic Capitals of the Danube itinerary departing December 27, 2024, and our 7-night Iconic Christmas Markets itinerary departing December 21, 2024.*

# Why Cruise the Same River Twice?

Monet could not capture the beauty along the Seine River in his paintings in the span of seven days. Strauss was not finished admiring the Danube River in just one week. And with more than 40 castles along the banks of the Rhine, surely seven nights only gives you a brief taste of the fascinating history and sights that await.

Some of our most well-traveled loyal guests have returned to the same river multiple times, yet they have had a unique experience each time. Here are just a few reasons why.

# 11+

ITINERARIES, INCLUDING:

- Wine Cruises
- Christmas Markets Cruises
- Classical Music Cruises

- City Tours
- Guided Hikes
- Culinary Demos
- Tastings
- Bike Tours
- Late Riser Tours

# 8

COUNTRIES TO DISCOVER

- Germany
- Austria
- Slovakia
- Hungary
- Croatia
- Serbia
- Bulgaria
- Romania

THE LEGENDARY

# Danube River

UP TO **6**  
INCLUDED EXCURSIONS  
EACH DAY

**BONUS:** Visit the Czech Republic on an included excursion!

## DIFFERENT SEASONS

The city centers of Budapest and Vienna hum with holiday activity during Christmastime, yet offer a different and calmer atmosphere in February, or during October and November. As the new wine from the season's harvest begins to flow in November, Austrian *Heurigers* spring to life, inviting all who visit to share in the magical ambience of these seasonal celebrations. Autumn cloaks the vineyards and scenery of the Moselle River in vivid colors of fall finery – a much different garb than the emerald hues the hills display for guests who sail in the spring and summer. With the various backdrops that different times of the year offer, exploring the same destination can lead to an entirely unique experience.

## MULTIPLE EXCURSIONS OFFERED

Our impressive variety of excursions invites you to choose your own adventure as you explore the destinations that reside along the rivers. On the Rhine River, for example, your ship docks in Ludwigshafen, but you may venture to the university town of Heidelberg with its castle or hike along the Neckar River; immerse yourself in medieval Speyer's unique history, or bike through Ladenburg. Even when your ship is docked in the same port as our excursions, a gondola ride over the winemaking village of Rudesheim does not quite have the same feel as a hike through its vineyards. On the Danube River, while your ship is docked in Linz, Austria, you may follow the sound of music in Salzburg, head to charming Český Krumlov in the Czech Republic, or choose either a walking tour or bike tour through Linz.

## DIFFERENT ITINERARIES AND SHIPS

Just because you have cruised our *Romantic Danube* itinerary does not mean you will have experienced every single delight the Danube River has to offer! Our *Legendary Danube* and *Blue Danube Discovery* itineraries include such history-rich German cities as Regensburg and Nuremberg that are not included on our other Danube River itineraries. Our new 7-night *Imperial Danube* itinerary debuting in 2025 docks in the less-visited Austrian port of Tulln, referred to as the “City of Flowers,” and offers a rare visit to the 12th-century Klosterneuburg Abbey. Embarking on a ship that you haven’t sailed before can also enhance your river cruise experience. If you have ever cruised aboard *AmaMagna*, you know that this innovative ship is a destination in and of itself – one that you won’t want to leave unexplored!

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE  
**Endless!**

**4**  
UNIQUE  
SEASONS

**4**  
WAYS TO  
TRAVEL  
Solo  
Couple  
Family  
Friends

**2** TYPES OF  
RIVER CRUISE SHIPS  
Twin-balcony ships accommodating 156 guests  
Double-wide *AmaMagna* accommodating 196 guests  
with exclusive venues and amenities

### ENJOY YOUR OWN FREE TIME

Cruise Managers and Receptionists can offer maps and suggestions on places to see and explore that are not included on our itineraries. On most of our European ships, you may even use bicycles from our complimentary onboard fleet and pedal through a destination at your own leisure. While excursions are included and offer the best value with enriching history shared by exceptional local tour guides, there is something to be said for wandering through a city on your own and returning to your home base – your warm, inviting river cruise ship where your friendly AmaWaterways family awaits you.

**BOTTOM LINE:** Even if you have cruised with us several times, you are not finished with Europe – and it isn’t finished with you. Come explore a cherished region on a different itinerary in a different season and see what you’ve been missing!

### THE PEOPLE YOU CRUISE WITH

Cruising with multiple generations of your family, or with all your siblings or cousins, creates a much different environment than sailing solo or taking a couple’s cruise does. If you loved one of our destinations, bring someone else on board next time or experience it all for yourself traveling solo. As you glide down the rivers with your travel companions – whether you knew them before embarkation or befriended them on board during a Sip & Sail cocktail hour – you will create lasting memories in the iconic destinations you explore together.



## *New and Exciting* **RIVER JOURNEYS** *in 2025*

### **SAIL THE SEINE AND BEYOND**

Explore France to your heart's content with our two new 14-night *Grand River Cruises* with attractive cruise prices that include your ship-to-ship transfers! During both of these longer journeys, you will enjoy seven nights on the Seine River, taking in the shining lights of Paris and following in the footsteps of historic Impressionist painters. After seven nights, disembark your ship and transfer by train to your second ship for the next leg of your journey. On our *Grand Seine & Bordeaux* itinerary, explore the world-famous Bordeaux wine region, savoring the renowned Grand Cru Classé wine and elegant châteaux along the Garonne and Dordogne rivers. If you embark on our *Grand Seine & Rhône* itinerary, enjoy an exceptional experience along the Rhône River, immersing yourself in the culinary delights of Lyon, medieval village wonders of Les Baux de Provence, and the reflections of ancient Roman influence in Avignon.



## THE NETHERLANDS AND THE RHINE

Unearth hidden gems in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France and Switzerland when you embark on our new 14-night *Grand Rhine & Dutch Canals* itinerary! Explore Belgium's "City of Diamonds," Antwerp. During your extended time in Amsterdam, take in the works of Rembrandt, Vermeer and Van Gogh on our included tour inside the breathtaking Rijksmuseum. Glide through the Rhine Gorge, witnessing the splendor of over 40 castles along the riverbanks. Transport yourself back in time as you visit villages straight out of storybooks such as Rudesheim and Colmar.



## A BRILLIANT BUDAPEST RIVER JOURNEY

For those who wish to spend their time perusing the Danube River, our all-new *Imperial Danube* itinerary is a perfect journey. A 7-night river cruise roundtrip from Budapest, Hungary, this itinerary also takes you to marvelous destinations such as Bratislava, former "Coronation City of Kings;" Dürnstein, "Pearl of the Wachau;" and Vienna, "City of Waltzes." Combine it with any of our other Danube River cruises and save 10% on the second consecutive sailing with our Combination Cruise Savings!

## BONUS: MAGNIFICENT EUROPE RETURNS

Back by popular demand, our *Magnificent Europe* river cruise will be embarking once more in 2025, exploring the majesty of this continent between Budapest, Hungary and Amsterdam, Netherlands! For the first time since 2019, you can glide along both the storied Danube and Rhine rivers, connected by the famous Main-Danube Canal, on this exceptional 14-night itinerary.



## NEW DESTINATIONS AND EXCURSIONS!

If you have cruised our *Tulip Time* itinerary before, return to the Netherlands and Belgium and enjoy all-new destinations! Starting in 2025, explore picturesque Giethoorn, known as the "Dutch Venice," featuring thatched roof houses connected by flowing canals, and Bruinisse, a quaint village frozen in time.

In both 2024 and 2025, guests embarking on our *Gems of Southeast Europe* river cruise can also look forward to new excursions in Vukovar, Croatia. Visit the Vucedol Museum, home to fascinating exhibits on prehistoric culture and one of the most important archaeological sites in Europe, or choose a guided tour of Osijek, a Roman settlement turned impressive city.

**Visit our website and talk to your travel advisor to start planning your 2025 river cruise today!**

# An Interview with Chef Youssef Abdallah

Born and raised locally in Aswan, Egypt, Chef Youssef Abdallah, Executive Chef on board *AmaDahlia* since late 2022, has taken the ship's onboard cuisine to a new level. We sat down with him to hear about his inspiration and what makes our culinary experience on the Nile River so special.



## WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A CHEF?

**Youssef:** In my house, my father liked making food and my mother did also. My uncle was also a chef, and I would go with him sometimes to the hotel where he worked. I would see the fire and the “show” of how he prepared food, and I wanted to do the same.

## WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR CULINARY TRAINING?

**Youssef:** I graduated from the Institute of Hotel Management, then moved on to the world-renowned Old Cataract Hotel in Aswan. This was my best job before AmaWaterways, where I got to experience preparing different types of food, such as French and international cuisines. It was very different than most other hotels inside and outside of Egypt. I also worked internationally in Saudi Arabia for the Sawaary Restaurants Group and for Compass LTD, which catered to the US Embassy in Saudi Arabia.



## WHAT IS YOUR GO-TO DINNER RECIPE IF YOU WANT TO IMPRESS SOMEONE?

**Youssef:** A seafood platter that includes salmon, shrimp, seabass, fresh crabs, calamari and clams, served with polenta and porcini mushrooms with watercress and tarragon sauce. Typically, I would serve this as part of a multi-course dinner with amuse-bouche, appetizers, bouillabaisse soup, a palate-cleansing pineapple sorbet and avocado salad.

## CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE OVERALL DINING EXPERIENCE ON BOARD AMADAHLIA?

**Youssef:** Breakfast and lunch are served on board at the buffet. We vary the recipes between American gastro food, European dishes and local Egyptian cuisine. Dinners are similar to the experience on board our European ships, with multi-course meals at either the Main Restaurant or The Chef's Al Fresco Restaurant. We have the best local suppliers, so I can change the menu and they will bring me quality ingredients. If we have guests on board who are Spanish, for example, I may make them *paella*; or for guests on board from China, I may make some Chinese recipes. We always try to go the extra mile to personalize the dining experience for our guests.



## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO MAKE ON BOARD AMADAHLIA?

**Youssef:** I love making *shawarma* and *falafel*. We have a barbecue at The Chef's Al Fresco Restaurant, and with the charcoal we are able to grill very well there, which we cannot do in the Main Restaurant. I also make *kofta kebabs* with minced beef and Egyptian herbs and spices, *shish taouk* – a skewered chicken dish, and lamb rack.

## OUR GUESTS LOVE OUR FRESH-BAKED BREAD BASKETS. ARE THESE AVAILABLE ON OUR NILE RIVER CRUISES?

**Youssef:** Yes, we have the standard AmaWaterways offerings with French bread and loaves served at dinner, as well as *fatir*, a sweet Iranian bread, all baked on board daily.



## WHAT HAVE GUESTS BEEN RAVING ABOUT ON BOARD?

**Youssef:** The Chef's Al Fresco Restaurant is very popular. Guests love the beef filet. We make it spicy and have very different sauces here on board. The recipe is a secret! They also love the soups, especially our lentil soup.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING WITH AMAWATERWAYS?

**Youssef:** I am very glad to work with such a great company due to the positive atmosphere, supportive colleagues, and of course the great teamwork and collaboration. AmaWaterways has a strong reputation that makes it a pleasure to be a part of this family.

*Cruise with Chef Youssef and taste his delicious culinary creations when you join us on our 11-night Secrets of Egypt & the Nile cruise and land journey!*

# Five Must-Try Dishes

## on Your Next River Cruise



When you step aboard an AmaWaterways river cruise ship, you are invited to take part in exceptional dining experiences that reflect the diverse ingredients and cultures along the rivers. With a commitment to using fresh, locally sourced produce and regionally inspired recipes, our crew of culinary experts works to make each meal an integral part of your authentic journey. Join us on this tour through the top five delectable dishes to try during your next river cruise.

### VEAL ZURICH: A SWISS-GERMAN CLASSIC

Let us transport your taste buds to the Lake Geneva region with our Veal Zurich, a classic Swiss-German dish. Served with a side of rösti and a velvety cream sauce cascading over mushrooms and tender veal, this dish is a culinary staple of the region that can be found in both elegant restaurants and cozy chalets, but you may only have to venture as far as our Main Restaurant to savor this and other regionally inspired and national dishes while aboard your river cruise.



### ASPARAGUS SOUP: A TASTE OF SPRING

For a flavorful first course, indulge in our vibrant asparagus soup. A seasonal delicacy during Germany's *spargel* season, this soup is topped with hearty croutons and garnished with flavored foam and asparagus tips, which provide a playfully pleasing balance of texture and taste. Meticulously prepared with fresh ingredients every day, this starter is just one of a selection of seasonal soups offered on our ships.

## FRESHLY BAKED BREAD: A WHOLESOME BEGINNING

There's no better prelude to your meal than delighting in a basket of our warm and soft rolls. AmaWaterways' dedicated crew bakes an array of bread, rolls and pastries on board each and every day. Guest Arlene B. and her family were unable to resist the allure of these freshly baked treats, exclaiming, "We couldn't deal with just two or three baskets of bread each night – we needed six or seven!"



### APRICOT DUMPLINGS: WACHAU VALLEY WONDERS

AmaWaterways' Co-Founder and President, Rudi Schreiner, holds a special place in his heart for our *marillenknödel* (apricot dumplings). These delectable treats are made using apricots from Austria's renowned Wachau Valley, known as "Marille Wachau." Cultivated in soil enriched by the Danube River, these apricots offer extraordinary flavor. This dessert, among many other dishes offered on board, highlights our commitment to using seasonal, locally sourced produce.

## GLUTEN-FREE ALMOND CAKE: CATERING TO ALL PALATES

Inclusivity is at the heart of AmaWaterways, and this extends to our culinary offerings. Our delectable gluten-free almond cake, adorned with fresh berries and a luscious honey glaze, stands as a testament to this commitment. Louise B., a guest with gluten intolerance, enthusiastically shared, "I got to participate and eat basically everything everyone else had. It was the most happily surprising experience I've ever had on vacation."



### AMAWATERWAYS GUEST PICK: OVEN-ROASTED POTATO WEDGES

Our culinary excellence extends to even the most humble of dishes. Our oven-roasted potato wedges, prepared using a specially crafted "secret" recipe, have become a guest favorite. These mouthwatering potatoes, which are always available on the menu, will leave you clamoring for seconds. Just don't ask for the recipe – this one is under lock and key!

**With AmaWaterways, every meal is a culinary adventure, carefully crafted to showcase the flavors along the rivers. From the warmth of freshly baked bread to the elegance of Veal Zurich, each dish tells a story of tradition and expresses our appreciation for authentic cuisine. Join us on the rivers and let your taste buds savor the journey.**

# A Cake Fit for Christmas



Christmas pudding, also known by the names of plum pudding and figgy pudding, is strongly tied to the holiday for which it was named. From Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* to "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," the fruit-filled treat has been immortalized in seasonal traditions.

## Ingredients

- ½ cup butter
- 1 cup brown sugar, lightly packed
- 1 cup water
- 2 ¼ cups mixed fruit chopped
- ½ cup dates chopped
- ½ cup raisins chopped
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 2 eggs lightly beaten
- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 1 cup plain flour
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 tbs dark rum

## Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180° C).
2. Spray 12-cup deep muffin pan with non-stick spray.
3. Combine fruit, water, sugar and butter in a saucepan.
4. Stir constantly over heat until butter is melted and sugar dissolved.
5. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, for 8 minutes.
6. Stir in soda.
7. Transfer mixture to a large bowl, stir in eggs, then add sifted dry ingredients and rum or sherry.
8. Place mixture in greased muffin pan and cover completely in foil.
9. Place muffin tin in a water bath and place gently in the oven.
10. Bake for 40–45 minutes until a cake tester comes out clean.

Makes 12 pieces

For more delicious holiday recipes, scan here:



Ring in the New Year with these

# Three Incredible Cocktails!

## DANUBE 75

### Ingredients:

- Ice
- 1 ½ ounce gin
- 1 ounce apricot juice or nectar
- 1 ounce apricot schnapps
- ½ ounce freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 2 to 3 ounces Champagne or sparkling wine

### Glaze Dried Apricots

- 2 ½ cups water
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- ¾ pound dried apricots, halved

### Preparation:

In a shaker, combine the ice, gin, apricot juice, apricot schnapps and lemon juice and shake vigorously for 20 seconds. Coat the rim of a martini glass with sugar, place a glaze dried apricot half in the bottom of the glass and strain the drink into the glass. Top with sparkling wine.

To make the glaze dried apricots, combine the water, sugar and lemon juice in a saucepan. Bring to a boil over high heat and simmer for 4 to 5 minutes. Reduce the heat to low, add the apricots and simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and let the apricots sit, uncovered, to plump and soften.

*Note: Apricot liqueur can act as a substitute for apricot schnapps.*



## LEMON DROP MARTINI

### Ingredients:

- 1 ½ ounces vodka (choose your favorite vodka)
- ¾ ounce lemon juice
- ½ to ¾ ounce simple syrup
- ½ ounce limoncello
- Garnish: lemon twist

### Preparation:

Gather all ingredients and combine them in a cocktail shaker filled with ice. Shake the mixture well, then strain the drink into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish your drink with the lemon twist and enjoy!

## ROGER VERGE COCKTAIL

### Ingredients:

- ½ ounce orange-flavored triple sec liqueur
- Champagne
- ½ ounce Creme de Cassis liqueur
- Garnish: an orange slice

### Preparation:

Pour the Creme des Cassis and orange-flavored triple sec liqueur into a Champagne glass. Top it off with ice-cold Champagne, and garnish your drink with the orange slice.



*Generational values take root on the*

# MEKONG RIVER

**First-time guests Calvin (9) and Daphne H. (11) joined their parents and grandparents in Vietnam and Cambodia, proving you're never too young to appreciate the world beyond your backyard.**

Spring break is a popular time for families with elementary school-aged children to travel. But while water parks and theme parks draw large crowds, Houston native Stephanie H. and her husband Tom prefer to take a different approach

to their family vacations – and were certain their well-traveled and well-mannered kids were old enough to experience everything one of our Mekong River cruises through Vietnam and Cambodia had to offer.

## THE ONBOARD EXPERIENCE

Together with three generations, including Tom's parents, the family arrived on March 13th to board our beautiful *AmaDara* in Kampong Cham, Cambodia, for their 7-night *Riches of the Mekong* itinerary. After the bus ride from a humid Siem Reap, they felt immediately pampered by the crew. Shared Daphne of her embarkation experience: "The hospitality was really amazing. I loved the cold towels with lemongrass on them."

When the family entered their staterooms, they were also pleasantly surprised. Not only is *AmaDara* a beautifully designed ship with rich carved woods reflective of the region's French Colonial history, but it is also one of our many ships that includes our signature twin-balcony staterooms, with both a French balcony and an outside balcony from which to enjoy fresh air and scenic views. "Compared to other river cruises, it felt spacious," recalled Stephanie. "Having balconies in every stateroom made a huge difference to us."

Though our crew is more than willing to accommodate kids' often less adventurous taste buds with Western favorites such as pizza, pasta and hamburgers, Calvin and Daphne needed no such special attention when it came to food. Daphne is a self-described sushi connoisseur, though it was the pastry chef's fresh-baked flaky chocolate croissants that made her mouth water each day. Calvin preferred to indulge in the freshly made regionally inspired soups, sometimes twice a day, for breakfast and dinner.



“

The hospitality was really amazing. I loved the cold towels with lemongrass on them.

- Daphne

## FAVORITE EXCURSIONS

With the kids' youthful energy driving their choices, one of the family's favorite excursions they embarked upon during their Mekong itinerary was to the Buddhist monastery in Oudong. Following the blessing ceremony, they climbed Phreah Reach Troap (Oudong Mountain) on a tour designed for active guests. Calvin enjoyed this, and later in the itinerary, had a self-described "laugh attack" while riding the exhilarating tuk tuks through Phnom Penh.

Daphne similarly found the various forms of transportation along the Mekong River entertaining, from the oxcart ride in the remote village of Kampong-Tralach to the tender boats that took them from the ship to the shore each day. She also mentioned: "I liked seeing the silk factory and trying all the foods. The sticky coconut candy was my favorite. And there are so many great places to take photographs!"



## EXTRA SPECIAL TOUCHES FROM THE CREW

Our wonderful AmaWaterways crew members around the globe are one of the main reasons past guests come back to cruise with us year after year – and you need only talk to Calvin and Daphne to comprehend how special *AmaDara's* crew makes all our guests feel while exploring Vietnam and Cambodia. "One night I hurt my knee and it was bleeding and one of the people at the front desk helped me and made it stop and bandaged me up. He was really kind," Calvin recalled. "And every night they folded my tiger stuffed animal and tucked him into the bed."





## LASTING MEMORIES

The kids particularly loved visiting the local elementary school supported by AmaWaterways in Oknhatey. Calvin was given an origami heart from a little girl at the school who chased after him. "I still have it in my backpack," he said.

Some of Daphne's strongest memories were from the military base in Xeo Quyt, Vietnam, but not necessarily

because of the destination and its history. "When we were leaving, all these kids wanted a photograph with us as we left," she said. "As we got on the bus, they lined up and started waving at us."

Calvin and Daphne prove you're never too young to understand what's most important about traveling are the connections you make with others.

*For full details on our Mekong River cruises, visit [AmaWaterways.com/mekong](https://www.AmaWaterways.com/mekong) or [AmaWaterways.ca/mekong](https://www.AmaWaterways.ca/mekong) and contact your preferred travel advisor today!*



## *Traveling Together:* Fun for the Whole Family

Travel is not just an amazing avenue for learning more about the world – it can also be a unique way to reconnect with your loved ones as you create incredible memories. As a family-owned and operated river cruise line, AmaWaterways is passionate about bringing families together for wonderful journeys around the world.



### SHARED EXPERIENCES MADE EASIER

When celebrating a holiday or special occasion with AmaWaterways, you will not have to worry about hosting, cooking, cleaning or entertaining. We plan the details of your journey so that all you have to consider is your ideal itinerary and excursions, all while being taken care of by our extraordinary crew and our dedicated Cruise Manager. A number of our innovative ships such as *AmaMagna*, *AmaLucia*, *AmaSiena*, *AmaMora*, *AmaLea*, *AmaKristina*, *AmaViola* and *AmaStella* also have a select number of adjoining staterooms, so you can bring your family even closer as you spend this special time together.

*“Having the six of us together all in one room is something that hadn’t happened in five or ten years,” Drew B. reminisced after an AmaWaterways Rhine River cruise with his grandmother and cousins. “I wouldn’t have traded this experience for the world.”*

## MAKE MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME

Over the years, due to busy schedules and geographic distance, many find it more difficult to maintain the connection they once had to their loved ones, which makes the time we do spend together even more cherished. When was the last time you dressed up for a multi-course fine dining experience with your family, danced to live music together, or toasted together? These memorable experiences await you and your loved ones on board – and they are all included in your river cruise fare!

*“The best aspect of cruising with my sisters was the opportunity to share an experience that created more memories that bond us together. I definitely recommend an Ama cruise for a unique occasion to enjoy and treasure a fulfilling time together,” Eliane B. told us after enjoying a customized 14-night combination cruise through France.*



## RECONNECT WITH FAMILY HERITAGE

River cruising is a great way to reconnect with your family roots. Many major European towns and cities flourished around rivers, which provided fresh water and transportation for trade. Because of this, some of our guests find they have past roots along these historic waterways – and what better way to reconnect to your heritage than with loved ones who share it with you?

*“Visiting Normandy was a gift for us as we come from a military family,” Regina O. recalled after she and her sisters (daughters of a WWII veteran) returned from their Seine River cruise.*

## THREE ITINERARIES TO EXPLORE AS A FAMILY:

Trace your family history at the Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp, Belgium, and indulge your sweet tooth alongside relatives during a Belgian chocolate tasting on our *Best of Holland & Belgium* itinerary.

Knead dough alongside your siblings, cousins or grandkids during an interactive demonstration of Banitsa pastry making in a local Bulgarian home during your *Gems of Southeast Europe* river cruise.

Explore the setting of the well-loved family classic *The Sound of Music* perhaps as you sing about a few of your “favorite things” and savor the flavor of the Wachau Valley’s delicious apricots on our *Magna on the Danube* itinerary.



Scan this QR code to learn more about *Best of Holland & Belgium*

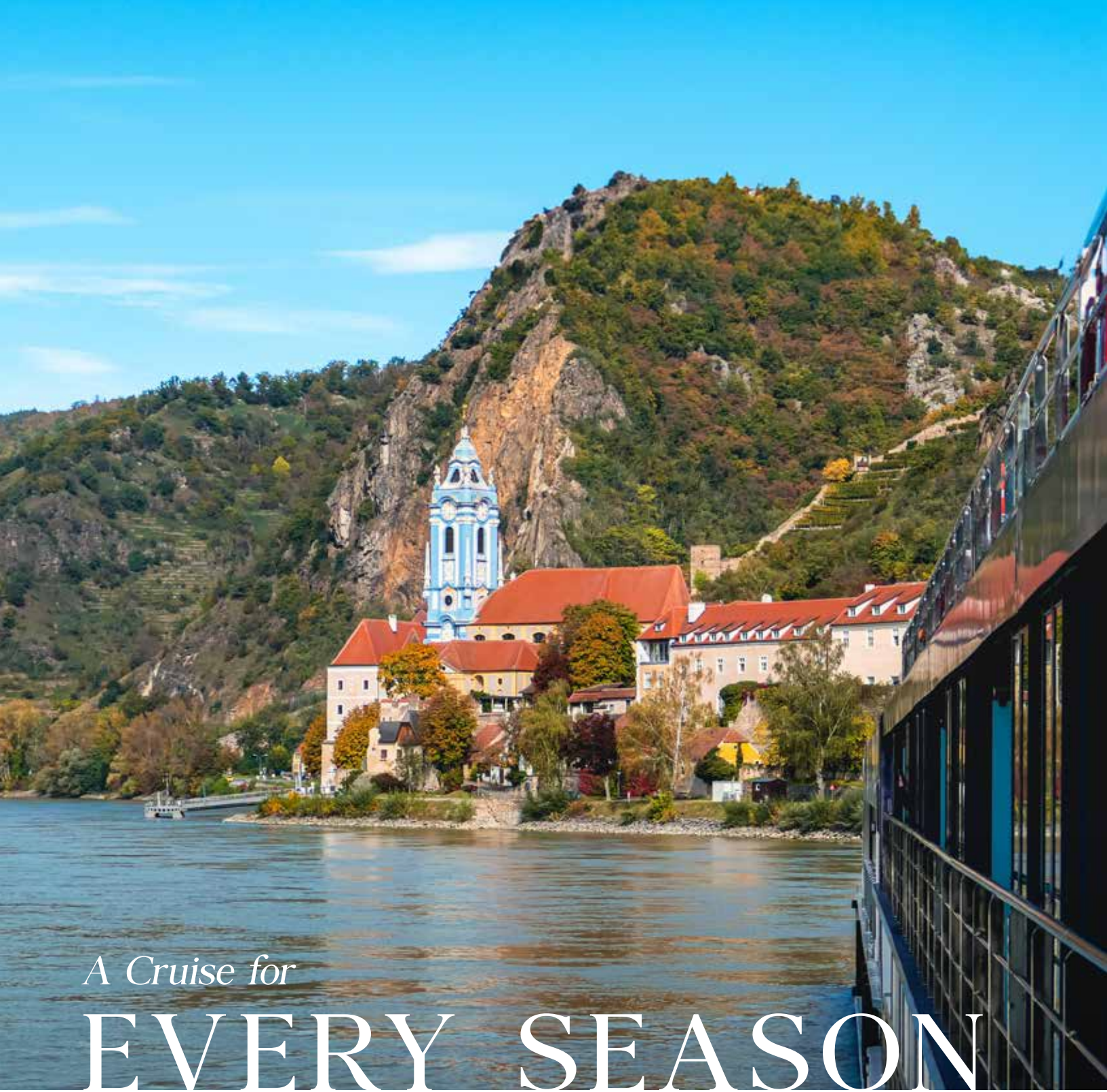


Scan this QR code to learn more about *Gems of Southeast Europe*



Scan this QR code to learn more about *Magna on the Danube*

**AMAINSIDER TIP FOR LARGER GROUPS:** *If your group fills five staterooms (with double occupancy) or more, you may qualify for reduced rates and other amenities such as custom excursions – contact your travel advisor for details!*



*A Cruise for*

# EVERY SEASON

*Whether you are seeking out the golden rays of summer or the peaceful allure of autumn, every season on the rivers of Europe promises an unforgettable voyage.*

A journey through the seasons along the European waterways reveals a rich tapestry of delights and surprises, from the quiet authenticity of February to the festive start of the holidays in November. No matter when you choose

to join us on board our spacious, luxurious ships, every sailing is an invitation to witness the endless splendors of Europe. Join us on this seasonal odyssey and discover when and where your next river cruise journey can take you.

## A SUMMER ESCAPEDE

Pedal through sun-drenched vineyards, hike amidst blooming wildflowers, and take a dip in your ship's refreshing sun-deck pool. Indulge in the flavors of the region with delectable dishes featuring luscious Wachau Valley apricots and succulent Serbian plums. As night falls, witness the cities along the rivers come alive, pulsating with an irresistible electric energy. The sun-soaked days and vibrant nights of Europe offer a compelling reason to embark on a river cruise during the summer months.

Along the Danube River, you can immerse yourself in the rich culture of magnificent capitals, including Budapest, Bratislava and Vienna. Relax on your private balcony with an afternoon of scenic cruising as your ship traverses the enchanting Strudengau Valley. Savor a refreshing German lager at our exclusive Oktoberfest celebration in Vilshofen, a private, year-round event held just for AmaWaterways guests.

On the Rhine River, find a serene spot on the Sun Deck with a cocktail in hand as you glide through the UNESCO-designated Rhine Gorge, marveling at the breathtaking landscapes and more than 40 castles adorning the riverbanks like pearls. Step ashore in the picturesque winemaking village of Rudesheim, where you can take in sweeping views on a soaring gondola ride. You can also explore the bustling city of Amsterdam, enjoying the gentle breezes as you glide along its winding canals.

Revel in a vibrant summer along the picturesque rivers of Europe, basking in the sunshine with your loved ones and immersing yourself in the invigorating atmosphere that flows through the cities and towns along these majestic waterways.

### RECOMMENDED SUMMER ITINERARIES:

*7-night Melodies of the Danube from Budapest, Hungary to Vilshofen, Germany*

*7-night Rhine Castles & Swiss Alps between Amsterdam, Netherlands and Basel, Switzerland*



## AN AUTUMNAL CELEBRATION

As the foliage turns its serene autumn colors, our sailings during this season offer opportunities not available at any other time of year. Considered river cruising's "best-kept secret," autumn offers reduced international airfare and less crowded cities. Early November, in particular, offers some of the lowest rates of the year on both cruises and airfare, making river cruising even more accessible for the entire family.

A notable month for wine lovers around the world, the year's new wine, called *Beaujolais Nouveau*, is released during November in France for all to enjoy. What better way to celebrate this enchanting harvest time than with a wine tasting in Beaujolais, France? Here, you will experience a small taste of the 120+ wine festivals held across southern Burgundy during this time.

Many of our November itineraries sail during American Thanksgiving, so in the spirit of the holiday, we invite our guests to a full-fledged Thanksgiving meal on board, complete with all the trimmings you know and love.

Bring along your family and celebrate together as you always would – but leave the cleanup to us!

In Budapest and Vienna, the holiday celebrations begin early in the form of their world-famous Christmas Markets. Debuting annually as early as November 18th, these grand Christmas Markets are ornately decorated traditional marketplaces filled with artisanal gifts and delicious treats. Beat the rush and visit these legendary Christmas Markets ahead of the crowds. Plus, our ships join in on the merriment with elegant holiday decor and special surprises. Enjoy intimate excursions, festive events and beautiful landscapes in transition when you sail with us in autumn.

### RECOMMENDED AUTUMN ITINERARIES:

*7-night Essence of Burgundy & Provence between Port of Dijon, France and Arles, France*

*7-night Romantic Danube from Vilshofen, Germany to Budapest, Hungary*





## THE WONDERS OF WINTER

Looking to get away sooner? Our river cruise seasons on the Danube and Rhine rivers are getting an early start in 2024 with three itineraries offering February cruise dates. We invite you to experience the quiet authenticity of Europe's wintry landscapes and tranquil historical towns—perhaps dusted with fresh snowfall. Plan a romantic couple's skating night at the ice rinks in Budapest or Vienna, or warm up and unwind at the thermal spas in Budapest. Space is still available on these February sailings! Your winter cruise on these picturesque rivers will unveil a truly unique perspective of Europe's cities and villages.

### RECOMMENDED WINTER ITINERARIES:

*7-night Magna on the Danube between Vilshofen, Germany and Budapest, Hungary*

*7-night Captivating Rhine from Amsterdam, Netherlands to Basel, Switzerland*

*7-night Enchanting Rhine from Basel, Switzerland to Amsterdam, Netherlands*

*Join us on board in 2024 and experience the many wonders the rivers of Europe have to offer across every season.*

# Wellness on the Waterways

AN INTERVIEW WITH AMAWATERWAYS' CORPORATE WELLNESS HOST, SELINA

With 2024 just around the corner, many are preparing to start the year on a healthy note, setting a solid foundation to live well. We value these resolutions and strive to ensure every guest can enhance their best self on board, providing you with our dedicated complimentary Wellness Program on board our Europe, Colombia and Mekong River cruises.



Selina playing pickleball, AmaMagna



Recently, our Corporate Wellness Host Selina shared some of the exciting activities that you may look forward to on your next river cruise journey with us.

## WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT OUR ONBOARD WELLNESS PROGRAM?

**Selina:** With our world turning more and more towards healthier, active-oriented lifestyle choices, I think it is great that we have so many options. On the one hand, guests can continue their routines through the Wellness Program on board. On the other hand, people often try out exercise classes for the first time and start a routine on board, which they end up taking home and continuing there.



## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE EXPERTISE AREAS OF OUR WELLNESS HOSTS?

**Selina:** Our Wellness Hosts lead activities such as stretching, core strengthening classes, resistance band exercises, “High Intensity 100’s,” circuit training and active walks. Many of them can teach yoga and Pilates, and some offer dance classes as well. I believe three or four of our Wellness Hosts can also offer water aerobics.

## WHAT ARE SOME INTERESTING ACTIVITIES GUESTS MAY EXPERIENCE WITH US?

**Selina:** We may have some meditation classes, “buddy workouts” and we continue offering champagne yoga, wine yoga, tea yoga or coffee yoga. We also may have some Total Body Resistance Exercise (TRX) classes and try to offer classes in different locations, such as in local parks or along the riverbanks. Sometimes, we may combine an active walk with some other forms of exercise along the way. Of course, our hula hoops on *AmaMagna* are always great fun too!

## WERE THERE ANY NEW FITNESS CLASSES IMPLEMENTED IN 2023?

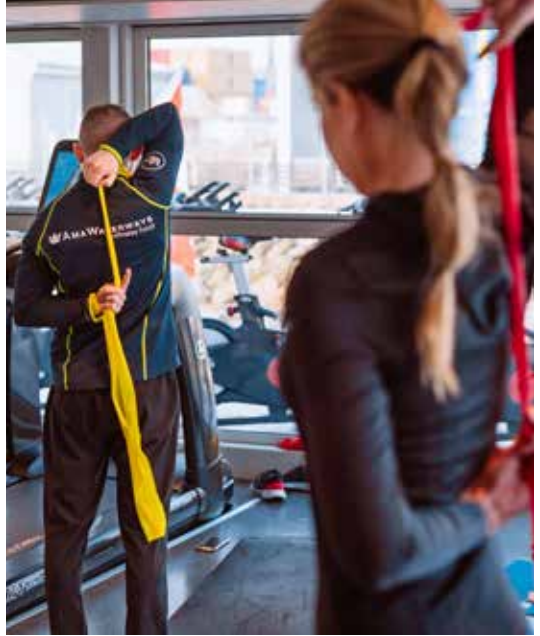
**Selina:** This season, we introduced pickleball classes on board *AmaMagna*. Some of the Wellness Hosts also led new dance classes such as Cha-Cha or partner dances.

## HOW ARE GUESTS ENJOYING THE NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS ON AMAMAGNA?

**Selina:** Pickleball’s popularity among guests depends on the departure. Our Wellness Hosts give basic lessons to beginners, but we also seem to have quite a few serious players who bring their own equipment on board. Overall, it has taken off in a great way, and guests’ feedback has been very positive. Some groups even prefer to play pickleball rather than go on excursions!

## WHAT IS YOUR BEST ADVICE TO PEOPLE WHO WANT TO “GET IN SHAPE” IN 2024?

**Selina:** My advice is always that, when changing diet or exercise patterns, it is very important to make changes that can be maintained throughout life, not a two-week extreme change. I believe the best way to get in shape is to keep moving, no matter your gender, age, size or fitness status. A healthy and active body and mind will carry you through life much more easily.



*Learn more about our Wellness Program, including featured hikes and bike tours, at [AmaWaterways.com/explore/wellness](https://AmaWaterways.com/explore/wellness) or [AmaWaterways.ca/explore/wellness](https://AmaWaterways.ca/explore/wellness).*

# Embark on a Loyalty Appreciation Cruise

Every year we debut a collection of exclusive river cruises which feature unique offers and experiences tailor-made for past guests. With local delicacies, cocktail parties and personalized care, these departures offer a variety of perks as a heartfelt “thank you” to our AmaWaterways family.

## FEATURED 2024 DEPARTURES



### *Impressions of the Seine & Paris*

EMBARKING JUNE 1, 2024 ABOARD AMADANTE

Discover the most renowned sites in Paris as well as sites memorialized by famous Impressionist painters along France’s Seine River. With this year marking the 150th anniversary of the first Impressionist exhibition in Paris, this is the perfect occasion to follow these artists’ footsteps.



### *Magna on the Danube*

EMBARKING JULY 28, 2024 ABOARD AMAMAGNA

Indulge your passion for awe-inspiring architecture, timeless music, breathtaking landscapes and culinary delights. With four distinctive dining venues and our new full-sized pickleball court, *AmaMagna* is a destination in and of itself – a perfect reason to come back and re-experience the Danube River from a whole new perspective!



### *Riches of the Mekong*

EMBARKING SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 ABOARD AMADARA

Immerse yourself in the culture and heritage of the Mekong River with visits to rural villages, historic pagodas and colorful markets. This magnificent journey is best reserved with our land packages in picturesque destinations such as Vietnam’s UNESCO-designated Ha Long Bay and Siem Reap, Cambodia.



### *Rhine Castles & Swiss Alps*

EMBARKING NOVEMBER 11, 2024 ABOARD AMAMORA

Taste artisanal treats along Amsterdam’s canals, wander along the picturesque cobblestone streets of Strasbourg and Rudesheim in autumn, and tour fairytale castles. See even more incredible sights on our bike tour from Basel through Germany, France and Switzerland – three breathtaking countries in one fantastic excursion.



## Exclusive Loyalty Cruise Savings

Special savings are available on our Loyalty Appreciation River Cruises, which will be extended to any new departures designated as Loyalty Cruises in the coming months. Visit our Facebook Loyalty Group for updates, and share these incredible offers (combinable with your Loyalty Benefits) with your friends and family traveling with you on the same sailing.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL MEMORIES  
WITH US YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

Tell us your story by emailing  
**[myamastory@amawaterways.com!](mailto:myamastory@amawaterways.com)**



## CHOOSE YOUR OFFER



**FREE Economy Air or  
\$2,999/C\$3,998\* Business Class Air**

OR



**\$1,000/C\$1,200 per person  
cruise savings**

OR



**Reduced Single Supplement of 10%**

## PLUS, YOUR LOYALTY BENEFITS!

*Visit [AmaWaterways.com/loyaltyevent](https://www.amawaterways.com/loyaltyevent) or  
[AmaWaterways.ca/loyaltyevent](https://www.amawaterways.ca/loyaltyevent) to view our full  
list of 2024-2025 Loyalty Cruise departures.*

*For the full list of cruises and  
departure dates, including those  
in 2025, please scan the QR code.*



# the INSIDE SCOOP



## Soulful Experiences Abound

After a hugely successful first sailing in France, our *Soulful Experience* sailings are expanding to Portugal! Join us on this celebration of Black history and culture on a special 10-night *Enticing Douro* itinerary from November 13-23, 2024. This itinerary includes three nights in Lisbon before embarking on our beautiful *AmaDouro* for a 7-night cruise roundtrip from Porto. There is also still space available on our next *Soulful Experience* in France on our 10-night *Colors of Provence* experience from June 13-23, 2024.





### SNEAK A PEEK AT YOUR 2024 GIFTS

Curious about next year's onboard gift offerings? Our 2024 scarf will come in a vibrant, jewel-toned blue and feature a gorgeous fringe and classic paisley pattern. In addition, our popular logo hat arrives in a stylish green – great for any occasion.

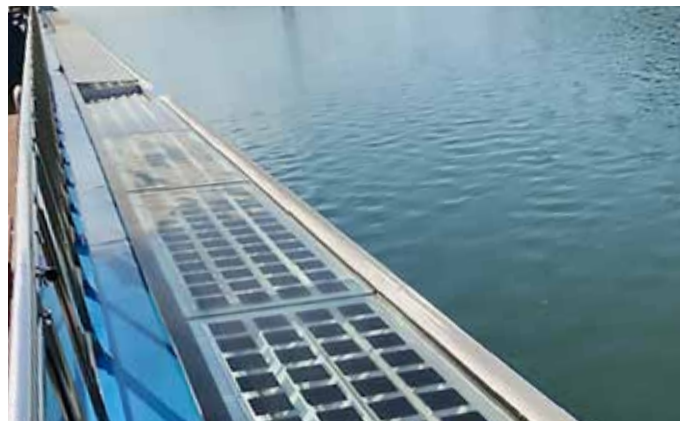


### LATIN TOUCH MEETS AMAMAGNA

¡Bienvenidos! Join a special 7-night *Magna on the Danube* sailing departing from Budapest on October 27, 2024. This "Latin Touch" cruise will feature a bilingual Cruise Manager, daily tours with Spanish-speaking guides and Latin-inspired entertainment, all on board our luxurious, one-of-a-kind *AmaMagna*. Contact your travel advisor or email Jennifer Roshetski at [jennifer@amawaterways.com](mailto:jennifer@amawaterways.com) for details.

### POWERED BY THE SUN

Speaking of *AmaMagna*, our extraordinary flagship has received a boost of energy in the form of new solar panels. They have been positioned to catch the sun while providing shade for the ship's balconies. These new panels are just a small part of AmaWaterways' continued commitment to adapting sustainable practices on the rivers.



### SINGING THEIR PRAISES

In July 2023, we welcomed eight members of the Los Angeles Master Chorale and their artistic director, Grant Gershon, aboard *AmaBella* on our 7-night *Romantic Danube* itinerary. Guests were swept off their feet with two spectacular choral performances during their sailing. As the *Official River Cruise Line of the Los Angeles Master Chorale*, we cannot wait to host this immensely talented group again.





# Special Offers Just For You

LAST CHANCE TO SAVE ON RIVER CRUISES IN 2024 AND 2025

## SAVE 20% ON YOUR 2024 CRUISE

Ready to stroll through the enchanting gardens of Monet’s residence, glide along the iconic canals of Amsterdam or gaze in awe at the ancient temples of Wat Nokor? Do not miss the opportunity to explore your dream destinations while saving 20% on select sailings through Europe or Asia. Make this holiday season even more festive with the gift of a 2024 river cruise, giving you and your loved ones an amazing vacation to look forward to in the new year! Plus, this offer is combinable with AirPlus, which enables you to lock in fixed rates on airfare to Europe on select sailings.

*Offer limited to availability; restrictions apply. Scan QR code for offer details and complete terms and conditions.*



## EARLY BOOKING REWARDS FOR 2025

Looking further forward? Reserve your 2025 river cruise early and save up to 20% off your cruise fare, applicable to all stateroom categories, including suites! Whether you wish to immerse yourself in French culture, cruise the fairytale Rhine with its dozens of well-preserved castles, or soak in the fascinating history of the grand capitals along the Danube River, this offer will officially expire at the end of the month. Now is the time to plan ahead for your 2025 travel to ensure you receive your top-choice stateroom and departure date – and save!

*Offer limited to availability; restrictions apply. Scan QR code for offer details and complete terms and conditions.*



**BOTH OF THESE INCREDIBLE OFFERS EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2023.**

*Contact your preferred travel advisor today! For all our latest offers, visit [AmaWaterways.com/special-offers](https://AmaWaterways.com/special-offers) or [AmaWaterways.ca/special-offers](https://AmaWaterways.ca/special-offers).*

# Featured Photos and Story

GUEST MATTHEW G. CREATES A LITTLE 'PIECE' OF HEAVEN



Guest Matthew G. is a LEGO enthusiast who spent six months creating a replica of our beautiful AmaVerde leading up to and after his 14-night *Grand Danube Cruise* on the ship. His wife, Debbie, tagged us on X (Twitter) when LEGO AmaVerde was proudly on display at Oklahoma City's

Brick Convention. Next up for Matthew: "I could do a scaled-down version of one of the ships on the Rhine with a city behind it, all decorated for Christmas." We hope to welcome you back on board soon, Matthew!



HAVE A GREAT AMAWATERWAYS PHOTO OR STORY THAT FILLS YOUR HEART WITH LOVE?

We want to hear from you! Submit photos and stories to [myamastory@amawaterways.com](mailto:myamastory@amawaterways.com) for a chance to be featured in the next issue of *Beyond the Riverbanks* or #AmaWaterways on social media.



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Calabasas, CA 91302



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OFFERS ON SELECT SAILINGS

Contact your preferred Travel Advisor, call 1.888.626.6417  
or visit [AmaWaterways.com](http://AmaWaterways.com) | [AmaWaterways.ca](http://AmaWaterways.ca) to reserve today.