



Beyond

THE RIVER BANKS

An Exclusive Magazine for Guests



What's Inside:

WHICH CRUISE
FITS YOUR
PERSONALITY?

NEW:
EXCLUSIVE
LOYALTY CRUISES

MEET
OUR CRUISE
MANAGERS

DEAR VALUED GUEST,

Welcome to our Spring issue of *Beyond the River Banks*, designed to keep you up to date on the latest AmaWaterways news while keeping your sense of adventure alive.

It's been an exciting few weeks for us. We recently returned from Porto, Portugal, where the AmaDouro was christened – one of three new ships launching this year. This month, our new AmaMagna will take her maiden voyage on the Danube. Twice the width of traditional river cruise ships, the AmaMagna will redefine river cruising. Rounding out our trifecta of new ships will be the AmaMora, setting sail in June along the Rhine River.

Something else new for this year will be our first-ever Loyalty Appreciation Month taking place this November. Our Loyalty Cruises are designed to surprise and delight, so read more about them in the pages to come.

We hope you enjoy this issue and please reach out if you have any suggestions for future articles you'd like to read – or if you want to share your own AmaWaterways story.

Happy reading and we hope to see you on board again soon!

Warm regards,



Rudi Schreiner
Co-founder and President



Kristin Karst
Co-founder and EVP



Gary Murphy
Co-owner and SVP, Sales



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

Christmas and Family

Co-owner and SVP Gary Murphy shares the magic of traveling with family on an AmaWaterways Christmas cruise. Page 8



2 | **Looking Beyond to 2020**
Find out which new itinerary best fits your personality.

4 | **The Beauty of Back-To-Back Cruises**
Guests offer insight on our back-to-back river cruises.

6 | **Loyalty Appreciation Month**
Join us on our first-ever Loyalty Cruises exclusively for valued guests!

10 | **Enhance Your Best Self**
How AmaWaterways impacts every dimension of wellness, as shared by Co-founder and EVP, Kristin Karst.

12 | **The Most Happily Surprising Experience**
Read a rave review from a loyal gluten-free guest.

“The Big Adventure is Not Dead: Part 1”

The captivating tale of what inspired Co-founder and President Rudi Schreiner's passion for travel. Page 18



15 | **Balance The Wellness Equation**
An interview with AmaWaterways Sports Scientist Selina Wank about fitness and diet.

16 | **myAmaCruise App**
Enrich your travel experience with our robust interactive river cruise app!

17 | **“Love is in the Air” Contest Winners**
Congratulations to our winners – plus, featured submissions.

20 | **The Rhine-Main-Danube Canal**
A timeline of how this incredible feat of engineering was constructed.

22 | **Meet Our Cruise Managers**
Learn more about the friendly professionals who make AmaWaterways “sparkle.”

24 | **Special Interest Tours**
Cruise Managers summarize their favorite experiences on these immersive excursions.

26 | **Spotlight On Regensburg**
Showcasing the oldest city along the Danube River – and why you shouldn't miss it.

28 | **AmaDouro Christening**
Exclusive photos from the christening of our newest ship on the Douro River.

DON'T MISS:

P. 30 | *Inside Scoop*

P. 32 | *Why You Need a Travel Advisor*

P. 33 | *Photo Contest Winners*



View of the Rhine River Valley from the Sun Deck

LOOKING Beyond TO 2020

WHICH NEW 2020 EUROPE ITINERARY FITS YOUR PERSONALITY?

Treasures of the Main & Rhine

Nuremberg, Germany to Amsterdam, Netherlands | 7 Nights

Ships: AmaDante and the new AmaSiena

Toast with a glass of Kölsch beer at a cafe with a marvelous view of Cologne's Gothic church spires. Wander through Würzburg's glittering UNESCO-designated Residenz Palace and Lahnstein's Lahneck Castle, and discover the inspiration for Walt Disney's *Pinocchio* while in Rothenburg. This cruise takes you along two of Germany's famous rivers, the

Rhine and Main, and to its many wonderful treasures.

Who will enjoy this cruise?

- Lovers of great art and architecture; food, wine and beer connoisseurs; and those who cherish timeless fairytales
- Have not sailed Germany's peaceful Main River, home to Nuremberg, Bamberg, Würzburg and Wertheim, or the UNESCO-designated Rhine River Valley
- Wish to cruise through the manmade marvel, the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal, and through Amsterdam's many scenic canals
- Are seeking biking and hiking adventures in historic destinations

Vineyards of the Rhine & Moselle

Amsterdam, Netherlands to Luxembourg | 7 Nights

Ships: AmaDante and the new AmaSiena

Experience the enduring allure of the Rhine's castle-dotted shores and the vineyard-clad slopes of the Moselle, the Rhine's breathtaking tributary.



Moselle River, Germany

Let history come to life at two historic castles: Lahneck Castle perched over the Rhine and the Reichsburg Castle towering over the Moselle. Visit Cologne's grand Gothic cathedral and Mainz's beautiful Gothic church. This cruise also offers hiking and biking adventures through some of the most picturesque German landscapes and wine tastings in some of the country's most iconic vineyards where world-class Riesling is produced.

Who will enjoy this cruise?

- Those who are interested in nature, art and history, and are passionate about wine and beer
- Wish to experience one of the world's best-kept secrets, the Moselle River Valley
- Want to explore Mainz's St. Stephen's, the only German church for which the Jewish artist Marc Chagall created glowing blue stained-glass windows
- Love discovering a destination through its many flavors: taste nine different mustards at Cochem's mustard mill, learn the time-honored traditions of Rudesheimer coffee and the origins of Kölsch beer, only brewed in Cologne
- Love going off the beaten path to connect with a destination by biking and hiking



Hike in Trier, Germany

IN-DEMAND LAND PROGRAMS

Take advantage of your international airfare by extending your river cruise with exciting hotel/land extensions. AmaWaterways has added some fascinating destinations in 2020.



Eze, France

“Vive la France” on the French Riviera

Add a 3-night land extension in Nice, France to the 7-night *Colors of Provence* cruise

With glimmering azure waters, white sandy beaches, breathtaking views and opulent Monte Carlo, it's no wonder the French Riviera has

been the backdrop to famous film directors who flock here to shoot movies, including: *To Catch A Thief*, *An Affair to Remember*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, James Bond movies *Diamonds are Forever* and *Golden Eye*, *The Life Aquatic* and *Ocean's Twelve*. Experience the allure of this fascinating destination yourself and perhaps make your own movie.

“City of Mosques,” Exotic Istanbul

Add a 3-night land extension in Istanbul, Turkey to the 7-night *Gems of Southeast Europe*

Did you know?

- 3,113 mosques are in Istanbul alone, including the Hagia Sophia
- The city is home to the Grand Bazaar, one of the oldest and largest shielded markets in the world in operation since 1461
- Istanbul is the only city in the world that's half in Asia and half in Europe
- Agatha Christie wrote her famous murder mystery novel *Murder on the Orient Express* in Pera Palas Hotel in Istanbul. The Orient Express train was used to travel between Paris and Constantinople (Istanbul) from 1883 to 1977

Discover for yourself more fascinating facts in this colorfully exotic city!



Hagia Sophia, Istanbul

THE *Beauty* OF BACK-TO-BACK CRUISES



AmaSonata cruising through Budapest, Hungary

Gary Paquin and his wife Marie are loyal guests who have truly made the most of their river cruise adventures. Meticulous planners, they have scoured our river cruise itineraries with their outstanding travel advisor Cindy, matching up embarkation and disembarkation ports on river cruises, so they can sail three river cruises in a row – and extend their vacations with pre- and post-cruise hotel stays on top of that! So, why would anyone want to do this? The Paquins share their thoughts to help you determine whether back-to-back cruising is right for you.

RIVER CRUISING STYLE

Our philosophy: once in Europe, maximize the time. Our first AmaWaterways river cruise was the 14-night *Magnificent Europe*, where we experienced 68 locks, 20 cities, 22 excursions, 5 countries and 5 rivers. When folks ask us which cruise they should do, we always recommend this one as their first. But when we disembarked in Amsterdam and our ship was sailing on to Basel, we realized we would much rather have explored Basel as part of our journey and maximized our time in Europe. That's why we now do three sailings in one.

REPEAT PORTS OF CALL

We have experienced a few overlaps in some of the towns visited on our back-to-backs, so we just pick a different AmaWaterways excursion. For example, during our first visit to Vienna, Austria, we took advantage of the walking tour and cathedral visit. On the second visit, we took the optional evening excursion to the Mozart and Strauss Concert at the Konzerthaus. What a beautiful performance, and AmaWaterways had arranged for exclusive front-area seating, which made it much more dynamic and rewarding.

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

AmaWaterways offers plenty of variety in onboard entertainment, with some exceptional performers and guest speakers. On our *Paris & Normandy* cruise, the night before we were going to the Normandy Beaches, a guest speaker talked about the events leading up to World War II. It added tremendous historical insight and enriched our experience. Also, on this cruise, there was an outstanding performer who did the life of Édith Piaf, the famous French singer known for “La Vie en Rose.”



Gary, Captain Bernardino and Marie

GARY AND MARIE'S TOP TIPS FOR NEW BACK-TO-BACK CRUISERS

1. Try to incorporate “pre” and “post” hotel/land extensions to make your experience as inclusive as possible. We have enjoyed exploring more of Lisbon, Portugal; Prague, Czech Republic; both Barcelona and Madrid, Spain; and Lucerne, Switzerland. The beautiful Westin Palace Hotel in Madrid was centrally located, which made for convenient excursions on our own to the Prado Museum and so much more. Our most unforgettable event there was the optional flamenco show and dinner at Corral de la Moreira – what an emotional experience that was!
2. If you plan on taking a lot of photos, make sure you have enough memory for your camera. I had my own stroke of panic with this, although the Cruise Manager will have a good recommendation of where you can find memory cards in port.
3. Apply for the Global Entry Program through U.S. Customs and Border Protection. It’s a bonus because you can bypass all the lines. You just put your passport in a terminal, it takes your fingerprints and photo ID and you’re done. Plus, sign up for TSA Pre-Check so you don’t have to take your shoes and belt off at the airport.



AMAWATERWAYS' TOP 3 BACK-TO-BACK PICKS FOR 2020

Combine two 7-night itineraries into a 14-night adventure.

ITINERARIES	SHIPS	CRUISE	EMBARK DATE	DISEMBARK DATE
Paris & Normandy	AmaLyra	Paris – Paris	Apr 9	Apr 16
Colors of Provence	AmaCello	Lyon – Arles	Apr 16	Apr 23
Vineyards of the Rhine & Moselle	AmaDante	Amsterdam – Luxembourg	Apr 9	Apr 1
Europe's Rivers & Castles	AmaDante	Luxembourg – Nuremberg	Apr 16	Apr 23
Romantic Danube	AmaCerto	Vilshofen – Budapest	Apr 12	Apr 19
Gems of Southeast Europe	AmaCerto	Budapest – Giurgiu	Apr 19	Apr 26



LOYALTY APPRECIATION MONTH

As an esteemed member of our AmaWaterways family, we invite you to join us on our first-ever series of Loyalty Cruises departing this November as part of our Loyalty Appreciation Month. These unforgettable cruises include special offers like free air, exclusive events, unique experiences in multiple ports, commemorative gifts and many more surprises and delights for our valued past guests who have sailed with us through the years.

Come aboard to see some familiar faces and make new friends on the river while being recognized for your loyalty to AmaWaterways.



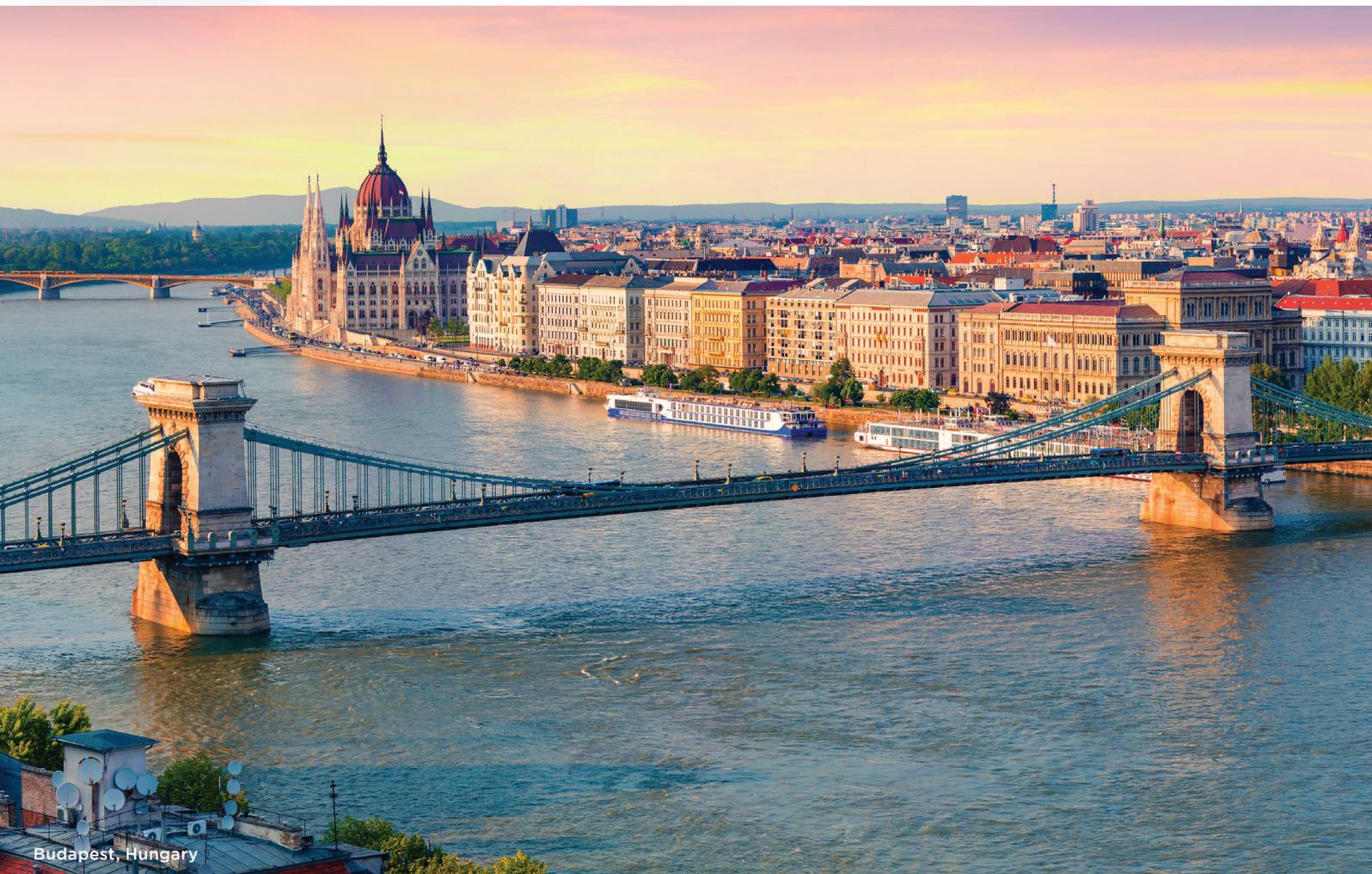
Lorelei Rock, Rhine Gorge



Fall Vineyard Tour



AmaMagna



Budapest, Hungary



Captain's Welcome

NOVEMBER LOYALTY CRUISES

Whether you have cruised the Danube or Rhine before or this will be your first time, you'll be treated to a host of exclusive events. **For full details, visit [AmaWaterways.com/loyaltyevent](https://www.amawaterways.com/loyaltyevent).**

RHINE DEPARTURES

With more than 40 storybook castles, iconic vineyards and medieval villages, AmaWaterways offers a front-row view of these Rhine River sights in Switzerland, Germany, France and the Netherlands.

7-NIGHT CAPTIVATING RHINE ON AMASTELLA – NOVEMBER 3
Amsterdam, Netherlands to Basel, Switzerland

7-NIGHT ENCHANTING RHINE CRUISE ON AMASTELLA – NOVEMBER 10
Basel, Switzerland to Amsterdam, Netherlands

7-NIGHT ENCHANTING RHINE WINE CRUISE ON AMAKRISTINA – NOVEMBER 18
Basel, Switzerland to Amsterdam, Netherlands

Featuring Wine Hosts Nello & Danica Olivo of Nello Olivo Winery

Dates and itineraries subject to change. Visit [AmaWaterways.com/loyaltyevent](https://www.amawaterways.com/loyaltyevent) for the most updated information.

DANUBE DEPARTURES

Be romanced by the Danube with all her regal splendor. Discover Europe's grand capitals – Budapest, Bratislava and Vienna – and venture beyond the river banks to Austria's Lake District.

7-NIGHT ROMANTIC DANUBE WINE CRUISE ON AMALEA – NOVEMBER 15
Vilshofen, Germany to Budapest, Hungary

Featuring Wine Host Matthew G. R. Meyer of The Williamsburg Winery

7-NIGHT ROMANTIC DANUBE ON AMAMAGNA – NOVEMBER 17
Vilshofen, Germany to Budapest, Hungary

EXCLUSIVE LOYALTY OFFERS

Take advantage of Free Air or 2-for-1 Business Class Air on the departures above. Terms and conditions apply; ask for details. **Contact your travel advisor to reserve your space today! We hope you'll join us.**

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

Stay tuned with the latest updates on Loyalty Appreciation Month at [Facebook.com/groups/AmaWaterwaysLoyaltyCruises](https://www.facebook.com/groups/AmaWaterwaysLoyaltyCruises).



CHRISTMAS & FAMILY



Christmas market, Linz, Austria

Co-owner and Senior Vice President of Sales Gary Murphy shares his thoughts on family and why our Christmas Markets cruises in Europe are his top choice for families.

I love traveling with my family and some of my most cherished memories have been on our *Christmas Markets* cruises. Whether you travel on Europe's Rhine River or the Danube, there's something BEYOND special about being in Europe during this season. The settings are unbelievable, including some located in front of amazing palaces, such as Vienna's Schönbrunn and Belvedere, and Salzburg's Hellbrunn. You'll always find unique handcrafted ornaments, but for me, I love tasting the local specialties the most. My personal favorites are the crispy German pork rinds, sausages with different kinds of mustard and the hot spiced wines. There could be 15 different places selling spiced wines with three or four different choices, all home recipes, and each vendor has its own unique mug that you can keep.

These cruises are great for families,



Gary and Daphne Murphy

especially if you have children in their early teens and up, because AmaWaterways often offers up to five different activities in each port. You can choose your own excursions and reunite at meals to share your experiences. This year, our Thanksgiving cruises offer visits to the Christmas markets as well. The holiday spirit is brought to life on board and ashore, and the stress that sometimes comes with planning multigenerational gatherings melts away.

EXPERIENCE THE MARKETS AS A LOCAL

I have a vision etched in my mind of the Christmas market in Linz, Austria. My wife and I were just enjoying the moment with a hot spiced wine. It was snowing, and as the snowflakes fell, we watched an Austrian family leaving the market. Two of their children were sitting on a toboggan, holding onto a Christmas tree and dragging it behind them. That's what's so great about these markets. They're really set up for the locals, so when you go, you don't feel like a tourist at all. You feel like just another local coming on your annual holiday adventure. And it's incredibly

CHRISTMAS MARKET 2019 OPEN DATES

RHINE RIVER

Cologne, Germany (Kölner Dom)

Nov 25 – Dec 23

Rüdesheim, Germany (Old Town)

Nov 23 – Dec 23

Heidelberg, Germany (Weinachtsmarkt)

Nov 25 – Dec 22

Speyer, Germany (Alte Münz)

Nov 25 – Jan 6

Strasbourg, France (Place Broglie)

Nov 23 – Dec 30

Gengenbach, Germany (Marktplatz)

Nov 30 – Dec 23

Riquewih, France

Nov 29 – Dec 22

Freiburg, Germany (Rathausplatz)

Nov 21 – Dec 23

DANUBE RIVER

Nuremberg, Germany (Nürnberger

Christkindlesmarkt) – Nov 29 – Dec 24

Regensburg, Germany (Christkindlmärkte

Neupfarrplatz) – Nov 25 – Dec 23; (Thurn &

Taxis) Nov 27 – Dec 23

Passau, Germany (Passauer Christkindlmarkt)

Nov 27 – Dec 23

Linz, Austria (Christkindlmarkt am Hauptplatz)

Nov 23 – Dec 24

Salzburg, Austria (Hellbrunner Adventzauber)

Nov 22 – Dec 24

Vienna, Austria (Town Hall) – Nov 17 – Dec 26,

(Schönbrunn Palace) – Nov 23 – Jan 5

Budapest, Hungary (Vörösmarty Square) –

Nov 8 – Jan 1

Bratislava, Slovakia – Nov 23 – Dec 22

Dates subject to change. Does not include all markets visited by AmaWaterways. Most Christmas markets open during the last week of November until approximately Dec 22. Check with each country's tourist office for more information.



Gary's TOP 3 CHRISTMAS MARKET TIPS

humbling to experience the season the way it has been experienced in Europe for so long.

CREATE A NEW COLLECTION OF TREASURES

All the markets AmaWaterways visits are memorable. Like many of our guests, I particularly love the many markets of Vienna. But this past year, the Budapest market held at Vörösmarty Square holds a special place in my heart.

My wife Daphne loves collecting Christmas ornaments and has been doing so over the course of our 27 years together. However, our entire collection of ornaments was recently destroyed in a fire. While I strolled through Budapest's market stalls browsing the local handicrafts, I came across a young couple who had spent much of their year making porcelain ornaments. Each was a little bearded man with a red hat, no more than two inches tall. I bought as many as I could, walked back to an



Find distinctive handcrafted souvenirs at Christmas markets throughout Europe.

ATM, and bought even more. This past Christmas, Daphne and I didn't buy a traditional Christmas tree. Instead, we got a simple illuminated one from Costco. We hung the red ornaments all over it and it was beautiful – the beginning of our new collection.

SHARING QUALITY TIME TOGETHER

Our ships are always beautifully appointed, but during the Christmas season, they really sparkle with garlands, wreaths and a stunning Christmas tree, so you're in the holiday spirit from the moment you step on board. You let bygones go and everyone just enjoys sharing time together. There are holiday menus with regional European specialties and traditional favorites, tree trimmings and games, but the very best activity on board is conversation with your family.

1) THE GLÜHWEIN

(hot spiced wine) mugs have value! If you bring your mug to a stall for a refill, they'll give you a discount. And if you turn in your mug, you can often get money back!

2) BRING EXTRA LUGGAGE

for souvenirs. The glühwein mugs make fun souvenirs. And of course, handcrafted ornaments.

3) PACK SHOES WITH THICK SOLES

for walking around on the cobblestone, as well as a good scarf and gloves and dress comfortably – the markets themselves ARE the fashion statement!



ENHANCE YOUR BEST SELF ONE CRUISE AT A TIME

Co-founder and EVP Kristin Karst on how AmaWaterways boosts wellness

As a passionate advocate of living a healthy lifestyle, I am always looking for new opportunities to ensure our guests can extend their own healthy lifestyles while vacationing with AmaWaterways – whether it’s through active hiking and biking adventures, healthy locally-sourced cuisine or our popular wellness activities available fleetwide. But true wellness means more than just being physically healthy. It’s a balance of several factors called the “Seven Dimensions of Wellness,” and it’s what our approach is based on.

Spiritual Wellness

Authentic Travel Experiences

Activating your sense of adventure while exploring Cambodia’s Angkor Archaeological Park; mingling with locals at an Oktoberfest celebration in Vilshofen, Germany; or truffle hunting in Avignon, France: these are just a few of the unique experiences that have the power to lift your spirits. Personally, I had my most transformative experience trekking among the gorillas in Rwanda’s Volcanoes National Park, and I knew we had to offer an experience there for guests traveling on our Africa itineraries.

Emotional Wellness

Being in the Moment

Travel expert and Godmother of AmaMagna, Samantha Brown, often talks about the “commas,” the small, quiet moments vs. “exclamation points,” the big, iconic moments of traveling. It’s the “commas” of travel experiences – the smell of lavender in Provence, the crunch of autumn leaves beneath



Yoga mats are available for use on board.

your feet on a Dürnstein hike, the sweet sip of Port at a Portuguese quinta, watching the castles of the Rhine Gorge glide by – that allow you to enjoy the “here and now.”

Intellectual Wellness

Traveling Brings New Experiences

The beauty of travel allows us to immerse in new cultures, open our minds to new ideas, meet new people and expand our knowledge of the world. Whether it’s learning how to say a few key phrases in another language; discovering how to make local

specialties like a Banitsa pastry in Vidin, Bulgaria; or spending time with the locals in an African village on the Chobe River; you can improve your intellectual wellbeing.

Environmental Wellness

Appreciate the Earth and All its Precious Resources

Seeing awe-inspiring natural wonders like Vietnam’s mystical Ha Long Bay, Zimbabwe’s awe-inspiring Victoria Falls, or Bulgaria’s whimsical Belogradchik Rocks allows us to appreciate the earth more and encourages us to take better care of these precious resources.

Social Wellness

Spending Time with People You Love – and Kindred Cruisers

Loneliness can dangerously impact one’s wellness, while togetherness is one of the strongest contributors to wellbeing. Traveling with family and friends or even traveling solo and meeting fellow cruisers strengthens your social and emotional wellbeing. Spending time with our guests always reenergizes me!

Occupational Wellness

Our Crew is Happy at Work – And It Shows!

When we founded AmaWaterways, it was important to us that our in-house staff and onboard crew felt like part of our family, because their happiness and wellbeing are reflected in how they treat our guests. Their Occupational Wellness benefits your wellness on board!

Physical Wellness

No Shortage of Active Adventures

Did you know our Wellness Hosts lead up to five different classes each day? Depending on their expertise, these classes may include yoga, pilates, core strengthening, cardio and even Latin dance. Our ships also have sun-deck pools and walking tracks as well as fitness centers, so you can stay active on your own time as well. And, as part of our included excursions, we offer three or four guided bike tours per week plus two hiking choices!

KRISTIN'S TOP 6

Favorite Things On Board



1. THE SUNRISE STRETCHING CLASS ON THE SUN DECK.

My favorite thing about this class is you don't need sophisticated gym equipment. The exercises taught can easily become part of anyone's lifestyle after returning home.

2. THE REFRESHING LEMON-INFUSED WATER AT THE HYDRATION STATION.

A perfect way to detoxify your body every morning or after an invigorating excursion ashore.

3. THE DARK CHOCOLATE SQUARE ON MY PILLOW EACH NIGHT.

I also like to indulge in ice cream one evening on board.

4. OUR FRESHLY BAKED, HEALTHY, WHOLE GRAIN DARK BREAD.

(And the occasional basket of potato wedges – a guest favorite!)

5. GRABBING A BICYCLE AND GOING FOR A QUICK REJUVENATING RIDE ALONG A QUIET RIVERSIDE PATH.

I was once even caught pedaling between two of our ships in high heels – what can I say? I enjoy a nice bike ride, though I recommend sneakers for your safety!

6. DANCING IN THE MAIN LOUNGE.

I love to see our guests enjoying themselves and connecting with one another.



Yoga on the Sun Deck

THE MOST HAPPILY SURPRISING EXPERIENCE:

Rave Reviews from a Loyal Gluten-Free Guest



LOUISE AND CALVIN BORAAS were ecstatic about their upcoming Christmas Markets cruise with AmaWaterways. There was just one hitch: Louise and the two sisters traveling with her have celiac disease, which can make dining outside of the home very difficult.

A variety of symptoms ranging in severity afflict those with celiac disease, but diets entirely free of gluten allow them to lead normal, symptom-free lives. “If I accidentally eat something with gluten, it could put me out of commission at least a day,” explained Louise.

“When you’re traveling in the gluten-free world, you’re always a little bit worried about the capability of a hotel or ship,” said Calvin, a former food industry worker. “But when I read promotional materials from AmaWaterways that mentioned their membership in *La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs*, I understood that meant we’d be surrounding ourselves with people who had the expertise to deal with our dietary needs.”



Often, however, the couple has found many restaurants promising gluten-free menu items are catering more to those following fad diets rather than those whose bodies reject any ingredients that have touched others containing gluten. This can be especially challenging to communicate to servers and chefs in different countries where English is not the primary language.

Although their travel advisor noted their dietary restrictions on the booking and they filled out a form detailing their needs, Calvin and Louise were still a bit hesitant that an intimate river ship would be able to accommodate their family at mealtimes. However, “AmaWaterways far exceeded our expectations,” admitted Calvin.

When they arrived on board the AmaStella in Budapest, they were immediately met by the



From top: Louise with her attentive waiter; Calvin and Louise with Louise's parents dressed for Kings Day on their *Tulip Time* cruise; Calvin and Louise with Louise's sisters and their husbands at dinner

maitre d', who listened to their concerns and went through the menu options available, including the jar of gluten-free cookies in the Main Lounge and gluten-free beer, which Louise noted is often very difficult to find, particularly in unfamiliar cities.



Delicious gluten-free pancakes can be made to order daily at breakfast.

At dinner, Louise recalled, "I got to participate and eat basically everything everyone else had. It was the most happily surprising experience I've ever had on vacation." From breakfasts, where she was served gluten-free toast and pancakes, to special desserts, Louise and her sisters were treated to a delicious and worry-free dining experience. "Someone was always paying attention

and I never felt like a bother or I was imposing when I made a request."

Louise and her sisters were even surprised with boxed lunches during their full-day excursion in Vienna, just in case the restaurants on shore were unable to handle their unique needs.

So impressed by their amazing experience, Louise and Calvin soon booked a *Tulip Time* cruise on board the AmaLea. "I went into the second cruise with pretty high expectations," said Louise. "But I was just as happy, if not happier, with all the accommodations."

On a night when the dessert table offered chocolate fondue, which can get contaminated quite quickly when others dip cookies or cake in the chocolate, a server took Louise aside to show her the dessert and allowed her to dunk first. "That kind of consideration...when they go to that degree of taking care of you, the worry of eating is just completely gone. The awareness and commitment on board from A to Z was fantastic," raved Calvin. After having sub-par



Refreshing and detoxifying water infused with citrus, gemstones or herbs and spices is changed out daily.

experiences with other travel providers, Calvin said, "We won't even think of going anywhere else. AmaWaterways gets nothing but rave reviews from us."



TIP: Be sure to mention any special dietary needs you may have to your travel advisor as well as on your passenger information form before traveling and please speak with the maitre d' at the beginning of your cruise to ensure your experience is just as memorable!

Juice freshly squeezed from locally-sourced seasonal fruit is available daily at breakfast.

DELICIOUS Gluten-Free Almond Cake

Gluten-free desserts are always available across our fleet and our gluten-free almond cake is a tempting choice. Here's how we prepare it.



GLUTEN-FREE ALMOND CAKE

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups firmly packed almond meal or almond flour (8 ounces), plus extra for dusting the pan
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 4 eggs
- 2/3 cup maple syrup or honey
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 1/2 teaspoons grated lemon zest (from 2 medium lemons, preferably organic), plus more for garnish

GLAZE AND TOPPING

- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup or honey
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt or whipped cream
- 1/2 pound ripe strawberries, thinly sliced
- 1 cup fresh berries (6 ounces)

Preparation without glaze pictured

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 325° F. Generously grease a 9" springform pan and dust with almond flour.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together 2 cups of almond meal, the baking powder, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon.
3. Crack eggs into a medium bowl and beat with a whisk until yolks and egg whites are blended. Add maple syrup, olive oil and lemon zest, and whisk to blend. Pour the wet ingredients into the almond meal mixture and stir until there are just a few clumps remaining.
4. Scrape batter into the prepared pan (it will be runny; don't worry). Bake for 40 to 45 minutes, or until cake is golden brown and the center is firm to the touch.
5. For the glaze: In a small bowl, whisk together lemon juice and 1 tablespoon maple syrup until blended. (If you're using honey instead and having a hard time blending it into the lemon juice, place the bowl on top of your stove to warm it up while the cake bakes, or warm it briefly in the microwave until you can whisk them together.)
6. Once the cake is out of the oven, place the cake, pan and all, on a cooling rack. While the cake is warm, use a pastry brush to brush the glaze over the top. It should soak right in.
7. Let the cake cool for at least 30 minutes. Carefully remove the outer piece from your springform pan.
8. Spread yogurt evenly on top, then place berries on top. Sprinkle with some additional lemon zest, then slice the cake with a sharp knife and serve! Store any remaining cake in the refrigerator, covered, for up to 4 days.



How to Balance the Wellness Equation: FITNESS + DIET



AmaWaterways Sports Scientist Selina Wank shares some of her quick and easy advice on how to get the best out of each day through exercise and the foods you eat.

We all know that staying active is key to our overall wellness. Which stretches are the best to do upon waking up?

The best stretches and easiest routines to follow are those we can do directly in bed before even standing up. Try a “bed stretch” with your arms lengthening over your head, neck stretches that slowly wake up the muscles, or a simple child’s pose (face-down, knees to your chest, arms stretching out in front of you).

Fresh fruit smoothies are available daily at breakfast.



A balanced breakfast is an important way to start the day. What do you recommend?

My favorite easy-to-make breakfast is either oats or chia seeds soaked in water or almond milk overnight. Then, in the morning, I add a variation of the following: banana, peanut butter, blueberries and seed mix.

What are the best foods to eat before a workout?

A banana, whole grain cereals or yogurt are great starters

before a normal-length, medium-intensity workout. Smoothies are also a good option as a pre-workout meal.

How much time do you recommend leaving between eating and working out?

The timing of your meal depends on the size and content of the meal. I typically advise eating a large full plate approximately 2-3 hours before exercising. A more normal to small-sized meal can be eaten one hour before exercising. It’s also very important to remember to hydrate. Drink

2-3 cups of water within two hours before your workout and constantly refill during your workout.

Which foods do you suggest eating after a workout to maximize its effects on your body?

After a workout, I try to focus on replacing glycogen stores by eating within two hours. Proteins and carbs, such as a peanut butter sandwich or a turkey and whole grain bread sandwich, are the focus of my post-workout meal.

What if you’re feeling sluggish? Which foods boost energy?

Fresh fruits, such as blueberries, are high in fiber and slow-releasing energy. Nuts that are high in magnesium help convert sugars to energy. And quinoa is a longer-lasting energy source of plant-based superfoods. For a little more flavor, you can add honey, which provides natural muscle fuel.

Is there an exercise or activity people can do before bed to fall asleep easier?

Exercise typically wakes up the body, releases endorphins and gets the adrenalin pumping, so one should avoid exercising



Only the freshest seasonal fruit is purchased by our chefs in local markets and served with breakfast, lunch and even for dessert.

intensely before bed. However, breathing exercises can help to relax and calm your mind. For example, once in bed, place one hand resting on the chest and one hand on the lower abdomen. Start by inhaling for one count then exhaling for one count. Increase for two counts on the inhale and exhale, then continue until count five. Find the preferred count that works for you and focus on the movement of your hands as they rise and fall with each breath you take.



As part of AmaMagna’s Zen Wellness Studio, a new juice bar will offer enticing choices made from fresh locally-sourced fruit.

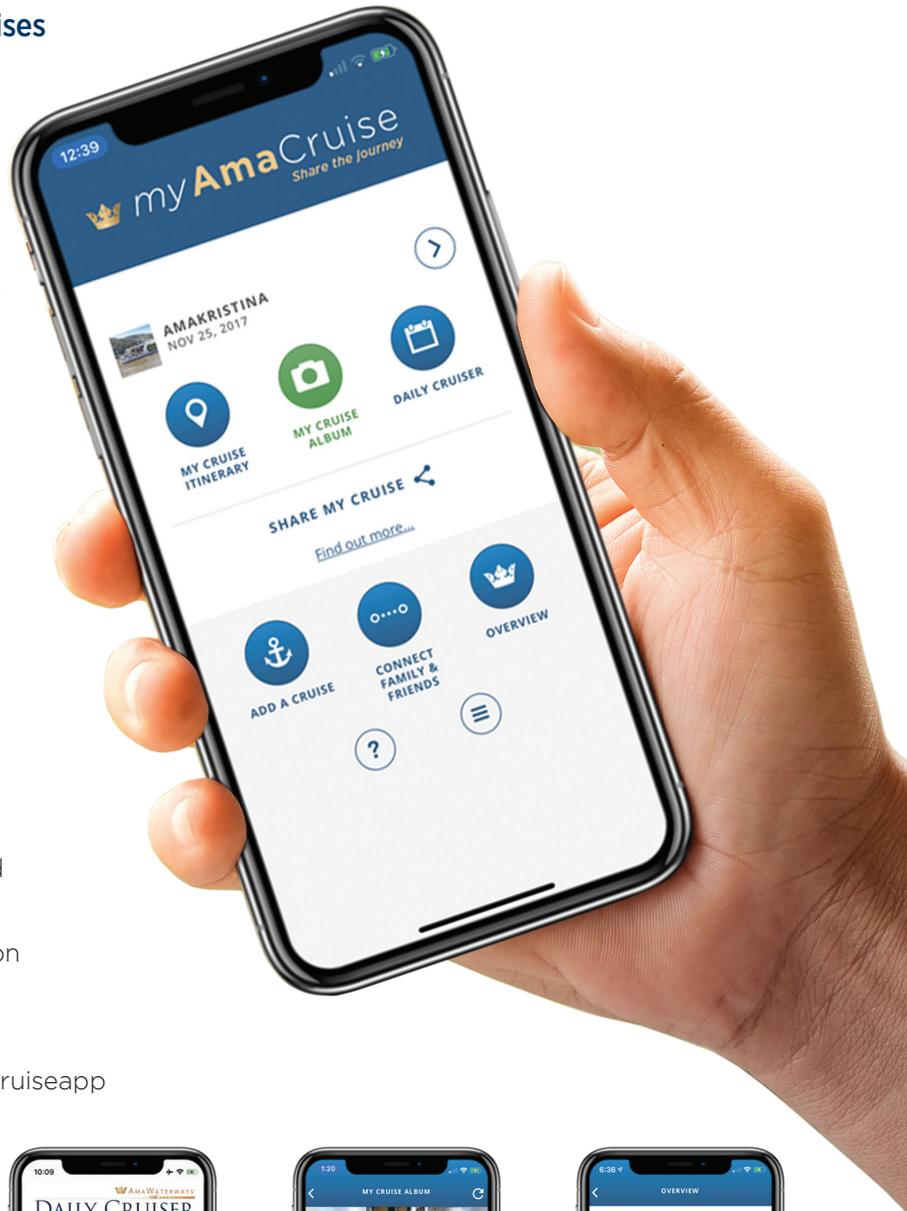
Always consult your physician before making any changes to your diet or exercise program.

myAmaCruise

An Interactive River Cruise App

Available on all AmaWaterways river cruises in Europe* and Asia

Putting your itinerary at your fingertips, the new myAmaCruise app is a one-stop-shop for keeping you informed and connected during your cruise. Whether you use a Smartphone or a tablet, downloading the myAmaCruise app before you sail will allow you to easily share your experience with family and friends back home.



myAmaCruise features:

- **Live Itinerary Tracking:** View and share an interactive map that follows your cruise ship route
- **Personal Cruise Album:** Take photos and tag your location on an itinerary map, then share with loved ones back home
- **Daily Program and Shore Excursions:** Read about each port of call and find details on daily excursions
- **Daily Cruiser:** Read an electronic version of AmaWaterways' onboard newsletter for up-to-date information about the day ahead
- **E-mail Postcards:** Send e-postcards using your personal photos at the touch of a button

Learn More at AmaWaterways.com/myAmaCruiseapp



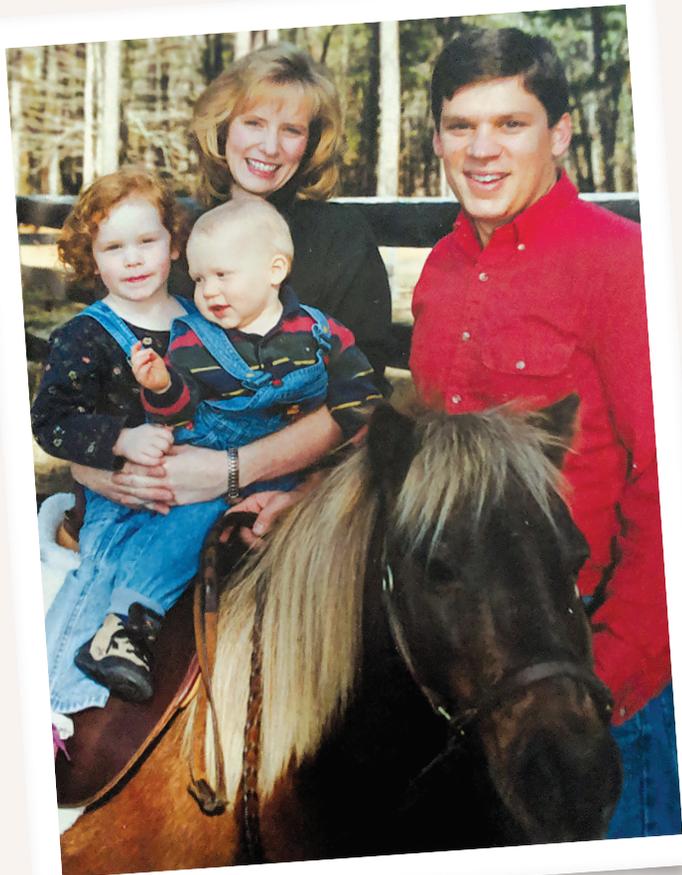
*Excluding Portugal.

CONTEST WINNERS

LOVE

is in the air

Thank you to all the loyal guests who entered our “Love is in the Air” contest – and congratulations to winners Sonya and Rene L., whose story was submitted by Sonya’s mother Ann C. After surviving a rough year, including a fire that took their home, Ann entered them into our contest in an extraordinary act of love and hope. Having personally been affected by devastating wildfires last year near our offices in Calabasas, California, we were deeply moved by their story and look forward to celebrating their enduring love with them and their family on their upcoming AmaMagna cruise.



Sonya and Rene with kids, 1995

From devoted spouses standing by your side “in sickness and in health,” to hilarious honeymoon mishaps to elementary school sweethearts to second chances at romance, your submissions made us laugh and cry and truly inspired us. We sincerely hope we can continue to be a part of your love stories.

FEATURED SUBMISSIONS



Anne B.



James U.



Paula J.

“After saying our goodbyes to friends and family in our ‘going away’ outfits, we left sporting my Dad’s car adorned with ‘just married.’ We had to return to our reception a half hour later as we had run out of gas and had to have my uncle open his gas station.”
– Randy and Elayne S.

“THE BIG ADVENTURE IS NOT DEAD”

PART ONE OF A TWO-PART STORY



Photos of young Rudi Schreiner on the Amazon, 1974

A passion for adventure, a relentless desire to travel off the beaten path and the completion of the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal fueled AmaWaterways' President, Founder & Co-owner Rudi Schreiner, to innovate river cruising, earning him the well-deserved nickname, “the Godfather of River Cruising.”

THE AUSTRIAN SIKKIM-NEPAL EXPEDITION

Growing up in Vienna, Austria, close to the Danube River, Rudi has always had a deep connection to rivers, but this is only part of the story that ignited his river cruise vision. It was 1973. As a 21-year-old studying architecture at the Technical University of Vienna, a thrill-seeking Rudi, his roommate Martin Uitz and his friend

Richard Gippelhauser embarked on a research mission to study how social structure in Nepal affected the architecture of communities. Funded by the Ministry of Education, the students' trip would turn into a life-changing seven months spent driving from Vienna to Nepal, with diversions in Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan.

Perhaps the most peaceful yet transformative part of the young men's experience was during their time among the rural Limbu tribe in Eastern Nepal. The Nepalese rice farmers had taken up residence in the unspoiled landscape near the third highest mountain in the world: Kangchenjunga, where it is believed by some there is a valley of immortality.

“The Big Adventure is Not Dead” was the name of the story written by Rudi Schreiner and published by Austria's Kronen Zeitung newspaper in 1974.

THE BIG ADVENTURE

When the duo returned from their 7-month journey, they sold their story, “The Big Adventure is Not Dead,” to the largest newspaper in Austria, the *Kronen Zeitung*. The paper's cover page showed a photo featuring the three young men standing on top of their Volkswagen van in front of the Himalaya Mountains. Their 20-week two-page Sunday story

sparked the interest of more than one car company to entice the young men to promote their brand on their next journey. So, in October 1974, the men drove all the way from New York down through Central America to Peru in a Mercedes



Co-founders Rudi Schreiner and Kristin Karst, 2005

Benz van, arriving in April 1975 in the Peruvian Amazon. During their six-month journey, Rudi built his first river vessel, a raft, and researched the Achuara tribe, a subgroup of the Jivaroan tribal Indians who hunt for and shrink heads, close to the Ecuadorian border.

NO FEAR

Rather than focusing their research on major tourist sites like Machu Picchu, the young travelers concentrated on the stories of the people they met. They visited Honduras after a hurricane and witnessed the devastation firsthand. They visited Nicaragua after a major earthquake. They stayed in the Archbishop's Palace in Lima. With their press pass from the paper, Rudi and his friend were allowed almost

anywhere. They also spent more time with the Jivaroan tribal Indians.

"These experiences were life-changing and empowering," Rudi recalls, "and ultimately led to my lifelong love of travel."

At the end of their journey, they sold the car in Bolivia, took a detour from Rio, Brazil to Senegal and then flew home. They had amassed many goods: a 25-foot canoe, pottery, baskets and headdresses, which they sold to museums, and were asked to collect even more. However, further "collection missions" quickly extinguished the bright flame that had once inspired Rudi. He wanted to meet people and learn about their culture, not just procure their objects.

"These experiences were life-changing and empowering,"
Rudi recalls,
"and ultimately led to my lifelong love of travel."



A DREAM WAS BORN

Rudi returned to college and later worked in Vienna as an architect; however, that job lasted just one year. "I couldn't sit still in an office anymore," he admits.

In hopes of reliving the excitement he'd had on his first expedition, he became a summer tour guide for U.S. students in Europe. He eventually settled with his family in California, where he opened not one but two student travel companies. However, the effects of the Gulf War made a deep impact on the industry as less students felt comfortable heading overseas.

In 1992, Uniworld recruited Rudi to develop new tours in Eastern Europe. As fate would have it, the Rhine- Main-Danube Canal finally opened in 1992 and Rudi was quick to envision a new tourism business developing around long-distance river cruising. The significance of the canal's completion meant connecting two of Europe's greatest rivers: the Rhine, via its tributary the Main, with the Danube, allowing travel from the North Sea all the way to the Black Sea. More than 800 years prior, Charlemagne dreamed of connecting these two rivers, so 1992 fulfilled his vision and created a new visionary in Rudi.



From left: Gary Murphy, Kristin Karst, Jimmy Murphy and Rudi Schreiner

What started as 100 river cruise passengers in 1994 turned into 20,000 passengers by 2000. That year, Rudi left Uniworld with a group of 15 people and opened the Viking River Cruises office in Woodland Hills, California – and a new industry was born. But it wasn't until 2002 when Rudi joined forces with the late Jimmy Murphy, owner of Brendan Tours, and Kristin Karst, who was then heading up Viking's Group and Incentive travel division, to start their own river cruise company—AmaWaterways.

Stay tuned for our next edition of *Beyond the River Banks* to read about how the "big adventure" continued with the evolution of AmaWaterways.



Rudi Schreiner, 1978

The Significance of the RHINE-MAIN-DANUBE CANAL

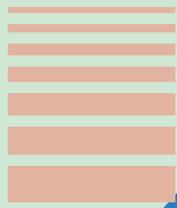
September 25, 1992 marked the completion of the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal, a dream in the making for over a thousand years. The canal joins the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers, allowing travel from the North Sea to the Black Sea and creating a 2,175-mile-long waterway navigating through 15 countries. Located in Bavaria in the south of Germany, its completion laid the groundwork for modern-day luxury river cruising and the birth of AmaWaterways.

RHINE RIVER

MAIN RIVER



The medieval emperor Charlemagne who ruled much of Western Europe from 768 to 814 dreamed of traversing the European continent from the North Sea to the Black Sea by building a canal via the Main and Danube rivers for his battle fleet. However, heavy rains and lateral erosion prevented his dream from becoming a reality.

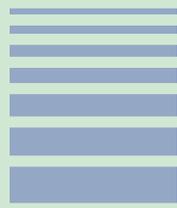


YEAR

793



King Ludwig I of Bavaria began construction of a section of the canal from Bamberg to Nuremberg—the Ludwig-Danube-Main Canal—which operated from the mid-1800s until its damage during WWII and closure in 1950.

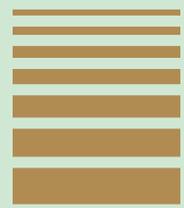


YEAR

1837



The German government and the state of Bavaria joined forces and drew up plans to build the modern Main-Danube Canal.



YEAR

1921

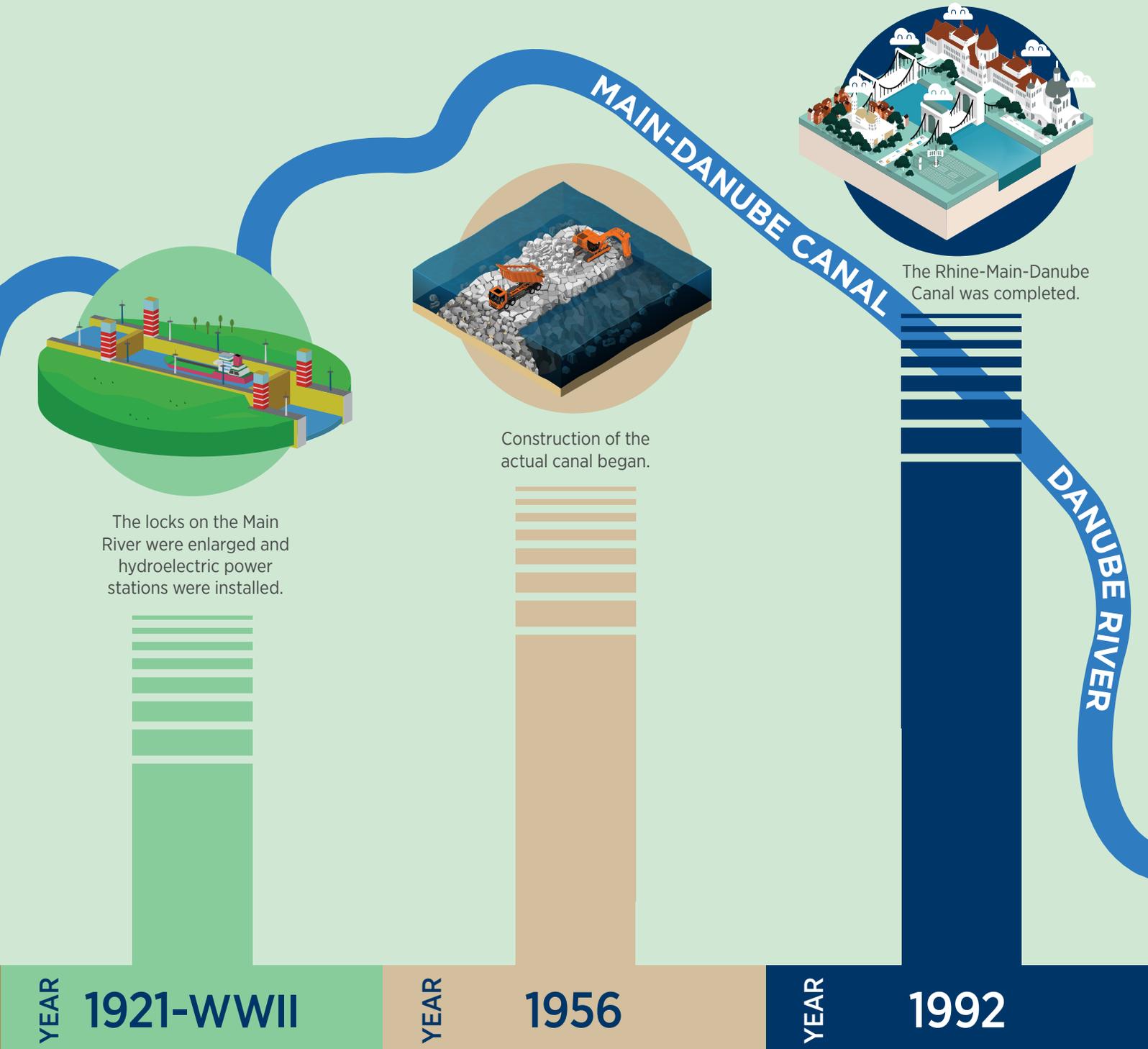
Rhine-Main-Danube Canal Timeline

BY THE NUMBERS:

106 MILES LONG **16** LOCKS, EACH ABOUT **625** FEET LONG,
40 FEET WIDE AND UP TO **100** FEET DEEP

LIFTS RIVER CRUISE SHIPS **1,300** FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL AT ITS
HIGHEST POINT, KNOWN AS THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Experience this manmade marvel on our *Medieval Treasures*, *Europe's Rivers & Castles*, *Magnificent Europe*, *Legendary Danube*, *Blue Danube Discovery* and *Magical Christmas Markets* cruises.



MEET OUR EXTRAORDINARY CRUISE MANAGERS

Where AmaWaterways Finds its Sparkle

Our Cruise Managers are the best in the industry and are perhaps the biggest reason many guests return to AmaWaterways year after year. A diverse team from all over the world, they have been carefully selected from a pool of hundreds of applicants each year during a rigorous interview process with Wade Korzan and Leo Starico, who head up AmaWaterways' European office in Basel, Switzerland.

CRUISE MANAGERS ARE TRAINED IN 'FLEPS':

Family, Love, Enthusiasm, Passion and Sparkle

"If they don't 'sparkle,' they won't be hired. Sparkle is a quality that isn't tangible. It can't be defined. You see it in their eyes and feel an overwhelming positive energy." - Wade Korzan



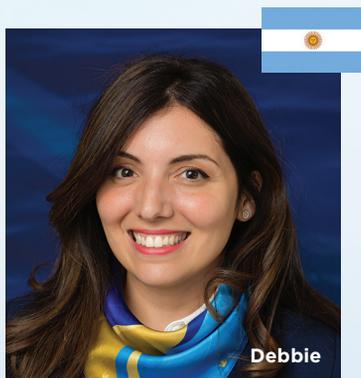
Christian

Interesting Fact: Fluent in six languages



Csaba

Interesting Fact: Swimming and yoga enthusiast



Debbie

Interesting Fact: Loves to dance, sing and serenade our guests



Dejan

Interesting Fact: Enjoys diving and paragliding



Kata

Interesting Fact: Has a Westie dog named Happy



John

Interesting Fact: Formerly worked in ski chalets and beach resorts



Son

Interesting Fact: Has twice been honored as "Cruise Manager of the Year"



Peter

Interesting Fact: Enjoys living and mountain biking in the Austrian Alps



Leo and Wade with Cruise Managers

LAUGHTER AND LONGEVITY

AmaWaterways' four most senior Cruise Managers celebrated their 10th anniversary in 2015, posing in t-shirts imprinted with a picture of them 10 years prior at the first official AmaWaterways kickoff meeting. All four Cruise Managers still work for AmaWaterways.

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND YOUR FAVORITE CRUISE MANAGER ON THIS PAGE AND MEET OUR OTHER EXCEPTIONAL CRUISE MANAGERS AT AMAWATERWAYS.COM/EXPLORE/CRUISE-MANAGERS.



Maddy

Interesting Fact: Has a Master's degree in International Affairs



Bernard

Interesting Fact: Formerly worked as a grounds man at a local lodge



Uwe

Interesting Fact: Studied civil engineering



SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS:

A Highlight of the AmaWaterways Experience

Immersive hands-on *Special Interest Tours*, exclusive to AmaWaterways, allow guests to take a deeper dive into local culture – and are included in your cruise fare. Three of our Cruise Managers share some of their favorites below.

TRUFFLE HUNTING IN AVIGNON, FRANCE



Description:

It's not an excursion but an experience. The drive between the ship and the truffle farm is a moving postcard where you can see the Provençal landscape you have always imagined: quaint little villages, blooming fields, sunshine, and, if you are lucky, miles of lavender!

On this experience you will learn more about the truffle business from the perspective

of the actual truffle farm owner, visit their house and meet their family. They will make you feel cozy and welcome! And when you think things couldn't be better, the star of the show comes: "LE" DOG.

Group Size:

Normally every guest on the ship goes on this excursion as nobody wants to miss it. But we do divide the guests into smaller groups, so everyone has a more intimate, cozy experience.

Available on the following itinerary:

Colors of Provence

WHAT DO THE DOGS DO WHEN THEY FIND A TRUFFLE?

That would spoil the surprise! You will have to come and see it! But let's say they are very well compensated.

Highlight:

You will be smelling truffles until you get back home and there is truffle tasting to put your palate in heaven. You can even buy delicious truffle products to take back home and show your friends and family what they have missed.



PRETZEL BAKING IN WERTHEIM, GERMANY



Reka

Description:

You'll learn how to shape the perfect pretzel (as it is called in Germany). It has to be fat in the middle and thin at the edges. You will also learn the story of the pretzel and the significance of its shape, formed as two arms in prayer.

I always buy a large basket full of warm bretzels, enough for all guests, even the ones who do not go on the tour. The baker brings it in a large basket and as guests walk to the ship I wait for them at the entrance, so everyone can take one.

Group Size:

Altogether I had something like 35 guests split in two groups.

Highlight:

Hearing the personal stories of baker Mr. Fritz Frischmuth, as he traveled the world to teach people how to prepare traditional German baked goods, including bretzels and sourdough. He has traveled from Dubai to Asia and teaches high-class chefs about baking.



HOW DO THEY TASTE?

Yummy!

Available on the following itineraries:

Europe's Rivers & Castles, Medieval Treasures, Magnificent Europe

KÖLSCH BEER TASTING IN COLOGNE, GERMANY



Raul

Description:

Taste Cologne's famous beer, which combines the two most popular brewing methods in a unique way to produce a filtered, crystal-clear beer. Kölsch is light in color, but with a strong flavor and hops intensity, and distinctive "pearl string" bubbles.

It's so unique it needs a glass of its own, the so-called "stange," a relatively small and thin beer glass replenished every time a waiter spots an empty one!

You'll also learn the unique nature of the local culture in Cologne, which is so different from the German stereotype, and find out about their constant competition with their neighbors in Düsseldorf.

Group Size:

Usually no more than 25.

Highlight:

The potato pancakes and applesauce are delicious, but I confess, I am biased – my Grandma used to make them for me as a child. Every time I have the crispy hot

potato pancakes with cold, sweet applesauce, I am instantly taken back to my Grandma's kitchen table. I can hardly think of anything better!



Available on the following itineraries:

Captivating Rhine, Enchanting Rhine, Rhine & Moselle Delights, Rhine & Moselle Fairytales, Magnificent Europe, Christmas Markets on the Rhine

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Regensburg, Germany – “A Medieval Miracle”

Cruise to the colorful Bavarian city of Regensburg, the oldest city on the Danube River, one of Germany’s best-preserved medieval cities and the largest medieval town north of the Alps. Along with nearly 1,500 buildings listed as being of historical interest, find picturesque cobblestone streets and alleys, colorful buildings and cafés, a vibrant Old Town that was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site and so much more. In modern times, Regensburg is known for being one of Pope Benedict XVI’s residences; he taught at the university when he was known simply as Reverend Joseph Ratzinger.

FROM ROMAN FORTIFICATION TO BAVARIAN TRADE CENTER

One of Germany’s oldest settlements, Regensburg dates from the Stone Age. The Romans moved into the area roughly around 100 AD, but the foundation date is usually considered to be 179 AD (the time of



Regensburg Cathedral

Emperor Marcus Aurelius) – when the Romans built the Castra Regina fortress. With this fort, the city quickly became an important center of trade and culture for Bavaria. And from the 6th-13th centuries it served as Bavaria’s first capital. In 1245, Regensburg became a Free Imperial City and thrived until trade routes shifted in the late Middle Ages. Many of the structures from these times still exist and are popular destinations to admire. Spared from much of the bombing during WWII, the historical structures remain almost entirely intact.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Naturally, the renowned Regensburg Cathedral (called the *Dom* by Germans) dominates the Old Town’s skyline. Dedicated to St. Peter, it is the most important work of Gothic architecture in Bavaria. Founded in 1275, the church is home to a masterpiece by German artist Peter Vischer. It is also the base for the famed Regensburger Domspatzen choir. This all-male choir has performed for many notable figures, such as Queen Elizabeth II and Pope John Paul II, has made numerous recordings and performed in concerts throughout the world. One of their former choir directors was Georg Ratzinger, the brother of aforementioned Pope Benedict XVI.

The famed Stone Bridge (aka *Steinerne Brücke*) is nearby. Built from 1135-1146, it is the oldest still-working bridge in Germany, a bridge the Knights of the 2nd and 3rd Crusades crossed on their way



Regensburg, Germany



Regensburg, Germany

through Europe. For a long period, it was the only fortified crossing of the Danube and was used by trading merchants as well.

LEGENDARY LINKS

Next door, the Regensburg Sausage Kitchen, perhaps the oldest continuously opened restaurant in the world, first opened its doors to hungry customers in



Regensburg Sausage Kitchen

1146 AD (although the present building dates from the 17th century). Folks have been coming back ever since. Originally built as a construction office for the Stone Bridge, the building then immediately became a restaurant named 'Garkueche auf dem Kranchen' ('Cookshop Near the Crane'). The kitchen still operates daily, serving about 6,000 sausages to guests, along with other dishes.

THE MOST ROMANTIC CHRISTMAS MARKET IN BAVARIA

Among Regensburg's most famous buildings is the Princely Castle St. Emmeram, headquarters of the world-famous noble family Thurn and Taxis. The picturesque backdrop of St. Emmeram gives the "Romantic Christmas Market" an incomparable

atmosphere. Under the protection of the imposing castle facade, the courtyard shines through countless candles, lanterns and torches in a soft, atmospheric light. In the middle of the lovingly carved-out village of yule-adorned wooden houses stands out a mighty, magnificently decorated Christmas tree. Time and again, Princess Gloria von Thurn und Taxis and her family mingle informally among the guests.

A NOTEWORTHY DANUBE RIVER DESTINATION

Even part of the Roman fortress's walls built in 179 AD remain. The arched gate called Porta Praetoria is a remarkable testament to the town's heritage. Enjoy more beautiful public squares, dotted with fountains, statues, gargoyle statues, reliefs and stained-glass windows throughout this stunning, incredibly well-preserved city on your *Legendary Danube*, *Blue Danube Discovery*, *Magnificent Europe*, *Grand Danube Cruise* or *Iconic Christmas Markets* cruise.



Regensburg Christmas Market

APRIL 12, 2019

AMADOURO CHRISTENING

The AmaDouro was ceremoniously christened by our first-ever British Godmother, Advantage Travel Partnership's Chief Executive Officer Julia Lo Bue-Said, in Porto, Portugal on April 12. Joining the AmaVida on her namesake river, the AmaDouro was named for the Portuguese word for "golden."



Pictured above from left: Leo Starico (Manager of EU Operations), Jamie Loizou (Sales, Marketing and Digital Director, UK Office), Julia Lo Bue-Said (AmaDouro Godmother), Stuart Perl (Managing Director, UK Office), Kristin Karst (Co-founder & EVP), Wade Korzan (Director of EU Operations), Aga Prokopowicz (Ship Coordinator), Hanneke Steenbergen (Ship Operations Coordinator, EU Office), Rudi Schreiner (Co-founder & President)





4



5



6



7



8



9

1. Rudi Schreiner celebrates the launch of our newest ship in Portugal. 2. A local priest blesses the AmaDouro at her maiden river cruise. 3. Porto, Portugal reflected across the AmaDouro. 4. Wade Korzan speaks before the christening ceremony. 5. Champagne breaks on the hull of the AmaDouro, officially christening the ship. 6. Godmother Julia Lo Bue-Said embraces Wade Korzan following the christening. 7. Local musicians gesture to the crew of AmaDouro. 8. From left: Jackie Friedman, President of Nexion and Godmother of AmaViola; AmaDouro Godmother Julia Lo Bue-Said and Kristin. 9. The AmaDouro sailing on the Douro River.

{ the inside scoop }

As part of our AmaWaterways family, we want you to be among the first to hear “insider” news and product updates.

TWO SPECIAL MEKONG RIVER OFFERS

Go off the beaten path to an area of the world less seen by tourists and open your eyes to the rich culture in both bustling cities and rural villages alike. Plus, venture deeper by extending your stay with our land programs in sought-after destinations like Siem Reap, home to the awe-inspiring Angkor Archaeological Park, historic Hanoi and ethereal Ha Long Bay.

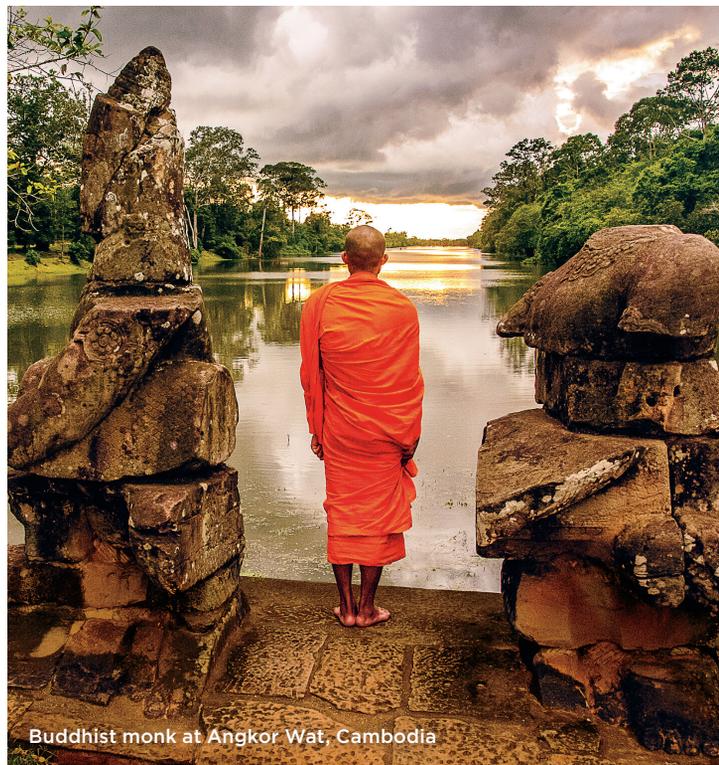
If you've always wanted to discover the magic and beauty of Vietnam and Cambodia, now is the time to book this bucket-list experience with AmaWaterways, because you can take advantage of **two special offers**:

2-for-1 pricing on Mekong River land programs

OR

Save up to \$1,500 per stateroom on select Mekong River departures

But hurry - both limited-time offers expire on May 31, 2019, so contact your preferred travel advisor to take advantage today! Terms and conditions apply; ask for details.



Buddhist monk at Angkor Wat, Cambodia



Château de Chenonceau, Loire Valley, France

500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RENAISSANCE IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

History lovers rejoice: 2019 marks 500 years since the beginning of the French Renaissance - and the Loire Valley is celebrating! If you booked a *Taste of Bordeaux* cruise sailing this spring or summer, you can check out the special exhibits below.

Spring 2019: Château de Chenonceau

Celebrate Queen Catherine de Medici by exploring a restored version of her apothecary room, which tells the history of both her and the chateau.

June 28-July 13, 2019: Château de Chambord

Step back in time with the exhibit *Chambord 1519-2019, utopia at work*, featuring over 150 works, including three original leaves from Leonardo da Vinci's *Codex Atlanticus*.

NEW 2019 CRUISES + FREE NIGHT IN NUREMBERG

Due to overwhelming demand, we have added new cruises on some of our most popular 2019 itineraries – our *Legendary Danube* and *Blue Danube Discovery* – as well as new *Treasures of the Main & Rhine* cruises for 2019. Enjoy a customized 8-night itinerary which combines your 7-night cruise with one complimentary hotel night in the fascinating medieval city of Nuremberg, Germany. Contact your preferred travel advisor to book today!

New 2019 Legendary Danube Dates: June 8, July 6, August 3, August 31, September 28

New 2019 Blue Danube Discovery Dates: June 2, June 30, July 28, August 25, September 22

New 2019 Treasures of the Main & Rhine Dates: June 2, June 9, June 30, July 7, July 28, August 4, August 25, September 1, September 22, September 29



Nuremberg, Germany



Rembrandt: Self-Portrait

REMEMBERING REMBRANDT

2019 marks the 350th anniversary of the passing of famed Dutch artist Rembrandt – and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam is celebrating his enduring legacy. Should you visit Amsterdam's Museumplein during your AmaWaterways river cruise before June 10, 2019, you'll be able to admire all 22 paintings, 60 drawings and more than 300 prints in the Rijksmuseum's Rembrandt collection.



Amsterdam, Netherlands

YES, You Need a Travel Professional

Vacationers definitely still need travel advisors – on this we remain passionate and firm. Here's why:

1.

The Human Connection

You can visit message boards and scour tourism sites, but how do you know the information you're reading is accurate and up to date? Your travel advisor does the work for you, saving you valuable time. And they provide a one-stop-shop helping you with air, pre- and post-hotel/land extensions, stateroom locations and so much more.

2.

They're Advisors, Not Agents

The term "travel agent" is now obsolete. Your travel advisor not only books your cruise, he or she has extensive destination and product knowledge, often having experienced many places you wish to travel. They can help you personalize your experience and give you insider tips. Want to know which itinerary will give you the most time in the ports you want to see? Your travel advisor has the answers.

3.

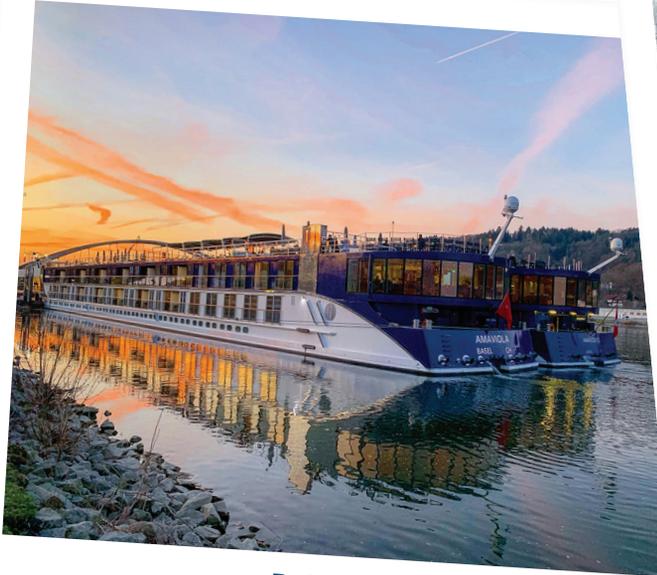
The Benefits Outweigh Your Doubts

A travel advisor is your own personal shopper at no cost. Plus, you get unparalleled peace of mind that, in the unlikely event of a travel mishap, you have someone you can call to help.



Tice, Kerry. "Why Travelers Still Need a Travel Agent." Travel Market Report: Travel Market Report, Travel Market Report, 6 Sept. 2018, www.travelmarketreport.com/articles/Why-Travelers-Still-Need-a-Travel-Agent.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONTEST WINNERS!



Britton F.

*AmaViola and AmaCerto docked in Vilshofen, Germany,
#AmaWaterways*



Dorothy B.

Snow on the Danube



Yvonne C.

Our 'Bucket-List' family is well cared for by the AmaFamily

Have a great photo or story to share from your river cruise? We want to hear from you! Submit photos and stories to myamastory@amawaterways.com for a chance to be featured in the next issue of *Beyond the River Banks* or #AmaWaterways on social media.

Connect with us on     



26010 Mureau Road
Calabasas, CA 91302



LOYALTY APPRECIATION MONTH

November 2019
Special Offers | Exclusive Events |
Commemorative Gifts | See inside for details!

