

WINTER 2025

Life on the River

PLEASE LEAVE THIS MAGAZINE IN YOUR CABIN FOR THE NEXT GUESTS



Safety
onboard

Discover
the Douro

Find out about our first ever new-build
ship on the Douro River

Spotlight on
Budapest

A closer look at Hungary's majestic
capital, including details of our new
Cruise & Stay options

Welcome onboard

I'm really excited that you've chosen to explore Egypt with TUI River Cruises on our newest ship, TUI Bahareya.

This winter marks her first season sailing along the world-famous River Nile, and just our second season overall following the successful launch of TUI Al Horeya last winter. Everything you need to know about your time on and off the ship can be found in here, and you'll find all the essential need-to-knows on pages 4-7.

You can read all about our three new ships - including this one - from page 26. And, we take a closer look at Hungary's grand capital, Budapest, on pages 30 and 31 - including more details about our Cruise & Stay options. You can meet the TUI River Cruises team, too, on pages 18 and 19. Plus, we give you the lowdown on how to use our **Navigate app**, and info on our activities, bars and restaurants. Happy sailing.



Katy Berzins
Head of TUI River Cruises

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Meet the team

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Staying safe and healthy abroad

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and National Travel Health Network and Centre have up-to-date advice on staying safe and healthy abroad.

For the latest general FCDO travel advice, including security and local laws, plus passport and visa information, check gov.uk/travelaware and follow x.com/FCDOtravelGovUK and facebook.com/FCDOtravel

See FCDO travel advice about individual destinations and sign up for FCDO travel advice email alerts, so you automatically receive the latest travel advice updates and travel requirements for the destinations you want to know about, at gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

For travel advice from TUI, see tui.co.uk/destinations/info/travel-aware

For current travel health news, see travelhealthpro.org.uk

Advice can change, so check regularly for updates.

**travel
aware**
gov.uk/travelaware



A complete guide to your cabin and our services



Whether you've cruised before or you're completely new to it, here's everything you need to know to get up to speed with our ships.

Ship info

Onboard Ship Account

We operate a cashless system on board. Massage treatments are charged to your onboard account and you can pay for these at the end of your cruise by credit or debit card. You can also pay for them in cash if you prefer, either in Egyptian Pounds or US Dollars. Other extras onboard, such as items from the gift shop, are to be paid as you go, and can't be charged to your onboard account.

Going Ashore

When leaving the ship to go ashore, you'll be given a shore card as you leave, which you'll need to hand back when you get back onboard. This is so we know who is on and off the ship at all times. Before you leave, please take note of the 'all onboard' time, which can be found in reception, as well as in Navigate. Everyone must be back onboard by this time to ensure we can set sail on time.

Hetep

This is the ship's wellness area, and it's the ideal space for some downtime after a day's sightseeing. You'll find a sauna and massage rooms* here, including one for couples.

Departure Information

You'll need to vacate your cabins by midday. This is so our housekeeping team can prepare the cabins for our arriving guests.



Speak to your Cruise Experience Manager if you have any questions while you're onboard.



Wi-Fi

There's free Wi-Fi access throughout the ship - speeds and coverage may vary.

Cabin info

Safety deposit boxes

Every cabin comes with a safety deposit box to store your valuables. They're free to use.

Telephone

You can use your cabin phone to call Reception - you'll see a pre-set button on the handset. If you want to call another cabin, just dial the cabin number.

Mobile phones

Depending on your mobile phone provider, your phone should work throughout your sailing. International roaming rates will apply, and prices are set by your operator.



*Just so you know, you'll need to pre-book massages.



Services

Reception

Reception's open 24/7, so you can visit them on Deck 2 or call them on your cabin phone by pressing the pre-set 'Reception' button.

Onboard Shop

You can buy a variety of merchandise from our gift shop onboard, including jewellery, gifts, books and souvenirs.

Housekeeping

Cabin stewards will visit twice a day to make sure everything's spick-and-span, and all cabins have a turndown service, as well. If you'd prefer housekeeping not to visit your cabin, then just pop the 'Do not disturb' sign on your door.

Laundry

To use our laundry service, simply request a bag from Reception. Place your items in the bag, then fill out the laundry slips - where you'll find prices for each

item. Once you're finished, just leave the bag on the bed for collection. Just so you know, we don't accept laundry the day before disembarkation, as we can't guarantee it'll be ready before you leave.

Navigate

Our Navigate app is your one-stop-shop for everything river cruise related - and it's completely free to use. All you need is a smartphone, a tablet, or a laptop.

- Once you've registered your device for Wi-Fi, you'll be directed to the Navigate home page. If this doesn't happen, you can type **navigate.tui** into your web browser.



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and share your river cruise photos and videos with us, at **facebook.com/TUIRiverCruises**, and **@tuirivercruises**.



Safety info



Moving Around The Ship

Unlike a hotel, a ship can move around unexpectedly, so take care when walking around the ship and its stairwells. Please use the handrails when you can and take extra care when walking through doors, as they might be heavier than you're used to with a raised lip to step over. You'll also need to take care when walking around the top deck, as it can become slippery when wet. Don't sit, climb or stand on the handrails. And avoid putting your hands or head over the side of the ship when coming in and out of the port, passing through locks and under bridges, or when opening your cabin window.



Medical Equipment

If you have any special medical needs and require the use of a sharps box or medical bin, just let Reception or your Cruise Experience Manager know when you arrive and they'll make arrangements for you. For the safety of our crew, please don't dispose of any medical needles in the general waste bins.



Health & Sanitation

Please use the hand sanitisers positioned around the ship as often as possible. If you begin to feel unwell at any point, please return to your cabin and call reception.



Muster Station

Your muster station is a safe location, where you need to gather in an emergency, and it's located on the top deck. Life jackets can be found in your cabin, and you can find directions for the quickest route to your muster station on the back of your cabin door.



Electrical Items

Please take care when using electrical items in your cabin. And don't leave appliances charging when you're not in your cabin, as it's a fire risk. Please don't use electric blankets and water heaters brought from home, since the ship's outlets are only 220 volts. Also, note that the sockets in the bathroom are for shavers only.



Smoking Policy

Smoking and vaping is only allowed in designated smoking areas, which can be found on the top deck. Please don't move ashtrays into other areas - we want all our guests to have a space where they're comfortable, whether they smoke or not. Any guests found to be smoking in their cabin will be charged for a deep clean to freshen the cabin for future guests.



Tap Water

Please note, the tap water is not safe to drink, and it's advised to use bottled water when brushing your teeth, as well.

Safety drill

Here at TUI River Cruises, your safety is our number one priority. Therefore, every guest needs to complete the Emergency Passenger Safety Drill before we set sail.




This is where we tell you the procedures to follow in the unlikely event of an emergency situation.

Here's a step-by-step guide for how to complete the safety drill and muster process.

1. When you first board the ship, load the Navigate app on your phone or tablet.
2. Click on the My Muster tile and watch the Muster Video.
3. Once you've watched the video, tick the two confirmation boxes that appear on the screen. If you don't have access to a smartphone or tablet, or you have any questions about the muster process, speak to your Cruise Experience Manager or reception who will be able to assist.

Emergency signal

In the event of an emergency, you'll probably hear several signals and alarms. If you hear this signal, you should stay calm and do the following...

-  If you're in your cabin, collect something warm to wear and any prescribed medication, then head straight to your muster station.
-  If you're not in your cabin, go straight to your muster station.
-  If there's smoke in the corridor, stay as low to the ground as

possible - the air is clearer here and the lighting will be easier to see.

You'll find further information on what to do during an emergency on the safety channel of your cabin's TV. If you've got any questions, please speak to Reception or your Cruise Experience Manager.

Navigate life onboard

It's easy to find our restaurant opening times, entertainment schedules and more – just use our free onboard app, Navigate. Here's how it works...

What is Navigate?

It's our free onboard app, which you can use to find out anything you need to know about your cruise – whether it's opening times, entertainment programmes, the weather forecast, or the following day's port. You can also use it to leave feedback.

What can I use it for?

- See the day's Entertainment Schedule
- Find out the opening times of onboard bars and restaurants
- View details on the next day's port, schedule and weather forecast
- View maps and information about each port
- Leave feedback on your dining and entertainment experience



How can I access it?

Navigate is free to use. All you need is a smartphone, a tablet or a laptop. Once you're connected to the ship's Wi-Fi, Navigate will automatically open up.

For easy access, we recommend saving the app to your home screen, where possible. Alternatively, you can go to your browser, and type in 'navigate.tui'.

We want to hear from you

We're committed to making sure our river cruises are the best they can be, so we'd love to hear what you think. You can leave feedback about all aspects of our cruises – from the dining and the entertainment to the onboard activities – on our app, Navigate.

And, if there's anything that doesn't immediately meet your expectations, please speak to one of our crew, your onboard Cruise Experience Manager, or pop to reception- they'll be able to help.



Here's why our customers love our cruises

First-hand accounts from some of our winter 2024 and summer 2025 TUI River Cruises customers who sailed on our fleet.

The holiday was excellent – nice ship, brilliant crew, and the food and service were wonderful. We couldn't fault it. Our waiter Patrick was excellent and a credit to you, and so was our cabin steward, Yasa. You have a great crew, who looked after us very well and you should be proud of them all. We'll do another river cruise soon and let our friends know what a great time we had.

Magical Danube – TUI Skylia – Stuart Peacock

Every staff member on TUI Isla was friendly and helpful, nothing was too much trouble. They were constantly working to make our stay as comfortable as possible.

Danube Delights – TUI Isla – Patricia Wilkinson

Everything was super – the food, accommodation, entertainment and destinations, which all made it a wonderful Christmas holiday.

A Festive Fairytale – TUI Maya – Wendy Everett

Visiting Budapest, Bratislava, and Vienna was a dream come true, and the entire journey was made even more special by the wonderful staff onboard.

They were incredibly attentive, friendly, and genuinely happy to mix with guests, which created such a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The food was absolutely lovely, with a great variety and quality that exceeded our expectations every day. There was plenty of music and fun, and the onboard entertainment made every evening enjoyable and lively. It was the perfect balance of sightseeing, relaxation, and celebration.

This was our first river cruise, and we're now officially hooked!

Danube Flavours 2 – TUI Maya – Irina Gibson

A great river cruise with wonderful, welcoming staff. The food was excellent, and our cabin was good, with a large bed. Overall, it was a very enjoyable Christmas cruise with interesting destinations. We'll come again on a river cruise and TUI will be our choice.

Mistletoe & Rhine – TUI Isla – David Bickley

Beautiful scenery, a lovely ship and amazing people who couldn't do enough for us. This was a wonderful first river cruise and it definitely won't be our last. We'll book with TUI again very soon. Thank you.

Danube Treasures – TUI Skylia – Paul Wood

A great cruise down the Nile. Easy, comfortable, great service, friendly and very well-organised. The top deck restaurant was excellent, and the tours were great, with very knowledgeable guides who were available for extra questions. The history of Egypt and the sites we visited were just magnificent and awe-inspiringly beautiful. This has been my favourite cruise so far.

Legends of the Nile – TUI Al Horeya – Monica Newton

The whole river cruise was excellent from start to finish. The crew are amazing and can't do enough for you. The food was fantastic and served by amazing waiters in a beautiful restaurant. The entertainment team were super. Destinations were all great and easily accessible. Cologne on New Year's Eve was out of this world, and we thoroughly enjoyed the gala evening onboard.

New Year Sail Away – TUI Isla – Beverley Bale

Tastes and tipples



With a variety of options for dining and drinks, you can forget about rumbling stomachs and parched lips. Check out what you can look forward to onboard.

Sofra

You'll find this place on the top deck, and the decor here continues the modern Arabic theme. Light snacks are served at lunchtimes, then it's an à la carte affair at dinnertime, with dishes focused on local flavours.

Belhana

There's Arabic-style decor and a bright, modern feel in this restaurant. It's open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, with a mix of local and international dishes, plus show-cooking options. Breakfast and lunch are served buffet-style, and there are à la carte options at dinnertime.

Observatory

This light and contemporary lounge is the ship's main bar, and it hosts talks from the onboard Egyptologists, plus nightly entertainment. You can expect the likes of live music, quizzes, films and local acts.





Felucca bar

Sit back and soak up the scenery from Felucca bar, which is up on the top deck. It's open all day, and there's a variety of cocktails, wines, beers and soft drinks on the menu, plus tea and coffee.



Tea, coffee and cake

Tea, coffee and cake are served every afternoon on the top deck.

Afternoon tea

Afternoon tea is served once per cruise, where a variety of sweet and savoury bites are on the cards, including sandwiches, cakes and scones.



Gala Dinner

There's a six-course gala dinner hosted in Belhana, on every sailing. You can get your glad rags on, too, if you like, but there's no obligation to dress up.



Dietary Requirements

If you've got any dietary requirements, just let us know when you arrive and we'll set up a meeting with the maitre d'.



Dress code

During the day, the dress code's pretty relaxed, then come evening, things get a little smarter. Items like long trousers smart tailored shorts, shirts and polo shirts are fine, but it's best to leave the sportswear and vests in your cabin.



All Inclusive as standard

All your meals and drinks onboard come as part of the package.

Local Eats

From koshari to kofta - here are some must-eats you can tick off en route...

Mezze Egyptians like to warm up their taste buds with a plate of mezze at the start of a meal. It often includes taameya - the Egyptian take on falafel, made from fava beans instead of chickpeas - and a smoky aubergine dip called baba ganouche. And, it's usually finished off with a spoonful of creamy hummus.

Koshari This dish is a national favourite - it's a mix of rice, lentils, macaroni, chickpeas, fried onions and a spicy tomato sauce.

Om Ali This dessert translates to 'Ali's Mother', and while the origins of the name are up for debate, it definitely has a warm and homely feel to it. The dessert itself is a bread pudding made of pastry blended with nuts, raisins, coconut, cinnamon, cream and plenty of sugar. It's pretty similar to bread pudding in the UK, but it's a bit lighter and milkier.

Kofta Forget the English post-clubbing snacks - Egyptian kofta kebabs are tasty stuff. Pop in to one of the traditional restaurants in the souks and order one of these thick, sausage-sized rolls of spicy minced lamb with a bowl of savoury rice and a bit of salad.

Shish taouk For this tasty kebab, chunks of succulent chicken are marinated in tomato and spices until the flavour has really absorbed, then grilled on a barbecue to turn them golden brown. They taste really rich and smoky, and are usually wrapped in pitta with salad and a dollop of garlic sauce.

Pick your pace onboard

Exploring ashore's not the only option with TUI River Cruises. There's an AM to PM programme of entertainment to keep you busy in between.



Day

Whether you want to keep fit, join a tournament or listen to a podcast, our daytime timetable lets you do it all. Check out Navigate for our entertainment schedule.



Wellness

Get your muscles moving at a Yoga session, stretch class, or in the onboard gym.



Downtime

Curl up with a book from our little library, delve into our collection of board games, or check out our destination podcasts. There are regular talks from our onboard Egyptologists, too, as well as documentaries and films on the TVs in Observatory. You can also try our E-puzzlers - these online games include the likes of wordsearches and puzzles.



Night

In the evening, there's a whole host of nightly entertainment in the Observatory, including solo cabaret performances from our Entertainment team.



Quizzes and silent discos

Our interactive gameshows and quizzes feature the latest technology, like buzzers and 'fastest finger first'. And don't forget our old favourite - the silent disco.



Jukebox bingo

Grab your bingo sheet and listen along to the songs. As soon as you hear one of yours being played, tick it off and fill your card out.



Vocal performances

Live music and solo cabaret performances are on the cards in the evenings.



Local guest acts

Sample some local culture with a range of Egyptian guest acts, including Nubian shows, Egyptian Whirling Dervishes and a weekly Galabeya party, where you can get involved by donning the traditional dress if you fancy.



Pick your pace ashore

To get even more out of your river cruise, you can head out on one of our shore experiences. In our River Cruises Collection, we've got a handpicked line-up of highly rated shore experiences, just for our TUI River Cruise customers.

All experiences in our River Cruises Collection include pick-up from the ship by an experienced local guide, who will give you all the need-to-know information about the places you visit.

If you'd prefer to explore at your own pace though, we also have a range of attraction tickets that you can pre-book. Just so you know, attraction tickets do not include a transfer or a guide.

Don't forget, you've got a couple of shore experiences included in your itinerary at no extra cost. One's a guided tour of the Temple of Horus in Edfu, and the other's a guided tour of Kom Ombo Temple.



You can check out the shore experiences on offer for your itinerary, current prices, availability and book these at rivercruises.gotui.com/uk

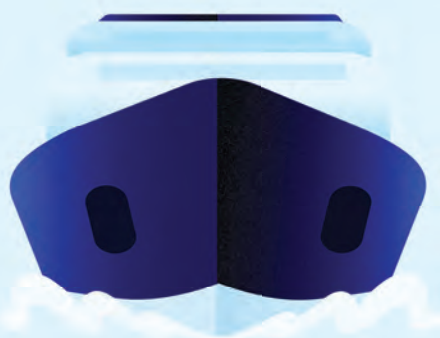
Check out some of our favourite shore experiences and attraction tickets on **page 20-21**



Scan the **QR code** to find out more.

Ship facts

If you're a fan of ship stats, this page is for you...



Renovated in
2024/2025 for Winter 25

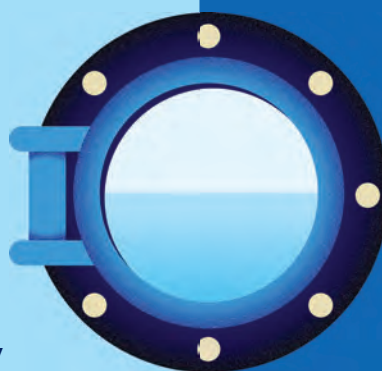
72m long

beam width

14.4m

220V

electrical supply



72
cabins

5
decks

74
crew

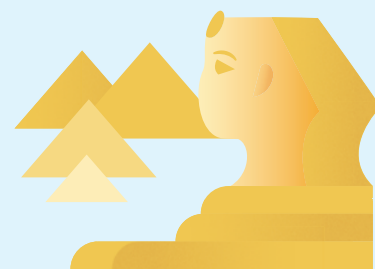
Double docking and Triple docking

In some ports, we might need to berth next to another ship, or even two, due to space. So, to get on and off our ship, you might have to walk across the top deck of the ships we're berthed next to, or even through them.



Locks

We'll pass through Esna Lock on this sailing. Take a peek through the window as the ship navigates this 14-metre-deep lock to continue our journey downstream.



146 passengers

Low Bridges

We have to pass under a low bridge on this sailing, so the top deck will be out of use for a short period of time while it's collapsed.



Cruise with a conscience

At TUI River Cruises, we believe the waterways we sail along are beautiful, and we want to keep them that way. Here are some ways we can all reduce our environmental impact and help local communities...



What we're doing

- 01 **We've cut down on single-use plastic water bottles.** You'll find reusable water bottles in your cabins, which you can keep.
- 02 **We use recycled materials.** For example, some of the carpets on our European fleet are made from recycled fishing nets.
- 03 **No more plastic straws.** We've said goodbye to plastic straws in our drinks and replaced them with paper ones.
- 04 **Local food.** Lots of the produce used in our restaurants is sourced locally, which supports communities in our cruise destinations.
- 05 **We're all for charity.** During the refurbishment of our European ships, we donated all the old furniture to a charity in the Netherlands.
- 06 **Less paper** We've taken our Cruise News digital. You'll find it on our Navigate app, rather than in paper form. You can read a digital version of this magazine and our brochures, too.

- 07 **Local guides.** Our shore experiences are delivered by locally-employed guides, which supports the local economy.
- 08 **Sustainable experiences.** We've added sustainable alternatives to our shore experience programme, such as the River Cruises Collection: Amsterdam Canal Cruise, which is operated by an electric boat.

What you can do

- 01 **Buy locally made products.** It's an easy way to support a local community. Plus, items that are flown or shipped in from overseas have a much larger carbon footprint.
- 02 **Hang up your towels.** By doing this, you're letting our crew know you don't need your towels to be washed every day.
- 03 **Try a few vegetarian meals.** While you're onboard or out and about, try veggie-based dishes instead of meat – meat produces higher levels of greenhouse gas emissions.
- 04 **Recycle.** You'll find recycling bins in all of the ship's public areas.

- 05 **Eat like a local.** Avoid eating at restaurant chains and instead, visit markets, local neighbourhoods or street vendors for your foodie needs.
- 06 **Use apps and online confirmation for bookings.** This means you can save on paper. And if you do use tourist maps or brochures, leave them behind for the next person to use, to save on more printing.



Caring for our world

The TUI Care Foundation is an independent charity, supporting projects in holiday destinations around the world that improve the lives of young people, care for the natural world and help local communities thrive. When you book a cruise with us, you have the option of donating £1 to the TUI Care Foundation to support sustainable tourism in a way that benefits the local people and environment – now and in the future. For instance, our Turtle Aid programme has protected over one million turtles and created turtle-friendly habitats around the globe.

Find out more at
tui.co.uk/destinations/info/sustainability

Explore iconic waterways

From the Rhine to the Nile, our cruises take you along some of the longest and most beautiful rivers in the world, ticking off time-warp villages and wide-awake cities along the way. Here's a look at the places you can go...



Danube

Europe's second-longest river flows through 10 countries. It also passes four grand capitals - Budapest, Vienna, Bratislava and Belgrade - which you can visit on our itineraries.

Must-Do Experience:

Sound of Vienna: An Evening Concert



Rhine

On its journey from the Alps to the North Sea, the Rhine ticks off cities and vineyard-backed villages. Plus, the Rhine Gorge is home to more castles than any other valley in the world.

Must-Do Experience:

Heidelberg City Tour and Castle



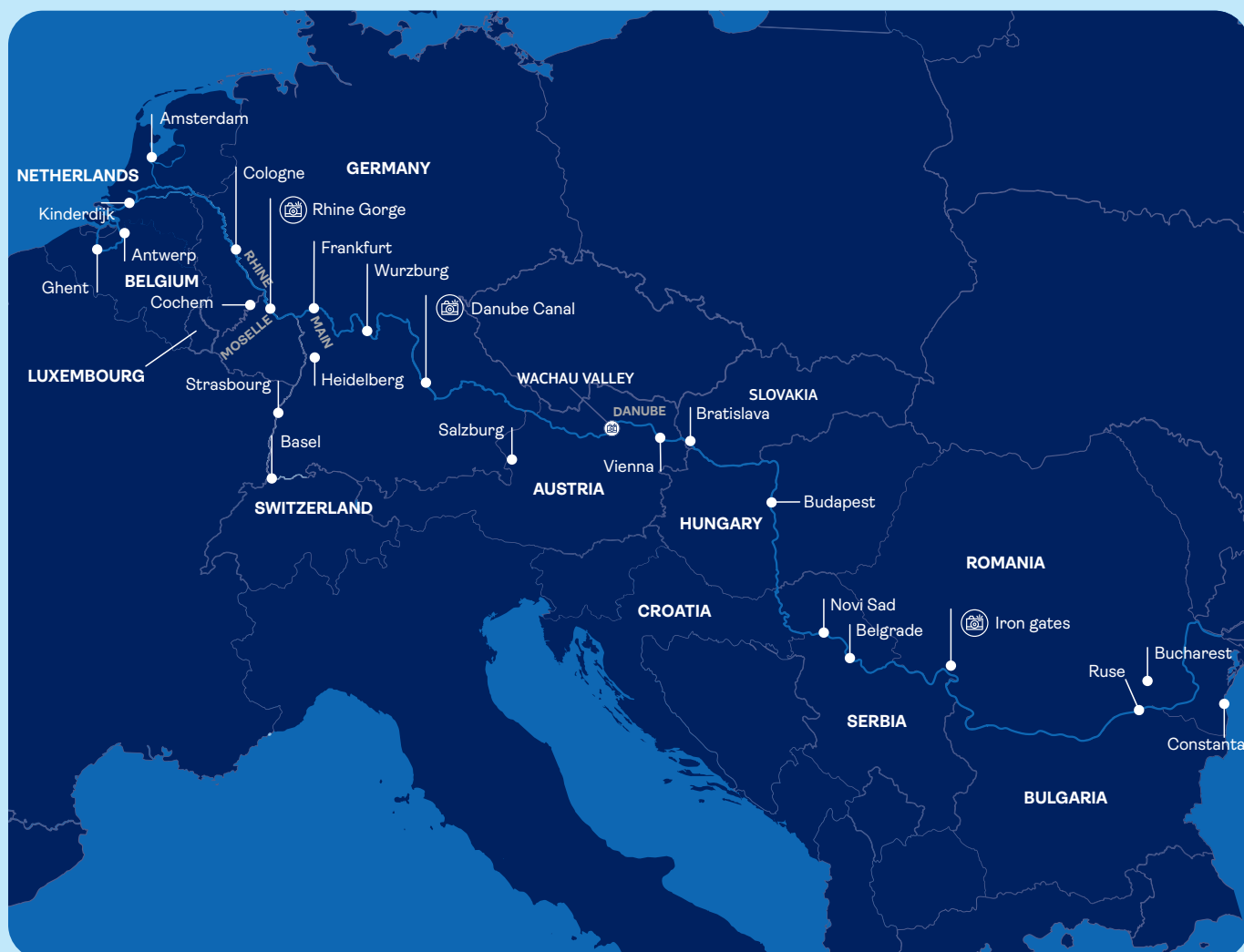
Nile

One of the world's most iconic rivers, the Nile winds its way past loads of Egypt's historic hotspots, including Luxor - a city that's been dubbed an open-air museum in itself.

Must-Do Experience:

Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut and felucca ride





Dutch & Belgian Waterways

This network of canals, waterways and rivers lets you sail past historic cities and windmill-sprinkled countryside - not to mention colourful tulip fields in spring.

Must-Do Experience:

Amsterdam Canal Cruise



Main

See Germany at its prettiest on a Main river cruise. You'll have the chance to hop off at castle-crowned cities and villages full of timber-framed houses.

Must-Do Experience:

Würzburg City Tour and the UNESCO-Rated Würzburg Residence



Moselle

Wine, wine and more wine - that's the name of the game along the Moselle. First-class Rieslings grow in terraced vineyards, making the views just as good as the vino.

Must-Do Experience:

Cochem and Reichsburg Castle Tour

Meet the team

Get to know a few of the faces behind our TUI River Cruises team, and why they can't get enough of life on the water.



Sebastian Cuc & Branislav Bokur – Hotel Managers – 4 years' service

Q: What does your role involve? And what do you enjoy most about it?

A: Sebastian & Branislav: We look after everything that keeps the hotel side of the ship running smoothly – from crew schedules and training, to making sure our guests are happy and comfortable. The best bit? Creating a great working environment for the crew. A happy crew means happy guests and seeing that all come together onboard is really rewarding.

Q: Where's your favourite port of call, and why?

A: Sebastian: Vienna has to be my top pick – it's packed with culture, history, and stunning architecture. Catch the evening 'A Sound of Vienna' concert or visit the famous Spanish Riding School stables.

A: Branislav: That's a tough one, I love so many. Passau holds a special place in my heart because it's where I first fell in love with river cruising. It's where the Danube, Inn, and Ilz rivers meet, and the views as you sail in are breathtaking. The city itself is packed with history, Gothic churches, and Baroque architecture.

Q: Tell us about a memorable moment onboard.

A: Sebastian: New Year's Eve in Koblenz with guests and crew celebrating together on the top deck as fireworks lit up the sky. Magic!

A: Branislav: When Skyla won 'Ship of the Season' in 2024. I was so proud of the crew, it felt like all our hard work really paid off.

Q: Do you have any top tips for our river cruise customers?

A: Make the most of each port. Try to soak up the local culture through personal experiences, shore experiences and don't forget the food and drinks – that's how you truly travel like a local.

Robert Jovicic – Hotel Manager – 1 years' service



Learn more about our shore experiences on pages 20 and 21.

Q: What is your favourite port of call?

A: Koblenz, where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet. You can take the cable car up to the fortress for views of valleys full of vineyards – it's a world-class spot for wine lovers, too.

Hazem Said Ahmed – Receptionist – 2 years' service





Mollie Milnthorpe - Customer Experience & Product Executive - 5 ½ years' service

Q: What does your role involve? And what do you enjoy most about it?

A: I look after our customer experience from start to finish - from content & marketing, right through to onboard experiences and post-holiday feedback. I even get to put together this magazine. I love shaping the journey, so every guest has a brilliant time.

Q: Do you have any top tips for river cruise customers?

A: Take loads of photos - your river cruise will be packed with special memories. And don't forget to share them with us, as we love featuring guest photos on our social channels.

Q: Tell us about a memorable moment onboard.

A: The blessing ceremony for TUI Al Horeya was a highlight for me. Seeing our first ever Nile ship being blessed before its first sailing was really special.

Q: What's your favourite thing about river cruising?

A: River cruising is pure calm and adventure rolled into one. Unpack once, relax on deck, and explore new places while everything else like food, drinks and comfort is taken care of.

Louise Smith - Specialist River Cruise & Tours Agent - 30 years' service

Q: What is your favourite port of call?

A: Bratislava is such a gem - small but full of history. You can take a little train up to the castle, or head to the UFO Tower for panoramic views.

Emily Warner - Specialist River Cruise & Tours Agent - 6 years' service



Naomi Karanja - Waitress - 2 years' service

Q: What's your favourite thing about river cruising?

A: I love waking up in a new city every day - it's like living in a floating hotel and you only unpack once. As a waitress, I get to create a warm atmosphere for our guests during meals and seeing them smile makes every service special.

Q: Where's your favourite port of call, and why?

A: Cologne - the UNESCO-listed Gothic cathedral never fails to take my breath away, no matter how many times I visit. Plus, the shops are right by the port, making exploring - and shopping - super easy.

Q: Tell us about a memorable moment onboard.

A: My first Christmas cruise was magical because it was my first time experiencing snow. The Christmas markets felt like something out of a fairytale.



Carlos Silva - Cruise Experience Manager - 1 years' service

Q: What does your role involve? And what do you enjoy most about it?

A: I'm the go-to person for anything guests need onboard - from activities and shore experiences to helping with changes in the itinerary. I love being the face of the cruise and making sure every guest feels looked after. The best part? Exploring all the ports of call alongside our guests - from big cities to hidden gems.

Q: What's your favourite thing about river cruising?

A: River cruising is so different to ocean cruising - you dock right in the heart of towns and cities, which makes exploring authentic and easy. If you're into history, architecture or local food, it's the perfect way to travel.

Q: Where's your favourite port of call, and why?

A: "I love Budapest for its grand architecture, thermal baths, and Hungarian dishes - goulash, chimney cake, and lángos are must-tries!"



Find out more about Budapest on pages 30 and 31.

Explore ashore

If you fancy scratching beneath the surface of our destinations, you can choose between our guided river cruises collection shore experiences, or explore independently with our tickets and attractions. Let's dive in and take a closer look...

River Cruises Collection shore experiences

Our River Cruises Collection shore experiences are all led by English-speaking guides, and you'll be picked up and dropped off back at the ship. Here are some of our favourites...



Luxor by hot air balloon

Get a birds-eye view of Luxor and find out why it's dubbed the 'world's greatest open-air museum'. You'll start with a motorboat crossing to the Nile's West Bank, where you'll meet your pilot, crew, and fellow passengers. Once the hot air balloon's good to go, you'll hop in the basket and soar into the skies, where you'll be able to look down on sights like the Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Hatshepsut and the city centre.

Available in Luxor





Tombs of the Nobles & Kitcheners Island with a felucca experience

This trip starts with a ride on a felucca. These traditional wooden boats have been sailing on the Nile for centuries, and you'll float around Aswan's Nile islands on one before getting off at your first stop, the Tombs of the Nobles. These tombs mark the resting place for some of ancient Egypt's princes, governors, and other dignitaries. After, you'll hop back on the Felucca and head to Kitcheners Island. Aswan's botanical garden can be found here, and you'll have some time to wander among the exotic plants before heading back.

Available in Aswan



Tour of the High Dam, Unfinished Obelisk and Philae Temple in Aswan

You'll head to three of Aswan's top attractions on this trip. First up's the Aswan high dam. It was built in the 1960s to stop the Nile from flooding every year, and it also formed Lake Nasser - the world's largest artificial body of water. You'll also visit the Unfinished Obelisk, which lay undiscovered for thousands of years, before hopping on a traditional motorboat and heading to the island of Philae, where you'll have a tour of its temple.

Available in Aswan



Tour of Luxor museum & Mummification museum

You'll tick off two of Luxor's top museums on this three-hour trip, which starts with a visit to the Luxor museum on the banks of the Nile. The museum houses hundreds of artefacts which document the city's colourful history, including items from Tutankhamun's tomb. You'll then be taken over to the Mummification Museum just down the road, where you'll get a full insight into the mummification process, including its religious significance.

Available in Luxor



Sound and light show at Karnak Temple

This action-packed, 90-minute show looks back at the history of Thebes and the lives of the pharaohs. It starts at the avenue of Sphinxes, passes through the first pylon to the Great Court, and on through the great Hypostyle hall to the grandstand of the Sacred Lake for the big finale. Along the way, you'll hear stirring music and tales from the ancient pharaohs, while the ruins are illuminated by a dazzling light show.

Available in Luxor



Looking for inspiration?

Our Cruise Experience Managers are on hand to answer any questions about our experiences or exploring on your own.



How to book

You can book shore experiences by visiting Rivercruises.Gotui.Com/uk, up until 24 hours before the tour's due to depart. Just enter your details and pick the experience you want to go on.

You'll need to pay via card - you can't pay using cash or charge them to your onboard account.

Just so you know, attraction tickets have a different cancellation policy to guided Shore experiences. You can find out the exact cancellation terms for each attraction when you book.



Tickets and attractions

Tickets and attractions are ideal if you want to explore independently. You won't have a guide to show you around or a transfer from the ship, so you can plot your own path and go at your own pace. Just head to Rivercruises.Gotui.Com to pre-book.



Social sailing

We've built up quite a fanbase in a pretty short space of time. Check out some of our customers' best pictures below, then head to our Facebook and Instagram pages to give us a follow...





Send us your shots

Whether you use social media or not, you can get your TUI River Cruises pictures and videos featured on our social channels. Just scan the QR code below or visit tui.co.uk/content/river-cruises-moments to upload your content to our new River Cruises Moments hub, and we'll feature the best ones on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Your photos could even end up in the next edition of this magazine, or our brochure.



facebook.com/TUIRiverCruises
@tuirivercruises



Meet the originals

TUI Isla, TUI Maya and TUI Skyla

This trio were the first ships in our river cruise fleet, and they sail along the likes of the Rhine and the Danube in Western and Central Europe. They're sister ships, so all three are identical when it comes to what's onboard. They're all Full Board Plus, too, so three meals and drinks at mealtimes are included in your package. Let's take a closer look at what they offer...

Dining

Each ship comes with two restaurants, which both offer flexible dining times and an open seating policy.

Verdastro is the main restaurant, and it's open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The menu changes daily, with a spotlight on local flavours, so you can get a taste for the region you're in onboard as well as ashore. You can choose from a buffet or a menu at breakfast, while lunch and dinner are an à la carte affair with waiter service. Dishes include the likes of pork tenderloin, goulash and curry.



Things are a little more casual in Bistro, our second restaurant. It's joined at the hip with Verdaströ, giving you an extra dining option. And like its next door-neighbour, it's open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

A swanky six-course gala dinner takes place once per sailing on cruises which are five nights or longer. You can get your glad rags on if you like, but there's no obligation to do so if you'd rather keep it casual.

There's also afternoon tea once per sailing on cruises which are five nights or longer. It's hosted in the Observatory, and you can tuck in to freshly made sandwiches and cakes.



Other facilities

Bars

There are two bars onboard. The Observatory takes pride of place at the heart of the ships. As with all our venues, you can expect widescreen windows for admiring the panoramic views. There's also a daily happy hour with complimentary canapés. After dark, the nightly entertainment's held here, which ranges from talented musicians to interactive quizzes.

Coffee and cocktails are the cornerstones of the Club Lounge. Plush chairs, brass fittings and mirrored tables set a sophisticated scene. By day, you can sip a premium Lavazza coffee* while taking in the views, then at night, you can clink pre-dinner cocktails* in front of a digital roaring fireplace

before heading to one of the restaurants. There's a small library and a selection of board games here as well, plus a digital games table.

Wellness area

The wellness area's equipped with a sauna and a whirlpool bath, for the perfect place to unwind after a day's sightseeing. It's free to use, but if you fancy having it to yourself, you can book a private session when you're onboard.

Top deck

The top deck's split into zones, with different areas for relaxation and activities. There are sunloungers, plus tables and chairs if you fancy some chill time. And if you want to switch up the pace, the activity area hosts deck games like minigolf, cornhole and shuffleboard.



Cabins

All our modern and stylish cabins are on the outside of the ship, with a porthole, a full-size window or a French Balcony. So, they make the perfect space to watch the world go by. You can choose from the likes of Single cabins, Standard cabins and French Balcony cabins, or opt for a French Balcony Suite cabin. As with all our cabins, you'll get a TV, a safe, Molton Brown toiletries, and tea and coffee-making facilities as standard. There are a few extras, too, like bathrobes and slippers, a nightly turndown service and a Continental breakfast in bed each morning.

*Lavazza coffee and cocktails aren't included as part of the Full Board Plus package. You'll need to either pay extra, or upgrade to the All Inclusive drinks package.

Discover the Douro

That's right, we're launching our seventh river cruise ship in the heart of Portugal's UNESCO-listed Douro Valley. From June 2027, our first new-build ship, TUI Luzia, will set sail along the Douro River, through the world's oldest recognised wine region, with plenty of scenic stops along the way.



Scan the QR code to
find out more and
to book.



Our seven-night Douro Discovery itinerary will start and end in Portugal's second-biggest city, Porto. In between, you'll stop off in cosy, scenic villages and towns, like Entre-os-Rios, Barca d'Alva and Peso de Régua. You'll be able to pop across the border into Spain, too, and visit the preserved Old City of Salamanca - it's within easy daytripping distance from Vega de Terron. And if you're a wine lover, you're in luck - the banks of the river are teeming with vineyards and whitewashed barrel warehouses.

About the ship

There's plenty to look forward to on our brand new ship. Let's take a closer look at what you can expect...



3 dining venues

The main restaurant, Sorriso, will be open for all three meals with a mix of buffet and à la carte options, while dinner will also be available at Vinha. This place will put the focus on local dishes and there'll be full waiter service here. Cinder, meanwhile, will be the bar and dining area on the top deck.

3 bars

There'll be three bars dotted around the ship, including Novo Lounge. This light and modern space will play host to the nightly entertainment, including familiar favourites like live music and interactive quizzes.



Top deck

The top deck will be split into different zones for relaxation and activities. As well as the bar and dining area, Cinder, there'll be a shallow pool up here with loads of sun loungers for company.



The Retreat

By day, The Retreat is the ideal spot to relax and unwind with a coffee or juice and take part in one of our wellness sessions. Then at night, it's a cosy and intimate lounge bar, which is perfect for quiet drinks.

Atrium

The Atrium's where you'll find the ship's reception area, as well as the Cruise Experience Manager desk.

Fast facts



Average temperature:
14 - 24°C

Currency: Euros



Direct flights from
London Gatwick, Manchester



Sailings available from
June 2027 - October 2027



Key sights:
Porto | Entre-os-Rios
Peso de Regua | Vega de Terron
Barca d'Alva

Images are for illustrative purposes only - facilities are subject to change.

Introducing TUI Bahareya and TUI Aria

We've had a couple of new arrivals to our fleet since our last edition of Life on the River. Say hello to...

TUI Bahareya

TUI Bahareya is our second ship sailing along the River Nile, with her maiden voyage taking place in November 2025. Arabic-inspired style meets modern touches onboard, while Egyptologists bring the sights to life as you pass.



Check out TUI Al Horeya,
the other ship in our
Egyptian fleet, by scanning
this QR code or visit
[tui.co.uk/river-cruises/
ships/tui-al-horeya/](https://tui.co.uk/river-cruises/ships/tui-al-horeya/)



TUI Aria

It's all eyes on the pool for our second act, TUI Aria – sailing the Rhine, the Moselle, and the Dutch and Belgian waterways from summer 2026. The pool pulls off a fleet-first with a retractable roof, letting you swim all-year-round, so be sure to pack your swimwear. Let's see what else you can expect onboard...



Dining

It'll be a Full Board Plus setup onboard, so three meals and drinks at mealtimes will be included in your package.



The main restaurant – Verdaströ – serves up breakfast, lunch and dinner with full waiter service. Floor-to-ceiling windows mean there's always scenery on the menu, and the space will feel familiar if you've sailed on our other European ships.

On cruises of five nights or longer, you'll enjoy a six-course gala dinner – dress up if you fancy, or keep it casual – plus a classic afternoon tea of freshly-made sandwiches and cakes.

Bar

The lounge bar – Observatory – is your go-to for evenings onboard. Get comfy, grab a drink, and enjoy live music, local acts, quizzes and film nights. And with its floor-to-ceiling windows, the river's always part of the show.

Reflections

TUI Aria's pool has a party trick up her sleeve – with a retractable roof, it doubles as an indoor or outdoor spot, so you can swim whatever the weather. Panoramic windows let you soak up the scenery as you float, and afterwards, the sauna is perfect for a post-swim unwind. By evening, the space transforms into a dining area with an Italian-inspired menu, plus occasional live music and film nights.

Top deck

The top deck's a spacious zone for relaxing and activities. Stretch out on a lounger for some sunbathing, join a yoga session, or try shuffleboard. There's even a small putting green if you fancy a few holes between ports. And keep your cameras handy – castles, vineyards, and storybook towns line the Rhine, Moselle, and the Dutch and Belgian waterways.

Cabins

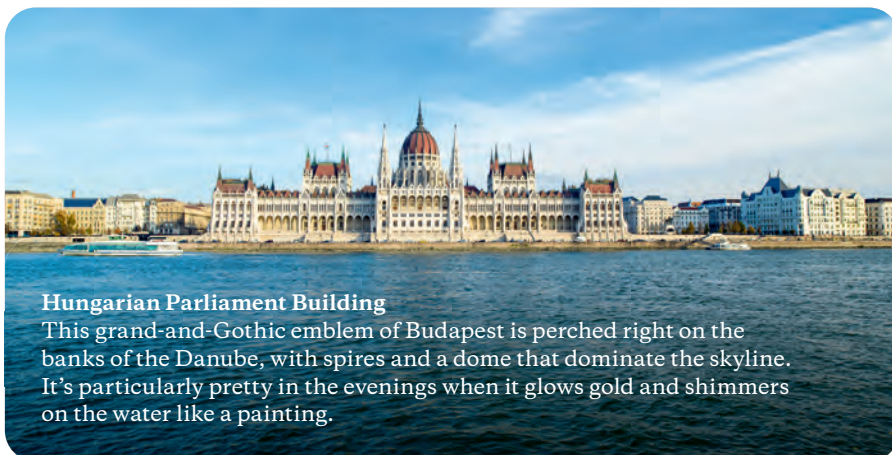
All the cabins on TUI Aria are bright, modern, and come with air-conditioning, a hairdryer, a flatscreen TV, a safe, and tea and coffee-making facilities. Choose from the likes of French Balcony or Superior Cabins for sliding doors and big-picture windows, Standard cabins with cosy portholes, or Single cabins for solo travellers.



Spotlight on Budapest

Hungary's capital is a city of two halves - both in name and geography. It's split down the middle by the Danube, with hilly Buda - and its imposing fortress - to the west, and lively Pest - with its famous ruin bars - to the east. Let's dig a little deeper on what to expect once your feet hit the cobbles...

Big-hitting sights



Hungarian Parliament Building

This grand-and-Gothic emblem of Budapest is perched right on the banks of the Danube, with spires and a dome that dominate the skyline. It's particularly pretty in the evenings when it glows gold and shimmers on the water like a painting.

Perfect picture

Hop on the funicular up to Castle Hill and Fisherman's Bastion and you'll tick off one of the best vantage points in the city. Alongside fairy tale towers, turrets, and terraces, you've also got unbeatable views of the Parliament building. It's ultra-photogenic, especially at sunset.



Foodie finds

Langos

This deep-fried flatbread is popular on street food stalls, and it's usually slathered in sour cream and cheese

Goulash

Hungary's national dish is a cross between stew and soup, with beef, carrots, onions and a hint of paprika all making the mix.

Thermal baths

Often called the 'City of Spas', Budapest bubbles away with thermal springs dotted around the city, so you'll want to bring your swimwear as well as your walking shoes. **Széchenyi Baths** is the most famous, with outdoor pools steaming beneath butter-yellow colonnades and locals playing floating games of chess. **Gellért Baths** is another popular spot - known for its pretty mosaics and stained glass. For something a bit less touristy, try **Rudas Baths**. It comes complete with a rooftop hot pool overlooking the Danube.



Cruise and Stay

If you're on one of our seven-night Budapest round-trips, you can now extend your holiday and add up to an extra seven nights with a range of Cruise & Stay options. Here's the lowdown:



If you fancy seeing some of the sights up close, you can join one of the shore experiences in our River Cruises Collection:

River Cruises Collection: Budapest City Tour

This half-day trip starts with Budapest's street-level highlights and works its way up to Castle Hill. Hop on a scenic coach ride to the top, then hop off for a guided tour of this fairytale district to see museums, dainty churches, and tucked-away cafés.

Wrap things up at the 19th-century citadel where you'll snag sweeping views of Parliament, Budapest Castle and some of the ornate Danube bridges before heading back to the ship.

To book, just visit rivercruises.gotui.com/uk. Please note, all shore experiences are subject to availability and early booking is recommended.

Budapest Cruise & City Stay

Spend an extra three nights in the city, at the Roombach Hotel in the heart of Budapest. You're just a 10-minute walk from the city's main shopping street and Szimpla Kert - Budapest's best-known ruin bar. Transfers to the hotel are included, too.

Budapest Cruise & Lake Balaton Stay

For a slower pace and a spot of R&R, why not extend your river cruise with a seven-night stay at Lake Balaton - Central Europe's largest lake. All your transfers are included and there's a stellar line-up of hotels to choose from. Here's a couple for starters...

01 Hotel Azur Premium

This hotel makes the most of its shoreline setting, with first-class lake views, a private beach, pools, and gardens. It's got zen down to a T with a swish spa in the mix, too.



02 Hotel Azur

This family-friendly number comes with indoor and outdoor pools, leafy gardens running down to the lake, and even a four-lane bowling alley. To dial things down a notch, there's a spa, or you can pop on your swimming gear and take a dip in the lake.



Budapest Cruise & Cruise

Why stop at one cruise when you can have two? Stay on the ship for another seven nights and make it a two-week trip. You can add another seven-night cruise to any of our Budapest round-trip itineraries with TUI flights. And all transfers are included.

Budapest Cruise & Go as you Please

This one's all about doing Budapest your way. Add an extra two or three nights to the end of your cruise at a hotel of your choice. Explore old favourites, discover something new, or book a spa day. Transfers to the ship are included, too, but you'll have to make your own way to your hotel and back to the airport at the end of your trip.



For more information on any of our Cruise & Stay options, just pop into your local TUI Store or give us a call on 0204 578 0993.

Full steam ahead

No matter what time of the year it is, we've got the perfect river cruise for you, from festive sailings to sunny getaways.



Say hello to summer 2026

There's plenty to look forward to in summer 2026, including our brand-new Dutch Delta Discovery itinerary. And with more than 20 itineraries in total, ranging from three to 15 nights, there's lots of flexibility and choice. Here are some of our favourites...

Rhine Explorer

You'll find out exactly why the Rhine is one of Europe's best-loved waterways on this eight-day river cruise. It starts in Amsterdam in the Netherlands, sails through Germany - including stops in Cologne and Koblenz - before wrapping up in Medieval Basel, in Switzerland.



Psst, in case you hadn't heard, TUI Aria will be joining the rest of our fleet along the Rhine, the Moselle and the Dutch and Belgian waterways from summer 2026. She'll also be our first ship to feature an indoor pool, complete with a retractable roof.



Dutch Delta Discovery

This six-night sailing takes place on our newest ship, TUI Aria. You'll visit the Netherlands' two biggest cities, Amsterdam and Rotterdam, plus the cosy town of Veere. Then you'll venture into Belgium and stop off in Ghent and Antwerp before heading back to where it all started in the Dutch capital.

Danube Treasures

From Vienna's palaces to Budapest's bathhouses, this seven-night itinerary dances you along the Danube, stopping at must-see cities and past picture-perfect villages in between.

East Danube Explorer

From Hungary's Paprika Capital - Kalocsa - to Serbia's first city, Belgrade, this seven-night cruise navigates east to explore some of Europe's less-trodden destinations. And it starts and finishes in 'the City of Spas' - Budapest.



What's new next winter

2026 will be our biggest winter yet. Alongside our Christmas and New Year itineraries, TUI Aria will be sailing in her first winter season, and our Rhine and Danube itineraries will be starting earlier than ever – with sailings from early November. Here's a sneak peek...

If you want to be away on Christmas Day, pick from our seven-night sailings – North Rhine Noel, Festive Fairy Tale, A Magical Danube Christmas, and Danube Christmas Wonderland. The festivities onboard continue long after the big day's over and the Christmas markets have pulled down their shutters, too.



New Year

New Year's covered, too, on our seven-night New Year's Eve sailings. On our New Year on the Danube itinerary, you'll finish the year in Budapest before kicking off 2027 in Kalocsa – the 'Paprika Capital of the World'. Or, get onboard our A New Year Sail Away itinerary. You'll count down to midnight in Cologne, and finish off your sailing in Amsterdam. And, back by popular demand in 2026, there's our A Danube New Year and A New Year on the Rhine itineraries.

Christmas markets

Our four and five-night Christmas market itineraries include the likes of Flavours of Christmas, where highlights include Budapest's fairy-lit stalls. Or choose between Rhine Festive Flavours and East Danube Christmas Charm. The latter visits Vienna – home to the world's largest Christmas market.



The Nile

Don't forget, our Nile sailings will be in full swing again next winter, too. TUI Bahareya and TUI Al Horeya will be gliding along Africa's longest river on our Legends of the Nile and Ancient Gods and Famous Pharaohs sailings, which will alternate between the two ships. Both itineraries will start and finish in Luxor, while trips to Edfu Temple and Kom Ombo Temple will be included in your package.



Head to tui.co.uk/river-cruises for more details and to see our full range of itineraries, including our Enchanting Danube: Solo traveller sailing – exclusively for solo travellers.

Summer 2027 now on sail

Our summer 2027 programme is guaranteed to wow, with sailings all over Europe, including our brand-new ship along the River Douro in Portugal. You can also pick from cruises that sail through Austria, Belgium, Serbia and many more.

There's a huge range of durations and destinations to pick from, with more than 30 itineraries, plus our Cruise & Stay options in Budapest and Amsterdam.



Find out more at
your local store or
tui.co.uk/river-cruises