

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 Europe with TUI River Cruises this festive season.

This is where you'll find everything you need to know about your time on and off the ship. If it's your first time onboard a TUI River Cruise, or you just need a recap, all the essential need-to-knows are 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

Get to know a few of the faces behind our TUI River Cruises team



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Introducing our new ships

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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. Everything you purchase will be charged to your onboard account. You can register your credit card during the first five days of your sailing. At the end of your cruise, a statement will be delivered to your cabin, and we'll charge the outstanding amount to your registered credit card. If you want to settle your account in cash or debit card, you can do so by visiting reception - please note that any cash payments must be made in Euros.

Going Ashore

When leaving the ship to go ashore, you'll need to collect your shore card from reception and hand it back in when you return. 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 on the digital screens in reception and the coffee area, on the doors as you exit the ship, as well as in Navigate.



Speak to your Cruise Experience Manager if you have any questions while you're onboard, and look out for their daily port talks.

Wellness Area

You can soothe any aching muscles in the Wellness Area. With a sauna and a whirlpool bath, it's the perfect place to unwind after a day's sightseeing. The Wellness Area is open for everyone to use, however if you'd like to book the area for private use, we have several slots available during your sailing that can be booked directly with reception for a small fee.

Toilet System

The flushing system used onboard is a vacuum type and is extremely sensitive. Do not discard any bulky objects into the toilet, including facial wipes, sanitary items, moist toilet wipes or excessive amounts of toilet paper. Disposal of items other than small amounts of toilet paper will damage and block the toilet system.

Departure Information

You'll need to vacate your cabins by 9am. This is so our housekeeping team can prepare the cabins for our arriving guests. If you've booked the Little Extras package, you can stay in your cabin until 11am.

[Read more](#)

Cabin info

Safety deposit boxes

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

TV

When the ship arrives in port, it'll switch to the local power supply. When doing so, your TV might turn off for a few minutes. Don't worry, it's not broken, so you don't need to report this.

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 might apply, and prices are set by your operator.



Wi-Fi

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

To log on:

You'll be able to access the Wi-Fi once your onboard account has been created. Please note, there may be a small delay between boarding the ship and your account being created.



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 branded TUI River Cruises merchandise onboard, including tote bags, travel mugs, TUI River Cruises baubles, magnets, baseball caps, pens and TUI ship postcards.

Housekeeping

Cabin stewards will visit once a day to make sure everything's spick-and-span. If you'd prefer not to have housekeeping visit your cabin, then just pop the 'Do not disturb' sign on your door. And just so you know, if you're staying in a suite, you'll have a turn down service.

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, contact Reception, who will arrange for your bag to be collected. 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.
- To access your onboard bill, you'll need to scan your passport at reception, and you'll then be prompted to use your name and date of birth on Navigate.



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and share your river cruise photos and videos with us, at facebook.com/TUIRiverCruises, and [@tuirivercruises](https://twitter.com/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.



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.



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.



Tap Water

The tap water's safe to drink, and due to international standards, is chlorinated. You can get your water bottle topped up at the bar while you're onboard, too.



Muster Station

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



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.

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 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.



If you're not in your cabin, go straight to your muster station.

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, festive entertainment schedules, or your most up-to-date bill – 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, festive entertainment programmes, the weather forecast, or the following day's port. You can also use it to view your onboard account, or leave feedback.

What can I use it for?

- Check your most up-to-date bill on your onboard account
- See the day's festive 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 festive dining and entertainment experience
- View the daily menus for the restaurants



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.



All the trimmings

You can make your festive river cruise that little bit extra special, with a whole heap of upgrades and add-ons available onboard...



Celebration package

From €30 per cabin

Celebrating a special occasion? Or just fancy treating yourself? Either way, our Celebration package should hit the spot. It includes Continental breakfast in bed, a bottle of Prosecco in your cabin and a card from the Cruise Experience Manager.

Little extras package

From €60 per cabin

This package takes a handful of top-notch extras and rolls them up into one big bundle. You'll get Prosecco and chocolates in your cabin, a behind-the-scenes-tour with our Cruise Experience Manager, and a later cabin check out on your last day.



Shop onboard

You can also buy branded TUI River Cruises merchandise onboard, including tote bags, travel mugs and magnets, plus Christmassy extras like baubles.



All inclusive drinks package

From €26 per person, per night

Get all your drinks thrown in outside of mealtimes, from premium Lavazza coffees to classic cocktails. Please note, you'll need to do this during your first day onboard.

Wine or Prosecco in your cabin

From €20 per cabin

Treat yourself to a bottle of wine or Prosecco served on ice, in your cabin.

Breakfast & bubbles package

From €24 per cabin

Treat yourself to breakfast in bed, with a Continental breakfast and a bottle of Prosecco.



Bike hire

From €16 per person

Explore ashore on two wheels with our e-bikes for hire. These are available for half days or full days.



Private session in the wellness area

From €10 per person

If you fancy having the wellness area to yourself, you can book a 45-minute private session.



Shore experiences

Don't forget our range of shore experiences either. There's everything from city tours to wine-tasting sessions on the cards. See page 20-21 for details.

A taste of Europe

You don't need to go ashore for some European flavour, our onboard restaurants and bars serve seasonal dishes and regional wines, too. Take a look at where you can drink and dine onboard.



Observatory

At the heart of the ship, you'll find Observatory, where the evening entertainment takes place. You can admire the views through the widescreen windows, or out on the al fresco terrace.



Verdamastro

The menu changes daily at our main waiter service restaurant, which is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. It's made up of fresh, seasonal produce, sourced from local suppliers. You can pick from the likes of sea bream, tortellini and lamb shank.



Bistro

This eatery's a more casual affair, with buffet-style breakfast and lunch, and an à la carte dinner menu. The menu changes every few days and it's styled on home comforts, so expect lots of familiar favourites.



Club Lounge

This lounge is the place to come for a fix of premium Lavazza coffee* during the day. And, after dark, it transforms into an elegant cocktail bar.





Upgrade to All Inclusive

All our European ships are Full Board Plus as standard, which means you get tea, coffee, soft drinks, wine or beer with meals. There's the option of house white, red or rosé wine at lunch and dinner, or you can try the specially selected wine from the region at dinnertime.

Any other drinks need to be paid for, or you can upgrade to All Inclusive. This way, you'll get a wider selection of drinks included, like draught beers, branded spirits, cocktails and premium Lavazza coffee. For select cabins, your minibar** will be part of the package when you upgrade to All Inclusive, too.

Upgrades apply to all guests in each cabin.



Afternoon tea

Afternoon tea is served once per cruise on sailings of five nights or more, where a variety of sweet and savoury items are on the cards.



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.



Gala Dinner

There's a six-course gala dinner - plus petit fours - on our sailings which are five nights or longer. You can get your glad rags on, too, if you like, but there's no obligation to dress up.



Local Eats

From mulled wine to marzipan cookies, here are some festive must-eats you can tick off en route...

Bethmannchen

Marzipan dough gives these cookies their distinctive flavour. Locals in Frankfurt have been baking them since 1838, and during the festive period you'll find them in just about every chocolate shop or bakery in town.

Stollen

This German take on a fruitcake is a Christmas market staple. The cake's flavoured with a shedload of spices, like cinnamon and cardamom, to give it a festive flavour. It originally hails from Dresden, but you can pick one up at markets all over the country.

Eierpunsch

If gluhwein's not your thing, try this egg-based German tipple on for size. It's similar to eggnog, made with egg yolks, sugar, white wine and vanilla, but this German equivalent is served warm, instead of chilled.

Gluhwein

Things don't get more Christmassy than gluhwein, AKA mulled wine. This traditional German drink - made with red wine and spices - is a great way to warm up while wandering the market stalls.

*Lavazza coffee isn't included as part of the Full Board Plus package. You'll need to upgrade to the All Inclusive drinks package, or pay extra. **Complimentary minibar only applies if you upgrade to All Inclusive and are staying in a Superior French Balcony or French Balcony Suite cabin.

Pick your pace onboard

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

Day

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



Wellness

Get your muscles moving at a Yoga session or stretch class.



Downtime

Watch a Christmas movie in the Observatory, use the digital games table in the Club Lounge, curl up with a book from our little library, play cards or delve into our collection of board games. You can check out our destination podcasts, too, and try our E-puzzlers - these online games include the likes of wordsearches and puzzles.



Local lingo and VR headsets

Pick up some key phrases from the destinations you visit with our language classes, or escape to the virtual world with our VR headsets, which include the likes of escape rooms and virtual golf.



Games

You can try the likes of minigolf, quoits - which is like ring toss - and sjoelbak - a type of shuffleboard.



Festive crafts

Get creative - and Christmassy - in our festive crafts sessions.



Night

In the evening, there's a whole host of nightly entertainment in the Observatory, including lively shows from our entertainment team - some with a festive theme.



Musical shows

Sing and dance along to everything from West End hits to disco classics in our musical shows, which are tailor-made for TUI River Cruises.



Quizzes and silent discos

Our interactive gameshows and quizzes feature the latest technology, like buzzers, 'fastest finger first' and LED screens. There are festive versions, too, plus our destination decoder game to try out. And don't forget our old favourite - the silent disco.



Special events

As it's the holiday season, there are festive activities on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, plus a Christmas jumper competition and a festive silent disco.



Vocal performances

Our entertainment team provide the soundtrack each evening with a variety of popular hits, plus a few Christmas-themed performances.



Local guest acts

You'll be entertained by a range of local guest acts, including dancers and singers.





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. We've got tickets for museums, art galleries, hop-on hop-off bus tours, and much more. Just so you know, attraction tickets do not include a transfer or a guide.



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

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



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

Ship facts

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



Artwork

Keep an eye out for the artwork in the Atrium or our French Balcony Suites. The pieces were created exclusively for us by Dutch artist **Simone van den Berg**. Simone has a special connection with water, having been born and raised in **Lemmer**, on Holland's biggest lake.

Double Docking

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

Inaugurated in 2011
TUI Isla & TUI Maya

Inaugurated in 2010
TUI Skylä

Renovated in
2020

135m
long

beam width
11.4m

220V
electrical supply



79
cabins
TUI Isla &
TUI Maya

77
cabins
TUI Skylä

Low Bridges
We have to pass under bridges on some of our sailings, so sometimes the top deck will be out of use for periods of time while it's collapsed.



Did you know, each of the ships in our European fleet has two engines and three generators?

TUI Isla
& TUI Maya **155**
passengers

TUI
Skylä **151**
passengers



Cruise with a conscience



At TUI River Cruises, we believe waterways 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.** Instead, you'll find reusable bottles in your cabins, which you can keep.
- 02 **We use recycled materials.** Some of our carpets around the ship are made from recycled fishing nets. And, even the magazine you're reading is printed on semi-recycled paper.
- 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 ships, we donated all the old furniture to a charity in the Netherlands.
- 06 **Local guides.** Our shore experiences are delivered by locally-employed guides, which supports the local economy.
- 07 **Reducing food waste.** We've installed new equipment in the galley to determine the amount of food waste and reduce it.

- 08 **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.
- 09 **Sustainable experiences.** We've added sustainable alternatives to our shore experience programme, such as River Cruises Collection: Amsterdam Canal Cruise, which is operated by an electric boat. Plus, we've added some new sustainable shore experiences with National Geographic.

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 **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.
- 05 **Eat like a local.** Avoid eating at restaurant chains and instead, visit markets, local neighbourhoods or street vendors for your foodie needs.
- 06 **Recycle.** You'll find a couple of recycling stations onboard in the public areas.

TUI CARE FOUNDATION

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



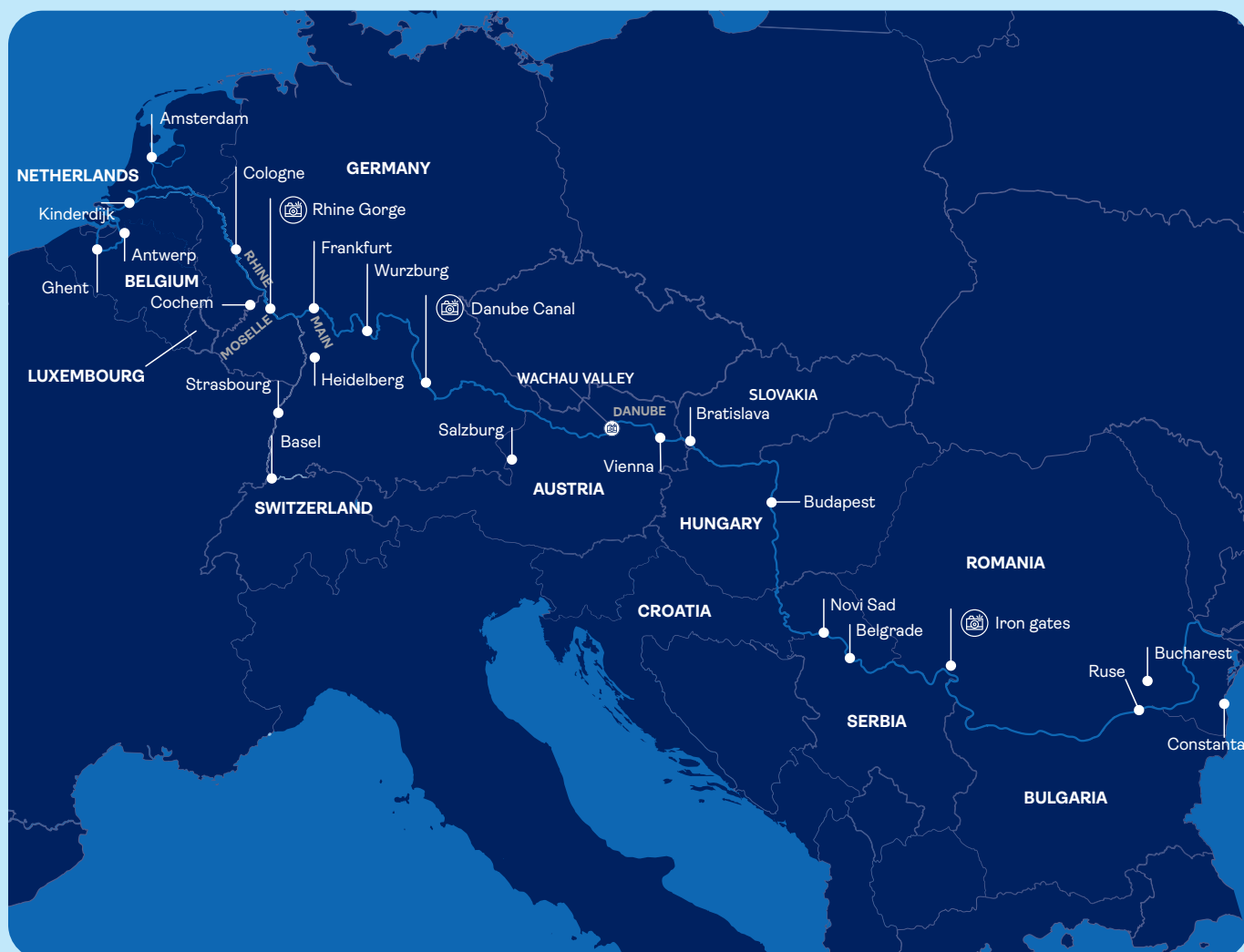
Nile

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...



01 River Cruises Collection: Sound of Vienna: An evening in concert

More famous composers have lived in Vienna than in any other city, hence its nickname - the City of Music. Everyone from Beethoven to Mozart has crafted their works in the city's coffee houses, or performed in the many opera houses and concert halls. On this experience, you'll head to one of the music halls, where you'll take your seats for a 90-minute concert. Then, when the show's over, you'll be whisked back to the ship by bus.

Available in Vienna



02 River Cruise Collection: Cologne City Tour

The 2,000-year-old city of Cologne is pinned onto the banks of the Rhine River. On this three-hour tour you'll get to tick off some of its famous Gothic architecture, including the iconic twin-spired cathedral. The tour includes an hour of sightseeing by coach, then some more time to explore on foot. You'll also have free time to go shopping for German souvenirs. Highlights along the tour include a selfie stop outside the cathedral and a wander around the old town square. You'll also see the town hall and city gates, which date back to the Roman era.

Available in Cologne





03 River Cruises Collection: Heidelberg City Tour & Castle

This half-day trip whisks you off by coach to the town of Heidelberg. This place has both brains and beauty under its belt – it's home to one of Germany's most reputable universities, which is surrounded by picture-perfect streets scattered with grand period houses, pretty little shops and fountain-filled squares. You'll head straight for the town's main attraction – the impressive, hillside castle – for a guided tour. Learn about its royal and military history, take in the views over the rooftops and check out the wine barrel in the cellar – as the biggest in the world, it can hold over 200,000 litres of wine. This is followed by a short walking tour of the city and some free time, during which you could stock up on treats at one of the artisan chocolate shops.

Available in Mannheim and Speyer



04 River Cruises Collection: Budapest City Tour

Tick off Budapest's most famous sights on this guided city tour – like its oldest hotel, a fortress, a castle and a synagogue. The tour begins with a coach ride through the city, to Castle Hill. This rather romantic district is crammed with museums, cute-as-a-button churches and teensy cafés. Discover all of it on a guided walking tour, before heading to the famous citadel. This 19th-century fortress has one of the best views over the city. From here, you can see Parliament, Budapest Castle and all eight bridges that span the river – so don't forget the camera. You'll return to your ship from here. Just so you know, there are around 150 steps to reach Budapest Castle.

Available in Budapest



Looking for inspiration?

The Cruise Experience Manager holds daily talks about the next day's port, so you can get a feel for what to do. They're also on hand to answer any questions about our experiences or exploring on your own. Make sure to check the Navigate app for the time of each talk.

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. If you don't have a tablet or smart phone, you can use one of the tablets from Reception.

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. Everything from museum passes to hop-on hop-off bus tours are on the cards, and you can pre-book at rivercruises.gotui.com. Here are just a couple of our favourites...

Leopold Museum Vienna – skip-the-line tickets

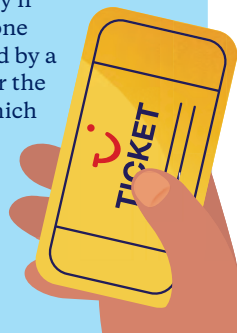
Avoid the queues and head straight into the Leopold Museum in Austria's grand capital where more than 5,000 works of art are on show. This place is one of the most important collections of modern Austrian art in the world and displays masterpieces from the Wiener Secession to Art Nouveau and Expressionism.

Available in Vienna

Budapest Guided E-Scooter Tour by Night

Discover Budapest in all its illuminated glory, with a nighttime guided tour on a MonsteRoller e-scooter. Don't worry if you've never ridden one before, as you'll be led by a professional guide for the whole experience, which covers all the top sightseeing spots on both sides of the river.

Available in Budapest



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

Introducing TUI Bahareya and TUI Aria

We've welcomed a few 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. Let's take a closer look at what you can look forward to...



Dining

Like all our river cruise ships, there are flexible dining times and an open seating policy.



Belhana is the ship's main restaurant for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Enjoy a mix of vibrant buffet spreads, live show-cooking and à la carte dinners with a local twist.

You'll find Sofra up on the top deck, where lunchtime snacks and à la carte dinners showcase Egyptian-inspired dishes with river views. The decor here's like a modern-day Arabian palace – think lanterns, criss-cross arches, plush cushions, and warm white-and-brown tones.

Bars

The Observatory lounge is the ship's main bar and your hub for evening entertainment. Enjoy live music, quizzes, film nights, and local acts – from traditional Nubian performances to whirling dervish shows. By day, relax in the lounge and let the Egyptologists bring the river sights to life, all framed by floor-to-ceiling windows.

Up on the top deck is the Felucca bar – named after the traditional Nile sailboat. The Arabic-style decor continues here, and cocktails, wines, beers, and soft drinks are all on the menu, too.

Atrium

The Atrium is the main hub of the ship, where you'll find the reception desk and the shore experiences desk. There's a self-serve tea and coffee station here that's on hand 24/7, as well.

Hetep

Step into Hetep, the ship's wellness area. The sauna and massage rooms* make the perfect pit stop for a little 'me-time' after a day's sightseeing.

Top deck

The top deck's split into different zones, with space for relaxation, dining and activities. There's a pool up here with plenty of sunloungers dotted around it, and you'll find the Felucca bar and Sofra restaurant.

Cabins

All the modern and stylish cabins come with a TV, a safe, and tea and coffee-making facilities as standard. You can choose between a number of cabins, including French Balcony Suite cabins and Balcony Suite cabins. As well as the standard facilities, these come with a few extras, too, like bathrobes and slippers, breakfast in bed twice per week, and upgraded toiletries.



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 Superior French Balcony or Superior Cabins for sliding doors and big-picture windows, Standard cabins with cosy portholes, or Single cabins for solo travellers.



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.

LIFE ON THE RIVER

Egyptian escapades

It's already been a whole year since TUI Al Horeya set sail along the famous River Nile for the first time, and in the 12 months since, she's been joined on Africa's longest river by a second ship, TUI Bahareya. There are two itineraries to choose from, and with direct TUI flights from London Gatwick and Manchester to the ships' home port, Luxor, you'll be soaking up some winter sun before you know it.

Our seven-night sailings - Legends of the Nile and Ancient Gods and Famous Pharaohs - start and finish in Luxor, with stops in Edfu, Kom Ombo and Aswan in-between. Both ships alternate between itineraries, and you'll call into the same ports of call on both - just with some slight changes in schedules. There are loads of shore experiences you can book along the way, including trips to the Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut Temple, Karnak and Luxor Temples, and Aswan High Dam. You also have trips to Edfu Temple and Kom Ombo Temple included as part of your package.

Plus, some of our more bespoke experiences include the likes of a tour of the Abu Simbel Temples, or a sound and light show at Karnak Temple. English-speaking guides will be with you on every excursion, too.



Big-Hitting Sights Temple of Horus, Edfu

This place is one of Egypt's largest and most intact pharaonic temples. Step through the 36-metre-high gateway into a complex that's dedicated to Horus - a god with the body of a man and the head of a falcon.

Karnak Temple, Luxor

Karnak's famed for its collection of sanctuaries, kiosks, pylons and obelisks. It also hosts a 90-minute sound and light show, which gives you a glimpse into the lives of the pharaohs.



Hidden Gem: Aswan, Egypt

As the country's southernmost city, Aswan was once dubbed the gateway to ancient Egypt. These days, it's a destination in its own right - albeit a little under-the-radar. Check out its botanical gardens, or set eyes on unearthed artefacts in one of its museums.



Foodie Find: Koshari, Luxor

Koshari's eaten so often in Egypt, you'd think it counted as the sixth food group. This

national dish is made from rice, lentils, chickpeas and macaroni, all topped with tomato or garlic sauce. It's easy to track down in Luxor - most street food stalls and traditional restaurants serve it.

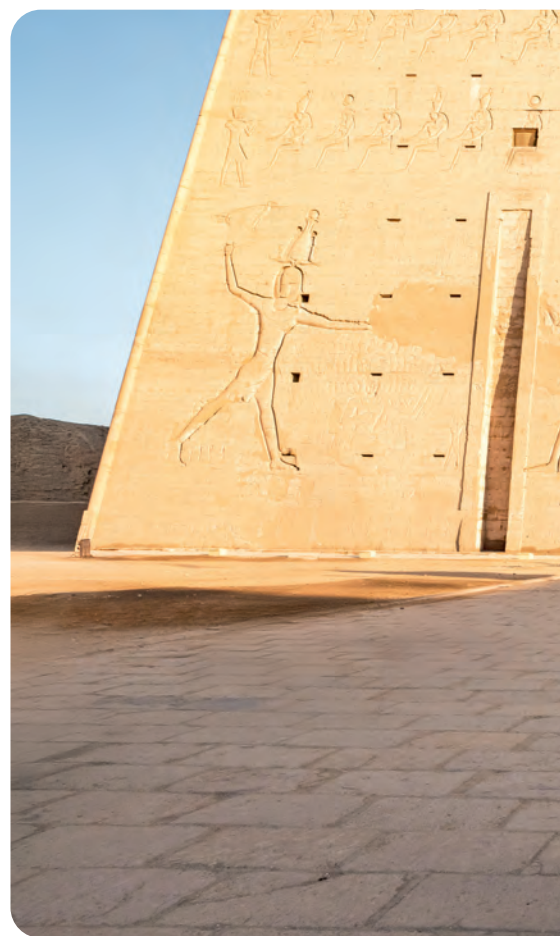


Perfect Picture: Sphinx Avenue, Luxor

When it comes to first-rate photo stops, Sphinx Avenue easily makes the cut. This three-kilometre-long walkway is lined with - you guessed it - sphinxes, with tall palms and the Luxor Temple as the backdrop.

Insider Info

One of the reliefs along Sphinx Avenue has a hieroglyph of Queen Cleopatra on it, which means she probably visited here on her Nile trip. Ask your guide to point it out to you, if you visit.





Find out more about our
Cruise & Stay options, at
[tui.co.uk/river-cruises/
info/river-cruise-and-stay](https://tui.co.uk/river-cruises/info/river-cruise-and-stay)

Fast Facts



Average temperature:
17 - 34°C



Currency: Egyptian Pound



Sailings available from
November 2025 - April 2026 and
November 2026 - April 2027



Key sights:
Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut
Temple, Edfu Temple Luxor
Temple, Kom Ombo

Cruise & Stay, or Stay & Cruise

You'll be sightseeing your heart out on these itineraries, so how about adding a few days' relaxation in one of Egypt's top destinations? With our Cruise & Stay, or Stay & Cruise holidays, you can tag a seven-night stint in a Luxor hotel, either before or after your cruise. Or, book a few days in the beach resort of Hurghada - you can add an eight-night stay before your cruise, or a six-night stay after. Here are some of our handpicked hotels that you can choose from...



TUI BLUE Makadi Gardens - Hurghada

This adults-only hotel takes you on a culinary trip around the world with its global theme nights. A pair of pools, a private beach and a couple of seafood bars are on hand, too.



Iberotel Luxor Luxor

This hotel's standout feature is its swimming pool, which floats above the River Nile. It's even got a bar for company, which means your lazy days by the water are all sorted.



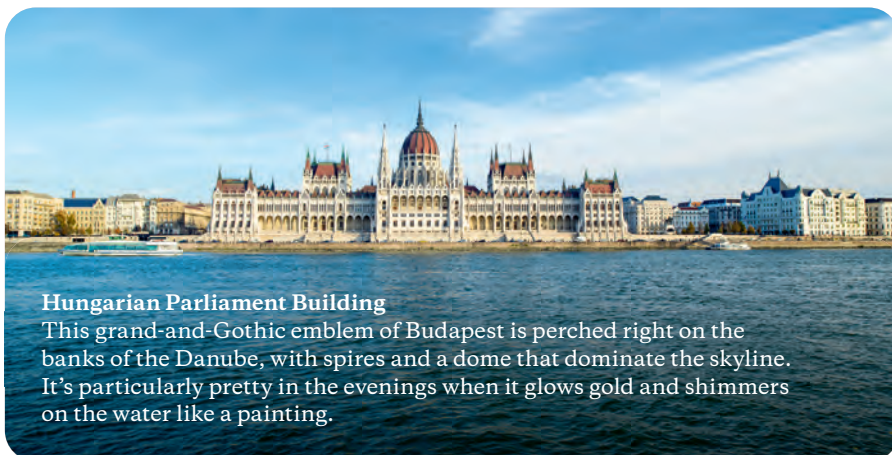
Steigenberger Achi Resort - Luxor

This place covers all the must-haves, from a pair of pools to a trio of restaurants, including an open-air Egyptian à la carte with views over the Nile.

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

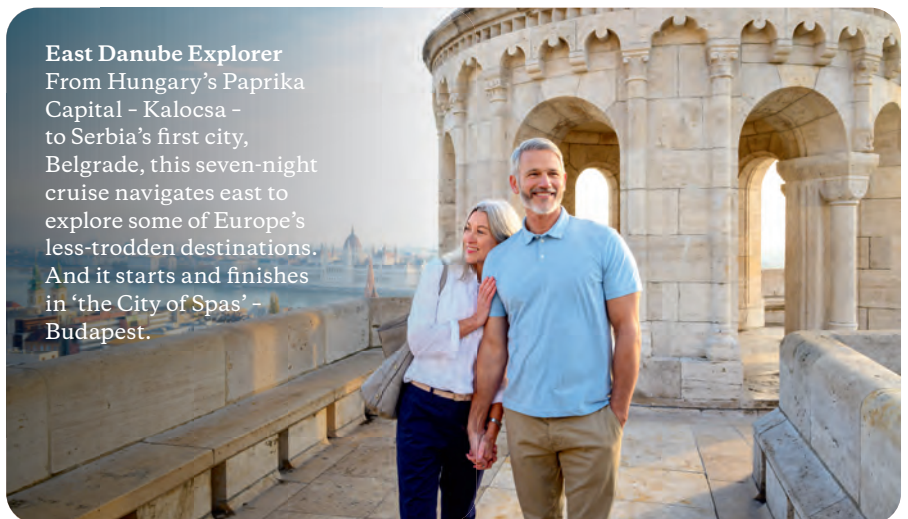
This six-night sailing takes place on our newest ship, TUI Aria. You'll visit the Netherlands' two biggest cities, Amsterdam and Rotterdam, plus the cosy town of Veere. Then you'll venture into Belgium and stop off in Ghent and Antwerp before heading back to where it all started in the Dutch capital.

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