

Issue Four | May 2022

PORTS & DESTINATIONS

ESSENTIAL PLANNING INFORMATION FOR AGENTS

Cruisers go wet and wild in

JAMAICA
YEAH MON!

A SMASHING TIME
Avalon View is
named in Bratislava

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Welcome Cruises!



It's always wonderful to watch gardens come back to life in spring after their long winter hibernation. This year the season seems extra special as the cruise industry continues to return to life after a terrible two years.

More new ships are entering service, gala christenings are back on the agenda and cruises are being snapped up by seasoned cruisers and first-timers desperate to escape these shores.

As Jamaica becomes the latest Caribbean destination to drop its pre-travel testing and mask mandates, we've got a special focus on the island and what makes it prime cruiser territory. We've also got a report from Azamara's new ship Azamara Onward, and news on what makes Emerald Cruises' first superyacht, Emerald Azzurra, so special.

In our river cruise special, don't miss our exclusive report on Avalon Waterways' new river ship Avalon View and look ahead to A-Rosa Cruises' eco-friendly A-Rosa Sena, which launches later this month. We also have all the highlights from CLIA's successful river cruise conference in Budapest.

And of course there is lots of news, port reports and more.

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Front cover image: Avalon Cruises' new river ship Avalon View sails past the town of Durnstein on the Danube.

View over the town of Ocho Rios, Jamaica.



A smashing time in Lisbon

Ultra-luxury cruise line Silversea christened new ship Silver Dawn in a gala ceremony in Lisbon after a week of pre-inaugural cruises and events for key agents and media that showcased the ship's new Otium Spa concept, which does wellness the indulgent Roman way, and a Sea and Land Taste (SALT) programme that encourages passengers to take a deep dive into the culinary traditions of the places they are visiting.

Greece is the word

Celestyal Crystal, the ship operated by Greek line Celestyal Cruises, has embarked on a summer season of seven-night Idyllic Aegean itineraries that sail round-trip from Piraeus (the port for Athens) and call into Kusadasi in Turkey, the Greek Islands of Rhodes, Crete, Santorini (pictured), Mykonos and Milos and, new for 2022, the city of Thessaloniki, where tours focus on food, wine and historical Pella, the birthplace of Alexander the Great.



Stockholm season starts

Ports of Stockholm has welcomed the first cruise ship of its 2022 Baltic summer season. Between them, Stockholm and Nynäshamn, a port about 37 miles south of the city, are expecting 230 calls, with many ships planning to stay longer now they are no longer going to St Petersburg in Russia.

Celebrity goes Beyond

Southampton welcomed Celebrity Beyond, the third of Celebrity Cruises' Edge-class ships, as she arrived straight from the St Nazaire shipyard in France where she was built ahead of her inaugural cruise – a 10-night voyage to Barcelona. Celebrity Beyond is Celebrity Cruises' third Edge-class ship and the first with new features including Le Voyage, a restaurant by Michelin-starred chef Daniel Boulud, and a two-storey suite-only outdoor Retreat.



CARTAGENA

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The Mekong (above) and Nile (right) are both in demand.



James Hill of GoRiver Cruise

Opportunity knocks

Ancient history, medieval towns, great capitals and plenty of adventure. River cruising has got it all; no wonder one voyage is never enough, says James Hill of GoRiver Cruise.

Just over 30 years ago, when river cruising really got started, it was an extension to the already popular coach touring holidays. People were used to visiting several cities or places by coach, staying in a different hotel each night with all the bother of packing and unpacking. It's why many river cruise operators today are also escorted tour companies offering a river alternative, with the luxury of exploring new places each day but unpacking only once.

Until 10 years ago, the most popular river cruise destination for UK travellers was the Nile, and while the ancient settlements of the oldest of civilisations may not be as easy to stroll around as European towns, the temples and other ancient sites are literally on the river bank or a short transfer away.

Europe is now very much the centre of river cruising. The Douro in Portugal is growing in popularity, with the charms of Porto as the base. France is also increasingly popular – not just the Seine and Rhône, which take in familiar places such as Paris and Avignon, but the Dordogne, Gironde and Garonne Rivers that converge around Bordeaux and offer cruisers the chance to visit famous vineyards and the charming town of St Emilion.

The Rhine and Danube, Europe's best-known rivers, were the main highways until

the arrival of the combustion engine. Running down from the Alps to the North Sea, the Rhine can be combined with either the Moselle and its steep vineyards, or the Main, which takes you to medieval towns almost untouched by time.

The Upper Danube runs through four capital cities and even more countries as well as towns and villages with long histories and fascinating stories. The Lower Danube, once trapped behind the Iron Curtain, could almost be termed "adventurous" but it's not as adventurous as the exotic delights of the Mekong in Vietnam and Cambodia, or the Ganges and Brahmaputra in India. And of course the US also has a wealth of cities to explore by boat.

First-time river cruisers usually opt for either the Rhine or the Danube, but interestingly I am seeing good demand for both the Mekong and the Nile, which are now open to travel again, as well as waterways in Europe that are not geographically close to the Black Sea.

River cruising is the perfect way to see places and explore famous sites, landmarks and areas, and we know that once customers have explored one region in some style and comfort on a river cruise, they are soon looking for the next one. Selling in this market is an opportunity not to be missed.

Focus on Jamaica

With everything from bobsled rides to gorgeous sandy beaches, this island nation is a one-stop shop for all things amazing when it comes to cruising the Caribbean, says Jane Archer.



Jamaica's Blue Mountains are famous for their coffee.

Good to know

VISA REQUIREMENTS

British visitors don't need a visa but they must have at least six months validity left on their passport at the end of their holiday.

CURRENCY

The official currency is the Jamaican dollar (JMD) but US dollars are widely accepted. All major credit cards are widely accepted. Cash can be changed at banks or in hotels.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1906, Dr Alexander James McCatty founded a bathing club in Montego Bay for friends in the medical profession at what became known as Doctor's Cave Beach. Today it is in Montego Bay's 'Hip Strip' and considered one of the island's best beaches.

As the birthplace of Bob Marley and reggae, Jamaica hardly needs any introduction. Settled by the Spanish after Columbus arrived looking for gold in the late 1400s, it was taken over by the British in 1655, gained its independence in 1962 and is now the place to come for the ultimate in Caribbean cool. Life here is unhurried, laid-back and fun.

The island, the third largest in the Caribbean, is packed with so many exciting things for cruisers to do and see that one visit is never enough. Speeding down a mountain in a bobsled, climbing waterfalls, horse-riding in the surf, gently rafting down a river; you can do all that and much more.

There are gorgeous white-sand beaches just made for topping up the tan or splashing around in the surf and fabulous food. This is the home of jerk, a hot, spicy seasoning that goes perfectly with chicken, and ackee, a West African fruit cooked like scrambled eggs and served with saltfish.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ian Fleming, wrote all of his James Bond novels in Goldeneye, his estate in Jamaica. The first Bond movie, Dr No, was filmed in Ocho Rios.

There are tasty pepperpot soups, Jamaican patties made with ground beef and spices baked in pastry that are not to be missed and naturally, given this is an island, lots of seafood.

With so much on offer, it's no wonder the island is a favourite port of call with cruise passengers of all ages.

The island splits neatly into four parts. The main tourist areas are in the north and west of the island and include Montego Bay, Jamaica's second city, Negril, Falmouth and

Ocho Rios. The south is wilder, the place to explore jungle rivers and wetlands. Kingston, the capital, is on the south-east coast and home to The Bob Marley Museum and his



DID YOU KNOW?

The town of Ocho Rios, meaning eight rivers, got its name from the British, who mistranslated Las Chorreras, the Spanish name for the area, which means waterfalls. There aren't eight rivers but the name has stuck.

former recording studio. The Blue Mountains, famous for coffee, are a short drive from the city.

Falmouth (half way between Montego Bay and Ocho Rios) is the biggest and busiest port, but there are three others, including one each at Montego Bay and Ocho Rios (see page 12). Wherever they end up, cruisers can be sure they'll always be within easy reach of key attractions and fun activities.

Most lines use Jamaica as a port of call; exceptionally Marella Cruises, and also German lines TUI Cruises and AIDA Cruises, offers cruises from Montego Bay in winter, allowing the line to offer a range of cruise-

and-stay options that tap into the amazing choice of accommodation on the island.

Winter is high season in the Caribbean and traditionally the favourite time to

cruise there as temperatures hover around a pleasant 25-26C degrees, offering a warm and sunny escape from the UK's winter chill. However, Royal Caribbean International, MSC Cruises and Carnival Cruise Lines are among several now sailing year-round in the Caribbean so cruisers can put Jamaica on their must-visit list throughout the summer as well.

Climbing Dunn's River Falls is a great work-out.

CRUISE CALENDAR 2022-23

Cruise lines calling into Montego Bay (CLIA members on sale in the UK only)

Carnival Cruise Line

Costa Cruises

MSC Cruises

P&O Cruises

Cruise lines calling into Ocho Rios

Carnival Cruise Line

Celebrity Cruises

Costa Cruises

Holland America Line

MSC Cruises

Norwegian Cruise Line

Cruise lines calling into Falmouth

Carnival Cruise Line

Celebrity Cruises

Disney Cruise Line

Holland America Line

Princess Cruises

Royal Caribbean International

Cruise from Montego Bay

Marella Cruises has based a ship in Montego Bay every winter since 2014-2015 and will be back there again from November 2022 to April 2023, offering three seven-night itineraries on Marella Discovery 2. They are:

- ✓ Flavours of the Caribbean, visiting Georgetown in Cayman Islands, Havana in Cuba and Cozumel in Mexico.
- ✓ Exotic Explorer, visiting Roatan in Honduras, Santo Tomas de Castilla in Guatemala, Belize City in Belize and Costa Maya in Mexico.
- ✓ Pride of Panama, visiting Port Royal in Jamaica, Cartagena in Columbia, Colon in Panama and Puerto Limon in Costa Rica.

Cruise prices include TUI flights from several regional UK airports direct to Montego Bay. Marella also offers a selection of cruise-and-stay holidays for customers who want to see more of Jamaica.



Adventure isle

When it comes to exciting days out, Jamaica is king, with excursions to suit all cruisers, whether aged seven or seventy, in search of an adrenalin rush or looking to take it easy.

Those with a need for speed should make a bee-line for Mystic Mountain, where they can take a chairlift to the top and speed some 3,280 feet back down to ground level in a bobsled (pictured top), twisting and turning through rainforest as they go (there are brakes if riders need to slow down).

If getting wet wet wet appeals more, it has to be climbing Dunn's River Falls. It sounds so easy, but slip, sliding your way over boulders to get to the top of the 600-foot falls as powerful water gushes down towards you is quite a work out. Dolphin Cove, next door to Dunn's River Falls, is terrific for families as kids can paddle in the water with the cetaceans or don a lifejacket and swim with them.

Carnival Cruise Line, Norwegian Cruise Line, Princess Cruises and Marella Cruises are among several companies that offer a wet and wild adventure that pairs the falls with Mystic Mountain as the attractions are near neighbours just outside Ocho Rios. Or that combine a climb up Dunn's River Falls with Dolphin Cove.



There's lots more for thrill-seekers, including playing Tarzan as they zip through the tree canopy while strapped to a wire – there are zipwire adventures near Montego Bay and Falmouth – or sitting in an inner tube and whirling and twirling over rapids on the White River near Ocho Rios. Or how about an exciting ride through the sea on the back of a horse. There's no saddle so you have to hold on tight as your steed starts to swim.

If all that sounds a too adventurous, don't worry. Cruisers can glide gently down the Martha Brae

on a bamboo raft (above), learn to cook Jamaican-style, taste rum and tick off crocodiles, parrots and, maybe, Jamaica's national bird, the red-billed streamertail (aka the Doctor Bird) on a trip to the Konoko Falls park and botanical garden. And of course there are always tours to a local beach for those who fancy getting the sand between their toes.

Jamaica's five cruise ports

In theory cruise lines can take their pick from five cruise ports in Jamaica. In practice, the choice is limited by size as they can't all accommodate big ships.

Montego Bay On the north coast, this port has six berths. It's about three miles from downtown. There are always plenty of taxis into town as well as a hop-on, hop-off bus known as the Hot Spot Shuttle that serves the town as well as Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville and Doctors' Cave Beach.

Ocho Rios This port is also on the north coast. It has two cruise piers suitable for mid-size ships and is within easy walking distance of the town, nicknamed Ochee by the locals. Mystic Mountain, Dunn's River Falls and Dolphin Cove are all fairly close.

Falmouth Between Montego Bay and Ocho Rios, this is the island's biggest port. Built to handle Royal Caribbean International's Oasis-class series of biggest ships in the world, it opened a decade ago and has all the trappings of a modern cruise port, including shops, bars and restaurants. It is now used by several big ship lines. Cruisers staying local can head out on self-guided walking tours of historic Falmouth, hop on a horse-drawn buggy or take a trolley tour of the town.



Port Antonio Also the name of the town it serves, this port is east of Ocho Rios and only takes small ships. From the dock it's about a 15-minute walk into the historic centre of Port Antonio. Oceania Cruises' Sirena will be calling in on December 1 this year on a 12-night cruise from Miami to Bridgetown in Barbados.

Port Royal Opened just before Covid struck, this is the port for Kingston, the capital, and ideal for smaller ships. Marella Cruises' Marella Discovery 2 will be there in November and December on its seven-night Pride of Panama cruises round-trip from Montego Bay. Seabourn Sojourn has a call scheduled in December on a 16-night Holiday Caribbean voyage round-trip from Miami.

Mileage chart

Montego Bay to Ocho Rios - 63 miles (100km)

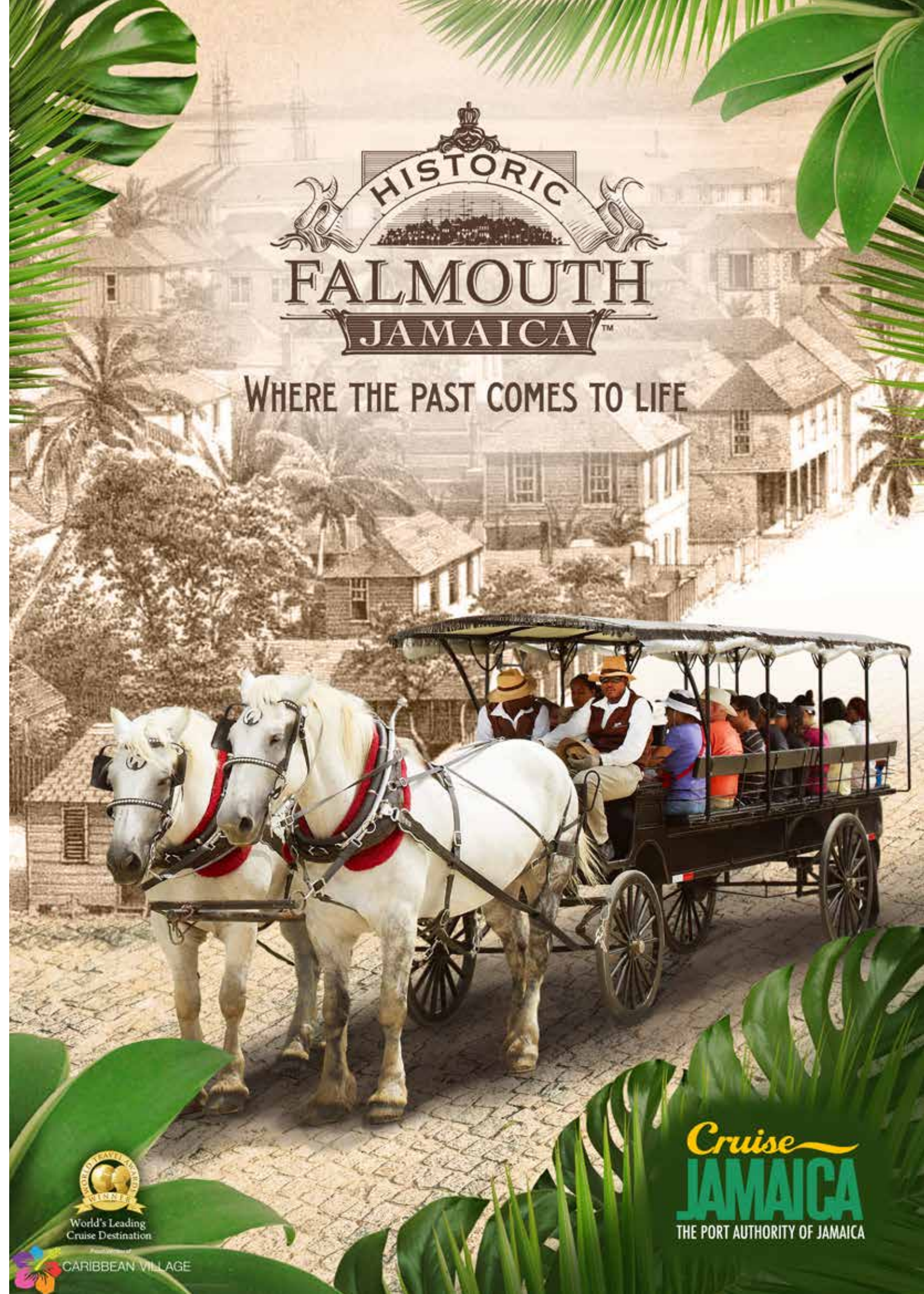
Montego Bay to Falmouth - 21.5 miles (35km)

Montego Bay to Kingston - 111 miles (179km)

Montego Bay to Negril - 47 miles (76km)

Ocho Rios to Negril - 117 miles (188km)

Ocho Rios to Kingston - 50 miles (80km)



Cruise
JAMAICA
THE PORT AUTHORITY OF JAMAICA



The Aqua Pool on Emerald Azzurra has views over the wake of the ship. Top right: The observation lounge on Emerald Azzurra.



Suite selection

Emerald Azzurra has 50 staterooms and suites. Six have an ocean view, the rest all have private balconies. Guests can choose from spacious Balcony Suites or treat themselves to a Deluxe Balcony, Terrace or Yacht Suite. For the best of the best it has to be the Owner's Suite. There are just two of these, each with separate bedroom and living areas, walk-in wardrobes and perks including a bottle of champagne and fruit platter on arrival and some free laundry.

Where to find Emerald Azzurra

Emerald Azzurra is spending the rest of this year sailing the Adriatic, Western Mediterranean, Greece and Turkey. In early 2023, she'll be cruising in the Middle East, sailing between Dubai and the Qatari capital of Doha, before retracing her steps back to the Mediterranean.

A nine-day Gems of the Arabian Peninsula cruise from Doha to Dubai departing January 2 2023 costs from £3,830 per person. The price includes a 35% discount and free premium drinks package as well as flights, transfers, wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner, tips and Wi-Fi. Contact: 0808 278 7205; emeraldcruires.co.uk.



Into the blue

How do you follow up on the launch of some of the most gorgeous river ships in Europe? With an equally lovely superyacht of course.

Wouldn't it be great to live the life of a millionaire. Fast cars, champagne on tap, staff to look after your every need and a superyacht to take you to gorgeous harbours around the Mediterranean that are off limits to big ships.

Well now you can, thanks to Emerald Cruises, the company that brought us river ships with swimming pools that convert into cinemas by night. Granted the line can't promise the fast cars but most of the rest is all part of the package on Emerald Azzurra, its first ocean-going luxury superyacht.

Launched in March, she is a real beauty, with sleek lines, stylish suites that welcome guests with a bottle of fizz and designer furnishings that look a million dollars (and no doubt cost a lot more). With room for just 100 guests, life on board is like being at a house party. A very classy one of course.

All rooms are suites and most have private balconies, guests can eat like kings in La Cucina Restaurant or go for something lighter in the Aqua Café, while the Elements Spa offers treatments galore, as well as an infrared sauna and Technogym equipment

for those seeking to keep in shape.

On a sunny day, there's nothing better than cooling off in the infinity pool at the back of the sun deck with endless views over the yacht's wake. When conditions allow, a marina platform at the back of the vessel opens up to reveal a host of water toys that can be borrowed at no extra charge. Snorkels or a 007-like Seabob anyone? Active sorts who prefer to keep their feet on the ground can instead explore ashore on an e-bike, also at no extra charge.

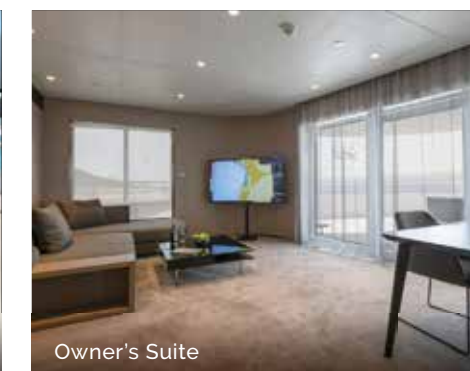
Emerald Cruises global director of brand and marketing David Winterton was among the first guests on Emerald Azzurra's maiden cruise from Jordan in Aqaba to the Greek port of Piraeus and says she is a stunner. "She is everything I expected and more," he enthuses.

Clearly Emerald Cruises' past guests agree as so many have booked that this summer was a near sell out before the vessel had even launched. No wonder there is a sister already on the way. Emerald Sakara, under construction in Vietnam, is due to enter service in early 2023.

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A breeze round the Peloponnese

Fortune tellers, naked men, medieval magic and some of the world's most scenic ports. A cruise around the Peloponnese has it all, says Jane Archer.

I'm channelling my inner child as we climb up to the fort in Nafplion. "Are we nearly there yet?" When I suggested we go to the fort, I was looking at an ancient citadel that is way below us and I see now barely merits such a grand name. But it does have the benefit of being a lot closer to sea level.

Instead we're climbing up to Palamidi, a Venetian fortress high above the Greek town of Nafplion that the daily programme on Galileo says is at the top of 999 steps. I lost count several flights ago and we're still not getting close to the top.

We're cruising around the Peloponnese, a peninsula that was attached to the

Greek mainland until a canal was dug though the isthmus of Corinth to provide a quick route for ships sailing from the Ionian and Aegean seas. The tiny waterway – just four miles long – opened at the end of the 1800s and is so narrow that only small vessels like

little Galileo, a motor yacht owned by Greek line Variety Cruises, can squeeze through.

We're supposed to be sailing through the canal on this circumnavigation of the peninsula but it is blocked due to a landslide in February 2021 that still isn't cleared (latest

estimates are that it will reopen this summer but there are no guarantees). No matter. We see it instead – like a scar cut through the jagged rocks and a scarily long way down – from a bridge linking the Peloponnese to the mainland on a transfer to the port of Corinth, where Galileo is docked.

Galileo can hold 50 passengers but there are just 26 of us on this cruise to comply with

Covid rules. We're all from the UK and here to discover the palaces, temples, theatres and hospitals built by the ancient Greeks on calls into Itea, Katakolon, Pylos, Monemvasia and Nafplion.

It's a picturesque line-up of ports and as

luck would have it, a change in the itinerary (blame the weather) means we get a full day in Monemvasia, a magical medieval town laced with narrow alleys, cobbled streets and Byzantine churches. We have lunch ashore, climb to the top, where the rich folk used to live, and still have time to join the group for a well-earned wine-tasting session in town.

"We're doing the Peloponnese like the ancient Greeks," says cruise director Joseph. He keeps us informed of what we'll be seeing in evening port talks – and also what we'll be missing. "There's no napkin folding, no chocolate fountains, no bingo or casinos," he warns. "Actually there's nothing." That's just fine as we're all here to see, listen and learn with guest lecturer and Greek expert Eugenia ('call me Jenny'), who sails with us, leads the excursions and brings the ancient ruins to life with her stories, myths and legends.

Itea is the gateway to Delphi, where hundreds of years before Christ, generals and politicians would come to consult the oracle – a sort-of 7th-century BC fortune teller who they believed was in communication with the gods. Always a woman and aged over 50, she'd go into a trance-like state (it's now thought she was high on gases seeping from the bedrock under the temple) and give some cryptic answer that the questioner had to decipher. Naturally she was always right, but in case anyone dared question her, there was a handy cliff nearby to throw them off.

Jenny stops by the Treasury, built in Delphi by the Athenians as a thank you to Apollo after they beat off the Persians. "What did the Greeks ever do for Europe?" she asks. "Forget democracy and gods; they got rid of the Persians!"

They also gave us the Olympics, so it's fitting that next day we're heading for Olympia, where the original games were held some 2,800 years ago. It was very different to today as only men were allowed to take part and they had to compete in the nude. Lunch today is in a local taverna. We sit on the balcony in the warm sun soaking up a magnificent view and enjoying authentic Greek food. Just perfect.

We wake next day in Pylos, where the wannabee archaeologists among us are excited about visiting the Mycenaean Palace of King Nestor but hubbie Mark is more interested in the bay, the site of the Battle of Navarino, the last major naval battle fought with sailing ships. The British, French and Russian forces beat the Ottomans and Egyptians, paving the way for Greek independence.

How to book

Variety Cruises is sold in the UK through Seafarer Cruises (0208 324 3117; seafarercruises.co.uk).

A seven-night Antiquity to Byzantium cruise round-trip from Marina Zea in Piraeus on Galileo departing October 28 2022 costs from £2,165 per person cruise-only.

The town of Pylos is a beauty, lapped by the calm waters of that famous bay, overlooked by a fort and built around a large square filled with statues and bars. Grabbing a table, ordering a beer and gazing out to sea is de rigueur. This might be a whistle-stop cruise through the history books, but there's always time to sit back and enjoy being in Greece. In case we forget that, tonight is Greek night. Tables are laid with blue and white cloths, there's free-flowing ouzo courtesy of Valeria, the lovely lady in charge of the bar, and grilled octopus on the menu, and we're treated to an evening of Greek music and dance. Opa!



The seafront and Palamadi fortress at Nafplion. Pictures right, from top: Galileo docked in Pylos; the ancient sanctuary of Delphi; Itea.





Onward and upward

Azamara's fourth ship, Azamara Onward, entered service in May after a gala christening in glamorous Monte Carlo.

The word 'destination' comes up time and again when you talk to Azamara president Carol Cabezas. It's been in Azamara's DNA ever since anyone can remember and, if anything, is even more important now the line has launched its fourth ship, Azamara Onward.

"Destination is at the core of what we do and that will not change," Cabezas promised on a pre-inaugural cruise ahead of the ship's naming in Monte Carlo. She said research shows guests don't want to feel rushed or pressured, hence itineraries include lots of late departures or overnights in ports, allowing them time to see places by day and night.

Whatever the time of day, tours enable guests to discover places in more depth. More night excursions that connect with local cultures are coming in 2024 and there are plans to bring more local entertainment onto the ship.

Azamara Onward, a sister to the line's three other ships, was acquired last year by Azamara's parent company Sycamore Partners. She started sailing for Azamara in May after a multi-million-dollar refurbishment and gala naming ceremony hosted by godmother Beth Santos, the founder and CEO of lifestyle brand Wonderful.

Among changes, the line's popular speciality restaurants, Prime C steakhouse and Mediterranean-style Aqualina, have been added. Both venues are complimentary for suite guests; otherwise there is \$30 per person cover charge.

Azamara has also added two new Spa Suites, replaced the casino with shore excursion desks and transformed the library into Atlas Bar. This is a fabulous new venue exclusive to Azamara Onward that serves

destination-themed cocktails and light bites such as king prawns, beef tartare and mushroom arancini.

Throughout the ship, there are new carpets, furniture and furnishings, and staterooms and bathrooms have been spruced up. In the Cabaret Lounge, new live shows revolve around disco, rock and crooner favourites Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett.

For a small ship – Azamara Onward holds just 702 guests – there is a surprising choice of places to eat. Discoveries Restaurant is the main dining venue where guests can stroll up and join others or request a table on their own. Windows Café is open for self-service breakfast and lunch, and offers waiter service and themed dinners in the evening.

The Patio is a poolside diner open lunchtime and into the evening. And in case anyone still has the munchies, the Mosaic Café has pastries and tapas throughout the day, and there are sandwiches, scones and tapas plates in the Living Room (the observation lounge at the front of the ship) every afternoon.

Azamara Onward is spending summer in the Mediterranean, sailing mainly Greece and Croatia intensive cruises, but also voyages that link Greece and Turkey, and a couple of itineraries that focus on France and Italy. An eight-night Islands of the Med cruise from Civitavecchia (the port for Rome) to Barcelona in October ticks off Elba in Italy, Olbia in Sardinia, Porto-Vecchio in Corsica, Menorca, Mallorca and Valencia in Spain. "We have offered this before and it is really popular," says strategic itinerary and destination planning director Mike Pawlus.



Atlas Bar, top, is new and exclusive to Azamara Onward. Above: The line's signature Prime C steakhouse was added during the refit.

Azamara Onward

Azamara Onward has 305 staterooms, mostly with a balcony, and 46 suites. The total includes two Spa Suites, six Club World Owner's Suites and four Club Ocean Suites. These come with a butler and perks including complimentary speciality dining, 235 free internet minutes per guest and one bag of free laundry a week.

All guests enjoy more-inclusive prices that cover selected spirits, beers and wines, bottled water and soft drinks, speciality tea and coffee, gratuities and one AzAmazing event on cruises seven nights or longer.

Prices for Azamara Onward's inaugural Mediterranean season start from £1,233 per person for a seven-night Italy Intensive voyage departing November 5 2022, including flights and transfers.

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73-night Grand Africa Voyage	10 Oct 2023 Zuiderdam	Roundtrip Fort Lauderdale
94-night Grand Australia & New Zealand Voyage	3 Jan 2024 Volendam	Roundtrip San Diego
128-night Grand World Voyage	3 Jan 2024 Zuiderdam	Roundtrip Fort Lauderdale

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The LONG WAY AROUND



MSC Poesia's 2024 world cruise includes an overnight in Rio de Janeiro.



Seabourn's expedition ship Seabourn Venture will be exploring Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands on a month-long journey from Buenos Aires to Rio de Janeiro departing February 16 2023.

Avoiding the British winter while being looked after hand and foot? No wonder so many people sign up for a voyage around the world.

Do you have the stamina for a world or long voyage? That might sound an odd question – are there not scores of crew to do all the work so passengers can sit back and enjoy? – but being on a ship for several months is not the same as a week or two weeks around the Mediterranean or Caribbean.

It's even better!

Ask any seasoned circumnavigators and they'll tell you it is the holiday of lifetime – so much so that they return year after year, either to cruise around the world or do a long voyage. Around South America, maybe, circling the Pacific Ocean or exploring Antarctica.

There are so many plus points, not least that most world and long voyages are timed to escape the British winter. They are also great value (and remember, while away cruisers save on food, energy and petrol costs at home) and a brilliant way to strike up new friendships and see exotic places folk might never have thought of visiting.

Customers planning their first long stint at sea will have lots of questions. Here are some of the things that can guide them on their way.

Going all the way

For those with the time and money, sailing all the way around the globe is the ultimate cruise. Several world cruises start in the UK and follow a westward route that takes them through the Caribbean to South America, the South Pacific, Australia and New Zealand, returning to Britain via Asia, the Middle East and Mediterranean. Others start in the US, head to Oceania and end in Europe.

Most passengers travelling all the way around the world are seasoned cruisers and, because of the time it takes, retired. However, it's not unknown for a few people to dive in and book a full circumnavigation as their first holiday at sea. Cruise lines say once newcomers have been on board, they book again, but to opt for months away first off is a brave move. A week or two cruising in the Med first would not go amiss.

Cruising segments

World cruise sectors can be anything from two weeks to a month or more and are a way for those strapped for time to still get the world cruise experience. There are numerous options. Maybe a voyage from the UK to Australia or vice-versa, a two-week cruise through Asia, or a journey from Asia back to the UK. Bear in mind that part world cruisers have to fly at least one way so packing becomes more of a challenge due to the airlines' weight limitations.



Holland America Line's Oosterdam sails past the Sydney Opera House in Australia – one of the iconic sights of any world cruise.

Choosing a cruise line

With more cruise lines offering round-the-world cruises (the latest are Azamara, which makes its world cruise debut in 2024, and Royal Caribbean International, which has a 274-night adventure departing in 2023), there are plenty of itineraries, ships and prices to choose from.

If clients have a favourite line, it's easy. If they don't, pin down their preferred style of cruising and find a line to match. P&O Cruises, Cunard and Fred Olsen Cruise Lines are perfect for those who like to cruise with Brits. MSC Cruises has a more laid-back European style, while Holland America Line, Princess Cruises and Royal Caribbean are for those who like a more relaxed American vibe. Suggest Oceania Cruises or Azamara to those who want a small ship, and Seabourn, Regent Seven Seas Cruises or Silversea for ultra luxury and all-inclusive fares.

For all world or long cruises, it pays to book early for the best deals – and choice of cabins or suites. That can often mean up to two years in advance.

Make a date

When choosing a cruise, look at the dates on the schedule. Cruise lines don't always list sea days so it might look as if there is one exotic ports after the other when actually there's a week at sea in between them. Also advise clients to check the ports of call; it would be a shame to head off around the world and only visit places they know, but it might be worth a few repeat visits to discover some new gems.



Fred Olsen has scheduled a two-night stay in Port Louis, Mauritius, on its Grand Voyage of Africa and the Indian Ocean departing November 19 2023.

Picking a cabin

As they are going to be on board for some time, world cruisers should be advised to splash out on the biggest and best room they can afford. It doesn't have to be a suite, but a balcony at least, so they have somewhere private for those moments of "me" time.

Location is everything. Rooms at the back have a great view over the ships' wake (and sometimes get bigger balconies) and are good for the self-service buffet and restaurants. Those in the middle of the ship are the most stable; picking a room near lifts or stairs is always handy. Cabins and suites at the front are generally closer to the spa and theatre.

Exciting world and long cruises to sell now

Credit: Seabourn



French Polynesia is among the highlights of Seabourn's exotic island-hopping Grand Pacific Voyage this September.

Pacific Odyssey

Hawaii, French Polynesia, the Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea are among highlights as Seabourn Odyssey sets sail on a 65-day Grand Pacific Voyage between Vancouver in Canada and Sydney in Australia. In all there are 41 ports, 12 countries and overnight stays in Honolulu, Papeete, the Conflict Islands (Papua New Guinea), Cairns and Sydney. But clients will have to hurry, because this exotic island-hopper departs on September 30 this year. Prices from £29,999 per person cruise-only including drinks, tips, speciality dining and Wi-Fi. seabourn.com

Exploring Africa

Holland America Line's Zuiderdam is exploring the continent of Africa on a 73-day Grand Voyage round-trip from Fort Lauderdale departing October 10 2023. Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, Angola, Cape Town, Namibia, Gambia; they are all among the more than 25 exotic ports of call and between them offer everything from Indian Ocean idylls and wildlife safaris to national parks, nature reserves, sand dunes and wild horses. Prices from £9,799 per person cruise-only including a range of complimentary early-booking amenities. See website for details. hollandamerica.com

Sail from Southampton

Fred Olsen Cruise Lines' new ship Bolette is exploring Africa and the Indian Ocean on a 93-night Grand Voyage round-trip from Southampton departing November 19 2023. Planned by the line's chairman Fred Olsen Jnr, it includes calls into Alexandria in Egypt, Mumbai, Mormugao and Kerala in India, Mombasa in Kenya and Dakar in Senegal. There's a two-night stay in Port Louis in Mauritius and a three-night stay in Cape Town, South Africa. Prices from £9,999 per person. fredolsencruises.co.uk

Round the Horn

Regent Seven Seas Cruises' is offering a perfect festive escape on a 65-night voyage from Los Angeles to Miami that circumnavigates South America, spends Christmas Day in Recife in Brazil and New Year's Eve in the Caribbean islands of St Vincent. The cruise, on Seven Seas Mariner, departs November 2 2022 and includes overnights in Callao (Lima), Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. From £33,919 per person including flights, transfers, pre-cruise hotel night, shore excursions, drinks, tips, speciality dining and Wi-Fi. rssc.com

A Land Down Under

The South Pacific meets Australia and New Zealand on this 94-night Grand Australia & New Zealand Voyage round-trip from San Diego on Holland America Line's Volendam. This must-do itinerary goes island-hopping through the South Pacific, circumnavigates Australia, with overnight stays in Sydney and Freemantle (Perth), and heads over the Tasman Sea to explore New Zealand's Fiordland National Parks and cities. The cruise departs January 3 2024. Prices from £13,499 per person cruise-only including a range of complimentary early-booking amenities. See website for details. hollandamerica.com

Amazing Amazon

MSC Cruises' 2024 world voyage has gone on sale offering everything from a Suez Canal transit and tour to Jordan's Lost City of Petra to a cruise on the mighty Amazon, overnights in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, Cape Town in South Africa and Rio in Brazil, and Caribbean sun at the line's private island Ocean Cay. The 115-day voyage is on MSC Poesia from Civitavecchia (Rome) to Southampton departing January 4 (Genoa, Marseille or Barcelona departures also available). Prices from £11,599 per person cruise-only including 15 shore excursions, wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner, and tips. msccruises.co.uk



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6 Jan 2023

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5 Overnight stays



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RIVER CRUISE SPECIAL



River Cruise Special

Scenic's 2023 river cruise programme features new eight-day Castles and Vineyards cruises between Basel and Frankfurt that include a call into the medieval town of Cochem and a visit to the Reichsburg Castle (pictured).

AmaWaterways' co-founders Rudi Schreiner and Kirstin Karst join the mayor of Vilshofen Florian Gams to celebrate the opening of the town's new cruise dock. AmaWaterways was the first river cruise line visit the town and has more than 200 calls scheduled for this year.



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Full of firsts: New river ship A-Rosa Sena launches at the end of May.

It's child's play

A-Rosa River Cruises puts family river cruising firmly on the agenda with new ship, A-Rosa Sena.

To unveil one industry first on a new ship is always exciting. To unveil five firsts on just one new vessel is nothing short of amazing. But that is what German river cruise line A-Rosa River Cruises is just about to do.

When A-Rosa Sena launches in May she will be the first river ship in Europe with family cabins, the first with a kids' club and the first with separate adult and children's pools. She is also the first to operate on battery power and the first on the Rhine with four inside decks.

And all that is just for starters. A-Rosa is also shaking up its dining options on this ship. It still revolves around the line's self-service concept, but within the A-Rosa Market, the name of the main restaurant, there's a separate seating area where guests who prefer can have food from the buffet served.

Riverside is a new outdoor seating area

adjacent to the Market; the Sena Grill a new steak and seafood restaurant available to all for a small surcharge. Head to the sun deck and you'll find the Up and Down Bar. It's up on sunny days, but goes down when the ship is going under low bridges.

The spa, also a signature feature for A-Rosa, is bigger and better, with two treatment rooms, a jacuzzi, sauna and heated benches, and an ice grotto with an ice fountain for cooling off.

And then there is all the behind-the-scenes techie stuff that makes A-Rosa Sena the most eco-friendly ship on the rivers. Selective catalytic reduction filters that capture NOx emissions, batteries that power her in and out of ports, shore power (where available) to run the ship and recharge the batteries, something called peak shaving that tops

A-Rosa Sena is based in Cologne on the Rhine and offers seven-night cruises to Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Dordrecht and Antwerp. There is a day cruising on the return to Cologne. The vessel holds up to 280 guests; children aged 15 and under cruise for free when staying in a family cabin..

A seven-night Rhine Discovery cruise round-trip from Cologne departing October 22 2022 costs from £3,439 for a family of four sharing a family cabin. Price includes return flights, transfers and a premium all-inclusive dining and drinks package. Contact: 0151 350 1155; arosa-cruises.co.uk

up the batteries with waste energy from the engines, an exhaust heat recovery system that generates electricity and stores it in the batteries.



◀ Ready to eat? The A-Rosa Market is a self-service buffet where you can help yourself to meat, fish, veggie and vegan favourites, or head to one of the live cooking stations and watch the professionals prepare your dish.

▶ Guests can grab a table outside – A-Rosa calls it the Riverside – where guests will be treated to special culinary experiences now and then.



◀ Welcome to Treasure Island, the first play area on a river ship in Europe, so now there's not only lots for children to do ashore – kid-friendly A-Rosa even has special excursions for families – there's plenty to keep them occupied back on board. There's arts and crafts in the kids' club, they have their own pool on the sun deck and everything from treasure hunts to movie nights.

▶ This cabin was designed with families in mind. It has a double bed for mum and dad, and bunk beds with portholes and curtains and a sofa bed for the children. There's even a small play area. There are only 12 of them on the ship so clients will need to book fast as they're sure to be snapped up.



◀ What do you call a bar that is up and running when the ship is sailing and lowers when it has to go under a bridge? It's the Up & Down Bar of course. We reckon watching it go down will be almost as entertaining as imbibing a glass of something cold under a sunny blue sky.

▶ Ahh, the spa. Massages, facials, heated benches and a Finnish sauna. Need we say more?





Hungary for *a* change

CLIA celebrated 10 years of river cruise conferences by holding this year's event in Budapest for the first time. Ports & Destinations was there to join the celebrations.

What we learned

- ✓ Agents must innovate, inspire and educate customers about river cruising. We know about river cruising, they don't, said Uniworld River Cruises president and CEO Ellen Bettridge. She gave examples of some US agents who have seen sales soar by coming up with neat ways to engage clients, for instance by keeping customers engaged via regular newsletters and events on Zoom as well as using in-person events to reach those who are not on social media.
- ✓ River cruise lines all agreed the war in Ukraine has affected river cruise sales, especially on the Danube, but Alex Pinelo, AmaWaterways' senior vice-president sales, had some good advice for agents. Start planning now, he said, because once it's over, there'll be a race to book as cruisers seek to make up for lost opportunities.
- ✓ Egypt is back! The country never went away, of course, but river cruising on the Nile fell off a cliff when the Arab Spring erupted in 2011. Now it's quiet, there are stylish new vessels on the river from the likes of Uniworld and AmaWaterways and cruise lines have seen an uptick in bookings as travellers look to renew their love affair with the tombs and temples that line the banks of the Nile.
- ✓ River cruising is all about the destination. In a session on sustainability, A-Rosa River Cruises UK & Ireland managing director Lucia Rowe said river cruise lines must protect the places they visit or they will have nothing to sell. And she warned, there will come a day that customers will choose based on sustainability (see pages 26-27 for details on new river ship A-Rosa Sena).
- ✓ River cruising is also all about the experience. CLIA managing director UK and Ireland Andy Harmer said customers missed travel and saved money during the pandemic so now they are ready to spend – and what better to buy than a river cruise that is sure to provide memories for years to come.



What we saw

Over two days in Budapest, agents visited nine river ships, including getting a first glimpse of APT Travelmarvel's new Travelmarvel Vega – the first of two new vessels the company is launching this year, with a third sister due to enter service in 2023.

The lounge, restaurant and cabins on Travelmarvel Vega all looked beautiful but the real standout for us was McGeary's – the first Irish pub on a river ship and so authentic looking. Just perfect for the Aussies and Brits who make up the bulk of APT Travelmarvel's client base. There's even a selection of pub grub for those who fancy a cottage pie with their Guinness.

AmaWaterways, Uniworld River Cruises, A-Rosa River Cruises, Amadeus Cruises and Avalon Waterways were all fielding river ships over the three days.

Scenic was there with Scenic Amber, which has two gorgeous Royal Panorama Suites with views over the ship's wake and a salt room that we're told does wonders for your breathing. Emerald Cruises' Emerald Sun boasts an indoor pool at the back that has 270-degree views and transforms into a cinema in the evenings.

TUI River Cruises' new river ship TUI Skylä was also there, showing off environmentally-friendly features such as carpets made from recycled fishing nets.

Meanwhile, CroisiEurope's premium river ship Vivaldi was on hand for some pre-conference hosting before heading off on a cruise along the Danube.



The Victoria Memorial in Kolkata, where cruises on the Ganges start and end.

UK exclusive

An epic 43-night cruise combining the Nile in Egypt, the Ganges in India and the Mekong in Cambodia and Vietnam has gone on sale exclusively in the UK courtesy of Uniworld River Cruises. In between river cruising on three of the company's lavish ships, passengers will have five days in Cairo, tour India's Golden Triangle, spend time in Ho Chi Minh City and Siem Reap and visit Hanoi. Prices start from £18,885 per person including all flights, excursions, drinks, tips and Wi-Fi.



The Marienberg Fortress keeps a watchful eye over Würzburg and the Main River.

The Main ATTRACTION

The Main-Danube is a vital waterway, allowing ships to sail all the way from Amsterdam to the Black Sea, yet most people don't even know how to pronounce its name, says Jane Archer.

In the world of canals, the Main-Danube is an unsung hero. It doesn't have a back-story of death, disease and bankruptcy (Panama) and didn't start a war (Suez), but as engineering feats go, it is up there with the best.

More to the point without the canal, which as the name suggests links the Main (say it like mine) and Danube Rivers, I wouldn't be about to sail from Nuremberg to Cologne on A-Rosa River Cruises' A-Rosa Silva - a journey that will take in the canal, Main and Rhine Rivers. For lock fans, it's nirvana. There are 41 on this cruise.

Our medieval forebears apparently saw money to be made from linking the Main and Danube, but several hundred years drifted by until, in the 1950s, some bright spark picked up on the idea again. It took another 40 years before the canal opened in 1992, allowing cargo and leisure ships to sail from the North Sea to the Black Sea.

The delay, inevitably, was money, but also the small matter of how to get ships over the mountains that were in the way. Vessels coming from the Danube end of the canal

have to climb 68 metres from Kelheim (338 metres above sea level) to the top of the mountain (406 metres) and then start their journey back down to meet the Main at Bamberg, 231 metres above sea level. The solution? Lots of locks. Of the 41 on this cruise, 16 are on the canal.

Nuremberg itself is not on the canal, but the city is an easy bus and metro combo from the port. I wander from medieval (the castle) to modern (an alarming statue said to portray married life), and lunch in a chalet-style diner doing a roaring trade in Nuremberg bratwurst.

The non-stop locks on the canal and Main River are tough on the captain and sailors, but these waterways are fabulous for passengers as they are narrow and prettier than the Rhine. Acres of countryside, trees taking on a golden autumn hue, a village here, a lone church spire there. With the sundeck mostly closed due to the low bridges over the locks, this is definitely the cruise to bag a balcony.

I wake next day in Bamberg, a pretty town



The town of Bamberg is full of half-timbered houses.

A-Rosa Silva

A-Rosa Silva holds up to 186 passengers and is designated 'international', which means everything, from the menus to excursions, is in English and German. Décor is cheery, with bright red lips on her bow and lots of yellow, purple, orange and red inside. She has three decks, 95 cabins and suites, a restaurant, spa, sauna and gym, lounge, pool and putting green. All meals are served buffet style.

full of half-timbered houses that was once the capital of the Holy Roman Empire but these days is famous for its frescoed town hall, which was built in the river because the mean Prince-Bishop who ruled there wouldn't give the locals any land, and smoked beer. I admire the former and pass on the latter, which tastes like liquid ham.

This part of Germany is steeped in centuries of history and culture, with castles, fortresses, grand cathedrals and palaces galore. I explore the Marienberg Fortress that sits high above Würzburg, discover an ancient Jewish cemetery in tiny Wertheim and am on deck as we sail beneath the many castles that line the scenic Rhine Gorge. As if on cue, the sun has come out and the sky turned a deep blue. Glorious!

Book it: A seven-night Romance on the Rhine cruise between Nuremberg and Cologne on A-Rosa Silva departing August 21 costs from £1,999 per person including flights, transfers, drinks and Wi-Fi. Contact: 0151 350 1155; arosa-cruises.co.uk.

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CRUISE YOUR WAY

Borrow a bicycle from the ship for a picnic on shore or glide through the Rhine Gorge in a kayak. Whichever way you wish to spend your day, you'll find activities that speak to you.



Avalon View's godmother, the US journalist and TV host Meredith Vieira, names 'her' river ship with a bottle of Slovakian sparkling wine in Bratislava.



Whether you're in the Panorama Restaurant (above) or in your Panorama Suite (top right), you always have a view.



a ROOM *with a* VIEW

What exactly is an inside balcony and why have one? Jane Archer sailed on new river ship Avalon View to find out more.

When they said we were going wine-tasting in the vineyards, I didn't think they meant literally. Yet, here we are, not much more than 10 minutes into our hike, imbibing wine on the edge of a field with local vintners Ivan and Dušan. They hand out small bags to hang around our necks that usefully are just the right size to hold the wine glass within and start to pour. It's not even 9.30 in the morning but we all agree it must be five o'clock somewhere.

I'm in Bratislava on day three of a special cruise because today Avalon View, Avalon Waterways' new river ship, is being christened by her godmother, the US journalist and TV host Meredith Vieira. The vessel should have entered service in 2020 but was delayed by you know what. Happily she's now up and running, the line's 14th Suite Ship and appositely named given Avalon ships are all about the view.

Like the other 13 ships in the Avalon fleet, she has two full decks of suites with 11 foot wide wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling glass doors so you always get a view of the passing scenery. Not just that, but the doors slide back two-thirds the width of the room which creates an inside balcony.

Avalon chose this design as it gives guests the best of both worlds. It avoids taking space from inside the cabin (you can't just add a balcony to the side of a river ship as it would then be too wide to fit through the locks on Europe's waterways) and when the sun shines and the door is open it really feels like you are outside. The design also means there is room for a good-size bathroom (all rooms and suites have walk-in glass-enclosed showers, marble tops and come with his and hers white and brown towels). And then there is the pièce de resistance – a bed that faces the river so you wake to a view.

There are floor-to-ceiling glass windows in the restaurant and lounge, and also the aft lounge, where guests can help themselves to teas, coffees, juices, cookies and muffins, and fill up the glass water bottles Avalon provides in each suite as part of its war on single use plastic.

We're sailing from Vienna to Budapest by way of Bratislava and Esztergom in Hungary, but not before a full day in the Austrian capital. Adventurous souls opt for an e-bike ride around the famed Ringstrasse, a grand boulevard that's home to Vienna's opera house and lavish palaces from the days when Austria was an empire, and there is also a sightseeing tour for those visiting the city for the first time.

A third option, which I've chosen, is a cooking class with chef Karl Wrenkh, who with brother Leo runs a 'mainly' vegetarian restaurant in the centre of Vienna that has a

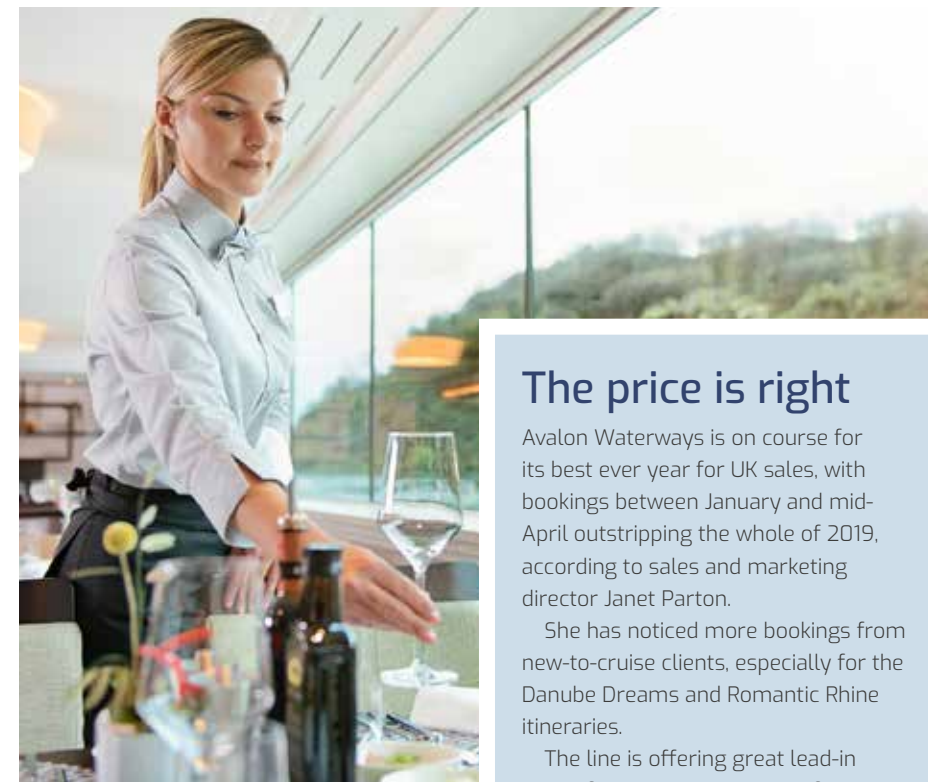
cooking school on the side. Karl gets everyone involved chopping, mixing and stirring the ingredients. It's good fun – especially the bit where we get to eat our culinary masterpieces (veggie risotto, mushroom stroganoff, breadcrumb dumplings).

Avalon offers a similar selection of active, classic and discovery tours at most ports, almost all of them complimentary. It also has a selection of Active & Discovery cruises on the Rhine, Danube and Rhône, which tend to attract a younger audience, according to Avalon president Pam Hoffee. New this year are Active & Discovery cruises on the Seine in France, with kayaking, hiking and e-biking among tour options, while Belgium and Holland and the Lower Danube join the Active & Discovery line-up in 2023.

The vineyard hike, in the town of Rača, about 25 minutes from Bratislava, comes under the active heading, although to be honest it was more wine-tasting than trekking as by 11am, we've sampled Frankovka Modra Rosé (a favourite of Austrian Empress Maria Theresa apparently) and a Slovak version of Austria's Grüner Veltliner in the vineyards, and then circled back into Rača for more tastings in our hosts' wine cellars.

The hike I choose in Dobogókő, about 30 minutes from Esztergom, is more of a challenge, with a steep descent through the woods, clambering over tree roots and rocks, then a climb back up, stopping en route to meet meditation guru Petra.

Seems this area is known as the Heart Chakra of the earth to followers of the Táltos faith and she's going to teach us a few



tricks of the meditation trade. "You'll forget everything connected to modern life," guide György tells us.

I don't think I did, but trying to was a welcome break in the uphill climb!

Book it: An eight-day Active & Discovery cruise on the Danube on Avalon View from Deggendorf to Budapest departing October 12 2022 costs from £2,019 per person cruise-only including transfers, all meals on board, most excursions, wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner, Wi-Fi and tips. Contact: 0330 058 8243; avalonwaterways.co.uk.

The price is right

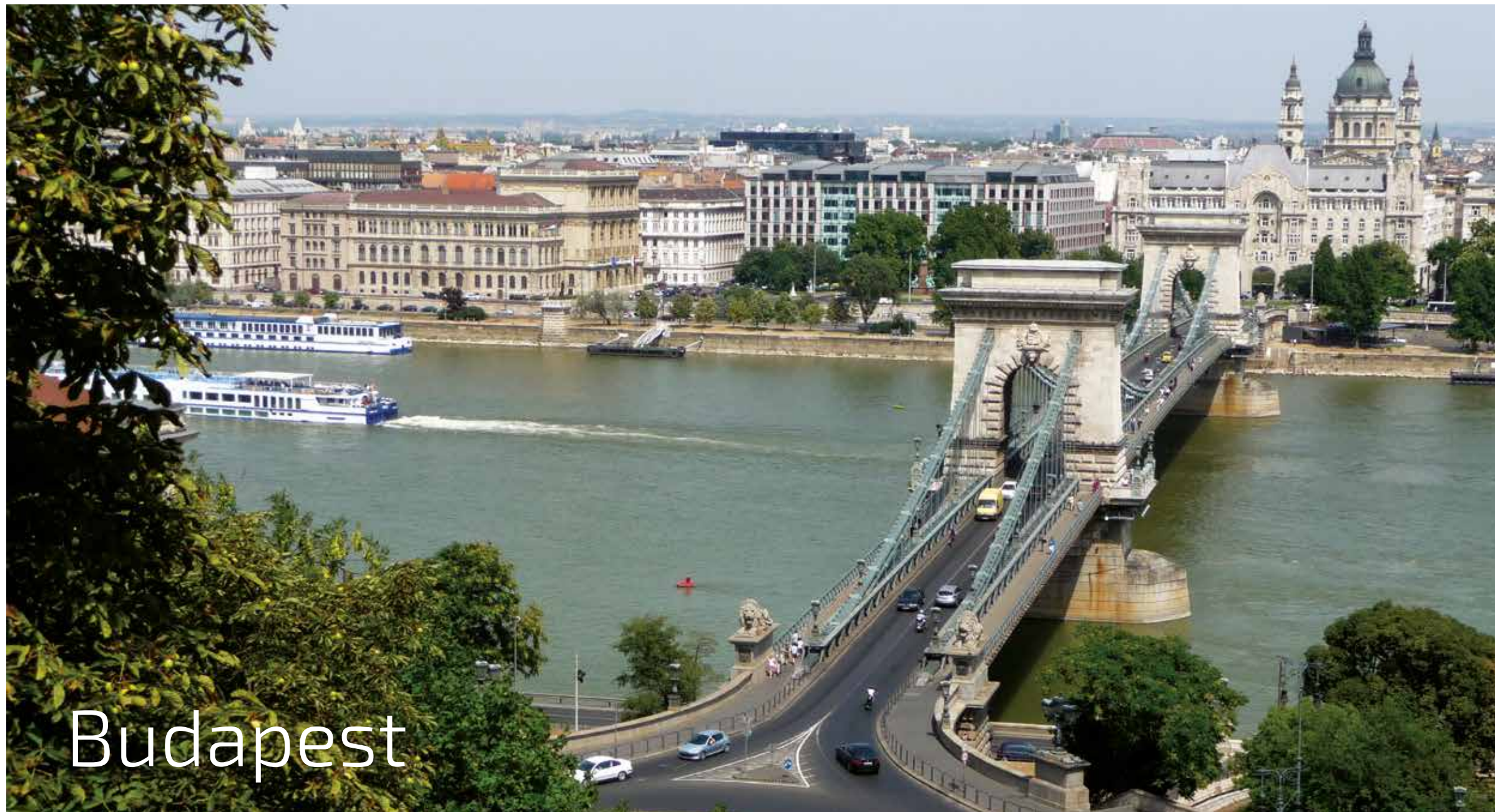
Avalon Waterways is on course for its best ever year for UK sales, with bookings between January and mid-April outstripping the whole of 2019, according to sales and marketing director Janet Parton.

She has noticed more bookings from new-to-cruise clients, especially for the Danube Dreams and Romantic Rhine itineraries.

The line is offering great lead-in prices from £999 per person for seven nights, even through the summer. "It's a great opportunity for agents to increase their sales," she says.

Parton admits the pandemic has caused a lot of experienced agents to leave the industry. "We had done a great job elevating their knowledge of river cruising; now we have to start again but we know they want to be part of this growing sector."

Avalon is keen to support agents any way they wish, from face-to-face training to co-hosting consumer events.



Budapest

WHY NOT?

- Explore the city on two wheels. Take your pick from a Segway or e-bike tour.
- Hike up to the Liberty statue on Gellert Hill. Ironically it was erected in 1947 to mark the Soviet liberation of Hungary from the Nazis – just two years before Hungary became trapped behind the Iron Curtain.
- Try Hungarian goulash and kürtöskalács (like doughnuts but in a spiral and cooked over an open fire) at one of Budapest's famed street food markets.

The capital of Hungary comprises hilly Buda on one side and flat Pest on the other with a river running between the two. With docking positions in the centre of town, passengers only have to step ashore to start exploring.

As the start or end point of sailings on both the Upper and Lower Danube, there are numerous itineraries for passengers to choose from that either link the city with the German towns of Passau or Vilshofen to the west or Belgrade in Serbia and the Black Sea to the east. No wonder the city hosts hundreds of river cruise ships between March and December each year.

Many itineraries include at least a full day and night in the city as there is so much to see, from the largest Jewish synagogue in Europe to spectacular spas and heroic statues.

WHAT TO DO

- Join a walking tour of the historic Jewish Quarter to see inside the Dohány Street Synagogue and Raul Wallenberg Holocaust Memorial Park.
- Strap on the walking boots and hike up hilly Buda for a view of the river from the medieval-looking Fisherman's Bastion (it is actually only about 100 years old).
- Visit the Central Market Hall, where stalls are packed with everything from paprika and pastries to Pálinka (a fruit-based spirit).
- Stroll down Andrassy Avenue (Budapest's answer to the Champs Elysée) to Heroes Square, laid out in 1896 to mark Hungary's 1,000th anniversary.

CRUISE CALENDAR

River cruise lines with turnarounds in Budapest*

Amadeus River Cruises

AmaWaterways

APT

APT Travelmarvel

Arena River Cruises

Avalon Waterways

CroisiEurope

Emerald Waterways

Nicko Cruises

Saga

Scenic

TUI River Cruises

Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

River cruise lines visiting Budapest

Amadeus River Cruises

AmaWaterways

APT

APT Travelmarvel

Arena River Cruises

A-Rosa Cruises

Avalon Waterways

CroisiEurope

Nicko Cruises

Saga

Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

* Lists include CLIA member river cruise lines on sale in the UK only

WienTourismus-Christian Stemper



Vienna

CRUISE CALENDAR

River cruise lines with turnarounds in Vienna*

- Amadeus River Cruises
- AmaWaterways
- A-Rosa Cruises
- Avalon Waterways
- CroisiEurope
- Saga
- Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

River cruise lines visiting Vienna

- Amadeus River Cruises
- AmaWaterways
- APT
- APT Travelmarvel
- Arena River Cruises
- A-Rosa Cruises
- Avalon Waterways
- CroisiEurope
- Emerald Waterways
- Nicko Cruises
- Saga
- Scenic
- TUI River Cruises
- Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

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WHAT TO DO

- Head out to the Schönbrunn Palace, a baroque masterpiece that was once the favourite residence of Habsberg Empress Maria Theresa.
- Take a selfie with The Kiss, Gustav Klimt's most famous painting. It hangs in the Belvedere Palace and is the Mona Lisa of Vienna.
- Attend a Mozart and Strauss concert. It's a great evening out and chance to peek inside one of the city's grand palaces.
- Take a step back through the centuries at Time Travel, a multi-sensory walk through 2,000 years of Viennese history

Once the centre of the powerful Austrian empire and, from 1867, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Vienna is a must on every cruise along the Danube for its art, history, palaces, coffee shop culture and Lipizzaner horses.

Its museums and palaces are a treasure trove for art lovers, while its architecture covers every style from arched Gothic and showy Baroque to austere modernism.

Most excursions include a slow drive around the Ringstrasse, a spectacular three-mile boulevard lined with monumental buildings, including a neo-Renaissance opera house and neo-Gothic City Hall, that were where the city walls used to be.

Ships dock a little way out of the city. Most river cruise lines provide a shuttle bus into the centre, but passengers can also take the metro or walk (it takes about 25 minutes).

WHY NOT?

- Enjoy the sights, sounds and aromas at the outdoor Naschmarkt. The three parallel rows of stalls, restaurants and bars are buzzing from morning 'til night.
- Have a night at the opera. You don't have to be an expert to have a fabulous experience, but it's only possible on ships staying until the wee small hours or overnight.
- Splash out on a coffee and a slice of Austria's famous Sachertorte at the glamorous Sacher Hotel.
- Head to the Prater Park (it's an easy walk from where the river ships dock) and ride the big Prater Wheel made famous in the film The Third Man.



CRUISE CALENDAR

River cruise lines with turnarounds in Nuremberg*

- Amadeus River Cruises
- AmaWaterways
- A-Rosa Cruises
- Avalon Waterways
- Scenic
- TUI River Cruises
- Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

River cruise lines visiting Nuremberg

- Amadeus River Cruises
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- APT
- APT Travelmarvel
- Arena River Cruises
- Avalon Waterways
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WHY NOT?

- Treat yourself to the best of the wurst, namely Nuremberger bratwurst. They are small and usually served six at a time.
- Walk the section of medieval city walls that survived the Second World War bombs.
- Take a tour of Courtroom 600, where the Nazi war crimes trials were held between 1945 and 1949.
- Hire a bike from your river ship and cycle along the Main-Danube Canal.

The second-largest city in Bavaria, Nuremberg joined the ranks of must-see cities for river cruisers when the Main-Danube Canal opened in 1992. Several river cruise lines use it as the start or end point of cruises along the canal or the Danube; clients are best steered towards an itinerary that includes an overnight so there is time to see the city.

The old town is delightful, with a grand main square, half-timbered houses and beautiful Frauenkirche (Church of our Lady). In short, it's the classic German medieval look, although most of it is new, rebuilt after the city was destroyed during the Second World War.

Sadly there is another side to Nuremberg. Because of its connections with the Holy Roman Empire and location in the centre of Germany, it was chosen by Hitler to be the site of the huge Nazi party rallies.

River ships dock on the canal, which is a little way outside the city. Most river cruise lines provide a shuttle bus into the centre but there's an easy bus and metro combo into town for those who like to explore alone.

WHAT TO DO

- Check out the medieval castle that dominates the skyline at one end of the town. Even if you don't go inside, there's a great view from the ramparts.
- Visit the Frauenkirche at midday to see the Männleinlaufen clock in action, when a procession of seven prince-electors walk around a seated Emperor Charles IV.
- Take a tour to the vast Nazi rally grounds outside the city.
- Learn how Hitler came to power, the growth of anti-Semitism and life under the Nazis in the Documentation Centre, in part of Hitler's unfinished Kongresshalle.



AZAMARA ONWARDSM NOW SAILING!

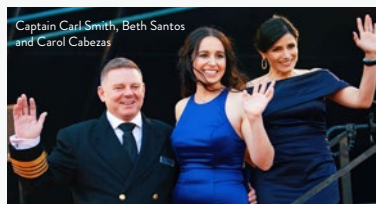
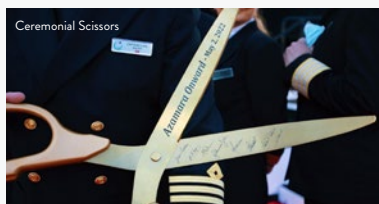
WELCOMING AZAMARA ONWARDSM

After many months of anticipation and preparation, **Azamara OnwardSM** has been officially named during an historic ceremony which took place in Monte Carlo, Monaco, on **Monday 2nd May 2022**. She was named by Godmother Beth Santos, Founder & CEO of Wanderful, Captain Carl Smith, Master, Azamara OnwardSM and Carol Cabezas, President of Azamara®.

It was an afternoon of celebration in the glorious sunshine with the picturesque backdrop of Monte Carlo. We had guests from across the globe joining us for the momentous occasion, viewing from both the quay and onboard the ship. Guests were served champagne followed by entertainment such as a beautiful performance by The Children's Choir of Nice and a spectacular aerobatic act.

As she sailed away on her Maiden Voyage visiting amazing destination such as Rome, Amalfi, Kotor and Dubrovnik, we waved her off with a 'Sea you Soon!' greeting.

Celebrate Azamara Onward's arrival by booking our **\$500 Shore Excursion Credit*** offer, available to book **on select sailings through 5th May 2023 when booked before 30th June 2022!**



Change The Way You SeaSM

TO SEE MORE ABOUT AZAMARA ONWARDSM AND HER LAUNCH,
PLEASE VISIT: [AZAMARA.CO.UK/ONWARD](https://www.azamara.co.uk/onward)

*Shore Excursion credit is applicable on select voyages only. See [Azamara.co.uk/ShoreOBC](https://www.azamara.co.uk/ShoreOBC) for full details and Terms & Conditions.
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