

Ocean vs River Cruising

What type of cruiser
are you?

- Which cruise is best for you?
- The differences between ocean and river cruising
 - The inside scoop on the downsides of each cruise type



When it comes to taking a cruise on a river or ocean, there isn't really a bad choice. Both offer incredible views, luxurious amenities, and the opportunity to explore interesting ports. Each one comes with its own unique perks, and depending on your specific needs and desires for your next trip, you might find that one is a better fit than the other. So how do you decide?

Excursions & Explorations



You stop almost every day at a new port with river cruises, often for walking tours through quaint towns with little tourist traffic, and you're always in view of land. With ocean cruises, you can go days without seeing land, and ports of call and excursions tend to be more exotic and high-adventure, and/or heavily geared towards tourists.

Questions to ask yourself:

- Do you like to be on the open sea with no land in sight for days at a time?**
- Is anyone in your party fearful of traveling the open sea and not seeing land for long stretches?**
- Do you like the comfort of ports of call that are more geared towards tourists?
Or, do you prefer to explore more authentic cities and towns?**
- Do you like to have many options for shore excursions - from shopping, to bus tours, to zip-lining through the jungle, or are you content with fewer, often less exotic options, such as bike or walking tours of quaint little towns.**

On Board Options



Because of their larger size, ocean cruises offer plenty of options for many ages, from young kids to octogenarians, and they are often more able to accommodate a wide variety of special health needs. For this reason, they tend to make the best option for multi-generational family gatherings that include young children. For the traveler who is into high-octane adventure, ocean cruises provide a wide variety of activities on board, as well as exotic and more daring day excursions.

Questions to ask yourself:

- How many people are traveling?
 - What are their ages?
- Do you need the amenities of a mega ship – spas, gyms, a dozen restaurants, and many activities?
- Or are you looking for something calmer, more intimate and easy-paced?

Intimacy & Interaction



River cruises tend to be much smaller (190 max vs. up to 6,200 on the largest ocean cruises), and as a result, you're much more likely to be interacting with other passengers and crew members.

That smaller scale translates to all areas of the river cruise. You dine on a regular schedule at tables with other passengers (wine is typically included in the price of the cruise). Instead of 50 different things to do on board, amenities tend to be more modest with river cruises – think libraries, a workout room, cultural programs, and free Wifi vs. ten kids' playrooms, glitzy Broadway shows, and a skydiving simulator. There tend to be fewer kids on river cruises, making them popular for couples seeking quiet and relaxed time together.

Questions to ask yourself:

- How important is it to you to have a variety of activities?
- Do you like interaction with other cruisers, or do you prefer to remain more anonymous?
- Are you traveling with young children and are looking for a high energy, high stimulation environment? Or, do you prefer a more quiet, relaxed vacation?

Cost Comparisons

River cruises do tend to be more expensive per person – but that price also includes more things. Ocean cruises have a lower sticker price per person, but you are often charged extra for alcohol and other amenities.

If you have any further questions regarding which cruise is best for you, I am available to discuss the options in more detail. Together we can create a cruise experience that will forever create timeless memories.

