

Grace's Cruises – Insider Travel Tip

New to River Cruising? Start Here

If you've only cruised on large ocean ships, river cruising offers a completely different experience — one that many travelers end up loving once they try it.

Here's what you need to know before you go.

Smaller Ships, Better Access

River ships are much smaller and more intimate, typically carrying around 150–200 guests.

The biggest advantage?

You dock right in the heart of each destination — no long transfers, no tender boats, and no wasted time getting into the city.

In many cases, you can simply step off the ship and start exploring.

What's Included (More Than You Think)

Viking river cruises are designed to be simple and highly inclusive.

Your cruise fare typically includes:

- One guided excursion in every port
- All meals onboard
- Wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Cultural experiences and enrichment onboard

This makes it easy to plan, budget, and enjoy without constantly reaching for your wallet.

Cabins: Smaller but Smartly Designed

River cruise cabins are smaller than those on large ships, but very well designed to maximize space and comfort.

Every stateroom includes a window, with higher categories offering larger views or French balconies for an enhanced experience.

Since the focus is on the destinations, guests tend to spend more time exploring and less time in their cabin.

Destination-Focused Travel

River cruising is all about the destinations.

You'll typically visit a new port almost every day, with guided tours included and plenty of time to explore on your own.

It's ideal for travelers who enjoy culture, history, and immersive experiences.

Onboard Experience: Relaxed & Refined

Unlike large ships, river cruises focus less on entertainment and more on atmosphere.

You won't find casinos or big production shows — instead, expect:

- Local music and cultural performances
- Guest speakers and destination talks
- A relaxed, social onboard environment

Who It's Perfect For

River cruising is a great fit for travelers who:

- Prefer smaller, quieter ships
- Enjoy walking and exploring
- Want a more inclusive, hassle-free experience
- Appreciate a relaxed, adult-focused atmosphere

(Viking is 18+, which many guests really enjoy.)

Final Thoughts From Grace

If you've only experienced large ocean cruises, river cruising offers a completely different way to travel — more immersive, more relaxed, and incredibly convenient.

With some of the best pricing we've seen in years, this is a great opportunity to try something new.

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