



THE CAFFEINATED WANDERER CRUISES & TOURS

*Where Every Journey is Brewed with Care
– Sea, River & Land Excursions*

River Cruise Planning Guide

Everything You Need to Know Before You Book

By Rick Pruitt

Where Every Journey Is Brewed with Care
Sea, River & Land Excursions



River cruising is one of the most relaxed and immersive ways to experience Europe. This guide helps you decide if river cruising fits your travel style and shows how to avoid common first-time mistakes.

What Is a River Cruise?

A river cruise is a small-ship journey that docks in the heart of historic cities and towns. With fewer guests and included excursions, it focuses on culture rather than crowds.

Who River Cruising Is Best For

River cruising is ideal for couples, first-time cruisers, retirees, and travelers who enjoy culture, food, wine, and unpacking once.

Popular European Rivers

Danube: Vienna, Budapest, Christmas markets & music.

Rhine: Castles, vineyards, medieval towns.

Seine: Paris, Normandy, art & history.

Douro: Portugal's wine country.

Rhône & Saône: Southern France & gastronomy.

What's Included

Most river cruises include accommodations, meals, guided excursions, Wi-Fi, and port fees. Airfare and pre/post cruise hotels are often separate.

Why Plan with Rick Pruitt?

I help you choose the right river, cruise line, itinerary, and timing — with personalized guidance, exclusive perks, and support before and during your journey.

Ready to Plan Your River Cruise?

Let's start with a relaxed conversation over coffee and design a river cruise that fits you.

■ Schedule Your Free Planning Chat

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