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## River cruise companies australia

Explore Australia aboard some of the world's most prestigious cruise lines. With unique itineraries and exciting sightseeing ports, take in bird's-eye views of the famous Harbour Bridge, ride tasmania's pristine rainforests, and sip award-winning Margaret River wines. Famous for its fun ships, Carnival Cruise Line has been offering family-friendly cruise holidays since 1972 and has two ships sailing around Australia and the South Pacific. Programs for award-winning young people that cater to children of all ages. Wide range of entertainment on board, from dance performances to mini golf and casinos. Barbecue, pizza, sushi and fine dining options are available. Australia's best ships: Carnival Spirit, Carnival Legend Australia's largest cruise line attracts locals and foreigners, with entertainment and dining options of your choice. Check out the line's newest ship, the Pacific Explorer. Informal and family-friendly atmosphere with a focus on value. All payments are in Australian dollars and gratuities are not added automatically. Dining options from celebrity chef Luke Mangan, Australian cuisine and wine tasting. Australia's best ships: Pacific Explorer, Pacific Eden, Pacific Dawn, Pacific Jewel A great choice for families, Royal Caribbean's entertainment choices are second to none. In addition, the cruise line is sending down one of its newest mega ships, Ovation of the Seas. Many cabin options, including the Royal Suite Class that comes with your personal butler. Impressive entertainment, from synchronized swimming shows to photo ops with Madagascar characters and Kung Fu Panda. Dining options include American cuisine, Italian Jamie Oliver, or casual hot dogs. Australia's best ships: Explorer of the Seas, Voyager of the Seas, Legend of the Seas, Radiance of the Seas, Ovation of the Seas Princess Cruises offers what you know and love about the traditional cruise experience with a modern and fun twist. Invite family and friends on board when you take to the Bon Voyage Experience. Dine and watch movies under the stars with its giant LED screens. Dining options include celebrity chef Curtis Stone's exclusive menu or pub favorites, and everything is done on board, from scratch. Australia's best ships: Dawn Princess, Sun Princess, Sea Princess, Emerald Princess, Golden Princess For cruisers looking for style, comfort and great personal service without the hefty price tag, Celebrity should be your choice. Goals for personalized service, from greeting yourself by name to serving your favorite desserts to meals. 24-hour activities range from educational to playful. Dining options include seafood, grill your and the kitchen French. Australia's best ships: Celebrity Solstice Australia's largest cruise line attracts locals and foreigners, with entertainment and dining options of your choice. Check out the line's newest ship, the Pacific Explorer. Vintage vintage style with understated decorations and discreet programs that cater to older cruisers. Carefully crafted shore excursions with local experts allow you to explore places and connect with locals. Dining options include sophisticated restaurants, casual grill with burgers and sandwiches, and authentic Italian. While Murray River cruises are smaller ships than ocean liners, all meals are still included. When choosing cruises for this list, we look at the quality of routes available from each cruise line, prioritizing well-planned itineraries with port stops at key destinations in Australia. We also consider the dining options on board, weighing the number, variety, and overall quality of restaurants compared to passenger reviews. Finally, we weigh cabin services against every price, looking for cruise lines that are known to offer maximum value. We also look for customer reviews on personal travel websites and travel blogs, considering each company's first-person experiences and overall reputation. The best time of year to sail in Australia depends on your plans. Consider the high season if you're about to explore the Reef or sail during the rainy season if you're looking for some southern dining experiences. While Australia is a year-round cruise destination, it still has four distinct seasons. Here are some important factors to consider to help you choose the best time for your next cruise vacation. High season. October to April is known as Australia's Season of Waves and that's when you'll find the widest choice of itineraries, departures, and ships. Rainy season. The cyclone season runs from November to April with the highest risk of thunderstorms falling between March and April. Be sure to consider cruise travel insurance to avoid disappointment during your vacation. Festivals and key events. You'll find more families traveling between mid-December and late January during the summer school holidays. For something special, watch out for holiday-planned lime cruises like Christmas, New Year's Eve, and even the Melbourne Cup.Are you looking to save some money? Traveling during the winter can still be very pleasant and you are more likely to find a bargain. Great Ocean Road A quintessential Australian experience with views of the Twelve Apostles, craggy coastlines, spectacular waterfalls, and picturesque little seaside towns. Museum of Old and New Art (Hobart). A controversial contemporary art museum described as a subversive adult Disneyland that will surprise and impress most art lovers. Litchfield National Park (Darwin). (Darwin). Top End wonder, you'll find pristine pools, picturesque hiking trails, and idyllic waterfalls ready to explore. Australian Zoo (Brisbane). Crocodile hunter Steve Irwin's home allows you to get up close and personal with Australian and exotic wildlife along with piles of exciting animal actions and possibilities for interaction. Blue Mountains( Sydney). Mountaintop views, local wildlife, and the Three Sisters rock formation are all on the agenda during a day trip to this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Scenic helicopter ride (Great Barrier Reef). The magic of our great barrier reef is best seen from above where you can spot stingrays, turtles, dugongi, sharks, dolphins, whales and interesting coral formations such as the Barrier Reef. Expedia.com Save up to 25% on some Bahamian, Caribbean and Baja cruises with Disney Last verified cost November 23, 2020 Priceline Disney Cruise Line offers from \$213 per night to caribbean and other destinations Last verified November 16, 2020 Expedia.com Disney cruises from \$657 per person to caribbean Last verified November 16, 2020 CruiseDirect Cruises Carnival starting at just \$55 per night in the Bahamas and other destinations Last verified cruises November 16, 2020 Expedia.com Carnival in the Caribbean starting at \$179 per person Last verification November 16, 2020 Expedia.com Save up to 83% of Carnival cruises to Caribbean cruises from 4-7 nights from \$179 per person. T&C applies. Last priceline verified on November 16, 2020 Up to \$1,000 to spend on board with Norwegian Cruise Line Book your next cruise vacation with Priceline Cruises and get up to \$1,000 to use as liquor, restaurants, and spa credit, along with other purchases made on the ship! T&C applies. Latest cruise deals verified on November 16, 2020 CruiseDirect Last minute from \$33/night cruise 3 to over 15 nights available from multiple lines. Get great deals on ships, routes, and prime rooms for bookings from a week or more. Last 19 October 2020 Orbitz 40% discount or more on some hotels The last verified offer of December 19, 2020 ends on December 30, 2021 Avoya Travel Alaska cruise sale - 2 2021 departures with free perks Last deal verified December 19, 2020 ends december 31, 2020 Discover Australia through the eyes of a tourist and find out what makes it so special from top to bottom. Check out our best cruise deals to help you turn your dream vacation into reality. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS To travel in sunnier climates, sunscreen, wide-brimmed hats, and sunglasses are a must. The winter trip is all about the as the days can still be warm as the evenings on the deck turn cold and windy. Many cruise lines have at least one formal night along with opportunities to dine at specialty restaurants, so a couple of nicer outfits are worthy additions to your luggage. If you find cheap flights to Orlando but your cruise departs from Miami, a rental car is the most efficient way to get from point A to point B. Costs vary depending on the cruise line you sail with. In general, a great sales rate with a cruise line like Carnival can start at \$350 per person, for a three-night sail. At the most luxurious end of the scale, cruises can easily reach up to \$900 per person, one night. Was this content useful to you? It's spring in the Balkans and I watch the trees unroll their leaves as I sail the Danube on a 10-day Viking River cruise from Bucharest, Romania; in Budapest, Hungary. The shoreline is forever in sight as we gracefully slide past the small villages and the occasional castle along the river. Every day, the Jarl stops long enough for us to explore a new port of call, sometimes an obscure medieval city with an unknown name and at other times a capital that rebuilds its splendor in this former war-torn region of south-eastern Europe. The history of the area comes to life every day in this floating leisure classroom. Like the water pouring into the strands of the Danube, slowly lifting the ship to a new level, the river cruise is on the rise. From interesting destinations to high-quality experiences, here are eight reasons to book a river cruise anywhere in the world. Viking Cruises More Time in Port Unlike ocean navigation, which is mostly about the onboard experience, the river cruise focuses on the places you've traveled so far to get there. According to Carolyn Spencer Brown, editor-in-chief of SmarterTravel Cruise Critic's sister site, River Cruises are destination-centric and the ship is the backdrop. It's like a boutique hotel moving with you so you don't have to pack and unpack. Most days during my Passage to Eastern Europe cruise, the Viking Longship sailed in the evening during dinner service and continued to move until it reached the next port the following morning. It docked right in the city and passengers could join a shore excursion -- usually a combined bus and walking tour of the city and nearby attractions -- or wander on their own. Of the 10 days of the trip, only a full day was spent in the water, although sightseeing remained on the agenda. Not only were we able to fully enjoy the ship's amenities (such as basking in the solarium and having drinks delivered to our favorite reading corners), but we also had front row tickets in what looked like a mobile theater. Our program director, Cornelia, recounted our passage through the famous Iron Gates of Serbia and Romania, a dramatic transit between 1,600-foot cliffs with a glimpse of rock rock sculpture larger than the life of king of the Daci. (Scroll down to watch this epic experience.) (Photo: Anne Banas) Given their flat, narrow and relatively small shape and size, river ships can access places that ocean liners simply cannot reach. They can stay under bridges (sometimes lowering the captain's helm), dock next to small towns and in the center of major cities Budapest, and move through the strands of the river (often with a few centimeters of free space on both sides). The river cruise can also export to destinations you've never considered before. You have heard of Osijek, Croatia; o Kalocsa, Hungary? Of course I hadn't until I decided to go on the road. When I asked my fellow travelers why they chose this Balkan route, most said that otherwise they would never go to these places: cities in the countries of the former Soviet bloc or socialist republics that not only survived communism, but also recent conflicts such as the Yugoslav wars. In Osijek, for example, bullet holes (left by the Croatian National War in the 1990s) could still be seen scattered on the facades of buildings. The cruise was a great way to get a survey of a region that swallowed travelers' trivia but seemed a bit daunting to plan independently. And while the Danube and other rivers like the dordogne French might be exquisitely beautiful, there's another fascinating side to life on the water. Cruise Critic's Brown says: These aren't all-round tourist destinations. They're working on waterways. Then, along the way, expect to see industrial areas with bankside cranes and sturdy docks, floating cargo ships, and working locks like those of the Iron Gates. Viking Cruises More Relaxed, Intimate Experience With fewer cabins and passengers, river cruises don't have the same common mass market approach to larger ships, which can hold up to 3,000-5,000 guests. The Viking Longship Jarl carried just under 200 passengers and about 50 crew members, which is a typical relationship between the rivership's host and crew. Patrick Clark, chief executive of Avalon Waterways, told me that his company's ships are home to 166 passengers and 43 to 45 crew members. With such a small number of people, he says, you can essentially meet everyone on board over the course of a week-long navigation. Also, as I found out about Viking, the crew is able to take time to get to know you and offer more personalized and attentive service (it took the restaurant servers about a day to remember that my favorite

drink was green tea). Like the pace of the ship constantly touching glass-like waters, the overall experience on board is more relaxed. The guests told me how they enjoyed not having to make the call of the cattle they experienced on larger ships when they disembarked. In most cases, passengers could safely pick up boarding passes and get off the ship when they were in port. Not ever been a tail or a sense of haste and expectation. In addition, while meal service in both the formal dining room and informal terrace was offered during specific periods, you can enter and eat in your own time (no lines or reservations are required). And as an added bonus, because the rivers are calm and you can always see landing on each side, passengers do not have to worry about seasickness. (Photo: Anne Banas) While most of the the tours are big enough to fill a bus (or four, as with my cruise), you can break away from the larger group for a more individual experience. While I was in the town of Vidin, Bulgaria, I was lucky when only seven people enrolled in an immersive cooking class inside a local's house, where we spent several hours learning how to make banitsa, a regional specialty made from feta cheese, yogurt and wire dough. With so few of us, we could easily interact with our host by asking questions and measuring and mixing the ingredients in turn. In Belgrade, other guests traveled on a small guided bike tour through the city. Another option at any port is to skip the group tour or take a half-day tour and use the extra time to explore on your own. In larger cities, Viking builds the designated free time in the program so you can enjoy the planned shore excursion and have time even on your own. Plus, you can always request the help of the ship's concierge to help you plan your day, giving you the dual advantage of doing things on your personal bucket list and having someone else take care of logistics. My concierge, Polina, a native Bulgarian who spoke most local languages, happily booked me a massage at the famous Gellert Spa in Budapest. All I had to do was introduce myself. (Photo: Anne Banas) River cruises tend to attract an educated crowd in search of cultural enrichment. Although shore excursion guides will give you a full download of the region's stories during the tour, classes continue on board. Several times while still in port, local folk musicians and dancers joined us in the ship's hall for mini-concerts. We saw a quartet of Croatian tambourine artists and got to interact through a post-performance Q&A with a Bulgarian children's ensemble in Vidin. Lessons included talks about modern Serbia, the EU and Count Dracula, one of the region's most infamous figures. And, through an engaging cooking demonstration and tasting, Slovak chef Robert taught us how to make apple strudel, a sweet pastry shop popular in Eastern Europe. On other Viking itineraries and cruise lines, thematic programming such as wine tastings and art classes is becoming increasingly common. Viking Cruises All-Inclusive Value Many river cruisers become regulars because they believe cruises offer exceptional overall value and appreciate not being nickel-plated and dimed. Brown says: River cruise is a more inclusive experience. The price is higher than a large ship but tends to more features for which I would pay extra on a large ship. For example, you get at least one shore excursion every day, and food, wine, and internet service are often part of the additional cost. Viking also offers options to package pre- and post-trip hotel stays and airport transfers together, which help make your trip more seamless. I just pulled out my wallet for for tour guides after shore excursions and crew (in a lump sum) at the end of the cruise. Clark from Avalon believes river cruises offer a more consistent experience, especially when it comes to cabin quality. It says: When you take a river cruise, you'll have a good-sized cabin. All have an outdoor cabin, and almost everyone will have balconies or large windows. Viking Cruises New Ships According to Clark, the river cruise came to life in the 1990s when the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal opened, creating new possibilities for chiasse-like luxury ships. Since then, growth has been dramatic with itineraries in Europe and other markets such as Asia and Africa. To meet this demand, river cruise lines continue to expand their itineraries and add new ships to their fleets. Viking, for example, has seen a rapid growth in its river cruise business over the past five years. And Avalon, which began the river cruise in 2004, has steadily expanded its fleet over the past decade. Cruise lines are also updating onboard services to further attract cruisers, such as twin balconies, connecting doors, and immersive programming on board. Viking Cruises New possibilities As you might expect, the typical demographic of a river cruiser heads to a more mature set. As a young Gen-Xer, I must admit that I felt a bit chosen during my Balkan cruise, which tends to attract more repeat baby boomers than other itineraries (most first-time customers choose more popular routes like the upper Danube through Germany and Austria). However, change is on the horizon, especially as cruise lines add more active and independent excursions; as well as interesting cruises such as those centered on music, eno and wine and Christmas events such as Christmas markets. Younger audiences are also introduced to the river cruise through the experience with multigenerational travel and the opportunity to test the waters with shorter cruises (Avalon, for example, offers cruises of just three days), which they can combine with more free time in port. Ama hosts Disney passenger adventures and has family-friendly features such as connecting booths and children's themed special evenings. Uniworld, a popular river cruise line, has even launched its own millennial-oriented river cruise brand, called U River Cruises. Tour companies like G Adventures also offer their own travel line for those looking to navigate the river. You can take a river cruise to almost any continent now with famous river cruise lines offering itineraries along the Amazon, Mekong, the Nile, the Ganges, the Chobe Rivers and more. What to wear during a river cruise: For information on these items selected by the editor, click to visit the seller's site. The things you buy can earn us a commission. More from SmarterTravel: Smartertravel contributors occasionally accept free or subsidized trips in for our impartial opinions. We never accept compensation in exchange for a positive review. Editor's note: This story was originally published in 2015. It has been updated to reflect the most up-to-date information. Ashley Rossi contributed to this article. Watch: Jarl transit through Iron Gates Locks We hand-choose everything we recommend and select items through testing and reviews. Some products are sent to us for free without any incentive to offer a favorable review. We offer our impartial opinions and do not accept compensation to review the products. All items are available and prices are accurate at the time of publication. If you buy something through our links, we may earn a commission. Commission.

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