

Compare River Cruise Companies

Attributes Of The Top River Cruise Companies



	AmaWaterways	Avalon	CroisiEurope	Crystal	Emerald	Riviera	Scenic	Tauck	Uniworld	Viking
Excursions Included?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Beer/Wine Lunch & Dinner?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	With optional package	✓	✓	✓	✓
Drinks Included 24/7?	**	**	✓	✓	**		✓	✓	✓	With Package
Onboard Bicycles	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	Available Ashore
Fitness Center	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Available Ashore
Exterior Balconies/Veranda	✓ **	✓ **	Some	✓ **	✓ **	Some	✓ **		Some	✓ **
Two Room Suites				✓ **			✓ **			✓ **
Service Guarantee							✓			✓
Own & Operate			✓ **	✓			✓			✓
Room Service	✓ **			✓	**		✓		✓	Explorer Suites
Mini Bar	✓ **	✓ **		✓	**	^	✓	✓	✓	Suites
Dining Venues	3**	2**	1	6	3	2	6	3	1*	2
Personal Butler	✓ **			✓			✓		✓	
Port Charges Included	With Air	With Air	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Airport Transfers	With Air			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	With Air
Prepaid Gratuities	**			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	**
Laundry Included	✓ **			**	**		✓		**	Suites

Please note that the table can be scrolled horizontally so that you may view all data.

While we've tried to be as accurate as possible, sometimes the answer required more than a simple yes or no. For example, while all river cruise companies in our table offer complimentary shore excursions in ports of call, some charge for "optional" excursions. Also, airport transfers are included when air tickets are purchased with the river cruise company, but may not be included otherwise. We've indicated companies that always include airport transfers, even for guests who have made independent air arrangements.

We welcome reader comments at the bottom of this post for those who can add to a better understanding of the differences between the major players.

AmaWaterways **: Beer, wine and soft drinks included with lunch and dinner; sparkling wine with breakfast. Complimentary shore excursions included in every port, along with complimentary Limited Edition Tours. AmaWaterways features dual balconies, both French and step-out, in many staterooms. In addition to the main dining room, AmaWaterways features The Chef's Table, with its excellent multi-course, wine-paired dinners, at no additional charge. Light lunches and breakfast are served in the lounge, along with full lunches and breakfast served in the main dining room. Nice touches like gluten-free snacks, fruits, Gemstone detox water, 24/7 coffee stations and more. Airport transfers included when purchasing air through AmaWaterways. Guests in suites receive complimentary laundry service, personal butler, minibar stocked with soft drinks, in-suite coffee and continental breakfast. Pre-paid gratuities are offered.

Avalon Waterways **: Beer and wine included with lunch and dinner; sparkling wine with breakfast. Coffee, tea and non-alcoholic beverages complimentary 24/7. In addition to the main dining room, Avalon offers small group (30 people) reservations to Panorama Bistro (light menu paired with wine). When weather permits, grilled lunches are available on the Sky Deck. Meals can also be served in the Club Lounge and Panorama Lounge. Some optional tours require a fee. Airport transfers included when purchasing air from Avalon. Avalon's beds face wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors. Stocked in-room mini-bar incurs charges for each item selected.

CroisiEurope **: Extra charge only for high-end champagnes and wines. Wi-Fi internet access with complimentary use of Samsung tablet. Complimentary shore excursions included in every port.

Crystal River Cruises **: All of Crystal's new-builds will feature Panoramic Balcony Windows. Crystal Mozart features balconies in about half of its staterooms.

Emerald Waterways **: Complimentary shore excursions in every port. Wine, beer & soda complimentary for lunch and dinner. All staterooms restocked daily with bottled water. Owner's Suites comes with complimentary stocked mini-bars. Room service included for suites only. Laundry concierge available for a fee; complimentary for suites.

Riviera^: Mini-bars are included on all ships except the ms Charles Dickens and the ms William Shakespeare.

Scenic **: Inclusions are for all guests, regardless of ship or suite.

Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection **: Uniworld charges for at least one optional excursion, the Vienna Evening Concert at 75 euros. Free laundry service in higher-end suites across its fleet. Additionally, most Uniworld ships have complimentary self-service laundry facilities for passengers to use; only River Royale, River Baroness, Douro Spirit, and River Victoria lack this feature in the European-based fleet. Room Service and Butler Service on Uniworld is at the suite level only.

Viking River Cruises **: A complimentary shore excursion is included in every port; there are also additional optional shore excursions available on every itinerary. Beer, wine and soft drinks included with lunch and dinner. Specialty coffee & teas available anytime. Optional Silver Spirit beverage packages are available for extra fee & makes drinks all-inclusive. Room service is included for certain category suites, along with a whole range of amenities. Airport transfers included when booking air (or receiving free air) with Europe. Some promotions offered prepaid gratuities or shipboard credits.