A New Wave
A look at cutting-edge expedition ships

Active Alternatives
How river cruising can be a healthy option

An Adriatic Odyssey

A Passage to India

The Land Down Under
Visiting Australia and New Zealand

Going solo
Cruises for single travellers

A Taste for Travel
Welcome to 2018!

It’s another new year and exciting new cruise destinations beckon. In this latest issue of Sailaway we’ve picked out two of the best - Australia's natural beauty and cosmopolitan cities, and the colourful cultural melting pot of India. It’s also a fascinating time for expedition cruising, with several innovative new ships setting sail to explore the world's most remote places.

We’ve highlighted a few of the ways in which cruising can be a perfect holiday for single travellers, alongside a review from one of our customers who shares her experiences on a solo cruise on the River Rhine. As a growing number of people like to keep active and remain health-conscious on holiday, we’ve looked into how river cruising has adapted to suit the needs of the more energetic traveller. In contrast, take a look at our food from around the world piece to whet your appetite for travel!

Happy New Year from all the team here at Blue Water Holidays,

Juliet Archer, Managing Director

Latest News from the World of Cruise

2017 Yorkshire Cruise Show

Last September, we welcomed over 500 people to the Kings Hall and Winter Garden in Ilkley for our second successful Yorkshire Cruise Show. Representatives from some of the world’s leading cruise lines, including Viking Cruises, Riviera Travel and Hurtigruten gave fascinating presentations in the Kings Hall and talked to guests in the beautifully-decorated Winter Garden. There was a free prize draw with fantastic prizes donated by the cruise lines, including a £500 Riviera Travel holiday voucher and Whittards Afternoon tea gift box. We’ll be announcing details of this year’s cruise show soon!

Viking Heads for Iceland

Iceland is on many travellers’ bucket lists, and guests can immerse themselves in Icelandic traditions on Viking Ocean Cruises’ new 12-night itinerary. Join stylish ship Viking Sky to explore Norway’s magnificent fjords, discover the remote Faroe Islands then sail for Iceland, the dramatic Land of Ice and Fire.

Celebrity Chef Joins APT Mekong Cruise

Join acclaimed Vietnamese-Australian celebrity chef Luke Nguyen, APT’s Ambassador, on a luxury Vietnam and Mekong river cruise in 2018. Exclusive Luke Nguyen Signature Experiences include a walking tour of old Saigon with Nguyen as a personal guide, a Vietnamese cooking class with the chef at his own GRAIN cooking studio and a degustation dinner inspired by him at an acclaimed local restaurant. The chef then accompanies the group on the first three days of the 7-night cruise, preparing a special welcome dinner on the first night and a Vietnamese cooking class for guests. As well as large luxurious cabins, multiple dining options including an alfresco restaurant and enhanced evening activities, including a Vietnamese cooking class and a degustation dinner inspired by him at an acclaimed local restaurant.

2 Million UK Cruise Passengers by 2020

The UK cruise market has seen record growth in the last few years, with experts predicting that by 2020, or even earlier, UK passenger numbers will top the 2 million mark for the first time. The Mediterranean was the number one destination for fly-cruises, and for river cruising the Rhine and Moselle was the most popular choice, closely followed by the Danube.

Blue Water Holidays Wins More Awards

Last November, Blue Water Holidays was delighted to receive Best Overall Performance - North, at the annual Cruise Lines International Association River Cruise Conference. The glittering awards ceremony took place at the stylish Mövenpick Hotel in Amsterdam, and celebrated leaders within the river cruise industry.

Our Product & Marketing Manager, Kathryn Pollitt, won Cruise Agent Marketing Rising Star at the Cruise Trade News Rising Stars Awards in London. The ceremony took place at the De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms on Friday 17th November 2017.

Luxury River Yachts from Crystal River Cruises

Ultra-luxury line Crystal Cruises are bringing their signature elegance to the legendary capitals and enchanting landscapes of Europe’s magnificent waterways. Crystal Mozart, Crystal Mahler, Crystal Bach, Crystal Ravel and Crystal Debussy are state-of-the-art all-suite river yachts offering the legendary service and exceptional quality for which Crystal is renowned. Savour lavish culinary delights in the elegant dining areas and experience personalised Crystal Adventures shore excursions.

Royal Caribbean's Symphony of the Seas, launching in April 2018, will be the largest cruise ship in the world carrying almost 5,500 passengers. Innovative features include the world’s tallest slide at sea, an exciting zip line and the amazing Bionic Bar. Accented with ranges from indoor cabins with revolutionary real-time Virtual Balconies, to the two-storey Ultimate Family Suites which feature a cinema room, in-room slide and whirlpool on the balcony.

AmaWaterways has announced plans to launch a revolutionary new river ship in 2019. Twice the width of a traditional river ship, AmaMagna will sail the Danube carrying just 194 guests. As well as large luxurious cabins, multiple dining options including an alfresco restaurant and enhanced evening activities, AmaMagna will also feature an open-water sports platform, a first for river cruising, with Zodiacs, canoes and recreational equipment.

Joining Riviera Travel’s fleet in 2018 is the state-of-the-art luxury ship Robert Burns. Carrying just 169 guests, Robert Burns will provide first class service in a serene atmosphere reflective of the golden age of cruising, with a unique blend of understated style and elegance. The spacious suites offer the ultimate in comfort, whilst public areas include a sumptuous panoramic observation lounge, a superb fine-dining restaurant and a spectacular Sun Deck with splash pool and putting green.

Fun & Games for Children in Need!

The Blue Water Holidays team took part in a couple of Pudsey Games to raise money for Children in Need in November. They tested their skills as they took on Waste Paper Bin Shotput and The Sellotape Throw. The day was a huge success with the money raised helping disadvantaged children across the United Kingdom.

New expedition ships range from Hurtigruten’s state-of-the-art vessels which feature the latest hybrid technology for more sustainable travel, to the luxurious comfort of Ponant’s latest additions and 6-star Scenic Eclipse. To learn more about the expedition ships that are launching in 2018/19 see Pages 18-20.

Brand New Ships Launching in 2018/19

To learn more about the expedition ships that are launching in 2018/19 see Pages 18-20.

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www.bluewaterholidays.com   01756 706523
A Passage to India

A kaleidoscope of colours, aromas and stupendous sights, India is a traveller’s dream. No longer just the preserve of the intrepid backpacker, India’s bustling cities, holy places and tranquil rivers are now easy to explore from the comfort of a cruise.

Mumbai on India’s west coast is the largest city in the country and the centre of the thriving Bollywood film industry. The spectacular Gateway of India arch, built to commemorate the royal visit of King George V in 1911, is one of the city’s most iconic landmarks and overlooks the busy harbour.

Elephanta Island, one of several islands located in Mumbai Harbour, is home to amazing UNESCO-listed cave temples, with the intricate temple dedicated to Shiva a fascinating mix of courtyards, pillars and shrines. The caves can easily be reached by ferry from Mumbai harbour.

The cave temples aren’t the only UNESCO-listed treasures in Mumbai. The impressive Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus is a historic railway station which has also received this status. The architecture is simply breathtaking and an outstanding example of the merging of two cultures as British architects worked alongside Indian craftsmen to create this unique building.

Not all of Mumbai’s sights are best explored during the day. Marine Drive is a stunning boulevard flanked by swaying palm trees, and is the perfect place to watch the sun set over the city. The arc of twinkling lights and glistening waters of the Arabian Sea beneath the starry sky also make it one of the most romantic spots in Mumbai.

‘The architecture is simply breathtaking’

Chennai, formerly Madras, is located off the Bay of Bengal and is home to the impressive Fort St George. This magnificent citadel was built by the British East India Company and named after Britain’s patron saint, St George. St Mary’s Church within the fort has beautiful wall frescoes, while the Fort Museum houses fascinating military memorabilia and artwork. Chennai is also home to the revered Kapaleeswarar Temple with its giant gopuram (tower) which soars above the street below.

The state of Goa stretches along the western coast of India and is an intriguing mix of Indian and Portuguese cultures. Discover the UNESCO-listed Portuguese churches and convents of Old Goa, including the stunning Basilica of Bom Jesus, experience a slower pace of life in the south or embrace the hustle and bustle of the north with its lively nightlife and restaurants.

‘India’s two main rivers are the mighty Brahmaputra and the Holy Ganges’

India’s two main rivers are the mighty Brahmaputra which flows through the breathtaking Assam Valley, and the Holy Ganges which meanders through central India to the Bay of Bengal.

The Brahmaputra showcases the UNESCO-listed national parks of the Assam Valley, including the Kaziranga National Park which is home to the world’s largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses as well as elephants and tigers. The river also passes well-preserved cities and traditional rural villages, revealing two different ways of life. The ancient city of Sibsagar has the tallest Shiva temple in India, while a visit to Majuli Island allows the opportunity to meet the Mishing people and learn about their culture and traditions. A special holiday combines a cruise along the Brahmaputra with hotel stays in magical Bhutan, a Himalayan holy land with sacred temples and monasteries.

India’s famous Golden Triangle, made up of the fascinating cities of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, is often explored prior to a cruise along the sacred River Ganges or Brahmaputra. Delhi is a city of contrasts with Old Delhi dating back to the Mughal Empire and home to the striking Red Fort, while New Delhi, created by the British Raj, is more modern with grand avenues and magnificent stately buildings.

‘The Taj Mahal is one of the finest jewels of India’

Agra attracts tourists from all over the world as it is home to the UNESCO-listed Taj Mahal, built in memory of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan’s favourite wife. This iconic white marble mausoleum is undoubtedly one of the jewels in India’s crown. Last but by no means least is Jaipur, known as the Pink City due to the pink buildings in the historic centre. The spectacular City Palace in the heart of Jaipur is well worth a visit.

‘A cruise along the Ganges is an unforgettable experience, showcasing the real India. Every city town and village along the banks of this holy river has its own charm, from the thriving local markets of Kalna to the brass-working village of Matiani and spiritual Mayapur, home to the Hare Krishna movement. Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, is often visited pre or post-cruise and offers a lively flower market as well as the home of the late Mother Teresa. Whether you choose to explore the contrasting coastal cities or experience life at a slower pace along the Brahmaputra and Ganges Rivers, you will be guaranteed a holiday experience like no other in India.

Blue Water Recommends:

1. Discover ancient temples, traditional tea plantations and the amazing wildlife of Kaziranga National Park on Far Horizon’s 11-night Brahmaputra River fly-cruise from £2449pp
2. Join APT for a 16-night premium holiday combining hotel stays in Delhi, Agra, Jaipur and Kolkata with a cruise on the Lower Ganges for an authentic glimpse of the real India from £4570pp
3. Viking Ocean’s 16-night voyage across the Bay of Bengal explores Mumbai’s Bollywood glamour and Goa’s colonial architecture and exotic beaches from £4365pp
Active Alternatives

**Hiking**

Put on your walking shoes and explore off the beaten track with guided hikes included on many European river cruises.

Hike up to the Veste Oberhaus in Passau for incredible views over Old Passau or hike up the Philosopher's Path for a panoramic view of Heidelberg. Visit the world heritage listed Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo in Rousse and hike through the rock monasteries.

Whilst many cruise lines offer guided hikes, CroisiEurope have specialist hiking-themed cruises along the Douro, Rhône and Danube where hikes are accompanied by qualified mountain guides. Each itinerary offers an included hikes and non-hikers excursion program so there is something for everyone.

**Biking**

Expand your horizons and explore the stunning riverside scenery in a new way - on two wheels.

Many river cruises lines now include onboard bicycles for independent exploration or guided bicycle tours. Cycle along the Danube between Dürnstein and Melk, in Austria’s picturesque Wachau Valley or take a ride through the medieval city of Rouen in France’s historic Normandy region. Enjoy a guided bicycle tour through Italy or cycle with fellow guests to the highlights of Budapest. Making use of onboard complimentary bicycles also makes a fun and active way to explore the fascinating destinations. It’s also a great way to burn off a few calories from the irresistible cuisine enjoyed on board!

**Golf**

A recent addition to European river cruising is the chance to play on some of the best golf courses in Europe.

AmaWaterways combine an exclusive Concierge Golf Programme with a 7-night cruise along the Rhine and Danube rivers. Guests are picked up from the ship in a private luxury Mercedes and taken to the course where tee time, practice balls and pull trolleys are arranged for you in advance. Examples of the top golf courses include Diamond Course at the Diamond Country Club in Austria, host of the Lyconness Austrian Open and the Legends Course at Penati Country Club in Slovakia, host of the Slovakian Open. Tee off at The Royal Haagse Golf Club in the Netherlands or Golf Club Hanau-Wilhelmsbad in Germany.

In 2018, Amadeus River Cruises will also be offering the chance to play on some of Europe’s best golf courses with special itineraries on the Seine, Danube and Rhine rivers. Golf packages will include four rounds of 18 hole golf on each cruise, accompanied by the golf expert and PGA teaching golf pro Frank Adamowicz.

Cruising along the River Seine from Paris with Uniworld Boutique River Cruises, guests have the opportunity to enjoy a round of golf at Golf d’Etretat, one of Europe’s most stunning golf courses on the French clifftops, whilst on a 7-night APT Rhône river cruise, there is an excursion to play at the Grand Avignon golf course with its superb views of Mont Ventoux.

**Wellness**

Enhancements are continually being made to make river cruising more appealing to the health-conscious traveller.

Most river cruise ships have well-equipped fitness centres, some a small heated pool, and a lot of excursions are often split into groups for gentle, moderate and active cruisers. It’s not just the younger generation looking for more active options, as keeping fit, eating well and staying healthy is becoming increasingly important for a lot of guests whilst on holiday. We’ve taken a look at what river cruising can offer.

It’s not just the younger generation looking for more active options, as keeping fit, eating well and staying healthy is becoming increasingly important for a lot of guests whilst on holiday. We’ve taken a look at what river cruising can offer.

New in 2018, guests can focus on their well-being whilst on a European river cruise.

On selected dates throughout the year and across a wide range of itineraries, AmaWaterways has tailored their itinerary to create themed ‘Wellness Cruises’. An onboard Wellness Host provides exercise classes and onboard lectures focussing on healthy eating and relaxation techniques. The award-winning ships are also equipped with a fitness room, mini-spa, massage room and a walking track. Renowned for its superb cuisine, healthy eating with locally-sourced ingredients, gluten free options and low sodium offerings are also a focus. A hydration station is also available with infused detox and gemstone water.

Universe River Cruises also offers a ‘Wellness on the Water’ program. Begin the day with a yoga session on the Sun Deck or a TRX® Suspension training class with a certified instructor. Make use of the well-equipped onboard fitness centre and take a dip in the heated pool. The ‘Travelling Lite’ menu served in the restaurant offers dishes full of flavour but with fewer calories.
So you're used to the sublime service, attention to detail and fine dining that you've already experienced on a river cruise. You've travelled with the luxury river cruise lines and enjoyed complimentary drinks on board, a wide range of excursions included in every port and a choice of dining options. Not forgetting the beautiful ships themselves with spacious balcony cabins, marble bathrooms and stunning lounges and restaurants.

But now you'd like to experience white nights in the Baltic Sea, soak up the sun in the Caribbean, and take in the culture of the Mediterranean, and you don't want to forsake those high standards to which you've become accustomed.

Seven Seas Explorer is the newest ship from ultra-luxury cruise line Regent Seven Seas, and has been hailed as the most luxurious ship ever built. However to aficionados of luxury river cruising, this ship's elegant features will be reassuringly familiar. A choice of different dining venues? Free-flowing complimentary drinks throughout? A superb range of included shore excursions in every port? Impressively appointed balcony cabins? Free Wi-Fi? Seven Seas Explorer offers all this and more.

‘This ship exudes style and class’

Yes, she is bigger than a river cruise ship, there's no denying that. Even with 750 passengers on board, this ship is so spacious and well designed that you wouldn't know it. There is always space in your chosen lounge, the superb speciality restaurants are busy enough to have atmosphere but not feel crowded, and need I say you will never fight for a sunbed around the pool. This ship exudes style and class, offering the attentive yet unobtrusive service that river cruises are renowned for. Restaurant staff give you the benefit of their knowledge in friendly and non-superior way and there is no condescension or stuffiness on board. Formal nights are rare and can be avoided, so dress code is similar to a river cruise, casual in the daytime for excursions and smarter in the evening.

So if you're looking to explore the destinations that river cruises can't reach, but in the same style and level of comfort, take a look at Seven Seas Explorer and you will be very pleasantly surprised.

Blue Water Recommends:
Seven Seas Explorer is a 750-passenger all-balcony ship, with complimentary speciality dining in a choice of restaurants, numerous bars and lounges, pool area, spa with infinity pool, two-level theatre and casino. A 7-night Med cruise in May 2018 starts at just £3759pp including return flights and transfers.
Come aboard and experience Europe like never before!

(regional flights/rail available on request), non UK transfers and port charges.

Lead-in fare is based on 2 adults sharing a category C4 grade cabin or a single passenger in a C4 grade cabin. Price includes estimated economy flights from London Return flights/rail Included in your fare:

- rivers, our cruises are designed to showcase our European heritage.
- Danube Delta and the Black Sea, to the north and south of France and the beautiful scenery of the Rhine and Danube

Explore Europe in true style and comfort aboard one of our many vessels and itineraries. From Amsterdam to the

Danube Rhapsody
7 nights - April to October 2018
Passau round-trip

River View Cabin from £1489pp
French Balcony Cabin from £1859pp
Solo prices from £1659
Based on 31st October 2018 departure

We were welcomed on board by the friendly crew and met our 45 fellow passengers from a number of different
countries, including France, Spain, Australia and Britain. This ensured a relaxed, cosmopolitan flavour on board,
although the main language was English. Our cabin was small but well-formed and perfect for the time we spent in it. There was an ample
sundeck with sunbeds, two outside seating areas and a large bar. Meals were served in the bright and spacious
restaurant, with lavish buffets for breakfast and lunch, and waiter service in the evening. Drinks on board are very
well priced, just 3.5 euro for a glass of wine and the legendary Greek beer Mythos just 3 euro.

‘The sea really is your swimming pool!’

Variety Cruises state that none of their vessels have swimming pools on board, as the sea is your swimming pool. This
was proven to be true, as we swam from the rear platform in the warm, clear waters of the Adriatic in no less than three different countries!

‘We visited some gems of the Adriatic that larger ships cannot visit’

However, destination is key and this cruise visited some real gems of the Adriatic that larger ships cannot visit. Sailing from the magnificent city of Dubrovnik, we stopped for a swim in a pretty cove then cruised to Korčula island and its glorious old town. Although relatively busy in peak season, Korčula has managed to retain its charm, with narrow streets, graceful old buildings and idyllic beaches. Arriving in Bar in Montenegro, we were impressed with the broad expanse of sandy beach lined with bars and restaurants. However, the next day was my favourite – a swim stop at an enchanting sandy beach, followed by the delightful Greek island of Paxos. You could still see the sleepy fishing port that Gaios must have been before yachters discovered its inviting bars and restaurants. Corfu was a pleasant surprise, with its English heritage and Parisian boulevards leading to an enticing maze of winding streets. Sarande in Albania is the port for the fascinating archaeological site of Butrint, and for those not taking the optional excursion, there was an attractive beach with incredibly cheap restaurants, and another chance to swim off the ship. Kotor in Montenegro was the bustiest of the ports we visited, but the medieval walled town has a unique charm and it wasn’t hard to find a quiet square in which to relax.

Corfu

Whist in Kotor, we moored alongside one of the large ships from a popular mainstream cruise line. Seeing the ship
towering over Panorama made us even more grateful that we were on board the characterful small yacht, with superb
personal service from friendly crew, charming fellow guests and a unique itinerary!

Blue Water Recommends:

The 7-night Adriatic Odyssey cruise departs between June and October 2018, from just £2049pp including flights and transfers.

An Adriatic Odyssey
**Cruise and Maritime Voyages** offers superb no-fly cruises from a range of UK departure ports, including London Tilbury, Newcastle Tyne, Hull, Bristol Avonmouth and Cardiff. The five ocean liners - 1400-passenger flagship Columbus, traditional 800-passenger Marco Polo, contemporary 1250-passenger Magellan, classic 550-passenger Astoria and stylish 600-passenger Astor - offer a traditional British cruise experience. Exclusively for adults, with the exception of a handful of multi-generational cruises, the ships explore the picturesque Norwegian fjords, contrasting Baltic cities and Iceland, the Land of Ice and Fire, to name but a few. Book your 2018 cruise today and save up to 50%!

**Look what's included!**

- Comfortable full board accommodation
- Afternoon teas and late night snacks
- Stylish entertainment, cabarets and classics
- Self service tea and coffee from 6am to midnight
- Captain’s Cocktail Parties
- Wide range of leisure facilities and activities
- Informative guest speakers

**Majestic Fjordland**

5 May 2018 7 nights aboard Magellan

- Newcastle Tyne, UK - Cardiff, Scotland, UK - Ullswater, Norway - Cruising Hardangerfjord, Norway - Eidfjord, Norway - Cruising Lustrafjord, Norway - Skjolden, Norway - Bergen, Norway - Newcastle Tyne, UK

Save up to 35% From £959pp

**British Isles and Cities Discovery**

25 Sept 2018 10 nights aboard Columbus

- London Tilbury, UK - Rotterdam, Netherlands - Kiel (Fleet), Germany - Copenhagen, Denmark - Oslo, Norway - Bergen, Norway - Edinburgh (Leith), Scotland, UK - Dublin, Ireland - Cobh, Ireland - Honfleur, France - London Tilbury, UK

Save up to 50% From £849pp

**Portugal, Gibraltar and Seville Fiesta**

14 April 2018 12 nights aboard Marco Polo

- Bristol Avonmouth, UK - Lisbon, Portugal - Portimao, Portugal - Gibraltar, UK - Cadiz, Spain (overnight) - Leixões, Portugal - La Coruña, Spain - Bristol Avonmouth, UK

Save up to 50% From £1159pp

**Canary Islands and Madeira**

20 July 2018 15 nights aboard Columbus

- London Tilbury, UK - Amsterdam, Netherlands - Rotterdam, Netherlands - Kiel (Fleet), Germany - Copenhagen, Denmark - Oslo, Norway - Bergen, Norway - Fredrikstad, Norway - Lofoten, Norway - Svolvær, Norway - Honningsvåg, Norway - Tromsø, Norway - Bergen, Norway - London Tilbury, UK

Save up to 50% From £1239pp

**Explore exciting destinations on board smaller ships where you’ll enjoy a warm, friendly atmosphere - perfect for meeting people who share a passion for travel, and creating friendships that will last a lifetime**

Many cruise lines now offer group activities for solo travellers, including dance classes, dedicated day trips and evening meals at shared dining tables. Themed cruises, such as wine programmes, culinary voyages and yoga-themed sailings are a great way to enjoy your favourite hobby with like-minded people. There are fantastic low or no single supplement deals on a selection of stunning cruises, so whether you are a seasoned single cruiser looking for your next adventure or are new to cruising entirely, there is a cruise that’s perfect for you.

On port days there are special singles meet-ups for the shore excursions, and on board the Cruise Directors will help you get together with like-minded people to join in the activities, quizzes and entertainment, whilst gentlemen hosts are on hand to twirl single ladies around the dance floor. Saga’s chauffeur service will even collect you from home and take you to the port to start your cruise, and return you home at the end.

‘Themed cruises are a great way to enjoy your favourite hobby with like-minded people’

Solo travellers river cruising with AmaWaterways enjoy a welcoming atmosphere with many opportunities to meet fellow guests on board luxurious ships that carry no more than 164 passengers. There is a Welcome Cocktail Reception exclusively for single travellers, restaurant seating that helps you meet fellow guests, an invitation to dine at the Captain’s Table and assistance with planning your ideal shore excursions. In addition, solo travellers pay no single supplement in base category cabins on any cruise in Europe, Asia or Africa.

The friendly nature of Hebridean Island Cruises means single travellers can choose to enjoy their own private space or seek the company of like-minded guests. Carrying just 50 passengers, Hebridean Princess has ten single cabins all with a cozy home-from-home feel. Solo travellers who don’t wish to dine alone can sit at a convivial Officer’s table in the Columbia Restaurant, then join the expert guide for after-dinner talks over coffee or a digestif, a good opportunity to mingle with fellow cruisers. Specially-themed itineraries ranging from walking and cycling cruises to history and architecture sailings are a great way to meet people that share common interests.

**Blue Water Recommends:**

1. **Voyages to Antiquity** - Low or no single supplements and dedicated single cabins on cruises to the Med, India and Southeast Asia
2. **Riviera Travel** - A number of single cabins are available on most river cruises at no extra supplement, and due to popularity do book up very quickly
3. **Star Clippers** - Spend Christmas 2018 sailing around the spectacular Grenadine islands with no single supplement on magnificent tall ship Royal Clipper

*www.bluewaterholidays.com   01756 706523*
The Christmas cruise on board AmaPrima visiting Christmas markets along the Rhine was my first river cruise and I could not fault it, the standard was incredibly high compared to ocean cruises I have done. Michelle at Blue Water had cruised with AmaWaterways - she highly recommended the company and she was right. It is an English-speaking ship, and travelling single I wanted to be able to communicate easily with everyone or it might have been a lonely Christmas!

The itinerary was very well planned, we sailed through the more industrial stretches of the Rhine during the night and the scenic parts with their steep banks and beautiful castles in daylight.

‘Nothing was too much trouble for the staff’

Every day we stopped at a different port of call with a choice of excursions and the option of taking a bike or just doing your own thing. The Christmas markets were in full swing, enhancing the already beautiful towns and villages. The local guides were very knowledgeable and we had headsets and earpieces so it wasn’t necessary to hang onto their coat tails walking around. We were in small groups of under 20 giving time to ask questions and advice, and always with free time before we had to return to the ship.

The cabin was luxurious, modern with sliding doors to a french balcony giving great views and making it very light. Plenty of storage, the case fitted under the bed, a flat screen tv and free internet. Compact modern bathroom and shower with body jets etc and quality toiletries. Robes, slippers and even umbrellas were provided. I cannot praise the food highly enough, it was top quality, beautifully presented and the open seating meant you could join friends on tables seating from 2 to 8. Breakfast offered the full buffet experience with the best variety I have ever seen. From champagne, smoked salmon and bagels to a full English and a vast array of breads, rolls and pastries all cooked freshly on board. Lunch and dinner were waiter service multi-course affairs with a wide choice of menu reflecting the food of the area you were passing through.

Decent quality wine was included with meals and your glass was constantly topped up, they were generous. At lunch, an alternative was to eat in the lounge where a selection of soup, salads, pasta, cheese and biscuits and a dessert were available for self service. One person I met was coeliac and they always brought her a menu indicating gluten free items. ‘It’s a blessing I went onshore to walk some of it off.

Customer service is paramount, nothing fazes them. The can-do attitude was prevalent throughout the ship, nothing was too much trouble and it made for very relaxed and happy passengers. Following every shore excursion we were welcomed back to the ship with glasses of gluhwein and it was much better quality than at the markets!

When you sail with AmaWaterways, you will experience the luxury of ‘more’ - more ways to discover, more ways to indulge and more on board amenities. With an award-winning fleet, critically acclaimed dining and unique tour options, you will enjoy the trip of a lifetime.

The Christmas cruise on board AmaPrima visiting Christmas markets along the Rhine was my first river cruise and I could not fault it, the standard was incredibly high compared to ocean cruises I have done.
A Taste for Travel

Cruising is the best way to experience a local culture and particularly its food. From traditional Belgian chocolate to exciting Vietnamese street food, here’s our guide to the best places to sample authentic cuisine.

**Sachertorte**
Austria

Sachertorte is an indulgent Austrian chocolate cake layered with apricot jam. The darkly rich cake was invented by chef Franz Sacher in Vienna in 1832 for Prince Wenzel von Metternich. Although the original recipe remains a well-kept secret, the cake is recognisable by its shimmering mirror glaze and is best served with a generous helping of whipped cream.

Try authentic Parma ham on a tall ship sailing cruise from Rome

**Parma ham**
Italy

Parma ham is only produced in a strictly-defined area around the city of Parma and is distinguished by the crown that producers stamp on the rind to guarantee the high quality of the ham. Due to its delicate yet intense taste, Parma ham is perfect when eaten either by itself, or with fresh melon or figs.

Sample Belgian chocolate in Bruges on a Tulip Time cruise through Holland and Belgium

**Chocolate**
Bruges

Belgians are connoisseurs of fine chocolate, and Bruges is a chocoholic’s heaven, with an incredible number of shops offering exquisite handmade chocolates. Flavours range from the traditional to the more unusual including basil, mojito and even wasabi!

**Eiswein**
Germany

Eiswein, which is reputed to date back to the Roman era, is a dessert wine made exclusively from grapes left to freeze on the vine, creating a rich, sweet wine with a unique quality and flavour. German Eiswein is famous for its purity, complexity and balance and is held by connoisseurs as the benchmark by which all other ice wines are compared.

Sample Eiswein on a River Rhine cruise through Germany

**Port wine**
Douro

Port wine is a fortified wine produced exclusively in Portugal’s Douro Valley, one of the oldest and most beautiful European wine regions. Find out more about the production process on visits to wine estates set in stunning terraced vineyards where there is also the opportunity to sample the local wine.

Taste Port wine on a River Douro cruise through Portugal’s famous wine-growing regions

**Truffles**
Rhône

Go in search of truffles on a cruise along the Rhône from Lyon, France’s gastronomic capital. On truffle farms eager pigs or dogs are used to sniff out the mature truffles. These highly-prized ‘black diamonds’ are mainly found buried in the roots of oak trees and can fetch up to €1000 per kilo.

Search for truffles on a River Rhône cruise through Provence

**Street food**
Hanoi

Hanoi’s Old Quarter is a food-lover’s dream, offering some of the best street food in the world. Al-fresco kitchens serve bun cha, a famous Vietnamese smoked pork delicacy, and pho, a sweet and sour soup with noodles. Wash this down with a refreshing Bia hoi beer, brewed daily and sold on street corners from giant kegs.

Enjoy street food in Hanoi on a cruise to Vietnam

**Cider**
Normandy

The cider produced in Normandy is in high demand internationally. Discover how it is made on the Cider Route, a 40km marked trail around the region’s best breweries, distilleries and apple orchards. Join tours of famous cider producers, enjoy delicious tastings of cider and discover cider festivals that take place throughout the year.

Try a cider-tasting on Normandy’s Cider Route on a River Seine cruise
Hurtigruten

Roald Amundsen and Fridtjof Nansen

Expedition cruising takes guests into the heart of remote regions, so minimising impact on the environment was at the forefront when Hurtigruten designed its latest expedition ships. Roald Amundsen and Fridtjof Nansen, launching in 2018 and 2019 respectively, will feature the latest hybrid technology to create a more sustainable way of travelling.

Named after famous Norwegian explorers, the ships will feature a comfortable design using Scandinavian materials. All cabins and suites will have a view of the changing surroundings, whilst 50 percent will feature private balconies. Both ships will feature three restaurants for relaxed international cuisine and fine dining options.

Be among the first to experience this new way of expedition cruising with Roald Amundsen and Fridtjof Nansen set to explore the Antarctic, Chilenean Fjords, South and Central America.

Ponant

Le Lapérouse, Le Champlain, Le Bougainville, Le Dumont-D’Urville and Ponant Icebreaker


Inspiration for these four new sister ships comes from those who set off on adventures in search of new lands. These are the first ever cruise ships to feature a multi-sensory underwater area, ‘Blue Eye’, which is designed to reflect the underwater world. Two huge windows shaped like the eye of a cetacean look deep into the ocean and integrated digital screens project live underwater images. The state-of-the-art technology also gives guests a chance to experience the underwater world with ‘Body Listening’ sofas vibrating in harmony to the sounds of the ocean.

Elsewhere on the ships, a marina allows easy access into the sea for kayaking, paddle boarding, scuba diving and snorkelling, whilst a subsmerisible mini-port enables direct access to the 10 Zodiac boats. Take in the views from the infinity pool and the spa area where the sauna has a panoramic window. All of the 92 luxurious cabins and suites feature private balconies up to 30m² in size.

Discover a wide range of destinations in luxury and style: follow in the footsteps of the Vikings around the ever-popular Antarctica. Almost all spaciosly designed cabins and suites will feature balconies or French balconies. Three on board restaurants offer a choice of dining experiences, with the Bistro Restaurant featuring an outdoor seating area so guests can take in the dramatic scenery whilst enjoying the fine cuisine.

With a design concept inspired by nature, Hanseatic Lloyd’s luxurious Hanseatic Inspiration ship will have more open deck space than any other expedition ship. Come face-to-face with nature and enjoy breathtaking views from one of the two glassfloored balconies or the Observation Deck with its 180-degree view. 16 onboard Zoabis and E-Zoabis have eco-friendly electric drive systems for landings in remote areas while the marina makes a fantastic platform for water sports in warmer climates.

Latin America the PONANT way

Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru… during a single cruise and various ports of call, discover the many treasures of Latin America, including several major UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the city of La Antigua Guatemalas, the Copai Islands, the historic centres of Quito and Cuenca, the archaeological ruins of Chan Chan and Machu Picchu…

Experience rare and special moments aboard a luxury yacht with only 132 cabin and suites.

A bilingual French crew, refined gastronomy, landings inaccessible to large ships: discover the treasures of the World by sea with PONANT.

For more information contact: 01756 706523
www.bluewaterholidays.com

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Antarctic 5-star Expedition Cruises

Whales, penguins, breathtaking vistas of the White Continent's ice flows & icebergs, zodiac expeditions in the company of experienced and passionate guides and naturalists...

All aboard a luxurious yacht on an intimate scale, live the intensity and privilege of a real expedition in 5-star comfort. A Bilingual French crew, refined gastronomy, landings inaccessible to large ships: discover the treasures of the World by sea with PONANT.

For more information contact:
01756 706523
www.bluewaterholidays.com

Winter 2018-2019: 25 departures, starting at £7,995 pp
Flights roundtrip from the UK included

PONANT Bonus Fare per person based on double occupancy, subject to change, including Valeur Flights to & from the UK inclusive subject to availability, Bilingual French crew, refined gastronomy, landings inaccessible to large ships: discover the treasures of the World by sea with PONANT. ❄️

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Hurtigruten

The Original Norwegian Voyage

Sailing Norway’s coast for 125 years since 1893, no one knows it better than we do.
It is our heart and our home.

12-day Classic Round Voyage
Bergen – Kirkenes – Bergen

Daily departures April – September 2018

Pick your season, spring, summer, or autumn, to see Norway’s famous fjords at their best. Each period brings a unique atmosphere and light to the coast’s stunning scenery. The 12-day voyage showcases all 34 charming coastal ports, northbound and southbound, and has the full range of seasonal excursions to choose from.

Includes:
- Choice of cabin
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Complimentary tea & coffee
- Two FREE excursions
- One à la carte dinner

When you book by 31 March 2018

From £958pp

Full Board Basic Fare

Include:
- £200 Discount

When you book by 31 March 2018

From £1,429pp

Full Board Select Fare

Terms and conditions: All discounts and two free excursions plus one à la carte dinner apply to new bookings only made before 31 Mar 2018. From price quoted is in GBP and is per person, based on full occupancy of an inside two-berth cabin. Single supplements apply. Cabins and excursions are subject to availability. Hurtigruten operates a flexible pricing system and prices are capacity controlled, correct at time of booking. Not included: travel insurance, luggage handling, international flights, optional excursions or optional gratuities. Flights booked with Hurtigruten are ATOL protected (ATOL 3584), economy, and include all current taxes and charges. All itineraries are subject to change due to local conditions. Please enquire for full itineraries and full booking terms and conditions.

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Scenic

Scenic Eclipse

Scenic Eclipse is Scenic’s first ocean cruise ship and has been designed with guests’ enjoyment and pleasure in mind. Launching in August 2018, this pioneering ship will provide luxury 6-star accommodation while also offering unique experiences, led by the expert Discovery Team, including optional helicopter and submarine excursions. Zodiacs, kayaks, e-bikes and snorkelling equipment ensure the ultimate adventure of a lifetime.

The beautifully designed spacious suites all feature butler service, a separate living area and private veranda. For the ultimate indulgence there are the opulent Owner’s Penthouse Suites which offer a spacious curved terrace with private Jacuzzi for the best views on board.

Relax and unwind in the tranquil Spa Sanctuary with its indoor and outdoor Jacuzzis, plunge pool and indulgent spa treatments, or work out in the yoga and pilates studio and well-equipped gym. Indulge yourself with a choice of ten different dining experiences featuring enticing menus created by Scenic’s expert team of chefs, and perhaps immerse yourself in the world of gastronomy with culinary lessons in the dedicated on-board cooking emporium.

In Scenic Eclipse’s inaugural season discover Antarctica and the remote Falkland Islands, cruise through the dramatic fjords of Chile and Norway and explore the Arctic regions of Iceland, Greenland and Svalbard. Follow the Viking trail to Atlantic Canada, uncover the historic cities of the Mediterranean and relax in the tropical Caribbean.

© Scenic Eclipse

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Australasia is an incredible combination of natural wonders, cosmopolitan cities, sacred legends and fabulous food and wine. Tranquil white beaches, colossal blue glaciers and the red desert of the Outback form a colourful backdrop to this extraordinarily beautiful land which can be explored by luxury and small ships.

'Sydney is one of the most popular ports for cruises in Australia'

Visit legendary Bondi Beach, the memorable Rocks quarter or the magnificent Blue Mountains and the iconic Three Sisters rock formation. Brisbane is a sophisticated, lively city with ultra-modern skyscrapers in a riverside setting. It is home to the beautiful subtropical Botanic Gardens and Lone Pine, the largest koala sanctuary in the world.

Sydney is one of the most popular ports for cruises in Australia, as ships can sail right into the famous harbour, with the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House providing a magnificent backdrop to your entrance into port.

New Zealand is a truly unique experience, from the distinctive Māori culture to fascinating native wildlife and the country’s bubbling volcanic heart. In the North Island explore the lively capital city of Wellington, the vineyards of the Hawke’s Bay wine region and the filming locations of the famous Lord of the Rings trilogy. Climb the extinct volcano of Mount Eden in Auckland for fantastic views of the city or journey south to Lake Taupo, gateway to Tongariro National Park and the majestic Huka Falls. The world-renowned Waitomo Caves are home to thousands of glowworms that radiate luminescent light; float silently through this starry wonderland on a boat tour and experience Mother Nature’s awe-inspiring light display.

Visit the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground, see the giant Twelve Apostle rock stacks at Great Ocean Road or take a trip to the Yarra Valley to explore the region’s famous vineyards and wineries.

Discover the Aboriginal rock art, amazing wildlife and spectacular scenery of the Kimberley region of north-west Australia or explore the Great Barrier Reef, an incredible natural wonder that is home to colourful corals and tropical fish. Situated at the heart of the Great Barrier Reef are the stunning palm-fringed Whitsunday Islands, the epitome of a tropical paradise.

‘New Zealand is a truly unique experience’

Eden in Auckland for fantastic views of the city or journey south to Lake Taupo, gateway to Tongariro National Park and the majestic Huka Falls. The world-renowned Waitomo Caves are home to thousands of glowworms that radiate luminescent light; float silently through this starry wonderland on a boat tour and experience Mother Nature’s awe-inspiring light display. Explore New Zealand’s spouting geysers, hot springs and bubbling mud pools on a trip to Rotorua, an area revered by the Māori.

‘Discover the plentiful wildlife, which ranges from sperm whales to the iconic kiwi’

Milford Sound Fjord. Animal lovers will enjoy discovering the plentiful wildlife here which ranges from sperm whales, fur seals and penguins to royal albatrosses and of course the iconic kiwi. Take a fascinating journey back in time at Christchurch’s Air Force Museum of New Zealand or learn more about the White Continent with a visit to the city’s International Antarctic Centre. Dunedin is home to historic Larnach Castle, New Zealand’s only castle, the outstanding Edwardian Dunedin Railway Station and the Taieri Gorge Railway which travels through some of the country’s most beautiful scenery.

Blue Water Recommends:

1. Ponant offer a 9-night luxury New Zealand cruise to discover majestic fjords, ancient Maori culture and volcanic landscapes, departing Mar 2019 from £4005pp

2. Take a 16-night Viking Ocean fly-cruise to the lively cities of Australia and New Zealand in Dec 2018 and Jan/Feb 2019 from £6105pp

3. Silversea’s unique 10-night Australia cruise explores the stunning scenery and amazing wildlife of the Kimberley region in Jul/Aug 2018 from £5940pp
Save £500pp on 2018 Viking ocean cruises

Plus receive $100pp on board credit

Our 930-guest Viking ocean ships set a new standard in on board Scandi-chic. Dine in a different restaurant every night for free, with more alfresco options than any other ship of a similar size. Enjoy the privacy of your own veranda, every single stateroom has one. Lap up the views from the first glass-walled infinity pool at sea. Recharge in the fabulous spa at no extra charge. And relaxing with a choice of laid back evening entertainment. It’s made for you.

Choose your cruise for 2018 and 2019:

- **Iconic Western Mediterranean**
  - 8 days from £1,790pp
  - Departing January – December 2018/2019
  - Barcelona, Marseille, St. Tropez, Monte Carlo, Florence & Pisa, Rome

- **West Indies Explorer**
  - 11 days from £2,940pp
  - Departing November 2018 & January – March 2019
  - Puerto Rico, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St. Lucia, Barbados, Guadeloupe, St Kitts, St. Martin, St. Thomas, Puerto Rico

- **Iceland’s Majestic Landscapes**
  - 13 days from £4,090pp
  - Departing May – August 2019
  - Bergen, Flåm, Álesund, Geiranger, Trondheim, Svalbard

So much included:
- Return scheduled flights from the UK
- Private veranda stateroom
- All delicious on board meals in a choice of multiple dining venues
- Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board
- Free 24-hour room service
- Free tea, coffee and snacks any time on board
- Complimentary excursion in almost every port of call
- Evening entertainment, lectures and port talks
- Free Wi-Fi on board*
- Free use of spa facilities
- Pre-paid on board gratuities

Choose your cruise for 2018 and 2019:

**New England**
- 8 days from £1,790pp
- Departing May – August 2019
- Boston, New York, New Haven, Newport, Bar Harbor, Portland, Halifax

**New England Explorer**
- 12 days from £4,090pp
- Departing May – August 2019
- Boston, New York, New Haven, Newport, Bar Harbor, Portland, Halifax

Prices and availability are correct at the time of going to print but are subject to change. From prices are per person based on two people sharing the lowest available on-board grade on selected 2018 and 2019 departure dates. From prices are inclusive of VIKING’s free return scheduled flights from the UK. *Restrictions apply. For full terms and conditions visit vikingcruises.co.uk/terms-conditions or call us.

Blue Water Recommends:

1. Spend three nights exploring New York with our exclusive fly-cruise holiday combining a centrally located hotel stay with a 10-night luxury Crystal cruise, departing Sept 2018 from just £3759pp
2. Enjoy a 12-night Canada and New England Viking Ocean fly-cruise from Montreal to New York, departing Sept and Oct 2018 from just £5195pp

Book by 31 January 2018

**NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

**WHISPERING GALLERY: GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL**

Grand Central Terminal is probably best known for its stunning architectural design, but it also has a quirky little secret, if you stand outside the legendary Oyster Bar the beautifully-tiled vaulted dome acts as a perfect whispering gallery. Stand facing one of the corners and you can hear the softest whisper of someone standing in the opposite corner, even over the noise of the crowds.

**ROOSEVELT ISLAND TRAM**

Enjoy spectacular views of Manhattan, the East River and Roosevelt Island on a memorable trip aboard the Roosevelt Island Tram. In just four minutes this exciting cable car ride takes you from the busy heart of the city to the quiet and beautiful Roosevelt Island, home to historic landmarks and tranquil parks.

**SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK**

Artists and activists created this 4.5 acre riverside park in Queens in 1986, as a space for large outdoor sculptures and art installations. With beautiful views over Manhattan it’s open 365 days a year, with a Greenmarket, free yoga and tai chi classes, outdoor movie screenings and more.

**THE HIGH LINE**

The High Line is an elevated railway line that has been transformed into a verdant urban park, winding its way past high-rise buildings and offering a unique view of Manhattan.

**LE BOUDOIR**

Enjoy a drink at Le Boudoir, an underground cocktail bar inspired by Queen Marie Antoinette’s chambers in the Chateau de Versailles. Hidden behind a bookshelf in a French bistro, the secret entrance leads to a bar that channels the opulence of 18th-century French aristocracy, with cocktails including the Dauphin, Guillotine and Jardin Royale.

**CONET ISLAND**

Coney Island is just a 45-minute subway ride from Manhattan and has been entertaining New Yorkers and visitors alike for over a century. This nostalgic seaside playground includes a golden sandy beach, an old-fashioned boardwalk and fairground rides including the original Cyclone rollercoaster which dates back to 1927.

Visit vibrant New York and the chances are you’ll tick off the iconic sights, so what next? Have no fear, the city that never sleeps will keep you coming back for more with a myriad of endlessly inspiring and quirky attractions. Here are just some ideas to whet the appetite.

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Discover the wonders of South-East Asia

Centred around a captivating river cruise, you will explore iconic landmarks, unique cultures and ethereal beauty. From the bustling streets of Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and the ancient city of Bagan in Myanmar, to remote villages only accessible by water – you will enjoy an in-depth discovery of these truly fascinating regions.

Here at Blue Water Holidays we pride ourselves on being able to share our first-hand knowledge of ships and cruise lines to help you decide which cruise would suit you.

Here are the highlights of our trips and ship visits in 2017

Cruises
Juliet embarked Regent Seven Seas’ newest ship, Seven Seas Explorer, in Marseille for a luxury, all-inclusive cruise taking in Barcelona, Palma and Cartagena. Sam cruised on board Oceania’s newly-refurbished luxury ship, Insignia, from Rome to Barcelona. Fay joined Star Clippers’ tall ship Star Flyer on a sailing cruise around the Greek islands. Johanna boarded five-masted tall ship Royal Clipper for a cruise from Barbados around the Caribbean, and Juliet sailed on Royal Clipper around picturesque Corsica.

Abigail explored the breathtaking wine region of Burgundy on 12-passenger hotel barge, L’Impressionniste from European Waterways, whilst Karen and Fay experienced Scottish hospitality at its finest as they joined the luxurious Hebridean Princess in Greenock. Both Jade and Juliet joined 49-passenger Panorama from Variety Cruises for a relaxing voyage along the beautiful Croatian coast, whilst a Rhine Festive Markets cruise on the stylish AmaPrima was the perfect way for Kathryn to get in the festive spirit.

Fly Free in Premium Economy

ANN AWAY TO ROMA FOR A STYLISH 4* HOLIDAY

ANN AWAY TO BARCELONA FOR A STYLISH 4* HOLIDAY

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ANN AWAY TO BARCELON...
STAR CLIPPERS

Clearly this is not a cruise ship in the ordinary sense. On Star Clippers, you will find that there are no rigid schedules. You are free to do as you wish with your days and evenings. Our graceful ships fly along the waves, just like the legendary clippers of a century and a half ago. This is Star Clippers, and the adventure has only just begun...

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