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Best Active River Cruises



By Jayne Clark, Cruise Critic contributor



In theory, any river cruise can be an active one, given that shore-centric itineraries allow passengers to pursue all manner of land-based activities.

Many lines, particularly those plying Europe's rivers, already provide bicycles for their passengers. (And if they don't, you can always rent one in port.) But as competition in this fast-growing segment of the cruise market heats up, some lines are seeking to attract a broader -- and younger -- clientele by offering a greater scope of active and adventurous pursuits.

Here's a look at some best-bet lines and itineraries for river cruisers who like to be on the move.

CroisiEurope

The Strasbourg, France-based affordable cruise line's active excursions proved so popular in 2016, they tacked on extra sailings and have a good selection of hiking- and biking-focused cruises in 2017.

Among them: Hiking cruises in Austria and Hungary (departing May 19 and September 15 from Vienna); in [Portugal's Douro Valley](#) (departing October 16 from Porto) and in France's Rhone Valley and Provençal Rhone (departing April 8 from Lyon). Each itinerary offers concurrent excursions for non-hikers.

Six bike-cruise itineraries offer multiple route options on most days to accommodate cyclists of varying stamina levels. New for 2017 are four departures on a Danube River bike cruise, a route that is growing in popularity.

Other routes are Burgundy to Provence via the Saone and Rhone rivers (departing August 20 from Lyon); on Bordeaux's Garonne Rive (three departures); on the Loire River (three departures from Nantes); and on the Rhine (three departures from Basel to Amsterdam and three in the reverse direction).