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Most Unusual River Cruise Itineraries



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Think of river cruising, and you likely envision the castles of the Rhine or the European capitals along the Danube. But there are far more exotic choices out there for those with an adventurous spirit and the desire to reach the farthest corners of the globe. Read on for our picks of the most unusual river cruise itineraries.



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Sava River

Where Is It? The Sava River runs through Croatia and along that country's border with Bosnia before meeting up with the Danube in Serbia. An 11-night cruise boards in Sisak, Croatia -- near Zagreb -- and visits small towns in Bosnia and Serbia before joining the more trafficked Danube to go on to Belgrade and Budapest.

Why Should You Go? The less traveled towns of Zagreb and Brcko in Bosnia remain bastions of 18th-century Austro-Hungarian architecture, while other towns along the route offer Orthodox monasteries, Slavic culture and Ottoman influences.

Who Offers It? The French river cruise line CroisiEurope begins sailing the Sava in 2017 on the 100-passenger Victor Hugo.

Photo: Dreamer4787/Shutterstock.com



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Guadalquivir and Guadiana rivers

Where Is It? Both located in southwestern Spain, the Guadalquivir and Guadiana rivers traverse Andalusia, yet do not meet up. So the few cruises that go there spend some time on both, and cruise the Mediterranean coast in between.

Why Should You Go? Some of Spain's most picturesque cities, including Cadiz, Seville, Granada and Cordoba, lie along the route, which is also famed for its gastronomy, traditional music and wine. Lesser known, but equally compelling, is Donana National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Bioserve -- an expansive salt marsh that's home to hundreds of thousands of migratory birds.

Who Offers It? CroisiEurope is currently the only line offering this itinerary on 176-passenger La Belle de Cadix. The vessel is built to sail both rivers and the Mediterranean coast.

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Tisza River

Where Is It? Another alternative to the Danube in Central Europe, the Tisza runs through eastern Hungary. A nine-night cruise on the river visits Tokaj -- world famous for dessert wines -- and towns on the Great Hungarian Plain before passing onto the Danube in Serbia.

Why Should You Go? While plains don't sound as scenic as forests, the Tisza is known for its birdlife and you'll be able to see how the vast majority of Hungarians live. Authentic Hungarian food, spiced with hot paprika and quite distinctive within Europe, is also a draw.

Who Offers It? Yet again, CroisiEurope is the sole operator of this cruise, also on Victor Hugo.

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