

# European Cruises - The Next Best Thing



Cruising the Caribbean or Alaskan waters still remains an extremely popular way of spending a holiday; however, a new trend is appearing which turns a trip to Europe into a once-in-a-lifetime experience. As the value of dollar decreases, the trips are gradually becoming a bargain. Many cruise-line operators have realized this fact and have started designing their cruises to suit this 'hunger' for Europe.

New spacious cruise-liners are being used to carry passengers from the United States, but also the list of destinations has been growing rich in the last couple of years. The tourists are welcome to book their holiday up to one year ahead and may enjoy a combination of comfortable travel, great accommodation, lots of on-board activities, and frequent guided trips to the shore or interesting visits to Europe's UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The favorite routes takes the travelers to Spain, Italy and Croatia, however new destinations such as the Baltic's and Europe's far north as well as the Dalmatian coast have been added to contribute to the already attractive variety of choice. Norway's fjords appear to have won the tourists' attention as well, and such cruises present the beauty of Danish Bornholm or Lysekil in Sweden, and even the far Iceland.

Cruise line operators have also expanded farther east, to the Black sea. Lines like Celebrity, Crystal or Holland America pull even to Sochi in Russia. A smaller though popular company, Tauck, have launched a new offer this year, a 21-day river cruise, or rather a transcontinental voyage from Amsterdam to Romania's Cernavoda, cruising along the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers. The trip is combined with excursions to German Bamberg or Serbian Belgrade any many other attractive locations. Prices begin at \$7,530 plus airfare.

If the tourists decide to sail along the European coast, the prices begin at \$2,399, however booking in advance and traveling in other than the peak months may considerably lower the price; many cruise-liners sail until early December.

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