



Which Luxury Cruise Line Is Right for You?

A Luxe Global Travels guide to finding your perfect fit

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If your idea of cruising is huge ships, crowded buffets, scheduled dining and formal nights, you may be surprised by what luxury cruising looks like today.

You can sail on an intimate yacht, choose a modern ship that feels more like a five-star resort, explore remote destinations with an expedition team, or take a traditional ultra-luxury voyage where nearly everything is handled before you ever step onboard.

The key is knowing which experience fits you.

I've created this guide to introduce you to seven luxury cruise lines worth knowing - and, more importantly, help you understand what makes each one different.

Because there isn't one "best" luxury cruise line. There's a luxury cruise experience that's best suited to the way you like to travel.

AMY'S TAKE

Use this as a starting point. The right ship, itinerary, suite category and sailing can matter just as much as the name on the ship.



Explora Journeys

MODERN • RELAXED • RESORT-LIKE

THE VIBE

Contemporary European luxury hotel meets resort at sea, with all-oceanfront suites and a relaxed approach to luxury.

YOU'LL LOVE IT IF...

You love beautiful five-star hotels, contemporary design and great restaurants - but aren't necessarily convinced you're a "cruise person."

WHAT STANDS OUT

All-oceanfront suites, penthouses and residences; multiple culinary experiences; premium beverages; gratuities; Wi-Fi; and wellness programming are among the core inclusions.

AMY'S TAKE

Start here if: You want luxury without stuffiness and like the idea of your ship feeling more like a sophisticated resort.



Regent Seven Seas Cruises

TRADITIONAL • POLISHED • HIGHLY INCLUSIVE

THE VIBE

Classic ultra-luxury cruising with an emphasis on personalized service and having the details taken care of.

YOU'LL LOVE IT IF...

You value a highly inclusive experience and don't want to spend your vacation constantly thinking about what's extra.

WHAT STANDS OUT

The standard cruise fare includes unlimited shore excursions, specialty dining, beverages, Wi-Fi, gratuities, valet laundry and 24-hour in-suite dining. Certain suite categories also include a pre-cruise hotel package.

AMY'S TAKE

Start here if: "Just take care of everything" sounds like your idea of luxury.

Silversea

DESTINATION-FOCUSED • INTIMATE • ADVENTUROUS

THE VIBE

Ultra-luxury meets serious exploration, with both traditional ocean voyages and expedition experiences.

YOU'LL LOVE IT IF...

Where you're going matters just as much as how you're getting there - or Antarctica and the Galápagos are on your bucket list.

WHAT STANDS OUT

Butler service in every suite, beverages, Wi-Fi and gratuities are part of the experience. Its expedition program adds expert teams and purpose-built experiences for remote destinations.

AMY'S TAKE

Start here if: Your dream trip begins with the destination and you don't want to sacrifice luxury to get there.

Seabourn

INTIMATE • SOPHISTICATED • YACHT-LIKE

THE VIBE

Refined, understated luxury on intimate ships with a private-yacht feel.

YOU'LL LOVE IT IF...

Personalized service and a smaller-ship atmosphere matter more to you than having endless attractions onboard.

WHAT STANDS OUT

Oceanfront suites, premium wines and spirits, complimentary dining, Wi-Fi and gratuities are part of the experience. Seabourn also operates expedition voyages.

AMY'S TAKE

Start here if: You prefer understated luxury, excellent service and intimate surroundings.



The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection

INTIMATE • STYLISH • YACHT LIFESTYLE

THE VIBE

Much closer to a luxury yachting vacation than the traditional cruise experience, with the hospitality style associated with Ritz-Carlton.

YOU'LL LOVE IT IF...

You love luxury hotels and resorts but have always said, "I'm not a cruise person."

WHAT STANDS OUT

All-suite accommodations with private terraces, Suite Ambassador service, included beverages, Wi-Fi and gratuities, plus a marina-style watersports platform on select itineraries.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some specialty dining and shore experiences carry an additional charge, so not every possible experience is included.

AMY'S TAKE

Start here if: You'd rather say "I'm going yachting" than "I'm going on a cruise."



Crystal

CLASSIC • SERVICE-DRIVEN • CULINARY

THE VIBE

Polished luxury with a strong emphasis on personalized service, spacious surroundings, dining and destination experiences.

YOU'LL LOVE IT IF...

Service, food and a refined onboard experience are near the top of your vacation priority list.

WHAT STANDS OUT

Butler service is a hallmark of the experience, and dining includes Umi Uma by Chef Nobu Matsuhisa. Crystal is also part of A&K; Travel Group, opening the door to a deeper land-and-sea experience.

CRYSTAL + ABERCROMBIE & KENT

Crystal guests can add By Abercrombie & Kent experiences, including exclusive shore experiences, multi-day overland adventures that leave and rejoin the ship, and pre- or post-cruise land journeys.

AMY'S TAKE

Start here if: You appreciate classic luxury service, exceptional food and want the option to take your destination experience well beyond a typical shore excursion.



Oceania Cruises

CULINARY • DESTINATION-RICH • FLEXIBLE

THE VIBE

Sophisticated, destination-focused cruising with a particularly strong culinary identity.

YOU'LL LOVE IT IF...

Great food and interesting itineraries are more important to you than having the most all-inclusive fare.

WHAT STANDS OUT

Specialty dining, gratuities, Wi-Fi and several nonalcoholic beverages are included. Current fare choices can also add either wine and beer by the glass with lunch and dinner or a shore-excursion credit.

AMY'S TAKE

Start here if: You're a foodie who wants a refined, destination-rich experience with flexibility in how you spend.

Find Your Match

What's most important to you?

If you're thinking...	Start by looking at...
I want modern luxury - not traditional cruising.	Explora Journeys
I want as much included as possible.	Regent Seven Seas
The destinations are the whole reason I'm going.	Silversea
I want small, sophisticated and intimate.	Seabourn
I'm not a cruise person. At all.	Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection / Explora
Food is a huge part of travel for me.	Oceania / Crystal / Explora
Antarctica or the Galápagos is on my bucket list.	Silversea
I love classic luxury and exceptional service.	Crystal / Regent
I want a yacht - not a cruise ship.	Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection
I want luxury without feeling overly formal.	Explora / Seabourn / Ritz-Carlton

Still torn between two? That's completely normal. The itinerary, ship, suite category, sailing date and what's included can make one option a much better fit than another - even within the same cruise line.

What About River Cruising?

Maybe ocean cruising simply isn't your vibe. Or maybe you've done it before and you're ready to experience something completely different.

That's where river cruising comes in.

Instead of sailing from major port to major port, river cruises take you directly through the heart of a destination - often docking within walking distance of historic towns and city centers.

The ships are smaller, the pace is different, and the focus is much more heavily on the places you're visiting. Think waking up along the Danube, sailing past vineyards on the Rhine, exploring Christmas markets in Europe, or discovering destinations from an entirely different perspective.

And just like ocean cruising, river cruise lines aren't all the same. Some are more luxurious, some more active, some more culinary-focused, and some are designed around deep destination immersion.

If ocean cruising isn't your vibe - or you're ready to try something completely different - let's explore river cruising next.

COMING NEXT

Which River Cruise Experience Is Right for You?

A Luxe Global Travels guide to understanding a completely different way to cruise.

Let's Find Your Cruise

Luxury travel should feel personal.

Choosing a cruise isn't just about picking a ship. It's choosing the experience you want onboard, the destinations you want to explore, the right itinerary, the right suite - and making sure you're spending your vacation budget on the things that actually matter to you.

That's where I come in.

As a luxury travel advisor, I help my clients sort through the options and find the cruise experience that fits how they actually like to travel.



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READY TO FIND YOURS?

Let's start planning at www.luxeglobaltravels.com or email amy@luxeglobaltravels.com.



Guide information current as of September 2026. Cruise inclusions, amenities and programs can change and may vary by sailing, fare or suite category. Your travel advisor can confirm current details for a specific voyage.