



WHICH

*small ship*

CRUISING EXPERIENCE IS  
RIGHT FOR YOU?



# Hello

Longing for an intimate, destination-focused vacation experience but unsure of where to begin? Consider a small cruise ship adventure! My name is Jeneé, and I assist travelers in planning their ideal vacations by booking stays on small luxury and unique ship cruises.



At Journey Travel, we pride ourselves on planning quintessential cruise vacations for our clients. When you plan with us, you'll find our custom travel options and experiences are created with an eye toward meeting all of your personal needs. In addition, we can aid with travel insurance, documents, and itineraries as well. With support from vacation planning experts that extends until your disembarkation port, you'll experience peace of mind and confidence in the guidance provided by the Journey Travel team.

For your convenience, I've included the specifics of each type of small ship for a potential cruise. These small ships range from Luxury Cruise Ships, Expedition Exploration Ships, River Cruise Ships, as well as Sailing Ships. I've also highlighted some of the destinations related to each type of small ship, such as Portugal's River of Gold or the Mississippi River Delta. Once you experience them for yourself, I think you'll agree that the ample features and benefits small ship cruises have to offer are surprisingly generous.

Read on to discover how diverse the small ship options are, the amazing destinations they'll carry you to, and how we can help in making your journey across sea and land like no other.

Enjoy!

## Jene'e



# *Which small ship cruise experience is right for you?*

If you've been yearning to explore the world in a different way then all of this information was created just for you. We feel it is most important to set the correct foundation when it comes to choosing exactly how to travel. We want to help you have a clear starting point for planning your vacation.

Here are a few questions to ask yourself to determine which cruise best suits your particular needs:

- Are you looking for luxury and pampering?
- Are you searching for adventure and wildlife?
- Do you want to immerse yourself in the history and culture of your destination?
- Would you prefer a river or an ocean cruise?
- Do you want to visit a specific country or exotic destination?
- What types of excursions or activities are you up for during your trip?
- Are you pining for forests or beaches?

Read on to find out which small ship cruise experience is right for you...



## Small Luxury Cruise Ships

Small luxury ships offer passengers a wide range of destinations and amenities. Aboard these vessels, it's not only about the destination but exceptional signature experiences. Small luxury ships regularly include spacious suites, spas, fitness centers, and an array of sumptuous dining preferences. A lower passenger-to-crew ratio also allows for more personalized attention, and who doesn't appreciate that?

Small luxury ships dock at smaller ports, which larger vessels can't easily access, offering more intimate and exclusive cruise experiences. This translates into more time ashore with fewer crowds and lines to deal with.

Whether it's formal nights or country club casual you're looking forward to, there are numerous small ship options to select from. Many of today's small luxury cruise lines offer exciting expedition opportunities to rival those normally found via travel on larger ships.

These luxurious small ships sail to some of the most renowned cities in the world.

### Explore these destinations on a small luxury cruise ship:

- **Australia & New Zealand** – From the cool blue expanse of the South Pacific Ocean you'll sail on to the splendor of Samoa, the Great Barrier Reef, Bali, Bora Bora, Akaroa, and wild Tasmania.
- **Arabia, India, & Africa** – Witness the magnificent sights of Bauhaus, the "White City" of Tel Aviv, Petra's intricate carvings, India's breathtaking Taj Mahal, or visit markets where silks, sandalwood, and spices are still traded.
- **Panama Canal** – See the centuries-old remains of Mayan civilizations or discover vibrant cultures that survived colonization in Brazil, Mexico, and Guatemala while dining on Mesoamerican delicacies.
- **Northern Europe** – Celebrate the rich culture and history of Scandinavia or the architectural treasures of nearby Russia. Marvel in medieval cathedrals and well-manicured formal gardens in the British Isles or the teaming wildlife and unparalleled beauty of Iceland and Greenland.



## Expedition Exploration Ships

Expedition ships position you closer to wildlife and offer adventures off the beaten path. These smaller exploration ships navigate through narrow fjords, channels, and shallow drafts. Excursions frequently include activities like kayaking, photography, snorkeling, and even ice trekking.

With an emphasis on preserving and protecting wildlife, excursions are led by trained expedition teams made up of naturalists and lecturers. The goal is to limit the footprint humans leave on nature while protecting important and delicate habitats.

Most expedition ships employ Zodiac vessels, which require entering and exiting these inflatable watercraft. Their use often coincides with "wet" landings, such as on beaches or shorelines, rather than a dry dock to alight upon. Once ashore, hikes are organized by intensity levels ranging from rigorous to leisurely. The choice is ultimately yours.

You can opt for a number of exciting expeditions to satisfy your inner explorer. The most adventurous voyages include Alaska, Europe, and Southeast Asia.

### Explore these destinations on an expedition exploration ship:

- **Alaska** – Expedition cruises are an ideal choice to explore the wild frontier of Alaska. The scenery and wildlife are sure to impress, along with thrilling excursions like rafting, helicopter tours, dog sledding, and salmon fishing.
- **The Canary Islands & Spain** – Experience Spain and its archipelagos on a Mediterranean exploration ship. Tour museums, dine at a tapas bar, hike scenic mountains, or take part in a variety of watersports.
- **Galapagos** – Considered to be one of the most secluded corners of the world, experience the natural wonders of the Galapagos where you'll see marine iguanas, ancient tortoises, and blue-footed boobies in between snorkeling and unwinding.
- **Antarctica** – Explore this wild and wonderful frozen continent and see penguins, whales, and six different species of seals in their natural habitat. You'll be amazed by just how truly beautiful the South Pole is.



## River Cruise Ships

From longships to paddlewheels, enjoy the pleasant passage of ever-changing scenery and landscapes as you leisurely cruise through quaint historical cities imbued with old-world charm. Whether visiting waterfalls or windmills, river cruising is a relaxing way to explore the many different regions of the world and the fascinating cultures that define them.

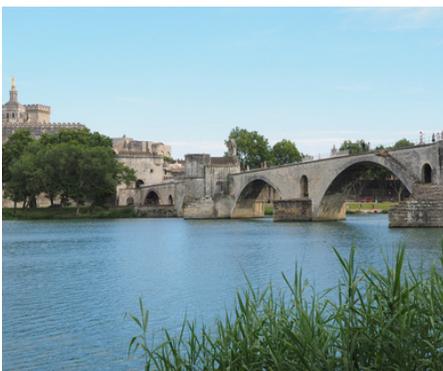
Like all accommodations, river cruise staterooms can vary. Some may have small picture windows while others feature floor-to-ceiling openings. Spacious French balconies and full suites are also commonly available. As an added attraction, most cruises offer guests regional entertainment in the evenings, such as Portuguese fado, folklore dance, or Viennese opera.

Once on shore, foodies and gourmands would be advised to follow the vessel's chef to local food markets, fans of architecture and history may want to tour a castle, and oenophiles can enjoy wine tastings at local vineyards. All of these activities allow passengers to take part in enriching activities and informative lectures on subjects like history, art, local crafts, food and cooking. For travelers eager to remain active, biking and walking tours are routinely available.

From Europe's magnificent waterways to the Mighty Mississippi, river cruise vacations abound.

### Explore these destinations on a river cruise ship:

- **Mississippi River** – Around each lazy bend lies rich American history and diverse cultures. Experience classic Southern charm and hospitality to traditional Scandinavian influences spanning all the way from the Gulf of Mexico to Minnesota's Lake Itasca.
- **Columbia River** – Travel back in time to expeditions of adventurers and frontiersmen like Lewis and Clark along the Columbia River Gorge. Gaze upon the breathtaking scenery of the Pacific Northwest as you sail gently downriver.
- **Douro River** – Known as Portugal's River of Gold, the Douro is brimming with history and beauty. Roam the landscape of Porto and discover one of Europe's oldest and most popular wine regions.
- **Seine River** – Take in beautiful northwest France as you sail from Paris to the Normandy coast. Cruises on the Seine celebrate both food and history in some of the most dazzling settings.



# Sailing Ships

There's nothing like sailing out of port as billowing canvas sails unfurl and you cut gracefully across the water's surface. Sailing ships offer ocean-view staterooms or suites with an abundance of open deck space.

From five-masted sail ships to more intimate settings such as yachts, these cruises are an unforgettable seafaring experience. The overall atmosphere on sailing ships is casual, but the captain can usually be counted on for hosting formal farewell dinners where classic eveningwear is the order of the day — or night.

Sailing ships also have the ability to dock at smaller ports, offering a more destination-focused cruise. This personalized approach allows for intimate moments in which you can soak up the local culture and uncover the hidden gems of a foreign land. Mediterranean sailing ship cruises tend to be the most popular, and with good reason.

## Explore these destinations on a sailing ship:

- **Greek Isles** – Discover the treasures of Greece by sailing into unique isles. Once on land, visit ancient fortresses and ruins or unwind on pristine beaches.
- **The Adriatic Sea** – Separating the Italian and Balkan peninsulas, this sparkling body of water boasts incredible cliffs and beaches to enjoy. Travelers will visit old-world Dubrovnik and Venice as they cruise the spectacular Adriatic Sea.
- **Spain, Portugal, and France** – Sail through a region bursting with delectable food and drink. Admire the stunning landscapes of each country as you take part in social rituals passed down for generations.
- **Eastern/Western Mediterranean** – Whether you sail the eastern or western portions of the Mediterranean, cast your gaze upon shimmering coastlines and revel in exceptional cultural experiences. These cruises wind through small island communities as you learn about historical battles and ancient myths.



# Top 12 itineraries for 2022/2023

We thought it would be a great idea to present you with some of our top itinerary picks for 2022 and 2023. If you are interested in any of the destinations listed, please do not hesitate to reach out to us so we can help you customize your vacation. We also offer payment plans that allow you to book your trip now and pay for it in installment (most find this option very convenient).

1. **Danube River** – Enjoy a soothing steam at a Budapest thermal bath, learn to waltz at a Viennese dance school, experience Austro-Hungarian cuisine in Vienna and Budapest, absorb the incomparable beauty of Wachau Valley, or explore lesser-known Central European cities such as Bratislava and Passau.
2. **Rhine River** – From Amsterdam and Cologne to Basel, discover turreted fortresses, grand cathedrals, historic cities, medieval towns, and the spectacular scenery of the Middle Rhine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll sample renowned white wines and savor various culinary traditions of Alsace.
3. **Amalfi Coast** – Enjoy scenic tours of Naples, Pompeii, Herculaneum, Vesuvius, Sorrento and other magnificent Italian treasures along this historic coast while indulging in local limoncello, a popular and delicious digestive drink.
4. **Mediterranean Islands** – Go island hopping from sunny Barcelona to exquisite Athens as you adventure in the Mediterranean like never before. Countless excursions await you in Lindos and Rhodes, where you can shop or summit nearby Mt. Filerimos and explore the ancient city of Ialysos from medieval streets.
5. **Adriatic Archipelagos & Greek Goddesses** – Witness the breathtaking treasures of the Adriatic shoreline and tiny Greek fishing villages seemingly untouched by the hands of time.
6. **Southeast Asia** – Live the true island life in Southeast Asia as you venture from Benoa to Singapore, Bali, Ubud, Vung Tau, Bophut Beach, and other exotic locales. Visit monuments, the National Orchid Garden, or the iconic Bến Thành Market while you're there.
7. **Mississippi River** – Go back in time as you cruise along the Mississippi River, a historical and timeless waterway where you can experience the heart of the Delta with stops that include New Orleans and Memphis and go as far north as St. Louis and St. Paul.
8. **Columbia River** – Relive journeys of explorers aboard a paddlewheel boat along the Columbia River Gorge or Snake River in the Pacific Northwest where you're surrounded by unspoiled nature and panoramic views.
9. **Alaska** – Immerse yourself in Alaska's thick forests, icy-blue glaciers, and quaint islands as you get up close and personal with nature. In addition to countless excursions, you'll witness glaciers calving, puffins, sea otters and other wilderness scenes you won't want to miss.
10. **The Canary Islands & Spain** – From historical sites to tropical views, this cruise includes the splendor of Spain and its glorious archipelagos. Visit Santa Cruz de Tenerife, the largest of the Canary Islands. From the yellow sands of Las Teresitas to the black sands of the quieter, clothing-optional Las Gaviotas, there's plenty to see and do on this cruise.
11. **Thailand & Vietnam** – Stroll tranquil beaches surrounded by lush palm trees throughout exotic Thailand and Vietnam. Visit the Pak Khlong Talat flower market in Bangkok or Thailand's ancient capital Ayutthaya. See Mekong's mysterious Cu Chi tunnels or savor a rare glimpse of rural life as it's been lived for eons in Tân Châu, where you can ride in a traditional rickshaw.
12. **Vietnam & Philippines** – From swimming in emerald waters to touring open-air museums, Vietnam and the Philippines are a vacationer's paradise. Declared "World's Best Island" by Travel + Leisure, Boracay Island is surrounded by miles of stunning beaches where you can spend the day frolicking on popular White Beach or find a deserted stretch of sand all to yourself. The island also offers luxurious spas and tons of water sports.



## *Things to consider*

**There is a cruise experience for everyone, but not every experience is ideal for every passenger. Journey Travel utilizes unique expertise to find a cruise that matches your vacation style and goals. Once we have determined which style of small ship cruising best suits you, a personalized vacation can be seamlessly crafted.**

**Feel confident in knowing that Journey Travel will assist you with every step of the vacation process from start to finish. Here are some additional items to take into consideration as you narrow down our small ship choices:**

- While many small luxury ships are all-inclusive, encompassing beverages, tipping, shore excursions, and gourmet dining options, others may be mostly inclusive, meaning that only some of the amenities are covered. It's important to know the difference.
- Whether or not shore activities will meet your level of expectations.
- The average age of passengers for your ship's itinerary.
- What the weather will be like at the time of year you want to travel and what time of year is best for the destinations you want to visit.
- The need for additional vaccines or immunizations to travel to your dream destination and whether your passport is the only ID you'll need on your trip.
- Current travel advisories or restrictions in place for the countries you want to visit.
- Whether your current driver's license meets the Real ID law so that you'll be able to board a plane in order to reach the port you're departing from.
- Whether to purchase travel insurance in case your trip is cancelled for whatever reason.
- Hidden port fees or taxes you should be aware of along the way.

A cruise is one of the most enjoyable ways to see the world, whether you are cruising in the Caribbean or the Mediterranean! After all, how else can you see multiple cities and countries and unpack and repack only once?



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