



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

WATER LEVELS & NAVIGATION REALITIES

High & Low Water Disruptions: Unlike deep-ocean ships, river vessels depend strictly on river depths. During extreme seasonal shifts (e.g., dry winters or heavy spring rain/snowmelt), high/ low water can prevent ships from clearing low bridges, while low water can cause ships to touch bottom.

"Ship Swaps" & Bus Transfers: If a section of the river becomes impassable, operators often execute a "ship swap". Passengers are bused around the obstructed lock or shallow stretch and transferred to an identical sister ship on the other side.

SHORE EXCURSIONS & MOBILITY EXPECTATIONS

Walking & Cobblestones: Excursions lean heavily on walking tours in historic city centers, which frequently feature uneven pavement, stairs, and cobblestone streets.

Pacing Groups: Most operators divide shore excursions by activity level (e.g., "gentle walkers" vs. "active/regular pace") to accommodate varying guest capabilities.

RAFTING (DOUBLE BERTHING): In busy ports, river ships often dock side-by-side ("rafted" together). Passengers may need to walk through another ship's lobby or over top-deck gangways to reach the shore.

PACKING ESSENTIALS

Sturdy Footwear: Comfortable, broken-in walking shoes or sneakers are mandatory for cobblestone streets.

Clothing: Dress in layers (summer/ spring)

Light jacket or a pullover is good to have handy. There are days when after Sunset, temperatures drop significantly.

Gents - shorts & sleeveless at dinner are NOT appreciated.

Ladies- knee length skirts or shorts are well accepted in public & onboard.

Long sleeve light shirt is recommended for sun protection not modesty.

Swimwear is recommended. Plunge pool, open air jacuzzi & sauna/steam are available.

Over-the-Counter Medications: River ships rarely carry a full medical doctor or an onboard pharmacy. Passengers should pack personal stocks of basic pain relievers, cold remedies, motion sickness pills, and prescription items.

POWER ADAPTORS & PLUG TYPES: 220 v. Type C/F dual-round-pin plugs same as in continental Europe.

TIPPING & CURRENCY

Onboard Account vs. Local Cash: Onboard incidentals are charged to a ship account and settled by credit card at disembarkation.

Gratuities Policy: Gratuities for the ship crew and tour guides may be required upfront.

To Crew-Gratuities - \$10 person/ daily- in cash at reception desk (e.g. 2 adults for 4 nights= \$80)

To Guide- \$5-7 person/ daily- in cash to guide personally

Wi-Fi on Board

Due to terrain & nature of provision Wi-Fi might be slow.

For fair usage- Wi-Fi connection is limited to browsing only.

YOUR COMFORT & HYDRATION

Temperatures reach over 35C (95F). Sun glasses and Sun hats might be a good idea, as well.

High SPF is mandatory. Mosquito repellent is recommended.

Make sure you keep a water bottle handy and stay hydrated.