

Eastern Europe Travel

Viking River Cruises 2009



As co-founder of the company 21 years ago in 1987 I am proud to say we are the longest established operator to Central/Eastern Europe and Russia in Australia. I lived in Russia for a number of years and have travelled extensively in Central and Eastern Europe as have all of my team, a number of whom were born there. We know it well and between us we speak Russian, Hungarian, Slovakian, Ukrainian, Czech, German and English!

We pride ourselves on our experience and knowledge and have a passion for our destinations. "Small enough to care but large enough to matter" – that is us!

As an Australian company we are a member of the Council of Australian Tour Operators, a licensed travel agency and a member of the national Travel Compensation Fund, which protects all clients' monies. Your travel plans really are in the safest of hands.

For 2009 we are again proud to be a preferred partner of Viking River Cruises, the world's largest and most experienced river cruise company with 22 vessels and over 175 years of heritage in European river cruising. See the next page to discover what makes Viking River Cruises so special and the best!

At Eastern Europe Travel we have extensive firsthand knowledge of the Viking fleet and regularly inspect the ships in Europe, Russia and China. We also travel selected sectors of cruises so we can evaluate the Viking experience. Our detailed knowledge of the Viking fleet ensures that you receive the most accurate and up to date information available when you

come to make your cruise selection. Need help? Just call and speak to one of our knowledgeable staff.

Want to extend your stay? Your cruise will begin or finish in many of the world's most fascinating cities and you will be sure to want to extend your stay. For over 20 years we have been sending Australians to Europe and Russia so we have the very best prices and packages at first class and deluxe hotels. Included are city sightseeing tours, theatre performances, and comprehensive full day tours to nearby famous attractions. Refer to our Central and Eastern Europe brochure or Russia brochure, or just ask one of our helpful reservation staff to create a package just for you.

Finally, if you have as few as 10 people travelling we can secure for you an attractive Group Discount, and the more who travel the greater the discount. Over many years our staff have arranged in excess of 500 group tours. Take advantage of our vast experience to secure the best prices and itinerary for your special group.

So once you have decided on which cruise/cruises that suit your requirements insist that your travel agent calls us immediately to reserve your stateroom. The average river cruise ship has only 75 staterooms – let's secure for you the dates and stateroom of your choice.

Bon voyage!

Jayne Thomas, Managing Director and co-founder

Why Viking River Cruises?



EXPERIENCE: With over 175 years of heritage in European river cruising, Viking River Cruises is the most knowledgeable company in the business. They were the first to offer Western managed river cruising in Russia, and their China management team has decades of experience in this unique destination. Over half a million passengers have enjoyed magical journeys with Viking through Europe, Russia and China.

WORLD'S LARGEST: Viking River Cruises operates the world's largest fleet – 22 deluxe river vessels built specifically for river cruising. All vessels are fully owned by Viking River Cruises and operated by their own Swiss hotel management and staff.

ELEGANT, COMFORTABLE SHIPS: Viking ships are Scandinavian in design, with open airy interiors and expansive, panoramic views from the picture window of your outside stateroom. Most vessels feature windows that open to the fresh air and the comfort of hotel style beds with European comforters, duvets and satellite TV. All rooms have private facilities, climate control, telephone and quality amenities including robes, slippers, and vanity set.

Each ship has an impressive observation lounge, restaurant with expansive picture windows, sun deck with 360-degree views and a cosy library. In 2009 there will be free wireless Internet [bring laptop] in Europe, and in Russia and China there will be computers in Internet cafes at a nominal charge.

The Viking Swiss management team recruit and train its entire staff from stateroom stewards up to Hotel Managers and Cruise Directors to ensure you receive the very best level of service. Senior staff possess many years of experience to bring you a level of expertise that other companies cannot match.

BEST SHIPS: Viking's 5-star ships in China are the best on the Yangtze River with a balcony in every spacious stateroom. In Russia the Viking Surkov and Kirov have had major refurbishments and upgrades to offer by far the very best staterooms and suites of any cruise ship there. And in 2009 the new Viking Legend will join the European fleet – 196 passengers will enjoy this state-of-the-art vessel featuring deluxe staterooms with French balconies or picture windows. Viking River Cruises is the leader in the design and building of new river cruise vessels.

COMPREHENSIVE SHORE EXCURSIONS: Each day you will enjoy at least one shore excursion to experience the culture, people and history of the destination. In most ports there is also free time for you to just relax onboard

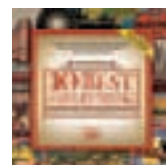
or explore the city at your leisure. And for 2009 there are now portable headsets, which will ensure you hear your guide's comments no matter where you stand.

OLD WORLD HIGHLIGHTS: This program complements the shore excursions with onboard learning and enhancement. Hands on cooking classes, Tai Chi lessons and seminars on Russian history and culture are just a few examples of the activities planned to illuminate your Viking experience. Viking River Cruises believe that travel isn't only about seeing the sights; it's about discovering its people, culture and history – exploring its very heart.

DINING: For breakfast choose from fruits, cereals, pastries, cheeses or many hot dishes made to order. For lunch, select from the soup and sandwich bar or choose an entrée and dessert from the menu. At dinner a five-course menu awaits with regional specialties like Viennese schnitzel or Barbary duck. Seating is free style – sit where you wish and at a single seating. Crisp tablecloth linens, sparkling china and crystal, flowers and candles, complemented by impeccable service, guarantee that dining with Viking is an elegant experience. Ask about the new Silver Spirits premium beverage package that you can purchase at time of booking.

CRUISE ITINERARIES: Viking River Cruises offers by far the largest and most comprehensive range of cruise itineraries – 19 in total. Choose from Amsterdam to Budapest, Kiev to Odessa, St Petersburg to Moscow, Budapest to Nuremberg, Avignon to Chalon-sur-Saône, Paris to Prague, three China itineraries and many many more. Nobody offers you greater choice.

AWARDS: Viking consistently wins the top awards from those who really know – Conde Naste Traveler's Gold List; Readers Choice and Best Small Ships awards; *Travel + Leisure's* World's Best; National Geographic's *The 10 Best of Everything*.



WHY VIKING? IT'S SIMPLY THE BEST!