



# Cruise and Travel News

Published by Master Cruise Counselors Don & LaVerne Cwiklowski • Owners of *CRUISES 'n MORE Travel*



**A Viking river cruise on the Danube**

**A** river cruise?" Yes, a river cruise was our suggestion when a client recently asked us for something different to do for their vacation, having "been there and done that" on previous trips. For clients who have been on larger ships, sailing on river ships may seem daunting until they try their first one. "I'll never sail on a larger ship again!" "It was wonderful!" "I was really impressed!" Those are some of the many comments we have heard after placing our clients on river cruises. There are river cruises all over the world including the United States where people who don't want to fly can easily drive to meet their river ship. There's no end to the possibilities.

**S**o what's so different about a river cruise as opposed to the larger ships? First of all size. Most river ships carry between 100 to 200 guests and are approximately 360 feet long. They dock at

the central ports where larger ships often can't reach. And when water levels are low, river ships maneuver around bends and into locks making them extremely safe. Plus, there are many small differences such as elegant ships; personalized attention from the staff; wine and beer with dinner each evening; included shore excursions; bicycles that are free to borrow; and more. Read our Clients Corner for one of our client's views of river cruising after sailing on the *Viking Sky*.

**R**egardless if you're a first-time cruiser or an experienced cruiser, consider a river cruise for your next vacation. You will be pleasantly surprised and after your first river cruise, you will want to try the next one and the next one.....well, you get the idea! Call *Cruises 'n More Travel*, 636-463-2648 for more information about river cruising.

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**A Moment to Remember**

The trip through the Saguenay fjord in Canada is stunning. And the highlight is seeing the statue of the Virgin Mary perched on a cliff about 500 feet above the water. The original statue was made of wood and has been restored more than three times since.

Story has it that a local trader named Charles Robitaille erected the statue after nearly losing his life when going through the ice with his horse. He was convinced that due to his extensive praying to the Virgin Mary, he was saved. Later he fell gravely ill and he promised to do something extra ordinary for her if he survived. He did survive and afterwards had a 50 foot high wooden statue sculpted of the Virgin Mary, by one of the most famous sculptors in Quebec. The statue was taken by boat in three pieces to Cap Trinite in Saguenay fjord and erected on the edge of the cliff. It is painted white with a blue robe.

Now many ships which cruise up the Saguenay fjord slowly turn around at the point of the statue before cruising back to the St. Lawrence river. It is a momentous occasion as *Ave Maria* is played over the loud speakers as the ship slowly turns to give everyone a full view of the statue.

Saguenay fjord offers breathtaking scenery with its 1500 foot cliffs on each side of the water. It is also the breeding grounds for the beluga whales which can often be seen as the ships sail by. However, 7-night cruises often don't make the cruise into Saguenay fjord so if this is a particular option on your list of "must-see" things to do, plan accordingly. *Cruises 'n More Travel* can help you plan your Canada/New England cruise to see what you want to see. Call them now 636-463-2648 for more information.

### THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE

*"One fine night when we were all in bed, Old Mother O'Leary lit a lantern in the shed and when the cow kicked it over, she winked her eye and said, 'There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight'....."*

Do you remember singing this song when you were a youngster? The month of October is the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire. However, the legend of Catherine O'Leary starting the fire in her shed seems to be a reporter's fabrication. The actual cause of the fire is, in fact, to this day, uncertain. The fire started on October 8 and burned until October 10, 1871. Most homes and businesses at that time were built of wood and because of a prevailing wind which drove the fire to the north, contributed to the fire's spread. When the city's water facility burned, the fire fighters were soon without water and nothing could be done to control the rapid fire. Finally, the fire burned itself out with the help of rain. Thirty-four blocks were burned destroying millions in property value and leaving 90,000 people homeless, almost a third of the city's population. Fatalities were between two and three hundred. Quite a casualty!

**Check our website**

**[www.cruisesnmore.info](http://www.cruisesnmore.info)**

**Groups, Tours, Information  
about our agency,**

**Purchase Travel Insurance  
and More!**

## CLIENT'S CORNER

*Cities of Lights* By Jim Kelly

We began our vacation in Prague where we arrived a day early, prior to our river cruise. I highly recommend at least an extra day in Prague. It is a beautiful city



**Kelly group enjoy a tour while on the *Viking Sky*.**

with much to see and it is rather inexpensive.

After Prague we took a bus to Nuremburg where we met the ship and toured the city. It was interesting to see where the Nuremburg war trials took place and to walk the parade grounds where Hitler held his rallies.

Upon embarkation on *Viking Cruise Lines Viking Sky*, we sailed up the River Main stopping each day to tour numerous picturesque villages in Germany such as Bamberg, Rothenberg, Mainz and Cochem. It was a very nice ship carrying approximately 140 passengers with good sized staterooms for river cruising. The food and service on the ship were excellent.

The cruise ended in Trier where we toured the city and visited General Patton's

grave. We then bussed to Paris for a day and a half of touring. After the tour ended



in Paris we extended our vacation for several more days in Paris and two days in Normandy before returning home. If you ever visit France, you must see Normandy. It is an incredible experience. So much history!

This was our second and certainly not our last river cruise. The year before this trip on the *Viking Sky*, we cruised from Moscow to St. Petersburg on *AMA's Tolstoy*. We walked on Red Square, toured the Kremlin and visited the magnificent castles in St. Petersburg, just to mention a few highlights.

River cruising is a much more personal experience. You are on a smaller ship so you have the opportunity to get to know the other passengers as well as the crewmembers. River cruising provides you with the lovely riverside scenery, the castles, the quaint villages and on our current trip, the rolling vineyards. We loved stopping in these villages and walking about. If you've never been on a river cruise I highly recommend you give it a try!

## River Cruises

*Cruises 'n More Travel* heartedly agrees with Jim Kelly and his thoughts on river cruising. Maybe you have questions about river cruising. Perhaps we can answer some of them.

First of all, what do you want to see on a river cruise? Remember, there are many, many rivers all over the world to choose from. Is price a major concern for you? If so, many of the river cruise lines offer two-for-one pricing on certain cruises. Also some river cruise lines offer free air from certain major cities. Unlike major cruise lines with large ships, the prices in river cruise lines brochures are usually the prices you pay if two-for-one specials are not available.

However, remember what you get with river cruises. Not all but most river cruise lines include: complimentary tours in every city where you port; complimentary wine and sometimes beer with dinner; use of free bicycles; sometimes cooking classes onshore; entertainers from each region onboard nightly to teach the traditions of the regions; and much, much more! And river cruises in Europe even offer special Christmas markets cruises for shopping and tastings of great regional foods such as sausages, pastries, cookies and potato pancakes!

Ready for a river cruise? Call *Cruises 'n More Travel*. We sell *AMA Waterways*, *American Cruise Lines*, *Avalon Waterways*, and *Viking River Cruises*. Call us-636-463-2648 today!

**A Few Of Our Groups!**  
**Check our website or call us - 636-463-2648.**

**HAWAII**  
**PRIDE OF AMERICA**  
*May 14, 2011*  
**7 Night Cruise**  
**Roundtrip Honolulu**  
**Fares begin at \$1089.00**  
 Prices are per person, double occupancy, and in US dollars. Prices are based on availability and subject to change. Govt. taxes, port charges and airfare are additional.  
 Ship's registry: USA

**GREEK ISLES**  
*Holland America Line*  
**NOORDAM**  
*June 30, 2011*  
**10 Night Cruise**  
**Roundtrip Rome**  
**Fares begin at \$1469.00**  
 Prices are per person, double occupancy and in US dollars. Prices are based on availability and subject to change. Govt. taxes, port charges and airfare are additional.  
 Ship's registry: Netherlands

**HOLY LAND**  
*Royal Caribbean*  
**MARINER OF THE SEAS**  
*October 14, 2011*  
**12 Night Cruise**  
**Roundtrip Rome**  
**Fares begin at \$1330.00**  
 Prices are per person, double occupancy and in US dollars. Prices are based on availability and subject to change. Govt. taxes, port charges and airfare are additional.  
 Ship's registry: Liberia

**CANADA**  
*Holland America Line*  
**MAASDAM**  
*June 4, 2011*  
**7 Night Cruise**  
**Montreal to Boston**  
**Fares begin at \$759.00**  
 Prices are per person, double occupancy, and in US dollars. Prices are based on availability and subject to change. Govt. taxes, port charges and airfare are additional.  
 Ship's registry: Netherlands

**MEDITERRANEAN**  
**CARNIVAL MAGIC**  
*July 3, 2011*  
**7 Night Cruise**  
**Fares begin at \$660.00**  
 Prices are per person, double occupancy and in US dollars. Prices are based on availability and subject to change. Govt. taxes, port charges and airfare are additional.  
 Ship's registry: The Bahamas

**WESTERN CARIBBEAN**  
**CARNIVAL PARADISE**  
*January 23, 2012*  
**5 Night Cruise**  
**Roundtrip Tampa**  
**Fares begin at \$215.00!**  
 Prices are per person, double occupancy and in US dollars. Prices are based on availability and subject to change. Govt. taxes, port charges and airfare are additional.  
 Ship's registry: Panama

**EASTERN CARIBBEAN**  
**NORWEGIAN EPIC**  
*November 26, 2011*  
**7 Night Cruise**  
**Roundtrip Miami**  
**Fares begin at \$529.00**  
 Prices are per person, double occupancy and in US dollars. Prices are based on availability and subject to change. Govt. taxes, port charges and airfare are additional.  
 Ship's registry: Bahamas

**CANADA**  
*Holland America Line*  
**EURODAM**  
*September 30, 2011*  
**10 Night Cruise**  
**New York to Quebec**  
**Fares begin at \$1499.00**  
 Prices are per person, double occupancy and US dollars. Prices are based on availability and subject to change. Govt. taxes, port charges and airfare are additional.  
 Ship's registry: Netherlands

**EASTERN CARIBBEAN**  
*Royal Caribbean*  
**OASIS OF THE SEAS**  
*February 11, 2012*  
**7 Night Cruise**  
**Roundtrip Ft. Lauderdale**  
**Fares begin at \$820.00**  
 Prices are per person, double occupancy and in US dollars. Prices are based on availability and subject to change. Govt. taxes, port charges and airfare are additional.  
 Ship's registry: Bahamas

**ALASKA !**

**D**o you know its time to think about Alaska for 2011? Most people don't realize that ships fill up by the end of the year. Then when people call their travel agents to plan an Alaska cruise or cruise/tour, they have to change their dates, the ship or the tour they want and take what's left!

**C**ruises 'n More Travel doesn't want that to happen to you! We have several Alaska groups that are firm and have availability. These groups were chosen from our own experiences in the Great Land and we know they are the ones that are favorites among our clients. See the column following for information on our Alaska groups.

**I**n Alaska, Cruises 'n More Travel prefers *Holland America Line*. Why? First of all, they have been there longer than any other cruise line. And *Holland America Line* is the only company that goes into the Yukon. If you're thinking of a cruise/tour, isn't it important to see where the Gold Rush began? *Holland America Line* Alaska railcars and motor coaches have won numerous awards and their ships are rated five stars. In fact, staterooms are 25% larger than the industry standard. And in Alaska, *Holland America Line* has a unique "Just for Kids" shore excursion program; an on-board naturalist on every cruise; and also, a native Alaska Artist-In-Residence on every ship.

Continued →

**S**o what are you waiting for? Go with the Best! Book your 2011 Alaska trip today! Call us-636-463-2648.

**Our Alaska Groups!**

**ALASKA**

**We have 4 *Holland America Line* Alaska groups!  
Call for details on each!**

- **AMSTERDAM**  
*June 24, 2011*  
**14 Night cruise**  
**Roundtrip Seattle**
  
- **ZUIDERDAM**  
*June 8, 2011*  
**Cruise/Tour #8**  
**6 Nights land**  
**4 Nights cruise**
  
- **VOLENDAM**  
*June 9, 2011*  
**Cruise/Tour #4**  
**10 Nights land**  
**4 Nights cruise**
  
- **ZUIDERDAM**  
*August 15, 2011*  
**Cruise/Tour #10**  
**8 Nights land**  
**4 Nights cruise**

**Ships' registry: Netherlands**

***Have a group? Give us the details and we'll set up an Alaska group just for you!  
Its not too late! Call us -  
636-463-2648***

**The Stampeders**

**T**oday in order to see the White Pass trail the Stampeders walked, you must take the White Pass & Yukon Railroad from Skagway to Whitehorse. The summit of the trail was believed to be the boundary between the United States and Canada. The Stampeders met the Canadian Mounties at the summit and before they could cross into Canada they were obliged to carry a year's supply of food, etc. A partial list required follows:

- 350# flour
- 150# bacon
- 100# sugar
- 100# beans
- 25# rice
- 50# dry salt pork
- 100# dried fruit
- 50# salt
- 20# condensed milk
- 50# cornmeal
- 50# rolled oats
- 50# coffee
- 25# dried beef
- 25# dried potatoes
- 10# dried onions
- 10# baking powder
- 2# condensed soup
- Box of candles
- 2 dozen bars of soap
- 1/2 tin matches

Plus, tools, overshoes, cooking utensils and more. Almost a ton of supplies to carry up the mountain! Many had horses but most died on the trail along with thousands of Stampeders! The Gold Rush was a sad story indeed!