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**Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Announces Plan a Cruise Month “Cruise Europe Week”**  
*CLIA Highlights Cruise Travel Opportunities and Experiences in Europe*

**WASHINGTON, DC, October 3, 2017** -- Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), the unified voice and leading authority of the global cruise community, is highlighting some of the most popular cruise destinations in time for Plan a Cruise Month. During the first week of the campaign, CLIA is shining a spotlight on European cruise destinations including things to do, dishes to eat, and more.

“From historic architecture to diverse cultures, Europe offers a variety of experiences and a cruise can take you there,” said Cindy D’Aoust, president and CEO, CLIA. “Whether it’s on a river cruise through France or Baltic ocean cruise, a cruise vacation offers a convenient way to explore everything Europe has to offer.”

**Highlights of Cruising through Europe**

**Diverse Destinations:** From the British Isles to the Seine, the available cruise itineraries around Europe are seemingly endless for history-loving travelers, foodies, and everyone in between.

- **Lyon, France:** France’s “culinary capital” is a brilliant destination for both seasoned epicures and everyday foodies, and includes trips to the famous Les Halles food market or an induction ceremony at a famous winery for cruisers looking to imbibe.
- **Tallin, Estonia:** This historic city combines sleek Scandinavian aesthetic with Soviet-era sights. Filled with sidewalk cafes, art galleries, and storied architecture, Tallin lends itself to cruisers looking to sightsee on foot or relax in a café and people-watch.
- **Olden, Norway:** For travelers looking to become immersed in a beautiful postcard-worthy landscape, Olden is an unsuspecting destination. This Norwegian port village offers travelers outdoor adventures like glacier-fed lake fishing, as well as tourist attractions like the “Old Church” which dates back to 1759.
- **Regensburg, Germany:** Cruisers can visit the city that mostly survived World War II to experience the storybook beauty of Romanesque and Gothic structures, bridges, and courtyards. While there, travelers can taste traditional German sausages and cuisine at the famous Regensburg Sausage Kitchen.

**Off-the-Beaten-Path Adventures:** Europe is home to some of the most well-known castles, cathedrals, and picturesque villages, but the region has even more to offer with exciting and unexpected experiences to be had.

- **Tulips in the Netherlands:** Travelers can experience the breathtaking tulip fields for which the Netherlands are known for with guided tours and walks through acres of blooms.
- **French Truffle Hunting:** Cruisers can search for a “black diamond” at truffle farms throughout France to seek out the culinary jewel. Truffle-hunting dogs can even assist the excursion.
- **Soaking in Budapest:** This capital city offers a unique chance to soak in warm waters full of the Earth’s minerals, as it houses more than eighty active thermal springs and wells.
- **Drinking in Dublin:** Cruise travelers looking to sip a few suds can tour the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin, complete with the history of the brew and a tasting perfect for beer aficionados and history-lovers alike.
- **Prehistoric Adventure in Malta:** Cruisers to Malta can visit the Prehistoric Temple of Hagar Qim, a megalithic temple etched from limestone and one of the most ancient religious sites in the world.

### **CLIA Travel Tips when Cruising Europe**

- **Trust a Travel Agent:** A CLIA-certified travel agent can create an experience built around travelers' preferences and travel goals. By leaving the logistics to a professional and having an expert at the ready, it takes the stress out of cruise vacation planning.
- **Pack Up:** Cruising allows travelers to see the world but only unpack their suitcase once, which mitigates much of the vacation packing stress. When it comes to packing, travelers should keep the Four E's in mind: Essentials (toiletries, basic clothing), Extras (surge protectors, European outlet adapters), Excursions (hiking boots, bathing suits), and Elements (foldable ponchos, UPF-protected sun gear).
- **Become Ship Savvy:** Getting to know the layout of the ship can help cruisers when looking for cafes, restrooms, or the pool, and cut down on time wandering the ship in search of something specific. Cruisers are encouraged to pick up any available ship materials including a map of the layout, daily newsletters, and activity bulletins.

### **More about Plan a Cruise Month:**

October is Plan a Cruise Month – a worldwide movement to learn more about cruising and how to plan and take a cruise vacation. The campaign, created by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), the unified voice and leading authority of the global cruise community, offers insight on the best cruise destinations, special cruise line deals and promotions as well as experts to help navigate the many cruise vacation options available for every travel style and budget. Travelers can find a CLIA-certified cruise specialist at [cruising.org/cruise-vacationer/plan-a-cruise/clia-agent-finder](https://cruising.org/cruise-vacationer/plan-a-cruise/clia-agent-finder). For more information about Plan a Cruise Month, visit [www.Cruising.org](https://www.Cruising.org).

### **About Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) – One Industry, One Voice**

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) is the world's largest cruise industry trade association, providing a unified voice and leading authority of the global cruise community. The association has 15 offices globally with representation in North and South America, Europe, Asia and Australasia. CLIA supports policies and practices that foster a safe, secure, healthy and sustainable cruise ship environment for the more than 24 million passengers who cruise annually and is dedicated to promote the cruise travel experience. Members are comprised of the world's most prestigious ocean, river and specialty cruise lines; a highly trained and certified travel agent community; and cruise line suppliers and partners, including ports & destinations, ship development, suppliers and business services. The organization's mission is to be the unified global organization that helps its members succeed by advocating, educating and promoting for the common interests of the cruise community. For more information, visit [www.cruising.org](https://www.cruising.org) or follow Cruise Lines International Association on CLIA [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.



## Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Cruise Line Members Offer Cruise Travel through Europe

To celebrate *Plan a Cruise Month* this October, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) cruise line members are sharing exciting and unexpected experiences when cruising through Europe.

### AIDI Cruises

- AIDAprera will be setting sail in 2018 from Hamburg for the metropolises of Western Europe. AIDA Sol will be visiting Norway's fascinating landscapes. AIDAcara's cruises go even farther north, as far as Iceland and Greenland. On the Seine, AIDAvita will travel as far as Rouen, where it will spend a night; on the Scheldt, cruisers will sail to Antwerp to enjoy the sites.
- AIDA ships will also be setting out from Kiel and Warnemünde for destinations such as Norway, Spitsbergen and the treasures of the Baltic. Cruisers can enjoy the white nights and unique events such as the opening of the Peterhof Fountains and the "Scarlet Sails" festival, on its "Grand Baltic Cruise 3" route. AIDAcara will be spending no fewer than three days in St. Petersburg.

### AmaWaterways

- Cruise travelers looking for history can board AmaWaterways' Europe's Rivers and Castles cruises where guests will sail four different rivers (Danube, Rhine, Moselle, and Main) and experience Luxembourg, Trier—the oldest city in Germany—medieval towns, the dramatic scenery of the Rhine River Gorge and beautiful castles and fortresses along the way.
- Wine connoisseurs can partake in the line's **Taste of Bordeaux** seven-night cruise roundtrip from Bordeaux, where they can explore chateaus, vineyards and gorgeous scenery along the Garonne river while visiting ports like Cadillac, Bourg and Libourne. Travelers onboard can also enjoy some of the world's most distinguished wines and vineyards.

### Avalon Waterways

- Avalon Waterways offers nature-loving travelers a chance to experience the Tulip Time Cruise for Garden Enthusiasts. On this cruise, travelers will discover the most beautiful gardens and parks famous throughout Europe for inspirational, horticultural art including the gardens of Keukenhof near Lisse, offering 70 acres of parkland with lakes, sculpture gardens and greenhouse. In Amsterdam, a Local Guide will show travelers the secret hidden gardens found in the heart of the city. Those inspired by all-things garden and nature will also enjoy getting an inside look at some of the spectacular private gardens and courtyards of 17<sup>th</sup>-century homes.
- Adventurers on Avalon can book their Active Discovery on the Rhine itinerary which includes: biking along the Rhine River and a running or hiking tour of Amsterdam. Avalon travelers can even dress up in real Roman attire and participate in a reenactment of the Roman Games, tour an extinct volcano and a coal mine – a UNESCO World Heritage Site."

### **Celestyal Cruises**

- Cruisers to Greece can board Celestyal Cruises, which features two overnights in Mykonos and one overnight in Santorini—great for travelers looking to enjoy both the beauty of the area by day, perfect sunsets, and the nightlife. This new Idyllic itinerary for 2018 will feature multiple stops through Greece.
- Meanwhile on Celestyal's Euphoric itinerary, travelers can experience the classical history of the Aegean Sea while onboard the ship. Travelers can look for the lost city of Atlantis or explore the mythology of the island while visiting Santorini's Caldera.

### **Costa Cruises**

- Costa Cruises offers Mediterranean itineraries year-round from mini-holidays to one- or two-week cruises in the Western Mediterranean, as well as in the Eastern Mediterranean, with itineraries to Greece, Croatia, and Malta. The line's La Valletta itinerary includes unique excursions like strolling in La Valletta, swimming with dolphins, and tours of the famed Blue Grotto.
- Photography enthusiasts can take part in panoramic, picturesque walks along the ancient walls of Dubrovnik with a local guide, and nature-lovers can kayak the Croatian seas onboard some of Costa's European cruises where kayakers will begin under the Lovrijenac Fortress and travel along the southern parts of the City Walls towards the island of Lokrum and to the Betina Beach where there is an opportunity to snorkel.

### **Crystal Cruises**

- On the Highlighting the Edinburgh Tattoo cruise; Crystal Cruise travelers can experience the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo – part of the annual Edinburgh International Festival (the largest celebration of arts and culture in the world) and a very special highlight of Crystal Symphony's overnight stay in the Scottish capital.
- Golf lovers can rejoice on the line's Baltic Reflections cruise where the Golf Program is a main event, hosted by PGA Teaching Professional Bill Stutzer and a special Celebrity Golfer & Speaker. In addition to rounds of golf on some of the world's most renowned courses, golfing guests will receive a schedule of golf events, golf-related gear like shirts and balls, and they will also be invited to the VIP Golfers Welcome Cocktail Reception.

### **Disney Cruise Line**

- Disney Cruise Line guests can experience the rich culture of Barcelona and inspiring history of Rome as bookend experiences in a single cruise. In Rome, guests can explore the Colosseum, the Trevi Fountain and the Vatican, and sample authentic local cuisine. Barcelona offers beautiful beaches, the market streets of Las Ramblas, the artistic architecture of Gaudi and the famed Sagrada Família church.
- Disney Cruise Line travelers can also visit Cork, Ireland, home to a vibrant culinary scene and a plethora of pubs, shops and cafes. It invites visitors to connect with Ireland's ancient past, with historic sites like Blarney Castle, where visitors can kiss the famed Blarney Stone.

## MSC Cruises

- MSC Meraviglia, the largest ship to-date for MSC Cruises, was recently christened in Le Havre, France and includes calls at ports in Italy, Spain, and France. Themed tours include a variety of Foodie Tours with excursions including underground Naples & Pizza Making, Harbour Cruise & Wine Tasting Tour, Wine-tasting in Barcelona, Tapas Culinary Experience in Barcelona, and a Jamón Experience at Barcelona's Jamón Museum.
- When it comes to onboard entertainment, MSC's ship is also the first to have an exclusive partnership with Cirque du Soleil at Sea, including two shows in a Carousel Lounge, designed specifically for the needs of Cirque du Soleil performers. Guests looking to get active can experience an exciting waterpark with a thrilling [Himalayan Bridge](#).

## Royal Caribbean International

- Cruisers onboard a number of Royal Caribbean International cruises in Europe can visit Mallorca's Drach Caves, home to the largest underground lake in the world. Travelers can experience the cave's authentic beauty and continue to Majorica Pearl, a modern showroom, to learn more about the ancient artisan process of manufacturing pearls.
- Thrill-seekers can Kayak the Geirangerfjord on a Royal excursion in the Fjords of Norway while visiting the Seven Sisters and Bridal Veil waterfalls.

## Tauck

- Sightseers and historians can check out Tauck's Royal Danube itinerary, a seven-night cruise along the Danube that visits Bayreuth, Kelheim, Straubing, Linz, Krems and the Wachau Valley before arriving in Vienna. Along the way, guests enjoy a choice of sightseeing in each port of call, ranging from history-focused excursions exploring World War II to a walking tour of Jewish heritage sites, to a visit to a BMW automobile factory.
- The line's Rhine Enchantment, Milan to Amsterdam cruise likewise begins a guided sightseeing tour in the city, and includes a viewing of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper." The itinerary also includes a day-long excursion to Lake Como, where guests will cruise on its waters and enjoy a six-course lunch at a family-owned trattoria on the island of Isola Comacina.

## Uniworld River Cruises

- The Uniworld River Cruises line launched its *Rhine Main Discovery & Munich* itinerary in 2017, becoming the first river cruise company to offer Jewish exploration on the Rhine River. This themed river cruise showcases the rich Jewish history and culture of Germany and provides a balanced and in-depth exploration of the region.
- Uniworld's partnership with premier active tour operator, Butterfield & Robinson, is expanding in 2018 to include active itineraries on the Rhine River including taking travelers on Uniworld's most popular itineraries for exceptional biking experiences along Europe's renowned waterways.