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## VIKING CELEBRATES START OF 2024 RIVER SEASON IN EUROPE

*New Winter River Voyage Extends Viking's Sailing Season on the Danube River*

LOS ANGELES, March 20, 2024 /PRNewswire/ -- Viking® ([www.viking.com](http://www.viking.com)) today is celebrating the start of its 2024 river season in Europe, as the award-winning [Viking Longship®](#) fleet begins sailing itineraries throughout the region. Designed specifically for European waterways, the company's river fleet of sister ships, which host 190 or fewer guests, sail a variety of itineraries on the Rhine, Main, Danube, Seine, Rhône, Douro, Moselle and Elbe rivers.



"With its rich history, culture and scenic regions that are best explored by river, Europe remains our most popular destination," said Torstein Hagen, Chairman of Viking. "As more curious travelers become familiar with river voyages as a seamless method for exploring, we are pleased to begin a new season on Europe's iconic waterways."

Viking has also announced a new opportunity to call on ports along the Danube River during the winter months with the 10-day itinerary, [Treasures of the Danube](#). The new voyage will sail between Budapest and Passau, from December 2024 until early March 2025. Viking guests also have the choice to explore the Rhine River during the winter season, with the 10-day [Treasures of the Rhine](#) itinerary, which debuted in December 2023 and sails between Amsterdam and Basel. An ideal time to visit, winter offers guests smaller crowds, easier

access to landmarks and opportunities to savor local traditions.

### **Viking's River Voyages in Europe:**

Sailing March through December, some of Viking's other popular river itineraries in Europe include:

- [\*\*\*Rhine Getaway\*\*\*](#) (8 days; **Amsterdam—Basel**) – Explore one of Europe's best-loved rivers. Discover the turreted fortresses, grand cathedrals, historic cities, medieval towns and stunning scenery of the Middle Rhine—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Taste the region's renowned white wines, the roots of its terraced vineyards reaching back to Roman times. Savor the various culinary traditions of Alsace. With calls in Amsterdam, Cologne and Basel, this journey reveals a rich landscape of beauty and culture.
- [\*\*\*Danube Waltz\*\*\*](#) (8 days; **Budapest—Passau**) – Soak up soothing steam at a Budapest thermal bath. Learn to waltz at a Viennese dance school. Savor Austro-Hungarian cuisine in Vienna and Budapest. Admire the Wachau Valley's beauty. Explore lesser-known Central European cities like Bratislava and Passau. Witness daily monastic life on an exclusive visit to Göttweig Abbey. This eight-day itinerary reveals the best of these places while cruising leisurely through spectacular scenery.
- [\*\*\*Romantic Danube\*\*\*](#) (8 days; **Budapest—Regensburg**) – Visit Budapest's Castle District and cross the famous Chain Bridge. Explore Göttweig Abbey, one of Austria's most revered monastic centers, and make dumplings with Wachau Valley apricots. Visit historic Salzburg. Spend two days in Vienna, and celebrate the city's musical heritage at a concert featuring works by Mozart and Strauss. With medieval towns, grand cities and stunning scenery, this 8-day journey on the "Blue Danube" is one you are sure to love.
- [\*\*\*Paris & the Heart of Normandy\*\*\*](#) (8 days; **Paris roundtrip**) – Dock in the heart of Paris, admiring views of the Eiffel Tower and a replica of the Statue of Liberty from your ship. Experience history firsthand at the Normandy beaches and delight in Rouen's Gothic architecture. Explore Giverny and the charming house and gardens where Claude Monet lived and worked, the setting inspiring many of his masterpieces. This voyage celebrates history, art, food and customs in France's most alluring urban and pastoral settings.
- [\*\*\*Lyon & Provence\*\*\*](#) (8 days; **Lyon—Avignon**) – Tap into your inner van Gogh at an Arles painting class. Discover Roman Provence at Les Arènes d'Arles and the Pont du Gard. Explore the world's largest Gothic palace at Avignon's grand Palace of the Popes. Excite your palate in Lyon, capital of French gastronomy. Savor local wines, hunt for truffles and see how chèvre cheese is made. Come witness the beauty that inspired artists like Cézanne and Chagall on this eight-day voyage along the Rhône.
- [\*\*\*Christmas on the Rhine\*\*\*](#) (8 days; **Basel—Amsterdam**) – Immerse yourself in the spirit of Christmas as you journey through storybook villages. Sample tasty yuletide treats and regional delicacies as you browse colorful stalls for handcrafted ornaments and unique gifts. Admire the twinkling lights of Cologne and revel in the merry atmosphere of the Rhine Valley, as storefront displays, wine cellars and markets embrace the holiday season. This 8-day voyage is a joyful celebration of festive cheer.
- [\*\*\*Danube Christmas Delights\*\*\*](#) (8 days; **Budapest—Passau**) – Pass through Europe's most enchanting countries, stopping to explore cultural capitals and fairy-tale villages. Savor Austro-Hungarian cuisine, admire the Wachau Valley's beauty and explore

Central European cities. Take part in European holiday traditions and experience the region's renowned Christmas markets. Breathe in the scents of traditional fare and admire the handiwork of local artisans—perfect for bringing home to your family and friends.

- **[Christmas on the Seine](#) (8 days; Paris roundtrip)** – Embrace the holiday season with a taste of Joyeux Noel. Explore Paris, France's twinkling "City of Light." Sail through the snow-covered landscapes of Normandy's countryside and admire the scenes of fairy-tale villages along the way. Enjoy the scented aroma of mulled wine and roasted chestnuts amid a festive backdrop of Christmas markets. Onboard festivities include regional dining specialties, seasonal treats and more to celebrate the holidays.
- **[Portugal's River of Gold](#) (10 days; Lisbon—Porto)** – Experience the renaissance of Lisbon, newly invigorated with trending galleries and restaurants. Explore two of Iberia's oldest university towns: Coimbra, Portugal and Salamanca, Spain. Roam the port warehouses of Porto. Enjoy traditional cuisine, wine and fado singing. Cruise the Douro River Valley, the world's oldest demarcated wine region and a UNESCO Site. Our 10-day cruisetour includes a hotel stay in Lisbon and the added bonus of a visit to Spain.
- **[Grand European Tour](#) (15 days; Budapest – Amsterdam)** – Admire Rhine Valley vistas from a 900-year-old castle. Sample the food and wine of Austria's Wachau Valley. Learn the Viennese waltz and linger in Budapest's Café Gerbeaud. Indulge all your senses on this 15-day journey spanning the best of Europe. Our most iconic itinerary traces the Rhine, Main and Danube Rivers between the windmill-dotted waterways of Holland and the stunning landscapes of Hungary, with engaging encounters at every bend.

## Media Assets

For more information about Viking, or for images and b-roll, please contact [vikingpr@edelman.com](mailto:vikingpr@edelman.com).

## About Viking

Viking was founded in 1997 and provides destination-focused journeys on rivers, oceans and lakes around the world. Designed for curious travelers with interests in science, history, culture and cuisine, Chairman Torstein Hagen often says Viking offers experiences for The Thinking Person™. Viking has more than 450 awards to its name, including being rated #1 for Rivers, #1 for Oceans and #1 for Expeditions by *Condé Nast Traveler* in the 2023 Readers' Choice Awards. Viking is also rated at the top of its categories for rivers, oceans and expeditions by *Travel + Leisure*. No other travel company has simultaneously received the same honors by both publications. For additional information, contact Viking at 1-800-2-VIKING (1-800-284-5464) or visit [www.viking.com](http://www.viking.com). For Viking's award-winning enrichment channel, visit [www.viking.tv](http://www.viking.tv).

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