

The Ultimate Travel Guide to Florence

4th June 2026, by *Lily Savlor* | Read time: 7 minutes

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Florence is one of those cities that effortlessly lives up to the hype. Home to world-famous art, beautiful architecture and some of Italy's best food and shopping, it's the kind of place where days are spent wandering cobbled streets, lingering over long lunches and discovering something new around every corner. From exceptional restaurants and rooftop views to luxurious hotels, here are some spots worth adding to your itinerary.

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What to eat and drink



Trattoria Giovanni

This family-run restaurant serves traditional Tuscan cooking, with classic regional dishes made with high-quality local ingredients. Come hungry for rich ragù, handmade pasta and the legendary bistecca alla Fiorentina, then settle in for a leisurely dinner as locals, families and visitors fill the tables around you.

WHERE: VIA SANT'AGOSTINO, 38R, 50125 FIRENZE FI, ITALY
WEBSITE: TRATTORIAGIOVANNI.IT

Gelateria La Carraia





No trip to Florence is complete without at least one daily gelato stop, and Gelateria La Carraia makes a strong case for two. Perched near the Ponte alla Carraia bridge on the banks of the Arno, this much-loved gelateria has earned a loyal following among locals and visitors alike thanks to its traditional approach and generous scoops.

Grab a cup of creamy pistachio or rich dark chocolate, wander down to the river and join the evening passeggiata as the city glows golden around you. It's simple, delicious and exactly the kind of everyday ritual that makes Florence so easy to fall in love with.

WHERE: PIAZZA NAZARIO SAURO, 25/R, 50124 FIRENZE FI, ITALY
WEBSITE: WWW.GELATERIALACARRAIA.IT



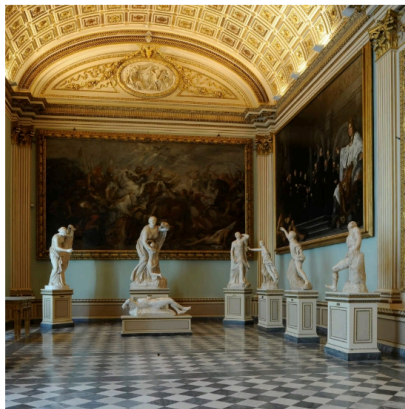
Locale Firenze

Tucked inside the atmospheric Palazzo Concini, Locale Firenze is what happens when a medieval palace decides to become one of Europe's most talked-about cocktail bars. Step inside and you're met with vaulted stone ceilings, candlelit corners, and interiors that feel part Renaissance, part contemporary design experiment.

Expect twists on classic cocktails, unexpected flavour combinations, and presentation that leans theatrical without feeling gimmicky.

WHERE: VIA DELLE SEGGIOLE, 12R, 50122, FIRENZE FI, ITALY
WEBSITE: WWW.LOCALEFIRENZE.IT

What to experience



Uffizi Gallery

Spend a day exploring the Uffizi Gallery, one of the world's most celebrated art museums, where masterpieces by Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci and Caravaggio line its grand corridors. Home to Botticelli's iconic *The Birth of Venus*, the gallery offers an unrivalled introduction to Florence's artistic legacy and rewards visitors with spectacular views over the Arno River and Ponte Vecchio.

WHERE: PIAZZALE DEGLI UFFIZI, 6, 50123 FIRENZE FI, ITALY
WEBSITE: WWW.UFFIZI.IT

“

The Uffizi Gallery will forever be immortalized for me by Dan Brown's Inferno. Incredible artwork, history dating back to the 1500s and THAT secret tunnel running over the Ponte Vecchio. You can't help but leave in awe.



”

Robyn, Managing Director

Accademia Gallery

A short walk from Uffizi brings you to the Accademia Gallery, where Michelangelo's *David* steals the show. Towering, flawless, and surprisingly moving in person, it's one of those rare sights that truly lives up to the hype.

Beyond *David*, the museum's collection offers a fascinating window into Florence's Renaissance heritage, including Michelangelo's unfinished sculptures that seem to emerge from the marble.

WHERE: ACCADEMIA GALLERY, VIA RICASOLI, 58/60, 50123 FIRENZE FI, ITALY
WEBSITE: WWW.GALLERIAACCADEMIAFIRENZE.IT



“

The Accademia Gallery is home to Michael Angelo's Il David and it is a sight that will truly take your breath away. A must-visit for anyone planning a trip to the city!



”

Amelia, Culture & Lifestyle Writer/Creator

Villa Bardini

For one of Florence's most beautiful hidden escapes, make your way to Villa Bardini. Tucked into the hillside in the Oltrarno, this historic villa and garden offer a quieter alternative to some of the city's busier attractions, with winding pathways, manicured terraces and some of the most spectacular views in Florence.

From the upper terraces, soak up the sun with panoramic vistas stretching across the Duomo, Ponte Vecchio and the city's iconic terracotta rooftops.

WHERE: COSTA S. GIORGIO, 2, 50135 FIRENZE FI, ITALY
WEBSITE: WWW.VILLABARDINI.IT



Brunelleschi's Dome

For one of the best views in Florence, climb Brunelleschi's Dome atop the iconic Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. The 463-step ascent takes visitors through the heart of the Renaissance masterpiece before opening onto a panoramic terrace overlooking Florence's terracotta rooftops, the Tuscan hills and the city's most famous landmarks.

Along the way, you'll pass beneath Vasari's magnificent frescoes and gain a unique perspective on one of the greatest architectural achievements of the Renaissance. Visit early in the morning or at golden hour for a truly unforgettable summer experience.

WHERE: PIAZZA DEL DUOMO, 50122 FIRENZE FI, ITALY
WEBSITE: DUOMO.FIRENZE.IT



Gucci Garden



For fashion lovers, Gucci Garden is a must-visit in Florence. Set within the historic Palazzo della Mercanzia on Piazza della Signoria, Gucci Garden offers a stylish glimpse into one of Florence's most famous global success stories.

Through a series of imaginative exhibitions, visitors can explore the evolution of the iconic fashion house while experiencing the creativity and craftsmanship that remain at the heart of Florence today.

WHERE: PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA 10, FIRENCE, ITALY
WEBSITE: WWW.GUCCI.COM

Piazza Santo Spirito



For a taste of Florence beyond the crowds, head to Santo Spirito in the heart of the Oltrarno district. Centred around Brunelleschi's beautiful basilica, this effortlessly stylish neighbourhood is known for its artisan workshops, independent boutiques, buzzy cafés and lively aperitivo scene.

Piazza Santo Spirito offers a more relaxed and authentic alternative to Florence's grander tourist hotspots. It's the perfect place to spend an afternoon wandering, shopping and soaking up the city's creative energy.

WHERE: PIAZZA SANTO SPIRITO, 30, 50125 FIRENZE FI, ITALY
WEBSITE: WWW.VISITTUSCANY.COM



“

I love a good vintage trawl when I'm somewhere new. In Florence, the Oltrarno/Santo Spirito area is a must. It's just across the river from the main tourist spots and on the way to the beautiful Boboli Gardens (perfect for doubling up on the same day!) It's packed with cute vintage stores, antiques, and charming stationary shops. You'll definitely find some unique gifts to take home.

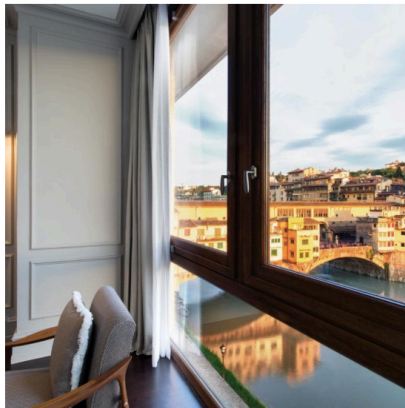


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Astrid, Contributing Fashion & Lifestyle Editor

Where to stay

Portrait Firenze



Set on the banks of the Arno, just steps from the Ponte Vecchio, the hotel combines Italian design with exceptional service and one of the city's most enviable locations. Its riverside setting provides a welcome sense of calm after a day spent exploring Florence's historic streets, galleries and landmarks.

Expect sophisticated dining at Caffè dell'Oro and easy access to Florence's best shopping, culture and nightlife. Blending contemporary luxury with a strong sense of place, Portrait Firenze is an ideal base for discovering the city during the warmer months.

WHERE: LUNGARNO DEGLI ACCIAIUOLI, 4, 50123 FIRENZE FI, ITALY
WEBSITE: WWW.LUNGARNOCOLLECTION.COM



Villa Cora

Nestled in the heart of a centuries-old garden overlooking Florence, Villa Cora offers a quieter, more secluded stay in the Oltrarno district.

The hotel stands out for its resort-like atmosphere, complete with one of Florence's most attractive outdoor pools, a spa and peaceful garden terraces. Guests can spend the day exploring the city, then return to a calm, elegant setting that feels more like a Tuscan retreat than an urban hotel.

WHERE: VIALE MACHIAVELLI, 18, 50125 FIRENZE FI, ITALY
WEBSITE: WWW.VILLACORA.IT

Grand Hotel Minerva



Overlooking the Piazza Santa Maria Novella, this hotel combines centuries of history with contemporary Italian design, placing guests within easy walking distance of the Duomo, Ponte Vecchio and the city's world-famous galleries.

Don't miss stunning panoramic views of the city at Grand Hotel Minerva's rooftop bar and pool. Spend afternoons cooling off in the pool before settling in with a classic Negroni as the sun sets behind the Duomo. Open throughout the warmer months, it's the kind of setting that turns a city break into a true summer escape.

WHERE: PIAZZA SANTA MARIA NOVELLA, 16, 50123 FLORENCE, ITALY
WEBSITE: [GRANDHOTELMINERVA.COM](https://www.grandhotelmilnerva.com)

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The Insider's Guide To Ibiza Beyond Your 20s

3rd June 2026, by [Rohya Upton](#) | Read time: 8 minutes

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We've grown up saying 'yes' to **Ibiza**. When to go is unquestionable – in September, the glorious White Isle is devoid of frantic family crowds, and temperatures slide to pleasantly toasty while the Balearic sunset magic remains very much alive. But the key to nailing Ibiza as an adult is knowing *where* to go.

Passing years, improved holiday budgets and a penchant for decent alcohol (plus a chair to sit on, IYKYK) mean the prospect of landing in a sweat-fuelled teen scene is a definitive 'no'. Instead, as OGs, we want to feel that we've independently curated a chic itinerary and that wherever we go, the party was made for us. This may still involve returning with £5.68 in our current account (can't change everything), but hey, it's totally worth it for that riding endorphin high. Ibiza is one of *The Handbook* team's annual travel destinations, and we're here to share our insider intel on all the places you need on that hit list...

The best places to stay

Casa Maca



A boutique hotel in Can Palau with just 10 bedrooms, Casa Maca is a tranquil bolthole just a few minutes from the action with spectacular views over the Old Town. Super chic and yet charmingly rustic, the property is also home to possibly the most special restaurant in Ibiza, serving barbecue-style alfresco dining under the moonlight accompanied by live musicians and DJs. If you are lucky enough to get a booking here, it's one not to miss.

WWW.CASAMACA.COM

Petunia Ibiza



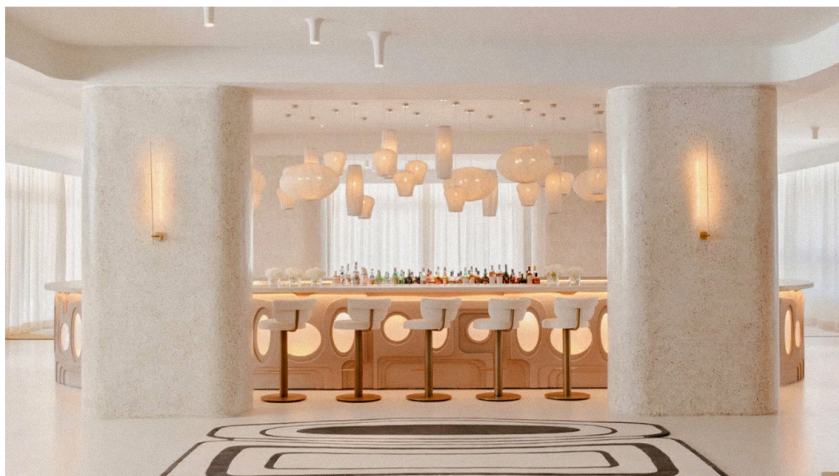
Petunia is a delight of 70s-style eclecticism, an oasis that literally lies hidden amongst unidentifiable roads facing Es Vedrà island. The rooms and suites are concealed amongst winding paths, bleached stone walls and precisely landscaped gardens, along with a sea

view pool, massage cabin, yoga platform and three utterly delicious restaurants. If you can muster the energy, meander the 10 min down to Cala Carbó beach for a revitalising dip – your body will thank you.



WWW.BEAUMIER.COM

Hyde Ibiza



A bolthole worthy of a David Hockney painting, Hyde Ibiza prides itself on delivering boutique luxury with more of an energetic vibe. Channelling music, design and gastronomy, the hotel has a buzzy poolside DJ scene, a private dock for ferries to Ibiza Old Town or Formentera, as well as nearby Cala Llonga village for bars, restaurants and shopping. It's also a handy few minutes' drive from Pacha and Ushuaia for those looking for super club action.



WWW.HYDEHOTELS.COM

Ibiza Gran Hotel

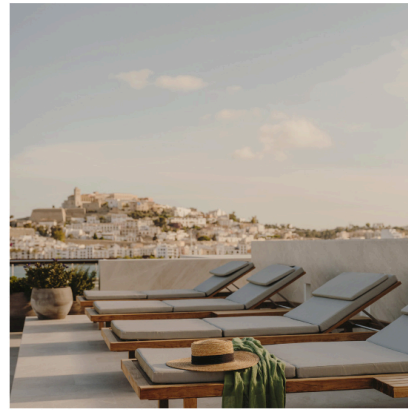
Looking to be on top of the action but removed from the chaos? Then Ibiza Gran Hotel is your best choice. Facing the Ibiza Old Town marina and with 187 elegant suites, this is a resort you can disappear into and definitely one for gastronomes – the hotel offers renowned dining options, including Michelin-starred La Gaia by Óscar Molina and other celebrated venues like Downtown Ibiza by Cipriani, Zuma and Novikov.

“

It gives louche glamour, and the in-house Casino de Ibiza is just an extra reason why.

”





WWW.IBIZAGRANHOTEL.COM

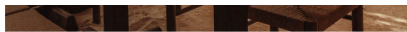
Where to play

Club Playa Soleil



Beach club by day, exclusive party venue by night. Beautiful souls in the know convene at Club Playa Soleil to celebrate sunset before indulging in Andalusian-Japanese fusion dishes and dancing into the small hours. With guest DJs including Skepta, Sasha and Guy Gerber this is a brilliant small venue alternative to the big clubs.





WWW.PLAYASOLEIL.COM

Cova Santa

Best known for its Woomoon club night, the party kicks off in the open-air space, shaped like an amphitheatre with tables rising up in the round overhead, then moves inside as the night closes in.

“

*M*ystical energy, killer tracks and friendly vibes define the Cova Santa experience.

”

WWW.COVASANTA.COM

Nikki Beach Ibiza

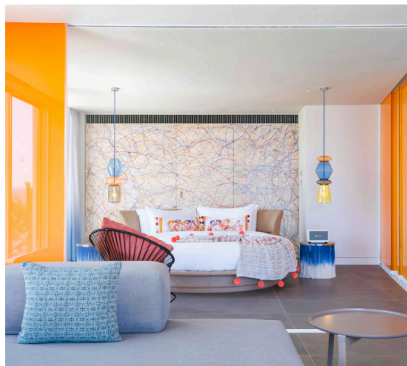
Nikki Beach is a classic global haunt and one that never fails to deliver. White poolside day beds, sparkling blue ocean and International dishes are the signature Nikki Beach ID, always consumed against a happy soundtrack provided by resident and guest DJs. Invest in a magnum of rose for the thrill of it.



WWW.IBIZANIKKIBEACH.COM

W Ibiza

Cool as the hotel might be, in our view, W Ibiza is best enjoyed as a drop-in adult play zone. With round-the-clock DJs playing at the Wet Deck pool, a boho beach club Yellow Fish on palm-fringed Santa Eulalia, adults-only bar GLOW on the roof and BELOW nightclub in the basement, it lives up to its catchphrase ‘white heat, boho beat’.

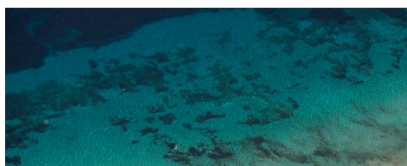


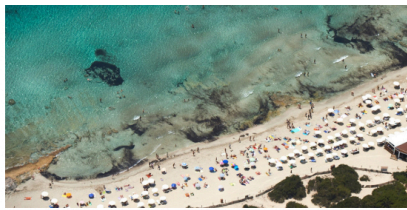
WWW.MARRIOTT.COM

Where to eat

Jockey Club

Situated on the famous Las Salinas beach, Jockey Club is a rite of passage that simply doesn’t age. A family-run restaurant that prides itself on its chiringuito outdoor beach bar vibes, this is the perfect spot for fish, salad and sangria. Warning: the sea is super tempting, but if you go for a dip, keep an eye out for jellyfish.





WWW.JOCKEYCLUBIBIZA.COM

Jondal

“

Carefully slung canopies and lush Sabina trees shade from the heat of the sun whilst diners soak up views over Cala Jondal.

”

Feet in the sand, effortless style and insanely good food are the order of the day at Jondal. Carefully slung canopies and lush Sabina trees shade from the heat of the sun whilst diners soak up views over Cala Jondal and the uber-rich landing on shore from their mega yachts. Great people watching, even better lobster.

WWW.CASAJONDAL.ES

Amante Ibiza



Sister to chilled-out [Aiyanna](#) Ibiza in the North. Amante in the South prides itself on sophisticatedly designed Mediterranean dishes, endless sea views and the spectacular scenery of the surrounding Sol d'en Serra cliffs. A reservation here is essential.



WWW.AIYANNAIBIZA.COM

El Chiringuito

Contemporary dining on a sun-bleached beach with views out to Formentara, El Chiringuito is an idyllic spot for a delicious breakfast or late lunch. Mixing Ibicencan, Italian, French and Greek cuisines, food here is locally sourced, fresh and nourishing. Book a beach lounger for a post-dining siesta.

WWW.ELCHIRINGUITOIBIZA.COM

Cala Gracioneta

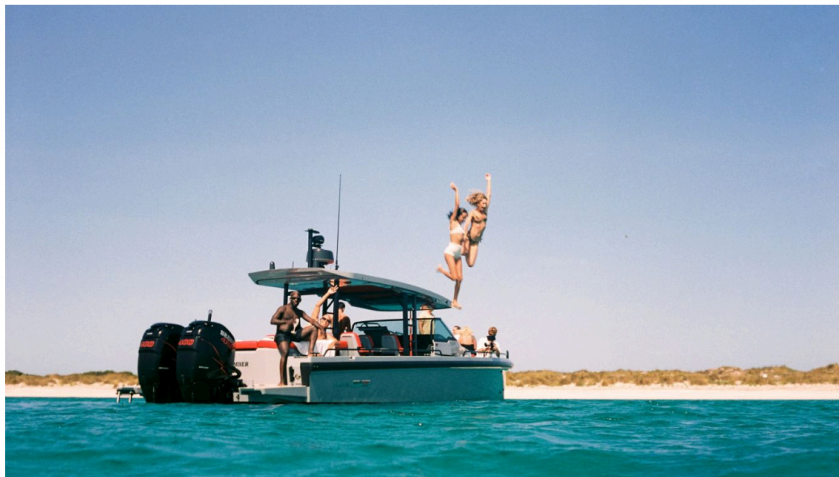


Located on a small cove on the west coast of the island, Cala Gracioneta is a secluded restaurant that serves creative dishes made with fresh produce from Ibiza. Sun-dappled or candle-lit terraces lead down to the beach and sea beyond, the perfect spot to relax and enjoy great food and drinks, day and night.

WWW.CALAGRACIONETA.COM

How to relax

Boat trip



Absolutely nothing beats a boat trip in Ibiza. Even better if you can snag yourself a private charter to while away a few hours coasting around the Balearic shoreline of the White Isle, or across to Formentera. Sunset is our favourite time of day to sail and a playlist of your favourite tracks, most flattering swimwear and sundowner drink of choice a must. Make sure you negotiate on price, as it's usually possible to get a better deal than the first quotation.

Juan Y Andrea



“

This palm-tree-laced fish restaurant has been run by the same family for 55 years and is iconic.

”

Talking about boats, how about taking one to lunch? Juan Y Andrea in Formentera is our day trip destination. Located in the heart of the famous Playa Illetes, roughly 30 minutes by speedboat or luxury yacht from Ibiza (longer on a day charter), the same family has run this palm-tree-fronted fish restaurant for 55 years and is iconic.

Hostal La Torre

One of the best places to chase the sunset with resident DJs playing a chilled soundtrack as the sun sets. Hostal La Torre is a really special place with an authentic Ibizan feel and regularly plays host to silhouetted proposals of couples brave enough to venture down on the rocks.

WWW.LATORREIBIZA.COM

Sunset Ashram



Perched on a craggy rock overlooking the exact spot the sunsets each night, Sunset Ashram is a slow-burning fusion of beach hangs, golden hour cocktails and hippy beats. If you're looking for an original Ibiza experience, this is it. Just ensure you book a table if you're looking for food, as walk-ins are slim to none.

WWW.SUNSETASHRAM.COM

Santa Eulalia hippie market

Fancy a little authentic retail therapy? This crafty little market sets up daily (except Wednesday and Sunday) on the s'Alamara promenade and offers the chance to explore the more boho side of the White Isle.

WWW.VISITSANTAEULALIA.COM

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Discover The Ultimate Antidote To Summer Travel Chaos

8th June 2026 | Read time: 5 minutes

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Picture this: after months of anticipation, you finally turn on your out-of-office reply, ready for a week of pure relaxation. The reality? Frantic airport queues, overcrowded resorts, and returning home more exhausted than when you left. Enter CroisiEurope, the ultimate antidote to the holiday hustle. This summer, skip the chaos and discover the effortless elegance of river cruising. It's a quieter, more sophisticated way to holiday, inviting you to swap travel fatigue for pure, unadulterated relaxation.

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“

This summer, skip the chaos and discover the effortless elegance of river cruising. It's a quieter, more sophisticated way to holiday, inviting you to swap travel fatigue for pure, unadulterated relaxation.



”

Amelia, Culture & Lifestyle Writer/Creator

The slow travel experience



As Europe's largest family-owned river cruise company, founded in Strasbourg 50 years ago by the Schmitter family, CroisiEurope has spent over five decades refining the art of slow, meaningful travel. Still entirely independent, they thread you directly through a country's cultural heart, offering a design-led alternative to the standard tourist trail.

If your idea of a cruise involves rigid timetables, formal dress codes, and navigating a ship the size of a skyscraper, think again. CroisiEurope champions a distinct *art de vivre*, serving as a pioneer of the slow-travel philosophy, where intimacy triumphs over scale. With each ship carrying just 16 to 198 guests, it promises an experience that feels more like a private, floating boutique hotel than a commercial liner.

The onboard experience is also entirely all-inclusive, presenting an effortless way to indulge without a second thought. From the moment you step aboard, all meals and drinks are completely included in your fare.

The dining celebrates the company's proud French heritage



the dining experience the company's proud French heritage, offering sophisticated gastronomy paired with a generous, curated selection of wines and spirits.

“

CroisiEurope champions a distinct art de vivre, operating as a pioneer of the slow travel philosophy where intimacy completely triumphs over scale.

”



[BOOK YOUR TRIP NOW](#)

Cruise through Bordeaux



For travellers seeking the quintessential French escape, the [Bordeaux Fly-Cruise Package](#) serves as the ultimate hero itinerary. This beautifully curated journey charts a seamless course along the Garonne and Gironde rivers, allowing you to glide effortlessly through Southwestern France's picturesque landscapes. By removing the logistical friction of coordinating your own travel, this dedicated package bundles everything together. With flights, transfers, meals, and drinks all in hand, it leaves you completely free to savour every single moment.

“

For travellers seeking the quintessential French escape, the Bordeaux Fly-Cruise Package serves as the ultimate hero itinerary. With flights, transfers, meals, and drinks all pre-arranged, it leaves you completely free to savour every single moment.

”

Setting sail from Bordeaux, you will find yourself drifting through sun-drenched vineyards, medieval villages, and the Dordogne valley. You'll step off the ship to explore charming riverside villages rarely found on your average tourist trail, and uncover hidden histories, all before returning to the comfort of your ship for a sunset dinner on the water.

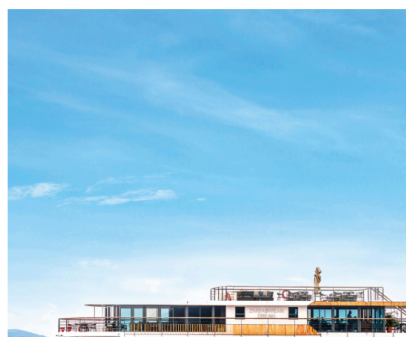
[BOOK YOUR TRIP NOW](#)

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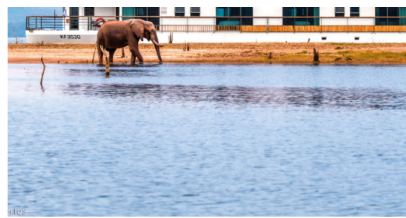
Beyond the meandering French rivers, CroisiEurope's cruises span over 40 destinations worldwide.

You could find yourself winding through the dramatic, terraced wine country of Portugal's Douro Valley, exploring the historic banks of the Rhine and the Danube, or navigating the sun-soaked Mediterranean coasts of Italy and Spain.

For those looking to venture further afield, CroisiEurope delivers breathtaking bucket-list adventures. Amongst its



offerings is a [safari cruise through Southern Africa](#), which invites you to travel through Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe.



Unlike traditional safaris, this 8-night journey unfolds along the legendary Zambezi River and the flooded forests of Lake Kariba aboard an exclusive ship accommodating only 16 guests.

Starting with a stay in vibrant Johannesburg, the itinerary includes water safaris in Chobe National Park, cultural encounters on Impalila Island, and a spectacular finale at Victoria Falls.

Alternatively, you can discover the timeless, mystical landscapes along the Mekong aboard beautifully designed small ships, or look forward to 2027, when they will unveil a brand-new, eco-designed luxury ship in the heart of Amazonia.

“

*Accommodating only 16 guests,
this exclusive experience
unfolds along the legendary Zambezi
River.*

”

BOOK YOUR TRIP NOW

Summer savings



If this switch to slow travel sounds like the exact holiday you need, the 2026 sailing season brings with it a selection of enticing reasons to book now. CroisiEurope is currently running a series of exclusive [summer offers](#) on selected departures that make an immersive river getaway wonderfully accessible.

“

*CroisiEurope is currently running a series of exclusive
summer offers on selected departures, making now the perfect
time to book your trip.*

”

Cultured travellers looking to book a solo escape will rejoice at their no single supplement offers on selected dates, eliminating the traditional premium that usually comes with booking a cabin for one. For those planning a family getaway that satisfies multiple generations, select itineraries across European rivers, seas, and canals feature free cruise travel for children under 16, alongside seasonal savings of up to £475 per person. Whether you wish to explore the romantic Douro, the historic Rhine, or the idyllic French canals, these seasonal promotions provide the perfect excuse to lock in a summer escape to remember.