

Travel around Europe can take many different modes from rental cars, to buses, trains, and as many find interesting, chartered tours with tour-guides on tour buses.....you'll hit small towns and unknown locations to large cities and famous locations there, and certainly, a great way to see much of those areas you heard about....and of course, you did study on what you hope to see thru your local bookstore books about that country/city you're planning to visit. But if you've never tried it before, try doing something a bit different and very enjoyable.....**river cruising!** The cost is different than rental cars where you have to pay for petrol, the car, hotels where you stay, meals and snacks, and yes, some extra insurance from your private car at home (a choice you can buy or decline).

River cruises exist with a couple different companies and along most of the bigger rivers in Europe, with obviously different prices between the companies, so get on the computer and request info from all of them (knowing that just that one request for "info" will put you on their list to send you more advertising every week.....if your computer will allow it, make those ads go to "suspect mail" or junk-mail that you can delete by just looking at the company sending). There are river cruises on the main rivers in France and Germany and a few that extend into the Budapest and also to the Black Sea, so there are many to choose from. Having recently been on a *Viking* cruise from **Amsterdam to Switzerland**, we found it was just an outstanding way to see Germany from the *Rhine* ...maybe just a bit higher than a couple of other river cruise companies, but worth every drachma (now Euro). All *meals* are included in the initial price. There are snacks available 24hrs at two other places on the ship (including your room, if requested along with your own coffee-pot there) and the snacks are delivered by waiters wherever you're sitting on the boat-deck or top-deck alongside the pool or running areas...in fact, those waiters learn early on what your favorite drink is and always ask if you'd like that drink to go with your snack/sandwich, while you continue to watch the countryside passing by...or you stop at one of the many friendly towns/villages along the river where you're able to go ashore and visit the town or castle or nearby shopping area.

Your choice of 8 or 10 days will end you in Basel Switzerland, where the cruise company take you to the local train station downtown with connecting trains to *Zurich* just 30 min away and to many other parts of Europe. The Zurich airport has all the main European airlines connecting with other large cities of the continent and Asia/Africa/US. Truly, a unique way to see Europe on the many *river* cruises offered.

Don't forget to call the 800 number on the back of the **credit cards** you're taking on vacation and give them your credit card number **account** and location you will be vacationing at (Boston, Germany, London, etc) and **dates** you're gone from home, so that they don't shut down your account when they see someone trying to get money from your card at an *ATM* or *charging* with those credit cards at a hotel or store away from your local address....it can ruin your whole day....there is a long-distance phone number on the back should your card be stopped but that will cost you big-time from Europe or outside the US.

Have a great trip = you *deserve* it !