

# Ships in sight



Funnel Suite terrace  
on *Four Seasons I*

Which new vessels should you be keeping an eye on in 2026? **Jane Archer** rounds up the ones to watch

Almost 30 new ocean and river ships are set to launch in 2026, offering resort-style fun, stylish looks and luxurious living, alongside everything from waterslides, posh suite-only residences with butlers and more places to eat and drink than guests could hope to get to on one sailing.

Prices are per person, based on two sharing, and exclude flights unless otherwise stated. Contact cruise lines for details of other inclusions.

## MARCH

### **Four Seasons Yachts: Four Seasons I**

The luxury brand's debut yacht sets sail in the Mediterranean in March, promising personal service and Michelin-style cuisine. It holds 190 passengers and has all-balcony, all-suite accommodation, three restaurants, five bars, a spa and pool.

**Book it:** From \$20,200 per suite for five nights round-trip from Monaco. [fourseasonsyachts.com](http://fourseasonsyachts.com)

### **Disney Cruise Line: Disney Adventure**

This is Disney's biggest-ever ship, with room for 6,700 passengers. It will also be the line's first Asia-based vessel, offering three and four-night cruises without port calls.

**Book it:** From £1,443 for a three-night round-trip sailing from Singapore. [disneycruiseline.com](http://disneycruiseline.com)

### **Uniworld River Cruises: Emilie**

Expect art nouveau and gold accents on *Emilie*, named after Austrian painter Gustav Klimt's muse, Emilie

Flöge. It'll be cruising the Danube and has Grand Suites that connect to French balcony cabins to create two-bed suites.

**Book it:** From £2,759 including flights for an eight-day Danube cruise from Belgrade to Vienna. [uniworld.com/uk](http://uniworld.com/uk)

### **AmaWaterways: AmaSofia**

A Chef's Table and heated pool with swim-up bar feature on *AmaSofia*, which will sail the Rhine and Danube. There's all-day tapas in the lounge, cabins and suites with split balconies and indoor and outdoor seating.

**Book it:** From £3,068 including flights for a one-week Danube cruise from Budapest to Vilshofen. [amawaterways.co.uk](http://amawaterways.co.uk)

### **Tauck: Lumière**

Spacious suites with two French balconies and a wellness retreat where guests can work out, enjoy a massage or just chill are among the highlights on board *Lumière*, which will be sailing the Rhône in France and holds just 130 passengers.

**Book it:** From £5,490 for a 10-day Paris, Lyon & Provence cruise. [tauck.co.uk](http://tauck.co.uk)

## APRIL

### **Norwegian Cruise Line:**

#### **Norwegian Luna**

A slidecoaster (think rollercoaster-meets-water flume) and The Drop, a 10-storey freefall slide, are among the thrills coming on *Luna*. Prefer to chill?

That's easy given all the places to eat and drink, with no dress codes or formal nights to consider.

**Book it:** From £750 for a seven-day Caribbean cruise sailing round-trip from Miami. [ncl.com](http://ncl.com)

### **Emerald Cruises: Emerald Kaia**

A superyacht holding only 128 passengers, *Emerald Kaia* offers stylish suites, private cabanas and an aft marina with paddleboards, water scooters and other fun water toys. It will be sailing the Mediterranean from April.

**Book it:** From £4,735 with flights for an eight-day Adriatic cruise round-trip from Venice. [emeraldcruises.co.uk](http://emeraldcruises.co.uk)

### **Tauck: Serene**

Tauck's second river ship for 2026 (see March) holds 124 passengers and is sailing the Seine.

**Book it:** From £5,690 for an 11-day Bordeaux, Paris & The Seine cruise. [tauck.co.uk](http://tauck.co.uk)

## MAY

### **Emerald Cruises: Emerald Astra**

*Astra*, meaning 'stars' in Latin, holds 180 passengers, offers a choice of cabins and suites with floor-to-ceiling, drop-down panorama windows and has an indoor swimming pool at the back that transforms into a cinema for screenings in the evenings.

**Book it:** From £1,849 including £500 flight credit per person for →

# CRUISE GUIDE 2026



FROM LEFT: Travelmarvel Rigel is to sail a new Rhine and Moselle cruise; Explora III will accommodate 926 passengers from August

flights for an eight-day Rhine cruise from Cologne to Basel.  
[rivieratravel.co.uk](http://rivieratravel.co.uk)

**Travelmarvel: Travelmarvel Rigel**  
Named after the brightest star in the Orion constellation, Rigel will be sailing a new Rhine and Moselle cruise. The vessel accommodates 178 passengers, has four large Owner's Suites, a top-deck whirlpool and McGahey's, an Irish bar that serves casual pub fare.  
**Book it:** From £2,195 with flights for an eight-day Rhine cruise from Amsterdam to Basel.  
[travelmarvel.co.uk](http://travelmarvel.co.uk)

## AUGUST

**Explora Journeys: Explora III**  
Explora's third new-build ship makes its debut in northern Europe with a few more cabins than its sister ships, taking the passenger count to 926, with a second club for older kids and a wellness centre with a spa and gym.  
**Book it:** From £3,800 for a five-night Scandinavia cruise from Copenhagen to Hamburg.  
[explorajourneys.com](http://explorajourneys.com)

## SEPTEMBER

**Viking: Viking Ptah**  
Named after an Egyptian god of

creation, Viking Ptah will be sailing one-week Nile cruises round-trip from Luxor. It holds 82 passengers, has cabins with outdoor balconies and an Aquavit Lounge with indoor and alfresco seating.

**Book it:** From £6,995 with flights for a 12-day Cairo and Nile cruise-and-stay trip.  
[viking.com](http://viking.com)

**Travelmarvel: Travelmarvel Sirius**  
Temples, tombs and pyramids await passengers who book a cruise on Travelmarvel's new Nile river ship. Sirius will have 62 cabins, a pool and an interior that reflects the colours of the landscape. A flight to see the temples at Abu Simbel is included in the price.  
**Book it:** From £3,695 with flights for an 11-day Cairo and Nile cruise-and-stay trip.  
[travelmarvel.co.uk](http://travelmarvel.co.uk)

## MAKING MOVES ON THE OCEANS

**Aqua Expeditions** will be cruising the Seychelles and Tanzania when it brings 30-passenger Aqua Lares into its fleet in February. The yacht, built in 1980, has all-suite accommodation and a cinema, plus indoor and outdoor whirlpool baths.  
[aquaexpeditions.com](http://aquaexpeditions.com)

**Quark Expeditions** is swapping World Explorer, currently on charter from Atlas Ocean Voyages, for World Voyager, also an Atlas ship, in November. World Voyager will be sailing Quark's 2026-27 season in Antarctica.  
[quarkexpeditions.com](http://quarkexpeditions.com)

World Explorer is leaving Quark Expeditions because it's been bought by **Windstar Cruises**. It relaunches in December as Star Explorer after a makeover that will add the Basil + Bamboo speciality restaurant and Star Grill.  
[windstarcruises.com](http://windstarcruises.com)

## American Cruise Lines:

**American Ranger**  
A sister to American Maverick (see June), Ranger will cruise the Hudson River from September and the Florida Keys in winter.

**Book it:** From £6,770 for a nine-day Hudson River cruise from Albany to New York.

[american cruiselines.com](http://american cruiselines.com) ↗

# CRUISE GUIDE 2026



FROM LEFT: Spirit of Ponant II will be modelled after its sister yacht; A&K Sanctuary's luxury ship Nile Seray **PICTURE:** Ponant-Julien Champolion/polaRYSE

## OCTOBER

### A&K Sanctuary: Nile Seray

Seray means 'palace', which offers a clue as to what to expect from A&K Sanctuary's fifth Nile river ship. It'll have 32 suites, two restaurants and a pool, and will sail four-night cruises between Luxor and Aswan.

**Book it:** Prices TBC.  
[abercrombiekent.com](http://abercrombiekent.com)

## DECEMBER

### MSC Cruises: MSC World Asia

Contrary to the name, MSC World Asia is making its debut in the Med. Expect more than 40 bars, lounges and

restaurants, a new pan-Asian eatery and family Clubhouse.

**Book it:** From £1,049 for a seven-night Mediterranean cruise round-trip from Barcelona.

[msccruises.co.uk](http://msccruises.co.uk)

### Regent Seven Seas Cruises:

#### Seven Seas Prestige

New features on Prestige include two-storey Skyview Suites with large private terraces, Mediterranean restaurant Azure serving mezze-style sharing dishes and atrium bar Galileo's. It will spend its first winter in the Caribbean.

**Book it:** From £6,619 for an 11-night Caribbean cruise sailing round-trip from Miami.

[rssc.com](http://rssc.com)

### Viking: Viking Sekhmet

A sister ship to Viking Ptah (see September), Viking Sekhmet is named after an Egyptian goddess of war.

**Book it:** From £7,395 with flights for a 12-day Cairo and Nile cruise-and-stay trip.

[viking.com](http://viking.com)

### Viking: Viking Libra

Outwardly, this is like sister ship Viking Mira (see June), but Libra is different because it will be the world's first hydrogen-powered cruise ship, capable of sailing with zero emissions. It's sailing the Med and northern Europe.

**Book it:** From £2,495 with flights for an eight-day Mediterranean cruise from Civitavecchia (Rome) to Barcelona.

[viking.com](http://viking.com)

## MAKING MOVES ON THE RIVERS

**Viva Cruises** is launching Viva Beyond on the Seine in May under a new Boutique brand. The vessel, which formerly sailed for Tauck, will hold 112 passengers, have three places to eat plus the line's first master suites.

[viva-cruises.com](http://viva-cruises.com)

**Tui River Cruises** has acquired a fourth river ship, Tui Aria, to sail the Rhine, Main and Moselle from March. It has an indoor pool that converts into an evening à la carte restaurant and a top-deck putting green. It's reserved for adults only.

[tui.co.uk](http://tui.co.uk)

Escorted touring operator **Trafalgar** is entering the river cruise sector with two ships, Trafalgar Reverie and Trafalgar Verity, that previously sailed for Uniworld River Cruises. The vessels will sail the Danube and Rhine respectively from April.

[trafalgar.com](http://trafalgar.com)

### Ponant: Spirit of Ponant II

Launching in late 2026, this yacht will carry 10 people, cruise in French Polynesia and carry all the gear needed for snorkelling, waterskiing and other watersports.

**Book it:** From €64,000 for a full private charter.

[ponant.com](http://ponant.com)