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THE MAGAZINE FOR PROFESSIONAL SELLERS OF LEISURE TRAVEL

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Small is Big

Our comprehensive directory of small ship and river cruise companies

The small-ship and river cruise segments are growing fast, with many new vessels entering service this year. So it's important for you to have the facts about these companies at hand. Here is our annotated list of small-ship and river cruise operators with ships that generally carry fewer than 500 passengers.

ABERCROMBIE & KENT

This is a tour operator offering an extensive line of river and small-ship cruises. The company features adventure cruises to the Arctic; Ecuador, Peru and the Galapagos; Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falklands; and sailing adventures in Japan. It also offers canal and river cruises in China, France, England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Germany, the Amazon and the Nile. A&K uses ships and river vessels from other companies. Call 800-554-7016 or visit www.abercrombiekent.com.

AMADEUS BY LÜFTNER

New to the U.S. market, Amadeus by Lüftner Cruises features river cruises on the Danube, Rhine and Main, on Belgian and Dutch waterways, and across Europe. This veteran European river cruise company, founded 30 years ago, markets eight vessels to U.S. travelers. Its newest ships are the Amadeus Silver, which entered service in March 2013, and Amadeus Brilliant, launched in April 2011. Amadeus markets in the U.S. in partnership

with Optriante, a division of Preferred Hotel Group. Call 888-829-1394 or visit www.amadeuscruises.com.

AMAWATERWAYS

This company features river cruises in Europe, Russia, Vietnam and Cambodia, and Africa. River vessels include the AmaBella, AmaCello, AmaCerto, AmaDagio, AmaDante, AmaDolce, AmaLegro, AmaLyra, AmaPrima, AmaReina, AmaSonata, AmaVerde and AmaVida in Europe; AmaKaterina in Russia; AmaLotus and La Marguerite in Vietnam and Cambodia; and Zambezi Queen in Africa. In 2014 the company will introduce two new ships, AmaSonata and AmaReina, in Europe and the AmaPura in Myanmar (Burma). Call 800-626-0126 or visit www.amawaterways.com.

AMERICAN CRUISE LINES

This company offers river and small-ship cruises in the U.S. — including sailings in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, Northeast U.S., Southeast U.S., Mississippi River — and theme cruises. It features cruises on two paddlewheel boats, Queen of the Mississippi and Queen of the West, and four small ships, the Independence, American Star, American Spirit and American Glory. Call 800-460-4518 or visit www.american-cruiselines.com.

AMERICAN QUEEN STEAMBOAT COMPANY

This operator of paddlewheel steamboats features cruises on the Upper Mississippi, Lower Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee rivers on the 436-passenger American Queen. This year, it adds the 223-passenger American Empress between Portland, Oregon, and

Clarkston, Wash. Call 888-749-5280 or visit www.americanqueensteamboat-company.com

AQUA EXPEDITIONS

Originally focused on the Amazon, Aqua Expeditions currently has two ships under 40 passengers that operate cruises on this river — the Aqua Amazon and Aria Amazon. The company, however, plans to start Mekong River cruises in Vietnam and Cambodia on the new Aqua Mekong starting in August. Call 866-603-6387 or visit www.aquaexpeditions.com.

A-ROSA RIVER CRUISES

This European river cruise company based in Rostock, Germany, operates 10 river cruise ships on the Rhine, Danube and Rhône/Saône rivers. In April it will introduce the new 158-passenger A-ROSA Flora, which will be marketed to U.S. travelers. In the U.S., A-ROSA is represented by David Morris International. Call 855-55-AROSA or visit www.arosacruises.com.

AVALON WATERWAYS

Part of the Globus Family of Brands, Avalon Waterways features river and small-ship cruises in Europe, North America, Asia, Egypt and the Galapagos. This year, it will introduce three new "Suite Ships" — the 166-passenger Avalon Illumination and Avalon Impression, and the 128-guest Avalon Poetry II. Call 877-797-8791 or visit www.avalonwaterways.com.

BLOUNT SMALL SHIP ADVENTURES

Offering voyages along North America's historic waterways, this small-ship company also operates in Central America and the Caribbean aboard two 88-passenger yacht-style vessels. Call 800-556-7450 or visit www.blountsmallshipadventures.com.

CENTURY CRUISES

Based in China, Century Cruises is a small-river-ship company that offers Yangtze River cruises on its fleet of seven ships, all built after 2003.

Amawaterways' AmaCello sails on the Danube River in Passau, Germany.



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