

Remote office awaits on AmaWaterways

Luxury river cruise line ups ante on working vacations

“Digital nomadism” is a fancy way to describe vacationers who work remotely while traveling. It’s a growing trend among cruise lines and AmaWaterways is joining the group.

The renowned luxury river cruise line is focusing on its early-season cruises, beginning in February on the Rhine and Danube rivers. The cruise will provide remote workers and travel enthusiasts the opportunity to experience Europe during a less-crowded time – all while being connected and productive aboard the ship.

“Remote work has fundamentally changed the way many people are able to travel by opening up more time to experience the world without having to rely on set vacation time,” said Kristin Karst, co-founder and executive vice president of AmaWaterways. “Remote workers have the flexibility to travel at a different pace to take advantage of lower airfares and avoid crowds. Our early-season European river cruises provide the perfect setting for them to stay connected, inspired, and motivated while immersing themselves in the culture and beauty of various destinations along the European waterways. We hope to inspire adventurous professionals to embrace the world as their office and embark on transformative journeys that not only facilitate remote work opportunities but create lasting memories.”

Cruise lines have worked diligently the past couple years increasing the strength of their Wi-Fi connectivity and some have even added conference rooms, giving



SMOOTH OPERATOR – Cruise the Danube River in February while working remotely on AmaWaterways’ AmaMagna ship. Photo: AmaWaterways.

those working an opportunity to conduct meetings. It’s a work in progress that is moving forward.

AmaWaterways boasts comfortable staterooms with built-in workspaces, complimentary Wi-Fi and thoughtfully designed spaces like large main lounges and plenty of comfortable outdoor seating on the Sun Deck. The cruise line offers exceptional opportunities for digital nomads to embrace new horizons while remaining connected to their professional pursuits. Many excursions are offered most

mornings and afternoons, creating flexibility to work and still enjoy the local sites.

Reservations currently are available. Highlights of the two early-season itineraries include:

Magna on the Danube – AmaWaterways flagship *AmaMagna* will sail along the Danube River, cruising from Budapest, Hungary to Vilshofen, Germany on February 11. Travelers visit Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest to indulge in seven nights of splendor. Guests can enjoy various planned excursions,

visiting Budapest’s thermal spas or Vienna’s ice-skating rinks. Onboard the ship, guests can relax in the heated Sun Deck pool and whirlpool, work from the library or a public space, play pickleball at the ship’s new onboard court or enjoy a soothing massage.

Enchanting Rhine – Professionals eager to explore the enchanting Rhine River can enjoy a seven-night trip aboard award-winning ship *AmaLucia*. The itinerary will sail between Amsterdam and Basel, beginning February 11. Throughout the picturesque voyage from Amsterdam’s colorful canals to the spectacular Swiss Alps, guests will be inspired by views of hilltop castles, charming towns and local flavors like Rudesheimer coffee and Kolsch beer.

Working remotely rarely is more enticing. Meet online with coworkers in the foreground of magnificent European landscapes. Your Teams background never will look better.



PEACE OF MIND – Find serenity on AmaMagna in its Fireside Library. Photo: AmaWaterways.

Spooky fun, merry magic on Disney cruises

Cruise line bringing back popular holiday itineraries in '24

Few gifts are better than travel during a holiday. The anticipation rises. What lies ahead is a treasure waiting to be discovered.

Disney Cruise Line plans to become a holiday gift-giver in 2024 by adding Halloween and Christmas voyages. It’s the ideal way to spend these special times of the year.

Experience the seasons at sea. The return of *Halloween on the High Seas* and *Very Merrytime* cruises will offer more opportunities to visit Disney’s newest island destination in The Bahamas.

Halloween on the High Seas will run from mid-September through October of next year. The season of extra-special sailings will bring the fun of Halloween to guests on select cruises across the fleet with a host of added entertainment.

Families will dress up and join Disney characters in their Halloween costumes, dance at a spooky celebration on the upper decks, enjoy spooktacular-themed food and beverages and immerse themselves in a ghostly ship takeover with elaborate décor and a magical Pumpkin Tree.

Disney Wish will sail three- and four-night Bahamian voyages from Port Canaveral, Florida. *Disney Fantasy* will offer these specially themed cruises with lengths varying from four, six and seven nights. Four- and six-night sailings aboard *Disney Fantasy* will take families to The Bahamas, and seven-night trips



SPOOKY FUN – Disney Cruise Line is returning *Halloween on the High Seas* voyages in 2024. Image: Disney.

will take guests to destinations throughout The Bahamas and Caribbean.

Disney Magic will depart from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Trips will range from three to five nights to tropical destinations in The Bahamas and Caribbean. Select sailings on *Disney Magic* and *Disney Fantasy* will include an opportunity for families to discover relaxation at

the cruise line’s newest destination in The Bahamas. Located on Eleuthera at Lighthouse Point, this vibrant beach retreat will be a unique celebration of Bahamian culture.

Meanwhile, from mid-November through December of 2024, the fleet will be decorated from bow to stern with holiday cheer and entertainment during

Very Merrytime cruises. Holiday magic will be unwrapped with joyful décor; favorite characters in their finest festive attire; themed activities; and celebrations on deck that are full of holiday spirit.

Guests will have opportunities to sail from two home ports in Florida, as well as a selection of cruises from Galveston, Texas.

Short holiday getaways from both home ports in Florida, with a selection of three- and four-night Bahamian *Very Merrytime* voyages on *Disney Wish* from Port Canaveral and four- and five-night cruises to The Bahamas and Caribbean from Fort Lauderdale aboard *Disney Dream*.

Disney Fantasy also will embark a variety of four-night *Very Merrytime* sailings to The Bahamas and offer six- and seven-night itineraries in November and December. Select voyages on *Disney Dream* and *Disney Fantasy* will include a day in the sun along the white-sand beaches of Disney Cruise Line’s Lighthouse Point.

Cruises from Galveston aboard *Disney Magic* will range in length from four to six nights, allowing families to celebrate the holiday seas while visiting tropical ports throughout the Caribbean.

Visit a local AAA branch office to speak with a travel advisor or visit AAA.com/Travel to learn more about booking a Disney cruise.

GM ups ADAS information

Automaker better educating drivers

Advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) have been evolving features in our vehicles for nearly five decades. They made driving easier, but sophistication has resulted in concerns.

General Motors recently launched “Hands Free, Eyes On”, a consumer-education program to encourage confidence in the uses of ADAS. It’s part of GM’s commitment to the safe deployment of technologies, including Super Cruise.

GM intends to make ADAS more understandable. Consumers will be given more information, so they are informed, excited and confident in the technology.

“We know that to help achieve our vision of zero crashes, we must increase the adoption of ADAS and proactively highlight the benefits they offer,” said Scott Miller, GM vice president, Software Defined Vehicle and Operating System. “To increase usage, we must help drivers understand how currently available technologies, like Super Cruise, work and the responsibility drivers have when using ADAS features. We want customers to be assured of what we are doing to safely deploy these technologies.”

GM’s new program is designed to explain the current state of ADAS – from active safety to hands-free features – available to customers, all of which require the driver’s constant attention to the road versus fully autonomous driving that doesn’t



SAFE TRAVELS – General Motors is offering educational resources to help consumers become more familiar with their vehicle’s ADAS capabilities. *Image: NewsPress USA.*

require driver intervention.

The driver is responsible for the vehicle’s operation with a hands-free enabled vehicle like one equipped with Super Cruise. That means their eyes need to be on the road, even when their hands are free.

GM believes helping consumers understand ADAS capabilities and how to properly use them is critical. Core elements include:

- A commitment to testing and validation.

- Integrating a comprehensive set of sensors technologies.
- Ensuring technologies have driver-attention systems.
- Keeping our maps updated by monitoring roads and working with the public sector.
- Educating consumers and other stakeholders.

GM will share free ADAS educational resources and best practices on GM.com and GM social channels.

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