



There are some magnificent cities in Europe that evolved along great rivers. Before mechanized transportation, the river was the main way to get from one place to another. Structures along the river were designed to appeal to people sailing by in boats. It's why Paris, Amsterdam, Venice and other great cities grew and prospered.

Perhaps the most obvious water-oriented city is the amazing canal city of Venice, Italy. The city is truly one of the most beautiful in the world, and it can all be enjoyed along the canals from any gondola. Artviva offers a good private Grand Canal tour from about \$100 per person. Amsterdam in the Netherlands offers the most interesting historic city center, with spectacular canal views. Although roads now exist next to the canals, the city can be explored and the beautiful buildings seen from the level for which they were designed. Try sailing a private boat in the evening from Boaty rentals. The cost is about \$160 for four hours.

Paris has both canals and the Seine. To cruise the river, there's a hop-on / hop-off river boat that cruises a regular route including all the great tourist destinations. Batobus offers a one-day adult pass for \$40. Like Amsterdam, this city is very beautiful for cruising at night. The Paris Essential dinner cruise is a good option, window-side table seating is \$100 per person for dinner and wine. Cruises depart at 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. from the Eiffel Tower area.

St. Petersburg is called the Venice of the North, and has returned to the great, historic and beautiful Russian city it once was, after suffering during World War II and communism. A must-see is the Hermitage Museum, as well as other great architecture. Anglo Turismo offers day and night river and canal tours. Tours are around \$45 per person.