



2012 Cruise Companion and Shore Excursions  
France



## Dear Valued Traveler,

Welcome to Uniworld Boutique River Cruises. We want to do everything we can to ensure you have the most enjoyable and worry-free vacation possible.

With that in mind, we have prepared this booklet for you, so you can plan your trip with the greatest of ease. Consider it a guideline to help you get ready for your upcoming trip. It contains valuable tips and advice on what to pack, your flight and transfer experience, onboard information, day-to-day details, and much more.











Thank you for selecting Uniworld Boutique River Cruises. We look forward to hosting you onboard our beautifully appointed ships and making your vacation the most memorable and enjoyable experience possible.

Sincerely,  
The Uniworld Team

## Symbols and Icons

In the following pages, you will find these symbols to help guide you with the daily excursions. You will get an idea of the pace of the excursions; you will find out if meals are provided, and you will learn about any special excursions, such as wine tastings, museum visits, or music concerts.

### Uniworld Signature Icons

	Embark/Disembark		Wine Tasting
	Motorcoach		Museum Visit
	Flight		Music Concert
	Choice is Yours	<b>CB/BB</b>	Continental/Buffer Breakfast
	Uniworld Exclusive	<b>L</b>	Lunch
	Dining Out	<b>D</b>	Dinner
	Welcome/Farewell Dinner		

### Shore Excursion Symbols

All tours involve walking unless strictly noted as a panoramic tour. In many cases, the walking takes place over uneven ground, cobblestone, or flagstone walkways, and more than a few tours involve stairs or short uphill climbs. We strongly recommend that our guests wear comfortable, non-skid walking shoes while on all of our tours. The symbols below are provided alongside each tour to give you an idea of what to expect on each program.



Easy walking throughout tour, including walking 15 minutes or less from multiple motorcoach stops to, and while in, historical sights. Possibly some steps, or gentle uphill and downhill walks.



Intermediate activity, including walks of up to two hours on uneven terrain. Limited seating at sites. Multiple stairs and/or uphill/downhill walking.



Most strenuous activity with a combined walking duration at all sites of up to two and a half hours. Many stairs and uphill/downhill passages. Those with physical limitations and those who may need assistance with private arrangements need to contact the Cruise Manager when onboard.

### Tour Duration Symbols

Each tour varies in length. The darkened areas of the symbols indicate approximate tour duration.



¼ Day AM



¼ Day PM



¾ Day



½ Day AM



½ Day PM



Full Day

## Cruise Companion

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# Cruise Companion

## Helpful Hints Before You Go

### Travel Documents

**Passports:** All Uniworld river cruises/tours require a passport. In most cases, passports must be valid for six (6) months after the scheduled return date from the trip. Some itineraries will require visas. Each guest is fully responsible for obtaining and carrying the travel documents necessary for his or her travel itinerary. Uniworld will not be responsible for any delays, damages, and/or losses, including missed portions of your trip, related to improper travel documents.

Visa requirements on these itineraries for US and Canadian citizens can be found at the end of this booklet, in the section marked "About Your Uniworld Cruise Package," or on the Uniworld website, [uniworld.com](http://uniworld.com), in the "Before You Go" section. Non-US or Canadian citizens must contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their particular trip. Uniworld's website provides information on obtaining the required visa through Zierer Visa Service as a courtesy only.

**Passenger Information Form:** By now, you should have completed the Uniworld Passenger Information Form. The information on this form is used to comply with certain foreign government and airline security restrictions in advance of your arrival onboard our ships. If you have completed this form, we thank you for your prompt attention. If you have not completed this form, please visit our website at [uniworld.com](http://uniworld.com) and complete the online Passenger Information Form in the "Before You Go" section. Each guest must complete the form.

**Travel Protection:** Uniworld strongly recommends that each guest purchase a Travel Protection Plan. Please carry all policy information with you during the course of your trip.

### Cruise Documentation

Uniworld sends all final cruise and air documents between 21 to 30 days prior to your trip departure, provided that Uniworld has received a completed and signed Passenger Information Form and your booking is paid-in-full. All documents are sent via a priority mail delivery service, such as UPS or Federal Express.

#### Final Documentation Includes:

- Cruise Ticket
- Passenger Ticket Contract (which is binding on each guest)
- Airline Tickets or E-Ticket Confirmation (if international air ticket was purchased from Uniworld)
- Cruise/Tour Companion
- Baggage Tags
- Leave-Behind Communication Card
- Travel Protection Plan Pamphlet (if Uniworld travel protection was purchased)
- Pre- or Post-Cruise/Tour Extension Information (if optional trip extension was purchased)

### Baggage Limitations

Airline baggage restrictions change frequently and each guest needs to check with their specific air carrier for limitations concerning baggage weight, baggage size, carry-on regulations, and excess baggage or overweight charges. This information can be found on the carrier's website. Remember to check for both international (over the water) and domestic (intra-continental) regulations, as limitations differ depending on flight routings. Overweight or excess baggage charges vary, and guests who exceed an airline's recommended limit may be asked by the airline to pay fees ranging from \$25 to \$80 US Dollars (USD), or possibly more, per infraction.

Onboard the ships and motorcoaches, storage space is very limited. Therefore, for your comfort and convenience on the cruise as well as on pre- or post-cruise land stays, we ask that you bring one (1) suitcase per person and one (1) carry-on bag per person (excluding purses). Please note there may be a fee assessed on-site for excess baggage.

Keep an eye on your baggage and all personal belongings—they are your responsibility throughout the trip. Uniworld is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage to baggage and personal belongings. A Travel Protection Plan covering lost, stolen, or damaged baggage is highly recommended.

## Travel Essentials

The following items are essential for any destination: comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, sunscreen, a hat, an umbrella, and a lightweight raincoat or outerwear garment appropriate to the seasonal weather conditions. We recommend that you bring duplicates of prescription eyewear, copies of prescriptions for any medications, copies of credit card information, and copies of passport information pages. Make sure that your baggage has identification tags both inside and outside with your contact information and address clearly marked. Do not pack valuables or important medications in your checked baggage; these should be carried with you in your carry-on baggage. Please contact your air carrier for any additional regulations.

## Health and Mobility

**Physical Limitations:** Uniworld trips are exciting, relatively active vacations. While there will be plenty of time to relax, there will also be much to see and do. Your included excursions generally require an extensive amount of walking, as well as navigation of numerous steps and cobblestone streets. On shore excursions, guests with physical limitations will find access to sites generally restrictive. For your safety and enjoyment, we recommend that all guests be in good physical condition. In addition, river ships, while spacious and elegant, are not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and most do not have elevators. Uniworld, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to refuse passage or to require a current passenger to end his or her trip if the passenger's state of health or physical condition may affect his or her own health, safety, and enjoyment, or that of other passengers.

**Medical:** Uniworld does not employ staff nurses or doctors onboard its ships. Should you need medical attention, it will be at local facilities, at your own expense. Uniworld is not

responsible for any costs incurred as a result of medical service, or for the quality of medical care received. A Travel Protection Plan covering medical expenses is highly recommended.

**Special Diets:** Please advise us in advance of your departure of any special dietary restrictions. This information will be provided to the proper personnel. To the extent possible, and in consideration of local conditions, every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. It is the guest's responsibility to provide us with as much detail as necessary concerning any medically related diet concerns. Not all dietary requests can be accommodated, and we appreciate your understanding in this matter.

## General Money Matters

**ATMs:** ATMs connected to bank networks such as PLUS or Cirrus are widely available in most major metropolitan areas, in airports, city centers, and, in some instances, hotels. Fees for transactions vary. ATMs are not available onboard the ships. Your bank can tell you which network your ATM card can access, and whether a debit or credit card must be used. Make sure you have the correct PIN for the card(s) you plan to use before leaving home, as the PIN is required for all money withdrawals. It is also recommended that you bring an overseas contact number for your bank or credit card company in case you require assistance while traveling.

**Credit Cards and Traveler's Checks:** Most major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, and American Express) are accepted worldwide. Credit cards are also accepted onboard.

There may be some stores or locations where cash is preferred (especially for small purchases) or a particular credit card cannot be used for purchases. We recommend bringing at least one major credit card, as well as an ATM card that is both a debit and credit card. We do not recommend bringing Traveler's Checks, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to cash them at local banks. Also, we recommend that you do not carry Euro bills in denominations greater than €100, as many merchants are hesitant to accept them due to counterfeiting. Local banks can break larger bills into smaller denominations for you.

Please contact your bank and/or credit card companies to let them know that you will be leaving the country to avoid any problems using your credit card(s) overseas.

*Please note: € = Euro*

## Getting There

### Airport Security and Check-In

It is advisable to contact the airline in advance of your departure to verify that there have been no changes to the flight number or schedule found on your travel documents. After your travel documents are issued and sent to you, Uniworld is not responsible for notifying guests of any changes in flight schedules.

Please make sure you arrive at the airport at least two and a half (2.5) hours prior to your scheduled departure to complete check-in and security procedures. For peak travel times, you may even want to arrive three (3) hours prior to your scheduled departure time.

### Transfers

**Airport Arrival Transfers:** If your cruise/tour package includes a group arrival transfer (and your flights coincide with our transfer guidelines), or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship or hotel. Transfers are only provided on the actual start day of the cruise or cruise/tour. Those guests who have purchased a Pre-Cruise/Tour Extension will also be met by a Uniworld representative at the airport of the city in which the extension is to take place. You will be met as you exit the secure customs area. Please claim all of your baggage before exiting the baggage claim area. Portage services are not included. From the airport, you'll be transferred to your ship or hotel.

Please note that transfers are non-refundable. There may be a waiting period for scheduled airport transfers, depending on groupings of flight arrivals. This wait can be up to two (2) hours. Uniworld will not be responsible for late arrivals or missed transfers due to delayed, changed, canceled, or missed flights, for missed cruise/trip days, or for extra costs resulting from delayed, changed, canceled, or missed flights.

In accordance with Uniworld's transfer guidelines, all guests making their own flight arrangements are required to provide Uniworld with their flight information and pre-trip arrangements no later than 45 days prior to departure in order to receive transfers. For complete details, please see the Terms and Conditions section of our current brochure or our website, [uniworld.com](http://uniworld.com).

Depending on transfer times, transfers may include sightseeing en route.

Guests who have purchased extra nights with hotel stays will be provided private transfers as part of the extra night purchase as

long as Uniworld has received their flight information no later than 45 days prior to departure.

If your cruise/tour package does not contain transfers (i.e., for flights outside Uniworld's recommended transfer time guidelines or if flight details have not been communicated to Uniworld in time), then please make your own way to the ship or hotel as per your trip itinerary at your own expense.

**Airport Departure Transfers:** If your cruise/tour package includes a group departure transfer (and your flights coincide with our transfer guidelines) or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home. Transfers are only provided on the actual end day of the cruise or cruise/tour. Those guests who have purchased a Post-Cruise/Tour Extension will be transferred from the ship to the hotel and from the hotel to the airport accordingly. Portage services at the airport are not included.

In accordance with Uniworld's recommended transfer time guidelines, all guests making their own flight arrangements are required to provide Uniworld with their flight information and pre-trip arrangements no later than 45 days prior to departure in order to receive transfers. For complete details, please see the Terms and Conditions section of our current brochure or our website, [uniworld.com](http://uniworld.com).

Depending on transfer times, transfers may include sightseeing en route.

Guests who have purchased extra nights with hotel stays will be provided private transfers as part of the extra night purchase as long as Uniworld has received their flight information no later than 45 days prior to departure.

If your cruise/tour package does not contain transfers (i.e., for flights outside Uniworld's recommended transfer time guidelines or if flight details have not been communicated to Uniworld in time), then please make your own way from the ship or hotel as per your trip itinerary at your own expense.

**Private Car Transfers:** Guests who make independent flight arrangements and arrive outside Uniworld's transfer guidelines can purchase private car transfers from Uniworld at an additional cost. Private car transfers are only available on the cruise/tour start and end dates.

Please ask your travel agent or Uniworld for details. In some locations, private transfers are not available due to the distance between the airport arrival city and the port of embarkation and disembarkation.

### Cruise-Only Guests and Guests with Independent Arrangements:

For guests who are making their own way to the ship and who are not using Uniworld's transfer options, we strongly suggest that you call the ship to determine its exact location before proceeding to the dock. The ship's telephone number will be shown on your Cruise/Tour Ticket. Docking assignments for river cruise vessels can change at the last minute, and the information provided on your Cruise/Tour Ticket about the expected docking location could be incorrect on your day of arrival. It is not possible for Uniworld to notify guests making their own way to the ship of any last-minute changes.

Cruise-only guests may join Uniworld's group transfers or may purchase private transfers for the cruise start and end dates. However, guests making independent flight arrangements who wish to take advantage of Uniworld's group transfers must ensure that their flight arrangements are made in accordance with Uniworld's transfer guidelines and are provided to Uniworld no later than 45 days prior to departure.

**Late Flight Arrivals/Missed Flights:** If your package includes a Uniworld arrival transfer and you experience a travel delay of any kind, please adhere to the following instructions:

Advise an airline representative at the airport that you are a cruise passenger set to sail that day or the following day. Typically, airlines are able to arrange alternative flights for passengers to continue with their travel to the point of embarkation.

Upon clearing customs in the cruise or tour start city, look for the Uniworld representative outside the customs area. Depending on the nature of the delay, Uniworld's ground staff can, at times, track flight changes. If your flight arrangements were drastically altered, it is unlikely that the ground staff will be notified of your specific flight changes in time. And, due to security protocols enacted post September 11, 2001, airlines very rarely provide updated flight information to third parties.

If you cannot find the Uniworld representative, please contact the Transfer Provider in your arrival city. Their contact information is shown in the transfer section of your Cruise/Tour Ticket. If unable to match you up with a scheduled group transfer, the Transfer Provider will ask you to make your own way to the ship or hotel at your own expense. Costs incurred due to missed transfers are the responsibility of the guest, and in most cases, compensation can be obtained from your travel protection plan provider or airline carrier.

If your delay is serious enough that you miss the starting point of your cruise, you will need to get to the next stop on the ship's itinerary at your own expense. Using the ship's phone number shown on your Cruise/Tour Ticket, please contact the ship for its exact location on your revised date of arrival. The ship's personnel will advise you of the best course of action. Uniworld is not responsible for missed transfers or additional costs incurred in getting to the next destination due to missed or delayed flights.

**Baggage Delays:** Baggage delays do unfortunately occur from time to time, especially during peak travel periods. First and foremost, do not leave the baggage area without completing a Lost Baggage Report with your air carrier. This report is essential to the tracking of your claim. If traveling with a companion, we recommend that one (1) person exit the baggage claim area and locate the transfer representative to inform them of the situation. This will allow the representative to ensure that transfers are properly provided. Give the air carrier a copy of your travel itinerary and the ship's contact information. Report your lost baggage to the Uniworld representative and provide your Uniworld Cruise Manager with a copy of your Lost Baggage Report. This will assist our staff in helping to locate your baggage as quickly as possible. Uniworld is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage to baggage and/or personal belongings. A protection plan covering lost, stolen, or damaged baggage is available through the Uniworld Travel Protection Plan.

### Pre-/Post-Cruise Included or Optional Hotel/Land Extensions

All Uniworld land programs are fully hosted and include daily breakfast, transfers, and portage (at hotels only). Most feature at least one (1) special sightseeing program. Guests on a pre-cruise/tour land extension will receive a welcome briefing from the on-site Uniworld representative the evening of the first day of the extension. This briefing will familiarize you with the scheduled program and provide additional information about optional excursion programs, dining recommendations, and shopping tips. Guests on a post-cruise/tour land extension will receive their briefing onboard, and a local Uniworld host will be on hand during your stay to provide information and assistance. Details of your pre- or post-cruise/tour land stay or optional extension are included with your final documents.

Please note that every effort is made to ensure that your hotel room is available and ready for occupancy upon your arrival at the hotel. This is not always possible due to differences in

hotel check-in/check-out times and scheduled airport-to-hotel or ship-to-hotel transfers. A short wait for your room to become available may be necessary.

## Embarkation/Disembarkation

**Embarkation:** If sailing time is 8:00 pm or later, guests are to embark no later than 6:00 pm. If sailing time is scheduled between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm, guests are to embark no later than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled sailing time.

On embarkation day, the ship is being cleaned and prepared for your arrival. Most of the ship's facilities, including your stateroom, will not be available before 3:00 pm. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Should you arrive at the ship earlier than 3:00 pm, you may leave your baggage at the Front Desk and take a walk in the area or relax in the lounge. Please keep your hand baggage with you at all times. Complimentary coffee, water, and light snacks will be available in the lounge for your enjoyment.

**Disembarkation:** About two (2) evenings before your departure from the ship, your Cruise Manager will brief all guests about what to expect on the morning of disembarkation and what time to have baggage available for pick-up, and to distribute any documentation necessary to make your departure as smooth as possible.

All guests must vacate their staterooms no later than 8:00 am the day of disembarkation so the staff and crew can prepare for the next group of guests. Breakfast hours are coordinated around airport transfer times, which, in some cases, can be very early in the morning. It is not unusual in some destinations to have airport transfers as early as 4:00 am. In such cases, we will provide guests with coffee, tea, juices, and pastries from our 24-hour coffee station.

Guests staying onboard for an additional cruise might have included excursions on this day, or leisure time for their continued enjoyment of the destination. In some destinations, optional excursions will be available on this day.

## About Your Uniworld Cruise Package and Onboard Services

### Bicycles and Nordic Walking Sticks

Complimentary bicycles and Nordic walking sticks are available for your onshore enjoyment. Bicycle and walking paths are easily accessible from some of the ports of call. Your Cruise

Manager can offer recommendations. The bicycles and walking sticks can only be reserved through the Front Desk one (1) day in advance of the time you wish to use them (or on the day-of if available). The number of bicycles and Nordic walking sticks available is limited and their use is solely at your own risk. You must sign a release form prior to using bicycles or Nordic walking sticks.

### Dining

The onboard Restaurant provides a relaxed environment and accommodates all guests with open seating. It offers both local and international cuisine. Breakfast and lunch are sumptuous buffets, while evenings feature specialties of the chef and regional dishes. During lunches and dinners onboard, complimentary soft drinks, beer, and red and white wine will be served. Complimentary water, hot coffee, and tea will be served at all meals onboard. Complimentary beverages may only be consumed in the Restaurant.

In addition, *al fresco* dining may be available on the Sun Deck on scheduled nights, weather permitting. Reservations are necessary as space is limited. Reservations can only be made onboard the ship.

All meal times are scheduled around tour departures, and breakfast can take place very early in the morning.

Please notify Uniworld immediately if you have any special dietary concerns or considerations that need to be taken into account while traveling with us. We will do our best to ensure that your request is accommodated but we cannot guarantee that this will happen in all cases.

### Elevators

The *River Royale* is equipped with an elevator that services all decks except the Champagne Deck and the Sun Deck. The *River Baroness* only has a chair lift from the ship's entrance to the Sun Deck and from the Restaurant to the Reception area.

### Fitness Center

The Fitness Center hours of operation are generally from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, but may be adjusted based on each day's program. Use of the fitness equipment is at your own risk.

### Front Desk

The Front Desk operates 24 hours a day. The Night Receptionist will make hourly safety checks of the ship.

## Gift Shop

There is a gift shop onboard with a limited selection of toiletries, souvenirs, and other sundries. All purchases are charged to your shipboard account. The hours of operation are adjusted to each day's program.

## Gratuities

**Onboard:** It is our goal to ensure that the service you receive is as wonderful as the sites you visit. Gratuities are customary expressions of appreciation for a job well done. The amount of the gratuity you choose to give is entirely subject to your satisfaction with your travel experience. To assist you in determining the amount of your gratuities, we recommend the following as a guideline:

- Ship staff and crew: €10 per guest, per day, to be shared among all staff and crew
- Cruise Manager: €3 per guest, per day
- Local host or hostess for included or optional extensions: €3 per guest, per day
- Local guides: from €1 per guest for a half-day tour to €1 to €2 per guest for a full-day tour
- Drivers: €1 per guest, per day

*Please note: € = Euro*

The above is solely a guideline. The amount you give should depend upon your personal experience and level of satisfaction. Gratuities can be billed to onboard accounts and paid with a credit cards or cash (cash is accepted in Euro or USD only), so please ensure that you have enough cash on hand for this expense if paying by cash. Please note that personal checks cannot be accepted.

## Health and Hygiene

As part of our commitment to a clean, safe, and healthy onboard environment, Uniworld practices a strict sanitization protocol on our ships. To assist us in this important matter, we kindly ask all guests to frequently wash their hands and to consistently use the hand sanitizer machines when entering the ship and when entering the Restaurant. The machines are located just inside the main entrance to the ship and at the entrance to the Restaurant. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this very important matter.

## Ice Machine

For your convenience, a self-service ice machine is located on each ship, and an ice bucket is provided in your stateroom.

## Internet Facilities

Our Internet Corner allows you to send and receive emails and to access the Internet using our computer stations. In addition, you may use your own laptop computer to access our Wireless Internet Service (Wi-Fi). Wi-Fi access is only available in the Main Lounge and Captain's Lounge. Use of the Internet Corner and Wi-Fi service is complimentary.

Please note the Internet connection might not be available in remote areas or when transiting locks. Expect the connectivity speed to be slower than your home connection.

## Key Cards

A magnetic key card will be issued to each guest at the time of check-in. The key card can be used to open your stateroom as well as the main entrance to the ship.

## Laundry

The ships provide washing, drying, and ironing services for a fee. There are no dry-cleaning or self-service laundry facilities on the *River Royale* and *River Baroness*.

## Local and Onboard Money Matters

Currency in France is the Euro. The Euro comes in banknote denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500. One Euro is divided into 100 cents, and coin denominations are 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 cent or 1 Euro and 2 Euro.

Uniworld features a "cashless" environment onboard, and all charges are billed directly to each guest's shipboard account. The onboard currency of our ships is the Euro. While onboard, guests can sign for all purchases, and pay their balance at the end of the cruise with a credit card, including American Express, MasterCard, and Visa. Credit cards will be charged in Euro. Most debit cards that can be processed as credit cards are also accepted onboard. Please check with your bank before departing home.

Alternatively, if paying by cash, the currency accepted onboard for settlement of final bills is Euro or US Dollars (total amount will be converted into US Dollars based on onboard exchange rate).

The ships do not have ATMs, but ATMs linked to major bank networks can be found throughout Europe. Most debit or major credit cards can be used for cash withdrawals ashore. In addition, all hotels and major tourist sites have exchange facilities. Limited currency exchange is available onboard for the exchange of cash only. Credit cards cannot be accepted for money exchange.

Please note that currency exchange transactions and ATM cash withdrawals always involve transaction fees. It is always best to inquire as to the fee before exchanging any money. ATMs will typically ask you if you accept the fee before enabling the transaction.

## Lounges

The onboard Lounge provides spectacular, expansive views at every turn. Relax in the comfort of soft chairs and sofas upholstered in fine fabrics and leathers. Enjoy our full-service bar and dance the night away to the piano tunes of our onboard musician.

In addition, the Patio Lounge onboard the *River Royale* offers a casual atmosphere with comfortable chairs and tables.

Complimentary coffee and tea are available here 24 hours a day.

**Corkage Fee:** You are welcome to bring onboard the ship alcoholic beverages that you bought onshore. These beverages may be enjoyed in the staterooms and in the Restaurant free of charge. However, if you would like to consume these beverages in the Lounge or Bar areas, we will charge a €5.00 corkage fee. If you received a bottle of wine or champagne that was purchased through Uniworld as a bon voyage gift, you may bring this beverage to the Lounge or Bar area to enjoy without a corkage fee.

The Sun Deck of the *River Baroness* features a pleasant, partially sheltered area with tables and chairs that is perfect for watching the passing scenery. The *River Royale* does not have a partially covered area on the Sun Deck.

## Mail

Stamps are available for purchase at the Front Desk. Mail is posted daily unless local mail facilities are not available.

## Mooring and Docking Facilities

Local river authorities allocate docking space around ship arrivals and departures in port. Typically, river ships always dock facing upstream, against the current. Occasionally port conditions require ships to tie up alongside each other, in which case guests may be required to walk through another ship to get to their own ship. This is part of the river cruise experience and is perfectly normal and beyond the control of Uniworld. Guests may experience obstructed views from staterooms when the ship is docked.

## Safety Deposit Box

Each stateroom onboard and hotel room onshore comes

equipped with a safe. We urge you to leave valuable jewelry at home. We are not responsible for any valuables left in your stateroom. Any charge to return “lost and found” property onboard will be at the owner’s expense. Please beware of pickpockets when ashore.

## Shopping

Time for shopping is usually but not always allowed for within the framework of most of the sightseeing programs. Actual time available for shopping may be limited due to tour constraints. Keep in mind that many shops in France may be closed on Sundays and holidays. Shopping recommendations can be made by your Cruise Manager and shipboard staff. Larger stores accept most major credit cards. Market vendors and small stores will usually only accept local currency. It is a good idea to take a small amount of cash for on-the-spot gratuities or for purchasing souvenirs or sundries.

## Shore Excursions

Each cruise/tour program includes comprehensive shore excursions led by a local English-speaking guide; these excursions have been designed to provide you with the best possible experience ashore. From time to time, we also offer optional excursions designed to enhance the range of sightseeing already included in your cruise program. These optional excursions are available for purchase when you are onboard the ship. Your Cruise Manager will provide details about the reservation process at your Welcome Briefing. All tours purchased onboard are billed to your shipboard account and can be paid when settling your final bill. Optional excursions are subject to cancellation if a minimum number of participants is not met.

A complete day-by-day shore excursion itinerary is provided in this booklet. Details for your particular itinerary can also be found at [uniworld.com](http://uniworld.com).

## Smoking

The ship enjoys a non-smoking environment in all public areas and in the staterooms. Smoking is only allowed on designated parts of the Sun Deck, which are marked on the deck plan in your room directory.

## Stateroom Amenities

Every riverview stateroom includes an individual thermostat for air-conditioning and/or heat, a flat-screen TV, an internal telephone, a safety deposit box, and a bathroom stocked with L’Occitane bath and body products, a luxurious bathrobe for

each guest, complimentary bottled water, a hair dryer, and an umbrella. Electrical current is 220V, the European standard; however, each stateroom has one 110V outlet. The majority of staterooms have hotel beds that can be positioned separately or together. Your stateroom will be serviced by your Stateroom Attendant on a daily basis. Security and maintenance checks may also be performed.

## Sun Deck Access

For safety reasons, access to the Sun Deck may be limited or restricted while passing through locks and areas with low bridges.

## Visa Requirements

No visas are required for US or Canadian citizens on any of the itineraries shown in this book. Non-US or non-Canadian citizens must contact each consulate of the country or countries to be visited for specific requirements. We recommend you check with the consulates of the countries you are to visit to determine exact visa requirements. Information for US citizens and Canadian citizens can also be found at [uniworld.com](http://uniworld.com) in the “Before You Go” section.

Obtaining and carrying the proper documents, including passports, is the sole responsibility of the guest. Uniworld will not be responsible for any delays, damages, and/or losses—including missed portions of your cruise/tour—that are related to improper travel documentation. All guests are strongly advised to obtain necessary visas well in advance of departure to avoid unnecessary expedited processing charges.

Whenever using a visa service, it is highly recommended that you provide the service with a copy of your entire travel itinerary. There are times when multiple-entry visas may be required, or there may be restrictions to entering one country from another depending on your nationality. If the service does not have your full itinerary, this may result in improperly issued documentation.

## Visitors

Visitors are generally not permitted onboard the ship and are not allowed to join any shore excursions. Please make arrangements to meet your friends and relatives onshore.

## Water

The ship has been outfitted with a sophisticated filtration system and the tap water in each stateroom is safe for drinking. In addition, complimentary bottled water is provided in your stateroom for your comfort.

## Weather

Today, weather forecasts are widely available at the click of a button on the Internet. Uniworld’s favorite resource for up-to-the-minute international weather is [weather.com](http://weather.com). Weather.com features a very informative vacation-planner tool that you may find useful.

## What to Wear

Prepare for a variety of weather conditions depending on your travel season and the regions you will be cruising through. Layering clothing items is always your best bet, as this allows you to adjust to any temperature, including artificially maintained temperatures, by removing or adding items throughout the day.

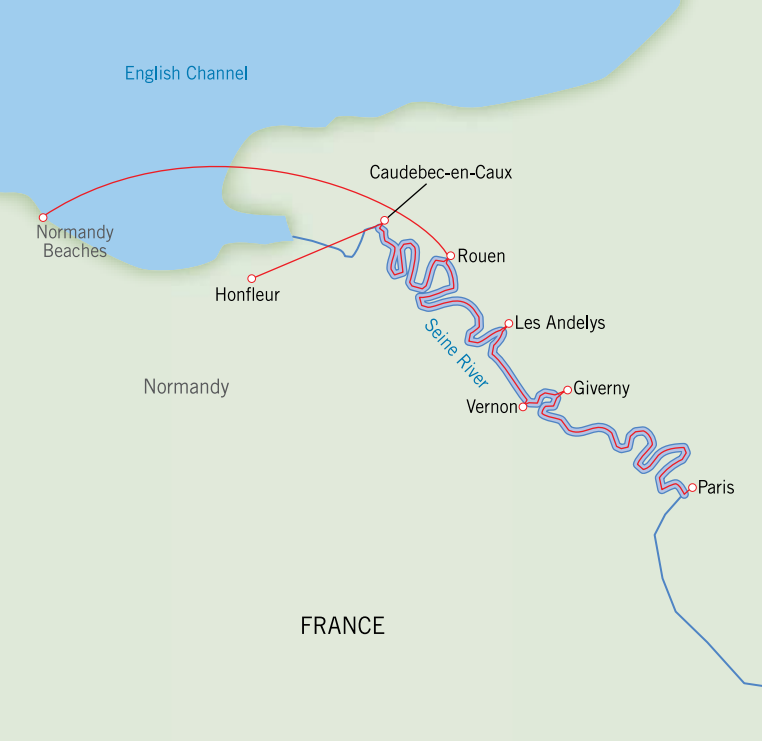
Comfortable, sporty, smart-casual daywear is appropriate both onshore and onboard. Everyday slacks, khakis, walking shorts, and everyday skirts/dresses are recommended. For warmer temperatures, we suggest lightweight clothing that can be layered, such as a mix of sweaters, lightweight knit shirts, slacks, and walking shorts. For early spring and late fall departures, you’ll find sweatshirts, heavier cotton or wool tops and long-sleeved shirts, and corduroy or heavy khaki pants perfectly suitable. Mix-and-match color schemes work best to help keep baggage light. You will participate in a significant amount of walking over uneven terrain during your time ashore. We recommend comfortable walking shoes with good ankle support. Sturdy sandals are another good option.

For evenings, any resort-type wear is perfectly suitable; however, we do ask that you not wear shorts to dinner. Men may want to bring one sport jacket for dressier restaurant venues in places such as Paris and for special events onboard such as the Captain’s Welcome and Farewell festivities. Women find that a cocktail dress or two always come in handy no matter the destination.

Don’t forget to pack a lightweight, waterproof jacket (preferably hooded), or even a heavier-weight windbreaker for colder temperatures.

## Omissions

Uniworld is not responsible for omissions, printing, and/or presentation errors in brochures, on Internet sites, or in any other media where such information may be presented; we reserve the right to make corrections as required.



# Paris & Normandy

Paris to Paris | 10 Days

**Combine a passion for the good life with art, culture, and brilliant landscapes, and you have northern France**

Begin your trip with a two-night stay at a deluxe Parisian hotel—the home base from which you'll explore the many delights of this “City of Light.” Then sail to Caudebec-en-Caux through the scenic, inspirational countryside of northern France.

Visit the charming French village of Les Andelys, the city of Rouen, and the harbor town of Honfleur, all of which were lovingly depicted by the Impressionists. Walk the beaches of Normandy where Allied forces landed during WWII's D-Day Invasion, and see the site where Joan of Arc was martyred. Experience Monet's home in Giverny, where you will see the familiar Japanese bridge and water lily-covered pond that inspired his great works of art. Spend time in one of the world's grandest cities—Paris—with its iconic Eiffel Tower, famed Champs-Élysées, and grand Notre Dame Cathedral.

All of this and so much more await you on one unforgettable journey you won't want to miss. Plus, you can share the enchantment of this region with the special young ones in your life on select sailings during the summer with Uniworld's Multigenerational Family-Friendly Program.

## Day 1 | Paris 🚌

Arrive at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport. If your cruise/tour package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the hotel.

## Day 2 | Paris 🗳️ 🚶

### Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:

Paris city tour 🕒 🚶 🚌

### OR

Exclusive “Heart of Paris: Opéra Garnier to Comédie-Française” walking tour 🕒 🚶 🌊

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** “Illuminated Paris” evening cruise with dinner 🕒 🚶 🚌 🌃

Rarely does a city live up to its reputation the way Paris does. Europe's capital of style gracefully combines an ultra-cosmopolitan culture with the charms of a centuries-old village. This morning, take your pick of two wonderful ways to explore the many delights that Paris has to offer. Then, in the evening, enjoy free time in the city, or glide along the Seine with us on a magical dinner cruise—the most romantic way to view the twinkling lights of Paris.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Paris city tour

Embark on a panoramic tour of Paris that will introduce you to the city's most beloved attractions. Your first stop is the magnificent Palais Garnier, also known as Opéra Garnier. Historically, prominent Parisians attended the opera or ballet to see and be seen by the best of French society. The opulent Neo-Baroque Palais Garnier was inaugurated in 1875 and still plays host to the companies of the National Opera and Ballet.

From here you'll move on to the sophisticated square of Place Vendôme, which is distinguished by designer salons, hotels, and the Vendôme Column, topped by a statue of Napoleon. You'll then come upon the world's largest museum and palace, the Louvre. The ultra-modern glass pyramid designed by I.M. Pei marks the entrance to the nearly half-mile-long classical edifice. Just to the west of the Louvre stands the Arc du Carrousel, recognizable from the final scene of *The Da Vinci Code*.

You'll cross the Île de la Cité at Pont Notre Dame and arrive at the Quartier Latin (Latin Quarter), the intellectual heart of Paris. The local expert onboard your motorcoach will share insights about the district's famous Sorbonne (University of Paris) and the Panthéon, the Neoclassical church and burial place of luminaries such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Voltaire. The perfect place to think about these great philosophers is the

nearby Jardin du Luxembourg (Luxemburg Gardens). Feel free to meander around the 59-acre (24-hectare) public gardens and admire the beautiful sculptures on display. The building that currently houses the French senate was originally a palace built for Marie de Medici in 1615. You'll see children playing with miniature boats on the garden's little pond, as well a puppet theater and merry-go-round.

Re-board your motorcoach and head to the École Militaire, an impressive complex of buildings that houses military higher-education facilities and a museum. You'll have a chance to photograph Paris's most iconic structure—the 1,000-foot-tall (304-m-tall) Tour Eiffel (Eiffel Tower)—from the manicured promenade of the Champs de Mars. Once an important site of activities related to the French Revolution, today it adds more than 2.5 million square feet (240,000 square meters) of beautiful greenery to the cityscape.

From here, you'll cross the lovely Seine via one of the most stunning bridges in Paris, Pont Alexandre III. From the Left Bank to the Right Bank, the single-arch bridge displays elegantly sculpted nymphs, winged horses, and Art Nouveau lamps that are more than 100 years old. Once across, you'll be sure to spot the largest glass ceiling in France, which graces the Grand Palais, a major exhibition hall. Resting next door is the Grand's demure sister, the Petit Palais, which hosts the city's Musée des Beaux-Arts (Museum of Fine Arts).

The best of Paris is unveiled in the eighth district, starting with the Arc de Triomphe. Commissioned by Napoleon to celebrate the 128 victories of his Grande Armée, the world's most famous triumphal arch is humbled by the tomb of the unknown soldier that rests beneath its span. You'll head down the grand avenue of Paris, the Champs-Élysées, dazzled by the finest the city has to offer. The famed boulevard comes to its eastern end at the Place de la Concorde. Although a city "square," the area is actually an octagon with statues dedicated to French cities at each corner. You can take in the red granite obelisk from Luxor, Egypt, or simply enjoy the variety of fountains throughout the area. You can then take the motorcoach back to the hotel or explore the Musée d'Orsay on your own.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Exclusive "Heart of Paris: Opéra Garnier to Comédie-Française" walking tour

This intimate walking tour of Paris will give you an up-close look at the wonders that line the route leading from the Palais Garnier to the Comédie-Française." You'll set off with your guide along the Rue Laffitte, which provides an excellent view of the Basilique du Sacré-Cœur (Basilica of the Sacred Heart) sitting high atop Montmartre hill.

Your first stop is the magnificent Palais Garnier, also known as Opéra Garnier. This opulent neo-Baroque hall plays host to the companies of the National Opera and Ballet. As you circle the theater with your guide, you'll hear about the tortured history of its construction—a history that inspired (and features prominently in) Gaston Leroux's *Phantom of the Opera*. The theater was commissioned by Napoleon III as part of the great Paris reconstruction project carried out by Baron Haussmann. Charles Garnier, a young, unknown architect, won the national competition to design the structure. Construction of the opera house took fifteen years, from 1860 to 1875; it was interrupted by numerous incidents, including the Franco-Prussian war and subsequent fall of the Second Empire, and the discovery of a subterranean lake under the building site that required eight months of continual pumping to drain sufficiently. You'll enter the theater and take in its lavish interior adornments. See the famed grand staircase, the elaborately painted ceilings, the richly mirrored grand foyer, and, of course, the auditorium itself, which features a colorful ceiling painted by French master Marc Chagall and an eight-ton crystal chandelier. You'll have time to pop into the gift shop to pick up a souvenir of your visit to this magnificent site.

Then you'll head back out onto the Paris streets, where you'll both see and hear about Baron Georges Haussmann's mid-19th-century alterations to the Paris cityscape. Charged by Napoleon III with the modernization of Paris, Haussmann molded the city into a geometric grid, dividing it into districts and instituting wider streets, taller buildings, and modernized plumbing. Haussmann and his team of architects also built many new public buildings and shopping arcades; their marked preference for Neoclassical style resulted in a unification of the architectural façades of the city. Rather than treating individual buildings as independent structures, street blocks were designed as homogeneous architectural wholes, creating the unified urban landscape you see throughout much of Paris today.

Next, you'll stroll into the Jardin du Palais Royal (Garden of the Royal Palace). Commissioned by Cardinal de Richelieu in 1633, the Palais Royal housed France's royal families until the completion of Versailles. Later, the gardens became a den of prostitution, gambling, and political unrest. Today, they feature rows of lime trees, two long lawns, and a simple fountain. This is a hidden haven where locals come to relax, play, and read.

Your final stop is the Comédie-Française, home to one of the few state theaters in France. The theater company has a history dating back to the 1670s. The Comédiens-Français have taken up the legacy of master French playwright Molière, and have been performing his plays for over three centuries.

You'll walk back to the hotel, passing the Bibliothèque nationale de France (National Library of France)—which houses over 30 million items and is the designated repository of all literary works that are published in France—and the Neoclassical La Bourse de Paris (Paris Stock Exchange Building) along your way.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** “Illuminated Paris” evening cruise with dinner

Enjoy a magical dining experience as you cruise past the illuminated monuments and bridges of Paris. Your unforgettable evening begins at your hotel, where you will be picked up by a motorcoach and transferred to the cruise ship at the Port de la Bourdonnais. Enjoy an aperitif, and then choose from a selection of gourmet meals and desserts accompanied by choice wines. You'll be entertained by a musical group playing a variety of French and international music for listening or dancing. After the cruise you will be escorted back to your hotel.

*Note: Jacket and tie recommended for gentlemen.*

Day 3 | Paris BB, D  

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Château de Chantilly






Enjoy leisure time in the “City of Light.” Return to your favorite site from yesterday’s tour. Head out to discover new architectural, artistic, and historical treasures. Or simply enjoy sipping a café au lait and watching the parade of Parisian daily life from your table at a charming sidewalk café. If you'd like to spend the day at one of the finest estate houses and art museums in France, please join us on our irresistible optional excursion to Château de Chantilly.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Château de Chantilly

Board a motorcoach and make your way to the small city of Chantilly, France. You'll disembark at Château de Chantilly, a lovely historic estate that is made up of two attached buildings. Both the Grand Château and the Petit Château were built around the middle of the 16th century for Anne de Montmorency, a French soldier, statesman, and diplomat; the Grand Château was destroyed during the French Revolution, however, and rebuilt in the 1870s. The château's art gallery, the Musée Condé, houses one of the finest collections of paintings in France, including works by Raphael, Watteau, and Veronese, and illuminated manuscripts of the 15th and 16th centuries. Enjoy exploring the château and its environs with your expert guide.

You'll board your Uniworld ship in the afternoon and enjoy dinner onboard as you sail from Paris toward Les Andelys.

Day 4 | Les Andelys BB, L 

**Featured Excursion:** Hike to Château Gaillard   

You'll arrive in beautiful Les Andelys this morning, and your gaze will immediately rise to the late-12th-century Château Gaillard, perched high above the white cliffs of the Seine. Fuel up with a delicious, nutritious breakfast onboard, and then embark on an invigorating guided nature hike up the picturesque hillside to the remains of this massive castle. (Guests who prefer a more relaxing journey may ride up on a motorcoach.)

Les Andelys was of considerable strategic importance during the Middle Ages, a fact that prompted King Richard the Lionheart to build a fortified castle here to protect the Duchy of Normandy from the French King Philip II. While the construction of large stone castles in this period often took the better part of a decade, Château-Gaillard was completed in less than two years by the combined labor of 6,000 workers. You'll see how the stronghold was carved out of the natural rock, making this one of the most well-designed castles of its age. Your guide will share Château-Gaillard's long and storied history with you, including its frequent transfer of ownership between the English and the French, and its use as both a prison and a place of refuge for troubled European rulers.





After you tour the stronghold, you'll return to the ship for lunch. In the afternoon, take in the enchanting beauty of the Seine's lovely countryside as you sail to Rouen. In the evening, a special Captain's Welcome Gala will be prepared for you.

Day 5 | Rouen (Normandy Beaches)  BB, D

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:**

Full-day Normandy beaches with D-Day Museum at Arromanches    

**OR**

Full-day Normandy beaches with Tapestry Museum in Bayeux    

Normandy's proximity to the sea has made it the site of many important battles, including the famous D-Day Invasion by Allied forces during WWII. Today you'll be immersed in the tactics, the history, and the human cost of this remarkable campaign that changed the course of human history.

You'll begin your day at Arromanches, where you can view one of the two Mulberry Harbors deployed in the D-Day Invasion. The Mulberry Harbors were artificial harbors constructed to ease and speed the process of unloading Allied troops, vehicles, and equipment onto the Normandy beaches.

From here, you can choose to learn more about Operation Overlord at the nearby D-Day Museum or view a depiction of a much older military conflict—the 11th-century Battle of Hastings—at the Tapestry Museum in Bayeux.

Both groups will reconvene at Omaha Beach, where you'll read letters written by WWII soldiers from many different nations. You'll see the battery of Longues-sur-Mer, part of Germany's "Atlantic Wall" coastal fortifications, which fired on the soldiers landing at Gold and Omaha beaches. Then you'll head to the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer, where 9,387 American soldiers are buried; the interred service members' average age was 22. The wall of the missing lists the names of 1,557 American soldiers who lost their lives and could not be located. Beyond the reflecting pool, the mall displays rows of marble headstones facing west, toward the United States, as far as the eye can see. You'll have time to walk in the memorial park and visit the visitor center, which features an educational film and exhibits about Operation Overlord.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** D-Day Museum at Arromanches

The D-Day Museum offers a multimedia experience that brings history to life for visitors of all ages. In addition to the site of the invasion itself, you'll see a special diorama, the Hall of Allied Nations, and a film that details the design, transport, and deployment of Mulberry Harbor B (the one still on display at Arromanches, also called Gold Beach). You'll have time to enjoy lunch in Arromanches and stroll its main avenue before heading off to Omaha Beach.


**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Tapestry Museum in Bayeux

From Arromanches, you will be taken to Bayeux, the first French town to be liberated in 1944. Here, you can see a depiction of the Battle of Hastings on a tapestry dating from the 11th century. The Bayeux Tapestry is listed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register and was probably embroidered by monks in the south of England in October of 1066. The tapestry tells the story of the Norman conquest of England. You'll both watch a short film about and take a guided audio tour of this remarkable handwoven textile, which is over 220 feet (68 m) long and features 58 distinct scenes with Latin annotations. You will then have time for lunch in this pleasant city, cradle of the dynasty of the Dukes of Normandy, before heading off to Omaha Beach.

*Note: The Tapestry Museum is a very popular tourist destination in summer; therefore, the order of events may change to accommodate scheduling issues.*

After spending an amazing day imbibing history both tragic and triumphant, you'll return to the ship in Rouen.

Day 6 | **Rouen BB, L, D**

**Featured Excursion:** Walking tour of Rouen  

Rouen has had many famous citizens—Joan of Arc, Gustave Flaubert, and Claude Monet among them. As you stroll off the ship and into the well-preserved city, you'll feel like you've stepped back into the Middle Ages, and you'll understand what drew those illustrious individuals to the historic capital of Normandy.

The first majestic edifice to attract your eye will be the Gothic Cathédrale Notre Dame (Notre Dame Cathedral), which was begun more than 800 year ago and, for a brief period in the late 19th century, was the tallest building in the world. The cathedral houses the tomb of Richard the Lionheart, though only his heart is interred here. Over the years, famed artists, including Claude Monet, John Ruskin, and Roy Lichtenstein, have produced celebrated works depicting the cathedral's façade.




Your local guide will take you through the old quarter, where you will be charmed by the city's half-timbered, slate-roofed houses. You'll hear about the astrological symbols that adorn the Gros Horloge, the Renaissance clock tower that arches overhead. You'll then reach the Vieux Marché (Old Market Square), which bears a bronze cross to mark the site of Joan of Arc's martyrdom—the pyre on which she died for her bold defiance. You may enter the modern Church of Saint Joan of Arc and admire the Renaissance-era stained-glass window that was rescued from Saint-Sauveur church, which was destroyed in WWII.

For lunch, you'll return to the ship.

Afterward, head back into town, where antique shops, galleries, and craftsmen painting Rouen's signature blue earthenware open their doors to art lovers around St. Maclou Church.

To understand the role Rouen—the town Picasso found "as beautiful as Venice"—has played in art history, visit the Fine Arts Museum, which displays masterworks by Caravaggio, Eugène Delacroix, Amedeo Modigliani, and Claude Monet.

## Day 7 | Caudebec-en-Caux (Honfleur) BB, L, D

**Featured Excursion:** Honfleur visit   

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** The cliffs of Etretat and the delights of Normandy    

After crossing the Pont de Tancarville (Tancarville Bridge), you'll drive through beautiful Calvados countryside on your way to Honfleur. Honfleur was a major defensive port in the 17th century and the starting point of many expeditions to the New World. Birthplace of the unconventional French composer Erik Satie, the town has blossomed into a delightful seaside harbor and city of painters; over the years, it has been favored by artists such as Gustave Courbet, Eugene Boudin, and Claude Monet, who painted the destination's seaside landscapes under the light of every season.

You'll depart on a walking tour of the fishing village, beginning at the former smugglers' harbor of Vieux Bassin—the most frequently painted scene in Honfleur. Vieux Bassin is seemingly unchanged from its state more than 100 years ago. From the pedestrian streets lined with artists' workshops to the Medieval town center, each site in Honfleur is delightful. Enjoy some free time amid a myriad of shops known for their paintings and handicrafts. The quaint houses converted into cafés and brasseries serving wine and seafood make for a special treat. Sample some fresh oysters and *fruits de mer* from local fishermen before you board the motorcoach to return to the ship in Caudebec-en-Caux via the majestic Pont de Normandie (Normandy Bridge).

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** The cliffs of Etretat and the delights of Normandy

Today you will have the opportunity to enjoy the scenic beauty of Normandy and the arresting cliffs of Etretat. You will depart by motorcoach from Caudebec-en-Caux for a guided drive through the picturesque countryside of upper Normandy and Bolbec before arriving in Etretat. Disembark the motorcoach at City Hall to explore Old Town and the beachfront, whose dramatic cliffs and natural arches have inspired the work of numerous artists and writers. You'll have a chance to take in the beautiful vistas from the cliff top and snap some photos before departing for the Pont de Normandie. This modern cable-stayed bridge connects Le Havre to Honfleur across the Seine. When it opened in 1995, the Pont de Normandie was the world's longest cable-stayed bridge.

Next, experience all the charm of bucolic Normandy at Domaine Apreval, a family-owned estate set amid charming apple orchards. Take a guided tour of the farm—hearing

about its 17 different apple varieties—as well as the cider distillery. Enjoy a delicious lunch onsite featuring the famous cheeses of Normandy, including camembert, livarot, and pont l'evêque. The afternoon will also include a gourmet tasting of three of the region's (and the house's) specialties: cider, calvados, and pommeau.

You will next depart for Honfleur, located on the southern bank of the Seine. Enjoy a guided walking tour of this beautiful port, followed by some free time for shopping and browsing artists' workshops; the town has a long artistic history, and many Impressionist artists, including Claude Monet, have portrayed it in their works. Following your visit to Honfleur, you will drive past the farming village of Tancarville before arriving in Caudebec, where the ship awaits you.

## Day 8 | Vernon (Giverny) BB, L

**Featured Excursion:** Monet's Giverny    

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Palace and gardens of Versailles    

Visit Monet's home in his beloved village of Giverny. The Seine River Valley's unique light kept Monet in residence here for more than 40 years, until his death in 1926.

The village and gardens surrounding his home frequently provided the subject matter of his paintings. It was after the move to Giverny that Monet began his famous series paintings of haystacks, cathedrals, and water lilies. You'll explore Monet's house, furnished as it was when the leader of the Impressionist school lived here, complete with his precious collection of Japanese engravings. As you stroll through the gardens, you'll see the famed Japanese bridge and garden shaded by weeping willows, its pond still covered with the water lilies that graced some of his masterworks.

You'll return to the ship at the Port of Mantes-la-Jolie. This afternoon, consider joining us on an extraordinary optional excursion to the famous palace and gardens of Versailles.

A special Captain's Farewell Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.

*Note: Giverny will be closed during the March 16, March 23, and October 26 cruise departure dates. A visit to Versailles Palace will be substituted in its place.*

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Palace and gardens of Versailles

During the ride to Versailles, an expert local guide will share the history of the palace and its royal inhabitants. Once you enter the Hall of Mirrors, you will see why Versailles established

the standard for palatial opulence throughout Europe. Seventeen impressive beveled mirrors reflect the glamour of the hall lit by seventeen arched windows and resplendent chandeliers. The treaty ending WWI was signed in this exquisite corridor.




The Grands Appartements showcase the king and queen's suite of salons, each of which was dedicated to a Roman deity. The royal décor of each room is complemented by a masterful ceiling painting. The Queen's Bedchamber still looks much the way it did when Marie-Antoinette left it in 1789, fleeing the revolutionaries. The King's Bedchamber has resided in the exact center of the palace since 1701, since the reign of the Sun King, Louis XIV.

The Royal Chapel, where kings attended daily mass, gleams with its astonishing gilded brass altar and white marble interior. To experience all the grandeur of Versailles requires a walk through its royal gardens, which include 250 acres (101 hectares) of pristine lawns, awe-inspiring fountains, and lush forest. The grounds surround the Grand Canal, which boasts a 4-mile (6.5-km) perimeter. You'll have time to explore the magnificent gardens before returning to the ship, docked at Conflans Sainte Honorine.

*Note: On certain dates, Versailles Palace and Gardens may be closed and a tour to the Louvre will be offered in its place.*





Day 9 | Paris  BB, L, D





### Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:

Montmartre artists' village   

### OR

Exclusive "Heart of Paris: Île de la Cité and Latin Quarter" walking tour    

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Secrets and masterpieces of the Louvre    

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** An evening at the Moulin Rouge    

Return to incomparable Paris and spend the morning exploring either the artists' haven of Montmartre or the heart and soul of the city on a walk from Notre Dame to the Latin Quarter. You'll have an embarrassment of riches to choose from in the afternoon and evening, when you can join us on optional excursions to the Louvre and/or to the Moulin Rouge.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Montmartre artists' village

Disembark the ship at Quai André Citroën and board a motorcoach bound for Montmartre. You'll encounter lovely

views of the Eiffel Tower before arriving in the Pigalle district and disembarking at Place Blanche. At the base of Montmartre you'll board the "petit train" and begin your ascent up the hill. Your first stop is Place du Tertre—a lively square ringed by cafés and filled with street entertainers and easel-toting artists. Your guide will lead you through Montmartre's narrow streets, explaining the history of the village. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the area was largely made up of gypsum mines and vineyards. Its strategic hilltop location made Montmartre an important stronghold during military conflicts, including the Franco-Prussian War—when it was the site of a defensive "cannon park"—and the rise of the Paris Commune in 1871. By the turn of the 20th century, the area had developed into a center of decadent entertainment, housing the popular cabarets Moulin Rouge and Le Chat Noir.

You'll visit the Basilique du Sacré-Cœur (Basilica of the Sacred Heart), whose distinctive white domes crown the Paris skyline. The gorgeous basilica was built to expiate the "crime" of the Communards and to commemorate those who lost their lives during the war. It was constructed of a French travertine that exudes calcite, which ensures that its façade remains white despite the ravages of weather and pollution. As you stroll through the surrounding streets, you'll notice that the area is irregularly laid out; this is because when Baron Haussmann standardized the layout and architectural character of so much of Paris, he left Montmartre alone—thus, it still retains its historical charm. The area has long attracted nonconformists and has witnessed the rise of artistic movements that include Cubism, Fauvism, and Surrealism. Take advantage of the breathtaking views of Paris afforded from Montmartre hill, and spend some free time watching artists sketch and paint the local scenes. There are also plenty of souvenir shops to explore. You'll then take the mini-train back down the hill and return to the ship.

After lunch onboard you can spend the afternoon at leisure in Paris, or you may join us on our expertly guided optional excursion to the Louvre. It's a perfect way to get acquainted with one of the most important museums in the world.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Exclusive "Heart of Paris: Île de la Cité and Latin Quarter" walking tour

Disembark the ship at Quai André Citroën and board a motorcoach for a panoramic drive through Paris to Cathédrale Notre Dame (Notre Dame Cathedral). Along the way, you'll see some of Paris's most iconic sights: the Eiffel Tower, Place de la Concorde, Musée d'Orsay, Musée du Louvre, and the Palais de Justice. Disembark the bus and walk to

Notre Dame square. Notre Dame is the official center of the city of Paris; facing the main entrance of the cathedral is “Kilometer Zero,” the location from which distances in France (including those of the French national highways) are traditionally measured. You’ll have time to explore both the interior and exterior of this remarkable church, which is considered one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture in Europe. Your guide will point out the structure’s most noteworthy details and explain the craftsmanship that went into fashioning them.

After you’ve admired Notre Dame’s stained glass, flying buttresses, and gruesome gargoyles, you’ll cross the Pont de l’Archeveche (Archbishop’s Bridge) and work your way to the Boulevard Saint-Germain. You’ve reached the Quartier Latin (Latin Quarter), the intellectual heart of Paris, perched on the famed Rive Gauche (or Left Bank). Through the years, many famous artists, poets, and philosophers have made the Rive Gauche their home, including Matisse, Picasso, Rimbaud, and Sartre, as well as American ex-patriots writers Hemingway and Fitzgerald. Climb the Montagne Sainte-Geneviève to the Panthéon, a secular mausoleum containing the remains of numerous distinguished French citizens. Nearby is the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, which is often full of students from La Sorbonne and other nearby universities. You’ll have time to meander through the area’s little squares, perusing its shop windows and perhaps taking a seat at one of its classic café terraces. Afterward, meet up with the motorcoach and ride back to the ship for lunch.

After lunch onboard you can spend the afternoon at leisure in Paris, or you may join us on our expertly guided optional excursion to the Louvre. It’s a perfect way to get acquainted with one of the most important museums in the world.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Secrets and masterpieces of the Louvre

Enjoy a short drive along the Seine before stopping directly inside the largest museum in Paris—the glorious Louvre. Home to several of the world’s most prestigious works of art, including Leonardo da Vinci’s *Mona Lisa*, Alexandros of Antioch’s *Venus de Milo*, and the *Winged Victory of Samothrace*, the Louvre has dominated central Paris since the late 12th century, when it was built as a fortress to protect the city. From its somber military beginnings, it was subsequently transformed into a royal château, a glamorous palace, and finally one of the world’s foremost art museums. Step inside and discover the evolution of art and beauty through the ages. Your local guide will enrich your visit with

background information about the artists whose work is on display and the complex relationship between art, religion, politics, and commerce. Later, you will have some free time to peruse the collections that most strike your fancy.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** An evening at the Moulin Rouge with dinner

Featuring rowdy squeals, boisterous rhythms, and skirts lifted high in the air to reveal dancers’ legs and frilly panties, the French cancan is a unique—and uniquely entertaining—musical event. Montmartre’s Moulin Rouge is no doubt the most famous cancan cabaret in the world, and over its 120-year history it has attracted princes, illustrious artists, and many ordinary patrons. Beautiful, lively, and festive, the show constantly reinvents itself, though always keeping the cancan on the dance menu. Sit back and enjoy your dinner and champagne while the glamorous girls and larger-than-life spectacle delight you.

Day 10 | Depart Paris CB/BB  

Disembark the ship. If your cruise/tour package includes a group departure transfer or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport for your flight home.

## Family-Friendly Cruises

Select summer departures of this itinerary have been earmarked as family-friendly cruises as part of our **Multigenerational Family-Friendly Program**. On these cruises, special onboard and onshore activities have been planned to cater to parents and grandparents traveling with young people. All onboard amenities and day-to-day itineraries on family-friendly cruises will be the same as those listed above, with the following exceptions/additions:

### Onboard, families can:

- Enjoy a special menu with kid-friendly food options and complimentary soft drinks during lunch and dinner.
- Participate in a cooking class with the ship's pastry chef, and have fun creating their own desserts.
- Enjoy a special ship tour with either the Captain or the Hotel Manager.
- Enjoy playing with other young (or young at heart!) guests in our PlayStation® 2- or Wii®-equipped game room. There are also plenty of onboard games and movies to choose from.
- Freshen up on their language skills—or start from scratch—by taking part in French language classes.

### Onshore, families can:

- See Paris from above on Day 3 during an exhilarating hot air balloon ride high above the “City of Light.”
- Follow in Richard the Lionheart's footsteps and enjoy a hike to Château Gaillard in Les Andelys on Day 4.
- Spend a full day at the Normandy beaches, the site of many military conflicts and battles—including the famous D-Day Invasion by Allied forces during WWII—on Day 5. This experience is one you and your family will always remember, as it brings dusty textbook history vibrantly to life.
- Enjoy a tour behind the dials of Rouen's Gros Horloge—a still-working 14th-century clock tower—on Day 6.
- Visit the Naturospace Museum in Honfleur on Day 7. This modern attraction showcases the flora and butterfly life from some of the most exotic climates on earth.
- Enjoy a special kid-friendly tour of Paris on Day 9, which includes exciting tours of Notre Dame and the oldest jailhouse in Paris.
- Enjoy the complimentary use of bicycles for independent exploration throughout their Uniworld adventure.



## Burgundy & Provence

Arles to Chalonsur Saône | 8 Days

### Burgundy and Provence will capture your heart and delight your senses

Sail through the heart of Burgundy and Provence on a magical journey where sumptuous cuisine, fine wine, world-class art, awe-inspiring scenery, and legendary history provide a treat for all of the senses.

Glide past hilltop cities and lively towns, as well as lush vineyards and sun-drenched vistas made famous by painters such as Van Gogh and Cézanne. Visit regions filled with UNESCO World Heritage Sites—Arles, immortalized in Van Gogh's paintings; Avignon, with its spectacular Palace of the Popes; and Lyon, the gastronomic capital of France.

Plus, share the enchantment of this region with the special young ones in your life on select summer sailings with our Multigenerational Family-Friendly Program.

### Epicurean Adventurer Program




**Program Includes:** Route to Beaune with shopping at an open-air food market | Côtes du Rhône wine tasting in Tain l'Hermitage | Crêpes Suzette-making demonstration and tasting | Special wine and food pairing dinner

## Day 1 | Marseille, transfer to Arles

Arrive at Marseille International Airport. If your cruise package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship docked in Arles.

## Day 2 | Arles ,

**Featured Excursion:** Arles walking tour  

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Olive farm and Medieval village of Les Baux-de-Provence   

Arles has existed since the sixth century BC, when the ancient Greeks referred to it as Theline. It was here that the Romans built their first bridge across the Rhône River, creating a vital overland route between Italy and Spain and facilitating the expansion of their empire. In the Middle Ages, Arles was renowned as one of the Mediterranean world's most attractive cities; centuries later, during a period of intense and impassioned work, Vincent van Gogh produced more than 300 paintings and drawings here in 15 months, including *Sunflowers*, *The Yellow House*, *Vincent's Bedroom*, and *L'Arlesienne*. Today you'll bask in the warmth of this friendly Mediterranean town known for its unique Provençal light.

You'll meet up with your local guide on the pier that Van Gogh immortalized in *Starry Night over the Rhône* and proceed to Le Théâtre Antique, the ruins of a Roman theater begun by Augustus in the first century. This is where the famous *Venus of Arles*, which is currently on display in the Louvre, was discovered in 1651. Nearby is the Roman Amphitheater, also known as Les Arènes, where gladiators once fought in front of up to 25,000 people. Roman emperors firmly believed that, to keep their people happy, political leaders needed to provide *panem et circenses* (bread and circuses) or mindless gratification. Such was the spectacle that entertained crowds at Les Arènes so many years ago.

Your next stop is Town Hall Square, a complex of Provençal architecture that includes City Hall and the Romanesque St. Trophime Church, which was built in the 12th century. It replaced the church where St. Augustine was consecrated the first archbishop of Canterbury.

Next, while strolling through the courtyard of the hospital-turned-art center where Vincent van Gogh once sought treatment, you'll learn about the travails of this troubled genius. Walk in Van Gogh's footsteps past the cheery yellow Café de Nuit and across Place du Forum (Forum Square)

before heading back toward the ship along the wide banks of the Rhône.

During your free time after the tour, you can peruse the local shops, go olive tasting, or delve further into Arles's stunning collection of architectural treasures.

After lunch onboard, enjoy more leisure time in town or join us on an optional afternoon tour to a working olive farm and the Medieval village of Les Baux-de-Provence.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Olive farm and Medieval village of Les Baux-de-Provence

Board a motorcoach and embark on a picturesque ride through the charming Provençal countryside. Provence has been one of the world's finest olive-growing regions since the Greeks imported the first olive tree to the territory more than 2,500 years ago. In fact, when locals discuss a "good vintage" today, they're just as likely to be referring to a prized olive oil as to the region's celebrated wines. After arriving at the olive farm, you'll be greeted by one of its two owner sisters, who will teach you about traditional methods of growing, harvesting, and pressing this sacred fruit of the Mediterranean. Your hosts will offer samples of their olives, oils, and tapenades, plus share some of their healthy recipes.

Leaving the olive farm, you'll proceed to the Medieval village of Les Baux-de-Provence. Perched on a rocky hilltop, lovely Les Baux lives up to its reputation as "the flagship of Provence." This charming village of cobblestone streets, winding alleyways, and countless craftsmen's shops also boasts significant historical monuments that evoke its tumultuous Medieval history. Enjoy a stroll to the Hôtel de Manville, the town's finest Renaissance mansion, or climb to Château des Baux (Les Baux's Medieval castle), which offers the most sensational views of the valley.




A special Captain's Welcome Gala will be prepared for you this evening.





## Day 3 | Avignon ,

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:**

Avignon walking tour and Palace of the Popes  

**OR**

Exclusive Avignon secret gardens tour   

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Pont du Gard aqueduct and wine tasting at Châteauneuf-du-Pape    

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Market Hall and cooking lesson at Hotel la Mirande   

Welcome to Avignon, home of the Medieval broken bridge immortalized in the folk song “Sur le pont d’Avignon,” as well as the brooding Palace of the Popes. From a distance, the picture-perfect city looks lifted straight from the pages of a history book, but all you need to do is step inside its mighty walls to discover the bustling, prosperous heart of contemporary Avignon.

After breakfast, you will have the opportunity to join us on two Optional Excursions, both with an epicurean twist: a trip to the Pont du Gard will plunge you into the region’s Roman history before treating you to a wine tasting, while an expedition to Hotel la Mirande will find you picking up tips from a French master chef.

In the afternoon, you’ll get to choose between two included excursions: a walking tour of lovely Avignon or an exploration of the city’s hidden gardens.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Pont du Gard aqueduct and wine tasting at Châteauneuf-du-Pape

The Pont du Gard became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. This magnificent tri-level aqueduct bridge has been spanning the River Gardon since 19 BC, when it was constructed as part of the system that carried water from Uzès to Nîmes. An expert guide will be on hand to explain the history of this engineering marvel and to share the technological secrets that have enabled it to resist floods and storms over the centuries.

Then you’ll head off to Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Long ago, Avignon and its environs were hardly known as wine-producing regions, and the wines of Châteauneuf-du-Pape were considered rustic and of limited appeal. Throughout the 70-year duration of the Avignon Papacy, however, the popes—devoted Burgundy drinkers—did much to advance the reputation of Côtes du Rhône wines and of southern France viticulture. Today, the appellation is both extremely prolific and justifiably renowned. The wine estate’s cellar master will share his craft with you, inviting you to sample various vintages and learn how to smell and taste the fragrances drawn from the area’s rocky terrain.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Market Hall and cooking lesson at Hotel la Mirande

The preparation of truly great cuisine starts with the selection of the finest and freshest ingredients. This morning, you’ll head to Les Halles (Market Hall) to choose ingredients from its impressive array of farm-fresh produce, breads, and cheeses. After deciding today’s menu, you will adjourn to

La Mirande for a cooking lesson provided by Jean-Claude, a local chef celebrity. Your culinary education will take place in the hotel’s charming 19th-century kitchen, with its rustic brick walls, beamed ceiling, and wood-burning stove. For lunch, savor the fruits of your creativity and a selection of local Rhône wines at La Mirande’s family-style table.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Avignon walking tour and Palace of the Popes

Meet up with your local guide for an afternoon walking tour that will begin at Avignon’s Medieval city wall. This 14th-century fortification was ordered by Pope Innocent VI to protect the city during the Hundred Years’ War. Stroll to the main square, Place de l’Horloge (Clock Tower Square), where in the shade of the sycamores, colorful café terraces face the magnificent architecture of City Hall, the Opera Theatre, and many classic mansions.

Next, it’s on to the Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes) for an inside visit. In the 14th century, during a schism between the leadership of the Catholic Church in Rome and the French monarchy, the French set up their own Papacy in Avignon. This palace—an impressive piece of architecture built between 1335 and 1364—served as the Avignon Popes’ seat of power. Perched on a giant rock with walls more than 17 feet (5 m) thick, the palace is virtually impregnable. Be prepared to climb approximately 100 steps during the tour—it will be worth the effort.

After visiting the palace museum, you’ll make your way through the city’s Old Town streets to Place Pie and Les Halles (Market Hall). You’ll see exquisite produce artfully displayed here, fresh from the farms of Provence. Your tour will end back at Clock Tower Square.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Exclusive Avignon secret gardens tour

Your guided exploration of Avignon’s idyllic Provençal gardens begins at the Medieval city wall, which was constructed on orders from Pope Innocent VI during the Hundred Years’ War. You’ll walk with your guide to the Hôtel d’Europe, which boasts a peaceful inner courtyard with 200-year-old plane trees. Over the years, illustrious guests of the hotel have included Queen Astrid of Spain, Victor Hugo, Charles Dickens, and Jackie Kennedy.

On your way to your next stop, you’ll pass one of the city’s most prominent landmarks—the magnificent Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes), residence of the 14th-century Avignon Popes and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then

you'll reach Parc Rocher des Doms, a bluff-top park with incredible views of the Rhône River valley, the famed Pont d'Avignon, and Mont Ventoux. Take a turn around its lovely pond, where ducks paddle and swans glide along the water. Cross the garden to the steep staircase of Saint Anne; at the bottom of the stairs lies a tranquil courtyard—all that remains of the orchard Pope Urban V planted alongside the Palace of the Popes. Nearby, the verdant Benoît XII Gardens offer the most majestic view of the palace.

Continue on to 2 Place de Jerusalem and the Avignon Synagogue. The domed, Neoclassical building you see before you now dates from 1846, but the first synagogue of Avignon was built here in 1221. (You can still see the 13th-century oven that was used to bake unleavened bread for Passover.) Though Jews were expelled from most of France in the 14th century, they found sanctuary in Avignon and enjoyed a period of peace and prosperity during the Avignon Papacy.

Your final stop is the green wall at Place Pie—a vertical garden created by Patrick Blanc in Avignon's city center. Take time to walk through the stacks of fresh breads, olives, and cheeses on display in Les Halles (Market Hall)—a treasure trove of Provençal delicacies. You'll have free time to check out the nearby shops and cafés before heading back to the ship.

#### Day 4 | Viviers BB, L, D

**Featured Excursions:** Viviers walking tour and organ concert



Awaken in Viviers, an enchanting village where time seems to have stopped centuries ago. Viviers has a long and storied history that dates back over 1,600 years and a notable architectural heritage to match. Its picturesque rooftops, cobblestone streets, and narrow alleyways will delight visitors.

Put on your walking shoes for an invigorating guided tour of the village. You'll saunter down 100-year-old Sycamore Alley, where houses bear the watermarks of floods from decades past. The street will wind toward the fountain square in Old Town Viviers, which reflects an interesting combination of Roman and Medieval influences.

You'll see the Maison des Chevaliers (House of Knights), a 16th-century Renaissance-style house built by the nobleman Noël Albert. You'll take the Rue du Château up to the former clergy quarter to enjoy the spectacular view. Under the vaulted ceiling of 12th-century St. Vincent's Cathedral, you'll hear a beautiful organ recital. Afterward, you'll walk back through the Medieval streets of this charming village to the ship.

*Note: During the lavender-blooming period, an optional tour to the lavender fields and villages of the Drôme Provençale will be offered. The optional tour will be scheduled on June 10, June 24, and July 8 cruises.*

#### Day 5 | Tournon/Tain l'Hermitage BB, L, D

**Featured Excursions:** Wine tasting and Tournon walking tour



Nestled on opposite sides of the river in the heart of the Côtes du Rhône, the twin cities of Tournon and Tain l'Hermitage are an ideal destination for connoisseurs of fine wine.

This morning, in Tain l'Hermitage, you'll visit the Cellar Ferraton or the Cellar Chapoutier to sample the region's famous Côtes du Rhône, Saint Joseph, and Crozes Hermitage wines. These wines are produced from the Syrah grapes that grow on the steep slopes lining the river. Then you'll cross the beautiful flower-bedecked Marc Seguin suspension bridge to visit Tournon, one of France's oldest cities. Tournon's feudal castle, which dates back to the 10th century, overlooks the river and houses the town museum. You'll also see the Lycée Gabriel Fauré, which is said to be the oldest secondary school in France.

#### Day 6 | Lyon BB, L,

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:**

Lyon city tour

**OR**

Exclusive "Lyon Heritage" walk

Two rivers: one tranquil, one torrential. Two hills: one for labor, where the sound of the silk weavers' looms never stopped; one for prayer, crowned by a spectacular basilica. Two cities, as different as night and day: one boasting colorful Old World façades, Medieval mansions, and hidden passageways; one with a sophisticated urbanity reminiscent of Paris. Situated at the confluence of the Rhône and Saône rivers, and with roots stretching back over 2,000 years to the days of Julius Caesar, Lyon is a place of fascinating dualities.

After breakfast onboard, you'll get to choose between boarding a motorcoach for a panoramic tour of the city and donning your walking shoes for a stroll through Lyon's historic streets. The afternoon is yours to spend in town at your leisure, shopping in the fashion or textile boutiques, visiting the antique dealers, or simply relaxing with a glass of Beaujolais at one of the many cafés. You might prefer to do as the locals do and use one of the ship's bicycles to

ride to the Parc de la Tête d'Or (Park of the Golden Head) up the left bank. If you choose to remain onboard, you can hear silk workers explain the art of silk painting.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Lyon city tour

The motorcoach will take you to Fourvière Hill, passing by two Roman theaters—the Grand Theater and the Odeon—that are still used today for cultural events. At the top of the hill you'll get a stunning view of the Alps, the Rhône valley, and Lyon itself. This is the “hill that prays,” home to Notre Dame de Fourvière, Lyon's hallmark basilica. You'll visit the basilica, which was built to pay homage to the Virgin Mary. If you look to the north, you will see Croix-Rousse, “the hill that works,” where early silk workers settled. In the 14th century, silk weaving was the main occupation of the majority of Lyon's population.

Your panoramic tour continues on the *presquile*, the peninsula between the two rivers. Pass by Place des Terreaux (Terreaux Square), Hôtel de Ville de Lyon (City Hall), the Musée des Beaux-Arts (Fine Art Museum), the Opéra, and the shopping district before crossing the Saône. The courthouse marks the beginning of the Quartier Saint-Jean (St. Jean quarter, a Medieval district). Your local guide will show you *les traboules*, the famous passageways hidden behind the doors of these Renaissance façades. You'll learn about the many different ways that Lyon's residents have made use of these secret pedestrian tunnels throughout the city's history. The tour will end at Place Bellecour, where you can browse silk shops and fine stores before heading back to the ship for lunch.


**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Exclusive “Lyon Heritage” walk

You'll begin your intimate tour of Lyon with a motorcoach ride up Fourvière Hill, during which you'll pass by two Roman theaters that were built during the reign of Augustus and expanded by Emperor Hadrian. The Grand Theater and the Odeon are still used today for cultural events. At the top of the hill you'll get a stunning view of the Alps, the Rhône valley, and Lyon itself. This is the “hill that prays,” home to Notre Dame de Fourvière, Lyon's hallmark basilica. You'll disembark the motorcoach to begin your walking tour. After visiting the inside of the basilica, you'll take a funicular down to the Quartier St. Jean, where you'll encounter many spectacular examples of Medieval and Renaissance architecture, including Le Cœur des Loges, La Tour Rose, and La Maison de l'Outarde d'Or. Enter the courtyard of the newly renovated Musée Gadagne, which is housed in an early-16th-century building. Stroll along Rue

Juiverie, which has been occupied since Roman times and boasts famed prophet Nostradamus as a former resident. Your local guide will show you *les traboules*, the city's old, hidden passageways, before taking you to Place Saint-Paul. Nearby is the Place du Change, which once housed open-air fairs and was the commercial capital of the city during the Renaissance. While explaining Lyon's important gastronomic history, your guide will show you the city's bouchons, which serve traditional Lyonnaise cuisine. Finally, you'll meet a silk worker who will demonstrate silk and velvet weaving on a Jacquard loom.

A special Captain's Farewell Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.

**Day 7 | Chalon sur Saône (Beaune) BB, D**

**Featured Excursions:** Beaune, Hospices de Beaune, and open-air food market visit 

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Southern Burgundy delights



Early this morning, your ship will sail through the rural landscapes of the Saône Valley and dock in Chalon sur Saône. Located in the heart of Burgundy, Chalon sur Saône is a major center of France's wine trade. It has also been a historically important port for transporting timber and other goods. This photogenic town is the fitting birthplace of famed photographic pioneer Nicéphore Niepce. His statue, facing the village where he was born, can be seen from the ship. Located on the quay, the Musée Nicéphore Niepce, dedicated to the invention of photography and the various styles of the art form, offers admittance free of charge. The city center features a number of delightful shops and cafés set around St. Vincent Square, which lies in the shadow of Cathédrale Saint-Vincent's alabaster façade.

After enjoying breakfast onboard, you'll depart from Chalon sur Saône by motorcoach and venture to Beaune. As you ride through the vineyards, a local guide will tell you about the history of wine in this region, from the monks' first harvest to the advent of the Hospices de Beaune's annual wine auction.

Nestled inside military ramparts, Beaune was the seat of the Dukes of Burgundy until the 16th century. It offers a wealth of history, culture, and magnificent regional architecture—most notably that of the world-famous Hospices de Beaune (also known as Hôtel-Dieu), which boasts a fabulous glazed-tile roof. You'll visit the hospice, which was founded as a charitable institution in 1443 by the chancellor of Beaune. Over the centuries, the hospice monks were given wine and vineyards

as payment for the care they provided. They started to auction their wine in order to help support their charitable work, and, to this day, the tradition continues. The establishment remains a working hospital for the poor, with modern facilities standing alongside the historic Hôtel-Dieu.

In addition to the hospice, you'll also visit the town's bountiful farmers' market, which displays the richness of Burgundy's *produits du terroir* (regional produce). Cheeses from the Jura Mountains and the plains of Bresse, fruit and vegetables, and much more are on colorful display here. Enjoy lunch on your own in Beaune before returning to the ship.

This afternoon, we invite you to join an optional excursion to the famous vineyards of southern Burgundy, where you'll sample some of the finest wine in the world.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Southern Burgundy delights

Drive through picturesque hamlets and pristine vineyards to a Burgundy wine estate. Upon arrival, you'll meet the estate's owners and indulge in a lunch showcasing regional specialties. You'll also enjoy a wine tasting that will bring to life the delicate flavors of southern Burgundy wine and illuminate the passion behind local winemaking traditions.

Day 8 | **Depart Chalon sur Saône, transfer to Lyon**

CB/BB  

Disembark the ship in Chalon sur Saône. If your cruise package includes a group departure transfer or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to Lyon-Saint Exupéry International Airport for your flight home. Alternatively, you can continue your adventure on our post-cruise optional extension to sparkling Paris.

## Family-Friendly Cruises

Select summer departures of this itinerary have been earmarked as family-friendly cruises as part of our **Multigenerational Family-Friendly Program**. On these cruises, special onboard and onshore activities have been planned to cater to parents and grandparents traveling with young people. All onboard amenities and day-to-day itineraries on family-friendly cruises will be the same as those listed above, with the following exceptions/additions:

### Onboard, families can:

- Enjoy a special menu with kid-friendly food options and complimentary soft drinks during lunch and dinner.
- Participate in a cooking class with the ship's pastry chef, and have fun creating their own desserts.
- Enjoy a special ship tour with either the Captain or the Hotel Manager.
- Enjoy playing with other young (or young at heart!) guests in our PlayStation® 2- or Wii®-equipped game room. There are also plenty of onboard games and movies to choose from.
- Freshen up on their language skills—or start from scratch—by taking part in French language classes.

### Onshore, families can:

- Kayak down the clear, tranquil waters of the Gardon River on Day 3.
- Hop aboard a steam-powered, narrow-gauge train for a scenic ride along the Ardèche River and through the Ardèche Gorges on Day 4.
- Bike through Lyon to the Parc de la Tête d'Or (Park of the Golden Head), where they can visit an open-air zoo and ride a carousel on Day 6.
- Enjoy the complimentary use of bicycles for independent exploration throughout their Uniworld adventure.



## Burgundy & Provence

Chalon sur Saône to Arles | 8 Days

### Burgundy and Provence will capture your heart and delight your senses

Sail through the heart of Burgundy and Provence on a magical journey where sumptuous cuisine, fine wine, world-class art, awe-inspiring scenery, and legendary history provide a treat for all of the senses.

Glide past hilltop cities and lively towns, as well as lush vineyards and sun-drenched vistas made famous by painters such as Van Gogh and Cézanne. Visit regions filled with UNESCO World Heritage Sites—Lyon, the gastronomic capital of France; Avignon, with its spectacular Palace of the Popes; and Arles, immortalized by Van Gogh's paintings.

All of this and so much more awaits you on an unforgettable journey that you won't want to miss.

### Epicurean Adventurer Program

**Program Includes:** Route to Arles with shopping at an open-air food market | Côtes du Rhône wine tasting in Tain l'Hermitage | Crêpes Suzette-making demonstration and tasting | Special wine and food pairing dinner

### Day 1 | Lyon, transfer to Chalon sur Saône D

Arrive at Lyon-Saint Exupéry International Airport. If your cruise package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship docked in Chalon sur Saône.

### Day 2 | Chalon sur Saône (Beaune) BB

**Featured Excursion:** Beaune and Hospices de Beaune



**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Southern Burgundy delights



Located in the heart of Burgundy, Chalon sur Saône is an important center of France's wine trade. This photogenic town is also the fitting birthplace of famed photographic pioneer Nicéphore Niepce. His statue, facing the village where he was born, can be seen from the ship. Located on the quay, the Musée Nicéphore Niepce, dedicated to the invention of photography and the various styles of the art form, offers admittance free of charge. Chalon sur Saône's city center features a number of delightful shops and cafés set around St. Vincent Square, which lies in the shadow of Cathédrale Saint-Vincent's alabaster façade.

After enjoying breakfast onboard, you'll depart from Chalon sur Saône by motorcoach and venture to Beaune. As you ride through the vineyards, a local guide will tell you about the history of wine in this region, from the monks' first harvest to the advent of the Hospices de Beaune's annual wine auction.

Nestled inside military ramparts, Beaune was the seat of the Dukes of Burgundy until the 16th century. It offers a wealth of history, culture, and magnificent regional architecture—most notably that of the world-famous Hospices de Beaune (also known as Hôtel-Dieu), which boasts a fabulous glazed-tile roof. You'll visit the hospice, which was founded as a charitable institution in 1443 by the chancellor of Beaune. Over the centuries, the hospice monks were given wine and vineyards as payment for the care they provided. They started to auction their wine in order to help support their charitable work, and, to this day, the tradition continues. The establishment remains a working hospital for the poor, with modern facilities standing alongside the historic Hôtel-Dieu. Enjoy lunch on your own in Beaune before returning to the ship.

This afternoon, we invite you to join an optional excursion to the famous vineyards of southern Burgundy, where you'll sample some of the finest wine in the world.




**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Southern Burgundy delights

Drive through picturesque hamlets and pristine vineyards to a Burgundy wine estate. Upon arrival, you'll meet the estate's owners and indulge in a lunch showcasing regional specialties. You'll also enjoy a wine tasting that will bring to life the delicate flavors of southern Burgundy wine and illuminate the passion behind local winemaking traditions.

A special Captain's Welcome Gala will be prepared for you this evening.

Day 3 | Lyon  BB, L, D

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:**

Lyon city tour   

**OR**

Exclusive "Lyon Heritage" walk    

Two rivers: one tranquil, one torrential. Two hills: one for labor, where the sound of the silk weavers' looms never stopped; one for prayer, crowned by a spectacular basilica. Two cities, as different as night and day: one boasting colorful Old World façades, Medieval mansions, and hidden passageways; one with a sophisticated urbanity reminiscent of Paris. Situated at the confluence of the Rhône and Saône rivers, and with roots stretching back over 2,000 years to the days of Julius Caesar, Lyon is a place of fascinating dualities.

This morning you'll get to choose between boarding a motorcoach for a panoramic tour of the city and donning your walking shoes for a stroll through Lyon's historic streets. The afternoon is yours to spend in town at your leisure, shopping in the fashion or textile boutiques, visiting the antique dealers, or simply relaxing with a glass of Beaujolais at one of the many cafés. You might prefer to do as the locals do and use one of the ship's bicycles to ride to the Parc de la Tête d'Or (Park of the Golden Head) up the left bank. If you choose to remain onboard, you can hear silk workers explain the art of silk painting

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Lyon city tour

The motorcoach will take you to Fourvière Hill, passing by two Roman theaters—the Grand Theater and the Odeon—that are still used today for cultural events. At the top of the hill you'll get a stunning view of the Alps, the Rhône valley, and Lyon itself. This is the "hill that prays," home to Notre Dame de Fourvière, Lyon's hallmark basilica. You'll visit the basilica, which was built to pay homage to the Virgin Mary. If you look to the north, you will see Croix-Rousse, "the hill

that works," where early silk workers settled. In the 14th century, silk weaving was the main occupation of the majority of Lyon's population.

Your panoramic tour continues on the *presquile*, the peninsula between the two rivers. Pass by Place des Terreaux (Terreaux Square), Hôtel de Ville de Lyon (City Hall), the Musée des Beaux-Arts (Fine Art Museum), the Opéra, and the shopping district before crossing the Saône. The courthouse marks the beginning of the Quartier Saint-Jean (St. Jean quarter, a Medieval district). Your local guide will show you *les traboules*, the famous passageways hidden behind the doors of these Renaissance façades. You'll learn about the many different ways that Lyon's residents have made use of these secret pedestrian tunnels throughout the city's history. The tour will end at Place Bellecour, where you can browse silk shops and fine stores before heading back to the ship for lunch.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Exclusive "Lyon Heritage" walk

You'll begin your intimate tour of Lyon with a motorcoach ride up Fourvière Hill, during which you'll pass by two Roman theaters that were built during the reign of Augustus and expanded by Emperor Hadrian. The Grand Theater and the Odeon are still used today for cultural events. At the top of the hill you'll get a stunning view of the Alps, the Rhône valley, and Lyon itself. This is the "hill that prays," home to Notre Dame de Fourvière, Lyon's hallmark basilica. You'll disembark the motorcoach to begin your walking tour. After visiting the inside of the basilica, you'll take a funicular down to the Quartier St. Jean, where you'll encounter many spectacular examples of Medieval and Renaissance architecture, including Le Cœur des Loges, La Tour Rose, and La Maison de l'Outarde d'Or. Enter the courtyard of the newly renovated Musée Gadagne, which is housed in an early-16th-century building. Stroll along Rue Juiverie, which has been occupied since Roman times and boasts famed prophet Nostradamus as a former resident. Your local guide will show you *les traboules*, the city's old, hidden passageways, before taking you to Place Saint-Paul. Nearby is the Place du Change, which once housed open-air fairs and was the commercial capital of the city during the Renaissance. While explaining Lyon's important gastronomic history, your guide will show you the city's bouchons, which serve traditional Lyonnaise cuisine. Finally, you'll meet a silk worker who will demonstrate silk and velvet weaving on a Jacquard loom.

## Day 4 | Tournon/Tain l'Hermitage BB, L, D

**Featured Excursions:** Wine tasting and Tournon walking tour



Nestled on opposite sides of the river in the heart of the Côtes du Rhône, the twin cities of Tournon and Tain l'Hermitage are an ideal destination for connoisseurs of fine wine.

This morning, in Tain l'Hermitage, you'll visit the Cellar Ferraton or the Cellar Chapoutier to sample the region's famous Côtes du Rhône, Saint Joseph, and Crozes Hermitage wines. These wines are produced from the Syrah grapes that grow on the steep slopes lining the river. Then you'll cross the beautiful flower-bedecked Marc Seguin suspension bridge to visit Tournon, one of France's oldest cities. Tournon's 1,000-year-old castle overlooks the river and houses the town museum. You'll also see the Lycée Gabriel Fauré, which is said to be the oldest secondary school in France.

## Day 5 | Viviers, Avignon BB, L, D

**Featured Excursions:** Viviers walking tour and organ concert



**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Truffle farm and Châteauneuf-du-Pape wine tasting



Viviers is an enchanting village where time seems to have stopped centuries ago; it has a long and storied history that dates back over 1,600 years and a notable architectural heritage to match. Its picturesque rooftops, cobblestone streets, and narrow alleyways will delight visitors.

Put on your walking shoes for an invigorating guided tour of the village. You'll saunter down 100-year-old Sycamore Alley, where houses bear the watermarks of floods from decades past. The street will wind toward the fountain square in Old Town Viviers, which reflects an interesting combination of Roman and Medieval influences.

You'll see the Maison des Chevaliers (House of Knights), a 16th-century Renaissance-style house built by the nobleman Noël Albert. You'll take the Rue du Château up to the former clergy quarter to enjoy the spectacular view. Under the vaulted ceiling of 12th-century St. Vincent's Cathedral, you'll hear a beautiful organ recital. Afterward, you'll walk back through the Medieval streets of this charming village to the ship.

After lunch, you're invited to join an exciting optional excursion to a truffle farm and a Châteauneuf-du-Pape wine estate.

*Note: During the lavender-blooming period, an optional tour to the lavender fields and villages of the Drôme Provençale will be offered. The optional tour will be scheduled on June 17 and July 1 cruises.*

## Day 6 | Avignon BB, L

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:**

Avignon walking tour and Palace of the Popes

**OR**

Exclusive Avignon secret gardens tour

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Pont du Gard aqueduct and Uzès village

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Market Hall and cooking lesson at Hotel la Mirande

Welcome to Avignon, home of the Medieval broken bridge immortalized in the folk song "Sur le pont d'Avignon," as well as the brooding Palace of the Popes. From a distance, the picture-perfect city looks lifted straight from the pages of a history book, but all you need to do is step inside its mighty walls to discover the bustling, prosperous heart of contemporary Avignon.

After breakfast, you will have the opportunity to join us on two Optional Excursions, both with an epicurean twist: a trip to the Pont du Gard will plunge you into the region's Roman history before treating you to a wine tasting, while an expedition to Hotel la Mirande will find you picking up tips from a French master chef.

In the afternoon, you'll get to choose between two included excursions: a walking tour of lovely Avignon or an exploration of the city's hidden gardens.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Pont du Gard aqueduct and Uzès village

The Pont du Gard became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. This magnificent tri-level aqueduct bridge has been spanning the River Gardon since 19 BC, when it was constructed as part of the system that carried water from Uzès to Nîmes. An expert guide will be on hand to explain the history of this engineering marvel and to share the technological secrets that have enabled it to resist floods and storms over the centuries.

Then re-board your motorcoach for a short drive to the village of Uzès, "the first Duchy of France." You'll see the town's well-preserved ducal château and the stately homes that attest to the prosperity of the city's 16th-century residents. Uzès

boasts many shops featuring high-quality painted furniture and ceramics, plus numerous art galleries. The village's craftsmen and –women are renowned for their skill and artistry. You'll have some free time to shop at the Place aux Herbes—the main market square—before heading back to Avignon.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Market Hall and cooking lesson at Hotel la Mirande

The preparation of truly great cuisine starts with the selection of the finest and freshest ingredients. This morning, you'll head to Les Halles (Market Hall) to choose ingredients from its impressive array of farm-fresh produce, breads, and cheeses. After deciding today's menu, you will adjourn to La Mirande for a cooking lesson provided by Jean-Claude, a local chef celebrity. Your culinary education will take place in the hotel's charming 19th-century kitchen, with its rustic brick walls, beamed ceiling, and wood-burning stove. For lunch, savor the fruits of your creativity and a selection of local Rhône wines at La Mirande's family-style table.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Avignon walking tour and Palace of the Popes

Meet up with your local guide for an afternoon walking tour that will begin at Avignon's Medieval city wall. This 14th-century fortification was ordered by Pope Innocent VI to protect the city during the Hundred Years' War. Stroll to the main square, Place de l'Horloge (Clock Tower Square), where in the shade of the sycamores, colorful café terraces face the magnificent architecture of City Hall, the Opera Theatre, and many classic mansions.

Next, it's on to the Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes) for an inside visit. In the 14th century, during a schism between the leadership of the Catholic Church in Rome and the French monarchy, the French set up their own Papacy in Avignon. This palace—an impressive piece of architecture built between 1335 and 1364—served as the Avignon popes' seat of power. Perched on a giant rock with walls more than 17 feet (5 m) thick, the palace is virtually impregnable. Be prepared to climb approximately 100 steps during the tour—it will be worth the effort.

After visiting the palace museum, you'll make your way through the city's Old Town streets to Place Pie and Les Halles (Market Hall). You'll see exquisite produce artfully displayed here, fresh from the farms of Provence. Your tour will end back at Clock Tower Square.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Exclusive Avignon secret gardens tour



Your guided exploration of Avignon's idyllic Provençal gardens begins at the Medieval city wall, which was constructed on orders from Pope Innocent VI during the Hundred Years' War. You'll walk with your guide to the Hôtel d'Europe, which boasts a peaceful inner courtyard with 200-year-old plane trees. Over the years, illustrious guests of the hotel have included Queen Astrid of Spain, Victor Hugo, Charles Dickens, and Jackie Kennedy.




On your way to your next stop, you'll pass one of the city's most prominent landmarks—the magnificent Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes), residence of the 14th-century Avignon Popes and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then you'll reach Parc Rocher des Doms, a bluff-top park with incredible views of the Rhône River valley, the famed Pont d'Avignon, and Mont Ventoux. Take a turn around its lovely pond, where ducks paddle and swans glide along the water. Cross the garden to the steep staircase of Saint Anne; at the bottom of the stairs lies a tranquil courtyard—all that remains of the orchard Pope Urban V planted alongside the Palace of the Popes. Nearby, the verdant Benoît XII Gardens offer the most majestic view of the palace.

Continue on to 2 Place de Jerusalem and the Avignon Synagogue. The domed, Neoclassical building you see before you now dates from 1846, but the first synagogue of Avignon was built here in 1221. (You can still see the 13th-century oven that was used to bake unleavened bread for Passover.) Though Jews were expelled from most of France in the 14th century, they found sanctuary in Avignon and enjoyed a period of peace and prosperity during the Avignon Papacy.

Your final stop is the green wall at Place Pie—a vertical garden created by Patrick Blanc in Avignon's city center. Take time to walk through the stacks of fresh breads, olives, and cheeses on display in Les Halles (Market Hall)—a treasure trove of Provençal delicacies. You'll have free time to check out the nearby shops and cafés before heading back to the ship.

Day 7 | Arles BB, L, D

**Featured Excursion:** Arles walking tour and open-air food market visit  

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Olive farm and Medieval village of Les Baux-de-Provence   

Arles has existed since the sixth century BC, when the ancient Greeks referred to it as Theline. It was here that

the Romans built their first bridge across the Rhône River, creating a vital overland route between Italy and Spain and facilitating the expansion of their empire. In the Middle Ages, Arles was renowned as one of the Mediterranean world's most attractive cities; centuries later, during a period of intense and impassioned work, Vincent van Gogh produced more than 300 paintings and drawings here in 15 months, including *Sunflowers*, *The Yellow House*, *Vincent's Bedroom*, and *L'Arlesienne*. Today you'll bask in the warmth of this friendly Mediterranean town known for its unique Provençal light.

You'll meet up with your local guide on the pier that Van Gogh immortalized in *Starry Night over the Rhône* and proceed to Le Théâtre Antique, the ruins of a Roman theater begun by Augustus in the first century. This is where the famous *Venus of Arles*, which is currently on display in the Louvre, was discovered in 1651. Nearby is the Roman Amphitheater, also known as Les Arènes, where gladiators once fought in front of up to 25,000 people. Roman emperors firmly believed that, to keep their people happy, political leaders needed to provide *panem et circenses* (bread and circuses) or mindless gratification. Such was the spectacle that entertained crowds at Les Arènes so many years ago.

Your next stop is Town Hall Square, a complex of Provençal architecture that includes City Hall and the Romanesque St. Trophime Church, which was built in the 12th century. It replaced the church where St. Augustine was consecrated the first archbishop of Canterbury.

Next, while strolling through the courtyard of the hospital-turned-art center where Vincent van Gogh once sought treatment, you'll learn about the travails of this troubled genius. Walk in Van Gogh's footsteps past the cheery yellow Café de Nuit and across Place du Forum (Forum Square) before visiting the town's bountiful farmers' market, which displays the richness of Arles's *produits du terroir* (regional produce). Seasonal fruits and vegetables, medicinal herbs, and many more specialties of southern France are magnificently arrayed along the main avenue during the morning.

During your free time after the tour, you can peruse the local shops, go olive tasting, or delve further into Arles's stunning collection of architectural treasures. After lunch onboard, enjoy more leisure time in town or join us on an optional afternoon tour to a working olive farm and the Medieval village of Les Baux-de-Provence.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Olive farm and Medieval village of Les Baux-de-Provence

Board a motorcoach and embark on a picturesque ride through the charming Provençal countryside. Provence has been one of the world's finest olive-growing regions since the Greeks imported the first olive tree to the territory more than 2,500 years ago. In fact, when locals discuss a "good vintage" today, they're just as likely to be referring to a prized olive oil as to the region's celebrated wines. After arriving at the olive farm, you'll be greeted by one of its two owner sisters, who will teach you about traditional methods of growing, harvesting, and pressing this sacred fruit of the Mediterranean. Your hosts will offer samples of their olives, oils, and tapenades, plus share some of their healthy recipes.

Leaving the olive farm, you'll proceed to the Medieval village of Les Baux-de-Provence. Perched on a rocky hilltop, lovely Les Baux lives up to its reputation as "the flagship of Provence." This charming village of cobblestone streets, winding alleyways, and countless craftsmen's shops also boasts significant historical monuments that evoke its tumultuous Medieval history. Enjoy a stroll to the Hôtel de Manville, the town's finest Renaissance mansion, or climb to Château des Baux (Les Baux's Medieval castle), which offers the most sensational views of the valley.

**Day 8 | Depart Arles, transfer to Marseille CB/BB**  

Disembark the ship. If your cruise package includes a group departure transfer or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to Marseille International Airport for your flight home. Or continue your adventure with an extension to Aix-en-Provence, the famed home of Paul Cézanne and Emile Zola.



# Grand France

Paris to Arles | 17 Days

**Take a grand journey from the historic beaches of Normandy to the fields of Provence, and spend two nights in magical Paris**

Your “Grand France” cruise begins in Paris with a two-night stay at a deluxe hotel. Then you’ll sail the Seine roundtrip to the Normandy coast. Explore the haunts of the Impressionists in Honfleur and visit Giverny, where you will see Monet’s lily pond. Step inside the monumental Rouen Cathedral, once the tallest building in the world. Reflect on the sacrifices of the Allied forces while walking the beaches of Normandy. After a final night in Paris, you will transfer to Chalon sur Saône for your cruise through the Burgundy and Provence regions of southern France. Walk through Arles and see where Van Gogh painted his most famous works. Visit the Palace of the Popes in the Medieval city of Avignon, and all along the way, soak up the *joie de vivre* that makes France one of the most adored countries in the world.

## Epicurean Adventurer Program

**Program Includes:** Route to Arles with shopping at an open-air food market | Côtes du Rhône wine tasting in Tain l’Hermitage | Crêpes Suzette-making demonstration and tasting | Special wine and food pairing dinner

### Day 1 | Paris




Arrive at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport. If your cruise/tour package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the hotel.

### Day 2 | Paris BB

#### Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:

Paris city tour   

#### OR

Exclusive “Heart of Paris: Opéra Garnier to Comédie-Française” walking tour   

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** “Illuminated Paris” evening cruise with dinner    

Rarely does a city live up to its reputation the way Paris does. Europe’s capital of style gracefully combines an ultra-cosmopolitan culture with the charms of a centuries-old village. This morning, take your pick of two wonderful ways to explore the many delights that Paris has to offer. Then, in the evening, enjoy free time in the city, or glide along the Seine with us on a magical dinner cruise—the most romantic way to view the twinkling lights of Paris.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Paris city tour

Embark on a panoramic tour of Paris that will introduce you to the city’s most beloved attractions. Your first stop is the magnificent Palais Garnier, also known as Opéra Garnier. Historically, prominent Parisians attended the opera or ballet to see and be seen by the best of French society. The opulent Neo-Baroque Palais Garnier was inaugurated in 1875 and still plays host to the companies of the National Opera and Ballet.

From here you’ll move on to the sophisticated square of Place Vendôme, which is distinguished by designer salons, hotels, and the Vendôme Column, topped by a statue of Napoleon. You’ll then come upon the world’s largest museum and palace, the Louvre. The ultra-modern glass pyramid designed by I.M. Pei marks the entrance to the nearly half-mile-long classical edifice. Just to the west of the Louvre stands the Arc du Carrousel, recognizable from the final scene of *The Da Vinci Code*.

You’ll cross the Île de la Cité at Pont Notre Dame and arrive at the Quartier Latin (Latin Quarter), the intellectual heart of Paris. The local expert onboard your motorcoach will share insights about the district’s famous Sorbonne (University of Paris) and the Panthéon, the Neoclassical church and burial place of luminaries such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Voltaire. The

perfect place to think about these great philosophers is the nearby Jardin du Luxembourg (Luxemburg Gardens). Feel free to meander around the 59-acre (24-hectare) public gardens and admire the beautiful sculptures on display. The building that currently houses the French senate was originally a palace built for Marie de Medici in 1615. You'll see children playing with miniature boats on the garden's little pond, as well a puppet theater and merry-go-round.

Re-board your motorcoach and head to the École Militaire, an impressive complex of buildings that houses military higher-education facilities and a museum. You'll have a chance to photograph Paris's most iconic structure—the 1,000-foot-tall (304-m-tall) Tour Eiffel (Eiffel Tower)—from the manicured promenade of the Champs de Mars.

From here, you'll cross the lovely Seine via one of the most stunning bridges in Paris, Pont Alexandre III. From the Left Bank to the Right Bank, the single-arch bridge displays elegantly sculpted nymphs, winged horses, and Art Nouveau lamps that are more than 100 years old. Once across, you'll be sure to spot the largest glass ceiling in France, which graces the Grand Palais, a major exhibition hall. Resting next door is the Grand's demure sister, the Petit Palais, which hosts the city's Musée des Beaux-Arts (Museum of Fine Arts).

The best of Paris is unveiled in the eighth district, starting with the Arc de Triomphe. Commissioned by Napoleon to celebrate the 128 victories of his Grande Armée, the world's most famous triumphal arch is humbled by the tomb of the unknown soldier that rests beneath its span. You'll head down the grand avenue of Paris, the Champs-Élysées, dazzled by the finest the city has to offer. The famed boulevard comes to its eastern end at the Place de la Concorde. Although a city "square," the area is actually an octagon with statues dedicated to French cities at each corner. You can take in the red granite obelisk from Luxor, Egypt, or simply enjoy the variety of fountains throughout the area. You can then take the motorcoach back to the hotel or explore the Musée d'Orsay on your own.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Exclusive "Heart of Paris: Opéra Garnier to Comédie-Française" walking tour

This intimate walking tour of Paris will give you an up-close look at the wonders that line the route leading from the Palais Garnier to the Comédie-Française." You'll set off with your guide along the Rue Laffitte, which provides an excellent view of the Basilique du Sacré-Cœur (Basilica of the Sacred Heart) sitting high atop Montmartre hill.

Your first stop is the magnificent Palais Garnier, also known as Opéra Garnier. This opulent neo-Baroque hall plays host to the companies of the National Opera and Ballet. As you circle the theater with your guide, you'll hear about the tortured history of its construction—a history that inspired (and features prominently in) Gaston Leroux's *Phantom of the Opera*. Construction of the opera house took fifteen years, from 1860 to 1875; it was interrupted by numerous incidents, including the Franco-Prussian war and subsequent fall of the Second Empire, and the discovery of a subterranean lake under the building site that required eight months of continual pumping to drain sufficiently. You'll enter the theater and take in its lavish interior adornments. See the famed grand staircase, the elaborately painted ceilings, the richly mirrored grand foyer, and, of course, the auditorium itself, which features a colorful ceiling painted by French master Marc Chagall and an eight-ton crystal chandelier. You'll have time to pop into the gift shop to pick up a souvenir of your visit to this magnificent site.

Then you'll head back out onto the Paris streets, where you'll both see and hear about Baron Georges Haussmann's mid-19th-century alterations to the Paris cityscape. Charged by Napoleon III with the modernization of Paris, Haussmann molded the city into a geometric grid, dividing it into districts and instituting wider streets, taller buildings, and modernized plumbing. Haussmann and his team of architects also built many new public buildings and shopping arcades; their marked preference for Neoclassical style resulted in a unification of the architectural façades of the city. Rather than treating individual buildings as independent structures, street blocks were designed as homogeneous architectural wholes, creating the unified urban landscape you see throughout much of Paris today.

Next, you'll stroll into the Jardin du Palais Royal (Garden of the Royal Palace). Commissioned by Cardinal de Richelieu in 1633, the Palais Royal housed France's royal families until the completion of Versailles. Later, the gardens became a den of prostitution, gambling, and political unrest. Today, they feature rows of lime trees, two long lawns, and a simple fountain. This is a hidden haven where locals come to relax, play, and read.

Your final stop is the Comédie-Française, home to one of the few state theaters in France. The theater company has a history dating back to the 1670s. The Comédiens-Français have taken up the legacy of master French playwright Molière and have been performing his plays for over three centuries.

You'll walk back to the hotel, passing the Bibliothèque nationale de France (National Library of France)—which houses over 30 million items and is the designated repository of all literary works that are published in France—and the Neoclassical La Bourse de Paris (Paris Stock Exchange Building) along your way.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** “Illuminated Paris” evening cruise with dinner

Enjoy a magical dining experience as you cruise past the illuminated monuments and bridges of Paris. Your unforgettable evening begins at your hotel, where you will be picked up by a motorcoach and transferred to the cruise ship at the Port de la Bourdonnais. Enjoy an aperitif, and then choose from a selection of gourmet meals and desserts accompanied by choice wines. You'll be entertained by a musical group playing a variety of French and international music for listening or dancing. After the cruise you will be escorted back to your hotel.

*Note: Jacket and tie recommended for gentlemen.*

Day 3 | Paris BB, D  

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Château de Chantilly






Enjoy leisure time in the “City of Light.” Return to your favorite site from yesterday’s tour. Head out to discover new architectural, artistic, and historical treasures. Or simply enjoy sipping a café au lait and watching the parade of Parisian daily life from your table at a charming sidewalk café. If you'd like to spend the day at one of the finest estate houses and art museums in France, please join us on our irresistible optional excursion to Château de Chantilly.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Château de Chantilly

Board a motorcoach and make your way to the small city of Chantilly, France. You'll disembark at Château de Chantilly, a lovely historic estate that is made up of two attached buildings. Both the Grand Château and the Petit Château were built around the middle of the 16th century for Anne de Montmorency, a French soldier, statesman, and diplomat; the Grand Château was destroyed during the French Revolution, however, and rebuilt in the 1870s. The château's art gallery, the Musée Condé, houses one of the finest collections of paintings in France, including works by Raphael, Watteau, and Veronese, and illuminated manuscripts of the 15th and 16th centuries. Enjoy exploring the château and its environs with your expert guide.

You'll board your Uniworld ship in the afternoon and enjoy dinner onboard as you sail from Paris toward Les Andelys.

Day 4 | Les Andelys BB, L 

**Featured Excursion:** Hike to Château Gaillard   

You'll arrive in beautiful Les Andelys this morning, and your gaze will immediately rise to the late-12th-century Château Gaillard, perched high above the white cliffs of the Seine. Fuel up with a delicious, nutritious breakfast onboard, and then embark on an invigorating guided nature hike up the picturesque hillside to the remains of this massive castle. (Guests who prefer a more relaxing journey may ride up on a motorcoach.)

Les Andelys was of considerable strategic importance during the Middle Ages, a fact that prompted King Richard the Lionheart to build a fortified castle here to protect the Duchy of Normandy from the French King Philip II. While the construction of large stone castles in this period often took the better part of a decade, Château-Gaillard was completed in less than two years by the combined labor of 6,000 workers. You'll see how the stronghold was carved out of the natural rock, making this one of the most well-designed castles of its age. Your guide will share Château-Gaillard's long and storied history with you, including its frequent transfer of ownership between the English and the French, and its use as both a prison and a place of refuge for troubled European rulers.





After you tour the stronghold, you'll return to the ship for lunch. In the afternoon, take in the enchanting beauty of the Seine's lovely countryside as you sail to Rouen. In the evening, a special Captain's Welcome Gala will be prepared for you.

Day 5 | Rouen (Normandy Beaches)  BB, D

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:**

Full-day Normandy beaches with D-Day Museum at Arromanches    

**OR**

Full-day Normandy beaches with Tapestry Museum in Bayeux    

Normandy's proximity to the sea has made it the site of many important battles, including the famous D-Day Invasion by Allied forces during WWII. Today you'll be immersed in the tactics, the history, and the human cost of this remarkable campaign that changed the course of human history.

You'll begin your day at Arromanches, where you can view one of the two Mulberry Harbors deployed in the D-Day Invasion. The Mulberry Harbors were artificial harbors constructed to ease and speed the process of unloading Allied troops, vehicles, and equipment onto the Normandy beaches.

From here, you can choose to learn more about Operation Overlord at the nearby D-Day Museum or view a depiction of a much older military conflict—the 11th-century Battle of Hastings—at the Tapestry Museum in Bayeux.

Both groups will reconvene at Omaha Beach, where you'll read letters written by WWII soldiers from many different nations. You'll see the battery of Longues-sur-Mer, part of Germany's "Atlantic Wall" coastal fortifications, which fired on the soldiers landing at Gold and Omaha beaches. Then you'll head to the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer, where 9,387 American soldiers are buried; the interred service members' average age was 22. The wall of the missing lists the names of 1,557 American soldiers who lost their lives and could not be located. Beyond the reflecting pool, the mall displays rows of marble headstones facing west, toward the United States, as far as the eye can see. You'll have time to walk in the memorial park and visit the visitor center, which features an educational film and exhibits about Operation Overlord.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** D-Day Museum at Arromanches

The D-Day Museum offers a multimedia experience that brings history to life for visitors of all ages. In addition to the site of the invasion itself, you'll see a special diorama, the Hall of Allied Nations, and a film that details the design, transport, and deployment of Mulberry Harbor B (the one still on display at Arromanches, also called Gold Beach). You'll have time to enjoy lunch in Arromanches and stroll its main avenue before heading off to Omaha Beach.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Tapestry Museum in Bayeux

From Arromanches, you will be taken to Bayeux, the first French town to be liberated in 1944. Here, you can see a depiction of the Battle of Hastings on a tapestry dating from the 11th century. The Bayeux Tapestry is listed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register and was probably embroidered by monks in the south of England in October of 1066. The tapestry tells the story of the Norman conquest of England. You'll both watch a short film about and take a guided audio tour of this remarkable handwoven textile, which is over 220 feet (68 m) long and features 58 distinct scenes with Latin annotations. You will then have time for lunch in this pleasant city, cradle of the dynasty of the Dukes of Normandy, before heading off to Omaha Beach.

*Note: The Tapestry Museum is a very popular tourist destination in summer; therefore, the order of events may change to accommodate scheduling issues.*

After spending an amazing day imbibing history both tragic and triumphant, you'll return to the ship in Rouen.

Day 6 | **Rouen BB, L, D**

**Featured Excursion:** Walking tour of Rouen 

Rouen has had many famous citizens—Joan of Arc, Gustave Flaubert, and Claude Monet among them. As you stroll off the ship and into the well-preserved city, you'll understand what drew those illustrious individuals to the historic capital of Normandy.

The first majestic edifice to attract your eye will be the Gothic Cathédrale Notre Dame (Notre Dame Cathedral), which was begun more than 800 year ago and, for a brief period in the late 19th century, was the tallest building in the world. The cathedral houses the tomb of Richard the Lionheart, though only his heart is interred here. Over the years, famed artists, including Claude Monet, John Ruskin, and Roy Lichtenstein, have produced celebrated works depicting the cathedral's façade.




Your local guide will take you through the old quarter, where you will be charmed by the city's half-timbered, slate-roofed houses. You'll hear about the astrological symbols that adorn the Gros Horloge, the Renaissance clock tower that arches overhead. You'll then reach the Vieux Marché (Old Market Square), which bears a bronze cross to mark the site of Joan of Arc's martyrdom—the pyre on which she died for her bold defiance. You may enter the modern Church of Saint Joan of Arc and admire the Renaissance-era stained-glass window that was rescued from Saint-Sauveur church, which was destroyed in WWII.

For lunch, you'll return to the ship.

Afterward, head back into town, where antique shops, galleries, and craftsmen painting Rouen's signature blue earthenware open their doors to art lovers around St. Maclou Church.

To understand the role Rouen—the town Picasso found "as beautiful as Venice"—has played in art history, visit the Fine Arts Museum, which displays masterworks by Caravaggio, Eugène Delacroix, Amedeo Modigliani, and Claude Monet.

## Day 7 | Caudebec-en-Caux (Honfleur) BB, L, D

**Featured Excursion:** Honfleur visit   

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** The cliffs of Etretat and the delights of Normandy    

After crossing the Pont de Tancarville (Tancarville Bridge), you'll drive through beautiful Calvados countryside on your way to Honfleur. Honfleur was a major defensive port in the 17th century and the starting point of many expeditions to the New World. Birthplace of the unconventional French composer Erik Satie, the town has blossomed into a delightful seaside harbor and city of painters; over the years, it has been favored by artists such as Gustave Courbet, Eugene Boudin, and Claude Monet, who painted the destination's seaside landscapes under the light of every season.

You'll depart on a walking tour of the fishing village, beginning at the former smugglers' harbor of Vieux Bassin—the most frequently painted scene in Honfleur. Vieux Bassin is seemingly unchanged from its state more than 100 years ago. From the pedestrian streets lined with artists' workshops to the Medieval town center, each site in Honfleur is delightful. Enjoy some free time amid a myriad of shops known for their paintings and handicrafts. The quaint houses converted into cafés and brasseries serving wine and seafood make for a special treat. Sample some fresh oysters and *fruits de mer* from local fishermen before you board the motorcoach to return to the ship in Caudebec-en-Caux via the majestic Pont de Normandie (Normandy Bridge).

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** The cliffs of Etretat and the delights of Normandy

Today you will have the opportunity to enjoy the scenic beauty of Normandy and the arresting cliffs of Etretat. You will depart by motorcoach from Caudebec-en-Caux for a guided drive through the picturesque countryside of upper Normandy and Bolbec before arriving in Etretat. Disembark the motorcoach at City Hall to explore Old Town and the beachfront, whose dramatic cliffs and natural arches have inspired the work of numerous artists and writers. You'll have a chance to take in the beautiful vistas from the cliff top and snap some photos before departing for the Pont de Normandie. This modern cable-stayed bridge connects Le Havre to Honfleur across the Seine. When it opened in 1995, the Pont de Normandie was the world's longest cable-stayed bridge.

Next, experience all the charm of bucolic Normandy at Domaine Apreval, a family-owned estate set amid charming apple orchards. Take a guided tour of the farm—hearing

about its 17 different apple varieties—as well as the cider distillery. Enjoy a delicious lunch onsite featuring the famous cheeses of Normandy, including camembert, livarot, and pont l'evêque. The afternoon will also include a gourmet tasting of three of the region's (and the house's) specialties: cider, calvados, and pommeau.

You will next depart for Honfleur, located on the southern bank of the Seine. Enjoy a guided walking tour of this beautiful port, followed by some free time for shopping and browsing artists' workshops; the town has a long artistic history, and many Impressionist artists, including Claude Monet, have portrayed it in their works. Following your visit to Honfleur, you will drive past the farming village of Tancarville before arriving in Caudebec, where the ship awaits you.

## Day 8 | Vernon (Giverny) BB, L

**Featured Excursion:** Monet's Giverny    

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Palace and gardens of Versailles    

Visit Monet's home in his beloved village of Giverny. The Seine River Valley's unique light kept Monet in residence here for more than 40 years, until his death in 1926.

The village and gardens surrounding his home frequently provided the subject matter of his paintings. It was after the move to Giverny that Monet began his famous series of paintings of haystacks, cathedrals, and water lilies. You'll explore Monet's house, furnished as it was when the leader of the Impressionist school lived here, complete with his precious collection of Japanese engravings. As you stroll through the gardens, you'll see the famed Japanese bridge and garden shaded by weeping willows, its pond still covered with the water lilies that graced some of his masterworks.

You'll return to the ship at the Port of Mantes-la-Jolie. This afternoon, consider joining us on an extraordinary optional excursion to the famous palace and gardens of Versailles.

A special Captain's Farewell Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.

*Note: Giverny will be closed during the March 16, March 23, and October 26 cruise departure dates. A visit to Versailles Palace will be substituted in its place.*

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Palace and gardens of Versailles

During the ride to Versailles, an expert local guide will share the history of the palace and its royal inhabitants. Once you enter the Hall of Mirrors, you will see why Versailles established

the standard for palatial opulence throughout Europe. Seventeen impressive beveled mirrors reflect the glamour of the hall lit by seventeen arched windows and resplendent chandeliers. The treaty ending WWI was signed in this exquisite corridor.



The Grands Appartements showcase the king and queen's suite of salons, each of which was dedicated to a Roman deity. The royal décor of each room is complemented by a masterful ceiling painting. The Queen's Bedchamber still looks much the way it did when Marie-Antoinette left it in 1789, fleeing the revolutionaries. The King's Bedchamber has resided in the exact center of the palace since 1701, since the reign of the Sun King, Louis XIV.

The Royal Chapel, where kings attended daily mass, gleams with its astonishing gilded brass altar and white marble interior. To experience all the grandeur of Versailles requires a walk through its royal gardens, which include 250 acres (101 hectares) of pristine lawns, awe-inspiring fountains, and lush forest. The grounds surround the Grand Canal, which boasts a 4-mile (6.5-km) perimeter. You'll have time to explore the magnificent gardens before returning to the ship, docked at Conflans Sainte Honorine.

*Note: On certain dates, Versailles Palace and Gardens may be closed and a tour to the Louvre will be offered in its place.*




Day 9 | Paris  BB, L, D

### Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:

Montmartre artists' village  

### OR

Exclusive "Heart of Paris: Île de la Cité and Latin Quarter" walking tour   

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Secrets and masterpieces of the Louvre   

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** An evening at the Moulin Rouge   

Return to incomparable Paris and spend the morning exploring either the artists' haven of Montmartre or the heart and soul of the city on a walk from Notre Dame to the Latin Quarter. You'll have an embarrassment of riches to choose from in the afternoon and evening, when you can join us on optional excursions to the Louvre and/or to the Moulin Rouge.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Montmartre artists' village

Disembark the ship at Quai André Citroën and board a motorcoach bound for Montmartre. You'll encounter lovely

views of the Eiffel Tower before arriving in the Pigalle district and disembarking at Place Blanche. At the base of Montmartre you'll board the "petit train" and begin your ascent up the hill. Your first stop is Place du Tertre—a lively square ringed by cafés and filled with street entertainers and easel-toting artists. Your guide will lead you through Montmartre's narrow streets, explaining the history of the village. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the area was largely made up of gypsum mines and vineyards. Its strategic hilltop location made Montmartre an important stronghold during military conflicts, including the Franco-Prussian War and the rise of the Paris Commune in 1871. By the turn of the 20th century, the area had developed into a center of decadent entertainment, housing the popular cabarets Moulin Rouge and Le Chat Noir.

You'll visit the Basilique du Sacré-Cœur (Basilica of the Sacred Heart), whose distinctive white domes crown the Paris skyline. The gorgeous basilica was constructed of a French travertine that exudes calcite, which ensures that its façade remains white despite the ravages of weather and pollution. As you stroll through the surrounding streets, you'll notice that the area is irregularly laid out; this is because when Baron Haussmann standardized the layout and architectural character of so much of Paris, he left Montmartre alone—thus, it still retains its historical charm. The area has long attracted nonconformists and has witnessed the rise of artistic movements that include Cubism, Fauvism, and Surrealism. Take advantage of the breathtaking views of Paris afforded from Montmartre hill, and spend some free time watching artists sketch and paint the local scenes. There are also plenty of souvenir shops to explore. You'll then take the mini-train back down the hill and return to the ship.

After lunch onboard you can spend the afternoon at leisure in Paris, or you may join us on our expertly guided optional excursion to the Louvre. It's a perfect way to get acquainted with one of the most important museums in the world.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Exclusive "Heart of Paris: Île de la Cité and Latin Quarter" walking tour

Disembark the ship at Quai André Citroën and board a motorcoach for a panoramic drive through Paris to Cathédrale Notre Dame (Notre Dame Cathedral). Along the way, you'll see some of Paris's most iconic sights: the Eiffel Tower, Place de la Concorde, Musée d'Orsay, Musée du Louvre, and the Palais de Justice. Disembark the bus and walk to Notre Dame square. Notre Dame is the official center of the city of Paris; facing the main entrance of the cathedral is "Kilometer Zero," the location from which distances in France (including those of the French national highways)

are traditionally measured. You'll have time to explore both the interior and exterior of this remarkable church, which is considered one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture in Europe. Your guide will point out the structure's most noteworthy details and explain the craftsmanship that went into fashioning them.

After you've admired Notre Dame's stained glass, flying buttresses, and gruesome gargoyles, you'll cross the Pont de l'Archeveche (Archbishop's Bridge) and work your way to the Boulevard Saint-Germain. You've reached the Quartier Latin (Latin Quarter), the intellectual heart of Paris, perched on the famed Rive Gauche (or Left Bank). Through the years, many famous artists, poets, and philosophers have made the Rive Gauche their home, including Matisse, Picasso, Rimbaud, and Sartre, as well as American ex-patriots writers Hemingway and Fitzgerald. Climb the Montagne Sainte-Geneviève to the Panthéon, a secular mausoleum containing the remains of numerous distinguished French citizens. Nearby is the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, which is often full of students from La Sorbonne and other nearby universities. You'll have time to meander through the area's little squares, perusing its shop windows and perhaps taking a seat at one of its classic café terraces. Afterward, meet up with the motorcoach and ride back to the ship for lunch.

After lunch onboard you can spend the afternoon at leisure in Paris, or you may join us on our expertly guided optional excursion to the Louvre. It's a perfect way to get acquainted with one of the most important museums in the world.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Secrets and masterpieces of the Louvre

Enjoy a short drive along the Seine before stopping directly inside the largest museum in Paris—the glorious Louvre. Home to several of the world's most prestigious works of art, including Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, Alexandros of Antioch's *Venus de Milo*, and the *Winged Victory of Samothrace*, the Louvre has dominated central Paris since the late 12th century, when it was built as a fortress to protect the city. From its somber military beginnings, it was subsequently transformed into a royal château, a glamorous palace, and finally one of the world's foremost art museums. Step inside and discover the evolution of art and beauty through the ages. Your local guide will enrich your visit with background information about the artists whose work is on display and the complex relationship between art, religion, politics, and commerce. Later, you will have some free time to peruse the collections that most strike your fancy.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** An evening at the Moulin Rouge with dinner

Featuring rowdy squeals, boisterous rhythms, and skirts lifted high in the air to reveal dancers' legs and frilly panties, the French cancan is a unique—and uniquely entertaining—musical event. Montmartre's Moulin Rouge is no doubt the most famous cancan cabaret in the world, and over its 120-year history it has attracted princes, illustrious artists, and many ordinary patrons. Beautiful, lively, and festive, the show constantly reinvents itself, though always keeping the cancan on the dance menu. Sit back and enjoy your dinner and champagne while the glamorous girls and larger-than-life spectacle delight you.

Day 10 | Paris to Chalon sur Saône BB, D  

You'll transfer from the *River Baroness* cruise ship in Paris to the *River Royale* in Chalon sur Saône for the second half of this fabulous Grand France tour. Once you've settled into your new home, you'll have some time to explore this delightful town along the Saône River.

Day 11 | Chalon sur Saône (Beaune) BB 

**Featured Excursion:** Beaune and Hospices de Beaune



**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Southern Burgundy delights



Located in the heart of Burgundy, Chalon sur Saône is an important center of France's wine trade. This photogenic town is also the fitting birthplace of famed photographic pioneer Nicéphore Niepce. His statue, facing the village where he was born, can be seen from the ship. Chalon sur Saône's city center features a number of delightful shops and cafés set around St. Vincent Square, which lies in the shadow of Cathédrale Saint-Vincent's alabaster façade.

After enjoying breakfast onboard, you'll depart from Chalon sur Saône by motorcoach and venture to Beaune. As you ride through the vineyards, a local guide will tell you about the history of wine in this region, from the monks' first harvest to the advent of the Hospices de Beaune's annual wine auction.

Nestled inside military ramparts, Beaune was the seat of the Dukes of Burgundy until the 16th century. It offers a wealth of history, culture, and magnificent regional architecture—most notably that of the world-famous Hospices de Beaune (also known as Hôtel-Dieu), which boasts a fabulous glazed-tile roof. You'll visit the hospice, which was founded as a charitable institution in 1443 by the chancellor of Beaune. Over the

centuries, the hospice monks were given wine and vineyards as payment for the care they provided. They started to auction their wine in order to help support their charitable work, and, to this day, the tradition continues. The establishment remains a working hospital for the poor, with modern facilities standing alongside the historic Hôtel-Dieu. Enjoy lunch on your own in Beaune before returning to the ship.

This afternoon, we invite you to join an optional excursion to the famous vineyards of southern Burgundy, where you'll sample some of the finest wine in the world.




### **Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Southern Burgundy delights

Drive through picturesque hamlets and pristine vineyards to a Burgundy wine estate. Upon arrival, you'll meet the estate's owners and indulge in a lunch showcasing regional specialties. You'll also enjoy a wine tasting that will bring to life the delicate flavors of southern Burgundy wine and illuminate the passion behind local winemaking traditions.

A special Captain's Welcome Gala will be prepared for you this evening.

Day 12 | Lyon  BB, L, D

### **Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:**

Lyon city tour   

**OR**

Exclusive "Lyon Heritage" walk    

Two rivers: one tranquil, one torrential. Two hills: one for labor, where the sound of the silk weavers' looms never stopped; one for prayer, crowned by a spectacular basilica. Two cities, as different as night and day: one boasting colorful Old World façades, Medieval mansions, and hidden passageways; one with a sophisticated urbanity reminiscent of Paris. Situated at the confluence of the Rhône and Saône rivers, and with roots stretching back over 2,000 years to the days of Julius Caesar, Lyon is a place of fascinating dualities.

This morning you'll get to choose between boarding a motorcoach for a panoramic tour of the city and donning your walking shoes for a stroll through Lyon's historic streets. The afternoon is yours to spend in town at your leisure, shopping in the fashion or textile boutiques, visiting the antique dealers, or simply relaxing with a glass of Beaujolais at one of the many cafés. You might prefer to do as the locals do and use one of the ship's bicycles to ride to the Parc de la Tête d'Or (Park of the Golden Head) up the left bank. If you choose to remain onboard, you can hear silk workers explain the art of silk painting

### **Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Lyon city tour

The motorcoach will take you to Fourvière Hill, passing by two Roman theaters—the Grand Theater and the Odeon—that are still used today for cultural events. At the top of the hill you'll get a stunning view of the Alps, the Rhône valley, and Lyon itself. This is the "hill that prays," home to Notre Dame de Fourvière, Lyon's hallmark basilica. You'll visit the basilica, which was built to pay homage to the Virgin Mary. If you look to the north, you will see Croix-Rousse, "the hill that works," where early silk workers settled. In the 14th century, silk weaving was the main occupation of the majority of Lyon's population.

Your panoramic tour continues on the *presquile*, the peninsula between the two rivers. Pass by Place des Terreaux (Terreaux Square), Hôtel de Ville de Lyon (City Hall), the Musée des Beaux-Arts (Fine Art Museum), the Opéra, and the shopping district before crossing the Saône. The courthouse marks the beginning of the Quartier Saint-Jean (St. Jean quarter, a Medieval district). Your local guide will show you *les traboules*, the famous passageways hidden behind the doors of these Renaissance façades. You'll learn about the many different ways that Lyon's residents have made use of these secret pedestrian tunnels throughout the city's history. The tour will end at Place Bellecour, where you can browse silk shops and fine stores before heading back to the ship for lunch.

### **Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Exclusive "Lyon Heritage" walk

You'll begin your intimate tour of Lyon with a motorcoach ride up Fourvière Hill, during which you'll pass by two Roman theaters that were built during the reign of Augustus and expanded by Emperor Hadrian. The Grand Theater and the Odeon are still used today for cultural events. At the top of the hill you'll get a stunning view of the Alps, the Rhône valley, and Lyon itself. This is the "hill that prays," home to Notre Dame de Fourvière, Lyon's hallmark basilica. You'll disembark the motorcoach to begin your walking tour. After visiting the inside of the basilica, you'll take a funicular down to the Quartier St. Jean, where you'll encounter many spectacular examples of Medieval and Renaissance architecture, including Le Cœur des Loges, La Tour Rose, and La Maison de l'Outarde d'Or. Enter the courtyard of the newly renovated Musée Gadagne, which is housed in an early-16th-century building. Stroll along Rue Juiverie, which has been occupied since Roman times and boasts famed prophet Nostradamus as a former resident. Your local guide will show you *les traboules*, the city's old, hidden passageways, before taking you to Place Saint-Paul. Nearby

is the Place du Change, which once housed open-air fairs and was the commercial capital of the city during the Renaissance. While explaining Lyon's important gastronomic history, your guide will show you the city's bouchons, which serve traditional Lyonnaise cuisine. Finally, you'll meet a silk worker who will demonstrate silk and velvet weaving on a Jacquard loom.

### Day 13 | Tournon/Tain l'Hermitage BB, L, D

**Featured Excursions:** Wine tasting and Tournon walking tour



Nestled on opposite sides of the river in the heart of the Côtes du Rhône, the twin cities of Tournon and Tain l'Hermitage are an ideal destination for connoisseurs of fine wine.

This morning, in Tain l'Hermitage, you'll visit the Cellar Ferraton or the Cellar Chapoutier to sample the region's famous Côtes du Rhône, Saint Joseph, and Crozes Hermitage wines. These wines are produced from the Syrah grapes that grow on the steep slopes lining the river. Then you'll cross the beautiful flower-bedecked Marc Seguin suspension bridge to visit Tournon, one of France's oldest cities. Tournon's 1,000-year-old castle overlooks the river and houses the town museum. You'll also see the Lycée Gabriel Fauré, which is said to be the oldest secondary school in France.

### Day 14 | Viviers, Avignon BB, L, D

**Featured Excursions:** Viviers walking tour and organ concert



**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Truffle farm and Châteauneuf-du-Pape wine tasting



Viviers is an enchanting village where time seems to have stopped centuries ago; it has a long and storied history that dates back over 1,600 years and a notable architectural heritage to match. Its picturesque rooftops, cobblestone streets, and narrow alleyways will delight visitors.

Put on your walking shoes for an invigorating guided tour of the village. You'll saunter down 100-year-old Sycamore Alley, where houses bear the watermarks of floods from decades past. The street will wind toward the fountain square in Old Town Viviers, which reflects an interesting combination of Roman and Medieval influences.

You'll see the Maison des Chevaliers (House of Knights), a 16th-century Renaissance-style house built by the nobleman Noël Albert. You'll take the Rue du Château up to the former clergy quarter to enjoy the spectacular view. Under the vaulted ceiling of 12th-century St. Vincent's Cathedral, you'll hear a

beautiful organ recital. Afterward, you'll walk back through the Medieval streets of this charming village to the ship.

After lunch, you're invited to join an exciting optional excursion to a truffle farm and a Châteauneuf-du-Pape wine estate.

*Note: During the lavender-blooming period, an optional tour to the lavender fields and villages of the Drôme Provençale will be offered. The optional tour will be scheduled on June 17 and July 1 cruises.*

### Day 15 | Avignon BB, L

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursions:**

Avignon walking tour and Palace of the Popes

**OR**

Exclusive Avignon secret gardens tour

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Pont du Gard aqueduct and Uzès village

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Market Hall and cooking lesson at Hotel la Mirande

Welcome to Avignon, home of the Medieval broken bridge immortalized in the folk song "Sur le pont d'Avignon," as well as the brooding Palace of the Popes. From a distance, the picture-perfect city looks lifted straight from the pages of a history book, but all you need to do is step inside its mighty walls to discover the bustling, prosperous heart of contemporary Avignon.

After breakfast, you will have the opportunity to join us on two Optional Excursions, both with an epicurean twist: a trip to the Pont du Gard will plunge you into the region's Roman history before treating you to a wine tasting, while an expedition to Hotel la Mirande will find you picking up tips from a French master chef.

In the afternoon, you'll get to choose between two included excursions: a walking tour of lovely Avignon or an exploration of the city's hidden gardens.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Pont du Gard aqueduct and Uzès village

The Pont du Gard became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. This magnificent tri-level aqueduct bridge has been spanning the River Gardon since 19 BC, when it was constructed as part of the system that carried water from Uzès to Nîmes. An expert guide will be on hand to explain the history of this engineering marvel and to share the technological secrets that have enabled it to resist floods and storms over the centuries.

Then re-board your motorcoach for a short drive to the village of Uzès, “the first Duchy of France.” You’ll see the town’s well-preserved ducal château and the stately homes that attest to the prosperity of the city’s 16th-century residents. Uzès boasts many shops featuring high-quality painted furniture and ceramics, plus numerous art galleries. The village’s craftsmen and –women are renowned for their skill and artistry. You’ll have some free time to shop at the Place aux Herbes—the main market square—before heading back to Avignon.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Market Hall and cooking lesson at Hotel la Mirande

The preparation of truly great cuisine starts with the selection of the finest and freshest ingredients. This morning, you’ll head to Les Halles (Market Hall) to choose ingredients from its impressive array of farm-fresh produce, breads, and cheeses. After deciding today’s menu, you will adjourn to La Mirande for a cooking lesson provided by Jean-Claude, a local chef celebrity. Your culinary education will take place in the hotel’s charming 19th-century kitchen, with its rustic brick walls, beamed ceiling, and wood-burning stove. For lunch, savor the fruits of your creativity and a selection of local Rhône wines at La Mirande’s family-style table.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Avignon walking tour and Palace of the Popes

Meet up with your local guide for an afternoon walking tour that will begin at Avignon’s Medieval city wall. This 14th-century fortification was ordered by Pope Innocent VI to protect the city during the Hundred Years’ War. Stroll to the main square, Place de l’Horloge (Clock Tower Square), where in the shade of the sycamores, colorful café terraces face the magnificent architecture of City Hall, the Opera Theatre, and many classic mansions.

Next, it’s on to the Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes) for an inside visit. In the 14th century, during a schism between the leadership of the Catholic Church in Rome and the French monarchy, the French set up their own Papacy in Avignon. This palace—an impressive piece of architecture built between 1335 and 1364—served as the Avignon popes’ seat of power. Perched on a giant rock with walls more than 17 feet (5 m) thick, the palace is virtually impregnable. Be prepared to climb approximately 100 steps during the tour—it will be worth the effort.

After visiting the palace museum, you’ll make your way through the city’s Old Town streets to Place Pie and Les Halles (Market Hall). You’ll see exquisite produce artfully displayed here, fresh from the farms of Provence. Your tour will end back at Clock Tower Square.

**Choice Is Yours Featured Excursion:** Exclusive Avignon secret gardens tour



Your guided exploration of Avignon’s idyllic Provençal gardens begins at the Medieval city wall, which was constructed on orders from Pope Innocent VI during the Hundred Years’ War. You’ll walk with your guide to the Hôtel d’Europe, which boasts a peaceful inner courtyard with 200-year-old plane trees. Over the years, illustrious guests of the hotel have included Queen Astrid of Spain, Victor Hugo, Charles Dickens, and Jackie Kennedy.




On your way to your next stop, you’ll pass one of the city’s most prominent landmarks—the magnificent Palais des Papes (Palace of the Popes), residence of the 14th-century Avignon Popes and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then you’ll reach Parc Rocher des Doms, a bluff-top park with incredible views of the Rhône River valley, the famed Pont d’Avignon, and Mont Ventoux. Take a turn around its lovely pond, where ducks paddle and swans glide along the water. Cross the garden to the steep staircase of Saint Anne; at the bottom of the stairs lies a tranquil courtyard—all that remains of the orchard Pope Urban V planted alongside the Palace of the Popes. Nearby, the verdant Benoît XII Gardens offer the most majestic view of the palace.

Continue on to 2 Place de Jerusalem and the Avignon Synagogue. The domed, Neoclassical building you see before you now dates from 1846, but the first synagogue of Avignon was built here in 1221. (You can still see the 13th-century oven that was used to bake unleavened bread for Passover.) Though Jews were expelled from most of France in the 14th century, they found sanctuary in Avignon and enjoyed a period of peace and prosperity during the Avignon Papacy.

Your final stop is the green wall at Place Pie—a vertical garden created by Patrick Blanc in Avignon’s city center. Take time to walk through the stacks of fresh breads, olives, and cheeses on display in Les Halles (Market Hall)—a treasure trove of Provençal delicacies. You’ll have free time to check out the nearby shops and cafés before heading back to the ship.

## Day 16 | Arles BB, L, D

**Featured Excursion:** Arles walking tour and open-air food market visit  

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Olive farm and Medieval village of Les Baux-de-Provence   

Arles has existed since the sixth century BC, when the ancient Greeks referred to it as Theline. It was here that the Romans built their first bridge across the Rhône River, creating a vital overland route between Italy and Spain and facilitating the expansion of their empire. In the Middle Ages, Arles was renowned as one of the Mediterranean world's most attractive cities; centuries later, during a period of intense and impassioned work, Vincent van Gogh produced more than 300 paintings and drawings here in 15 months, including *Sunflowers*, *The Yellow House*, *Vincent's Bedroom*, and *L'Arlesienne*. Today you'll bask in the warmth of this friendly Mediterranean town known for its unique Provençal light.

You'll meet up with your local guide on the pier that Van Gogh immortalized in *Starry Night over the Rhône* and proceed to Le Théâtre Antique, the ruins of a Roman theater begun by Augustus in the first century. This is where the famous *Venus of Arles*, which is currently on display in the Louvre, was discovered in 1651. Nearby is the Roman Amphitheater, also known as Les Arènes, where gladiators once fought in front of up to 25,000 people. Roman emperors firmly believed that, to keep their people happy, political leaders needed to provide *panem et circenses* (bread and circuses) or mindless gratification. Such was the spectacle that entertained crowds at Les Arènes so many years ago.

Your next stop is Town Hall Square, a complex of Provençal architecture that includes City Hall and the Romanesque St. Trophime Church, which was built in the 12th century. It replaced the church where St. Augustine was consecrated the first archbishop of Canterbury.

Next, while strolling through the courtyard of the hospital-turned-art center where Vincent van Gogh once sought treatment, you'll learn about the travails of this troubled genius. Walk in Van Gogh's footsteps past the cheery yellow Café de Nuit and across Place du Forum (Forum Square) before visiting the town's bountiful farmers' market, which displays the richness of Arles's *produits du terroir* (regional produce). Seasonal fruits and vegetables, medicinal herbs, and many more specialties of southern France are magnificently arrayed along the main avenue during the morning.

During your free time after the tour, you can peruse the local shops, go olive tasting, or delve further into Arles's stunning collection of architectural treasures. After lunch onboard, enjoy more leisure time in town or join us on an optional afternoon tour to a working olive farm and the Medieval village of Les Baux-de-Provence.

**Irresistible Optional Excursion:** Olive farm and Medieval village of Les Baux-de-Provence

Board a motorcoach and embark on a picturesque ride through the charming Provençal countryside. Provence has been one of the world's finest olive-growing regions since the Greeks imported the first olive tree to the territory more than 2,500 years ago. In fact, when locals discuss a "good vintage" today, they're just as likely to be referring to a prized olive oil as to the region's celebrated wines. After arriving at the olive farm, you'll be greeted by one of its two owner sisters, who will teach you about traditional methods of growing, harvesting, and pressing this sacred fruit of the Mediterranean. Your hosts will offer samples of their olives, oils, and tapenades, plus share some of their healthy recipes.

Leaving the olive farm, you'll proceed to the Medieval village of Les Baux-de-Provence. Perched on a rocky hilltop, lovely Les Baux lives up to its reputation as "the flagship of Provence." This charming village of cobblestone streets, winding alleyways, and countless craftsmen's shops also boasts significant historical monuments that evoke its tumultuous Medieval history. Enjoy a stroll to the Hôtel de Manville, the town's finest Renaissance mansion, or climb to Château des Baux (Les Baux's Medieval castle), which offers the most sensational views of the valley.

## Day 17 | Depart Arles, transfer to Marseille CB/BB

Disembark the ship. If your cruise package includes a group departure transfer or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to Marseille International Airport for your flight home. Or continue your adventure with an extension to Aix-en-Provence, the famed home of Paul Cézanne and Emile Zola.

# Tour and General Information

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What about the weather?

Prepare for a variety of weather conditions depending on your travel season and the river you will be cruising on. Layering clothing items is always your best bet, as this allows each person to adjust to any temperature, including artificially maintained temperature, by removing or adding items throughout the day.

### What should I wear ashore?

Comfortable, sporty, smart-casual daywear is appropriate both onshore and onboard. For holiday season departures, you'll find that coats, sweatshirts, heavier cotton or wool tops and long-sleeved shirts, and corduroy or heavy khaki pants perfectly suitable. You will find a significant amount of walking over uneven terrain during your time ashore. We recommend comfortable walking shoes with good ankle support. Don't forget to pack a waterproof jacket (preferably hooded), or even a heavier-weight coat for colder temperatures.

### I have concerns about my physical ability.

#### What do I do?

Guests with mobility concerns need to discuss their concerns with Uniworld staff in advance of their departure. Guests requiring the use of a mobility device, such as a wheelchair, motorized scooter, or walker, may not be able to participate in many shore excursions or use them onboard the ships. Also, guests who may be limited in their ability to walk long distances may also have difficulties as there is often uneven terrain on many shore excursions.

### How accurate are the shore excursion/tour descriptions?

Uniworld does everything possible to ensure that shore excursions are performed as promoted and as outlined in the previous pages. In certain circumstances or for reasons beyond the control of Uniworld, it may not be possible or practical for the excursion to be performed exactly as written. The decision to not operate, to alter the operation, change content, and/or otherwise adjust or modify any element of the excursion as advertised is at the sole discretion of Uniworld, always taking into account the safety and best interests of

the guests, and the intent of the overall product delivery. Any such modifications to excursions will not result in eligibility for a refund.

### Can the itinerary change? What happens if it does change?

You can count on the value of Uniworld's experience and regional knowledge to make sure you enjoy your cruise/tour even when conditions beyond our control occur. The very nature of a river, its sources, and networks of bridges and locks means that there will be times when weather or other conditions in a region require Uniworld to make adjustments and modifications to the operation of an itinerary. Although every effort is made to keep itineraries as advertised, Uniworld reserves the right to make changes and substitutions as may be necessary to ensure the safety of our guests and the vessels. Itineraries may need to be altered specifically because of water levels. Time permitting, every possible effort will be made to alert guests in advance of boarding of any known changes. Otherwise, all guests will be informed onboard of changes and amendments. Any changes to itineraries, including the addition of extensive motorcoach touring to effect delivery of the intended itinerary operation, will not result in eligibility for a refund.

### What time will excursions depart?

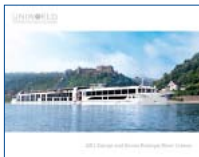
All shore excursions are carefully coordinated to the ship's daily schedule. Just prior to dinner each evening, or perhaps earlier, your Cruise Manager will brief all guests about what activities will take place the next day. This briefing includes information about departure times, specifics about the shore excursions/tours not covered in this booklet, suggested shopping and restaurant recommendations, and other important information about the port of call. In addition to the briefing, a daily program will be distributed to each guest's stateroom every evening. This program provides a written overview of all events taking place the next day—whether onboard or ashore.

### How can I book the optional excursions listed in the booklet?

Reservations for the optional excursions on your cruise can be made directly with your Cruise Manager onboard the ship. Charges for optional excursions will be added to your onboard account. On pre- and post-cruise extensions, payment for optional excursions will be made directly with your Local Host via credit cards. We cannot accept cash payments for optional excursions. A briefing will be held the day prior to



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