Cruise Details

Name:	Colors of Provence (Smithsonian Journeys)
Reference:	AMAFG270506FBJ
Operator:	Ama Waterways
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	AmaKristina
Regions:	Rhone and Saone
Departs On:	06 May 27
Departs From:	Lyon
Arrives On:	13 May 27
Arrives At:	Arles
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	7

Itinerary

Day 1: Lyon (France)

LYON – EMBARKATION. Board the ship for your Colors of Provence cruise. (D)

Arrives On: 06 May 27

Day 2: Lyon (France)

LYON. Discover dynamic Lyon, starting in Fourvière Hill, part of the city's historic region that is now a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the 19th-century basilica Notre-Dame de Fourvière. Continue on to the old town of Lyon, followed by a guided walk through the St. Jean district, where you will be introduced to the city's unique covered walkways, known as "traboules." Alternately, indulge in rich cheeses, fresh breads and charcuterie in Les Halles Market or join a guided bike tour through the city designed with cyclists in mind. Later in the day, enjoy free time in Lyon. Pop into an outdoor café for an authentic French meal or visit one of the city's many amazing museums. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 07 May 27

Day 3: Lyon (France)

LYON – VIENNE. Travel to the Beaujolais wine region—known as the Pays d'Or or "land of the golden stones." Indulge in a wine tasting at a traditional winery and learn about the history and techniques of their vineyard. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 08 May 27

Day 4: Vienne (France)

VIENNE – TOURNON. Situated between the wine regions of Beaujolais and Côtes du Rhône lies Vienne with a Roman past that can be seen in its marvelously preserved ruins. Follow the footsteps of the ancient Romans on a walking tour to see the amazingly well-preserved Augustus and Livia Temple, the Saint Maurice Cathedral, a Gothic church that took more than 500 years to build, and St. Pierre Abbey—one of the oldest surviving churches in France, and now an Archaeological Museum. For those wishing to be more active, you can either take a guided hike from the ship to the Monastery at Mount Pipet or a guided bike tour along a portion of the ViaRhôna bike route. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 09 May 27

Day 5: Tournon-sur-Rhône (France)

TOURNON - VIVIERS. Take a steam train ride past magnificent landscape carved along the Gorge du Doux, stopping at the charming little station of Colombier le Vieux-Saint Barthélemy le Plain, where the train maneuvers in preparation for its return journey. Alternatively, lovers of wine and chocolate will want to visit Le Château de Tournon for a presentation and tasting on the pairing of red wine and chocolate. For a more active adventure, take a hike through the vineyards of Tain l'Hermitage, followed by a visit to a local winery where you'll sample some of the wines. Later, stroll through the city accompanied by a guide in Renaissance attire as former "residents" in period costumes reenact events and legends of centuries gone by. This special historical tour is sure to bring a smile to your lips – or perhaps send shivers down your spine! (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 10 May 27

Day 5: Viviers (France)

Arrives On: 10 May 27

Day 6: Avignon (France)

AVIGNON. Depending on your interests, you have three choices of excursions for the morning. Avignon, aptly named the “City of Popes,” was the center of the Catholic Church in the 14th century when its “Palais des Papes” was the equivalent of today’s Vatican. Discover the history of Avignon on a guided walking tour that includes the Papal Palace and the well-preserved medieval walls surrounding the historic center of town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You can visit three venues around Avignon to taste regional specialties including macarons, cheese and wine, and tapenades or you can enjoy a bike tour. During the afternoon, you can go to another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the impressive Pont du Gard, a Roman aqueduct that is a masterpiece of ancient engineering. Alternately, you can go to a magnificent hilltop village, where you will go in search of the highly prized “Black Diamond” truffles with a farmer and his trustworthy canine companion. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 11 May 27

Day 7: Arles (France)

ARLES. Considered one of the most beautiful cities in France, Arles enchants all with its tantalizing history, formerly a Roman center of trade. In the morning, venture to Les Baux de Provence, a hilltop village and ruined castle. Enjoy time in the “old village,” its shops, art galleries, and cafes interspersed among the historic ruins. You will also have a unique experience at the Carrières de Lumières, where you will be treated to a spectacular presentation of art, sound, and history projected on the walls of a former limestone quarry set to music. Next, visit an olive farm to learn about this age-old Provençal tradition and enjoy a tasting. Finally, experience the beauty of Saint Rémy de Provence, the location where Van Gogh painted some of his most famous paintings, including Starry Night. Later in the day, join a guided walking tour where you’ll visit the Roman ruins of Arles such as its Roman Amphitheater and the Church of Saint Trophime, famous for its Romanesque architecture. Alternatively, you can enjoy a bike ride along the Rhône, through town to the Langlois Bridge, a famous subject from several Vincent Van Gogh paintings. And for those who wish to delve further into Van Gogh’s Arles, join a special walking tour along with a visit to the Vincent van Gogh Foundation, showcasing his legacy. (B,L,D) (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 12 May 27

Day 8: Arles (France)

ARLES – DISEMBARKATION. Bid farewell to Arles and prepare for your flight home. (B) B,L,D – Indicates Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner are included on this day.

Arrives On: 13 May 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.
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