



Cruise Details

Name:	Discover the Rivers of France & Portugal
Reference:	EMERALDEFPC250726-2
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Liberte
Regions:	Rhone and Saone
<hr/>	
Departs On:	25 Jul 26
Departs From:	Nice
<hr/>	
Arrives On:	08 Aug 26
Arrives At:	Porto
<hr/>	
Cruise Nights:	14
Total Vacation Days:	15

Itinerary

Day 1: Nice (France)

Welcome to France and the beginning of your cruise. You'll be met by a member of our team at the airport and transferred to Arles, where your friendly captain and crew will be waiting to welcome you on board your contemporary Emerald Cruises Star-Ship. This evening, enjoy a welcome reception and dine with your fellow guests.

Please book your flight to arrive into Nice prior to 12:00 PM.

Arrives On: 25 Jul 26

Day 1: Arles (France)

Arrives On: 25 Jul 26

Day 2: Arles (France)

Revel in the glory of the Roman Empire today during an insightful visit to Arles, including its UNESCO World Heritage-listed Roman and Romanesque monuments. Visit Arles Amphitheatre, a 2,000-year-old structure where thousands of spectators once gathered to watch heart-pounding chariot races. Enjoy learning about the time spent by Vincent van Gogh in the city, taking inspiration from his surroundings and using them to create many of his most iconic pieces of art, including 'Starry Night Over the Rhône'. Then, enjoy some time to explore the beauty of Arles at your leisure.

Included Excursion
Guided tour of Arles with arena visit

EmeraldPLUS
A Provençal dinner hosted by chef Fabien Morreale

DiscoverMORE
In the footsteps of Van Gogh: painting workshop (extra expense)

DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Les Baux de Provence (extra expense)

DiscoverMORE
Provençal Soap Making Workshop (extra expense)

Arrives On: 26 Jul 26

Day 3: Avignon (France)

The words Provence & lavender fields have become so synonymous with each other over the decades that we can hardly mention one without the other. The dusky purple shades and delicate fragrances that decorate its fields every summer are now so emblematic of the region that the Provence lavender fields have very much become a tourist attraction in their own right.

Avignon has a long and storied history. This fortified town is the former residence of seven consecutive Popes in the 1300s who fled Rome to escape from the political pressures of the Roman Empire. The city went on to become an important location during the French Revolution.

This evening you are invited to join the unique experience of a classical concert in Avignon as part of our EmeraldPLUS program.

EmeraldPLUS
Tour to Lavender Fields

EmeraldPLUS
Classical concert in Avignon

EmeraldACTIVE
Canoeing excursion in Avignon

DiscoverMORE
Guided tour of the Pont du Gard (extra expense)

DiscoverMORE
Visit to Chateauneuf du Pape with wine tasting (extra expense)

Arrives On: 27 Jul 26

Day 4: Viviers (France)

A snapshot of quintessential France awaits your arrival in Viviers, a town that perfectly encapsulates the medieval days of the region. Pastel coloured buildings gently faded by the sun line narrow cobblestone streets, and the heart of the Old Town is yours to explore today during a guided walking tour.

Included Excursion
Guided tour of Viviers

DiscoverMORE
Visit to Chauvet Pont D'Arc

(extra expense)</p>

Arrives On: 28 Jul 26

Day 5: Tournon-sur-Rhône (France)

<p><p>As we sail down the gently twisting Rhône River into Tournon, you'll be treated to an extraordinary view of a 16th-century castle overlooking the village and a pair of ancient watchtowers adorning the surrounding rural landscape.
Today, embark on a guided tour of Tournon and learn about its illustrious history and the culture of the people who call it home. If you would like to explore more of the region's natural beauty, then you may instead choose to embark on an EmeraldACTIVE hike through some of the local vineyards.</p></p><p>Included Excursion
Guided tour of Tournon</p><p>EmeraldACTIVE
Guided hike through the vineyards</p>

Arrives On: 29 Jul 26

Day 6: Mâcon (France)

<p><p>Today we enjoy a relaxed morning sailing on the Saone river until we reach the lovely town of Macon. Here we will discover the Beaujolais wine region, renowned for its vibrant, fruity wines with Gamay grape variety. The extensive planting of the Gamay grape makes Beaujolais wine region one of the several regions on the planet to focus on a single grape variety. Red wine accounts for 99% of the total wine production of the region.</p></p><p>Included Excursion
Beaujolais wine tasting</p>

Arrives On: 30 Jul 26

Day 7: Lyon (France)

<p><p>As one of the largest cities in France and a former Roman capital, many of the most important moments in French history have taken place in Lyon. But it's Lyonnaise cuisine that has really put this city on the map, delighting gastronomists from around the world.</p><p>Join your local guide for a walking tour of the city, including the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Basilica Notre-Dame de Fourvière. If you're feeling more active, then you may instead choose to embark on a guided bike tour, touching on its most prominent architectural wonders and moments from history.</p></p><p>Included Excursion
Guided tour of Lyon with cheese tasting</p><p>EmeraldACTIVE
Guided bike tour of Lyon</p><p>DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Pérouges (extra expense)</p><p>DiscoverMORE
Lyon by Night (extra expense)</p>

Arrives On: 31 Jul 26

Day 8: Lyon (France)

After breakfast, you will be transferred from where your Star-Ship is docked in Lyon to Porto, where the second half of your river cruising adventure awaits. Meet your lovely on board staff on your contemporary Emerald Radiance Star-Ship.

Arrives On: 01 Aug 26

Day 8: Porto (Portugal)

Arrives On: 01 Aug 26

Day 9: Pinhão (Portugal)

Arrives On: 02 Aug 26

Day 9: Porto (Portugal)

Relax on board today and enjoy a full day of sailing through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Douro Valley. This fascinating area is celebrated because it builds on two millennia of wine producing history, where viticulture has shaped the surrounding landscape and small, sleepy villages are peppered with dozens of sun-drenched vineyards. Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner and cocktail reception.

EmeraldPLUS
Portuguese cooking demonstration on board

Arrives On: 02 Aug 26

Day 10: Pinhão (Portugal)

Begin your day with a visit to the beautiful Quinta do Tedo vineyard in the heart of Portugal's Douro Valley, nestled on the confluence of the Douro and Tedo rivers. This 18th-century estate is environmentally sound, creating organic produce by using traditional viticulture methods. Alternatively, enjoy a guided walk through local vineyards, stopping along the way to admire your surroundings. Alternatively, embark on a kayak excursion along the river, taking in the impressive views from the heart of the Douro Valley. This afternoon, enjoy sailing to Vega de Terrón, perhaps relaxing on the Sun Deck.

Included Excursion
Visit to Quinta do Tedo with wine tasting

EmeraldACTIVE
Kayak experience in Pinhão

EmeraldACTIVE
Guided active walk through the vineyards

Arrives On: 03 Aug 26

Day 10: Vega de Terrón (Spain)

Arrives On: 03 Aug 26

Day 11: Vega de Terrón (Spain)

Founded in Roman times, the ancient city of Salamanca and its UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Quarter have an illustrious past, having been held by the Carthaginians, Romans, and Moors.

Travel to the beautiful 'Golden City' for a walking tour, which includes exploring the postcard-worthy galleries and arcades that adorn Plaza Mayor. You'll also have the opportunity to see Casa de las Conchas, a building that has been lovingly decorated with more than 300 shells, and Salamanca's university, one of the oldest universities in Europe that dates back to 1218.

Included Excursion
Guided tour of Salamanca

EmeraldPLUS
Tuna music band in Salamanca

Arrives On: 04 Aug 26

Day 11: Salamanca (Spain)

Arrives On: 04 Aug 26

Day 12: Pocinho (Portugal)

This morning, we are docked in Pocinho from where we take you to the charming medieval town of Castelo Rodrigo. On your tour you will have the chance to uncover the secrets of this small village's fortress history and try some typical local products. Later, return to your Star-Ship for lunch and soak up your idyllic surrounds, enjoying a Port wine cocktail lesson on board as you sail towards Régua.

Included Excursion
Tour to Castelo Rodrigo

EmeraldPLUS
Port wine cocktail lesson on board

DiscoverMORE
Archaeological tour by 4x4 at the Côa Valley Museum (extra expense)

Arrives On: 05 Aug 26

Day 12: Régua (Portugal)

Arrives On: 05 Aug 26

Day 13: Régua (Portugal)

On today's included excursion, you'll visit the marvellous Baroque village of Lamego, stopping to see the picturesque Shrine of Our Lady of Remedies, a structure that stands gracefully

over the town. If you're feeling active, enjoy an invigorating walk down the 686 steps from the Sanctuary to the main square. On the same day you will get to experience a rural lunch at Quinta da Pacheca, one of the finest estates of river Douro and learn about the Portuguese mosaic painting tradition.

Included Excursion
Guided tour of Lamego

EmeraldPLUS
Rural lunch at Quinta da Pacheca

EmeraldPLUS
Mosaic tile painting lesson on board

EmeraldACTIVE
Walk down the steps of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies

DiscoverMORE
Visit to Mateus Manor House (extra expense)

Arrives On: 06 Aug 26

Day 14: Porto (Portugal)

Located at the mouth of the Douro River, Porto is a fascinating and eclectic mix of modern and ancient architecture. Famous for its export of Port wines, it's easy to imagine how British merchant ships would have once clustered together in the medieval harbour, waiting to take their produce across the water.

Your included tour of the coastal city will touch on the fortified structures of Castelo da Foz and Castelo do Queijo, a building whose pentagonal façades overlook the ocean. For those who wish to see the charms of Porto on foot, our active walk through the town will bring you closer to the vibrant daily life of the locals.

Included Excursion
Guided tour of Porto

EmeraldPLUS
A cruise through Porto

EmeraldACTIVE
Guided active walk in Porto

DiscoverMORE
Visit to Quinta da Aveleda (extra expense)

DiscoverMORE
Guided bike tour to the Atlantic (extra expense)

Arrives On: 07 Aug 26

Day 15: Porto (Portugal)

After breakfast, it's time to say farewell to your Star-Ship and fellow guests, taking memories of sun-drenched vineyards with you.

This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions for further information.

Arrives On: 08 Aug 26

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

© 2026 Deluxe Cruises. This cruise itinerary was printed from <https://deluxecruises.co.uk>