Cruise Details

Name:	Sensations of Lyon and Provence & Nice
Reference:	EMERALDEFRN080527-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Liberte
Regions:	Rhone
Departs On:	08 May 27
Departs From:	Lyon
Arrives On:	18 May 27
Arrives At:	Nice
Cruise Nights:	10
Total Vacation Days:	11

Itinerary

Day 1: Lyon (France)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise. Welcome to Lyon, on the confluence of the Rhône and Saône rivers. On arrival at the airport, you'll be greeted and transferred to the contemporary surrounds of your Emerald Star-Ship where your friendly captain and crew will be waiting to welcome you. This evening, enjoy a welcome reception and dine with your fellow guests.

Your ship will remain docked in Lyon overnight, giving you time to explore the city at your leisure. DiscoverMORE
DiscoverMORE Lyon by Night (extra expense)
Experience Lyon in a whole new light as the city comes alive after dusk. Stroll through illuminated streets, where centuries of history blend with modern vibrancy. From the glowing facades of Old Lyon to the shimmering reflections on the Saône, every corner tells a story. Marvel at the breathtaking view from Fourvière Hill, where the cityscape sparkles beneath the starry sky. Discover the charm of the World Heritage-listed Presqu'île, the city's central district, filled with beautifully lit squares and fountains. Let the enchanting atmosphere of Lyon by night leave you spellbound.
Activity Level: Easy, Duration: 2 hours

Arrives On: 08 May 27

Day 2: Lyon (France)

France’s third-largest city, Lyon, is a former Roman capital and steeped in history. It's considered the gastronomic heartbeat of the country thanks to its rich culinary heritage, abundant fresh produce and famous local chefs. Home to traditional Lyonnaise cuisine, bustling food markets and more than 20 Michelin-starred restaurants, you'll be able to experience an array of cultural and culinary delights. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Lyon
Enjoy a guided coach tour of Lyon, starting at Fourvières Hill to view the ancient Roman Theatre. Pass by the Romanesque and Byzantine Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière, an impressive building that strayed away from the popular Gothic models of the same period. Join your guide on a walk through the city’s hidden passageways (called traboules) and admire the Renaissance-era houses. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided e-bike tour of Lyon
For guests who choose an active excursion over the standard city tour, meet your local guides for an e-bike discovery. Ride to the green lungs of the city, the famous Parc de la Tête d'Or, which was inaugurated in 1857, the same year as Central Park in New York. The largest urban park in France, it boasts an impressive collection of more than 15,000 plant species. The tour will take in the Tête d'Or park, zoo and greenhouses, former vet school and courthouse, and the Confluence district if requested. Take note that guests must be in good shape and confident cyclists. DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Pérouges (extra expense)
Located on a small hill overlooking the Ain River valley north of Lyon, the medieval walled town of Perouges is known for its wine and weaving. Considered one of the most beautiful villages in France, it’s filled with cobblestone streets and fascinating buildings. Starting from the upper gate, you’ll join a guided walking tour to see the 15th-century fortified church, the former home of the princes of Savoy and the main street ‘Rue des Rondes’, a 33-metre-deep well and the Maison du Sergent de Justice, with its round tower.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 3.5 hours

Arrives On: 09 May 27

Day 3: Mâcon (France)

Founded by the Celts and developed by the Romans, Mâcon is at the heart of the Beaujolais wine region. The extensive planting of Gamay grapes makes Beaujolais one of just a few regions on the planet to focus on a single grape variety. It’s also worth noting that red wine accounts for 99% of its total wine production. Relax as you cruise along the Saône River until you reach the lovely town of Mâcon. This could be a good time to explore what your Emerald Star-Ship has to offer, like the Sun Deck, putting green and indoor swimming pool with retractable rooftop. Included Excursion
Beaujolais wine tasting
Experience the flavours of the renowned Beaujolais region with a guided wine tasting. Nestled in the heart of Burgundy, Beaujolais is famous for its vibrant, fruit-forward wines, particularly the

Beaujolais Nouveau. Visit a local vineyard, learn about the winemaking process, and sample a selection of wines that capture the essence of this picturesque region. Whether you're a seasoned wine connoisseur or a casual enthusiast, this tasting offers a fascinating introduction to the world of Beaujolais wines.

Arrives On: 10 May 27

Day 4: Tournon-sur-Rhône (France)

The picturesque village of Tournon borders the gently meandering Rhône and is dominated by a 16th-century castle that overlooks the village. Within, there are several iconic landmarks, including a set of ancient watchtowers and a lush botanic garden. Part of the Rhône Valley, the village is surrounded by vineyards producing some of the world’s finest reds. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Tournon
Join your local guides on a walk through Tournon as they unveil fascinating local history and offer insight into the traditions of viticulture. Admire its Roman ruins and Renaissance monuments, then marvel at the world’s oldest suspension bridge with cables. Afterwards, there are many local stores and coffee shops to visit during your time at leisure. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided hike through the vineyards
Embark on an active hike through the beautiful vineyards that surround Tournon, known for their fine syrah, marsanne and roussanne. A local guide will lead you through vineyards close to where your Emerald Star-Ship has docked, taking in the spectacular views of the Rhone River. On your way back, you may stop at a local chocolate maker for a tasting and shopping of renowned French chocolate.

Arrives On: 11 May 27

Day 5: Viviers (France)

Arrive in Viviers today, a walled town with Middle Age flair that’s home to one of France’s oldest cathedrals, with parts dating back to the 12th century. In its charming centre, pastel-coloured buildings gently faded by the sun line narrow cobblestone streets, dotted with tiny shops and leafy squares. The town is part of the Provence region of southern France and is known for its natural beauty, relaxed ambience and sunny Mediterranean climate. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Viviers
Your included tour of the town follows a unique heritage discovery trail that touches on many of its iconic monuments. Admire its architectural treasures, including the Maison des Chevaliers, a lavishly decorated Roman house with an extravagant Renaissance façade. DiscoverMORE
Visit to Chauvet Pont D’Arc (extra expense)
Embark on a transformative journey as you delve into the mesmerising depths of the Caverne du Pont-d'Arc Museum, an awe-inspiring testament to the indomitable spirit of human creativity. Let the luminosity of knowledge guide your steps as you traverse the

cavernous expanse with a local guide who breathes life into the ancient canvases that adorn the largest decorated cave replica in the world.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 2.5 hours

Arrives On: 12 May 27

Day 6: Avignon (France)

Avignon has a rich history, from its Celtic beginnings to its powerful position as the residence of seven successive Popes between 1309 and 1377. It's most famous for the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Palais des Papes, as well as other glorious medieval architecture and a world-renowned arts festival. The city also played a significant role in the French Revolution, resulting in several violent conflicts. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Avignon
Explore the World Heritage-listed highlights that adorn Avignon's ancient town centre as you venture down its cobbled alleyways. Witness the splendour of the Pont d'Avignon, a 12th-century bridge, and soak in sights of some of the medieval architecture that generously pepper the city. EmeraldACTIVE
Canoeing excursion in Avignon
Choose an active way to explore the region. Travel north of Avignon to board a canoe and paddle back towards town along the Rhône River. The wide, calm waters are ideal for canoeing, and you'll get to take in the picturesque landscapes from a completely new perspective. You'll even get to paddle beneath the famous Pont d'Avignon, a medieval landmark. EmeraldPLUS
Provençal dinner hosted by local chef Fabien Morreale
This evening, you'll enjoy a delightful Provençal dining experience on board, expertly prepared by Top Chef finalist, Fabien Morreale. Dine on authentic dishes that celebrate the flavours of the region and its abundant fresh produce. Chef Fabien brings his passion for food to the table during this immersive dining experience, where he engages with guests and shares his extensive knowledge and passion for Provençal cuisine. EmeraldPLUS
Classical concert in Avignon
Enjoy a private classical concert set within a historic chapel where centuries-old stone walls create exceptional acoustics and a truly atmospheric setting. As the gentle light glows and music fills the space, a talented local trio performs timeless works, offering a moment of elegance, reflection, and cultural immersion. This exclusive experience blends Provence's rich heritage with the beauty of live classical music for an unforgettable evening. DiscoverMORE
Guided tour of the Pont du Gard (extra expense)
In the heart of Provence, the World Heritage-listed Pont du Gard aqueduct is one of humankind's great masterpieces. This three-level Roman aqueduct is 275 metres long and 48 metres high, and served as an aqueduct until the sixth century. Later, it was used as a toll gate before being transformed into a road bridge. As well as marvelling at this wonderful feat of engineering, you'll visit the small Roman town of Uzès, ideal for exploring and enjoying some great food in the local restaurants.
Activity Level: Easy, Duration: 4.5

hours DiscoverMORE
Visit to Chateauneuf du Pape with wine tasting (extra expense)
The appellation of Chateauneuf du Pape is one of the most famous in France, known for its warm red blends and creamy whites. The village itself has centuries of history that will charm and delight, including the picturesque ruins of a 14th century castle. Enjoy a curated tasting of the region's famous wines at a local vineyard.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 3.25 hours

Arrives On: 13 May 27

Day 7: Arles (France)

The past is yours to uncover in Arles. The city was once an important Phoenician trading port, before being captured by the Romans, who peppered the region with iconic monuments. It has been a favourite retreat for legendary artists like Van Gogh and Gauguin, drawn to its unique light and arresting beauty. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Arles with arena visit
Discover Arles' remarkable Roman heritage on a guided walking tour through one of France's best-preserved ancient cities. Stroll past iconic landmarks such as the Roman Amphitheatre, ancient forum, and Roman baths, while learning how Arles once thrived as a major outpost of the Roman Empire. Along winding streets and sun-washed squares, history comes alive through stories of emperors, gladiators, and everyday life in Roman Gaul. DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Les Baux de Provence (extra expense)
Set in the heart of the Alpilles Regional Natural Park, Les Baux de Provence is a World Heritage-listed site, recognised for being 'one of the most beautiful villages in France'. Compact with plenty of shops and restaurants, the village retains its traditional style, with narrow cobblestone streets and grey medieval stone buildings. The high, rocky pinnacle of Château-Fortress des Baux extends southwest of the village, and the incredible views make the trip very worthwhile.
Activity Level: Difficult / Active, Duration: 4 hours DiscoverMORE
Lavender Distillery – from Field to Perfume (extra expense)
Experience the timeless art of Provençal soap-making in this hands-on workshop. Learn the traditional techniques used to create luxurious soaps from natural ingredients like olive oil, lavender, and other local botanicals. Create your own artisanal soap, guided by expert craftsmen, and take home a unique, fragrant souvenir of your Provençal experience.
Activity Level: Easy, Duration 3 hours DiscoverMORE
In the footsteps of Van Gogh with a painting workshop (extra expense)
Follow in the footsteps of Vincent van Gogh as you explore the landscapes that inspired his iconic works. Afterwards, take part in a painting workshop, where you'll try your hand at recreating the vibrant scenes that captured the artist's imagination. As a memory from this unique local experience, you get to bring home your masterpiece inspired by Van Gogh's legacy.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 3 hours

Arrives On: 14 May 27

Day 8: Arles (France)

This morning, after breakfast, it’s time to disembark your Emerald Star-Ship for your transfer to the coastal city of Nice. Enjoy your included three-night stay in the beautiful capital of the Côte d’Azur - also known as the French Riviera – in the beautiful South of France. This evening, meet your tour director and fellow guests for a welcome drink.

Arrives On: 15 May 27

Day 8: Nice (France)

Arrives On: 15 May 27

Day 9: Nice (France)

Take in the sights of the French Riviera’s glitzy Monaco on your included morning tour. Later, you may wish to join an optional Emerald DiscoverMORE excursion or explore Nice at your own pace. Perhaps take a stroll along the iconic Promenade des Anglais, beside the Mediterranean’s dazzling shores, or delve into the city’s esteemed art scene. Your tour director will be more than happy to help you plan your memorable day in Nice. Included Excursion
A city tour of Monaco and Monte Carlo
The stunning seaside surrounds of the French Riviera are yours to explore with your local guide on today's insightful tour of the Principality of Monaco - the world's second smallest country - and its jet-setter district of Monte Carlo.

Famously portrayed in classic films such as 'Never Say Never Again' and 'To Catch a Thief,' glamorous Monte Carlo offers much in the way of its charming past and is home to one of the most recognisable Grand Prix tracks in the world. Witness the impressive Prince’s Palace of Monaco, originally a Genoese fortress with a dramatic past and the home of beloved actress and Princess of Monaco, Grace Kelly. DiscoverMORE
Tastes of Nice (extra expense)
Discover the vibrant heart of Nice on a guided walking tour through the enchanting Old Town, where centuries of history meet Mediterranean charm. From the elegant Neoclassical buildings of Place Massena to the winding alleys lined with art galleries and Baroque chapels, this immersive stroll reveals local legends, customs, and culinary delights – such as Fleurs de courgettes (zucchini flowers) and Tapenade d’olives niçoises (Nice olive spread). Marvel at the opulent Lascaris Palace and explore the colourful Cours Saleya market and hidden gems like Sainte Rita and the Chapel of the Holy Shroud. Follow in the footsteps of the celebrated artist, Matisse, who found endless inspiration here for his esteemed artworks. Your tour culminates at the majestic Nice Opera House, a testament to the city’s rich cultural legacy.
Duration: 2.5 hours, Activity level: Moderate

Arrives On: 16 May 27

Day 10: Nice (France)

Nice has long held a reputation for its glamour, where striking beaches and lavish surrounds create a unique atmosphere unlike any other. Today, explore more of Nice at your leisure and later, perhaps choose to join an optional Emerald DiscoverMORE excursion.

Your tour director will be available again to help you plan another day in this vibrant seaside city. DiscoverMORE
Visit to Saint-Paul de Vence (extra expense)
If you love charming villages with a wealth of historic monuments and art galleries, Saint-Paul-de-Vence is definitely somewhere you should put on your must-see list. Located in the Alpes-Maritime region along the French Riviera, this medieval village is one of the prettiest hilltop towns of Provence. Amid one of the most beloved villages in southern France, enjoy exploring the many cobbled streets, centuries-old buildings, quaint squares, vaulted passageways and ancient fountains galore.
Duration: 4 hours, Activity level: Easy

Arrives On: 17 May 27

Day 11: Nice (France)

This morning, after breakfast, it’s time to bid farewell to your fellow guests as you prepare to be transferred to the airport for your return flight to the UK, taking memories of Roman amphitheatres, sublime gastronomy and the idyllic surrounds of the French Riviera 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: 18 May 27

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