Cruise Details

Name:	Springtime Sensations of Lyon and Provence & Paris
Reference:	EMERALDEFRP170427-2
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Liberte
Regions:	Rhone
Departs On:	17 Apr 27
Departs From:	Nice
Arrives On:	26 Apr 27
Arrives At:	Paris
Cruise Nights:	9
Total Vacation Days:	10

Itinerary

Day 1: Nice (France)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise. 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 Star-Ship.

Your ship will remain docked in Arles overnight, giving you time to explore the city at your leisure. Please book your flight to arrive into Nice prior to 12:00 PM.

Arrives On: 17 Apr 27

Day 1: Arles (France)

Arrives On: 17 Apr 27

Day 2: 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. This evening, enjoy a welcome reception and dine with your fellow guests. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Arles
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
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 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 numerous shops and restaurants, the village retains its traditional style, with its 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

Arrives On: 18 Apr 27

Day 3: 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 World Heritage-listed Palais des Papes, as well as other glorious medieval architecture and a world-renowned arts festival. The city also played a major role in the French Revolution, resulting in several violent conflicts. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Avignon with market visit
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. You’ll also visit the famed Les Halles covered market, where over 40 vendors gather to showcase their fresh spring produce. 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 the 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 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, perfect 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: 19 Apr 27

Day 4: 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: 20 Apr 27

Day 5: 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 with wine tasting
Join your local guides to walk through Tournon as they unveil fascinating local history and give an 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, enjoy a curated wine tasting at the castle. 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. There will also be time to stop at a local chocolate maker for a tasting and shopping of renowned French chocolate.

Arrives On: 21 Apr 27

Day 6: Vienne (France)

A quintessentially French town, Vienne began life as a Roman colony in Gaul under the rule of Julius Caesar around 47 BC. Its strategic position on the Rhône River made it an important port for trade and communication over the centuries, and many monuments from the Roman and Medieval periods can still be seen. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Vienne
Take a walking tour in Vienne to uncover the rich history of

this charming riverside town. You'll see its beautiful Jardin de Ville (City Garden) and the Cybèle Garden, an open-air museum of Gallo-Roman ruins. Admire the beautiful cathedral, which was built from the 11th to 16th-centuries. Explore one of the best-preserved Roman theatres in Europe, built around 40 to 50 AD into the steep slopes of Pipet Hill and originally able to accommodate over 10,000 spectators. EmeraldPLUS
Cheese and olive tasting on board
This afternoon, join your fellow guests and Cruise Directors in the Horizon Lounge to sample some local delicacies. Listen to a short presentation about the region and its produce, before a tasting of specialty cheese and Provence olives.

Arrives On: 22 Apr 27

Day 7: Lyon (France)

France's third-largest city, Lyon, is a former Roman capital and steeped in history. Set on the confluence of the Rhône and Saône rivers, 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 enjoy an array of cultural and culinary delights. Included Excursion
Guided Tour of Lyon
Explore the enchanting city of Lyon, renowned for its blend of history, architecture, and rich culinary heritage. This guided walking tour will take you through the historic Old Town (Vieux Lyon), the elegant Presqu'île, and the vibrant Part-Dieu district, showcasing landmarks like the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière and the Traboules—hidden passageways that tell tales of the city's past. As a special treat, enjoy small tastings along the way, sampling some of Lyon's most famous delicacies. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided e-bike tour of Lyon
For guests who wish to choose an active excursion over the standard city tour, meet your local guides for an e-bike tour. 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 contains an impressive collection of more than 15,000 species of plants. 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)
Journey by coach to the medieval town of Pérouges, located on a small hill overlooking the Ain River valley north of Lyon. Known for its wine and weaving and 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. Enjoy time at leisure before your journey back to Lyon.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 3.5 hours 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.

Arrives On: 23 Apr 27

Day 8: Lyon (France)

This morning, after breakfast, you'll bid farewell to your fellow guests and disembark your contemporary Emerald Star-Ship in Lyon. Then, relax as you transfer northwards to Paris by train. Upon arrival in this postcard-worthy French capital, you'll immediately be immersed in the legendary Parisian atmosphere, enjoying a two-night stay in a well-appointed hotel nestled amid the city's wide boulevards and some of its iconic landmarks.

This evening, meet your tour director and fellow guests for a convivial welcome drink.

Arrives On: 24 Apr 27

Day 8: Paris (France)

Arrives On: 24 Apr 27

Day 9: Paris (France)

Soak up the sights of romantic Paris on your included morning tour. Later, you may wish to explore the French capital's exceptional heritage, arts, cuisine and café culture at your own pace. Your tour director will be more than happy to help you plan a wonderful day in Paris, also known as the 'City of Light,' as it was one of the first cities to adopt street lighting and due to its prominent role in the Age of Enlightenment. Included Excursion
Guided bus tour of Paris and Seine River cruise
On today's included excursion, join a knowledgeable local guide who will introduce you to the best that Paris has to offer. Embark on a guided bus tour, where you'll see classic Parisian highlights, including the magnificent Notre-Dame Cathedral and Arc de Triomphe. Later, you'll join a charming river cruise along the Seine, delighting in gliding past the iconic Eiffel Tower and other well-known gems, as well as picturesque riverscapes.

Arrives On: 25 Apr 27

Day 10: Paris (France)

This morning, after breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to your fellow guests and depart Paris, as you are transferred to the airport for your return flight to the UK, taking with you cherished memories of gastronomic delights, cruising the atmospheric Seine River and the iconic Eiffel Tower. 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: 26 Apr 27

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

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