Cruise Details

Name:	Festive Sensations of the Seine & Normandy
Reference:	EMERALDEFSX041227-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Lumi
Regions:	Seine
Departs On:	04 Dec 27
Departs From:	Paris
Arrives On:	11 Dec 27
Arrives At:	Paris
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	8

Itinerary

Day 1: Paris (France)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise. Welcome to Paris, the enchanting capital of France. Upon arrival, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your contemporary Emerald Star-Ship, Emerald Lumi. A late departure gives you time to explore the City of Light once the sun goes down and the Christmas lights come on. Later, your Emerald Star-Ship will depart Paris and cruise to Vernon during the night. Please book your flight to arrive into Paris prior to 04:00 PM.

Arrives On: 04 Dec 27

Day 2: Vernon (France)

Wake in Vernon, a well-preserved medieval town that hugs the southern bank of the river. Its everyday beauty will be enhanced by Christmas decorations, twinkling lights and a welcoming market in the town centre. Most travellers see Vernon as simply the gateway to Giverny, home of

the famed Impressionist painter Monet for more than 40 years. But it has many charms of its own, including numerous antique and vintage stores, beautiful architecture and a striking Gothic church. Don’t miss the 14th-century mill, which creates a mirror-like reflection in the river and was painted many times by Monet.

This evening, join your fellow guests for a welcome dinner on board. Included Excursion
In the footsteps of Claude Monet
Take a tour of Giverny Gardens, Monet’s home until his death in 1926. Walk through the rooms where he lived and worked, and the restored, elaborate gardens with their unique Japanese bridges, which inspired some of his most iconic pieces, including the beloved Water Lilies series. You’ll get a sense of the extraordinary play of colour and light on nature and how this translated to Monet’s distinctive Impressionist art. Explore these tranquil spaces at your own pace and absorb the atmosphere that sparked his creativity. DiscoverMORE
Rouen by Night (extra expense)
After your ship docks in Rouen later tonight, set out to explore Normandy’s vibrant cultural and historic capital. See its Gothic architectural gems illuminated with Christmas displays and fairytale medieval laneways bustling with people under the glow of the stars. The cosy Christmas market takes over the central square and is open until late, offering delicious festive treats such as mulled wine, raclette and crepes. The historic centre is compact and easily walkable, making for an ideal introduction to the city.
Activity level: Moderate, Duration: 2 hours

Arrives On: 05 Dec 27

Day 3: Rouen (France)

Welcome to Rouen, a beautiful city set along the banks of the Seine and steeped in history and heritage, from Vikings and saints to renowned artists. It is forever linked with the French national icon Joan of Arc, who was burned at the stake here in 1431. At Christmas, it transforms into a magical winter destination known as Rouen Givrée (Frosty Rouen). Light shows will be projected onto the facade of its famed Gothic Notre-Dame Cathedral, the tallest in France. More than 80 streets and squares will be lit up with decorations, and you can find market stalls, ice skating rinks, entertainment and, of course, Santa himself. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Rouen
Join a guided walk through Rouen’s medieval centre. Learn how this former Roman settlement emerged as a major stronghold of Viking invaders during the ninth century. Hear fascinating tales about Rollo, the Viking chieftain, proclaimed the first Duke of Normandy, and how his legacy helped shape not only this region but the course of European history. Visit iconic sites including the bustling Old Marketplace, the majestic Cathedral district and the charming Saint Maclou Quarter. EmeraldPLUS
World War II lecture on board
Be further immersed in the complexity and colour of Normandy’s history with a captivating on board lecture about World War II. The region played a key role in the conflict as the site of the D-Day Landings, which turned the tide in 1944. Learn about the pivotal moments and key

players who undertook these daring actions. The lecture sets the stage for your visit to the D-Day beaches tomorrow.

Arrives On: 06 Dec 27

Day 4: Rouen (France)

Remain docked in Rouen and take a coach transfer to Honfleur, set on the estuary of the Seine River where it flows into the English Channel. The harbour is lined with colourful half-timbered houses, and its rugged charm captures the essence of traditional Normandy. At this time of year, it becomes a storybook festive scene, with Christmas trees, twinkling lights and a lively market. Honfleur is also a popular starting point for tours of the nearby D-Day Landings beaches, which turned the tide of World War II. Included Excursion
Historic Normandy: Allied Landing Sites
Join a remarkable full-day experience and war-themed tour, focused on this highly significant time in World War II. The pivotal D-Day Landings in 1944 opened a crucial Western Front and accelerated the defeat of Nazi Germany. Normandy's role in this extraordinary military operation makes it one of the most important regions in World War II history. Experience first-hand the Normandy beaches where the Allied vessels landed, as well as the memorials and museum, which honour the bravery of those involved and their ultimate sacrifice.

Arrives On: 07 Dec 27

Day 5: Rouen (France)

Enjoy a leisurely day discovering the region. Rouen's Christmas market is one of the most magical in France. Set in front of the spectacular cathedral, there are more than 70 stalls selling traditional handicrafts, artworks, ornaments and delicious festive treats. Get a bird's eye view of the town from the huge Ferris Wheel. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Honfleur with oyster tasting
Your walking tour presents a fascinating snapshot of Honfleur's unique character and Normandy seaside charm. Explore the town's quaint streets and admire the striking St. Catherine Church, the largest wooden church in France, rebuilt entirely of wood from the nearby forest. Honfleur is also renowned for its premium fresh seafood and produces some of the best oysters in France. Your tour includes a fresh oyster tasting, savouring authentic local flavours.

Arrives On: 08 Dec 27

Day 6: Les Andelys (France)

Set in a picturesque bend of the Seine, Les Andelys is bursting with medieval charm. It tends to take a more restrained approach to Christmas, with elegant decorations, a cosy atmosphere and a small market. Admire the Norman homes, Saint Jacques hospital and the hilltop

Château Gaillard, a medieval fortress built by Richard the Lionheart. The old town is compact and easy to explore on foot, with cobbled streets and traditional architecture that will take you back through the centuries. EmeraldPLUS
Exclusive local cider farm visit with tasting
Travel to the heart of Normandy's countryside to visit a traditional cider farm. Here, you'll learn how the region's crisp, refreshing cider is crafted from locally grown apples using age-old methods. Afterwards, enjoy a tasting of authentic local products that celebrate the renowned flavours of Normandy.

Arrives On: 09 Dec 27

Day 6: La Roche-Guyon (France)

Arrives On: 09 Dec 27

Day 7: La Roche-Guyon (France)

Your Emerald Star-Ship will have been docked in La Roche Guyon overnight, so you can wake up early to explore this fairytale village on the edge of the Seine. It is nestled inside the Vexin National Park, and many of its buildings are carved directly into the cliff face. The imposing silhouette of the Château de La Roche-Guyon overlooks the town with breathtaking 360-degree views of the river and countryside. The annual Christmas market is also held in the grounds of the château, within walking distance from where your Emerald Star-Ship is docked. Included Excursion
Visit to Château Guyon & Gardens
It's just a short walk to Château de La Roche-Guyon, a beautifully preserved estate steeped in centuries of history. Built as a fortified castle in the 14th century and rebuilt in the 15th century, the Château majestically stands as a testament to French architectural heritage. Wander along tranquil pathways through the meticulously maintained gardens and discover elegant period rooms adorned with antique furnishings and artwork, offering a rare glimpse of the refined lifestyle of past centuries. DiscoverMORE
In the footsteps of Van Gogh (extra expense)
Art enthusiasts can follow in the footsteps of Vincent Van Gogh, exploring the landscapes that inspired his iconic artworks and final masterpiece. Join a walking tour through the charming village of Auvers-sur-Oise, visiting the last residence and resting place of the Dutch artist.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 3 hours

Arrives On: 10 Dec 27

Day 8: Paris (France)

Today, after breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to your fellow guests and your luxury Emerald Star-Ship. You'll leave with memories of charming Christmas markets, illuminated villages and unique festive traditions of Normandy. From here, you'll be transferred to the airport for your return flight to the UK. If you have booked an extension in Paris or London, your transfer will take

you to your centrally located hotel in Paris or to the Eurostar station for your train journey to the UK. 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: 11 Dec 27

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

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