Cruise Details

Name:	Sensations of the Seine & Normandy with Chef Michael Bonacini and Paris
Reference:	EMERALDEPSC050827-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Lumi
Regions:	Seine
Departs On:	05 Aug 27
Departs From:	Paris
Arrives On:	14 Aug 27
Arrives At:	Paris
Cruise Nights:	9
Total Vacation Days:	10

Itinerary

Day 1: Paris (France)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise. Today, immerse yourself in the legendary Parisian atmosphere as you are welcomed to the postcard-worthy French capital. Upon arrival in Paris, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your centrally-located hotel for an exciting two-night stay, nestled amid wide boulevards and iconic city landmarks. This evening, meet your tour director and fellow guests for a convivial welcome drink.

Arrives On: 05 Aug 27

Day 2: Paris (France)

Soak in 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 played a 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 iconic 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 Eiffel Tower and other well-known gems, as well as picturesque riverscapes.

Arrives On: 06 Aug 27

Day 3: Paris (France)

This morning, after breakfast, you'll depart your hotel and be transferred to your contemporary Emerald Star-Ship, where you'll be welcomed on board by your friendly captain and crew. This evening, enjoy your first dinner on board with your fellow guests.

Arrives On: 07 Aug 27

Day 4: Vernon (France)

Wake up in Vernon, a well-preserved medieval town that hugs the southern bank of the river. 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 several antique and vintage stores, beautiful architecture and a striking Gothic church. 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, 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. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided e-bike tour of Giverny
Active guests who wish to visit Giverny can hop on an e-bike for a self-guided bicycle ride from where the ship has docked in Vernon, approximately 5km (3 miles) each way. The flat, easy cycle path has picturesque views of the river and the surrounding countryside. Once in Giverny, join your fellow travellers to visit Monet's house and garden. The beautifully restored house reflects the artist's personal taste and creativity. Admire the famous Water Garden with its Japanese bridge and the water lily ponds that inspired some of Monet's most celebrated paintings. Included Celebrity Chef Reception
In the evening, join celebrity chefs Michael and Oscar Bonacini at a welcome cocktail reception on board.

Arrives On: 08 Aug 27

Day 5: 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 French national icon Joan of Arc – it was here, in 1431, that the young heroine was tried for heresy and burnt at the stake. Rouen is also famed for its Gothic Notre-Dame Cathedral, the tallest in France, whose stunning façade was immortalised multiple times in paintings by Monet. 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 like the bustling Old Marketplace, the majestic Cathedral district and the charming Saint Maclou Quarter. Included Celebrity Chef Culinary Experience
Join Chefs Michael and Oscar Bonacini for an exclusive lunch at La?Couronne, the oldest restaurant in France—and the very place where Julia Child enjoyed her first French meal in 1948. Her order, the classic sole meunière, became “the most exciting meal of my life” and sparked her lifelong passion for French cuisine. Savour the same flavours with the “Julia’s Child” Menu, specially curated to honour the meal that launched a culinary legend. EmeraldPLUS
World War II lecture on board
Discover 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 the following day. EmeraldACTIVE
Active walk in Rouen
Active travellers can lace up their boots for a more active exploration through Rouen. Discover the ‘City of a Hundred Spires’, walking along its historic streets and picturesque cobbled laneways. Your expert guide will share fascinating tales of the city and its history.

Arrives On: 09 Aug 27

Day 6: Honfleur (France)

Your ship, Emerald Lumi, will cruise right into the centre of Honfleur, docking in the heart of this charming port city that sits on the southern coast of the English Channel. The harbour is lined with colourful half-timbered houses, and its rugged charm captures the essence of traditional Normandy. It’s also a popular starting point for tours of the nearby D-Day Landings beaches, which turned the tide of World War II. You will remain docked in Honfleur overnight, allowing you to explore the town after dark at your leisure. Included Excursion
Historic Normandy: Allied Landing Sites
Join a remarkable full-day experience and war-themed tour, focused on a 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. DiscoverMORE
Normandy's Maritime Past: From Vikings to La Mora (extra expense)
Explore the rich maritime heritage of Normandy on a tour that delves into the region's fascinating naval history, culminating with a captivating visit to La Mora, a historic replica of William the Conqueror's flagship. It will immerse you in Normandy's maritime history, craftsmanship and Viking roots through detailed reconstructions, storytelling, and live demonstrations. A floating hull is set to launch in 2027 for the 1,000th anniversary of William's birth.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 2 hours

Arrives On: 10 Aug 27

Day 7: Honfleur (France)

Enjoy a more leisurely day discovering Honfleur. The harbour town is a popular day trip destination for Parisians, who love exploring its medieval laneways, historic buildings, unique churches and interesting museums. Stroll around the bustling quay, enjoying the delightful views of colourful fishing boats, scenes that inspired many Impressionist artists. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Honfleur with oyster tasting
Your walking tour presents a fascinating snapshot of Honfleur's unique character and Normandy's 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. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided e-bike tour of Honfleur
Active guests wanting to explore at a faster pace can join a guided e-bike tour of Honfleur. Cycle past the city's main sights, along the waterfront and into charming cobblestone squares. Your guide will share stories about the city, its history and the daily life of local people. Included Celebrity Chef Culinary Dinner
Chefs Michael and Oscar Bonacini will host an exclusive French-inspired dinner on board, showcasing flavours from Northern France. Enjoy a specially curated menu, crafted just for this sailing, and experience a special evening with two of Canada's most celebrated culinary talents.

Arrives On: 11 Aug 27

Day 8: Les Andelys (France)

Set in a picturesque bend of the Seine, Les Andelys is bursting with medieval charm. 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 from where your Emerald Star-Ship is docked, 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. EmeraldACTIVE
Hike to Château Gaillard
For those seeking a more energetic pace, join a guided hike up to Château Gaillard, the storied remnants of a medieval fortress. It was built by Richard the Lionheart in the 12th century to protect his Norman lands. From the clifftops, you'll be rewarded with breathtaking views across the River Seine and an area of outstanding beauty. EmeraldPLUS
Experience the tastes of Northern France with a tasting of exceptional local cheeses and Calvados, the famed apple brandy of Normandy while onboard the cruise

Arrives On: 12 Aug 27

Day 8: La Roche-Guyon (France)

Arrives On: 12 Aug 27

Day 9: 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 looks over the town and has breathtaking 360-degree views over the river and countryside. 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, 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. EmeraldACTIVE
Kayak on the Seine
Get a different perspective on the beauty of La Roche Guyon with an active kayaking tour along the Seine. The calm waters are ideal for paddling, and you'll pass close to the town, beside lush greenery and beneath the towering limestone cliffs that lead up to the

chateau. 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: 13 Aug 27

Day 10: 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 Normandy’s timeless landscapes, authentic flavours and compelling historical sites. From here, you’ll be transferred to the airport for your return flight 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: 14 Aug 27

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

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