



Cruise Details

Name:	Iconic France
Reference:	SCENICBOFR191026-2V
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Sapphire
Regions:	Rhine and Moselle
Departs On:	19 Oct 26
Departs From:	Lyon
Arrives On:	08 Nov 26
Arrives At:	Bordeaux
Cruise Nights:	20
Total Vacation Days:	21

Itinerary

Day 1: Lyon (France)

Welcome to France and the ancient city of Lyon, often called the 'Food Capital of the World'. Lyon is surrounded by two iconic wine regions – Burgundy to the north and the Rhône Valley to the south. Upon arrival, transfer to Scenic Sapphire where your friendly crew await to welcome you on board.

Spend the afternoon exploring your Scenic Space-Ship. Relax in your luxurious suite or take a beverage to the Sun Deck and admire the magnificent views across the city of Lyon.

Please book your flight to arrive into Lyon prior to 07:00 PM.

Arrives On: 19 Oct 26

Day 2: Lyon (France)

Spend a leisurely morning on board as you cruise towards Macon. Perhaps ask your butler to bring coffee to your suite admiring views from your Scenic Sun Lounge as the riverside

scenery glides by.

An idyllic base for exploring the Burgundy wine region, Mâcon is renowned for its charming old town, quaint riverside streets, and its celebrated white wines.

Scenic Freechoice: Explore your way with a choice from these Scenic Freechoice experiences:

Excursion to Château de Cormatin: Travel through picturesque countryside for a guided visit to the splendid Renaissance castle of Cormatin. Explore its gilded rooms, moat, water features, and beautifully manicured gardens. Stroll through original 17th-century interiors with gold-leaf decoration, then enjoy free time in the gardens.

Cooking demo at a Michelin star restaurant: Join us in Mâcon for an exclusive culinary experience with Chef Didier Goiffon and his team, whose prestigious Michelin-starred career in the region has shaped him into one of France's most respected chefs. This tour invites guests behind the scenes of haute cuisine as Chef Goiffon shares the stories, techniques, and philosophy that guided him through years at the helm of renowned Michelin-recognised restaurants. More than a simple cooking demo, this intimate encounter highlights his trademark precision, calm authority, and commitment to seasonal French produce, offering a refined and inspiring glimpse into the world of modern French gastronomy.

Truffle tasting: Experience the secrets of truffle farming on a visit to a local farm, nestled in the countryside near Cortevaix. Meet the passionate farmer and his hound, discover how truffles are grown and harvested, and then savour a tasting of truffle butter and decadent chocolate mousse with truffles—paired with a glass of fine local French white wine. The visit also offers time to stroll through the rolling fields and immerse yourself in the authentic atmosphere of Burgundy. (Available on select dates. When not available, option will be replaced with a Sheep Farm visit).

Beaujolais Region: Drive through the rolling hills of the world-famous Beaujolais wine region and meet a local vintner. Discover how this wine is produced and enjoy the privilege of sampling some of the region's best drops.

Arrives On: 20 Oct 26

Day 2: Mâcon (France)

Arrives On: 20 Oct 26

Day 3: Vienne (France)

Wake up to gentle morning light as your ship glides into Vienne, a historic town nestled on the Rhône River just south of Lyon. Known for its remarkable Roman ruins and medieval charm, Vienne invites you to step ashore and discover centuries of rich heritage.

Scenic Freechoice: Make your selection from this morning's Scenic Freechoice experiences:

Walking tour of Vienne with Roman Theatre: Take a guided walking tour of Vienne and discover its rich Roman heritage, including the remarkable hillside theatre built for 10,000 spectators. Wander through the city's gardens, ancient walls, cathedral, and historic Renaissance streets before enjoying free time to explore at your own

pace.

Cycling tour of Vienne: Cycle through Vienne and Saint-Romain-en-Gal on an easy 19 km route, exploring the city's Roman ruins and the famous temple of Augustus and Livia. Cross the Rhône River, visit nature-rich river islands, and spot mosaics at the Gallo-Roman museum before returning to town.

St-Joseph Côte-Rôtie wine tasting: Enjoy a private tasting of prestigious Condrieu and Saint-Joseph wines during a guided visit to a Chavanay vineyard. Discover the artistry, passion, and heritage that define this exceptional terroir.

Your ship will cruise to Tournon later this afternoon.

Arrives On: 21 Oct 26

Day 4: Tournon-sur-Rhône (France)

Arrive in the pretty town of Tournon early this morning. This hillside village is known for its terraced vineyards, enchanting castle dating back to the 10th century and quaint cobblestoned streets. Tournon is at the centre of the Northern Rhône Valley wine region, famous for producing the best Syrah in the world. The surrounding vineyards also produce signature white varieties – viognier, marsanne and roussanne.

Scenic Freechoice:

Spend this morning at your preferred pace with one of the following Scenic Freechoice experiences:

Côtes du Rhône Tasting: Enjoy a guided tasting of the famed Côtes du Rhône wines. A local wine expert will share their knowledge as you sip their outstanding wines.

Hiking through the vineyards in Tournon: Get a first-hand look at the famous vines of the Rhône on a hike through the sloping vineyards that flank the town. Learn about the local wine production and taste some of the delicious drops of the region.

Walking tour of Tournon: Explore this ancient town on foot, visiting the castle, built between the 10th and 16th centuries, and crossing France's oldest suspension bridge to the neighbouring town of Tain l'Hermitage, home to prestigious chocolatiers Valrhona.

Biking along the Rhône: Cycle a section of the famed Via Rhona bike route along the Rhône River between Tournon and Gun. Admire charming villages, lush orchards and historic bridges, seeing daily life of locals as you pass by.

This afternoon you will have some free time to explore the town on your own.

This evening, indulge in a dessert buffet on board Scenic Sapphire from a local pâtissier. Savour the authentic flavours of the region and conclude your night with delicious creations - delicate pastries, silky creams, and vibrant confections that delight the eyes as much as the palate.

Arrives On: 22 Oct 26

Day 5: Avignon (France)

Enjoy another relaxing morning on board your luxurious Scenic Space-Ship as you cruise south. This could be a good time to book an indulgent massage or just relax on the Sun Deck to admire the landscapes.

Dock in the ancient city of Avignon after lunch. Known as the City of the Popes, it is home to the World Heritage-listed Palais des Papes (Pope's

Palace), the former papal residence in the 14th century when Rome was in turmoil. Avignon is surrounded by wine regions on all sides, with the Rhône Valley to the north and Provence to the south. It is also known for artisan products like olive oil, lavender and chocolates.

Scenic Freechoice: Take your pick from this morning's Scenic Freechoice:

Guided walking tour: Learn the rich and fascinating history of Avignon on this guided tour, wandering the ancient cobblestone streets to reach the Pope's Palace, home to the Papacy and seat of Western Christianity in the 14th century. A moderate degree of fitness is required.

Excursion to Pont Du Gard: Visit the ancient Pont du Gard aqueduct, built by the Romans around 2,000 years ago. Afterwards, learn about this engineering marvel and how it carried water at the engaging museum.

Kayaking at Pont du Gard: Get a different perspective on the Pont du Gard from the tranquil waters of the Gardon River. Paddle a kayak beneath the World Heritage-listed aqueduct and marvel at its intricate stonework.

Scenic Enrich: Enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime private experience inside Palais des Papes. Sit down to an exclusive gala dinner inside the very banquet hall Popes used to host formal feasts in and be immersed in the beauty of famous classical pieces performed by a quartet of musicians.

Arrives On: 23 Oct 26

Day 6: Avignon (France)

If you're an early riser, step out onto your balcony to watch the sun rise over the ancient rooftops of Avignon. Today you can indulge in more of the gourmet charms of the city or go further afield to discover the surrounding villages and picturesque Provence. Or enjoy a wine tasting in one of the world's most famous appellations, Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

Scenic Freechoice: Explore your way with one of today's Scenic Freechoice

Wines of the Popes – Wine tasting in Châteauneuf-du-Pape: Drive to the nearby town of Châteauneuf-du-Pape surrounded by magnificent vineyards, here you will discover and taste the wines that have made Châteauneuf-du-Pape famous, like its iconic grenache. Centuries of wine production have made this one of the most exclusive appellations in France.

Excursion to Luberon villages and Sénanque Abbey: The Luberon Valley, to the west of Avignon, is famous for its beautiful hilltop villages. Admire the bucolic landscapes as you drive to the village of Gordes, then visit the picturesque Sénanque Abbey. (Please note: Sénanque Abbey is not open to visitors on Sundays. On these days, the tour will include only an exterior visit.)

Shop with a chef & Scenic Culinaire: Discover the best fresh produce and local ingredients of the region when you shop with a chef at Avignon Market. Afterwards, enjoy an interactive cooking demonstration at Scenic Culinaire cooking school. (Please note: Avignon Market is closed on a Monday).

Lavender Museum with visit to the village of Roussillon: Be immersed in the beauty of Provence lavender with a visit to the Lavender Museum and its adjoining field. Then take a guided tour of the beautiful village of Roussillon and the striking Ochre Trail.

Arrives On: 24 Oct 26

Day 7: Arles (France)

Cruise through Provence early this morning to arrive in Arles, the southernmost point of your journey and just a few kilometres from the Mediterranean Sea. Founded by Julius Ceasar more than 2,000 years ago, the city is home to the largest number of Roman ruins outside of Rome itself. Vincent Van Gogh lived here in 1888 and drew inspiration for many of his works from the surrounding landscape. Arles is also a gateway to the vines of Provence where historic wineries produce the region's famous rosé.

Scenic Freechoice: Explore the city with one of today's Scenic Freechoice: Provence in Pink – Rosé wine tasting: Discover the sun-drenched vineyards that produce Provence's signature rosé. Learn about unique terroir and popular grape varieties that produce the crisp, elegant pinks the region is famous for.

Guided tour of Arles: Set out from the ship on foot to visit the heart of Arles and its most impressive Roman ruins. Experience the vibrant colours and striking quality of light that has inspired many artists. Your local guide will provide fascinating insights about the city's history and modern culture.

Visit Les Baux with Carrières de Lumières: Marvel at the Carrières de Lumières, a former quarry that has been transformed into a 7,000-square-metre immersive digital art space. Then explore the stunning medieval village of Les Baux.

Learn about the artistic heritage of this region while painting a masterpiece of your own.

Arrives On: 25 Oct 26

Day 8: Viviers (France)

Your Scenic Space-Ship will cruise north overnight, arriving in Viviers early this morning. Founded in the fifth century, the city is often described as an open-air museum. Wandering its narrow, zig-zagging lanes, you will feel as though little has changed in the past 1,600 years. Viviers also has a fascinating connection with the French Resistance and is bordered by the vineyards of the Côtes du Rhône.

Scenic Freechoice: The choice is yours with today's Scenic Freechoice:

Walking tour of Viviers: Admire the many architectural treasures of Viviers on foot, including the Cathedral of St Vincent with its mix of medieval, Gothic and Renaissance styles. Afterwards, enjoy some free time to explore Viviers at your leisure.

French Resistance Walking Tour: Hear tales of heroism from the French Resistance, who fought bravely against the Nazi Occupation of France during World War II. Learn about their most daring missions as you explore the historic town on foot.

WWII in Viviers: Trace the layers of Viviers' past, a peaceful riverside town shaped by moments of extraordinary drama. Walk through its storied streets to uncover how this quiet corner of the Rhône became a pivotal stage in the Battle of Montélimar, a 1944 clash that helped liberate southern France and is still studied at West Point today. Among the cobbled lanes and Renaissance façades, echoes of that struggle linger in the landscape and the memories of its people, telling a moving

story of courage, endurance, and renewal along the Rhône.

Scenic Freechoice:
Côtes du Rhône Villages tasting: Discover the rich flavours of the Rhône Valley on this guided tasting excursion. Experience the diverse terroir and time-honoured winemaking traditions of Southern France in a glass.
Ardèche Nature Park with Caverne du Pont-d'Arc Museum: Explore the natural beauty and historic sites that come together in the Ardèche Nature Park. Then be immersed in the Caverne du Pont-d'Arc Museum, the largest decorated Palaeolithic cave replica in the world. The original site was deemed too fragile for public access, so this replica cave was built only a few kilometres from the actual cave.
Excursion to Grignan de Provence: Travel to the beautiful provincial town of Grignan. Your local guide will accompany you to the mighty castle that dominates the town as well as the Collegiate Church of the Holy Saviour, before enjoying some time at leisure.

Arrives On: 26 Oct 26

Day 9: Lyon (France)

Spend a full day on board your luxurious Scenic Space-Ship today as you cruise back towards Lyon. Admire the beautiful vistas of the Rhône River, taste more local wines over lunch or join a French cookery lesson in Scenic Culinaire.

Scenic Enrich
Step inside the grand Trinity Chapel, a Baroque beauty with an interior decadently covered in Carrera marble. Scenic guests will be treated to an exclusive acapella choir performance, made even more breathtaking by the sublime acoustics of the chapel.

Arrives On: 27 Oct 26

Day 10: Lyon (France)

Spend the final day of your wine-curated cruise in France's culinary capital. Sitting at the confluence of the Rhône and Saône rivers, the city is home to more than 4,000 restaurants – including 20 that hold Michelin stars. Learn more about its rich history, dating back to the days of the Romans, or discover one of the region's surrounding villages.

Scenic Freechoice:
Explore Lyon with this morning's range of Scenic Freechoice:
Guided tour of Lyon: Experience the essence of Lyon on this coach tour, taking you past Roman ruins and to its hidden traboules, secret passageways that date back to the fourth century. Then visit Notre Dame Basilica, offering a fabulous vantage point for views across the city.
Excursion to Pérouges: Travel to the medieval walled village of Pérouges, perched atop a hill overlooking the Ain River. Enjoy a walking tour of through its vine-covered stone buildings, cobbled laneways and market square centred around a centuries-old lime tree. Please note: Due to uneven surfaces and a lot of walking both up and down hill, this tour is recommended only for guests with a high degree of fitness.
Silk painting workshop: Fine silk has been produced in Lyon since the 15th century and the city still has a proud tradition of textile production. Join this immersive workshop to learn about this rich heritage and create your own

masterpiece.</p>

Arrives On: 28 Oct 26

Day 11: Lyon (France)

<p>Board an included flight from Lyon to Bordeaux where you will be welcomed on board by the friendly crew of the Scenic Diamond.</p>

Arrives On: 29 Oct 26

Day 11: Bordeaux (France)

Arrives On: 29 Oct 26

Day 12: Bordeaux (France)

<p>Admire the tranquil riverside scenery as you sail towards Libourne this morning. After lunch, join a tour to nearby Saint-Émilion. This World Heritage-listed village has thousands of years of history and beautifully-preserved medieval buildings. Explore the unique Monolithic Church, which is mostly underground and carved directly into the limestone.</p><p>This evening your Scenic Space-Ship will be docked overnight in Libourne, a beautiful 13th century port and winemaking capital of northern Gironde.</p>

Arrives On: 30 Oct 26

Day 12: Libourne (France)

Arrives On: 30 Oct 26

Day 13: Libourne (France)

<p>This morning, spend some time exploring Libourne and its surrounds. </p><p>Scenic Freechoice:
Today choose from the following Scenic Freechoice options.

Walking tour of Libourne: Take a guided tour of Libourne, with its rich history linked to the trade of wool, wine, salt and wood.

Wines and Vineyards of Saint-Émilion: Journey to the countryside of Saint Emilion and explore its vineyards before a tasting.

Biking and tasting at Château Siaurac: Cycle through this acclaimed wine-growing region to the impressive estate of Château Siaurac and enjoy a tasting.

Paint and Pour: Join a local artist for a class on the Sun Deck of Scenic Diamond. Learn watercolour techniques and create your own masterpiece while sipping local wines.</p><p>Set sail this afternoon for Pauillac, where you'll dock overnight.</p>

Arrives On: 31 Oct 26

Day 13: Pauillac (France)

Arrives On: 31 Oct 26

Day 14: Pauillac (France)

The Médoc region is considered the world's leading red wine producer and is home to many legendary châteaux. Today, you'll have the chance to explore this remarkable wine region.

Scenic Freechoice: Today choose from the following Scenic Freechoice options.

Médoc wine tasting by coach: With more than 16,000 hectares of vineyards across eight appellations, Médoc is home to the epic 'Route des Châteaux', or 'Route of Castles'. On this coach tour you will travel through this scenic region to a local winery and enjoy a tasting of their wines.

Médoc wine tasting by bicycle: Discover the spectacular Médoc countryside by e-bike today and see many grand aristocratic châteaux in the world's leading red wine producing region. Afterwards, sample the region's finest at one of the prestigious estates.

Scenic Enrich

Classical Concert at Château d'Agassac: Set in spectacular surrounds in the Medoc countryside, Château D'Agassac dates to the 13th century and is one of the oldest winemaking establishments in the region. Soak in the ambience of this magnificent property as live musicians perform classical masterpieces for your exclusive enjoyment.

Arrives On: 01 Nov 26

Day 14: Cussac-Fort-Médoc (France)

Arrives On: 01 Nov 26

Day 15: Cussac-Fort-Médoc (France)

Relax on board this morning as you sail to Cadillac. You could enjoy a treatment at the spa or learn more about French cuisine in the Scenic Culinaire cooking school. You will arrive into Cadillac after lunch.

This picturesque town was founded in 1280 and retains many of its grand historic buildings. In 1701 French explorer Antoine de la Mothe, sieur de Cadillac took his name from the town and established the port of Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit, which would become modern day Detroit where the American auto industry began. The Cadillac car is named in his honour.

Arrives On: 02 Nov 26

Day 15: Cadillac (France)

Arrives On: 02 Nov 26

Day 16: Cadillac (France)

Cadillac is close to the Sauternes wine region, which is known for its sweet, fortified styles. Today, choose between a variety of experiences in the region surrounding Cadillac, from its bucolic countryside to its historic castles.

Scenic Freechoice:

Morning Freechoice: Today, choose from the following Scenic Freechoice activities.

Sauternes by coach: Take a coach through Sauternes to a vineyard for a tasting of the chateau's fine wines.

Sauternes by bike: Cycle through the rolling vineyards of Sauternes for a tasting.

Scenic Freechoice:

Afternoon Freechoice: This afternoon, choose from the following Scenic Freechoice activities.

Roquetaillade Castle: Tour the ancient castle with the family whose ancestors have resided here for more than 700 years.

Biking in the Loupiac wine region: Cycle the landscapes of the Gironde in the wine region of Loupiac and admire the breathtaking Château Benauges.

Château Toulouse-Lautrec: During a guided tour you will discover the historic rooms of this estate including the apartments of the famous painter.

Arrives On: 03 Nov 26

Day 16: Bordeaux (France)

Arrives On: 03 Nov 26

Day 17: Bordeaux (France)

Discover Bordeaux's multitude of culinary delights and scenic treasures today with a variety of Scenic Freechoice activities to choose from.

Scenic Freechoice:

Guided tour of Bordeaux: Join your local guide on a tour of Bordeaux. Discover the highlights of the city, such as the magnificent Gothic cathedral and Place de la Bourse.

Cycling tour of Bordeaux: Pedal through historic Bordeaux on a guided cycling tour. Sample delicious treats such as canelé, a custard cake.

Shop with a chef: Join Scenic's on board chef at a local food market to shop for and taste the best ingredients this region has to offer before returning to Scenic Diamond for a cooking demonstration to learn the art of French fare. (Please note: The market is closed on Mondays and will not be available on these days.)

Back on board, your Cruise Director will organise a special treat for you, with a tasting of fresh oysters delivered straight from the waters of Arcachon Bay.

Scenic Enrich

After hours access to Bassins des Lumières: After the doors have closed to the public, you will be welcomed with a glass of Champagne to Bassins des Lumières, Bordeaux's former WWII submarine base, now an impressive digital art installation. Be treated to an exclusive show, customised and curated just for Scenic

guests.</p>

Arrives On: 04 Nov 26

Day 18: Bordeaux (France)

<p>Continue your exploration of Bordeaux today with a variety of compelling options.</p><p>Scenic Freechoice:
Cité du Vin Museum: Take a local tram to the Cité du Vin Museum and enjoy an interactive journey of wine discovery.

Tour Bordeaux by motorbike & sidecar: Join your host as you cruise through Bordeaux in the side car and/or on the back of a motorcycle.

Visit Arcachon: Join your local guide for a walking tour of the charming bayside town of Arcachon, finishing your visit at Baltard market, an undercover food hall where stallholders tout local delicacies.</p><p>This afternoon you'll enjoy time at leisure on board as you sail towards Bourg.</p>

Arrives On: 05 Nov 26

Day 18: Bourg (France)

Arrives On: 05 Nov 26

Day 19: Bourg (France)

<p>Your ultra-luxury Scenic Space-Ship will be docked in Bourg today, a picturesque town set on a rocky promontory. Built as a defensive château, it's a maze of ancient alleyways, moats and bell towers on the Dordogne. </p><p>Scenic Freechoice:
Today, choose from the following Scenic Freechoice activities.

Bourg with Carriages Museum: Situated inside the grounds of Bourg Castle, visit the Carriages Museum with a local guide and discover the unique collection of horse-drawn carriages on display.

Historic Saintes Take a tour of Saintes, a charming town in the Charente-Maritime department of southwestern France that's steeped in 2,000 years of history and lush gardens.

Full day excursion to Cognac: The fortified city of Cognac is renowned for producing some of the world's finest brandy. Enjoy a walking tour of the town. After lunch, tour the estate of famed Rémy Martin before sampling some of the cognacs.</p>

Arrives On: 06 Nov 26

Day 20: Bourg (France)

<p>This morning you will arrive in Blaye. Most famously, this petite hamlet is home to a World Heritage-listed citadel that was constructed to protect Bordeaux city from enemy attacks. </p><p>Scenic Freechoice:
Today, choose from the following Scenic Freechoice activities.

Walking tour of Blaye: Stroll through the

charming city of Blaye with a local guide, viewing a World Heritage-listed monument that overlooks the Gironde Estuary.

Active walking tour of Blaye: Tour the fascinating citadel of Blaye on an active walking tour with a local guide. Gain an understanding of the defence system created by the famous architect Sébastien Vauban.

Cycling along the Captain's Road: Join an active cycling tour along the Captain's Road.

Visit Château de la Roche Courbon: Guests will discover this fortified castle transformed into a historic château with sprawling manicured gardens during a guided visit.</p>

Arrives On: 07 Nov 26

Day 20: Blaye (France)

Arrives On: 07 Nov 26

Day 20: Bordeaux (France)

Arrives On: 07 Nov 26

Day 21: Bordeaux (France)

<p>Your cruise concludes this morning in Bordeaux. Disembark after breakfast, taking with you a lifetime of memories. </p><p>Please note: The Gironde, Dordogne and Garonne waterways are part of a tidal river system which results in changing water levels in the region. Every effort is made to keep to the brochure itinerary however based on tides it will be amended or modified.</p><p>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.</p>

Arrives On: 08 Nov 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>