

Cruise Details

Name: Unforgettable Douro & Spectacular South of France

Reference: SCENICDOFR300525-2

Operator: Scenic River Cruises

Cruise Type: River

Cruise Rating: Luxury

Ship: Scenic Sapphire

Regions: Douro

Departs On: 30 May 25

Departs From: Lyon

Arrives On: 19 Jun 25

Arrives At: Porto

Cruise Nights: 20

Total Vacation Days: 21

Itinerary

Day 1: Lyon (France)

Fly from the UK to Lyon. Welcome to spectacular Lyon, France's third largest city and one of its most culturally vibrant with a blend of fascinating history and a sophisticated dining and shopping scene. 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.

Arrives On: 30 May 25

Day 2: Lyon (France)

Perhaps wake up to a coffee delivered to your suite by your personal butler and enjoy a leisurely breakfast at Crystal Dining as your Scenic Space-Ship cruises along the Saône River. You will be sailing towards Chalon-sur-Saône. An idyllic base for exploring the Burgundy wine region, Chalon-sur-Saône is a charming town with half-timbered houses and a magnificent Gothic cathedral just south of Beaune, often referred to as the epicentre for oenophiles.Freechoice:
br />Explore your way with a choice from these Scenic Freechoice experiences:

 Guided tour of Beaune and Les Hospices: From Chalon-sur-Saône, you will travel through spectacular countryside past stone houses and vineyards to the beautiful town of Beaune, where you will join a guided tour. The highlight will be the spectacular Les Hospices de Beaune, a Gothic-style hospital founded in the Middle Ages, with decorative flamboyant roof tiles, surrounded by vineyards producing prestigious wine and now housing a museum. You will have free time to explore the town at your own leisure before returning to your Scenic Space-Ship.

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 situated in the heart of Burgundy. This Burgundy wine domain is a place full of history where you will be able to taste the wines from Côte de Beaune surrounded by unique architecture.

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br />WW2 in Chalon-sur-Saone: Life on the Franco-German demarcation line: Today learn about the crucial role Chalon-sur-Saône played during World War II. Walk along the old "Demarcation Line," which once divided the town, separating families and shaping daily life. Discover the brave efforts of the French Resistance and learn about the challenges of living in a city torn apart by conflict, where courage and resilience prevailed.

Arrives On: 31 May 25

Day 2: Chalon-sur-Saône (France)

Arrives On: 31 May 25

Day 3: Tournus (France)

Your Scenic Space-Ship will depart Chalon-sur-Saône early this morning and sail to Tournus, a riverside town founded by the Romans, its dominating abbey a splendid example of Romanesque architecture.
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Freechoice:
 > In Albay
Cormatin: Transfer by coach from Tournus to the historic Château de Cormatin, built in 1606. The castle boasts a fascinating history and has been lovingly restored back to its original glory. Admire the castle's gilded rooms, moat, water features and more than 10 hectares of manicured gardens on a guided tour.
br /> Truffle Tasting: Meet a local truffle farmer and his dog and learn the tricks and techniques of truffle farming before enjoying a tasting of his delicious produce.
br /> Cooking Class at the restaurant of Georges Blanc: Take a short coach transfer to the villages of Vonnas where you will have a short orientation tour before visiting the restaurant of the three star Michelin Chef, Georges Blanc for a cooking demonstration. After the cooking demonstration, take the opportunity to visit the village museum, the Museum has been loving created by Georges Blanc in dedication to his family who have lived and worked in this region of France for 150 years, with his great-grandparents first settling in Vonnas in 1872 where they opened a lemonade

cafe.This afternoon step outside your Space-Ship to witness the long-standing tradition of barrel making. Admire a skilled artisan as they show you the secret of this art and learn how this craft still plays a crucial role in wine and spirit making.Tonight, your on board Chef has specially sourced local Truffles and will cook an extraordinary welcome dinner showcasing the regions Truffles.

Arrives On: 01 Jun 25

Day 4: Tournon-sur-Rhône (France)

This morning your Space-Ship will arrive in Tournon, a hillside village with terraced vineyards, an enchanting castle dating back to the 10th century and quaint cobblestoned streets.Freechoice:
Spend this morning at your preferred pace with one of the following Scenic Freechoice experiences:

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 Tournon: Explore the riverside town of Tournon by foot. Discover its fascinating history and make a stop at the impressive castle built between the 10th and 16th centuries that dominates the town. Afterwards you have free time to wander the narrow streets of Tournon or cross France's oldest suspension bridge to the neighbouring town of Tain l'Hermitage, home to prestigious chocolatiers Valrhona Chocolate, which has been operating here since 1922.

- br /> Hiking through the vineyards in Tournon: Get close to nature as you hike through the sloping vineyards that overlook the Rhône River above Tournon. Learn about the local wine production and taste some of the the banks of the Rhône through picturesque villages to the charming recreational village of Glun.This afternoon enjoy a refreshing drink on the terrace of Tournon Castle. This ancient castle holds prime position overlooking the Rhône river and the surrounding terraced vineyards.

Arrives On: 02 Jun 25

Day 5: Avignon (France)

This morning you'll have time to relax on board as your Scenic Space-Ship cruises towards the city of Avignon in Provence. Known as the City of the Popes, Avignon is rich in history and astounding medieval architecture but has a youthful energy to it with a buzzing arts scene. The former 14th century papal capital is circled by city walls, home to the magnificent World Heritage-listed Palais des Papes (Pope's Palace), one of the largest surviving Gothic palaces in Europe, and the remaining four arches of the famous Pont d'Avignon bridge, which was once the only way to cross the Rhône between Lyon and the Mediterranean Sea.

/> Freechoice:
 Choose from a selection of Scenic Freechoice options this afternoon:

 Guided walking tour: From the ship, you will be guided on a walk in Avignon, to the historic city walls and the Pope's Palace, home to the Papacy and seat of Western Christianity in the 14th century. Avignon is filled with cobblestoned streets and

Arrives On: 03 Jun 25

Day 6: Avignon (France)

Avignon is known as the gateway to Provence, a region blanketed in vineyards and lavender fields, rolling hills and historic villages. Today you will have the chance to explore more of this captivating part of southern France.
 Freechoice:
Explore your way with one of today's Scenic Freechoice

Excursion to Luberon villages and Senangue Abbey: Visit the village of Gordes, considered "one of the most beautiful villages in France". Teetering high above the hills of Luberon, Gordes' stone buildings spiral around the rock on which it is perched, its church and castle at the apex. After Gordes, you will visit nearby Senangue Abbey, a picturesque Cistercian Abbey.

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Wine tasting in Chateauneuf du Pape: The fertile banks of the Rhône are peppered with Côte du Rhône vineyards, including at the village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, where centuries of wine production make for a very fascinating history. Take this opportunity to sample some of the region's most and its Ochre Trail are among the main attractions on Luberon's ochre circuit, a landscape of ochre cliffs. Take a guided tour through this charming village before a visit to a local lavender producer where you will learn how lavender is grown, harvested and utilised in this region.

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Shop with a chef & Scenic Culinaire: Gourmands can join Scenic's on board chef on a visit to a local food market where you will have an opportunity to shop for and taste the best ingredients this region has to offer. Upon returning to your Scenic Space-Ship, head to the Scenic Culinaire cooking school for an interactive cooking demonstration making some of France's most popular and delicious dishes using the ingredients you have just bought. (Please note: Avignon Markert is closed on a Monday)

Arrives On: 04 Jun 25

Wake up this morning in Arles, a city founded around 56BC by Julius Caesar that remains rich in Roman history and is thought to have the largest number of Roman ruins after The Eternal City itself. It was also home to Vincent Van Gogh in 1888, who drew inspiration from the landscape for a multitude of his paintings and drawings.
Decide how you will spend your day with todays' selection of Scenic Freechoice

Guided tour of Arles: Take a short walk from your Scenic Space-Ship to the heart of Arles. The city is home to some impressive Roman ruins, including Las Arenas, an amphitheatre that seats 20,000 and is still in use today. Experience the vibrant colours and striking quality of Arles' light - it will be easy to see why the city has inspired so many artists.

-br />Visit Les Baux with Carrières de Lumières: Journey to the stunning medieval village of Les Baux, perched on a rocky outcrop and often regarded as one of France's most beautiful villages. Visit a former quarry in the Les Baux region that is now the site of Carrières de Lumières, an enormous 7,000 square-metre site that hosts a visual and musical production highlighting the works of notable world-famous artists.

Ancestry of the Kitchen: Visit a local olive farm where you will learn the techniques of olive oil production. Here you will meet with a local who's family have worked the land on this Olive Farm for centuries and who will share insight into everyday life in the region, as well as divulge traditional Provencal recipes.

- Lavender Fields to Cream: A Provence Herbal Workshop: The Provence region is renowned for its stunning landscapes and the production of aromatic herbs, particularly lavender. At certain times of the year (typically from late June to mid-August), fields are transformed into a breathtaking sea of purple. On this excursion, you'll visit a local organic farm specializing in the production of essential oils from lavender, thyme, rosemary, and other Provençal herbs. Discover the health benefits of these plants, learn the process of essential oil extraction, and create your own lavender-based cream to take home.This afternoon is free to explore Arles at your own pace or return to your Scenic Space-Ship and indulge in an on board painting class. Vincent Van Gogh once said that 'The whole future of art is to be found in the South of France' this is just one example of the high regard this region is held by artists the world over. Learn about the artistic heritage of this region while painting a masterpiece of your own.

Arrives On: 05 Jun 25

Day 8: Viviers (France)

This morning you will arrive in Viviers, often described as an open-air museum for its rich medieval heritage and architecture. Freechoice:
/>Make your selection for this morning's Scenic Freechoice experiences:
br />str />walking tour of Viviers: Enjoy a walking tour with your local guide to explore Viviers, a town with an important heritage and rich past. Admire the many monuments and architectural treasures such as the Cathedral of St. Vincent, which was first built in the 11th century and is resplendent in 18th-century gothic style and a Renaissance facade. Afterwards, enjoy some free time to explore Viviers at your leisure.French Resistance Walking Tour: During a walking tour of Viviers, learn about

the French Resistance, who fought against the Nazi Occupation of France during World War II. Hear local stories of heroism and daring missions as you explore the historic

town.Freechoice:
for />Ardèche Nature Park with Caverne du Pont-d'Arc Museum: Explore the Ardèche Nature Park, which stretches from the Rhône Valley to the Ardèche Mountains and contains medieval fortress ruins. You will also 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.
for />Explore the caves in the Ardeche Nature Park: Drive through the rugged natural beauty of Ardeche Nature Park, from the Ardeche Gorge to the equally impressive Madeleine Caves, where you can admire the intricate rock formations, stalagmites and stalactites, and underground lakes. (The Madeline caves are located underground and comprise of numerous steps, a moderate degree of fitness and sturdy shoes are required for this tour).
for />Excursion to Grignan de Provence: Join your local guide in an exploration of this beautiful town; see the mighty castle that dominates from a hilltop, as well as the Collegiate Church of the Holy Saviour, before enjoying some time at leisure.

Arrives On: 06 Jun 25

Day 10: Lyon (France)

Wake up this morning in Lyon. This fascinating city rivals Paris in the culinary stakes, was home to prestigious chef Paul Bocuse and the Lumiere brothers who invented the cinematograph, has a long history of silk production, and comprises ancient Roman ruins and fascinating subterranean passageways that date to the 4th century.
 Freechoice:
Make your selection for today's Scenic Freechoice:

 Guided tour of Lyon: Traverse Lyon's hidden traboules, secret passageways that were built for easy transport of silk and other textiles. There are hundreds in the region and some date to the 4th century; they were used in World War II by the Resistance. You will also visit Notre Dame de Fourviere, a majestic basilica built in 1872 that also offers a fabulous vantage point for views across Lyon.

Silk painting workshop: Lyon has a rich heritage in silk production that dates back almost five centuries when Louis XI chose the city as a potential base for the silk weaving industry. In the 19th century, silk was one of the city's largest industries. Perouges: Visit the medieval walled village of Perouges, perched atop a hill overlooking the Ain River. The village has been well-preserved since the 14th century and is one of the most picturesque villages in the region. The afternoon is free to wander the cobbled streets of Lyon. Perhaps you'd like to spend time sampling local dishes in a bouchon 'local eating houses' or head to the Le Halles de Lyon Paul Bocuse, an undercover gourmet market that will tickle your tastebuds.This evening, a local pâtissier will come on board with a selection of their finest desserts for your dining pleasure.

Arrives On: 08 Jun 25

Day 11: Lyon (France)

Board an included flight from Lyon to Porto where you will board the luxurious Scenic Azure for your 10 night cruise along the Douro River.

Arrives On: 09 Jun 25

Day 11: Porto (Portugal)

Arrives On: 09 Jun 25

Day 12: Porto (Portugal)

Wake in the city of Porto, a 2,000-year-old city that lent its name to the nation of Portugal. And while it is awash in history, it has a youthful vibe. Porto is both hip yet opulent, where street art adorns ancient city walls and historical buildings are decorated with intricate colourful tiles.Freechoice:
Explore the region with one of this morning's Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Sor /> Guided tour of Porto: Discover the rich culture and history of Porto on this guided tour, which includes a visit to the iconic Palacio da Bolsa. Located in the heart of the city, this 19th-century neoclassical building boasts stunning architecture and intricate detail, including the Arab Room, adorned with stunning Moorish-inspired decorations and with a ceiling made entirely of gold leaf. After your guided tour you have ample free time so why not explore the Bolhão Markets? This historic market has been in operation since 1914 and offers visitors a glimpse into the local food and culture. It's a great way to mingle with locals and ship to board a rabelo (a traditional wooden cargo boat). Travel from Porto to Gaia (or Vila Nova de Gaia) where you'll take a cable car ride to the Dom Luis bridge, which crosses the Douro River. Walk across the bridge towards Porto Cathedral, Sao Bento railway station, and the bustling street of Rua das Flores. afternoon you will learn about their history while creating a masterpiece of your own during a tile painting workshop.

Arrives On: 10 Jun 25

Day 13: Entre-os-Rios (Portugal)

Your first port of call along the Douro is the quaint village of Entre-os-Rios. From here, you will set out to explore the verdant Douro Valley, with options to enjoy a hike, sample local wines, or visit a city known as the 'cradle of Portugal'.Freechoice:
Choose from one of today's Scenic Freechoice excursions:
Freechoice walkwayWalkways: Explore nature at its finest on an active hike along the Paiva River. A wooden walkway

snakes its way down a rocky hillside in Arouca Geopark, a UNESCO Global Geopark comprising a mountainscape carved by rivers, and the longest suspended pedestrian bridge in the world, at 520 metres long. This active tour requires a high degree of fitness due to a large number of stairs, uneven terrain and a walking distance of approximately 4 kilometres.

 Quinta da Aveleda: Transfer by coach to this 150-year-old wine producer for a tour and tasting. Explore the fairytalelike property of Quinta Aveleda, a renowned sparkling wine producer set on an impressive estate. A highlight of this tour are the enchanting gardens.

br/>Excursion to Guimarães: Fondly referred to as the birthplace of Portugal, Guimarães was the seat of the first King of Portugal and home to the impressive Ducal Palace. Visit the well-preserved UNESCO World Heritage-listed city and explore the palace, which dates to the 15th century and displays an historic collection of tapestries, furniture, ceramics, weapons and more. You will also have free time to explore the city on your own.Relax on board this afternoon as you cruise to Regua, the largest of the riverside towns and an excellent base for exploring the Douro Valley. This region is famous for producing Port wine, with rolling vineyards on the terraced hillsides and wineries dating back to the 18th century. Upon arrival this afternoon you can enjoy a visit to the excellent Douro Museum. Learn about the history, culture and traditions of the region of the Douro Valley at Douro Museum. It's set in a fully restored 18th century building that once housed The Company, which was responsible for the demarcation of Douro wines, as well as being a place where wines and winemaking tools were stored. After the museum visit, enjoy a drink of local port or port tonic on the terrace overlooking the magnificent Douro Valley.

Arrives On: 11 Jun 25

Day 13: Régua (Portugal)

Arrives On: 11 Jun 25

Day 14: Régua (Portugal)

This morning join you fellow guests for an excursion to the Varosa Valley, the first demarcation region of sparkling wine. Visit the charming village of Tarouca where you'll explore the restored Monastery of Saint John of Tarouca. Walk the fortified bridge of Ucanha, Portugal's first toll bridge spanning the Varosa River which was built during the 14th and 15th centuries.
/span>
/p>Freechoice:
br />Excursion to Lamego: Take a coach to the town of Lamego, nestled among terraced vineyards that were the first to produce world-famous port wine. The city prospered in the 18th century and is a fascinating place to wander, with its many fine Baroque structures. Your tour will culminate at the stunning Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, standing gracefully overlooking the town. The front of the cathedral is lined by a zigzagged staircase decorated in traditional blue and white tiled mosaics leading down to the town centre. You will have the option to take a self-guided tour of the museum and will be offered a

tasting of local produce.

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/>dr /> Mateus Palace: Transfer by coach to Mateus Palace, considered one of the best examples of Baroque civil architecture in Portugal. Built in the first half of the 18th century, the former family home features rooms with original furniture and ornately carved ceilings; a library that contains one of the first illustrated editions of Os Lusiadas, Portugal's most significant epic poem; and a manicured garden dotted with statues, hedges, a cypress tunnel and reflective ponds.

/> Fort Wine Blending Class: Ever wanted to know how an oenologist creates their beautiful blends? Well today you will find out. Visit Quinta de Pacheca and marvel at the glorious vineyards and old cellar before taking a hands on workshop where you will learn about the blending process.

Arrives On: 12 Jun 25

Day 15: Régua (Portugal)

Today you'll enjoy a relaxing day on board, as you sail towards Vega de Terron.Spend the morning soaking up the sunshine on the Sun Deck as you enjoy the Douro scenery rolling during a full day cruise through the Douro Valley's Vinhateiro wine growing region. A World Heritage-listed Site, Vinhateiro has a history of wine production that stretches back for 2,000 years. In fact, its impeccable port wines have been world-famous since at least the 18th century.

Arrives On: 13 Jun 25

Day 15: Vega de Terrón (Spain)

Arrives On: 13 Jun 25

Day 16: Vega de Terrón (Spain)

visit a silk museum.

Arrives On: 14 Jun 25

Day 16: Salamanca (Spain)

Arrives On: 14 Jun 25

Day 17: Pocinho (Portugal)

Wake in the village of Pocinho, established as the terminus of the Douro Railway in 1887, a great location to explore more of the Douro Valley.Freechoice:
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Arrives On: 15 Jun 25

Day 17: Pinhão (Portugal)

Arrives On: 15 Jun 25

Day 18: Pinhão (Portugal)

 the region's most famous export. On a guided walking tour, you'll learn the secrets of the vineyard. Finish in the estate's visitors' centre, housed in the old stables that have been restored in traditional Douro style, the perfect location for a tasting of port wines.

Arrives On: 16 Jun 25

Day 19: Pinhão (Portugal)

Enjoy time at leisure as you continue to sail along the spectacular Douro River. Your Scenic Space-Ship will arrive back in Porto this afternoon, where you'll experience an exclusive classical concert tonight.
Enrich
Francisco Church: From the ship, take a short walk (with some stairs) to Sao Francisco Church, which is one of the most iconic sites in Porto. Built in the 13th century, the Gothic church has an alter decorated with intricately carved wood swathed in gold. All guests will enjoy a performance of classical music.

Arrives On: 17 Jun 25

Day 19: Porto (Portugal)

Arrives On: 17 Jun 25

Day 20: Porto (Portugal)

Wake in Porto, ready for a day of unique experiences, whether that be a ride on a traditional boat, playing a round of golf or sampling wine in one of the most famous cellars in the city.Freechoice:
Explore your way with one of today's Scenic Freechoice activities:

Excursion to Aveiro with a cruise: Take a coach to Aveiro, a city resplendent in Art Nouveau architecture and famed for its canals. Enjoy a guided walking tour of the city and cruise the waterways in a brightly coloured moliceiros flat-bottomed boat.

boat.

Found of golf: Golfing enthusiasts will have the opportunity to tee off here in Porto, a city known for its top golf courses. Play 6 holes at the Quinta do Fojo Golf club, one of Porto's most popular courses. Quinta do Fojo is a spectacular course set in a walled estate which houses gardens, lakes, woods and a historical Manor House, founded in 1714. This activity is for experienced golfers only and to participate guests must bring their 'Golf Handicap Certificate'. If this is not provided you will be unable to participate in this Scenic Freechoice activity. It is recommended that participants bring sunscreen and a hat with them.

Wine tasting in Vila Nova de Gaia: Travel to Vila Nova de Gaia to visit one of Porto's most famous cellars, Cockburn's Port. Enjoy a guided visit and a tasting.

-/span>>span>This afternoon you will have free time in Porto to explore the city at your own leisure. Return to your Scenic Space-Ship this evening for a farewell dinner.>This evening you will take an illumination cruise through Porto to see the city lit up at night, including the bridges that span the

Douro.

Arrives On: 18 Jun 25

Day 21: Porto (Portugal)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your 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.

Arrives On: 19 Jun 25

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