



Cruise Details

Name:	Normandy & Gems of the Seine & Spectacular South of France
Reference:	SCENICSEFR100526-1
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Gem
Regions:	Seine
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Departs On:	10 May 26
Departs From:	Paris
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Arrives On:	30 May 26
Arrives At:	Lyon
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Cruise Nights:	20
Total Vacation Days:	21

Itinerary

Day 1: Paris (France)

Welcome to France and the City of Light. Whether it's your first or fiftieth time to this romantic city, there is always something new to discover. Your journey will also culminate in Paris where you'll have the opportunity to rediscover the City of Lights all over again.

Board your 5-star Scenic Space-Ship this afternoon and set off on a cruise you will treasure forever.

Please book your flight to arrive into Paris prior to 8:30 PM.

Arrives On: 10 May 26

Day 2: Les Andelys (France)

Enjoy a relaxed morning on board as you cruise gently along the Seine to Les Andelys, arriving just after lunch. This pretty, waterside village dates back almost 900 years and is resplendent with well-preserved Norman-era houses and exquisite public buildings and overlooked

by the imposing ruins of King Richard the Lionheart's castle, Château Gaillard. Take a stroll alongside the river, admiring the striking limestone cliffs rising from it, or through the charming centre of town where the buildings are a living catalogue through time.

Scenic Freechoice: Choose from this afternoon's Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Hike to Château Gaillard with 'Richard the Lionheart': Step back to the age of Robin Hood on this Medieval-themed walking tour. Uncover the historical secrets of Les Andelys and venture up to Lionheart's castle, Château Gaillard, to wander among the remnants.

Tour of Les Andelys with Château Gaillard: Explore the picturesque Norman town of Les Andelys on the banks of the River Seine with your local guide before reaching the Château that looks over the city.

Cider farm visit: Normandy's cider production embodies the essence of artisanal craftsmanship and rural charm. Visit a local farm to see the process in action and taste this distinctive effervescent drink.

Renaissance-era Château Gaillon: Explore the extraordinary 16th-century Château Gaillon, one of the earliest Renaissance-style châteaux in France. Admire the remnants of its lavish interior as you learn about its importance to French history. (Please note: Château Gaillon is open to visitors from May to September and is closed on Mondays. Outside this period, or when the château is closed, the visit will be replaced with Château d'Acquigny Gardens and Louviers).

Arrives On: 11 May 26

Day 3: Rouen (France)

Normandy's capital, Rouen, has a history that spans over 2,000 years, from Viking legends to its significant role in both World Wars. It was also the place where Richard the Lionheart was crowned Duke of Normandy and Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake. A considerable amount of Rouen was sadly destroyed in World War II, but much of the city has been faithfully restored, including the exquisite Old Town. It's an engaging and historically rich destination, packed with museums, stylish bistros and coffee shops, and a wealth of churches, including the famed 12th century Rouen Cathedral.

Scenic Freechoice: Explore your way with one of this morning's Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Rouen city tour: See why Victor Hugo once described Rouen as 'the city of a hundred spires' on this guided tour. Visit the cathedral district, old marketplace and Saint-Maclou Quarter. Step into a fairytale of Medieval alleys and half-timbered houses. Learn about Joan of Arc and see where she was put to death in 1431. Enjoy free time afterwards.

Guided tour of Rouen with Rollo the Viking: Authentically dressed as Viking warlord Rollo the Walker – who was famously too tall to ride a horse – your guide will take you around the city to learn about the Viking raiders who made Rouen their capital. This tour focuses on the city's Medieval past and you will enjoy some free time afterwards to explore.

Photography discovery: Join a local photographer to learn the secret of this century's old art form. Use Rouen as the landscape of your digital portrait like a modern impressionist artist.

Back on board this evening, listen to a fascinating expert lecture.

WWI Lecture – Day in the life of a Tommy: During this interactive

evening, you will gain an understanding into the life of a soldier on the Western Front and learn why this was known as 'the Great War'. From the curious 1914 Christmas armistice football match to the horrors of trench warfare involving machine guns, tanks, mining and the deadly flamethrower, you will experience the war through the eyes of an Allied soldier, 'a Tommy'. Try on his equipment and weapons and taste his rations. This immersive experience will bring the history of war to life.

Arrives On: 12 May 26

Day 4: Rouen (France)

With another full day in Rouen today, you can uncover some of the region's fascinating military history or sample local delicacies on a gourmet tour.

Scenic Freechoice: Choose to explore your way with today's Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Claude Monet and the Colors of Rouen: Step into the world of Claude Monet with the "Colors of Rouen" tour, where you will explore the city's iconic landmarks that inspired the artist, most notably the breathtaking Rouen Cathedral, immortalized in his famous series of over 30 paintings capturing its changing light and atmosphere. Wander through Rouen's charming medieval streets lined with half-timbered houses and lively squares while your guide shares rich historical insights and captivating Monet-related anecdotes. The tour also includes a visit to the Musée des Beaux-Arts, home to Monet's cathedral studies and masterpieces by other Impressionists, offering a deeper appreciation of his artistic journey in this vibrant Norman city. (Please note: The Musée des Beaux-Arts is closed on Tuesdays and select public holidays. On these days, the tour itinerary will be slightly modified)

Excursion to the Somme Battlefields including Newfoundland Memorial Park: Take a full day excursion to the site of the WWI Battle of the Somme, which claimed the lives of more than 150,000 soldiers from Britain and the Commonwealth. Visit the Australian National Memorial (Sir John Monash Centre), the Franco-Australian Museum, Lochnagar Crater and Newfoundland Memorial Park, one of the largest areas on the Western Front where you can still see shell holes and trenches.

Excursion to the Somme Battlefields Including Thiepval: This full-day excursion will follow the same itinerary as the tour above, visiting the Somme Battlefields, the Australian National Memorial (Sir John Monash Centre) and the Franco-Australian Museum. After lunch, travel to Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, which contains more than 5,500 Commonwealth graves, then visit Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, and Lochnagar Crater.

Please note: The Sir John Monash Centre is a state-of-the-art immersive sensory experience that uses technology to tell the story. In order to maximise your experience, we suggest you download the Sir John Monash Centre app on your phone prior to embarking on your cruise.

Arrives On: 13 May 26

Day 5: Rouen (France)

Enjoy another relaxed morning on board as we cruise west to Honfleur, a colourful port city on the edge of the English Channel. Over the years the town has captured the imaginations of countless artists and was the birthplace of Impressionism. The bustling harbour and cobbled streets are a confection of half-timbered houses, restaurants, gourmet shops and art galleries. Scenic's purpose built ship cruises further into the harbour, providing an easy walk from the ship to explore the harbour area and network of laneways beyond.

A guided walking tour of the city will show you its charming Inner Harbour, the Church of Sainte-Catherine and the Garden of Personalities, before you can explore on your own with some free time. Tonight, history comes alive with an engaging on board lecture about Operation Fortitude and the daily life of Honfleur's citizens during the D-Day campaign.

Arrives On: 14 May 26

Day 5: Honfleur (France)

Arrives On: 14 May 26

Day 6: Honfleur (France)

With a full day in Honfleur, this is your chance to learn more about the important role this region played in WWII.

Scenic Freechoice:

Explore your way with one of these excursions:

Excursion to the Normandy Beaches including Omaha Beach (US history focused): Start at the memorial on Utah Beach, where more than 20,000 US troops landed on June 6, 1944, before a visit of Sainte-Mère-Église, the town where 30 US Paratroopers landed during the Normandy Invasion. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Normandy American Cemetery and Visitor Centre before a short stop at the Omaha Beach Memorial. Omaha Beach is often referred to as 'Bloody Omaha', as it resulted in the most casualties during the operation, with 2,400 paying the ultimate sacrifice.

Excursion to the Normandy Beaches including British Normandy Memorial (UK history focused): The small town of Bayeux was the first town to be liberated after the D-Day Landings and became the French capital for the summer of 1944, until the liberation of Paris. Visit the Bayeux War Cemetery and the Museum of the Battle of Normandy, which describes the chronological events from D-Day in detail. Then explore the state-of-the-art Landing Museum at Arromanches, located across the artificial harbour that was built to dispatch reinforcements. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the British Normandy Memorial, the Pegasus Bridge & Museum, and stop at the Ranville War Cemetery. (Please note: From September onwards, the visit to Pegasus Bridge & Museum will be replaced with a visit to the Merville Battery Site and Museum).

Excursion to the Normandy Beaches including Juno Beach Centre (Canadian history focused): Begin at Abbey d'Ardenne, which was founded in the 11th century and is now a memorial to the Canadian Prisoners of War from the D-Day landings. Next you will head to Juno Beach Centre, a memorial to where 20,000 Canadian troops landed on that day. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit Bény-sur-Mer Canadian

Cemetery where the 335 Canadian men who were killed in the D-Day Landings and the early stages of the campaign are buried. You'll also visit Pegasus Bridge & Museum, which is a site of an important battle. (Please note: From September onwards, the visit to Pegasus Bridge & Museum will be replaced with a visit to the Merville Battery Site and Museum).
Bayeux tour: If your interest sits in a different era of history, join a guided tour of Bayeux, including the Notre Dame Cathedral of Bayeux, built between the 11th and 14th centuries and considered a masterpiece of Norman Romanesque and Gothic architecture. You will have free time afterward to explore the town of Bayeux.

Arrives On: 15 May 26

Day 7: Honfleur (France)

Begin cruising inland early this morning to the small town of Caudebec-en-Caux. Set on a curve of the Seine, the riverfront is lined with handsome homes, stately gardens and crumbling stone walls. Caudebec-en-Caux dates back to the Middle Ages and a handful of historic buildings survived the bombardments of WWII, including the ornate 15th century Notre Dame Caudebec-en-Caux.

Scenic Freechoice: Explore more of the region on one of these Freechoice excursions:
Cycle to Villequier with Victor Hugo Museum: Enjoy an active biking tour to the charming village of Villequier, cycling on an e-bike along the banks of the River Seine, following a flat eight-kilometre each way route. Visit the museum dedicated to Victor Hugo, the famous French poet, playwright and novelist before returning to the ship. (Please note: Victor Hugo Museum is closed on Sunday and will be replaced with a visit to Seine Museum instead).
Fecamp and Bénédictine Palace: Take a coach transfer to Fecamp, an historic seaside town surrounded by some of the tallest cliffs in Normandy. Join a guided tour of the Bénédictine Palace, a 19th-century architectural masterpiece, famous for producing Bénédictine liquor, said to contain 27 plants and spices. Enjoy a tasting during your visit.
Tales of the French Resistance: Set off on a walking tour and learn stories of 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 city.
Normandy Abbey Road: Spiritual health and wealth have been important in Normandy since the Middle Ages. Explore this fascinating history with a local guide on the Abbey Road, where many grand abbeys sit on the banks of the River Seine.

Arrives On: 16 May 26

Day 7: Caudebec-en-Caux (France)

Arrives On: 16 May 26

Day 8: Vernon (France)

Historically a border town between the Duchy of Normandy and the Kingdom of France, Vernon has a rich heritage and many distinctive buildings. Nearby Giverny was the home of Impressionist artist Claude Monet for more than 40 years.

Scenic Freechoice: Discover more on one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Monet's House and Garden: Journey to Giverny to tour the town and visit the home of the founder of Impressionism. Built by Monet, the gardens comprise a Japanese-inspired water garden with lilies, which inspired his most famous works. Afterwards, enjoy free time to explore at your own leisure.

Self-guided cycle from Vernon to Giverny: Take a self-guided biking tour from the ship in Vernon to Giverny (approximately five kilometres each way). When you arrive, you may wish to visit Monet's House and Garden or wander about this charming town, before returning to the ship.

After exploring these beautiful gardens during this morning's touring, you may feel inspired to create a masterpiece of your own during an on board painting class.

This afternoon your Scenic Space-Ship will cruise towards La Roche-Guyon, where this evening's exclusive Scenic Enrich experience will take place.

Scenic Enrich Take a short walk from the ship to Château de La Roche-Guyon, which is built into a chalk hillside and dates to the 16th century. Walk through the manicured orchard and vegetable gardens producing fresh juices, then admire the decorative walls, ceilings and tapestries. On arrival you'll enjoy a drink and sit for a splendid classical concert that focuses on music by French composers.

Arrives On: 17 May 26

Day 8: La Roche-Guyon (France)

Arrives On: 17 May 26

Day 9: Conflans-Sainte-Honorine (France)

Wake this morning in Conflans-Saint-Honorine, a Medieval town located at the confluence of the River Seine and Oise. Though it's just a short distance from the centre of the city, it feels a world away. A castle was built here by monks in the 9th century to protect the relics of Saint Honorine, from whom the town gets its name. It became a popular pilgrimage site in the 11th century, a practice which lasted for more than 700 years. Wander the quiet streets and the riverside pathway, sip coffee at an open-air café, and admire the beautiful ancient church.

Scenic Freechoice: Today, choose one of our Scenic Freechoice activities:

Visit to Auvers-Sur-Oise: Travel to the village where Vincent Van Gogh painted his final masterpieces. See landmarks that were immortalised in his works, such as the famous Notre Dame de l'Assomption church. The tour includes entry to Van Gogh's room, an attic that he rented during his final months and which has sat empty since 1890. Enjoy free time afterwards to wander through the village.

Château de Chantilly: Take a guided tour of the castle, a magnificent tribute to France's cultural heritage, built by Henri d'Orléans,

the son of the last King of France. See the fine collections he amassed in his lifetime, explore the gardens and enjoy some free time. (Please note: Chantilly Castle is closed on a Tuesday, and will be replaced with a visit to Versailles Palace and Garden instead)

Musée de la Batellerie (inland water transport museum): Join this active tour in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine to visit the Inland Water Transport Museum. Conflans, sometimes called the barge capital of the world, is located on the confluence of Oise and Seine rivers, and water has played a very important role in the lives of its residents.

Château de Malmaison: This historic estate was once the residence of Napoleon Bonaparte and his first wife, Josephine de Beauharnais. Renowned for its elegant neoclassical architecture and beautifully landscaped gardens, the château reflects Josephine's refined taste and passion for botany. Today, it houses a museum showcasing furniture, artwork, and personal items from the Napoleonic era, providing a glimpse into the private lives of one of history's most famous couples.

This afternoon you'll spend time on board as your Scenic Space-Ship cruises back to Paris.

Arrives On: 18 May 26

Day 9: Paris (France)

Arrives On: 18 May 26

Day 10: Paris (France)

Welcome back to Paris, where you will spend the day exploring this iconic city. First timers will love the highlights tour, which allows you to tick off bucket-list items such as the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral, while return visitors may want to discover the trendy Marais District or Opera Garnier, an opulent architectural masterpiece built in the 19th century. Or take a tour south-east of the city to an exquisite château.

Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from today's Scenic Freechoice

Trendy Marais with a local Parisian: Enjoy a guided walking tour of the Marais district with a Parisian guide. A melting pot of cultures, fascinating history, opulent architecture, an eclectic arts scene and high-end fashion, the Marais is one of the most diverse districts in Paris.

Highlights of Paris city tour: Join a local guide on a coach tour of the city to see some of its most famous sites, from the Eiffel Tower to the Champs Elysee, the Arc de Triomphe and Concorde Square. You will also view the 1163-built Gothic Notre Dame Cathedral, which recently reopened after a devastating fire in 2019.

Opera Garnier: Located in the theatrical heart of Paris, the spectacular Opera Garnier is resplendent with ornately decorated rooms, grand staircases, and glistening chandeliers. Tour this opera house and learn about the magnificent building that was commissioned by Emperor Napoleon III. (Please note: When Opera Garnier is not available, this will be replaced with Ateliers du Lumieres)

Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte: Take a coach to the Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte, located an hour's drive from Paris. This château is credited as the founding French formal garden that was the inspiration for Versailles. The property is laid out in a typical

symmetrical fashion with its stunning gardens creating a theatrical setting.

This afternoon is free to explore Paris at your own leisure. Perhaps you'd like to people-watch on the Champs-Élysée from a sidewalk café, head to the top of the Eiffel Tower for a bird's-eye view of the city, or venture to Montmartre, the artist's district and where the famed Moulin Rouge is located. Alternatively, relax back on board your luxurious Scenic Space-Ship.

Arrives On: 19 May 26

Day 11: Paris (France)

Board your included flight from Paris to Lyon where you will embark the Scenic Sapphire for your 10 night cruise along the Rhône and Saône Rivers.

Arrives On: 20 May 26

Day 11: Lyon (France)

Arrives On: 20 May 26

Day 12: 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.

Georges Blanc cooking demonstration: Journey to the picturesque village of Vonnas for an exclusive cooking demonstration at Michelin starred restaurant Georges Blanc. Walk through charming streets to the celebrated restaurant, where you'll discover the story of Maison Blanc and witness the preparation of classic regional dishes, including Volaille de Bresse à la crème and crêpes vonnassiennes. After the demonstration, enjoy free time exploring the village before returning to the ship. (Available on select dates. When not available, option will be replaced with a cooking demo at a Michelin star restaurant).

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 Monastère de Brou).

Excursion to Cluny and visit Cluny Abbey: Step back in time on a guided tour of Cluny, home to the magnificent 10th-century Benedictine Abbey. Wander through the village and explore its grand church remains, impressive monastic buildings, and the vast 18th-century cloister overlooking the historic chapter house. Marvel at the incredible Romanesque and Gothic architecture, and visit the granary where sculpted masterpieces from the original abbey church are preserved. The experience paints a vivid picture of Cluny's cultural and spiritual influence throughout medieval Europe.</p>

Arrives On: 21 May 26

Day 12: Mâcon (France)

Arrives On: 21 May 26

Day 13: Vienne (France)

<p>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.</p><p>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.</p><p>Your ship will depart for Tournon later this afternoon. </p>

Arrives On: 22 May 26

Day 14: Tournon-sur-Rhône (France)

<p>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. </p><p>Scenic Freechoice:
Spend this morning at your preferred pace with one of the following Scenic Freechoice experiences:

Walking tour of Tournon: Explore the town on foot. Learn its fascinating history and visit the castle, built

between the 10th and 16th centuries, that still dominates this town. Enjoy free time afterwards – you may like to cross France's oldest suspension bridge to the neighbouring town of Tain l'Hermitage, home to prestigious chocolatiers Valrhona.

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 delicious drops of the region.

Biking along the Rhône: Cycle the picturesque banks of the Rhône River past charming villages and spectacular scenery to the nearby village of Glun.

This afternoon you will have some free time to explore the town on your own. Later, meet your fellow guests for an aperitif on the terrace of Tournon Castle and admire the sweeping views over the Rhône River and surrounding terraced vineyards, before returning to Scenic Sapphire for a dessert buffet of indulgent French pastries from a local pâtissier.

Arrives On: 23 May 26

Day 15: Avignon (France)

Dock in the ancient city of Avignon after lunch. Known as the City of the Popes, Avignon is rich in history and astounding medieval architecture. At the same time, it also has a youthful energy and a buzzing arts scene. Circled by fortified walls, the former papal capital is home to the 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.

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

Walking tour of Avignon including a visit to the Popes Palace: From the ship, you will be guided on a walk through Avignon, visiting 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 the palace has numerous steps, so a moderate degree of fitness is required for this tour.

Excursion to Pont Du Gard: Visit the ancient Roman aqueduct, Pont du Gard, on a guided tour. Dating to the middle of the first century, this engineering masterpiece was designed to carry water to the city of Nîmes.

Kayaking at Pont du Gard: Be surrounded by the tranquil waters of the Gardon River. Paddle a kayak beneath the World Heritage-listed Pont du Gard aqueduct, giving you a unique perspective on its grandeur.

Scenic Enrich: When the doors are closed to the general public, you'll have one of the most visited sites in France to yourself. Upon arrival, you will be ushered into the grandiose palace for an exclusive gala dinner accompanied by classical concert from a trio of musicians, in the very room the Pope used to dine. Be immersed in the beauty of famous classical pieces, which gain a new fascinating dimension inside the palace's walls.

Arrives On: 24 May 26

Day 16: Avignon (France)

Spend a full day in Avignon, soaking up more of its charms. It 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.

Scenic Freechoice: Explore your way with one of today's Scenic Freechoice
Excursion to Luberon villages and Sénanque Abbey: Visit the village of Gordes, considered one of the most beautiful in France. Its stone buildings spiral around the rock on which it is perched, with the church and castle at the apex. Later, 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: Join your Scenic chef to visit the local market where you will shop for and taste the best ingredients this region has to offer. Return to the ship for an interactive cooking demonstration at Scenic Culinaire cooking school, learning regional recipes. (Please note: Avignon Market is closed on a Monday).
Lavender Museum with visit to the village of Roussillon: Luberon is famous for its picturesque villages, lavender fields and ochre cliffs. Visit a local lavender producer to learn how it is grown, harvested and utilised in this region. Then take a guided tour of the beautiful village of Roussillon.
Wine tasting in Châteauneuf-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 fascinating history. Take this opportunity to sample some of the region's most celebrated wines.

Arrives On: 25 May 26

Day 17: Arles (France)

The southernmost point of your journey, Arles is in the Provence region and close to the Mediterranean coast. Founded around 56BC by Julius Caesar, the city has a rich Roman heritage and is thought to have the largest number of Roman ruins outside the Eternal City itself. The ruins of ancient monuments, theatres, baths and administrative buildings are strewn along the river's left bank. It was also the home of Vincent Van Gogh in 1888 and he drew inspiration from the landscape for many of his paintings and drawings.

Scenic Freechoice:
Explore the city with one of today's Scenic Freechoice:
Guided tour of Arles: Join a local guide for an insightful walking tour. Departing from the ship, you'll visit the heart of Arles to see the ancient Roman amphitheatre, Arènes d'Arles, a 20,000-seat arena that's still in use today. Experience the vibrant colours and striking quality of light that has inspired many artists. (Please note: The Roman Amphitheatre is closed on Mondays and cannot be visited on this day).
Visit Les Baux with Carrières de Lumières: Journey to the stunning medieval village of Les Baux. Visit a former quarry that is now the site of Carrières de Lumières, an enormous 7,000 square-metre site that hosts an immersive visual and musical installation highlighting the works of notable artists.
Ancestry of the Kitchen with olive mill: Visit a local olive farm where you will learn the techniques of olive oil production. Later, the owner will

share their experience of life in this region as well as traditional Provençal recipes.

Discovery of Lavender: from field to perfume: Provence region is renowned for 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. Visit a local organic farm specialising in the production of essential oils from lavender, thyme, rosemary, and other herbs. Discover the health benefits of these plants, learn the process of essential oil extraction, and create your own lavender perfume to take home.

This afternoon is free to explore Arles at your own pace or return to your Scenic Space-Ship and join an on board painting class. Vincent Van Gogh once said “the whole future of art is to be found in the South of France”. Learn about the artistic heritage of this region while painting a masterpiece of your own.

Arrives On: 26 May 26

Day 18: Viviers (France)

This morning you will arrive in Viviers, often described as an open-air museum thanks to its rich medieval heritage and architecture. The town was founded in the fifth century, and as you walk down the narrow, zig-zagging lanes, you will feel as though little has changed in the past 1,600 years. At its peak in the Middle Ages, Viviers was home to 30,000 people; today less than 4,000 people live here, happily secluded in their own world.

Scenic Freechoice:
The choice is yours with this morning's Scenic Freechoice:

Walking tour of Viviers: Join a local guide to explore Viviers on foot. Admire its many monuments and architectural treasures such as the Cathedral of St. Vincent – first built in the 11th century, it is now resplendent in 18th-century Gothic style with a Renaissance facade. Afterwards, enjoy some free time to explore Viviers at your leisure.

French Resistance walking Tour: On a walking tour of Viviers, hear stories of the French Resistance, who fought bravely against the Nazi Occupation of France during World War II. Learn local stories of heroism and daring missions as you explore the historic town.

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:
This afternoon, explore with one of the following Scenic Freechoice:

Ardèche Nature Park with Caverne du Pont-d'Arc Museum: Explore the mountains and medieval fortress ruins of this sprawling 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.

Explore the caves in the Ardèche Nature Park: Drive through the rugged natural beauty of Ardèche Nature Park, from the Ardèche Gorge to the 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).

Excursion to Grignan de Provence: Join your local guide on an exploration of the beautiful provincial town of Grignan. See the mighty castle that dominates the town as well as the Collegiate Church of the Holy Saviour before enjoying some time at leisure.</p>

Arrives On: 27 May 26

Day 19: Lyon (France)

<p>Enjoy a relaxed day on board as you cruise back towards Lyon, admiring the beautiful vistas of the Rhone River. Bask on the Sun Deck, soothe your muscles in the Salt Therapy Lounge or sharpen your skills with a French cookery lesson in Scenic Culinaire.</p><p>Scenic Enrich
Tonight, admire the beauty of one of the city's grandest Baroque buildings, Trinity Chapel. Built in the 17th century, the interior is decadently covered in Carrara marble. Exclusive to Scenic guests, you will be immersed in a breath-taking acapella choir performance in this wonderful setting.</p>

Arrives On: 28 May 26

Day 20: Lyon (France)

<p>Greet the day in Lyon. You may like to arrange for your butler to deliver a coffee to your suite and enjoy it in your private Scenic Sun Lounge before venturing out for the day. Sitting at the confluence of the Rhône and Saône rivers, Lyon was founded by the Romans in 43BC. Since the mid-1500s it has been a financial and industrial powerhouse and today is recognised as France's culinary capital. The city is home to more than 4,000 restaurants – including 20 that hold Michelin stars – and eating well is a way of life.</p><p>Scenic Freechoice:

Explore Lyon with this morning's range of Scenic Freechoice:

Guided tour of Lyon: Discover Lyon's historic significance as you traverse its hidden traboules and secret passageways that date back to the fourth century. Then visit the Basilica of Notre Dame of Fourvière, offering a fabulous vantage point for views across Lyon.

Excursion to Perouges: Visit this medieval walled village, located atop a hill overlooking the Ain River. It has been beautifully preserved, featuring vine-covered stone buildings, cobbled laneways and a 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: Lyon has a rich heritage of silk production that dates back almost five centuries to 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. During this workshop, you'll learn about the history and process of silk painting.</p>

Arrives On: 29 May 26

Day 21: Lyon (France)

Your journey concludes this morning. Farewell your fellow guests and Scenic crew, taking with you delicious memories of this food-filled journey. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. Please refer to our terms and conditions.

Arrives On: 30 May 26

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

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