Cruise Details

Name:	Highlights of Normandy & the Seine
Reference:	SCENICSENE220828-1
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Gem
Regions:	Seine
Departs On:	22 Aug 28
Departs From:	Paris
Arrives On:	29 Aug 28
Arrives At:	Paris
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	8

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 experience this magnificent city a little more.

Board your 5-star Scenic Gem this afternoon and set off on a cruise you will treasure forever. Please book your flight to arrive into Paris prior to 06:30 PM.

Arrives On: 22 Aug 28

Day 2: Conflans-Sainte-Honorine (France)

Wake this morning in Conflans-Saint Honorine, a medieval town located at the confluence of the rivers 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 cafe, 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.

Chantilly Castle and gardens: Take a guided tour of the castle, a magnificent tribute to France's cultural heritage, built by Henri D'Orleans, 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).

Active walk with Musée de la Batellerie: Join this active tour in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine to visit to Musée de la Batellerie, 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.

Arrives On: 23 Aug 28

Day 3: Rouen (France)

Normandy's capital, Rouen, has a history that spans over 2000 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. Much of Rouen was sadly destroyed in World War II, however 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 the young heroine was put to death in 1431. Enjoy free time afterwards.

Guided tour of Rouen with 'Rollo the Viking': Authentically dressed as the 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 before some free time afterwards to explore.

In the footsteps of Joan of Arc: Discover the gripping and heroic story of Joan of Arc on a captivating walking tour through Rouen. Immerse yourself in the dramatic narrative of this young heroine from the magnificent but haunting St. Ouen Church, a silent witness to her faith and trials, to the evocative Old Market Square, the site of her fiery

martyrdom. Back on board this evening, history comes alive with an engaging lecture about Operation Fortitude and the daily life of Honfleur’s citizens during the D-Day campaign in World War II.

Arrives On: 24 Aug 28

Day 4: Honfleur (France)

Honfleur is a colourful port city on the edge of the English Channel. The specially designed Scenic Gem is able to cruise even further into this harbour that is renowned as one of Europe’s most picturesque, allowing you shorter transfers to today's Scenic Freechoice excursions. 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. It’s an easy walk from the ship to explore the harbour area and network of laneways beyond. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way with one of today’s 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 to 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, where 2,400 tragically passed.

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 of 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, site of an important battle, and stop at the Ranville War Cemetery.

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. 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, site of an important battle.

Walking tour of Honfleur: 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.

Arrives On: 25 Aug 28

Day 5: Honfleur (France)

Arrive in the small town of Caudebec-en-Caux early this morning. 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 Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Fecamp and Benedictine 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 Benedictine Palace, a 19th century architectural masterpiece, famous for producing Benedictine liquor, said to contain 27 plants and spices. Enjoy a tasting during your visit.

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.

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 picturesque 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.

Lillebonne tour: On this walking you will discover the secret Roman history of Normandy as told by one of Caesar's very own Roman legionaries in full armour and costume. Follow in the footsteps of Caesar himself and enter the largest Roman amphitheatre in northern Europe where over 10,000 spectators watched gladiators fight to the death.

Arrives On: 26 Aug 28

Day 5: Caudebec-en-Caux (France)

Arrives On: 26 Aug 28

Day 6: 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:
Today uncover the region your way with your choice of 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 e-bike tour 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. 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
Chateau de La Roche Guyon: Take a short walk from the ship to Château La Roche-Guyon, which is built into a chalk hillside and dates to the 16th century. Walk through the manicured orchard and vegetable gardens, 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: 27 Aug 28

Day 6: La Roche-Guyon (France)

Arrives On: 27 Aug 28

Day 7: Paris (France)

Welcome back to Paris, where you will spend this afternoon uncovering this iconic city. First timers may prefer the highlights tour, which allows you to visit renowned sites such as the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral, while those rediscovering Paris may wish to explore the trendy Marais District or venture just south of Paris and explore Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from these 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, 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 , 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.

Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte: Take a coach to the Champs-Élysées 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 manicured hedges creating a theatrical setting. You will remain docked in Paris overnight, giving you a chance to soak up the atmosphere of the ‘City of Light’ and explore the glistening lights after dark.

Arrives On: 28 Aug 28

Day 8: Paris (France)

Your journey concludes this morning. Disembark after breakfast, taking with you many wonderful memories of this memorable part of France. Transfer to Paris airport or train station for your onward journey. 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. Please note: Preview itinerary subject to change.

Arrives On: 29 Aug 28

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

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