Cruise Details

Name:	Cruising the Seine, plus Paris & London
Reference:	TAUCKRK202709042027
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	ms Serene
Regions:	Seine
Departs On:	09 Apr 27
Departs From:	London (Greenwich)
Arrives On:	20 Apr 27
Arrives At:	Paris
Cruise Nights:	11
Total Vacation Days:	12

Itinerary

Day 1: London (Greenwich) (England)

Tour begins: 6:00 PM, Rosewood London. A transfer is included from London's Heathrow Airport to Rosewood London in the heart of the city; check-in begins after 4:00. Join us for a welcome reception and dinner this evening.

Arrives On: 09 Apr 27

Day 2: London (Greenwich) (England)

Morning sightseeing gives you a good introduction to the major landmarks (such as Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and more). The afternoon is free to spend as you please before a truly special experience – an after-hours visit to the Churchill War Rooms – the underground "nerve center" where Winston Churchill strategized World War II campaigns and the Allied route to victory.

Arrives On: 10 Apr 27

Day 3: Paris (France)

Depart London this morning for passage to France, by way of high-speed train under the English Channel. Within a couple of hours you'll arrive at the Paris Nord station, and from there a transfer takes you to the Seine, where your riverboat awaits. Settle in, then join us for a welcome reception and Captain's toast followed by dinner aboard ship.

Arrives On: 11 Apr 27

Day 4: Auvers-sur-Oise (France)

With your riverboat docked in Poissy, drive to the town of Auvers-sur-Oise, where Vincent van Gogh spent his last days. The town has hardly changed since, so you'll be able to recognize scenes from his paintings, including the view of the town hall, seen from the upper window of his room at the inn. You can also visit his room, No. 5 at the Auberge Ravoux, which has never been rented since he died in 1890. This afternoon, sail for Vernon, enjoying a Tauck Director lecture in the lounge en route – and a painting class.

Arrives On: 12 Apr 27

Day 5: Vernon (France)

Leave your riverboat for a visit to Giverny and Impressionist painter Claude Monet's house and exquisite gardens. Personally designed by the artist as subjects for his paintings, Monet's gardens have been restored and maintained as he originally intended – complete with the Japanese bridge, the pond of water lilies, and exotic flora – so that you'll feel like you've entered a Monet landscape. After lunch aboard ship, spend the afternoon exploring Vernon as you please – it's a fabulous place for walks. Smaller towns and villages are home to a wealth of cultural treasures, and offer you the chance to immerse in daily life; half-timbered houses, and wrought-iron shop signs line cobblestone streets that retain their Middle Ages character. If you choose, set off on a bicycle trip from Vernon to Giverny before returning to your riverboat for an art lecture discussing the work of impressionist artists.

Arrives On: 13 Apr 27

Day 6: Rouen (France)

This morning, cruise to Rouen, which Victor Hugo called "the city of a hundred bell towers." Once the prosperous medieval capital of Normandy, Rouen still bristles with spires and entices with Gothic churches, impeccably restored half-timbered houses, and picturesque cobblestone lanes. Joan of Arc was tried and burned at the stake here in 1431 and her presence is immortalized everywhere in monuments, churches, and even in chocolate-almond confections called "Joan of Arc's tears." On a walking tour you'll see the Notre Dame Cathedral that inspired artists and writers, the Astronomical Clock, the Château Rouen, and the Saint Joan Tower. Enjoy free time to explore

the city's historic center on your own before returning to the riverboat. This evening, join us for a private tour and evening of dinner and music at Château du Taillis, set on a parkland estate in Duclair; built in 1530, the exquisite Italian Renaissance château with baroque interiors is a brilliant architectural showcase.

Arrives On: 14 Apr 27

Day 7: Le Havre (France)

You have a choice of sightseeing today on France's Normandy coast – between excursions to Étretat and Honfleur, or Caen. On the first choice, head to Étretat on the Alabaster Coast, where sheer white cliffs plunge to the blue sea, and the elements have carved astonishing giant arches from the cliffside rock; take an orientation tour of the town, a magnet for artists in the 19th century, and visit the beach and the cliffs. Continue on to Honfleur, an old picturesque trading port where 17th-century houses line the harbor and cobblestone backstreets beckon – a favorite haunt of painters past (like Boudin, Courbet, Monet and Jongkind of the école de Honfleur, which gave rise to the Impressionist movement) and present – to explore as you please and have lunch. Or, in the port city of Caen – renowned for historic buildings from the reign of William the Conqueror, and for the heavy fighting that took place there after the WWII D-Day invasion – visit the Mémorial de Caen, with its Peace Museum and memorial gardens. Back aboard the riverboat, enjoy a lecture on D-Day by a local expert.

Arrives On: 15 Apr 27

Day 8: Caudebec-en-Caux (France)

Leave the ship in Le Havre for a tour of the beaches where World War II's pivotal D-Day landings occurred on June 6, 1944. See Omaha Beach and Pointe-du-Hoc, where American troops scaled sheer cliffs with ropes and fire ladders to reach enemy artillery batteries, and visit the American Cemetery and Memorial at Colleville-sur-Mer, on a bluff overlooking the beach; the tranquil setting and its history will not fail to move you. Reboard your riverboat in Caudebec-en-Caux to continue your cruise; enjoy evening cocktails before dining onboard as you wish.

Arrives On: 16 Apr 27

Day 9: Les Andelys (France)

Your riverboat arrives at Les Andelys, named for two fishing villages at a scenic bend in the river where the imposing ruins of Château Gaillard rise on a cliff. The castle was built in 1198 by Richard the Lionheart, Duke of Normandy, to defend against an invasion from the King of France. A marvel of engineering, the fortress was constructed in only a year, using thousands of workers; it was thought to be impervious, but fell after a siege in 1204. The ruins in their picturesque setting overlooking the Seine are still there to inspire, as they have generations of painters like Nicolas

Poussin, as you explore the grounds on a guided visit. Next, ramble in the classic twin French villages below, with their medieval lanes, colorful half-timbered houses and gardens. Travel a short distance from town to visit a ciderhouse (another Tauck Exclusive) to learn how the many variations of Norman apple cider – and Calvados, an apple brandy renowned in this region – are made... and of course enjoy a tasting of both. Return to the riverboat and cruise to Paris; tonight, join the Captain for a farewell reception followed by dinner.

Arrives On: 17 Apr 27

Day 10: Paris (France)

Today you'll travel outside of Paris to the magnificent Château de Versailles, the stunning palace of the Sun King, Louis XIV on a guided visit, viewing its sumptuous salons, halls, and apartments, including the Hall of Mirrors, the private Opera House and the Chapel; if you wish, join your Tauck Director for a stroll through the Château's magnificent gardens. This afternoon set sail for Auvers-sur-Oise, a charming French village renowned for its picturesque landscapes and rich artistic heritage, famously captured by Vincent van Gogh during his final days.

Arrives On: 18 Apr 27

Day 11: Paris (France)

Begin your day in the city that Ernest Hemingway aptly called a "moveable feast" with an orientation tour revealing Paris icons like the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Élysées, Place de la Concorde, the Grand Palais, the Opera Garnier and the Eiffel Tower. The rest of the afternoon is free to spend as you please in Paris or aboard the riverboat. A chocolate demonstration and tasting precedes cocktails and dinner this evening.

Arrives On: 19 Apr 27

Day 12: Paris (France)

Tour ends: Paris, France. Fly home anytime. Transfers are included directly from the riverboat to Charles de Gaulle Airport, Gare de Lyon Station, Charles de Gaulle Station and Gare du Nord. You should allow 3 hours for flight check-in at the airport.

Arrives On: 20 Apr 27

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

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