Cruise Details

Name:	Grand France
Reference:	UNIWORLD57489
Operator:	Uniworld
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	S.S. Joie de Vivre
Regions:	Rhone and Saone
Departs On:	16 May 27
Departs From:	Paris
Arrives On:	30 May 27
Arrives At:	Arles
Cruise Nights:	14
Total Vacation Days:	15

Itinerary

Day 1: Paris (France)

Arrive at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport. If you have arranged a Uniworld arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship.

Arrives On: 16 May 27

Day 2: Vernon (France)

Today is a celebration of northern France’s natural beauty, with an excursion to a splendid château and gardens situated in an equally grand setting, plus a chance to immerse yourself in the very landscapes that inspired Impressionist master Claude Monet. In the morning, choose between a scenic hike or a visit to the hilltop Château de La Roche-Guyon, which is surrounded by beautiful gardens and offers sweeping views over the Seine. Later, explore the beautiful gardens of Monet. You'll have the opportunity to take in the French countryside on your way there with an invigorating bike ride, or opt to arrive by coach instead.

Arrives On: 17 May 27

Day 3: Rouen (France)

Walk in the footsteps of greatness in Normandy's medieval capital, a city with a historic quarter that remains amazingly intact. From the cathedral Monet painted dozens of times to the cross marking the spot where Joan of Arc was martyred, Rouen is a treasure trove for the culturally curious. The roll call of famous people who lived or died in Rouen is long and varied—Richard the Lionheart, Joan of Arc, Gustave Flaubert, and Claude Monet are among them.

Arrives On: 18 May 27

Day 4: Caudebec-en-Caux (France)

Caudebec-en-Caux, a lovely little town on the right bank of the Seine Estuary, is your base for one of two very different excursions. From here, drive through the beautiful Calvados countryside to Honfleur, a delightful seaside harbor and city of painters.

Arrives On: 19 May 27

Day 5: Rouen (France)

There are moments when we travel that move us on an otherworldly level—experiences that stir a profound emotional connection. The Normandy beaches certainly have that effect. On your full-day outing, you'll visit Normandy's beaches, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with a choice to venture to either the American, British and Commonwealth, or Canadian beaches. After, partake in a private memorial ceremony for a sentimental remembrance of Operation Overlord.

Arrives On: 20 May 27

Day 6: Mantes-la-Jolie (France)

How did France's rulers live over the centuries? Step into the private rooms of the Palace of Versailles, the lavish palace built by the Sun King, to find out.

Arrives On: 21 May 27

Day 7: Paris (France)

Whether you're a first-time visitor to the "City of Light" or you've been here many times before, there's something for everyone today in Paris. Enjoy a panoramic overview of the city, or join a local expert for a walk through two much-loved neighborhoods.

Arrives On: 22 May 27

Day 8: Lyon (France)

You'll transfer from the magical S.S. Joie de Vivre cruise ship in Paris to the striking S.S. Catherine in Lyon via high-speed TGV train for the second half of this fabulous grand tour. Once you've settled into your new home, you'll have some time to explore delightful Lyon, which is nestled alongside the Saône River.

Arrives On: 23 May 27

Day 9: Lyon (France)

Ancient Lyon is a city of tantalizing contrasts, from Roman roots to stunning modern architecture and plenty of Renaissance flair in between. There's much to explore here, from the city's bike paths to the silk weavers' secret passageways. While you're in town, you might like to have lunch on your own at one of the many traditional bouchons that proliferate in the epicenter of French gastronomy.

Arrives On: 24 May 27

Day 10: Mâcon (France)

The pace of life is decidedly more relaxed in Burgundy, where endless rows of grapes hang heavy on the vine. The capital of the region's wine trade, Beaune is renowned for its history, beauty, and highly prized wine, as well as its medieval-era hospital—the Hospices de Beaune.

Arrives On: 25 May 27

Day 11: Tain-l'Hermitage (France)

If you love fine wine, you'll love the twin villages of Tournon and Tain-l'Hermitage. Tournon may be a small town, but stirring events took place here: A castle was raised on the hilltop in the 10th century to protect the region, and new fortifications were added over the centuries, including two "new" towers built to defend against Protestant attacks in the 16th century. You'll see the handsome houses constructed by wealthy merchants and garrison officers when you walk through the Rue de Doux area, and you'll pass the 14th-century church and the oldest secondary school in France.

Arrives On: 26 May 27

Day 12: Viviers (France)

An enchanting village where time seems to have stopped centuries ago, Viviers has a long and storied past that goes back more than 1,600 years—and a splendid architectural heritage to match. At one time, Viviers was divided along religious lines—the clergy lived in the upper part of the town, the laity in the lower part. Your exploration of the town will take you through both parts, as you begin at the crest and make your way to the riverbank.

Arrives On: 27 May 27

Day 13: Avignon (France)

The walled city of Avignon is one of the most fascinating towns in southern France, with a host of historic gems to explore—including the fortress residence of rebellious popes who broke from Rome and once lived and ruled here. You'll explore the city today on a walking tour, or have the chance to visit a 2,000-year-old Roman aqueduct.

Arrives On: 28 May 27

Day 14: Arles (France)

Explore a sun-drenched Provençal town today with an allure all its own. Known for its remarkable Roman ruins, Arles so inspired Van Gogh that he painted some 200 paintings there. Arles has existed since the sixth century BC, when the ancient Greeks founded it and named it Theline. It was here that the Romans built their first bridge across the Rhône River, creating a vital overland route between Italy and Spain.

Arrives On: 29 May 27

Day 15: Arles (France)

Disembark the ship. If you have arranged a Uniworld departure transfer, you will be transferred to the Marseille Airport for your flight home.

Arrives On: 30 May 27

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