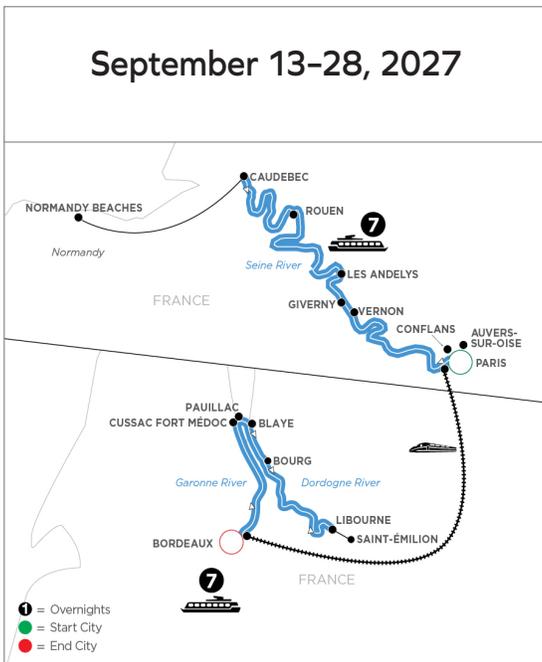


# FRENCH MASTERPIECE: PARIS, NORMANDY & BORDEAUX

## 15 DAY RIVER CRUISE PARIS TO BORDEAUX



On this resplendent river cruise through France, you'll be wined, dined, and wowed by breathtaking views and so much to do in the charming and historic locales of France. Sail along the Seine River to the picturesque Normandy region. In Vernon, choose between two exciting, guided visits—Claude Monet's stunning gardens at Giverny or the beautiful Bizi Castle, known as "Normandy's Versailles." Join in an excursion to the historic Normandy Landing Beaches, including Omaha Beach, the Point du Hoc monument, and the American Cemetery. In Rouen, take a guided walk through the medieval quarter and visit the Gothic Rouen Cathedral.

Before saying bonjour to the beautiful Seine River, spend time in Paris—one of the world's most romantic cities! Discover the true heart of Paris on a guided walk through the sites of the city's rich history or take a tour highlighting the iconic landmarks of this enchanting city. Transfer to your Suite Ship® in Bordeaux, the capital of the splendid Nouvelle-Aquitaine region—famed for its legendary vineyards and lovely villages. Cruise through one of France's most exquisite regions and be carried away by your choice of Avalon's included Classic, Active, or Discovery excursions—from the regal histories of castles and Châteaux to the romantic cellars where wine bouquets and bon-vivant cuisine tempt the palate. While the landscapes and lush pastoral treasures are plentiful along the shores of the Garonne and Dordogne, Avalon elevates each immersive experience for a deeper discovery of the cultural and architectural treasures that recall the rich traditions of Southwest France. From unparalleled panoramic drives to forested two-wheel excursions by bike to the delicacies of seaside Arcachon—the world is your oyster on this adventure in la belle vie of Bordeaux!

# FRENCH MASTERPIECE: PARIS, NORMANDY & BORDEAUX



## DAY 1

### PARIS, FRANCE (EMBARKATION)

Welcome to France! Your Suite Ship\* is Ready for Boarding.

Flights into Paris must arrive by 2:30 pm.

Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.

Your day is free to explore the world's most romantic city before starting your cruise on the Seine. Get acquainted with the City of Light today with some shopping, strolling, or with a croissant and café au lait to watch the world go by amid the Parisian cityscape.

**EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO VERNON**  
Meals (Dinner)

## DAY 2

### VERNON - LES ANDELYS

Monet's Muses, Castle Courtyards, and Crêpes du Jour.

Visit the Adventure Center for today's activities with your Adventure Host.

**ACTIVE EXCURSION** Take a Guided Bike Tour through the picturesque Normandy countryside from Vernon to Giverny, ending with a visit to Monet's enchanting gardens and home, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Take a Guided Tour of Giverny, home and inspiration of the master impressionist painter Claude Monet. Walk the grounds and see Monet's charming residence, and the flower and water gardens captured in his masterpieces\*, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Join a Guided Visit to Bizy Castle—called "Normandy's Versailles" for its magnificent courtyard, water garden, and stables.

**DISCOVERY EXCURSION** While sailing, enjoy a traditional French luncheon of authentic French crêpes followed by an onboard history presentation.

This afternoon, enjoy a beautiful cruise to the picturesque town of Les Andelys.

### LES ANDELYS

Serenity on the Seine.

**ACTIVE EXCURSION** Join a Guided Hike up to the castle ruins of Château Gaillard—historic home of King Richard the Lionheart, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Take a Guided Walking Tour of Les Andelys—one of France's most picturesque spots on the Seine.

This evening, enjoy live entertainment on board your ship.

**EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO CAUDEBEC**  
Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

\*Monet's House is closed in March and November. During this period, this excursion will be replaced with a Guided Tour of La Roche-Guyon and its castle

## DAY 3

### CAUDEBEC

Ancient Abbeys Along the Seine.

**ACTIVE EXCURSION** Enjoy a relaxing bike ride along the river with your Adventure Host, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Take a Guided Trip along the Normandy Abbeys Route—where more than 100 medieval Benedictine and Augustine abbeys and churches were built along the Seine.

This afternoon, you may choose a Guided Optional Excursion to the old seaside town of Honfleur.

**DISCOVERY EXCURSION** Enjoy an Onboard Lecture about the days before and after the Normandy landing of D-Day.

Later, enjoy live entertainment on board your ship.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN CAUDEBEC**  
Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## DAY 4

### CAUDEBEC. EXCURSION TO NORMANDY

Heroic Bravery on Normandy Beaches and French Farming Traditions.

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Join a Guided Tour of Normandy's WWII landing beaches, visit significant U.S. sites, including Omaha Beach, the Pointe du Hoc monument, and the American Cemetery, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Take a full-day Guided Tour of the British and Canadian commemorative sites, including the British cemetery, Pegasus Memorial, the seaside town of Arromanches, the Juno Beach Center, and the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Join a Guided Tour to get a taste of authentic tradition in the beautiful region of Normandy. Toast the day with a brandy tasting in Calvados.

**EVENING CRUISE TO ROUEN**  
Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## DAY 5

### ROUEN

The Cathedral of Notre-Dame and a Heroine for France.

**ACTIVE EXCURSION** Take a Guided Bike Tour to discover and explore the most famous monuments and the lesser-known hidden gems of Rouen on two wheels, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Take a Guided Walking Tour of Rouen—site of Saint Joan of Arc's martyrdom—and see the medieval quarter with its 16th-century Astronomical Clock, and Notre-Dame Cathedral.

**EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO CONFLANS**  
Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## DAY 6

### CONFLANS

The Footsteps of Van Gogh, Bonaparte, and Louis XIV.

**ACTIVE EXCURSION** Enjoy a relaxing bike ride along the Seine with your Adventure Host, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Join a Guided Visit to Auvers-sur-Oise, home and resting place of Vincent van Gogh, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Take a Guided tour of the opulent Château de Malmaison\*—home of Napoléon Bonaparte and his wife Josephine.

Perhaps, join a Guided Optional Excursion to the Palace of Versailles—home to a succession of French kings.

This evening, enjoy live entertainment on board your ship.

**AFTERNOON/EVENING CRUISE TO PARIS**  
Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

\*Château de Malmaison is closed the 1st Sunday of each month. On these dates, this excursion will be replaced by a visit to Château de Chantilly

## DAY 7

### PARIS

Cafés, Cathedrals and Canvases in the City of Light.

Join your Adventure Host for today's special activities.

**ACTIVE EXCURSION** Experience the Seine river by foot with your Adventure Host, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Discover the ancient heart of Paris on a captivating Guided Walk featuring the Palais-Royal, Louvre pyramid, ancient sites on Île de la Cité, the Left Bank, bustling Latin Quarter, and more, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Join a Guided City Tour, that shows you the iconic sites of Paris, such as the Louvre Museum, the Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower, Opéra Garnier, and the famous Champs-Élysées.

Stroll through Paris on your own or linger over wine in a literary café on the Left Bank.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN PARIS**  
Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## DAY 8

### PARIS (DISEMBARKATION)– BORDEAUX (EMBARKATION)

Your Suite Ship\* is Ready for Boarding.

This morning, travel to Bordeaux to board your Suite Ship\* and start your cruise on the Garonne and Dordogne Rivers.

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# FRENCH MASTERPIECE: PARIS, NORMANDY & BORDEAUX



This evening, enjoy a very special scenic sailing in Bordeaux.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN BORDEAUX**  
Meals (Breakfast, Dinner)

## DAY 9

**BORDEAUX-PAUILLAC**

**On the Steps of Montesquieu.**

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Take a guided tour of Château de la Brède—birthplace of Montesquieu—political philosopher and author of “The Spirit of Law.” Visit the fortress-style castle still reflected in its impressive moat, OR:

**DISCOVERY EXCURSION** Join a guided visit with wine tasting at a local wine estate. Sip the sweet notes and fresh acidity of Sauternes, the beloved golden-yellow wine.

**DISCOVERY EXCURSION** Join a delicious onboard Bordeaux wine experience while sailing to Pauillac with a presentation by a world-class wine sommelier.

This evening, enjoy live entertainment on board your Suite Ship\*.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN PAUILLAC**  
Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## DAY 10

**CUSSAC FORT MÉDOC**

**Bikes, Vines, and Wines.**

This morning, enjoy a leisurely sailing to Cussac Fort Médoc.

Visit the Adventure Center for today’s activities with your Adventure Host.

**ACTIVE EXCURSION** Enjoy a relaxing E-bike guided tour in Bordeaux’s finest wine region. You will be amazed by the picturesque countryside while you enjoy a wonderful ride through the vineyards, OR:

**DISCOVERY EXCURSION** Join a guided tour to discover the culture and traditions of the southern Médoc region at one of Margaux’ beautiful château and enjoy a wine tasting, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Take a scenic drive through the famed Médoc wine country and enjoy a tasting of wonderful wines, featuring Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

This evening, enjoy a brief sailing to Blaye.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN BLAYE**  
Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## DAY 11

**BLAYE-BOURG**

**Fine Art, Fine Bubbly, and a Fine Day for a Drive.**

Ask your Adventure Host for today’s special activities.

**ACTIVE EXCURSION** Join a refreshing power walk through the historic Citadel of Blaye with your Adventure Host, OR:

**DISCOVERY EXCURSION** Join a guided tour to discover Blaye from a different perspective, including a visit to a local art gallery with wine tasting, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Take a panoramic drive following the famed Route de la Corniche along the right banks of the River Dordogne, followed by a guided visit to the Citadel of Blaye, an UNESCO World Heritage site.

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon sailing on the Dordogne River to Bourg.

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Take a wonderful walking tour in the Citadel of Bourg on the banks of the Dordogne River and visit the carriage museum.

Alternatively, join an optional guided excursion to learn how the Fine Champagne of Cognac is made while enjoying a Rémy Martin tasting.

Later, enjoy live entertainment on board your ship.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN BOURG**  
Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## DAY 12

**LIBOURNE.**

**EXCURSION TO SAINT-ÉMILION**

**The Village Amid the Vineyards.**

**DISCOVERY EXCURSION** Enjoy a guided visit to Saint-Émilion to discover one Bordeaux’ must-see wine-growing towns and celebrate your day with a wine tasting, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Join a guided tour of the medieval village of Saint-Émilion—a UNESCO World Heritage site of legends and legendary landscapes, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Take an orientation walking tour to discover the history and beauty of Libourne, where wine and wonderful views are cherished in the 12th-century fortified town.

**DISCOVERY EXCURSION** Onboard lecture about WWII hosted by a history expert.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN LIBOURNE**  
Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## DAY 13

**BORDEAUX**

**Bordeaux Sights, Bikes, and Bites.**

Join your Adventure Host for today’s special activities.

**DISCOVERY EXCURSION** While sailing to Bordeaux, enjoy a pastry demonstration.

**ACTIVE EXCURSION** Join your Adventure Host for a bike ride along Bordeaux’ postcard river views of the Les Quais, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Join a guided walking tour to discover the heart of Bordeaux with a stroll amid its stunning squares, avenues, and cathedrals sights.

Later, enjoy live entertainment on board your ship.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN BORDEAUX**  
Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## DAY 14

**BORDEAUX.**

**EXCURSION TO ARCACHON’S BAY**

**Seas, Shells, and Sips.**

**ACTIVE EXCURSION** Join your Adventure Host for a bike ride along Bordeaux’ postcard river views of the Les Quais, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** Take a guided tour to La Cité du Vin, Bordeaux’s iconic wine museum and cultural center, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION** TJoin a full-day guided tour of the seaside resort of Arcachon on the Atlantic coast. Gaze upon its 19th-century architectural treasures and taste its local delicacy of oysters and wine.

This afternoon, consider an optional guided excursion to Les Bassins des Lumières for a breathtaking visit to the submarine base where art and music surround you in an immersive experience.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN BORDEAUX**  
Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

## DAY 15

**BORDEAUX (DISEMBARKATION)**

**Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.**

Meals (Breakfast)