

artistic beauty. Monet's Gardens in Giverny; Rouen's Cathedral of Notre Dame; and the charming harbor town of Honfleur, will inspire you the same way as they inspired the great Impressionists. You'll then get to see some of these very places and landmarks that the Impressionist Masters captured on canvas at the Musée d'Orsay. For an inspiration of a different kind, travel the "Routes des Abbayes," visiting some of the most magnificent monasteries, and to the unforgettable beaches of Normandy where Allied forces landed during WWII's D-Day invasion. Relive the grandeur of royalty at Château Malmaison, the former home of Napoleon and Josephine Bonaparte, and at Chateau de Bizy, once referred to as "the Versailles of Normandy." Blend a passion for the good life with culture, art, architecture and timeless landscapes, and you have Northern France.



November 8-15, 2018

DAY 1: EMBARKATION - PARIS, FRANCE

Arrive in Paris, one of world's most romantic cities, and board your luxurious ship. (D)

DAY 2: LES ANDELYS

Uncover the history of Château Gaillard, the former stronghold of Richard the Lionheart, situated on the chalk cliffs high above the Seine, on a tour. Or, if you prefer a more active adventure, you can hike there from the banks of the Seine, admiring the scenic views along the way. For those who wish to explore the area on two wheels, join a guided bike tour through the charming town of Les Andelys. After your adventures, set sail along the meandering Seine, enjoying the beautiful views of the Seine Valley's dramatic white cliffs and centuries-old half-timbered houses. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: LE HAVRE

Visit the seaside town of Honfleur, renowned for its picturesque harbor, and for being an inspirational site for Impressionist painters. If you wish to experience a different kind of inspiration, the Romanesque Normandy Abbey Route will take you to the magnificent Abbaye de Montivilliers and Abbaye du Valasse. For a more active adventure, you can bike through Normandy's picturesque landscape. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: CAUDEBEC-EN-CAUX - NORMANDY BEACHES

Experience the Normandy region with one of three tours. For those wishing to go to the American sector of the historic Normandy Beaches, you will visit the cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, Omaha Beach, the artillery battery at Longues-sur-Mer and the village of Arromanches, where the remains of the floating harbor used during the WWII landings can be seen. If you prefer, you can tour the Gold and Juno beaches in the British and Canadian sectors, where you will visit Ranville Cemetery, Pegasus Bridge, the Canadian cemetery at Beny-sur-Mer, the WWII museum

in Courseulle and finally Arromanches. As an alternative experience, travel through beautiful countryside of Pays d'Auge, surrounded by the apple orchards of the famed Cider Route. Visit the 17th-century Château du Breuil, one of the most prestigious Calvados distilleries and taste a broad range of ciders and Calvados, before visiting Cambremer and Beuvron-en-Auge, voted one of the most beautiful towns in France. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: ROUEN

Spend the morning enjoying medieval Rouen with a choice of three excursions. Join a walking tour past the imposing Notre Dame Cathedral, painted numerous times by Monet, and see the square where Joan of Arc was martyred, as well as the Medieval Quarter and Great Clock. For those who wish to be more active, you can join a biking or hiking tour around the city. Later in the day, you can explore the Jewish area of Rouen; or go on the "Tastes of Normandy" tour, where you'll be treated to the delicious flavors of the region, including chocolate, cheese and cider. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: VERNON

Sail along picturesque Seine to Vernon, where you will have a choice of three exciting excursions. Art lovers who choose to visit Claude Monet's gardens in Giverny will immediately recognize images immortalized in Monet's most beloved paintings—such as water lilies, Japanese bridges and graceful willow trees. Wander around his famous gardens and home where he lived for more than four decades. You also have the choice to explore the 18th-century Château de Bizy, inspired by the opulence of Versailles. Or for those who wish a more active adventure, you can go on a guided bike tour, taking in the enchanting beauty of the region. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: CONFLANS - PARIS

Visit Château Malmaison, the former home of Napoleon and Josephine Bonaparte. You'll learn what life was like for the Bonapartes and how Josephine endeavored to transform the large estate into "the most beautiful and curious garden in Europe." Alternatively, travel to Auberge Ravoux in the heart of Auvers-sur-Oise, the last home of artist Vincent van Gogh. His spirit still lingers in his former attic rooms at the Ravoux Inn. The mere 70 days Van Gogh spent in Auvers-sur-Oise were astonishingly prolific as he painted more than 70 works here before his death. Later in the day, set sail for Paris. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: PARIS - DISEMBARKATION

Disembark your cruise in Paris. (B)

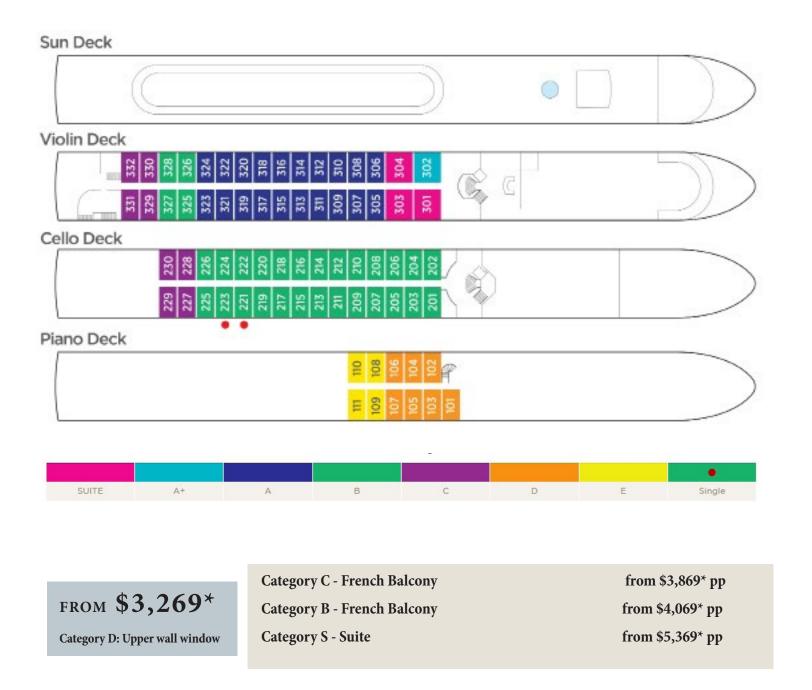


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