

The Seine, Paris and Normandy River Cruise

8 days



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Overview

- ✓ Glide through the typical landscapes of the Seine before discovering the story behind the remarkable Château Gaillard.
- ✓ Explore Normandy's capital, Rouen, where you'll visit the Place du Vieux-Marché, and coastal Honfleur with its picturesque old harbour.
- ✓ Choose between a thought-provoking tour of Bayeux, Arromanches and the D-Day landing beaches or a delicious tour of Normandy, with stops at local cheese and cider farms including tastings.
- ✓ Drive to Giverny to visit Monet's house and garden and explore Vernon's quaint buildings.
- ✓ Immerse yourself in the centre of Paris and all its wonderful sights, with your choice of either a panoramic coach tour or extensive walking tour.

The Seine, Paris and Normandy River Cruise





Day 1 - Arrival in Paris

On arrival, transfer by coach to your cruise ship moored on the River Seine in the heart of the city. The friendly crew will welcome you on board, helping you settle into your spacious and exquisitely furnished accommodation – you'll immediately feel at home.

This evening you enjoy your first sumptuous dinner, served in the ship's restaurant.



Day 2 - Les Andelys

 Free morning sailing towards Les Andelys

 Visit to Château Gaillard

Cruise to Les Andelys

During the night our ship slips her mooring and, as you enjoy breakfast, the landscape passes by serenely and you quickly get used to this luxurious sightseeing experience. Rounding a sweeping bend so typical of the Seine, we reach the town of

Mantes-la-Jolie with its imposing church – so large and architecturally impressive it could be a cathedral – while straight ahead is a medieval stone bridge. The central section of the bridge was destroyed during the Second World War and never repaired – it's the first of many poignant reminders that this region of France has been a battleground for centuries.

Beyond Mantes we encounter another typical feature of the Seine as it flows seaward – picturesque chalk cliffs, almost resembling a giant's teeth. Beautiful villages like La Roche Guyon slide by, surrounded by bocage countryside of lush pastures and high hedgerows, countless cider orchards, half-timbered barns and ancient wooden farmhouses. We're truly in the heart of one of France's historic and stunningly attractive dukedoms – Normandy.

Château Gaillard

While you're enjoying your first delicious lunch, the captain has skilfully berthed at Les Andelys, a small town dominated by one of the most spectacular sights along the entire valley – Château Gaillard. This afternoon we discover the story behind this remarkable castle. Château Gaillard

guards the apex of the river bend and was built by Richard the Lionheart in the 12th-century to defend Rouen from the French.

Besieged many times during the turbulent history of northern France, Château Gaillard is now one of the most dramatic ruins in the region.

Personalise Your Holiday

Visit to a cider farm with tasting

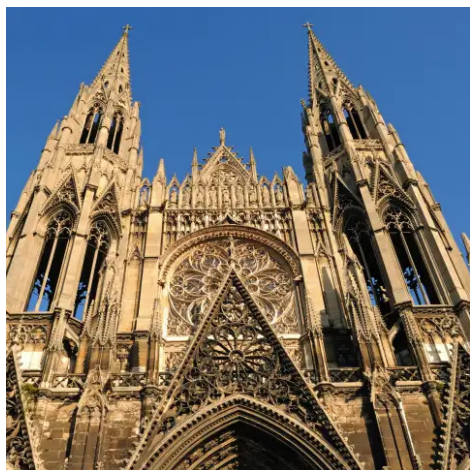
Duration: 3 hours (including transfer time)

Price: £76pp (2026) and £80pp (2027)

Travel into the heart of the countryside to visit a typical Vexin Normandy farmhouse. Family-owned for generations, the farm is home to 5 hectares of apple trees producing delicious ciders and other apple-based products. During our visit, you'll have the opportunity to explore the orchard and apple presses, as well as taste their delicious cider and other apple-based drinks, along with an array of local produce.

Optional excursion can be done in the afternoon with a shorter visit to Château Gaillard.

Please contact us at least three weeks before your departure to add this experience to your booking. Minimum and maximum numbers apply. If not enough guests opt for this extra, the experience may not run.



Day 3 - Rouen

-  Guided tour of Rouen
-  Free afternoon on board, sailing towards Caudebec-en-Caux
-  Visit to Caudebec-en-Caux
-  A French guitarist performance on board

Rouen

We awake in Rouen, Normandy's capital, one of Europe's finest medieval cities and scene of many momentous events over the centuries. Pride of place on our guided tour of the city belongs to its stunning Gothic cathedral, which was immortalised by the great Impressionist Claude Monet in a series of 28 paintings showing the facade at varying times of day and in different weather conditions. Briefly becoming the world's tallest building when the soaring spire was added in the 19th century, the cathedral is also notable for the

recumbent statue reputedly containing the heart of Richard the Lionheart.

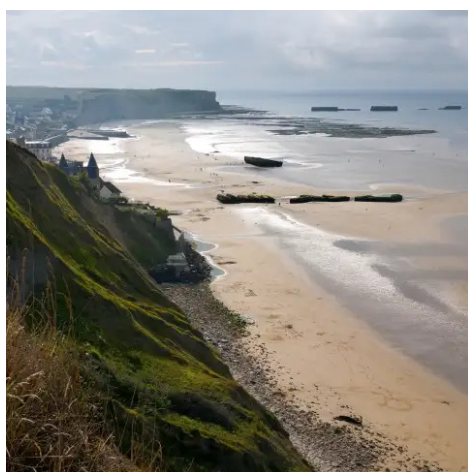
Rouen's beautifully tangled alleyways are a revelation, lined with antique shops, tasteful boutiques and, of course, countless restaurants serving exceptional local cuisine emphasising the country's outstanding gastronomic heritage. The Place du Vieux-Marché is one of the city's most poignant spots; a large cross marks the point where the 'Maid of Orléans' Joan of Arc was burned at the stake for her beliefs.

Cruise towards Caudebec-en-Caux

During another superb lunch we cast off to navigate through yet more twists and turns, chalk cliffs and a landscape of forest-covered hills that are designated as areas of outstanding natural beauty and sanctuaries for diverse wildlife, including deer and wild boar. Another highlight of the valley soon greets us – the ethereal ruins of Jumièges Abbey. Founded in the 7th century, it was consecrated in the presence of William the Conqueror and was an important political and religious centre until it was sacked in the 16th century.

Should you wish, why not arrange to visit the wheelhouse, the Captain is always delighted to explain to those interested how the highly sophisticated navigation and safety systems operate. In the late afternoon, we moor in the pretty town of Caudebec-en-Caux.

After dinner, enjoy the laid-back tones of a guitarist singing traditional French melodies.



Day 4 - Bayeux & Arromanches

 Option 1: Tour of Bayeux and the Normandy D-Day beaches

 Option 2: Taste of Normandy tour with visits to cider and cheese farms

After breakfast, you'll be ready for a full-day tour, with a choice to visit the landing beaches, or taste some of Normandy's typical produce.

Arromanches

Our journey begins as we depart from Caudebec, approaching Bayeux. Along the way, we stop at Giberville for a brief comfort break, giving us all a chance to stretch our legs before continuing. When we arrive in Bayeux, we have some free time to explore the town. Those of us who are interested can visit the magnificent Bayeux Cathedral.

After our time in Bayeux, we continued our journey to Pointe du Hoc, a historic site that played a significant role in the D-Day landings. Here, we have the opportunity to take in the incredible views before heading to the Omaha Beach Memorial. This location marks the scene of the most intense confrontation during the Allies' D-Day assault, where forces landed in Normandy as part of their effort to free occupied Europe. By the conclusion of June 6, 1944, approximately 34,000 Allied personnel had disembarked on this single beach, with around 770 American soldiers losing their lives to enemy fire. During our time here, we have some free time to explore, and lunch is at leisure.

Next, we make our way to the Longues sur Mer Battery, where we stop for a quick photo opportunity. A prominent historical landmark situated along the Normandy coastline in France, dating back to World War II. It was an integral part of the German Atlantic Wall, designed to safeguard the coastline from potential Allied attacks. This site contains four massive coastal artillery pieces, strategically arranged to fire at approaching naval vessels. We'll wander through the well-preserved area, which includes sturdy concrete bunkers, gun placements, and stunning vistas of the English Channel.

Finally, we head to Ver sur Mer and begin our return to Caudebec, passing by Pegasus Bridge and arriving in the late afternoon.

Taste of Normandy

Alternatively, today you could embark on a tasting tour of Normandy.

Our first stop is a local cheese dairy, passed down from father to son, which specialises in the production of Livarot, Pont-l'Évêque, Camembert de Normandie, and Neufchâtel. These are all Protected Designations of Origin cheese, making this one of the only places in the world that can make them. After learning more about the cheese-making methods, we'll get to taste these delicious varieties for ourselves, savouring the authentic flavours of traditional cheese.

Next, we'll head to Lisieux, a venerable medieval town in the heart of the Calvados region, which gave its name to the popular local brandy distilled from apple cider. Popular with Catholic Pilgrims, here you'll have free time to explore the extravagant 20th-century hillside basilica or its medieval cathedral. Perhaps, you'll simply enjoy a leisurely lunch in one of the restaurants and cafés.

We'll then travel to a family-run estate, located by the sea, to learn more about two of Normandy's most iconic drinks - cider and calvados (apple brandy). The farm's 25 hectares of orchards are home to apple and pear trees enabling the production of vinegar, apple juice, cider, pommeau, calvados and pure apple brandies. After learning the secrets of production, we'll have the pleasure of sampling some of their produce for ourselves before returning to our ship in Caudebec.

As we make our way back to the ship, thoughts turn again to the culinary delights awaiting you in the refined comfort of the ship's restaurant.

Please note - lunch is not provided on either excursion.



Day 5 - Honfleur

-  Guided tour of Honfleur
-  Free afternoon sailing towards Vernon

Honfleur is often regarded as the most picturesque spot on the northern French coast, and after breakfast we make the short journey to this delightful town and enjoy a guided tour. Its old harbour, sheltering both fishing boats and luxurious pleasure craft, is beautifully preserved and surrounded by a perfect waterfront of pastel-coloured 16th- to 18th-century houses,

many converted to seafood restaurants.

Watch the talented artists capturing the captivating views along the waterfront, while the intricate maze of streets behind is also well worth discovering. The eaves of the tall half-timbered buildings almost touch, and on the streets below is an abundance of traditional shops selling antiques, books and fine foods. Honfleur's most famous son is Eugene Boudin, one of the forerunners of Impressionism and a friend of Claude Monet, who also painted the harbour many times.

Choose to return to the ship for lunch, or maybe you wish to explore Honfleur a little longer and sample the seafood in this coastal town with lunch at leisure.

Cruise towards Vernon

This afternoon, we slip our mooring and begin our passage back upstream, retracing the river's winding course, its huge variety of wildlife, enchanting scenery and forests, all reflected in differing colours in the sparkling waters. Villages slip by, birds glide on thermals rising from the surrounding cliffs, it's an ideal opportunity to join new friends for a chat. Squeeze in a spot of reading on the Sun Deck or simply recline, letting the gentle breezes lull you into a relaxing doze.

By this stage of your cruise, you'll be totally unwound, and modern life will seem very distant.



Day 6 - Giverny & Vernon

-  Visit to Claude Monet's house and garden
-  Visit to Vernon
-  Chef's dinner

Claude Monet's house and garden

One of the great delights of river cruising is the magical sensation of waking up in a different place from where you were the night before. This morning the ship has moored in delightful Vernon, and we take the short drive to Giverny to visit Monet's garden and house.

The artist himself called his garden his 'most beautiful masterpiece', and it's certainly one of the world's most photographed and painted, ideally viewed in the delicate morning light. In the Japanese-inspired water garden, shaded by great weeping willows and surrounded by bamboo, rhododendrons and azaleas, is the lily pond where he painted his extraordinary Les Nymphéas (Water Lilies) series. There's ample time to wander here, absorbing the tranquil atmosphere while marvelling at the light bouncing off foliage of every hue and the magical reflections dancing off the water.

Vernon

After another leisurely lunch on board, you can explore Vernon's quaint buildings before embarking on our cruise to Paris. As the sun sets on the shimmering Seine and the Norman countryside recedes into dusk, it's a perfect time to reflect on your few days cruising among the creamy chalk cliffs and charming villages of this splendid river.

Tonight enjoy a truly memorable occasion – the 'Chef's Dinner', when the chef prepares his superb 'signature' dishes for you to enjoy in the splendid surroundings of the ship's restaurant.

Please note: Monet's Garden is open from approximately April to October. Any out-of-season dates will be replaced with a visit to Château de Bizy.



Day 7 - Paris

-  Morning option: Panoramic guided tour of Paris
-  Active choice: Guided walking tour of central Paris
-  Free afternoon in Paris
-  Accordionist performance on board

We arrive in Paris. This morning you have a choice of two tours: A panoramic coach tour or a more active walking tour.

Panoramic Paris tour

For a sightseeing tour of the capital, one of the world's most iconic cities, choose our panoramic coach tour. We'll see many of the outstanding monuments Paris has to offer - including the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower, the Trocadéro, the Musee D'Orsay and much more.

Walking Paris tour

A great choice for the more active, our walking tour of Paris allows you to take a closer look at some of the city's sights. Our 2.5-mile walk takes us from Place des Vosges (the oldest planned square in Paris) past Paris' city hall (Hôtel de Ville) through Île de la Cité and the UNESCO-protected Notre-Dame to the world-famous Louvre, the Jardin des Tuileries and more.

Whichever tour you choose, you'll have the option to return to the ship for lunch, or you are also welcome to stay in the city and relax in one of the city's many cosy cafés.

Free afternoon in Paris

After lunch, your afternoon will be free to enjoy Paris and the many attractions of this world-renowned city. We'll be moored close to a well-connected RER station, which allows easy access for you to tick a few items off your bucket list. You could see the grand Place de la Concorde, the largest square in the city, which shows off 18th-century French architecture at its best, visit Galleries Lafayette - the historic high-end department store - or the Musée d'Orsay, home of the world's finest Impressionist art collection.

Alternatively, you may wish to simply stroll along the Champs Elysees, enjoy a walk in the Tuileries Gardens or perhaps wander through the café lined streets of the city.

Paris is everything you imagine it to be – romantic, inspiring, vibrant – even outrageous – but best of all, Paris is unique, a fitting finale to a wonderful cruise.

After dinner tonight, there's the chance to enjoy more famous French melodies and songs performed by a professional accordionist.

Personalise Your Holiday

Montmartre/ Sacré-Coeur guided tour

Price: £65pp (2026) and £68pp (2027)

Duration: 4hrs

This afternoon, you could join us for a guided tour of Montmartre. A neighbourhood perched on a high hill, Montmartre was originally its own commune before being annexed by Paris in 1860. It's kept its small-town appeal with historic architecture, including meandering streets, steep staircases, lush squares and quaint stores.

We take a petit train (a land train) to Sacré-Coeur, standing in contrast to the bohemian lifestyle that surround it. We'll stop here for time to explore. If you brave the 300 spiralling steps that lead you up to the basilica's dome, you can take in the breathtaking views over Paris – it's said you can see up to 30km on a clear day. Or perhaps you'll simply wander and enjoy watching the musicians performing on the steps before hopping back on the land train, travelling back down the hill and returning to the ship.

Please contact us at least three weeks before your departure to add this experience to your booking. Minimum and maximum numbers apply. If not enough guests opt for this extra, the experience may not run.

Personalise Your Holiday

Bateaux Parisien sightseeing cruise

Price: £17pp (2026) and £18pp (2027)

Duration: 1 hour

Discover the City of Lights from the river with a sightseeing tour along the Seine. Every bend of the Seine, a UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site, reveals a new view of the city's thousand-year-old history. Equipped with an audioguide in English, you'll be taken on a journey through the stories and anecdotes that have shaped the French capital and see the city's magnificent sites, such as the Eiffel Tower, Notre-Dame Cathedral, the Musée d'Orsay and more.

Please [contact us](#) for more information and to add the above experience to your booking before departure.

Personalise Your Holiday

Visit to Montparnasse tower

Price: from €22pp (payable locally)

Home to Europe's fastest elevator, the observatory on the 56th floor offers the best view of Paris' skyline. As well as seeing all the landmarks of Paris, the virtual reality kiosks can answer all the questions you've ever wanted to know about the city's sights. Once you've had your fill of the view, why not stop for a drink or a sweet or savoury treat at the 360 café? Then, venture even higher to the rooftop terrace for 360° panoramic views.

Please note - entrance only, this experience can be booked on board.

Day 8 - Return home

Next steps

To book your vacation, or to enquire further, please call Riviera Travel on [754-296-5335](tel:754-296-5335)

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