

# PARIS, NORMANDY & THE RIVER SEINE | 2019

8 day cruise  
Paris - Paris

## Itinerary

Day	Port/City	Arr	Dep	Highlights of the Program
1	Paris		20:00	Check-in from 16:00 Welcome Cocktail (incl.) Welcome Dinner (incl.)
2	Conflans	01:30	17:00	<b>Excursion Auvers sur Oise</b> - in the steps of Vincent Van Gogh & Impressionist inspiration
3	Rouen	08:00	17:30	<b>Walking tour of Rouen</b> , the city of 100 spires in the morning <b>Excursion along the "Abbey Trail"</b> to Jumièges in the afternoon
4	Le Havre	03:30		<b>Excursion Etretat</b> - walking tour of the cliff paths of Etretat in the morning (from Le Havre/ to Le Havre) in the morning <b>Excursion Honfleur</b> - the Jewel of Normandy's coast in the afternoon (from Le Havre/ to Le Havre) in the afternoon
5	Le Havre		09:00	<b>Full-day excursion "Fascinating Normandy" with lunch</b> (from Le Havre/ to Caudebec en Caux)
	Caudebec en Caux	15:00	22:00	Rejoin the ship
6	Les Andelys	08:00	09:00	<b>Excursion to Château Gaillard and Giverny</b> , the Stronghold of Richard the Lionheart, and visit to Monet's home and gardens in Giverny (by bus from Les Andelys/ to Vernon)
	Vernon	11:30	13:30	Rejoin the ship
	Poissy	19:30	20:30	Captain's Gala Dinner (incl.)
7	Paris	03:00		<b>City tour of Paris</b> in the morning <b>Guided walking tour of the Montmartre district**</b> in the afternoon <b>Excursion to the Palace of Versailles**</b> (only bookable in advance)
8	Paris			Disembarkation after breakfast

# Paris, Normandy & the River Seine Shore Excursions

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We are pleased to present an exciting program of shore excursions that are available to customize your cruise experience.

These excursions can be booked in advance as a package at a discounted rate

We look forward to welcoming you onboard!

#### EXCURSION INFORMATION

Some excursions involve a fair amount of walking, sometimes over uneven surfaces. The following coding system has been used to assist you with this.

- Level 1: It is your choice whether you get off the bus during the excursion (to take pictures, for example). You will walk only short and even paths.
- Level 2: The excursion by bus is followed by a moderate walking tour. You may need to climb some stairs.
- Level 3: The excursion by bus is followed by a longer walk. You may need to climb several stairs.
- Level 4: Moderate walking tour. You may need to climb some stairs.
- Level 5: Considerable walk with longer distances. This may include uneven surfaces and some stairways

#### EXCURSION TO AUVERS-SUR-OISE

There are only a few places more touching than this haven of peace, just 35 minutes outside of Paris. Most famous for being the resting place of Vincent van Gogh and his brother Theo, the small village idyll was home to many painters in the 1800s. Relive with your guide the final moments of the life of the artist by following the pictorial and mortuary trail of van Gogh. Be moved by his tragic fate as you climb the path leading to his grave. Discover the town hall, the church and the nearby field, his last masterpiece. End your visit with the Auberge Ravoux and Vincent's bedroom. On May 20th, 1890 Vincent van Gogh moved into the Ravoux Inn for 3,50 francs per day. There he stayed in a very simple and small room only lit by a sky light. This journey back in time ends in the neighboring attic room with an audiovisual projection "In the Footsteps of Van Gogh". It retraces the artist's stay in Auvers-sur-Oise via his paintings and a selection of contemporary photographs. The video has been designed by Dominique-Charles Janssens, President of the Van Gogh Institute and allows visitors to discover Auvers-sur-Oise through the eyes and the talent of Van Gogh. *Duration: approx. 4.5 hrs Walking grade: ●●●*

#### WALKING TOUR OF ROUEN

The historical capital of Normandy and a prosperous medieval city, Rouen is known for its many monuments and architectural treasures. The historic city center is a "must-see". Don't miss its fascinating heritage with Gothic churches and mansions, restored,

half-timbered houses and well-maintained public gardens. We will start the morning with a walking tour, including an inside visit to the magnificent cathedral that inspired Claude Monet, and the modern Church of Joan of Arc with its magnificent 16th-century stained-glass windows. Our local expert will explain the historical legacy of this city, made famous by such figures as the Vikings, the Dukes of Normandy, Joan of Arc, the writers Corneille and Flaubert and the artists Géricault and Monet. The walking tour will also cover the "Gros Horloge", the astronomical clock, pride of the Rouennais, and the Parliament of Normandy, one of France's rare civil constructions in Gothic style in the late Middle Ages. The Church of Saint-Maclou, a striking, flamboyant church dedicated to a Breton saint and known as Malo, is considered one of the best examples of Gothic architecture in Rouen. Following this exploration, we encourage you to spend your free time at the "Place du Vieux Marché", the site where Joan of Arc was tragically burnt at the stake.

*Duration: approx. 2 hrs Walking grade: ●●●●*

#### EXCURSION ALONG THE "ABBEY TRAIL"

The romantic meanderings of the Seine River are lined with architectural gems: churches, castles and abbeys. More than 100 abbeys once covered this region. Follow our local expert to St. Wandrille, still a living, working community and Jumièges – described by Victor Hugo as one of the most beautiful ruins in France. They both belong to a prestigious group of

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Merovingian abbeys in Normandy that later became ducal monasteries. A short drive in our tour coach will take you to the village of St.Wandrille. The abbey is often referred to as St.Wandrille and is located on the north bank of the Seine. Founded in 649 by St.Wandrille, former minister to King Dagobert 1st, the St. Wandrille Abbey can take credit for having trained a number of bishops and saints of the church, based on St. Benedict's teachings. The entire area is not open to visitors. However, the ancient ruins of the abbey church are open. The monks purchased a Tithe Barn and moved it to the abbey grounds for their church where, except during services, it is open to the public. You can also discover a small, charming chapel near the monks' cemetery. During this stop, your guide will evoke the former greatness of the abbey church and explain the very interesting classical and medieval architecture which can be found within the walls of the abbey. The tour will continue to Jumièges, where the first sight of the remains of the immense abbey church in its verdant setting is unforgettable. It's one of the most ancient and important monasteries in the western world. The abbey was founded in 654 by Saint Philibert, a courtier at the court of King Dagobert 1st. Destroyed in 841 by the Vikings and again during the Hundred Years War, it was used as a source of dressed stone after the French Revolution. Despite its many 'wounds', the great silhouette seems engraved forever on the landscape. The vestiges of the cloisters and the conventual buildings are dominated by impressive twin towers (150 ft. high), which enclose the Romanesque facade. After the visit, you will have some free time at the gift shop or time to relax and listen to the sound of rooks croaking and the wind rustling gently through the trees before heading back to the ship.

*Duration: approx. 4 hrs Walking grade: ●●*

### EXCURSION TO ÉTRETAT

Walking tour on the cliff paths of Étretat and visit to the Old Town 20 kilometers (twelve and a half miles) north of Le Havre, situated on the coast of Normandy. Étretat is renowned for its coastal scenery, in particular its white cliffs. Both the cliffs and the village are scenic highlights of the region and should not be missed. Join us to feel the magic of this place, full of history and legends. This exceptional natural site will take your breath away. Begin with stunning views of the cliffs and rock formations from the clifftop path. Continue with a guided walking tour of the town. Historically a fishing village with medieval houses and fishing cottages, Étretat became a popular seaside resort during the 19th century. Its popularity was

enhanced by the large number of famous artists and authors who were inspired by Étretat. Monet, Maupassant, Victor Hugo and Flaubert were all lovers of the region around the town. Monet painted several well-known pictures of the coast and cliffs around Étretat. Enjoy some leisure time in this attractive small town to explore. From the pebble beach and the promenade, you can enjoy the cliffs on either side once more.

*Duration: approx. 4 hrs Walking grade: ●●*

### EXCURSION TO HONFLEUR

Follow your guide and enjoy a stroll through the charming city of Honfleur. This gorgeous maritime city is a town of painters and impressionism, and possesses that something extra that makes it irresistible. The changing light on the Seine estuary inspired Courbet, Monet, Boudin and many others. Your guide will lead you through its narrow streets, steeped in history, and in the footsteps of sailors, painters, artists and musicians. Stop at the world-famous Vieux Bassin (old port), the Lieutenantcy building, from which Samuel de Champlain set out to discover Canada, the Old Salt Stores and St. Catherine's Church, with its unusual architecture and separate bell tower which was built by sailor-carpenters. Today, dozens of galleries and artists' studios continue to display a wide range of classical and modern paintings. Honfleur is also the perfect place to find local arts and crafts and specialties such as cider, Calvados, caramels and more.

*Duration: approx. 4 hrs Walking grade: ●●●●*

### FULL-DAY EXCURSION TO "FASCINATING NORMANDY" WITH LUNCH

Today, visit some of the most important places in recent history — the Normandy landing beaches and the remains of the artificial harbor in Arromanches. Not far from the solemn significance of the landing beaches are charming villages that champion many of the things the French hold dear: wholesome food and drink, a strong local community and beautiful hand crafts. Throughout Normandy, artisan-cheesemakers, metalworkers, potters, lacemakers, bell forgers, and cidermakers still run thriving trades. After all, Camembert, Livarot, and Pont l'Évêque cheeses all come from Normandy, as do "caramels au beurre d'Isigny" made with creamy Norman salted butter. Enjoy the smooth, flavor of Calvados, an amber-hued brandy distilled from cider and renowned for its sweet aroma. Your Norman journey ends in Caudebec where you board the ship.

*Duration: approx. 11 hrs Walking grade: ●●●●●*

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### EXCURSION TO CHÂTEAU GAILLARD AND GIVERNY

Step into the past with a short drive to the white stone remains of the English king's stronghold: Château Gaillard. It was built at the end of the 12th century on a limestone promontory, overlooking the Seine. You'll be rewarded with stunning views of the river and surrounding countryside. Completed in one year, Richard Lionheart exclaimed: "How beautiful she is, my one-year-old daughter. What a gaillard (well-fortified) castle."

Behind these walls, Blanche and Marguerite, the adulterous daughters-in-law of Philippe le Bel, king of France, atoned for their sins. Continue to Giverny, a village nestled in the heart of the Vexin, and a source of inspiration for one of the foremost Impressionist painters. When Claude Monet glanced out of the window of his train and caught sight of the village of Giverny, he decided then and there that this was where he wanted to live and work. And so he did, from 1883 until his death in 1926. The beautiful surroundings, vividly colored flora and gentle atmosphere of the place became one of the biggest sources of inspiration for his work. Enter the intimate world of this great epicurean. Your guide will share stories of the affection Clemenceau had for his friend, the exchanges and verbal jousts with contemporaries Berthe Morisot, Marie Cassatt and Paul Cézanne. Tour the blue living room, the studio living room, the dining room and kitchen – rooms which reflect the personality of Monet.

*Duration: approx. 4 hrs Walking grade: ●●*

### EXCURSION TO THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES

Louis XIV moved the royal court from Paris to Versailles in 1682. From that time until the beginning of the French Revolution, the sumptuous, grandiose and opulent palace of Versailles became the architectural manifestation of absolute monarchy in France. Originally a hunting lodge built by Louis XIII, a string of celebrated architects, landscape artists, painters and decorators turned the palace into one of the most costly and extravagant buildings in the world. While exploring the grand private apartments of the king and queen and the splendors of the Hall of Mirrors with your guide, you will learn all about the transformation of a simple countryside château into a grand palace that became an expression of Louis XIV's absolute power and a symbol of France's prestige.

*Duration: approx. 4 hrs Walking grade: ●●●●●*

### CITY TOUR OF PARIS

Josephine Baker sang "J'ai deux amours, mon pays et Paris", referring to her two great loves: her country and Paris. She sums up how most people feel when visiting the French capital, which is one of the most romantic and fascinating cities in the world. The endless number of things to do and places to see means that everyone can find something fascinating to discover in this singular, magical and majestic city. Let your imagination wander as you pass through the streets of this capital, which are imbued with the memory of those who shaped the history of France: Joan of Arc, Louis XIV, Louis XVI and Napoleon Bonaparte. Your guide will share the daily life of Parisians, and reveal all the secrets and marvels of the "City of Lights". On the tour you will, of course, see the most important monuments in Paris. The sightseeing program includes the incomparable Eiffel Tower, the Notre Dame Cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture, Les Invalides, famous as the burial place of Emperor Napoleon I, the fabulous Louvre Museum, the famous and elegant Champs-Élysées, the Jardin des Tuileries, former palace gardens laid out in the French style and much more.

*Duration: approx. 3.5 hrs Walking grade: ●*

### GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF THE MONTMARTRE DISTRICT

The hill "la butte Montmartre" is located in the 18th arrondissement and boasts a magnificent, panoramic view of Paris. With its narrow, winding streets peppered with steep stairways and charming lampposts and its cobbled squares filled with watercolor painters and sketch artists, Montmartre is the picture-postcard idea of Paris. Montmartre also includes the hillside vineyard on the Rue des Saules, the festive Moulin de la Galette, where Renoir came to paint in the open air, and the Bateau Lavoir studio. Stroll through the sinuous streets of the tallest hill of the capital with your guide, just like artists such as Picasso, Renoir, Toulouse-Lautrec and Utrillo have done since the end of the 19th century. You'll sense the contrasts of this legendary and picturesque place, where wine flowed freely and romance alternated with madness.

*Duration: approx. 3 hrs Walking grade: ●●●●●*

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#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ◊ All excursions can be booked in advance
- ◊ Minimum participation for excursion by bus: 20 people
- ◊ Minimum participation for excursion on foot: 12 people
- ◊ The schedule of individual excursions can vary; this is partly due to the volume of traffic in the cities and the opening hours of facilities.
- ◊ Please remember to wear sturdy shoes as well as comfortable, waterproof clothing when attending the excursions.
- ◊ When exploring on your own, please remember to return to the vessel in time for its departure. If you miss the departure, you have to get to the next port at your own expense. You will find the time for the latest return in the daily program.
- ◊ Itineraries and prices are subject to alteration.

<i>Prices are listed per person in USD</i>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Excursion Auvers sur Oise	\$ 106	\$ 106	\$ 106
Walking tour of Rouen	\$ 19	\$ 19	\$ 19
Excursion along the "Abbey Trail"	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69
Excursion Etretat	\$ 54	\$ 54	\$ 54
Excursion Honfleur	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54
Full-Day excursion "Fascinating Normandy" with lunch	\$ -	\$ 185	\$ 185
Excursion to Chateau Gaillard and Giverny	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 83
* **Excursion to the Palace of Versailles	\$ 107	\$ 107	\$ 107
City tour of Paris	\$ 54	\$ 54	\$ 54
**Guided walking tour of the Montmartre district (\$54 only bookable onboard)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>RATE PER PERSON</b>	<b>\$ 340</b>	<b>\$ 525</b>	<b>\$ 731</b>
<b>SAVE WITH OUR PACKAGES</b>	<b>\$ 288</b>	<b>\$ 446</b>	<b>\$ 620</b>

\* Excursion can only be booked in advance

\*\* Operates in the same time, only one can be booked