

Paris & the Heart of Normandy Viking River Cruises

By

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Route Map From Viking River Cruises



Overview

- Dock in the heart of Paris, admiring views of the Eiffel Tower and a replica of the Statue of Liberty from your ship.
- Experience history firsthand at the Normandy beaches and delight in Rouen's Gothic architecture.
- Explore Giverny and the charming house and gardens where Claude Monet lived and worked, the setting inspiring many of his masterpieces.
- This voyage celebrates history, art, food and customs in France's most alluring urban and pastoral settings.

Day 1 Paris, France

- Arrive in Paris, romance capital of the world.
- Transfer from the airport to your ship, docked in the heart of the city, just a short stroll from the Eiffel Tower.*
- After boarding, take free time to explore Paris, or join our “welcome walk” to stretch your legs and get oriented. (Dinner)
- * Ground transfers are included with Viking Air purchase.

Day 2 Paris, France

- After breakfast, embark on a tour of this dazzling city and marvel at its most remarkable sights, including the iconic Eiffel Tower.
- Take in the École Militaire (Military Museum), Orsay Museum and Latin Quarter, and resilient Notre Dame Cathedral.
- Then drive past the Louvre and Opera House and along the famed Champs-Élysées.
- This afternoon, you may join an optional tour to explore Montmartre Hill and the Sacré-Coeur or sample the delights of French cuisine during a food tour.
- Return on board for dinner and start your cruise on the Seine this evening. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 2 Shore Excursions

- Panoramic Paris—included--See the major sights of the romantic “City of Light” with a knowledgeable local guide.
- Flavors of Paris--Enjoy a guided walk through a richly historic quarter steeped in culinary traditions.
- Montremarte Hill--Visit one of the most celebrated districts in Paris—Montmartre.
- Scenic Paris & Highlights of the Louvre--Discover the iconic sights of Paris and its renowned museum during a comprehensive full-day excursion.

Day 3 La Roche-Guyon & Vernon, France

- Arrive in La Roche-Guyon before breakfast and enjoy a morning at your leisure to explore.
- The village is officially classified as one of France's most beautiful; you will see why as you stroll through the town's narrow streets lined with picturesque houses with wood-paneled facades.
- After lunch, join an included tour to the town of Giverny, where Claude Monet resided from 1883 until his death in 1926.
- Visit the beautiful gardens and charming stone farmhouse where he lived and worked; see the water garden with the recognizable Japanese bridge, water lilies, wisteria and azaleas that inspired many of his masterpieces.†
- Dinner is served on board. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
- † Monet gardens not available before April 1 or after November 1; a visit to the village of Auvers-sur-Oise, favored by van Gogh and other artists, will be substituted.

Day 3 Excursions

- Monet Foundation Giverny—included--Visit the enchanting gardens and estate that inspired one of history's great painters, founder of impressionism.
- Money's Garden by Bicycle--Ride through picturesque scenery as you explore the life of Claude Monet and sample a selection of Norman delights
- French Chateau Life--Visit the impressive castle of La Roche-Guyon and learn all about "Les Arts de la Table" during a workshop.

Day 4 Rouen, France

- Indulge in leisurely morning cruising along the Seine.
- Spend the afternoon in the medieval city of Rouen, preeminent capital of Normandy.
- Begin with a walking tour through the center of Old Town, where you see the spectacular Gothic Notre Dame Cathedral, often painted by Claude Monet, and the famous Gros Horloge, a 16th-century astronomical clock.
- As you walk among the half-timbered storybook buildings, allow yourself to be transported back through time; see the 14th-century courthouse where Joan of Arc was sentenced to death and the nearby Market Square where she was martyred.
- Use your free time to discover more of Rouen or visit one of its museums of art or antiquities.
- Dine on board or at a sidewalk café. Your ship remains docked overnight.
(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 4 Shore Excursions

- Rouen Walking Tour—included--Explore the medieval quarter of the cultural capital of Normandy.
- Rouen Farm & Countryside--Experience the daily life of a working Norman farm as you enjoy a leisurely visit to a bucolic homestead.
- Picturesque Honfleur on Foot--Explore one of Normandy's coastal jewels where historic houses line the quay amid quaint galleries and eateries.

Day 5 Normandy Beaches

- After breakfast, begin your full-day tour to the historic beaches of Normandy. Visit World War II landmarks, such as Omaha Beach, the American Military Cemetery and the Caen Memorial Museum.
- Alternatively, take a tour of Bayeaux, where you can admire the magnificent tapestry that chronicles the pre-Battle of Hastings events.
- Afterward, head to Normandy's coast and enjoy free time at Juno Beach after your visit to the museum; then visit the Pegasus Museum.
- Return to your ship for dinner and relax on board or take an evening stroll through Rouen. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Shore Excursions

- Normandy Beaches: Commonwealth—included--Witness memorials to two legendary Norman conquests that had far-reaching consequences for the British Commonwealth.
- Normandy Beaches: US—included--Ponder the courage of the Allied troops who changed the course of World War II during a visit to the D-Day Beaches.

Omaha Beach



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American Cemetery Normandy

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American
Cemetery
Normandy



American Cemetery Normandy



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Day 6 Les Andelys, France

- Enjoy a leisurely morning cruise to the small town of Les Andelys, known for its imposing castle, Château Gaillard, built in 1196 by Richard the Lionheart.
- Disembark and join a guided walk to this fatally flawed masterpiece of Middle Ages architecture before returning to your ship.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 6 Shore Excursions

- Château Gaillard Walking Tour—included--Explore one of the most fantastic fortresses of Normandy while admiring sweeping views of the Seine as it winds its way through the countryside.

Day 7 Le Pecq & Paris, France

- After breakfast, disembark for a visit to Château de Malmaison, where Napoleon Bonaparte spent his final days in France.
- Along with the Tuileries, this elegant manor house, purchased by the emperor's wife Josephine in 1799, served as the seat of Napoleon's French government from 1800 to 1802.
- This afternoon, join an optional tour to the luxurious Palace of Versailles, former home of Louis XIV.
- This evening, you can take in the illuminated sights of Paris during a panoramic drive.
- Your ship remains docked in Paris overnight. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 7 Shore Excursions

- Napoleon's Château de Malmaison—included--Visit the historic château where Napoleon Bonaparte spent his final days in France.
- The Palace of Versailles-- Enjoy a day at the former home of French kings: the awe-inspiring Château de Versailles.
- Paris Cruise by Night-- See Paris in all its illuminated glory as you drift along the Seine River on a leisurely night cruise.

Day 8 Paris, France

- After breakfast, disembark and proceed to the airport for your return flight.*
- Or extend your time in France's romantic capital with a 3-night Paris extension. (Breakfast)
- * Ground transfers are included with Viking Air purchase.

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