

Normandy & Gems of the Seine

Sept 4-15, 2025

Cruise on Scenic, Emerald's Luxury Line!

Take a journey down the river of dreams

There are few superlatives that do justice to Paris, a city that oozes romance and is home to world renowned architectural wonders and iconic pieces of art. Beyond Paris, this incredible journey along the Seine and through Normandy will allow you to immerse in French culture, delve into its fascinating history, and see its beautiful scenery from the open waters of the English Channel to the rugged coast of northern France. Step back into medieval times with a visit to Les Andelys, home to King Richard the Lionheart's ruined castle; see where Joan of Arc saw out her last days; and learn about both World Wars with visits to the Somme Battlefields and D-Day Beaches. Balance out the history with meanders through storybook villages, sampling delicious French fare from cheese to calvados, and enjoy a final fling with Paris before returning home.

A note from Dea:

"From the City of Lights to the beaches of Normandy, this is a wonderful tour on an amazing Scenic ship, the luxury brand of the cruiseline we use in Portugal, Emerald. Paris is a popular destination right now, between the restoration of Notre Dame and hosting the Summer Olympic Games in 2024. Don't delay - these cruises sell out fast!



All-inclusive highlights

- 5-Star Scenic Space-Ship with up to 124 guests
- Your choice of spacious Standard Suite, or a Balcony Suite with an innovative Scenic Sun Lounge
- 1 Scenic Enrich experience with a classical concert at the grand Château de La Roche Guyon – Exclusive to Scenic
- Personalize your trip with included Scenic Freechoice activities
- Dine at your choice of up to five on board venues, from casual to fine dining
- All meals included while on board
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- Butler service for every suite
- Complimentary full mini-bar restocked daily
- The freedom of our e-bikes – electrically assisted bicycles
- Scenic Cruise Director to guide and assist & expert local guides
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout your cruise
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Are We There Yet? Tours

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Day 1

Paris

Welcome to Paris, the City of Lights. The French capital is home to some of the world's most famous monuments, from the Eiffel Tower to the Arc de Triomphe; museums that contain masterpieces such as Da Vinci's Mona Lisa and Van Gogh's Self Portrait; and iconic public spaces from elegant tree-lined Champs-Elysee to its urban oasis Jardin des Tuileries. Whether it's your first or 50th time to this romantic city, there is always something new to discover. Your journey will also culminate in Paris where you'll have the opportunity to scratch the surface a little more. Upon arrival, transfer to your Scenic Space-Ship where your friendly crew await to welcome you on board. Relax in your luxurious suite or take a beverage to the Sun Deck.

Meal: D

Day 2

Les Andelys

This morning will be spent cruising towards Les Andelys. This riverfront medieval town is set on one of the prettiest bends of the Seine, resplendent with well-preserved Norman-era houses and exquisite public buildings and overlooked by the imposing ruins of King Richard the Lionheart's castle, Château Gaillard. Take a stroll alongside the river, admiring the striking limestone cliffs rising from it, or through the charming center of town where the buildings are a living catalogue through time.

Freechoice: Hike to Château Gaillard with 'Richard the Lionheart': Step back to the age of Robin Hood. This Medieval-themed walking tour will follow in the footsteps of King Richard the Lionheart. Explore the historical secrets of Les Andelys and venture up to Lionheart's castle of Château Gaillard to wander among the ruins.

From here you will have a panoramic view of the river and surrounding countryside. Cycling in Les Andelys: Cycle through this charming little town on the River Seine, dominated by King Richard the Lionheart's Château Gaillard. During this 5-mile (8-kilometer) ride you will cycle past some of the most breathtaking riverside scenery and will see the town's 13th-century Gothic church with its impressive glass windows that date to the 16th century.

Excursion to Lyons la Forêt: Today you will discover Lyons la Forêt, regarded as one of the most beautiful villages in France. This delightful town is surrounded by one of the largest beech forests in Europe and comprises half-timbered houses dating to the 17th and 18th century in typical Normandy style. After exploring the town, you will visit Le Pressoir d'or where you will learn how local cider is produced as well as enjoying a sample.

Meals: B.L.D

Day 3

Rouen

Rouen is the vibrant capital of the Normandy region. With a fascinating history of Roman and Viking settlement, it has also played a pivotal place in history as the town where Richard the Lionheart was crowned Duke of Normandy and Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake. Much of Rouen was sadly destroyed in World War II, but much of the city has been faithfully restored, including the exquisite Old Town. It's an engaging and historically rich destination, packed with museums, stylish bistros and coffee shops, and a wealth of churches, including the famed 12th century Rouen Cathedral. **Freechoice:** Rouen city tour: Victor Hugo once described Rouen as 'the city of a hundred spires'



— River cruise — Cruise start/finish — 10 Overnight

— find out why on a guided tour of the city, which takes you to the cathedral district, the old marketplace and Saint Maclou Quarter, home to a striking church. Feel as though you've stepped into a fairytale as you walk the winding medieval laneways and admire the half-timbered houses. Learn about Joan of Arc and see where she was tragically put to death after being tried for heresy and sorcery in 1431. Enjoy free time afterwards to explore on your own.

Guided tour of Rouen with Rollo the Viking: Authentically dressed as Viking warlord Rollo the Walker – who was famously too tall to ride a horse – your guide will take you around the city to learn about the Viking raiders who made Rouen their capital. This tour focuses on the city's medieval past and you will enjoy some free time afterwards to explore. Back on board this evening, listen to a fascinating lecture about WWI with an expert. WWI Lecture – Day in the life of Tommy: Join a lecture on WWI with a speaker who is dressed up in a soldier's uniform. During this interactive evening, you will be able to gain understanding into the life of a soldier on the Western Front and learn why this was known as 'the Great War'.

From the curious 1914 Christmas armistice football match to the horrors of trench warfare involving machine guns, tanks, mining and the deadly flamethrower, you will experience the war through the eyes of an allied soldier, 'a Tommy'. Try on his equipment and weapons and taste his rations. This immersive journey is bound to be an emotional one that will bring the history of war to life.

Meals: B.L.D

Day 4

Rouen

Today you'll have the opportunity to join an excursion to the Somme Battlefields or take a walking tour from the ship to Rouen's Fine Art Museum.

Freechoice: Excursion to the Somme Battlefields including Newfoundland Memorial Park Take a full day excursion to the Somme Battlefields, the location of the infamous Battle of the Somme which claimed the lives of more than 150,000 soldiers from Britain and the Commonwealth. This tour will take you to the Australian National Memorial (Sir John Monash Center) to pay tribute to the 10,773 Australian soldiers killed in WWI in France who have no known graves (with the exception of Fromelles). Afterwards you will visit the Franco-Australian Museum, which pays homage to the close relationship between the French and Australians soldiers during and after the war.

After lunch, you will visit the Lochnagar Crater, which was created by a large mine placed beneath the German front lines on the first day of the Battle of Somme, and the Newfoundland Memorial Park, one of the largest areas on the Western Front where you can still see shell holes and trenches. Please note: The Sir John Monash Center is a state-of-the-art immersive sensory experience that uses technology to tell the story. In order to maximize your experience, we suggest you download the Sir John Monash Center app from the Apple or Google Play store prior to embarking on your cruise. Excursion to the Somme Battlefields Including Thiepval This full-day excursion will follow the same itinerary as the tour above, visiting the Somme Battlefields, the Australian National Memorial (Sir John Monash Center) and the Franco-Australian Museum. After lunch, you will be transferred to Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, which contains more than 5,500 Commonwealth graves from WWI, then visit Thiepval Memorial to the Missing and Visitor's Center, and Lochnagar Crater, which was created by large mine placed beneath the German front lines on the first day of the Battle of Somme. Museum of Fine Arts: Join an active walking tour from the ship to the Museum of Fine Arts with a local guide. See the extensive collection of paintings, sculptures, drawings and objects from every genre of art, ranging from the 15th century to today, including masterpieces by Rubens, Caravaggio, Poussin and Monet.

Meals: B.L.D

Day 5

This morning your Scenic Space-Ship will dock right in the center of Honfleur, a colorful coastal town that has been described as having one of the prettiest harbors in France, Le Vieux Bassin.



Originally built for trade, the port was chosen for its strategic position on the southern bank of the Seine estuary. Over the years the town has captured the imaginations of countless artists and was the birthplace of impressionism. The bustling harbor and cobbled streets are a confection of half-timbered houses, restaurants, gourmet shops and art galleries. It's an easy walk from the ship to explore the harbor area and network of laneways beyond. **Freechoice:** Walking tour of Honfleur: You will see the Church of Sainte-Catherine, which dates to the 15th century and is France's largest church to be made entirely of wood with a separate belfry. Then visit the Garden of Personalities, a 24 acre (10-hectare) landscaped garden that features the busts of important French figures over time, including painters and navigators.

Charming Norman Villages with tastings: Visit the picturesque town of Pont l'Eveque, the home of the traditional Pont l'Eveque cheese. Take a short orientation tour of the town before a tasting at a local cheese producer. Then continue to the village of Beuvron-en-Auge, where you will take short orientation tour before visiting the acclaimed Calvados producer Pere Magloire where you will have the opportunity to taste some of this delicious brandy. Like Champagne, this acclaimed liqueur must be produced in Normandy in order to be called Calvados. Back on board this evening, join a lecture about WWII to gain a better understanding ahead of your full-day excursions tomorrow. Lecture on WWII - History comes alive tonight with an interactive lecture on the battles of WWII.

Discover what life was like during the campaigns of D-Day; learn about Operation Fortitude, the plan created to deceive the Germany Army on the location of D-Day; and see how technology had evolved since WWI.

Meals: B.L.D

Day 6

Why not ask your butler to wake you with a coffee delivered to your suite, followed by a leisurely breakfast at Crystal Dining before heading off on your Scenic Freechoice excursions. You could choose to learn about the D-Day Landings, where tens of thousands of allied troops came ashore to free north-western Europe from Nazi occupation. Six weeks of heavy fighting and losses followed, but this strategic campaign ultimately ended the war.

Freechoice: Excursion to the Normandy Beaches – US focus: Start at the memorial on Utah Beach, where more than 20,000 US troops landed on June 6, 1944, before a visit of Sainte-mere-Eglise, the town where 30 US Paratroopers landed during the Normandy Invasion. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Normandy American Cemetery and Visitor Center before a short stop at the Omaha Beach Memorial. Omaha Beach is often referred to as ‘Bloody Omaha’, as it resulted in the most casualties during the operation, with 2,400 dead. Excursion to the Normandy Beaches – British focus: The small town of Bayeux was the first town to be liberated after the D-Day Landings and became the French capital for the summer of 1944, until the liberation of Paris. Visit the Bayeux War Cemetery and the Museum of the Battle of Normandy, which describes the chronological events from D-Day in detail. Then explore the new state-of-the-art Landing Museum at Arromanches, located across the artificial harbor that was built to dispatch reinforcements. After lunch at a local restaurant, you will visit the British Normandy Memorial, which records the names of 22,442 fallen servicemen and women under British command; the Pegasus Bridge & Museum, site of an important battle; and stop at the Ranville War Cemetery. Excursion to the Normandy Beaches – Canada focus: Begin at Abbey d’Ardenne, which was founded in the 11th century and is now a memorial to the Canadian Prisoners of War from the D-Day landings. Next you will head to Juno Beach Center, a memorial to where 20,000 Canadian troops landed on that day.

After lunch at a local restaurant, visit Bény-sur-Mer Canadian cemetery where the 335 Canadian men who were killed in the D-Day Landings and the early stages of the campaign are buried. You’ll also visit Pegasus Bridge & Museum, site of an important battle. Bayeux tour with tapestry visit: If your interest sits in a different era in history, join a guided tour of Bayeux, including the Notre Dame Cathedral of Bayeux, built between the 11th and 14th centuries and considered a masterpiece of Norman Romanesque and Gothic architecture. You will also visit the Bayeux Tapestry, an 11th century embroidered cloth nearly 230 feet (70 meters) long and 20 inches (50 centimeters) tall, which tells the story of the conquest of England by the Duke of Normandy. You will have free time afterward to explore the town of Bayeux.

Meals: B.L.D

Day 7

Caudebec-En-Caux

Your Scenic Space-Ship will arrive in Caudebec-En-Caux this morning. This small town is set on a curve of the Seine and the riverfront is lined with handsome homes, stately gardens and crumbling stone walls.

Caudebec -En-Caux dates back to the Middle Ages and a handful of historic buildings survived the bombardments of WWII, including the ornate 15th century Notre Dame Caudebec-En-Caux. From where you’ll set out to explore more of the Normandy region.

Freechoice: Excursion to Bolbec and Normand Farm: Transfer by coach to the town of Bolbec and visit the textile museum, which tells the story of the flourishing textile industry in Bolbec. You will also have an opportunity to visit a typical Norman Farm and learn about everyday farming life in the Normandy region.

Cycle to Villequier with Victor Hugo Museum: Enjoy an active biking tour to the charming village of Villequier, cycling along the banks of the River Seine, following a flat 5 miles (8 kilometers) each way route. Visit the museum dedicated to Victor Hugo, the famous French poet, playwright and novelist before returning to the ship. Fecamp and Benedictine Palace: Take a coach transfer to Fecamp, an historic seaside town surrounded by some of the tallest cliffs in Normandy. You will join a guided tour of the Benedictine Palace, an architectural masterpiece built in the 19th century, famous for the Benedictine liquor that is produced on site and is said to contain 27 plants and spices. A tasting is included for you to enjoy.

Visit to Etretat: Transfer by coach for a guided tour of Etretat, famous for the Alabaster Coast, which comprises of white limestone cliffs that have been carved out by nature into ethereal shapes, including natural arches and a needle that juts out into the English Channel.

Meals: B.L.D

Day 8

Vernon > La Roche Guyon

This morning your Scenic Space-Ship will arrive in Vernon, an historic border town between the Duchy of Normandy and the Kingdom of France.

Today it’s a great base to explore nearby Giverny, known for its most famous resident, artist Claude Monet, who turned this quiet riverside town into an artist pilgrimage.

Freechoice: Monet’s House and Garden: Claude Monet is renowned as the founder of French Impressionist painting and today you will visit his house and gardens. Built by Monet, the gardens comprise a Japanese-inspired water garden with lilies, which inspired his most famous works.

Journey via coach from Vernon to Giverny, on arrival you will enjoy a guided tour of the town and visit Monet’s residence, followed by free time to explore at your own leisure. The town is surrounded by hillsides and features many walking paths that are fringed by wildflowers. Self-guided cycle from Vernon to Giverny: Take a self-guided biking tour from the ship in Vernon to Giverny, approximately 3 miles (5 kilometers) each way. When you arrive, you may wish to visit Monet’s House and Garden or wander about this charming town, before returning to the ship.

After exploring these beautiful gardens during this morning’s touring, you may feel inspired to create a masterpiece of your own during an on board painting class.

This afternoon your Scenic Space-Ship will sail towards La Roche Guyon, where this evening’s exclusive Scenic Enrich experience will take place.

Enrich

Château de La Roche Guyon: Take a short walk from the ship to Château La Roche Guyon, which is built into a chalk hillside and dates to the 16th century. It features decorative walls and ceilings as well as tapestries, and during WWII was the headquarters for German field marshal Erwin Rommel, known as Desert Fox. On your way to the château, you will pass through the manicured orchard and vegetable gardens, which are kept by nine on-site gardeners. On arrival you’ll enjoy a drink and sit for a splendid classical concert that focuses on music by French composers.

Meals: B.L.D

Day 9

Conflans > Paris

Wake this morning in Conflans-Saint-Honore, a medieval town located at the confluence of the River Seine and Oise.

Though it's just a short distance from the center of the city, it feels a world away. A castle was built here by monks in the 9th century to protect the relics of Saint Honore, from whom the town gets its name. It became a popular pilgrimage site in the 11th century, a practice which lasted for more than 700 years. Wander the quiet streets and the riverside pathway, sip coffee at an open-air café, and admire the beautiful ancient church. From here, you can explore some of the outer regions of Paris.

Freechoice: Visit to Auvers-Sur-Oise: Transfer to the village of Auvers-Sur-Oise, the place where Vincent van Gogh painted his final masterpieces, by coach. Throughout the town guests will see landmarks that were immortalized by Van Gogh in some of his well-known artworks such as the famous Notre Dame de l'Assomption church. The tour includes entry to Van Gogh's room, an attic that he rented during his final months. The artist was the last occupant of this room, which has sat empty since 1890. Enjoy free time afterwards to wander through the village.

Chantilly Castle and Gardens: Château de Chantilly is a magnificent tribute to France's cultural heritage, built by Henri D'Orleans, the son of the last King of France. Take a guided tour of the castle and gardens, including some free time to explore the grounds. The château showcases some of the fine collections D'Orleans amassed during his life, which you can see displayed elegantly in the large gallery as well as the grand living areas used by this family.

Kayaking on River Oise: Explore this beautiful region from a different perspective as you glide along the River Oise, which flows into the River Seine at Conflans.



Paddle past impressive landscapes and estates via kayak. This afternoon you'll spend time on board as your Scenic Space-Ship cruises back to Paris. Relax with a regional wine or beer in the Panorama Lounge & Bar, take some time out in the wellness center, where you can enjoy a massage, or head to the state-of-the-art gym for an invigorating workout.

Meals: B.L.D

Day 10

Welcome back to Paris, where you will spend the day exploring this great city. First timers will love the highlights tour, which allows you to tick off bucket-list items such as the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral, while return visitors may want to discover the trendy Marais District or Opera Garnier, an opulent architectural masterpiece built in the 19th century. Or take a tour south-east of the city to an exquisite château.

Freechoice: Trendy Marais with a local Parisian: Enjoy a guided walking tour of the Marais district with a Parisian guide.

A melting pot of cultures, fascinating history, opulent architecture, an eclectic arts scene and high-end fashion, the Marais is one of the most diverse districts in Paris. Highlights of Paris city tour: Join a local guide on a coach tour of the city to see some of its most famous sites. Marvel at Paris' most iconic landmark, the Eiffel Tower, which was built in 1889 for the World Exhibition; drive along the famous Champs Elysee, the world's most beautiful avenue; and see the Arc de Triomphe and Concorde Square. You will also view the 1163-built Gothic Notre Dame Cathedral, which has been closed since the 2019 fire and is currently undergoing a painstaking restoration process.

Opera Garnier: Located in the theatrical heart of Paris, the spectacular Opera Garnier is resplendent with ornately decorated rooms, grand staircases, and glistening chandeliers. Tour this opera house and learn about the magnificent building that was commissioned by Emperor Napoleon III.

Château Vaux-le-Vicomte: Take a coach to the Château Vaux le Vicomte, located an hour's drive from Paris.

This château is credited as the founding French formal garden that was the inspiration for Versailles. The property is laid out in a typical symmetrical fashion with its stunning gardens creating a theatrical setting. This afternoon is free to explore Paris at your own leisure. Perhaps you'd like to people-watch on the Champs-Elysee from a sidewalk café, head to the top of the Eiffel Tower for a bird's-eye view of the city, or venture to Montmartre, the artist's district and where the famed Moulin Rouge is located. Otherwise you can relax back on board your luxurious Scenic Space-Ship.

Meals: B.L.D

Day 11

Paris

After breakfast, transfer to Paris airport or train station for your onward journey.

Meal: B

This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions.

Key

-  **Freechoice**
-  **Enrich**

Meals: Breakfast (B). Lunch (L). Dinner (D).



Are We There Yet?, Tours is proud to offer:
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September 4-15, 2025

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We have a block of cabins on the Gem but not exact cabins so do not wait to book.

Airfare: We are booking group airfare which is economy class. If you wish to upgrade, we will purchase your live air at time of booking in an upgraded seat.

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