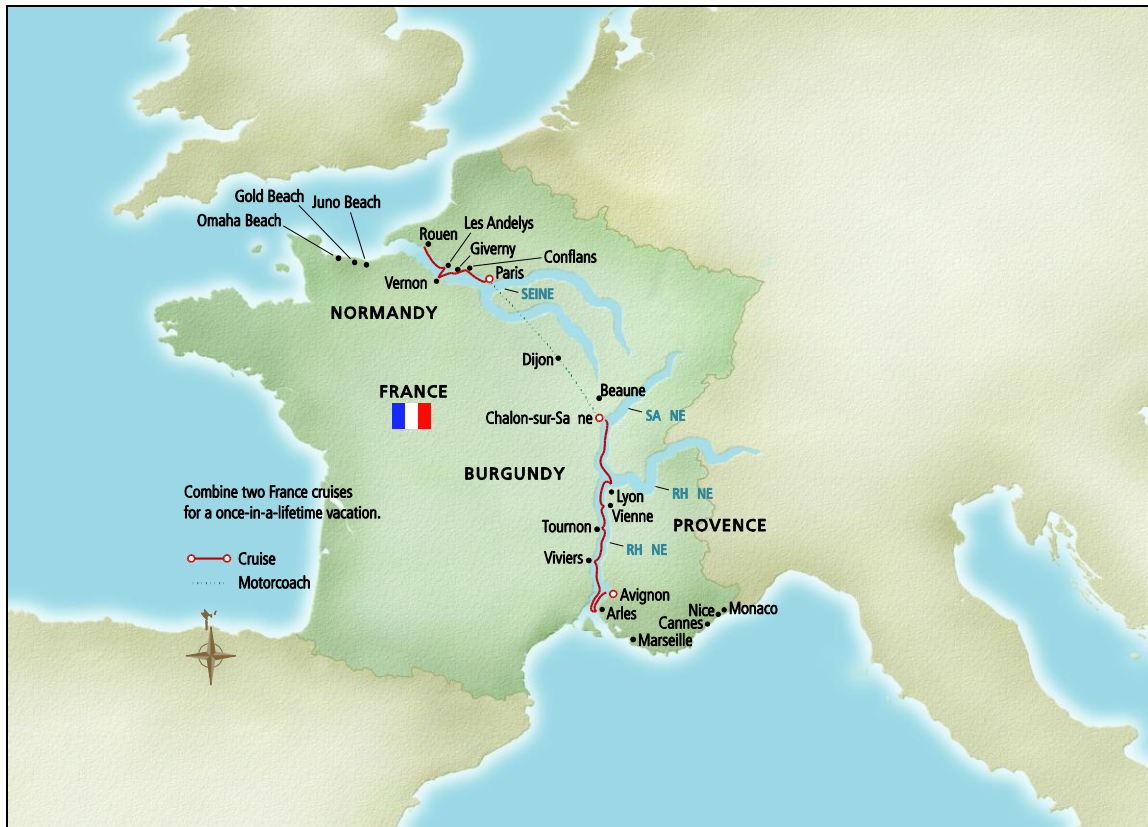




VIKING CRUISES

Exploring the World in Comfort®

France's Finest **2013 At-A-Glance**



Join two popular itineraries to create a 15-day river cruise that offers the ultimate journey through France. Drink in the colors, cuisine and wines of France's glorious southern regions of Burgundy and Provence as you visit places like Avignon, Arles and Lyon. Explore the legendary French capital, Paris, and travel along the Seine through the Norman countryside to the historic Normandy beaches. *Vive la France!*

Sail dates available March to November 2013

Avignon to Paris *or* Paris to Avignon

Ships sailing this itinerary: Viking Neptune/Pride or Viking Europe/Spirit

13LCDG- MRS 03.08.13

CST: 2052644-40

See your travel agent or call Viking River Cruises at 1-877-668-4546
www.vikingrivercruises.com

France's Finest
Included Features

- 15-day cruise with river-view stateroom
- 12 guided tours with audio headset
- All meals: 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 14 dinners, featuring regional specialties and including Welcome Cocktail Reception & Dinner and Captain's Farewell Dinner
- Visit 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Culture CurriculumSM: Performance of traditional French music, tours of Roman ruins, French cheese tasting, French language lesson, French winemaking demonstration & wine tasting, French cuisine workshop, lecture on France: The Painter's Muse and Joan of Arc

Included Tours:

Arles guided walk
Avignon guided walk
Tournon city tour
Musée du Tain l'Hermitage
Vienne walking tour
Lyon tour
Burgundy & Beaune wine tour
Paris city tour
Giverny or Auvers-sur-Oise tour
Rouen city tour
Normandy beaches tour
Tour of Château Gaillard
Conflans city tour

Optional Tours:

Chateauneuf-du-Pape tour
Cluny excursion
Louvre tour
Painting class
Palace of Versailles tour

Optional tours are purchased on board ship and are subject to availability & minimum participation

France's Finest **Journey Highlights**

Normandy's Historic Beaches

See World War II landmarks such as Omaha Beach. Spend time at the Arromanches Debarkment Museum and pay your respects at the American Military Cemetery. On the way back to your ship, pass Gold Beach, Courseulles sur Mer and Juno Beach.

Monet's Famous Garden

French impressionist Claude Monet lived and worked in a stone farmhouse at Giverny from 1883 until his death in 1926. Art aficionados have seen the place, with its picturesque flowers, pond and bridge, many times in his paintings. Tour the house and spend time in the water garden, with its Japanese bridge, water lilies, wisteria and azaleas, that inspired so many priceless masterpieces.

Camembert and Calvados

Camembert—a soft, creamy cheese, traditionally aged for at least three weeks—was first made in Normandy in the late 18th century. When in northern France, sample this buttery delight at room temperature with a slice of French bread and a few grapes or apple slices. And speaking of delicious, try some calvados—a brandy made from the plentiful local apples, which also produce a wide variety of ciders.

Eiffel Tower

Visible from most points in Paris, the Eiffel Tower was built and used for the 1889 Paris Exposition. Ten years later it was nearly torn down, but was saved because of its useful radio antenna. Now it is the most recognizable symbol of Paris. Ride the elevator to the top to catch remarkable views of the city.

Burgundy Wines

Follow France's Burgundy wine route to Beaune. Dating back more than 2,000 years, it has become the trading center for Burgundy's fine wines. A highlight is Hôtel Dieu, a beautifully preserved hospice in the French Gothic style and owner of many of local vineyards. Here, you learn about viticulture and can sample a number of the regional varietals.

Palace of the Popes

Inspired by conflicts in Rome, Pope Clement V moved the papal court to Avignon in 1309. He built the Gothic-style Palace of the Popes, which was home to seven popes for seven decades. Today, it still overlooks Avignon—symbol of a brief time when this river town was the cultural and religious center of the known world.

Famous French Cuisine

As everyone knows, the French are famous for their delightful approach to food. Sample the famous hearty cuisine of Lyon; the simple, light and delicious fare of Provence, the garden of France; and the beef- and red wine-based dishes of the Burgundy region. French wines are also world-renowned and are perfectly paired with regional cuisines. *Bon appétit!*

Roman Artifacts

The Roman Empire's reach was enormous, and evidence of the Romans' presence in France is everywhere. In Vienne, guests will see the beautifully preserved Temple of Augustus & Livia, a Roman amphitheater and other structures. In Arles, there is *Les Arènes*, an arena that seats 20,000 and is still in use today. And while sailing on the rivers of southern France one occasionally glimpses remains of Roman aqueducts—in some ways the most ambitious of the Roman building projects.

France's Finest **Avignon to Paris Itinerary**

Day 1 Avignon, France

- Marseille airport transfer*
- Embark ship
- Free time to explore Avignon
- Welcome Reception & Dinner

Included Meals: Dinner

Day 2 Arles, France

- Arles guided walk including *Les Arènes* and Church of Saint-Trôphime
- Free time to explore Arles

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 Avignon & Viviers, France

- Guided walk of Avignon including Pont d'Avignon and Place de l'Horloge, Palace of the Popes
- Optional Châteauneuf-du-Pape tour
- Evening walk through Old Town Viviers

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 Tournon, France

- Tour of Tournon
- Musée de Tain l'Hermitage

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Vienne & Lyon, France

- Walking tour of Vienne including Temple of Augustus & Livia, Roman amphitheater and Gothic Cathedral of St. Maurice
- Scenic cruising
- Free time to explore Lyon

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 Lyon, France

- Tour of Lyon, a UNESCO Site, including Basilica of Notre Dame, St. Jean Cathedral and Palace of Justice
- Walking tour through Old Town
- Free time to explore Lyon

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 Burgundy Wine Tour & Beaune, France

- Cluny optional excursion
- Scenic drive along France's Burgundy wine route
- Tour of Beaune including Hôtel Dieu
- Wine tasting
- Captain's Farewell Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 Chalon-sur-Saône & Paris, France

- Disembark ship
- Transfer to Paris via Dijon excursion
- Embark ship
- Welcome Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9 Paris, France

- Paris city tour including landmarks along the Seine, a UNESCO Site
- Free time to explore Paris
- Optional Louvre tour

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10 Giverny or Auvers-sur-Oise & Vernon, France

- Monet Foundation excursion touring the home & gardens of Claude Monet **OR** Auvers-sur-Oise tour of city and van Gogh landmarks
(Please note Giverny Garden visit is from April-October and Auvers-sur-Oise visit is from November- April)
- Free time to explore Vernon
- Optional painting class

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Continued...

* Airport transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises. Transfers must be with flights that arrive/depart on ship or included hotel check-in or check-out day only.

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France's Finest
Avignon to Paris Itinerary (continued)

Day 11 Seine River & Rouen, France

- Scenic cruising through Normandy region
- Rouen city tour including Joan of Arc's Market Square
- Free time to explore Rouen

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12 Rouen, France

- Tour of Normandy beaches including the American Military Cemetery
- Evening free time in Rouen

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13 Les Andelys & Conflans, France

- Guided walk to Château Gaillard
- Scenic cruising through Northern France
- Evening free time in Conflans to stroll along the riverside
- Captain's Farewell Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 Conflans & Paris, France

- Conflans city walk including museum tour
- Optional Palace of Versailles tour
- Evening free time in Paris

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 15 Paris, France

- Disembark
- Paris airport transfer*

Included Meals: Breakfast

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France's Finest **Paris to Avignon Itinerary**

Day 1 Paris, France

- Paris airport transfer*
- Embark ship
- Free day to explore Paris

Included Meal: Dinner

Day 2 Paris, France

- Paris city tour including landmarks along the Seine, a UNESCO Site
- Free time to explore Paris
- Optional Louvre tour
- Welcome Reception & Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 Giverny or Auvers-sur-Oise & Vernon, France

- Monet Foundation excursion touring the home & gardens of Claude Monet **OR** Auvers-sur-Oise tour of city and van Gogh landmarks
(Please note Giverny Garden visit is from April-October and Auvers-sur-Oise visit is from November-April)
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Day 4 Seine River & Rouen, France

- Scenic cruising through Normandy region
- Rouen city tour including Joan of Arc's Market Square
- Free time to explore Rouen

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Rouen, France

- Tour of Normandy beaches including the American Military Cemetery
- Evening free time in Rouen

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 Les Andelys & Conflans, France

- Guided walk to Château Gaillard
- Scenic cruising through Northern France
- Evening free time in Conflans to stroll along the riverside
- Captain's Farewell Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 Conflans & Paris, France

- Conflans city walk including museum tour
- Optional Palace of Versailles tour
- Evening free time in Paris

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 Paris & Chalon-sur-Saône, France

- Disembark ship
- Transfer to Paris via Dijon excursion
- Embark ship
- Welcome Reception & Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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- Scenic drive along France's Burgundy wine route
- Tour of Beaune including Hôtel Dieu
- Wine-tasting
- Cluny optional excursion

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Continued...

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France's Finest
Paris to Avignon Itinerary (continued)

Day 10 Lyon, France

- Tour of Lyon, a UNESCO Site, including Basilica of Notre Dame, St. Jean Cathedral and Palace of Justice
- Walking tour through Old Town
- Free time to explore Lyon

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11 Lyon & Vienne, France

- Free time in Lyon
- Walking tour of Vienne including Temple of Augustus & Livia, Roman amphitheater and Gothic Cathedral of St. Maurice
- Free time to explore Vienne

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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- Tournon walking tour
- Musée de Tain l'Hermitage
- Free time to explore Old Town Viviers

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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- Arles guided walk including *Les Arènes* and Church of Saint-Trôphime
- Free time to explore Arles

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 Avignon, France

- Guided walk of Avignon including Pont d'Avignon and Place de l'Horloge, Palace of the Popes
- Free time to explore Avignon
- Optional Châteauneuf-du-Pape tour
- Captain's Farewell Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 15 Avignon, France

- Disembark ship
- Marseille airport transfer*

Included Meals: Breakfast

* Airport transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises. Transfers must be with flights that arrive/depart on ship or included hotel check-in or check-out day only.

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Explore More

More days means more to discover. We offer exciting ways to see even more of the region with extension packages you can add before or after your Viking journey.

Paris Extension

3-night extension- \$749 per person

Start or end your vacation in Paris; experience the romance of France's capital city. Three nights at the **Crowne Plaza Paris République** (or similar), daily breakfasts, guided walking tour and hotel/ship transfer are included, along with the services of a Viking host.

The first class **Crowne Plaza Hotel Paris République** is a unique building easily accessible and only a few minutes away from all attractions (Grands Boulevards, Montmartre, Eiffel Tower, etc.). Parisian people love going around to the numerous bars, restaurants and shops that surround the Place de la République, which is easily reached by five metro lines. The hotel has a restaurant, café and bar; room service; and a fitness center. Air-conditioned rooms are equipped with telephone and voicemail, television, internet service, safe, minibar and hair dryer.

Barcelona Extension

3 nights—\$799 per person

Enjoy the scenery in colorful and cultural Barcelona, Spain's second largest city and home to a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Admire Gaudi's many distinctive architectural masterpieces including Sagrada Família, Casa Milà and Park Güell. Be sure to sample local paella and stroll the bustling Las Ramblas. Three nights at the **NH Calderón** (or similar), daily breakfasts, city tours and transfers are included along with the services of a Viking host.

Located in the city center, the **NH Calderón** hotel in Barcelona is surrounded by restaurants, shopping, culture and businesses. A taxi stop is located at the corner of the building, giving you easy access to everywhere in the city. The airport and train station are also very close to the NH Calderón hotel.

* Hotels are subject to change without notice at which time, a comparable alternative will be offered.

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Explore More (continued)

Oxford & Highclere Castle (The Real *Downton Abbey*)

3 nights—\$ 1,399 per person

Spend three days in the rolling hills of England's countryside. Visit the historic town of Oxford and Oxford University. Tour Highclere Castle, known to television audiences worldwide as *Downton Abbey*, with privileged access and a champagne welcome for Viking guests. Included tour to Blenheim Palace and the Cotswolds. Three nights at a centrally located deluxe Oxford hotel, daily breakfasts, three tours and a Eurostar "Chunnel" train between Paris and London are included with the services of a Viking host.

Marseille Extension

2 nights—\$499 per person

Extend your journey in picturesque Provence; spend some time in Aix-en-Provence and enjoy two nights in Marseille at the **Radisson Blu** (or similar). Daily breakfasts, guided walking tour and ship/hotel transfer are included along with the services of a Viking host.

Embodying the vibrant spirit of the Vieux Port, the recently opened **Radisson Blu** hotel, Marseille Vieux Port, offers exceptional accommodation in France's original city. Ideally located in the city centre, the hotel is spread over two buildings and houses stylish guest rooms, a gourmet restaurant, cafe and bar, an elevated swimming pool and a fully equipped fitness centre. Rooms include telephone, television, internet access, safe, minibar, hair dryer.

* Hotels are subject to change without notice at which time, a comparable alternative will be offered.

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The Viking Experience

Quietvox Tour Earphones

With our Quietvox tour earphones, there are no worries about missing any interesting details during your shore excursions. Each guest will receive a lightweight, portable receiver that can be worn around the neck or slipped into a pocket. The comfortable earpiece with individual volume control allows you to hear your guide's comments no matter where you are standing and makes every place on your tour the "best seat in the house."

Onboard Enrichment

Culture CurriculumSM. To help you further appreciate the countries that you will visit, we complement your shore excursion with a broad range of immersive activities, on board and ashore. Your cruise includes a traditional French music performance, tours of Roman ruins, a French cheese tasting, a French language lesson, French winemaking demonstration & wine tasting, French cuisine workshop, and lectures on topics such as France: The Painter's Muse and Joan of Arc. Times and locations will be announced on board.

Expert Program Directors. Viking River Cruises Program Directors are selected for their comprehensive knowledge of the regions you will be visiting. They have a fine appreciation of each destination's nuances and a genuine passion for travel and are there to help from the first moment to the end of your journey. If you have any questions, would like recommendations or have any concerns during your itinerary, do not hesitate to contact your Program Director.

General Physical Fitness

Our tours and cruises are not physically demanding, however, *because of the nature of many of the sites you will be visiting, this tour may not be appropriate for guests with certain medical conditions and physical restrictions*. Walking tours are often on uneven ground or cobblestones and may include stairs and steep inclines. If you have concerns or questions, please discuss the nature of your itinerary with your Viking River Cruises Travel Consultant.

Complimentary Wine with Onboard Dinner and Lunch Service

Enjoy complimentary bottled wine with onboard dinner and lunch service. We feature two varietals—one white and one red—that pair beautifully with our onboard menu of contemporary and regional specialties.

Before You Go

Visit our website at vikingrivercruises.com (or vrc.com) where you can not only learn more about all the places you might go with Viking, but you can also immerse yourself in the experience from the comfort of your own home. There is information abound and you can watch videos of destinations, take a virtual tour of a cruise ship or get a list of recommended readings.

Passports & Visas

Passports are necessary however no visas are required for U.S. citizens for this itinerary. Non-U.S. citizens, please check your consulate for visa information.

Viking's All-Inclusive Airfare & Transfers

For your convenience, you can purchase roundtrip transoceanic air travel directly from Viking in conjunction with your river cruise or cruisetour. Viking's air packages are a great value because they include your transfers between airport and ship or hotel. And, when you reserve your air with Viking and purchase Viking's all-inclusive travel protection policy, your air travel is covered by the policy as part of your Viking itinerary. Select from more than 165 different gateways (additional gateways available) in economy or the upgraded service of Premium Economy or Business Class (transoceanic portion); once your reservation has been made, we will confirm your flight schedules 75 days before departure.

E-Check Program

Viking offers special incentives when you pay via e-check (electronic debit to your checking account)—a quick and convenient way to pay for your vacation. Ask for details when making your reservation.

Viking Travel Protection

Viking Travel Protection allows you to cancel your trip for any reason. Enjoy peace of mind knowing that whatever may arise—even a pre-existing medical condition—you retain 100% of your travel value. Premiums are based on trip cost and start at only \$249 per person!

Climate – Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>
Avignon	60/43	64/46	73/54	81/59	84/66	83/65	77/60	68/52	58/44
Chalon-sur-Saône	59/37	61/41	68/48	74/53	78/57	77/56	71/51	60/43	49/36
Lyon	56/40	58/42	67/50	73/57	80/61	79/60	72/54	61/47	50/39
Paris	55/41	57/42	64/49	69/61	75/58	75/57	69/52	59/46	49/39
Rouen	53/36	55/39	63/46	66/52	72/55	73/55	67/51	58/46	49/40

*Information contained in this document is subject to change without notice

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