
10 DAY CHATEAUX OF THE LOIRE VALLEY AND SEINE RIVER CRUISE

Trip Code: TWTNSN_SEN21

Duration: 11

Destination: France

Travel Dates: 2021

DAY 1 NANTES - MS Loire Princesse (D)

On arrival you will be met at the Nante airport and transferred to the cruise ship. Boarding is at 6:00 p.m. After comfortably settling into your cabins, we will introduce our crew at a welcome cocktail before dinner.

After dinner, join us on an excursion and board a local boat for a cruise on the Erdre River, one of the most beautiful in France. King Francis I called this river "the most beautiful river in France": As the scenery rolls by, discover the history of the river and its numerous châteaux.

DAY 2 NANTES - SAINT-NAZAIRE- MS Loire Princesse (B,L,D)

After breakfast this morning, we depart for a guided tour of Nantes and the Castle of the Dukes of Brittany. You'll discover the small streets of the medieval Bouffay quarter and the beautiful Flamboyant-style Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul. We'll visit the île Feydeau and its exceptional buildings dating back to the 18th century, and then on to the quays. After, you'll discover the shopping districts created in the 18th century around the Théâtre Graslin and the Passage Pommeraye. We'll continue our tour to the Castle of the Dukes of Brittany. The last castle before the river reaches the ocean, this Breton monument with its outstanding 15th to 17th century buildings will transport you back in time.

In the afternoon, we take a guided tour of Saint Nazaire, a town on the sea. We'll visit Escal'Atlantic, a museum that explores the historic ocean liner experience, and the Saint-Nazaire shipyard, one of the largest shipyards in Europe. Each passenger will be asked to produce a valid passport to gain access to the shipyard. We will return on board in Saint-Nazaire.

Enjoy an evening of dancing.

DAY 3 SAINT-NAZAIRE - ANCENIS -MS Loire Princesse (B,L,D)

We will spend this morning cruising towards Ancenis.

In the afternoon, join us for an excursion along The Muscadet Wine Route. We'll pass through several villages that are testimony to the strong wine growing identity in the region. We arrive to Clisson, a charming medieval city with 15th century vestiges and a slight Italian feel. We'll continue toward La Chapelle Heulin and stop at the Château Cassemichère (or similar site). This exceptional site invites you to discover its history-filled

vineyards, visit its cellars and taste the dry, light, fruity and aromatic wine. Afterwards we return on board.

DAY 4 ANCENIS - BOUCHEMAINE - ANGERS -MS Loire Princesse (B,L,D)

Today we cruise towards Bouchemaine.

Join us for a guided tour of Angers. Angers was the capital of the historical Anjou province and is distinguished not only by its legacy, but also by its modern nature. Angers, particularly rich during the Renaissance, was home to the House of Plantagenet. The immense walls of the famous Château d'Angers contain the extraordinary Apocalypse Tapestry. We'll visit the 13th century castle and discover the Apocalypse Tapestry, part of one of the most important collections of medieval tapestries in the world.

Enjoy an evening of entertainment.

DAY 5 BOUCHEMAINE - THE CHÂTEAUX OF THE LOIRE VALLEY – ANCENIS- MS Loire Princesse (B,L,D)

After breakfast we depart for a full-day excursion to discover the Castles of the Loire Valley. We'll leave by coach for the Château d'Azay-le-Rideau. Built on a small island in the middle of the Indre River, the château as it is seen today was built under Francis I by Gilles Berthelot, a wealthy financier who wanted to incorporate its medieval past alongside the latest architectural styles of the Italian renaissance. The chateau is a French national monument and possesses all the refinement found in the French Renaissance. We'll continue to Villandry for lunch. After lunch, enjoy a walk through the lovely gardens surrounding the Château de Villandry. Spread out over an impressive area, the gardens bring together aestheticism, diversity and harmony. Afterward, we'll continue our tour and visit the Château d'Ussé. Rebuilt in the 15th and 16th centuries, this stronghold with fortified towers, turrets and steeples looks like something out of a fairytale. The castle is still inhabited today and takes visitors back to a time of legends and fairytales. It is thought to have inspired Charles Perrault when writing "Sleeping Beauty".

We'll return on board in Ancenis.

Tonight's our gala dinner and evening. Our ship will start sailing towards Nantes.

DAY 6 NANTES - PARIS- MS Renoir (B, L, D)

After breakfast, check out of cabin and disembark at 10:00 a.m. This morning we transfer from Nante to Paris. On arrival in Paris we will have lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch departure by coach with a guide to discover the mythical sites of the capital. Since its foundation as Lutèce on the Ile de la Cité, two thousand years of history have seen ecclesiastics, sovereigns and heads of state leave their mark on the city, building churches, erecting monuments and palaces, creating prestigious museums and outlining sumptuous perspectives. Its distinguished couturiers, perfumers and jewelers have strongly built up Paris's reputation for taste and elegance. A city of festivities, theaters and famous cabarets, Paris also glows from the sparkle and shine of its well-known revues. Our coach will take you past Bercy, the F. Mitterrand National Library, the Bastille, the Marais, the Latin Quarter, St Germain, the Louvre, the Pyramid, the Opéra Garnier, Place Vendôme, the Concorde, the Champs Elysées, the Arc de Triomphe, the Invalides, the Trocadéro

and of course the famous Eiffel Tower. Return to the boat at Quai de Grenelle.

Board cruise ship at 6:00 p.m. After comfortably settling into your cabins, we will introduce our crew at a welcome cocktail. We will set out for a cruise through Paris by night (depending on the water level).

DAY 7 PARIS - LES ANDELYS – ROUEN -MS Renoir (B,L,D)

This morning will be spent cruising. Join us for a tour of the Martainville Château. Departure by coach along with your host/hostess. We will cross Le Petit Andelys and pass by the St Sauveur Church (a 16th century church which still possesses a vintage organ). After 40 minutes' travelling through different villages along the Andelle (river running through the valley), we'll arrive at Château de Martainville. This château was built at the end of the 15th century by Jacques Le Pelletier, and bought by the State in 1906, then turned into a museum in 1961.

In 2 hours, learn about 500 years of rural Normandy history. Travel through the heart of Norman traditions (work suits, headdresses, jewelry, weaving), relive the past through the objects of everyday life (copper pans, pottery, baskets...). Discover the largest collection of Upper Normandy furniture, the "Famous Norman Wardrobes". Transfer back to Rouen at the beginning of the evening.

We'll return on board in Rouen and start sailing towards Honfleur.

DAY 8 ROUEN – HONFLEUR- MS Renoir (B,L,D)

After breakfast we depart for a guided tour of Honfleur. We'll meet up with our guide and set off on our walking tour. Honfleur, the cradle of Impressionism, is located at the mouth of the Seine as it flows into the English Channel. Untouched by the passage of time, this small port has kept the landmarks of its rich past, making it today one of the most visited towns in France. We'll begin our tour at the Vieux Bassin, one of the most charming sites in the city. The narrow houses squeezed against each other are quite a unique sight. Next, we'll see Saint Catherine's Church, the largest wooden church in France. It was listed as a historical monument in 1879 and has been the subject of scrupulous research by many archaeologists and historians. We'll then head for the original 17th-century Salt Halls (Greniers à Sel), now used for exhibitions, conferences and concerts. Our tour will finish with a visit to Saint Léonard Church. Destroyed during the Hundred Years War, it was rebuilt at the end of the 15th and beginning of the 16th centuries-only to be partially burned down again during the Wars of Religion. We'll return to our ship on foot.

This afternoon join us for a stroll along La Côte d'Albâtre between cliffs and villages.

We will return on board in Honfleur and sail towards Rouen through the night.

DAY 9 HONFLEUR – ROUEN -MS Renoir (B,L,D)

After breakfast, join us for a guided tour on foot of Rouen. We'll leave on foot for a guided tour of Rouen. The historic center of the city and its famous cathedral are only a 5-minute walk from the ship. Stretched along the Seine, Rouen is Normandy's cultural, historical, and gastronomical capital. The exceptionally complex Notre-Dame Cathedral is renowned for the juxtaposition of all the Gothic periods - especially on the facade, which Monet painted time and again, reflecting its glory in different lights. Destroyed during the Viking invasions in 841 and, partially, in 1944, by allied bombardments, the cathedral continues to be a perpetually evolving

structure. We'll then head to the market place where Joan of Arc was burned alive for heresy in 1431. The Gros-Horloge, or Great Clock, is one of the most emblematic monuments in the city. The Gothic belfry has housed the communal bells and clock of the city since its construction at the end of the 14th century. Finally, we'll visit the Saint Joan of Arc Church. Located on the Old Market Place, this large monument's construction ended in 1979 and was built both in honor of the Saint as well as the heroine celebrated by the French on the second Sunday in May. We'll return to our ship on foot at the end of the afternoon.

We will spend the afternoon cruising. An authentic "guinguette" will recreate the atmosphere "of Sundays on the banks of the Marne." We will cruise through magnificent landscapes of steep chalk cliffs.

Tonight, is our gala dinner and evening.

DAY 10 PARIS (B)

Enjoy one last buffet breakfast on board before disembarking at 9:00 a.m. You will be transferred to the airport in Paris. End of our services.

DAY

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