



CRUISE OF 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS - REF. PEI\_PP

## **French Art and History Along the Rhône River (port-to-port cruise)**

**LYON - MACON - LYON - TAIN-L'HERMITAGE - AVIGNON - ARLES - MARTIGUES(2)**

Discover the Rhône through an offbeat, seven-day cruise. See each city differently as you retrace the footsteps of the artists and celebrities who influenced their cultures.

From Alphonse de Lamartine's Mâcon to Marcel Pagnol's Marseille, with side trips to Paul Bocuse's Lyon and Van Gogh's homestead in Arles, each excursion will bring you to the core of the city and its history.

Discover unusual sites such as the Quarries of Light in Les Baux-de-Provence and the Palais Idéal du Facteur Cheval in Hauterives. This cruise on the Saône and Rhone Rivers overflows with the vineyard landscapes and limestone cliffs of southern France.



## CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

- **All excursions included:**
  - Mâcon, birthplace of Alphonse de Lamartine
  - Medieval Pérouges
  - Lyon and Les Halles de Lyon-Paul Bocuse
  - The Palais Idéal du Facteur Cheval in Hauterives
  - Multimedia experience at the Quarry of Lights in Les Baux-de-Provence
  - Following the footsteps of Van Gogh in Arles
  - Aix-en-Provence and the wonders of Paul Cézanne

## CRUISE PROGRAM (7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS)



### Day 1 : LYON

Passengers are welcome to board our ship at 6 p.m. After comfortably settling into your cabins, we'll introduce our crew at a welcome cocktail. We'll enjoy dinner on board as our ship begins to cruise to Mâcon. Don't miss Lyon lit up at night as we depart!



### Day 2 : MACON - LYON

This morning, **join us for a guided tour of Mâcon as seen through the eyes of French author and poet Alphonse de Lamartine.** With its colored facades, Mâcon feels like it should be part of Provence. Learn more about this Burgundy city on a tour highlighting its major sites as Lamartine described them in his works. Join us this afternoon for a **guided tour of medieval Pérouges**, which has been categorized as one of the most beautiful villages in France. A stroll along its cobblestone streets will take you back to the time of knights and troubadours. Tasting of local products.

After our excursion, we'll return on board the ship and cruise to Lyon in the evening.



### Day 3 : LYON - TAIN L'HERMITAGE

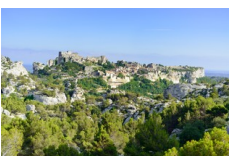
In the morning, join us for a guided tour of the city and a tasting at Les Halles de Lyon-Paul Bocuse.(1) We'll cross through the city and go up Fourvière Hill to the white basilica, the best place to take in the view. Then, we'll head over to Vieux Lyon to have a look at its historical homes and the bouchon restaurants that are found throughout the district. Learn about the discrete and strategic doorways leading to shortcuts, known as traboules, that go from street to street. Don't miss the tasting of fine food at Paul Bocuse's Les Halles de Lyon, a huge, three-story, indoor market where close to 50 shops offer the finest gourmet food. We'll enjoy a snack of local sausage and cheese, topped off with a lovely glass of wine.\* We'll cruise to Tain-l'Hermitage in the afternoon and arrive in the evening.



### Day 4 : TAIN-L'HERMITAGE - AVIGNON

We'll head out on an excursion this morning to the Palais Idéal du Facteur Cheval, a monument built by a local postman from 1879 to 1912. No other building like it exists in the world, which is why it attracts the curiosity of visitors from all over. In addition to building the structure with his own hands, Ferdinand Cheval personalized the palace with poetic texts describing his feat. The idea came to Cheval one day when he was delivering his mail on foot and he spotted an unusual rock. He decided that since nature could create sculptures, he should be able to achieve the dream he harbored for years to build an "ideal palace." And so the adventure began.

After our excursion, we'll return on board the ship. We'll spend the afternoon cruising to Avignon and arrive during the evening.



### Day 5 : AVIGNON - ARLES

Join us this morning for a visit to Les Baux-de-Provence and the Quarry of Lights. We'll travel by coach to one of the most beautiful villages in France, Les Baux-de-Provence. Our tour will include seeing the exteriors of several important sites such as the château and the church. At the foot of the village lies the Val d'Enfer, a valley formed by erosion. Within the valley is a former limestone quarry that has been the inspiration or backdrop for many works, including Dante's poem The Divine Comedy and Jean Cocteau's Testament of Orpheus. Today, the quarry is home to a multimedia experience highlighting works by the greatest names in the history of art. After our tour, we'll return on board the ship. This afternoon, join us for a guided tour of Arles following the footsteps of Van Gogh. Arles is an ancient Roman city whose ruins are second only to Rome and include the Antique Theater, Amphitheater, Thermes of Constantine, and the Alyscamps. Arles is also an important stop along the Way of St. James. Van Gogh, longing for the sunshine and vibrant colors of the south, came to Arles in 1888 and produced almost 300 drawings and paintings here. Our tour will retrace his steps to the different sites where he set up his easel, such as the Place du Forum, the Quai du Rhône, and Place Lamartine. Our ship will cruise to Martigues in the evening.



### Day 6 : ARLES - MARTIGUES(2)

This morning, we'll leave for an excursion to the city Paul Cézanne adored, Aix-en-Provence. Aix-en-Provence was founded in 123 BC by the Romans. The city's deep history can be seen and felt everywhere you stroll. The architecture, monuments, sites, shops, and squares simply ooze Provençal charm and allure. By following the letter "C" along the streets, you'll walk in Cézanne's footsteps from his birth to his death. In the older part of the city, you'll discover the city's prestigious past. At the end of our excursion, we'll enjoy a tasting of the traditional Calisson d'Aix, a candied delight. In the afternoon, our ship will cruise towards Martigues. Tonight is our festive gala evening.



### Day 7 : MARTIGUES(2)

Enjoy breakfast on board this morning before disembarking at 9:00 a.m.

#### This offer includes

Your cruise with all meals from dinner the first evening to breakfast on the final day - visits mentioned in the program - all onboard beverages (not including the special lists) - accommodations in a double-occupancy, climate-controlled cabin with shower in private bathroom - onboard activities - welcome cocktail - gala evening - assistance from our onboard, multi-lingual host/hostess - emergency/repatriation insurance - all port fees.

#### This offer does not include

Drinks from our special lists or drinks ordered during excursions or transfers - cancellation and baggage insurance - optional excursions (must be reserved and paid for on board or at travel agency) - transfers to/from departure/arrival points - personal expenses.

#### Transport

Port-to-port cruise without transfers

#### Requirements

**Valid national identity card or passport required.** Non-EU nationals are advised to consult their embassy or consulate.

#### THE CROISIEUROPE DIFFERENCE

- **All meals included - DRINKS INCLUDED** with meals and at the bar
- Refined French cuisine - **Gala dinner and evening** - Welcome cocktail
- **Free Wi-Fi** onboard
- Headsets are included for excursions
- Official welcome from the captain and crew
- Onboard activities
- Travel assistance and repatriation insurance
- All port fees included

## MENTIONS

For safety reasons, the company and/or the captain of the ship are the only authorities who can modify the cruise itinerary.

(1) Les Halles de Lyon-Paul Bocuse is closed on Sunday and Monday. We will provide a tasting of local products as a substitute.

(2) Depending on mooring availabilities, the stopover in Martigues may be replaced by Port Saint Louis du Rhône.

\*Alcohol can be dangerous to your health. Please drink in moderation.