

# Impressions from the Seine: Paris to Normandy

*Follow the Seine to Normandy on a week long tour, exploring timeless stories that define Northern France – from the beaches of D-Day, along the Cider Route, and in fabulous Paris.*

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**8 DAYS**

Activity Level 2 / Pace Level 2

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## *Uniquely Tauck*

- Attend a private tour and evening of dinner and music at the breathtaking Château du Taillis
- Enjoy a Tauck Exclusive early-opening visit to Monet's house and gardens in Giverny, where the artist's famous landscapes come to life
- Guided visits include historic Rouen and a visit to a farm along Normandy's Cider Route
- A local expert accompanies your visit to the World War II beaches of Normandy, with special insights and stories about the June 6, 1944 historic events



*Paris, France*

## ■ DAY 1

### Arrive Paris / Embark ship

*Tour begins: 4:00 PM, Paris.* A transfer is included from Charles de Gaulle Airport or Gare de Lyon, Charles de Gaulle or Gare du Nord railway stations to your riverboat; check-in time is 4:00 PM. Join us for a briefing followed by a welcome reception and dinner. **Meals D**

## ■ DAY 2

### Sightseeing in Paris

Paris is home to charming arrondissements and instantly recognizable icons, from the Arc de Triomphe watching over the Champs-Élysées to the lamplit bridges spanning the beautiful waters of the River Seine. You'll have a choice of excursions this morning, including an orientation tour and a visit inside the magnificent Opéra Garnier. Alternatively, go on a walking tour of the Latin Quarter and Saint-Germain and learn about the rich literary history of the area as you stroll through Luxembourg Gardens, past the neoclassical Panthéon and historic Sorbonne University. This afternoon, enjoy free time to explore Paris as you choose. Return to the riverboat in the late afternoon for a wine presentation onboard. **Meals BLD**

## ■ DAY 3

### Château de Versailles

Imitated throughout history and around the world, nothing compares to the original Château de Versailles. Just 15 miles from the center of Paris, Versailles was the epicenter of French royal power until 1789, and epitomized the royal lifestyles of Old World Europe. Standing on the grounds of a once humble hunting lodge, the palace at Versailles was built to impress, inside and out. Your visit here includes a look inside the most famous of its many rooms, among them the gilded Hall of Mirrors decorated with paintings, gilded statues, massive arches, shimmering crystal chandeliers, and some 357 mirrors. Step inside the king's over-the-top royal apartments, adorned with lavish Italian-style decoration, marble paneling, and painted ceilings. Then head outside to walk in the palace garden; spread across close to 2,000 acres, it is one of the biggest gardens in the world. The original landscaping took about 40 years to complete; approximately 210,000 flowers and 200,000 trees are planted every year. Return to the riverboat mid-afternoon and continue your Seine cruise. **Meals BLD**

## ■ DAY 4

### Memories in Rouen & a special evening

Experience Rouen, the historic capital of Normandy, immortalized in art and prose. Iconic bell towers punctuate the skyline with half-timbered houses, narrow lanes, and storied squares. On your visit with a local guide, hear tales

## Voyage at a glance

### ■ 7 Cruise Days

*Day Destination*

- 1 Embark Paris
- 2 Paris
- 3 Versailles
- 4 Rouen / Duclair
- 5 Caudebec-en-Caux
- 6 Les Andelys / Vernon
- 7 Vernon / Giverny / Paris
- 8 Disembark Paris

*Map Detail*





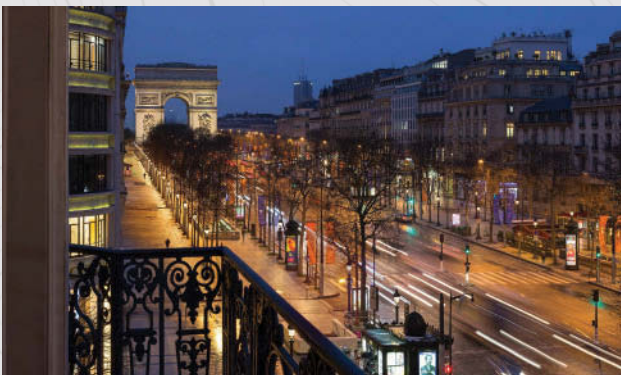
## Travel Normandy's Cider Route

The terroir of Normandy is ideal for apple orchards, with over 800 varieties. Visit a farm, learn the secrets of cider-making and, of course, enjoy a tasting.



## Explore Château de Versailles

A visit to Château de Versailles reveals the story of French kings and excessive luxury. Explore its lavish state apartments or formal gardens at your leisure.



## Dock in Paris for two nights

With its shimmering lights, storied boulevards, and timeless allure, Paris invites endless discoveries while docked along the Seine for two unforgettable nights.

of the triumphs and trials of Joan of Arc as you follow in her footsteps. You may recognize the Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Rouen the moment you see it; the Impressionist Claude Monet painted it more than thirty times. Be sure to look up when you come to the Rue du Gros-Horloge and take in the city's astronomical clock installed on a Renaissance arch spanning the street; this marvel of engineering has been renowned for its time-keeping efficiency since 1527. You'll have free time to explore the city as you please before tonight's Tauck Exclusive. Join us for a reception, a private tour, and dinner with music at 16th-century Château du Taillis – a Renaissance treasure renowned for its lovely setting, stately gardens and arboretum. **Meals BLD**

### ■ DAY 5

## The Beaches of Normandy

Today's poignant visit to the beaches of Normandy revisits the Allied invasion of Normandy in World War II, led by a local expert who is knowledgeable about the day's events, the heroics, and the losses of this historic Allied operation on June 6, 1944, as well as the Allied liberation of Western Europe. See Pointe du Hoc where US Army Rangers scaled the 100-foot crater-riddled cliffs and seized the German artillery pieces to keep them from firing on the American troops landing at Omaha and Utah beaches. Visit Omaha Beach, one of the five landing areas of the Normandy Invasion of World War II, today dotted with the remains of German bunkers. Pause at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial overlooking Omaha Beach and the English Channel, the final resting place for more than 9,300 troops who lost their lives in World War II. Meet your riverboat back in Caudebec-en-Caux. **Meals BLD**

### ■ DAY 6

## Les Andelys & a tasting along the Cider Route

Look up as your riverboat sails into Les Andelys to see the ruins of Château Gaillard atop its hillside perch. Built by Richard the Lionheart, King of England, in 1197, the castle was considered the mightiest royal fortress of its time, built to resist an invasion by the king of France. Take a walking tour of the town and the ruins above, getting a glimpse of the castle's fortifications and savoring the views of the river and town from above. For a change of perspective, drive into the countryside where apples are king. An appetizing visit to a farm offers a taste of freshly pressed cider and aged brandy, accompanied by pâté and fruit preserves (confiture). Cruise to Vernon, arriving in time for an orientation walk of the town, intriguing with its Middle Age architecture. Return to the riverboat and enjoy onboard entertainment in the lounge. **Meals BLD**



*ms Sapphire offers a seamless combination of luxury and comfort, revealing the greatness of Paris and historic riches of Normandy.*

## ■ DAY 7

### Painted impressions in Giverny

A Tauck Exclusive early opening visit to Claude Monet's house and gardens in Giverny provides an opportunity to experience the home and the changing light of day as the artist did. Go inside his pink and green-shuttered house, left exactly as it was when the artist and his family lived here, and stroll through gardens you may have seen in paintings on your museum visit in Paris. Here, you'll see Monet's famous Japanese bridge and the water lily pond. Return to the riverboat, where you can attend a painting class led by an American artist who lives in the south of France; he shares insights into the Impressionist artists and reveals some of their painting techniques. We invite you to join us this evening for our farewell reception followed by dinner. **Meals BLD**

## DAY 8

### Journey Home

*Tour ends: Paris.* Disembark by 9:00 AM; transfer is included from Tauck's riverboat to Charles de Gaulle airport or Charles de Gaulle, Gare de Lyon, or Gare du Nord train stations. Allow 3 hours for check-in. **Meals B**

■ *Indicates Cruise Day*

Please go to [tauck.com](http://tauck.com) for up-to-the-minute space availability.

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### SPECIAL SOLO TRAVELER SAVINGS

On all departures, the single price in Category 1 is the same as the double price – no single supplement, which means savings of up to 50% for solo travelers! Solo Travelers also enjoy Savings of \$1,000 per cabin in Category 4, 5 and 6 on the Jul 27 departure. Single prices Category 2 and above start at 40% over the double price; please visit [tauck.com](http://tauck.com) for complete pricing.

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### LAND / CRUISE PRICE INCLUSIONS

20 meals (7 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches & 7 Dinners), airport & train station transfers, cruise fare, port charges, applicable fuel surcharges, and gratuities to Tauck Directors, Tauck Cruise Director, ship staff, local guides & drivers, and on all included meals. Unlimited complimentary beverages aboard ship include regional wine, beer & premium spirits, in addition to specialty coffee, tea and soft drinks. Tauck's private shore excursions and distinctive inclusions valued at \$2,631.

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International Airfare is additional; call Tauck for special rates. Museums and attractions may be subject to closure due to state, local or religious holidays; for this reason, the day-by-day itineraries may differ for certain departures – because of Versailles closings on Mondays, or special events, the order of the cruise days may be different. This cruise includes a fair amount of walking in each city. For all bike rides, hikes and activities marked with an asterisk (\*), participation is at your own risk and requires a signed liability waiver to be provided. Shore Excursion Selection: Tauck will contact guests 90 days prior to departure to assist with shore excursion selections. Itinerary is subject to change. Certain exceptions may apply – visit [tauck.com](http://tauck.com) or ask at booking. **Please go to General Information for additional information, including our Cruise Protection Plan and Activity / Pace details.**

**Activity Level 2 / Pace Level 2**