

Enchanting Rivers of Europe Grand Journey



Tour Name: Enchanting Rivers of Europe Grand Journey

Tour Code: MCAB

Days: 52

Day 1
Wed, 29 Apr

Amsterdam (D)

Welcome to Amsterdam. The Netherlands' capital city is a treasure trove of architectural beauty, masterpiece-filled galleries, tranquil scenes of boats putting along 16th-century canals, narrow cobbled laneways filled with boutiques and cafes, and streets busy with cyclists criss-crossing their way about town. Often referred to as the Venice of the North, much of the UNESCO-listed canal system exists today as it did hundreds of years ago, lined with well-preserved canal houses and intersected by charming bridges.

A warm welcome awaits you from the crew of your Scenic Space-Ship. Raise your glass to the marvellous cruise ahead of you at this evening's welcome reception.

Please book your flight to arrive into Amsterdam prior to 06:00 PM.

Day 2
Thu, 30 Apr

Dordrecht (B,L,D)

You'll arrive in Dordrecht, one of The Netherlands' oldest cities, this morning. Once an important trade city for wood, grain and wine, it's made up of an historical city centre with buildings dating to the Middle Ages, as well as merchant houses and warehouses along the harbour. From here, you will explore surrounding cities and villages.

Freechoice:

Explore your way with one of today's Scenic Freechoice activities:

Excursion to Delft: Take an excursion to Delft, a pretty town whose centre is a maze of narrow canal-lined streets. It has an historic association with the Dutch Royal Family and is the origin of the globally regarded Delft Blue Pottery, created here from the 16th century. Enjoy a guided tour of the charming city of Delft before a visit to a pottery factory and museum.

Excursion to Kinderdijk: Picturesque Kinderdijk is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famous for its 19 historic windmills that are recognised as a Dutch icon throughout the world. See these authentic windmills on today's tour while learning about how their hydraulic works have been used to drain the land for agriculture and settlement for centuries.

Gouda Cheese Markets: A local guide will show you around the beautiful historic city of Gouda, known for its namesake cheese. Explore the city including the small alleyways, tree-lined canals and the main square where a traditional cheese market that was first initiated in 1395 is still operating. (Note: the cheese market is open every Thursday morning; tours that fall on a different day will still visit Gouda but not the market.)

Walking tour of Dordrecht: Discover the city of Dordrecht during a walking tour with your local guide. The city of Dordrecht is located next to the Netherlands most picturesque Nature Reserve, the De Biesbosch National Park. Surrounded by beautiful landscapes, including the river and wetlands, Dordrecht started out as an important merchant city, trading in wood, grain & wine and the subsequent history, wealth and culture remains today and will be evident during this walking tour. Among the highlights will be Groothoofd quay, the Grote Kerk (Great Church) and the Old Water Tower as well as the many merchant houses and warehouses that line the harbour.

Your Scenic Space-Ship will depart Dordrecht after dinner so you have ample time to explore the lovely town of Dordrecht at leisure this afternoon.

Day 3
Fri, 01 May

Veere (B,L,D)

You will arrive in Veere this morning, one of The Netherlands' prettiest villages whose historic harbour is filled with bobbing yachts. While its beginnings date to the 13th century, Veere flourished in the 16th century when it became an important port for Scottish wool. This prosperity lasted two centuries and to this day the Scottish ties remain strong.

Freechoice:

Choose from one of this morning's Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Guided City Tour: Discover many of the hundreds of heritage buildings of Veere on a guided tour. Set on the Veerse Meer Lake, the village is home to a harbour lined with Scottish merchant houses; a 15th century town hall with tower; a defensive tower that was later used as an inn and lighthouse; and Grote Kerk, an imposing Gothic church that has also been used as a hospital and poorhouse.

Cycling Tour: Join your local guide as you ride through the village of Veere, seeing all its key sights as well as the unspoilt natural beauty along the dykes in the surrounding area.

Delta Works Visit: Transfer from Veere to tour the Delta Works, a complex series of dams purposely created to protect the population on the Delta plain from flooding. Discover this impressive engineering feat that is over 3 kilometres long.

Back on board this afternoon, you may wish to join in the oyster tasting. The cold conditions of the North Sea make it a perfect location for top quality, fresh oysters. Your cruise director will have some of these mouth-watering gastronomic treats for you to sample.

Day 4
Sat, 02 May

Antwerp (B,L,D)

This morning you will arrive in Belgium's second city, Antwerp. Full of historical and cultural contrasts, Antwerp has a melange of architectural wonders, a medieval centre with cobbled streets and Gothic buildings, many that were severely bombed during WWII, blended with modern architecture. It's also the diamond capital of the world, with 70 per cent of the world's diamonds traded there.

Freechoice:

Select from these Scenic Freechoice excursions this morning:

Guided walking tour of Antwerp: Join your local guide on a walking tour through this beautiful city, known as the diamond capital of the world. Explore sights such as the impressive Cathedral of Our Lady, Steen Castle, the Medieval fortress, and main square lined with extravagant buildings.

Excursion to Ghent: Visit one of Belgium's most historic cities, where you can explore the myriad of medieval buildings and charming canals with your local guide. Ghent also has a rich industrial past, which is evident in its old factories, many of which are being gentrified as cultural hotspots. The city was also named a Creative City of Music by UNESCO in 2009.

It's all aboard your Scenic Space-Ship this afternoon as you cruise towards the Dutch city of Arnhem, perhaps enjoy a regional beer or wine in the Panoramic Bar & Lounge.

Day 5
Sun, 03 May

Arnhem (B,L,D)

Arrive in Arnhem, a city made famous by the Battle of Arnhem, a bold but failed attempt to outflank German forces in north-west Europe during WWII. It resulted in thousands of British and Polish troops being killed, wounded or taken prisoner. Much of the city and its river bridges were destroyed by the battle and subsequent bombings, but Arnhem has been rebuilt and is now an attractive and picturesque city.

Freechoice:

A range of Scenic Freechoice activities are on offer to choose from this morning:

Arnhem Airborne Museum: Visit the Arnhem Airborne Museum with your local guide to learn about the Battle of Arnhem. The Airborne Experience allows you to follow in the footsteps of British parachutists as they made their way to Arnhem in September 1944. The museum is housed in the beautiful Villa Hartenstein, the former headquarters for the British troops.

Netherlands Open Air Museum: Discover the stories and immerse yourself in life in The Netherlands from years gone by. Your local guide will take you on an exploration of this fascinating 44-hectare outdoor museum, to see replicas of historic houses, mills and farmhouses, and to learn about Dutch work, customs and traditions.

Het Loo Royal Palace: Het Loo Palace dates to 1685 and served as the royal family's summer home for centuries. Since 1984 it has been turned into an incredible museum showcasing the rich history of the Dutch royal family. Guests can admire the elaborately decorated rooms, an impressive collection of coach stables and the magnificent gardens.

Day 6
Mon, 04 May

Hoorn > Amsterdam (B,L,D)

The wonderful town of Hoorn was a prosperous trading centre from the Middle Ages to the 17th century. Its main harbour, Binnenhaven, houses beautiful traditional warehouses, while there are many historical buildings and monuments throughout town including a defence tower used in the 16th and 17th centuries, and a well-preserved city gate first built in 1578.

Freechoice:

Explore the region with one of today's selection of Scenic Freechoice activities:

Guided tour of Hoorn with tasting: Join a local guide for a walking tour of Hoorn, including a visit to its charming inner harbour area. You will also have the opportunity to sample some of Hoorn's delicious specialities such as local fish and cheese.

Cheese farm: Discover the tradition of cheese making in the Netherland. Meet a local producer and learn the art of cheese making while you tour the farm and learn about long-standing techniques.

Ancestry of the Kitchen: Traditional Dutch apple pie making class: Traditional recipes have long been passed down through generations. Today you'll be let in on the secrets of a family recipe as you learn how to make traditional Dutch apple pie with a local.

Cycling tour of Hoorn: Join your local guide on an active cycling tour of the harbour city of Hoorn. See some of the key sights of the city such as the Oosterkerk (the Old Church) as you cycle towards IJssel Lake dyke, the biggest lake in The Netherlands.

This afternoon, enjoy some time at leisure as you cruise towards Amsterdam. You may wish to spend time in the wellness centre, relaxing with a massage, or head to the exclusive Salt Therapy Lounge, which has natural anti-viral, anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial properties.

Enrich

Tonight's Scenic Enrich - Fabrique des Lumières: During after-hours access be welcomed with a glass of champagne as you visit Fabrique des Lumières. Located in a former 19th century gas works, you will see the works of the worlds most renowned artists projected onto the 17-metre-high walls, accompanied and complemented by a musical soundtrack.

Day 7
Tue, 05 May

Amsterdam (B,L,D)

Wake this morning in Amsterdam and enjoy an excursion with your fellow guests to Keukenhof Gardens to see the most magnificent display of tulips.

Transfer via coach to Keukenhof Gardens, where you'll witness a display of more than seven million tulips in bloom. There are around 800 varieties of tulips carefully arranged here in beautiful patterns and colours, making it one of the most magical public gardens in the world

Return to Amsterdam this afternoon for free time to explore this city steeped in history, art and quirky culture. You could fill an afternoon wandering the labyrinth of narrow laneways and canals that are lined with beautifully preserved 17th century buildings. Or visit the Rijksmuseum to see masterpieces by Rembrandt, Vermeer and Van Gogh; take a poignant walk-through Anne Frank's House; or hop aboard a scenic cruise along some of the 100 kilometres of canals, passing elegant merchant's residences, churches and warehouses that date from the Golden Age.

Day 8
Wed, 06 May

Amsterdam (B,L,D)

Enjoy a day at leisure to explore Amsterdam.

Day 9
Thu, 07 May

Utrecht (B,L,D)

This morning will be spent on board your luxury Scenic Space-Ship sailing towards Utrecht. Relax on the Sun Deck as you enjoy the scenery rolling by.

At lunch time you will arrive at Utrecht, a canal lined city boasting a multitude of green space, lively streets and hidden alleyways leaving you intrigued by what is around the next corner.

Freechoice:

Select from the following Scenic Freechoice activities and explore your way:

Highlights of Utrecht: The city of Utrecht is dotted with green parklands and lively canals lined with terraces and warehouses. The medieval Old Town houses the impressive Domtoren which acts as a beacon guiding its visitors back to the centre of the city. Explore all this and more during your tour with an expert local guide.

Excursion to De Haar Castle: A true fairy tale, De Haar Castle is the largest castle in the Netherlands and has all you could ever want from a castle and more. Cross the suspension bridge that spans the impressive moat to this truly remarkable castle. Inside, wander the rooms furnished with classic furniture and admire the turrets and towers, several offering wonderful views out to the spectacular rose gardens.

Day 10
Fri, 08 May

Veere (B,L,D)

You will arrive in Veere this morning, one of The Netherlands's prettiest villages whose historic harbour is filled with bobbing yachts. While its beginnings date to the 13th century, Veere flourished in the 16th century when it became an important port for Scottish wool. This prosperity lasted two centuries, and to this day Scottish ties are strong.

Freechoice:

A range of Scenic Freechoice activities are on offer to choose from this morning:

Guided City Tour: Discover many of the hundreds of heritage buildings of Veere on a guided tour. Set on the Veerse Meer Lake, the village is home to a harbour lined with Scottish merchant houses, a 15th century town hall with tower, a defensive tower that was later used as an inn and lighthouse, and Grote Kerk, an imposing Gothic church that has also been used as a hospital and poorhouse.

Cycling Tour: Join your local guide as you ride through the village of Veere, seeing all its key sights as well as the unspoilt natural beauty along the dykes in the surrounding area.

Delta Works Visit: Transfer from Veere to tour the Delta Works, a complex series of dams purposely created to protect the population on the Delta plain from flooding. Discover this impressive engineering feat and see one of the Storm Surge Barrier that make up the project.

Day 11
Sat, 09 May

Antwerp (B,L,D)

This morning you will arrive in Belgium's second city, Antwerp.

Freechoice:

Today offers a variety of Scenic Freechoice excursions to choose from:

Guided walking tour: Join your local guide on a walking tour through this beautiful city, known as the diamond capital of the world. Explore sights such as the impressive Cathedral of Our Lady, Steen Castle, the Medieval fortress, and main square lined with extravagant buildings.

Excursion to Ypres & Passchendaele: On a full day excursion from Antwerp, visit the towns of Passchendaele and Ypres to learn about the WWI battle of Passchendaele. Visit memorials dedicated to the 325,000 allied troops who perished during this terrible battle, learn about the strategies put in place to defend against the German troops and learn how this region was rebuilt in the aftermath. Tour includes lunch in a local restaurant.

Excursion to Bruges: Transfer via coach to Bruges where a local guide will walk you through the main sights of the city including the medieval centre. Highlights will include the medieval Bell Tower and the Belfry of Bruges. Please note: Due to uneven surfaces (cobblestone) and extensive walking, tour is recommended for guests with a high level of fitness.

Craft Beer & Chocolate pairing: Some of Belgium's most iconic culinary delicacies are Chocolate and Beer. Today join your local expert guide and take your taste buds on a journey of flavour while learning and appreciating how the complex flavours of local craft beer and chocolate pair.

Spend the afternoon exploring the city of Antwerp at your own pace or return to your Space-Ship.

Day 12
Sun, 10 May

Arnhem (B,L,D)

Located at the edge of the Veluwe nature reserve, the city of Arnhem offers a beautiful landscape surrounded by dense forest, lush green parklands and riverside promenades.

Freechoice:

Make your choice from this afternoon's Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Arnhem Airborne Museum: Visit the Arnhem Airborne Museum with your local guide to learn about the Battle of Arnhem. The Airborne Experience allows you to follow in the footsteps of British parachutists as they made their way to Arnhem in September 1944 and to meet the cheering citizens who had been oppressed by the German occupiers for four long years.

Biking tour of Arnhem: Join your fellow travellers on an active biking tour of the Arnhem region. Enjoy commentary from your local guide and take in the beautiful countryside as you stop at some key attractions.

Netherlands Open Air Museum: Discover the stories and immerse yourself in life in Holland from years gone by. Your local guide will take you on an exploration of this fascinating 44-hectare outdoor museum, to see replicas of historic houses, mills and farmhouses, and to learn about Dutch work, customs and traditions.

Het Loo Royal Palace: Het Loo Palace dates to 1685 and served as the royal family's summer home for centuries. Since 1984 it has been turned into an incredible museum showcasing the rich history of the Dutch royal family. Travel to the town of Apeldoorn and admire the elaborately decorated rooms, an impressive collection of coach stables and the magnificent gardens of Paleis Het Loo.

Day 13
Mon, 11 May

Düsseldorf (B,L,D)

Your Scenic Space-Ship will be sailing towards Dusseldorf this morning.

Dusseldorf is an affluent city, which was dubbed 'Little Paris' by Napoleon. The city is filled to the brim with museums and galleries, one of the world's most luxurious shopping streets, an old town with around 260 pubs and bars, and a harbour precinct that blends the old with new: historic quay walls, warehouses and silos neighbour striking architecturally designed buildings by the likes of Frank Gehry.

Freechoice:

Choose from one of this today's Scenic Freechoice:

City walking tour: Explore Düsseldorf on a guided walking tour, from its gentrified harbour to its charming old town. Transformed from a once abandoned area to a haven of architectural masterpieces, Media Harbour is a fascinating mix of old and new. The Old Town is referred to as the world's longest bar for its high concentration of drinking spots and is also home to the 450-year-old city hall and Castle Tower, which dates to the 13th century.

Cycling tour: Cycle along the banks of the Rhine River towards one of the most historic regions of Dusseldorf, Kaiserswerth. Enjoy the wonderful scenery, including the fortress that has protected this region for over 1,000 years.

Dusseldorf's Altbier: Take the opportunity to learn all about Dusseldorf's long tradition of beer production. Visit some well-known microbreweries and sample some delicious Altbier, the traditional ale produced in this region. The beer is named for the old method in which it is produced, using top-fermentation.

Dusseldorf – City of Art: Dusseldorf is a fascinating city where medieval buildings and modern skyscrapers co-exist. Learn about the artistic heritage of Dusseldorf starting in the historic Old Town and making your way to the Media Hafen. Transformed from a once abandoned area to a haven of architectural masterpieces, Media Harbour is a fascinating mix of old and new. Your tour concludes at the K 21 Museum where you can take a self-guided exploration of the contemporary exhibits.

Day 14
Tue, 12 May

Moselle Valley Cruising (B,L,D)

Today sail along the curvaceous path of the Moselle River past quaint half-timbered villages, vine-covered slopes and hilltop castles that are perched proudly overlooking the river.

Relax in the opulence of your suite, many of which have a window that converts into a Scenic Sun Lounge, allowing you uninterrupted views to watch a rolling tapestry of the Moselle Valley during this full day of cruising. This afternoon you will be able to indulge in a Moselle Wine Degustation to sample local varieties. Your Scenic Space-Ship will arrive in the medieval town of Cochem this evening.

Day 15
Wed, 13 May

Cochem (B,L,D)

A medieval gem resting on the banks of the Moselle River, Cochem will make you feel as if you are stepping directly into a fairy-tale. The traditional town is nestled on the riverbanks, with pastel-coloured buildings, half-timbered houses, cobbled laneways and an enchanting medieval hilltop castle surrounded by sloped vineyards.

Freechoice:

Explore the charms of Cochem your way with your choice of Scenic Freechoice activity:

Walking tour of Cochem: Take a short transfer to Reichsburg Castle, which dates to the Middle Ages. Enjoy a guided tour of the castle, which features a knight's hall, trophy room and cellars, before wandering down to the Old Town seeing many historic buildings along the way.

Cycling tour of Cochem: Join a local guide and hop on one of Scenic's e-bikes to explore the town of Cochem and the surrounding region. See the impressive Reichsburg Castle sitting proudly above the city and ride through winding streets past half-timbered houses.

This afternoon you will set sail for Bernkastel.

Day 16
Thu, 14 May

Bernkastel (B,L,D)

Another wonderfully preserved riverside town, Bernkastel is home to an atmospheric market square with buildings that date to the 13th century, one of the world's most famous Riesling vineyards, Bernkasteler Doctor, and the ruins of Landshut Castle sitting high above on a hill, where archaeological remains from the 4th and 5th centuries were discovered in 2012.

Freechoice:

Decide how you will spend your day from the following Scenic Freechoice experiences:

Walking Tour of Bernkastel: Discover the town of Bernkastel, settled on the banks of the Moselle River. Your expert guide will explain the local architecture and culture during a guided tour and you will also have some time at leisure to discover Bernkastel on your own. Explore the pretty town with highlights including perfectly preserved half-timbered houses and the Renaissance-style Rathaus (Town Hall).

Excursion to Trier: Drive to Trier, a charming Roman city located near the Luxembourg border and the birthplace of Karl Marx. Explore this medieval town with a local guide to see the Porta Nigra, one of the best-preserved Roman gates in Germany, as well as the Trier Cathedral.

Wine tasting along the Moselle: The fertile banks of the Moselle River are a winemaker's paradise. Learn about the varieties that are grown and produced in this region at one of the most renowned wineries in the region. Guests will also have the opportunity to sample a selection of local wines.

Enrich

This evening's Scenic Enrich

Classical Concert at Liebfrauenkirche, Trier: Tonight, you are in for a special treat with a private classical concert in the breathtaking surroundings of Liebfrauenkirche, located in the heart of the Roman city of Trier. The Liebfrauenkirche, or Church of Our Lady, has been listed as a UNESCO world heritage site since 1986. During the concert, you can admire the incredible architecture and intricate stained-glass windows of the church as you are seduced by magnificent pieces of classical music.

Day 17
Fri, 15 May

Koblenz (B,L,D)

Located where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet, Koblenz has a melange of French and German cultures and it's one of Germany's oldest cities with a history spanning 2,000 years.

Freechoice:

Today's Scenic Freechoice are diverse and unique, decide what suits you:

Guided walking tour of Koblenz: Join your guide through one of the oldest cities in Germany. Explore the Florinsmarkt, the former political and economic centre of the city. On your way through the winding streets of the old town you will see impressive townhouses, each with its own unique history, charming squares and historic churches.

Marksburg Castle: From Koblenz drive to Marksburg Castle, perched high above the Rhine River. Tour this impressive medieval castle that holds the honour of being the only castle on the Middle Rhine that has avoided destruction over the years. The castle dates to 1117 and is a perfect example of medieval architecture. Note: This is for active guests only and requires a good degree of fitness and mobility.

Medieval Limburg: From Koblenz, travel by coach to the charming medieval town of Limburg an der Lahn. Here you will have the chance to walk the historic cobblestone streets lined with perfectly preserved half-timbered houses. Make your way up to the Cathedral that overlooks the city as well as the Alte Lahnbrücke, the Old Bridge that straddles the Lahn river.

Your Space-Ship will overnight in Koblenz, offering you the opportunity to explore the city after dark.

Day 18
Sat, 16 May

Rhine Gorge > Rudesheim (B,L,D)

Leaving Koblenz this morning you will cruise along the spectacular World Heritage-listed Rhine Gorge in the Upper Middle Rhine Valley towards Rudesheim. This 65-kilometre stretch of the river is dotted with some 40 hilltop castles and fortresses that span a period of 1,000 years. Sailing down this section of the river is like being transported through the pages of a fairy-tale book.

The Rhine is abounded in myths and legends; folklore that has been passed on for generations, including the story of Lorelei. This enchanting female was betrayed by her sweetheart and spent her days bewitching men. As her punishment, she was sent to a nunnery, however on her way she jumped to her death in the river. Legend has her spirit casting spells on sailors who passed the rock, where a bronze statue sits today.

This afternoon you will disembark in Rudesheim, a pretty town surrounded by steep vineyards that have been cultivating wine for a staggering two millennia.

Freechoice:

Make your selection for this afternoon's Scenic Freechoice tours:

Siegfried's Musikkabinett Museum: From the pier take a mini train through the quaint winding streets of Rudesheim to Siegfried's Musikkabinett Museum where a local guide will introduce you to the weird and wonderful mechanical musical instruments. Afterwards enjoy free time to wander the town or take the cable car up to the Niederwald Monument where you'll have breathtaking views over the river. This 17th century statue was built to commemorate the unification of Germany.

Hike & Cable Car: Join a local guide for a hike through the rolling vineyards of Rudesheim, a wine region famous for its Riesling, and enjoy spectacular views of the countryside and Rhine River below. After your hike, board the cable car to return to town.

Your Scenic Space-Ship will depart late this evening, allowing you some free time to wander the enchanting laneways of Rudesheim.

Day 19
Sun, 17 May

Mannheim (B,L,D)

Freechoice:

Your Scenic Space-Ship will arrive in Mannheim this morning, where you'll enjoy several Scenic Freechoice options:

Orientation Tour of Heidelberg with free time: From Mannheim, transfer by coach to Heidelberg. Enjoy a brief walking tour of the city, including the Old Town, and then enjoy some free time. The walking tour is not too strenuous but there are some stairs and uneven ground.

Historical tour of Heidelberg: As well as a guided tour of Heidelberg, this option includes a visit to Heidelberg Castle, one of the most important Renaissance structures north of the Alps. Explore the courtyard, the balcony that offers an incredible view over the Old Town and view the great Heidelberg Tun, the world's largest Wine Barrel located in the castle's cellar. Enjoy some free time before returning to your Scenic Space-Ship via coach. There are some stairs and uneven ground, but the walking tour is not too strenuous.

Excursion to Bad Durkheim: From Mannheim, it's just a short drive through stunning vine-covered landscapes to Bad Durkheim. On arrival, visit the renowned property of Fritz Ritter, a 9th generation family-owned vineyard that offers exceptional quality wine that you will have the opportunity to taste during your guided tour. This afternoon your Space-Ship will set sail for Kehl.

Day 20
Mon, 18 May

Kehl > Strasbourg (B,L,D)

The city of Kehl is the gateway to Strasbourg, the capital city of the Alsace region, where sherbert-coloured, half-timbered houses heave together on the banks of a complex network of canals.

Freechoice:

A range of Scenic Freechoice activities are available for you to choose from today:

Guided walking tour of Strasbourg: Enjoy a guided walking tour of the charming town of Strasbourg, seeing many of the most important sights of the city including the Cathedral, Petit France and the Grand Ile. Strasbourg is located on the border of France and Germany and ownership of the town has changed hands many times between the two countries. Due to this, Strasbourg is a unique mixture of both French and German architecture and culture. Please Note: this is an active walk.

Excursion to Mittelbergheim: The French Alsace region is a culturally diverse wine-growing area that shares its border with Germany and Switzerland. Today you will visit the village of Mittelbergheim, a member of the Les Plus Beaux Villages de France ('the most beautiful villages in France') association. In Mittelbergheim, enjoy a tasting at a local wine cellar before going to the neighbouring town of Obernai, for some free time.

Your Scenic Space-Ship departs later this evening, which means you have free time to wander Strasbourg at your own pace.

Day 21
Tue, 19 May

Breisach (B,L,D)

Located between the Rhine River and the Black Forest, Breisach is a food and wine destination that shares its border with the Alsace region. It was almost destroyed during WWII but was meticulously rebuilt with its traditional cobbled streets and pastel houses.

Freechoice:

A diverse range of Scenic Freechoice experiences are on offer to choose from today:

Wine tasting at Kaiserstuhl: Volcanic rocks make up a large part of the central and western Kaiserstuhl thanks to numerous volcanic eruptions more than 16 million years ago. Because of its loose covered volcanic soils, the Kaiserstuhl is known as a very good wine-producing region. During your visit, sample some of these delicious wines.

Excursion to Colmar: A visit to Colmar is like stepping into a fairy tale. Likened to Venice due to its quaint canals, the city centre also features an abundance of historical half-timbered houses, some dating back a thousand years. Wander the cobblestoned streets lined with charming stores, cafes and don't miss the markets serving up delicious local produce.

Excursion to Freiburg: Located on the edge of the magical Black Forest, Freiburg is a picturesque city. Your local guide will escort you through the medieval town centre where you will see the Freiburg Munster, the cathedral that was one of only a handful of structures that survived the bombings during WW2. Return to your Scenic Space-Ship and toast to your final evening on board.

Day 22
Wed, 20 May

Zurich > Lyon (B,D)

Join your included flight from Zurich to Lyon where you will board the Scenic Sapphire for a journey through the south of France.

Day 23
Thu, 21 May

Lyon > Chalon-sur-Saône (B,L,D)

Perhaps wake up to a coffee delivered to your suite by your personal butler and enjoy a leisurely breakfast at Crystal Dining as your Scenic Space-Ship cruises along the Saône River. You will be sailing towards Chalon-sur-Saône. An idyllic base for exploring the Burgundy wine region, Chalon-sur-Saône is a charming town with half-timbered houses and a magnificent Gothic cathedral just south of Beaune, often referred to as the epicentre for oenophiles.

Freechoice:

Explore your way with a choice from these Scenic Freechoice experiences:

Guided tour of Beaune and Les Hospices: From Chalon-sur-Saône, you will travel through spectacular countryside past stone houses and vineyards to the beautiful town of Beaune, where you will join a guided tour. The highlight will be the spectacular Les Hospices de Beaune, a Gothic-style hospital founded in the Middle Ages, with decorative flamboyant roof tiles, surrounded by vineyards producing prestigious wine and now housing a museum. You will have free time to explore the town at your own leisure before returning to your Scenic Space-Ship.

Local Estate Visit; Visit a local estate situated in the heart of Burgundy. This Burgundy wine domain is a place full of history where you will be able to taste the wines from Côte de Beaune surrounded by unique architecture.

Photography Museum; Learn the history of photography in the town where it was first invented. The museum aims to explain photography since its invention through to the digital image, with a collection including almost three million photographs and objects, which you will observe during a guided tour. (Please note: This is closed on a Tuesday).

Day 24
Fri, 22 May

Tournus (B,L,D)

Your Scenic Space-Ship will depart Chalon-sur-Saône early this morning and sail to Tournus, a riverside town founded by the Romans, its dominating abbey a splendid example of Romanesque architecture.

Freechoice:

Make your selection for today's Scenic Freechoice experiences:

Excursion to Chateau de Cormatin: Transfer by coach from Tournus to the historic Château de Cormatin, built in 1606. The castle boasts a fascinating history and has been lovingly restored back to its original glory. Admire the castle's gilded rooms, moat, water features and more than 10 hectares of manicured gardens on a guided tour.

Truffle Tasting: Meet a local truffle farmer and his dog and learn the tricks and techniques of truffle farming before enjoying a tasting of his delicious produce.

Cooking Class at the restaurant of Georges Blanc: Take a short coach transfer to the villages of Vonnas where you will have a short orientation tour before visiting the restaurant of the three star Michelin Chef, Georges Blanc for a cooking demonstration. After the cooking demonstration, take the opportunity to visit the village museum, the Museum has been lovingly created by Georges Blanc in dedication to his family who have lived and worked in this region of France for 150 years, with his great-grandparents first settling in Vonnas in 1872 where they opened a lemonade cafe.

Cooperage demonstration: Just steps from your Space-Ship, witness the long-standing tradition of barrel making. Admire a skilled artisan as they show you the secret of this art and learn how this craft still plays a crucial role in wine and spirit making. Tonight, your on board Chef has specially sourced local Truffles and will cook an extraordinary welcome dinner showcasing the regions Truffles.

Day 25
Sat, 23 May

Tournon (B,L,D)

This morning your Space-Ship will arrive in Tournon, a hillside village with terraced vineyards, an enchanting castle dating back to the 10th century and quaint cobblestoned streets.

Freechoice:

Spend this morning at your preferred pace with one of the following Scenic Freechoice experiences:

Walking tour of Tournon: Explore the riverside town of Tournon by foot. Discover its fascinating history and make a stop at the impressive castle built between the 10th and 16th centuries that dominates the town. Afterwards you have free time to wander the narrow streets of Tournon or cross France's oldest suspension bridge to the neighbouring town of Tain l'Hermitage, home to prestigious chocolatiers Valrhona Chocolate, which has been operating here since 1922.

Hiking through the vineyards in Tournon: Get close to nature as you hike through the sloping vineyards that overlook the Rhône River above Tournon. Learn about the local wine production and taste some of the delicious drops of the region.

Biking along the Rhône: Enjoy a guided cycling tour along the banks of the Rhône through picturesque villages to the charming recreational village of Glun. This afternoon enjoy a refreshing drink on the terrace of Tournon Castle. This ancient castle holds prime position overlooking the Rhône river and the surrounding terraced vineyards.

Day 26
Sun, 24 May

Avignon (B,L,D)

This morning you'll have time to relax on board as your Scenic Space-Ship cruises towards the city of Avignon in Provence. Known as the City of the Popes, Avignon is rich in history and astounding medieval architecture but has a youthful energy to it with a buzzing arts scene. The former 14th century papal capital is circled by city walls, home to the magnificent World Heritage-listed Palais des Papes (Pope's Palace), one of the largest surviving Gothic palaces in Europe, and the remaining four arches of the famous Pont d'Avignon bridge, which was once the only way to cross the Rhône between Lyon and the Mediterranean Sea.

Freechoice:

Choose from a selection of Scenic Freechoice options this afternoon:

Guided walking tour: From the ship, you will be guided on a walk in Avignon, to the historic city walls and the Pope's Palace, home to the Papacy and seat of Western Christianity in the 14th century. Avignon is filled with cobblestoned streets and the palace comprises numerous steps, so a moderate degree of fitness is required for this tour.

Excursion to Pont Du Gard: Visit the ancient Roman aqueduct, Pont du Gard, on a guided tour. Dating to the middle of the first century, this engineering masterpiece was designed to carry water to the city of Nîmes.

Kayaking at Pont du Gard: Paddle along the Gardon River towards the impressive and well-preserved Pont du Gard, the ancient aqueduct which dates to the Roman empire.

Enrich

This evening's Scenic Enrich:

Private classical concert and dinner at the Pope's Palace: You will be treated to a truly unforgettable classical concert at the prestigious Pope's Palace of Avignon. When the doors are closed to the general public, you'll have one of the most visited sites in France to yourself. Upon arrival, you will be ushered into the grandiose palace for an exclusive gala dinner and a concert by a trio of musicians. Be immersed in the beauty of famous classical pieces, which gain a new fascinating dimension inside the palace's walls.

Day 27
Mon, 25 May

Avignon (B,L,D)

Avignon is known as the gateway to Provence, a region blanketed in vineyards and lavender fields, rolling hills and historic villages. Today you will have the chance to explore more of this captivating part of southern France.

Freechoice:

Explore your way with one of today's Scenic Freechoice options:

Excursion to Luberon villages and Senanque Abbey: Visit the village of Gordes, considered "one of the most beautiful villages in France". Teetering high above the hills of Luberon, Gordes' stone buildings spiral around the rock on which it is perched, its church and castle at the apex. After Gordes, you will visit nearby Senanque Abbey, a picturesque Cistercian Abbey.

(Please note: Sénanque Abbey is not open to visitors on Sundays. On these days, the tour will include only an exterior visit.)

Wine tasting in Chateauneuf du Pape: The fertile banks of the Rhône are peppered with Côte du Rhône vineyards, including at the village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, where centuries of wine production make for a very fascinating history. Take this opportunity to sample some of the region's most celebrated wines.

Lavender Museum with visit to the village of Roussillon: Roussillon and its Ochre Trail are among the main attractions on Luberon's ochre circuit, a landscape of ochre cliffs. Take a guided tour through this charming village before a visit to a local lavender producer where you will learn how lavender is grown, harvested and utilised in this region.

Shop with a chef & Scenic Culinaire: Gourmands can join Scenic's on board chef on a visit to a local food market where you will have an opportunity to shop for and taste the best ingredients this region has to offer. Upon returning to your Scenic Space-Ship, head to the Scenic Culinaire cooking school for an interactive cooking demonstration making some of France's most popular and delicious dishes using the ingredients you have just bought. (Please note: Avignon Markert is closed on a Monday)

Day 28
Tue, 26 May

Arles (B,L,D)

Leaving Avignon early this morning, your Scenic Space-Ship will depart for Arles. Founded by Julius Caesar, this city is rich in Roman history and is thought to have the largest number of Roman ruins after The Eternal City itself. It was also home to Vincent Van Gogh in 1888, who drew inspiration from the landscape for a multitude of his paintings and drawings.

Freechoice:

Decide how you will spend your day with today's selection of Scenic Freechoice options:

Guided tour of Arles: Take a short walk from your Scenic Space-Ship to the heart of Arles. The city is home to some impressive Roman ruins, including Las Arenas, an amphitheatre that seats 20,000 and is still in use today. Experience the vibrant colours and striking quality of Arles' light - it will be easy to see why the city has inspired so many artists.

Visit Les Baux with Carrières de Lumières: Journey to the stunning medieval village of Les Baux, perched on a rocky outcrop and often regarded as one of France's most beautiful villages. Visit a former quarry in the Les Baux region that is now the site of Carrières de Lumières, an enormous 7,000 square-metre site that hosts a visual and musical production highlighting the works of notable world-famous artists.

Ancestry of the Kitchen: Visit a local olive farm where you will learn the techniques of olive oil production. Here you will meet with a local whose family have worked the land on this Olive Farm for centuries and who will share insight into everyday life in the region, as well as divulge traditional Provençal recipes.

Lavender Fields to Cream: A Provence Herbal Workshop: The Provence region is renowned for its stunning landscapes and the production of aromatic herbs, particularly lavender. At certain times of the year (typically from late June to mid-August), fields are transformed into a breathtaking sea of purple. On this excursion, you'll visit a local organic farm specializing in the production of essential oils from lavender, thyme, rosemary, and other Provençal herbs. Discover the health benefits of these plants, learn the process of essential oil extraction, and create your own lavender-based cream to take home.

This afternoon is free to explore Arles at your own pace or return to your Scenic Space-Ship and indulge in an on board painting class. Vincent Van Gogh once said that 'The whole future of art is to be found in the South of France' this is just one example of the high regard this region is held by artists the world over. Learn about the artistic heritage of this region while painting a masterpiece of your own.

Day 29
Wed, 27 May

Viviers (B,L,D)

This morning you will arrive in Viviers, often described as an open-air museum for its rich medieval heritage and architecture.

Freechoice:

Make your selection for this morning's Scenic Freechoice experiences:

Walking tour of Viviers: Enjoy a walking tour with your local guide to explore Viviers, a town with an important heritage and rich past. Admire the many monuments and architectural treasures such as the Cathedral of St. Vincent, which was first built in the 11th century and is resplendent in 18th-century gothic style and a Renaissance facade. Afterwards, enjoy some free time to explore Viviers at your leisure.

French Resistance Walking Tour: During a walking tour of Viviers, learn about the French Resistance, who fought against the Nazi Occupation of France during World War II. Hear local stories of heroism and daring missions as you explore the historic town.

Freechoice:

This afternoon, choose to explore your way with these Scenic Freechoice options:

Ardèche Nature Park with Caverne du Pont-d'Arc Museum: Explore the Ardèche Nature Park, which stretches from the Rhône Valley to the Ardeche Mountains and contains medieval fortress ruins. You will also be immersed in the Caverne du Pont-d'Arc Museum, the largest decorated Palaeolithic cave replica in the world. The original site was deemed too fragile for public access, so this replica cave was built only a few kilometres from the actual cave.

Explore the caves in the Ardeche Nature Park: Drive through the rugged natural beauty of Ardeche Nature Park, from the Ardeche Gorge to the equally impressive Madeleine Caves, where you can admire the intricate rock formations, stalagmites and stalactites, and underground lakes. (The Madeline caves are located underground and comprise of numerous steps, a moderate degree of fitness and sturdy shoes are required for this tour).

Excursion to Grignan de Provence: Join your local guide in an exploration of this beautiful town; see the mighty castle that dominates from a hilltop, as well as the Collegiate Church of the Holy Saviour, before enjoying some time at leisure.

Day 30
Thu, 28 May

Cruising to Lyon (B,L,D)

Enjoy watching a rolling tapestry of the Rhône River as you sail towards Lyon, the gastronomic heart of France, where you will arrive this evening. Soak up the uninterrupted vistas from your luxury suite, many of which have a window that converts into a Scenic Sun Lounge. Perhaps you'd like to spend time in the state-of-the-art gym doing an invigorating workout or if you'd prefer to wind down, head to the wellness centre for a relaxing massage[^]. Savour regional cuisine in Crystal Dining or sharpen your skills on French cookery at a lesson in Scenic Culinaire.

Enrich

Tonight, admire the beauty of one of the city's grandest Baroque buildings, Trinity Chapel. Built in the 17th century, the interior is decadently covered in Carrera marble. As a special Scenic guests, you will be treated to an exclusive experience, join your fellow guests for a breath-taking acapella choir performance in this wonderful setting.

Day 31
Fri, 29 May

Lyon (B,L,D)

Wake up this morning in Lyon. This fascinating city rivals Paris in the culinary stakes, was home to prestigious chef Paul Bocuse and the Lumiere brothers who invented the cinematograph, has a long history of silk production, and comprises ancient Roman ruins and fascinating subterranean passageways that date to the 4th century.

Freechoice:

Make your selection for today's Scenic Freechoice:

Guided tour of Lyon: Traverse Lyon's hidden traboules, secret passageways that were built for easy transport of silk and other textiles. There are hundreds in the region and some date to the 4th century; they were used in World War II by the Resistance. You will also visit Notre Dame de Fourviere, a majestic basilica built in 1872 that also offers a fabulous vantage point for views across Lyon.

Silk painting workshop: Lyon has a rich heritage in silk production that dates back almost five centuries when Louis XI chose the city as a potential base for the silk weaving industry. In the 19th century, silk was one of the city's largest industries. During a workshop, learn about the history and process of its production.

Excursion to Perouges: Visit the medieval walled village of Perouges, perched atop a hill overlooking the Ain River. The village has been well-preserved since the 14th century and is one of the most picturesque villages in the region.

The afternoon is free to wander the cobbled streets of Lyon. Perhaps you'd like to spend time sampling local dishes in a bouchon 'local eating houses' or head to the Le Halles de Lyon Paul Bocuse, an undercover gourmet market that will tickle your tastebuds.

This evening, a local pâtissier will come on board with a selection of their finest desserts for your dining pleasure.

Day 32
Sat, 30 May

Lyon > Paris (B,D)

Journey to France's capital, Paris where you will embark the Scenic Gem for a journey along the magnificent Seine river.

Day 33
Sun, 31 May

Les Andelys (B,L,D)

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 centre of town where the buildings are a living catalogue through time.

Freechoice:

Choose from today's Scenic Freechoice excursions:

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.

Tour of Les Andelys with Chateau Gaillard: Explore the picturesque Norman town of Les Andelys on the banks of the river Seine with your local guide before reaching the Chateau that look over the city.

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.

Day 34
Mon, 01 Jun

Rouen (B,L,D)

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:

Explore your way with one of this morning's Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Rouen city tour: Victor Hugo once described Rouen as 'the city of a hundred spires' – 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.

Photography discovery: Join a local photographer to learn the secret of this century's old art form. Use Rouen as the landscape of your digital portrait like a modern impressionist artist.

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.

Day 35
Tue, 02 Jun

Rouen (B,L,D)

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 Centre) 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 Centre is a state-of-the-art immersive sensory experience that uses technology to tell the story. In order to maximise your experience, we suggest you download the Sir John Monash Centre 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 Centre) 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 Centre, and Lochnagar Crater, which was created by large mine placed beneath the German front lines on the first day of the Battle of Somme.

Please note: The Sir John Monash Centre is a state-of-the-art immersive sensory experience that uses technology to tell the story. In order to maximise your experience, we suggest you download the Sir John Monash Centre app from the Apple or Google Play store prior to embarking on your cruise.

Tastes of Normandy: The region of Normandy is as diverse as it is abundant. The dairy industry makes way for the numerous and delicious soft creamy cheeses that are popular in this area and often regarded as some of the best in France. The high number of quality orchards allow the production of Cider and Calvados. Try some of the best this region has to offer during this tour. This evening, a local pâtissier will come on board with a selection of their finest desserts for your dining pleasure.

Day 36
Wed, 03 Jun

Honfleur (B,L,D)

This morning your Scenic Space-Ship will dock right in the centre of Honfleur, a colourful coastal town that has been described as having one of the prettiest harbours 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 harbour 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 harbour area and network of laneways beyond. From the ship, join a guided walking tour of Honfleur's harbour. 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 10-hectare landscaped garden that features the busts of important French figures over time, including painters and navigators.

Back on board this evening, join a lecture about WWII to gain a better understanding ahead of your full-day excursions tomorrow.

History comes alive 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.

Day 37
Thu, 04 Jun

Honfleur (B,L,D)

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:

Choose from today's Scenic Freechoice activities:

Excursion to the Normandy Beaches Including Omaha Beach (US Focused): 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 Centre 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 Including British Normandy Memorial (UK focused): 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 harbour 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 Including Juno Beach Centre (Canadian Focused): 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 Centre, 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 70 metres long and 50 centimetres 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.

Day 38
Fri, 05 Jun

Caudebec-En-Caux (B,L,D)

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:

Explore your way this morning with one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

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 eight-kilometre-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. Enjoy a tasting during your visit.

Tales of the French Resistance: Set off on a walking tour and hear stories of the French Resistance, who fought against the Nazi Occupation of France during World War 2. Hear local stories of heroism and daring missions as you explore the historic city.

Normandy Abbey Road: Spiritual health and wealth has been important in the Normandy region since the middle ages and evidence of this remains through the number of Abbeys in this region. Join a local guide on a tour of the abbeys along the meandering River Seine. Appreciate the Jumièges Abbey ruins, formally a Benedictine Abbey that dates back to the year 654 and also the 11th century Romanesque Abbey and its' romantic garden.

Day 39
Sat, 06 Jun

Vernon > La Roche Guyon (B,L,D)

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 five kilometres 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.

Day 40
Sun, 07 Jun

Conflans > Paris (B,L,D)

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 centre 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:

Today, choose one of our Scenic Freechoice activities:

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 immortalised 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 centre, where you can enjoy a massage, or head to the state-of-the-art gym for an invigorating workout.

Day 41
Mon, 08 Jun

Paris (B,L,D)

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:

Choose from today's Scenic Freechoice options:

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.

Day 42
Tue, 09 Jun

Paris > Bordeaux (B,D)

An included flight today will take you to Bordeaux where you will board the Scenic Diamond.

Day 43
Wed, 10 Jun

Bordeaux > Saint-Émilion (B,L,D)

This morning is spent on board relaxing as you cruise into the beautiful 13th century port of Libourne. Head up to the Sun Deck to bask in the sunshine and enjoy the scenery along the Dordogne River rolling by. Or perhaps drop into Scenic Culinaire for a French cooking class.

Spend the afternoon in the nearby town of Saint-Émilion, a World Heritage-listed medieval village with world-famous wineries, beautiful architecture and historic monuments. You will enjoy a guided tour of the caves and catacombs beneath the city, including a Monolithic church built from limestone, whose 38-metre-long bell tower can be seen above ground.

This evening your Scenic Space-Ship will be docked overnight in Libourne.

Day 44
Thu, 11 Jun

Libourne > Fort Medoc (B,L,D)

Freechoice:

Choose from one of these Scenic Freechoice activities:

Walking tour of Libourne: Join your local guide for a walking tour of Libourne, the fortified harbour town with a rich history linked to the trade of wool, wine, salt and wood.

Wine tasting at Château Siaurac: Located in the prestigious Pomerol wine-growing region, Château Siaurac is the largest and most iconic estate of the appellation.

Biking and tasting at Château Siaurac: Cycle through this acclaimed wine-growing region to the impressive estate of Château Siaurac where you will learn about the wines produced at this property and enjoy a tasting.

Paint and Pour: Join a local artist for a class on the Sun Deck of Scenic Diamond. Enjoy the magnificent river views, learn watercolour techniques and create your own masterpiece while sipping on delicious local wines. This afternoon your Scenic Space-Ship will sail onwards to Fort Medoc where you will dock overnight.

Day 45
Fri, 12 Jun

Fort Medoc (B,L,D)

The name Médoc is synonymous with exceptional wines. Considered the world's leading red wine producer, Médoc has been a winemaking region since the 18th century. Today you will have the chance to explore this remarkable wine region.

Freechoice:

Explore your way with a Scenic Freechoice excursion:

Medoc wine tasting by coach: With more than 16,000 hectares of vineyards across eight appellations, Medoc is home to the epic 'Route des Chateaux', or 'Route of Castles'. On this coach tour you will travel through this scenic region to a local winery and enjoy a tasting of their wines.

Medoc wine tasting by bicycle: Discover the spectacular Médoc countryside by e-bike today and see many grand aristocratic châteaux in the world's leading red wine producing region. Afterwards, sample the region's finest at one of the prestigious estates.

Enrich

Tonight, enjoy an exclusive Scenic Enrich experience:

Classical Concert at Château d'Agassac: Set in spectacular surrounds in the Médoc countryside, Château d'Agassac is truly enchanting. Dating back to the 13th century the Château is one of the oldest winemaking establishments in the region and is the venue for your unforgettable evening concert.

Wander through the château and its gardens and soak in the ambiance of this magnificent property before a string quartet performs classical masterpieces for your enjoyment.

Day 46
Sat, 13 Jun

Cadillac (B,L,D)

This morning will be spent cruising towards Cadillac.

Founded in the 13th century, the charming, fortified city of Cadillac is centred around its magnificent château. Seventeenth century French explorer Anthony Laumet rose high in the French fur trade and in 1701 established the port of Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit, which would become modern day Detroit where the American auto industry began. The Cadillac car is named in his honour.

Day 47
Sun, 14 Jun

Cadillac (B,L,D)

Today you have the choice between many different experiences in the region surrounding Cadillac, from its bucolic countryside to its historic castles.

Freechoice:

This morning explore your way with one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Sauternes by coach: Venture into the Sauternes region with a visit to either Château Rayne Vigneau or Château La Tour Blanche (the group will be split into two). Enjoy a delicious tasting of the chateau's fine wines as you take in the stunning views of the vineyard and surrounds.

Sauternes by bike: Cycle through the rolling vineyards of Sauternes to the Grand Cru Classé estate of Château Mayne la Merci for a tasting. Learn the history of winemaking here and the process involved in production from time of harvest, grape to wine, length of maturing and, of course, the tasting pleasure.

Freechoice:

Choose from this afternoon's Scenic Freechoice activities:

Roquetaillade Castle: The first fortress here was built by Charlemagne, or Charles the Great, in the 10th century. Today, the architectural jewel of Roquetaillade Castle, which comprises two castles and a chapel, dates from around the 13th century. You'll tour the castle with the family whose ancestors have resided here for more than 700 years.

Biking to Château Benauges: Join a local guide as you cycle through the landscapes of the Gironde towards the impressive Château Benauges. The Château, which dates to the 11th century, maintains a strategic position at one of the highest points of the Gironde allowing for breathtaking views.

Château Toulouse-Lautrec: This historic estate dates back over five centuries and is considered one of the oldest estates in the region. Château Toulouse-Lautrec was the family home of renowned French artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. During a guided tour you will discover the historic rooms of the estate including the apartments of the famous painter, which still house some of his greatest works.

Day 48
Mon, 15 Jun

Bordeaux (B,L,D)

This morning you will wake in the fascinating city of Bordeaux, which you can explore by foot, bike or through a cooking class. It has been an important trading port since the Middle Ages, thanks to its strategic location on the river flowing to a sea port.

Freechoice:

The choice is yours with this morning's Scenic Freechoice:

Guided tour of Bordeaux: Join your local guide on a tour of Bordeaux. Discover the highlights of the city by coach and on foot, such as the magnificent Gothic cathedral and Place de la Bourse, which is home to the famous 'Water Mirror.' Along the way, you'll learn interesting facts about the city's history, culture and way of life. Afterwards you'll have free time to explore the streets and go shopping at your leisure.

Cycling tour of Bordeaux: Pedal through historic Bordeaux on a guided cycling tour. Cross bridges to see the Royal Gate and the Palais Rohan, relax in pretty public gardens and sample delicious treats such as canelé, a custard cake.

Shop with a chef & Scenic Culinaire: Gourmands can join Scenic's on board chef on a visit to a local food market where you will have an opportunity to shop for and taste the best ingredients this region has to offer. Upon returning to your Scenic Space-Ship, head to the Scenic Culinaire cooking school for an interactive cooking demonstration making some of France's most popular and delicious dishes using the ingredients you have just bought.

Back on board, your Cruise Director will organise a special treat for you, with a tasting of fresh Oysters delivered straight from the waters of Arcachon Bay.

Enrich

This evening's Scenic Enrich:

Les Bassins de Lumiere: You will be given after-hours access to Les Bassins de Lumières this evening, Bordeaux's former submarine base which has been transformed into an impressive art installation. On arrival, you will be welcomed with a glass of champagne and be immersed in the exhibit with an exclusive show.

Day 49
Tue, 16 Jun

Bordeaux > Bourg (B,L,D)

Today you'll continue your exploration of Bordeaux and its surrounding regions.

Freechoice:

Explore your way with one of this morning's Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Cité du Vin Museum: Take a local tram to the Cité du Vin Museum and enjoy an interactive journey of wine discovery. The Cité du Vin gives a different view of wine, across the world, across the ages, across all cultures and all civilisations.

Tour Bordeaux by Motorbike & Sidecar: Join your host as you cruise through Bordeaux in the side car and/or on the back of a motorcycle. Starting in the Chartrons district you will see the Place de la Bourse, the Porte Cailhau and Saint Croix before crossing to the right bank where you will explore the Saint-Pierre district.

Visit Arcachon: Join your local guide for a walking tour of the charming bayside town of Arcachon, finishing your visit at Baltard market, an undercover food hall where stallholders tout local delicacies. Enjoy some time at leisure to explore this elegant town yourself or wander to the seven-kilometre-long beach Plage d'Arcachon, which borders the main shopping and dining precinct.

This afternoon you'll enjoy time at leisure on board as you sail towards Bourg.

Day 50
Wed, 17 Jun

Bourg (B,L,D)

Your ultra-luxury Scenic Space-Ship will be docked in Bourg today, a picturesque town set on a rocky promontory. Built as a defensive château, it's a maze of ancient alleyways, moats and bell towers on the Dordogne.

Freechoice:

Choose from today's Scenic Freechoice activities:

Bourg tour with carriages Museum: Situated inside the grounds of Bourg Castle, visit the carriages Museum with a local guide and discover the unique collection of horse-drawn carriages on display. In addition, visit the 16th-century passageway to the guard's rooms and immense WWII oil tanks.

Full day excursion to Cognac: The fortified city of Cognac is renowned for producing some of the world's finest brandy. You'll be taken on a walking tour of the town and have some free time to explore on your own, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, you will travel to the breathtaking estate of famed Rémy Martin, which you will tour before sampling some of the cognacs.

Day 51
Thu, 18 Jun

Blaye > Bordeaux (B,L,D)

This morning you will sail towards Blaye. Most famously, this petite hamlet is home to a World Heritage-listed citadel that was constructed to protect Bordeaux city, from enemy attacks.

Freechoice:

This morning, choose your Scenic Freechoice activity:

Walking tour of Blaye: Stroll through the charming city of Blaye with a local guide, a World Heritage-listed monument that overlooks the Gironde Estuary.

Active walking tour of Blaye: Tour the fascinating citadel of Blaye on an active walking tour with a local guide. Gain an understanding of the defence system created by the famous architect Sébastien Vauban.

Guided cycling along the Captain's Road: Join an active cycling tour along the Captain's Road, which is named in honour of the WWI captains who chose to purchase their homes along this beautiful stretch of waterway in the early 20th century.

Visit Chateau de la Roche Courbon: In the 15th century, Château La Roche Courbon was built on a high cliff overlooking the River Bruant. Guests will discover this fortified castle transformed into a historic château with sprawling manicured gardens during a guided visit.

This afternoon your Scenic Space-Ship will make its way back to Bordeaux for your final evening on board.

Day 52
Fri, 19 Jun

Bordeaux (B)

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Bordeaux airport or train station for your onward journey.

Please note: The Gironde, Dordogne and Garonne waterways are part of a tidal river system which results in changing water levels in the region. Every effort is made to keep to the brochure itinerary however based on tides it will be amended or modified. Please refer to our terms and conditions.

Please note: Preview itinerary subject to change.