

Join us to discover France

Fully Escorted 29 Day Tour
31 May - 28 June 2024

“Bienvenue en France” (Hello France)

Come join Melissa and Sandra and travel to some of the most beautiful gems in Southern France, cruise on the Calanques, then travel right up to the Normandy beaches in Northern France on board a luxury River ship. We explore stunning Villages, stay in Walled Cities of yesteryear, walk down cobbled streets, hidden lanes, visit home of the perfume country, even make your own perfume uniquely to you. We take in famous Roman Amphitheatre, palaces of the Popes, UNESCO World Heritage sites, Medieval and Renaissance buildings. Ride a train through the deep gorges of the Ardeche plateau. A scenic drive through the rolling hills of Beaujolais, learn the art of wine making. A leisurely train ride takes us to the “City of the Light” Paris where we embark on a dazzling city tour and marvel at its most remarkable sights. Melissa & Sandra, are experienced tour leaders plus are HUGE foodie fans so this tour has been designed with that in mind!



Ferrymead

For enquiries & Bookings please contact
Sandra ☎ (021) 221 6357 or Melissa ☎ (03) 384 2700



Provence Lavender Field, France



Villefranche-Sur-Mer, France

Itinerary

Date Itinerary

31 May	Depart New Zealand for 1 Night Dubai
01-02 Jun	Dubai. We overnight here and have a full day to explore this interesting city. Evening a “Welcome Dinner and excursion” included. (D)
02 Jun	Dubai-Nice Today we say goodbye to the bustling metropolis of Dubai with a flight to Nice. Transfer on arrival to the beautiful and stunning Villefranche-Sur Mer, known as the Pearl of the French Riviera, your home for the next 3 nights. Rest of the day at leisure. Why not take a stroll through its quaint, vibrant streets or rest on the beach.
02-05 Jun	Villefranche–Sur-Mer. 3 nights
03 Jun	Menton and Monaco. FREE day or you may wish to participate on an included excursion to Menton which offers the charm of the more well-known communities but with a fraction of the visitors. It’s a fantastic day trip destination with over 316 days of sunshine every year, exceptional gardens and quality Italian food owing to its location on the Franco-Italian border. Then we travel onto the smallest country in the world bordered by France on all three sides, the Principality of Monaco. There will be free time to visit the palace and stroll through its exotic gardens, dine in the historical market square or sit in awe with the luxurious ships moored in this prestigious harbour. (B)
04 Jun	Morning excursion to Grasse to visit the perfume factory at Fragonard Les Fleurs. Perfume is as famous as the country’s food and wine. We have a guided tour of the factory attend a workshop where we have included a personalisation of Eau de Cologne of your very own, before we return to Villfranche-sur-Mer. Afternoon FREE. (B)
05 Jun	Aix-en-Provence. Today we transfer by coach to Aix en Provence, via Marseille. We have included a Calanques Day Brunch (included) Cruise. Marvel at the stunning beauty of the landscapes as we cruise along the creeks and the different Calanques of Marseille. We then head to the University town of Aix-en-Provence, also the birthplace of the post-impressionist painter Cezanne. This small Provencal town is brimming with quaint cafes and vibrant markets. (B,L)
05-07 Jun	Aix-en-Provence. 2 nights
06 Jun	Morning FREE then we travel to St Remy for lunch (own expense) at one of the many outdoor cafes, taking in the ambience of this pastel-coloured buildings town. Complete with cobblestone lanes and its association with Van Gogh, who spent a year in an asylum for the mentally ill. There will be free time to wander the specialty shops or just watch the world go by before we head over to Les Baux. A spectacular rock plateau 250m up in the sky with views over the Alpilles, and to Arles and the Camargue, for a guided tour. Entrance to the famous Carriere de Lumieres, sensory ‘art’ experience, (not to be missed) is included, before we head back to Aix-en-Provence. (B,D)

07 Jun	Aix-en-Provence. Morning sightseeing before we make our way to the hilltop town of Carcassonne. (B)
07-09 Jun	Carcassonne. 2 nights.
08 Jun	Carcassonne. This morning we embark on a guided Castle & Ramparts walking tour. A medieval fortress settlement with a history that exceeds 2500 years with picturesque fortifications, over 3 kms of walls with 52 towers. Afternoon FREE. (B)
09 Jun	Avignon. Today after breakfast we travel to Avignon, via Nimes for lunch (own arrangements) and time to self-explore this city, claiming to have some of Europe’s best preserved roman monuments before we arrive at Avignon cruise terminal to join our luxury cruise ship. After boarding, free time to explore this quaint town on the scenic Rhône River, or join our “welcome walk” to stretch your legs and get oriented. (D) (B,D)
10 Jun	Arles, France. After breakfast, disembark and take a walking tour of Arles with its diverse architectural highlights. Experience the city’s vibrant colours and striking quality of light that have inspired artists. Enjoy FREE time to explore Arles on your own. (B,L,D)
11 Jun	Avignon, France. This morning, set out on a guided walk of Avignon, nicknamed “City of Popes” because it was home to seven popes from 1309 to 1377. See the picturesque Pont d’Avignon and walk the Place de l’Horloge. Continue to the renowned Palace of the Popes for a guided tour through this rambling maze of Gothic architecture that served as papal residence, fortress, church and palace. Afternoon at leisure exploring Avignon. Lunch and dinner are served on board your ship. We depart for Viviers this evening. (B,L,D)
12 Jun	Viviers, France. This morning join a walking tour of Viviers’ Old Town with its medieval and Renaissance buildings. Once a 5th-century Roman settlement, today the cobblestone streets are dominated by the 12th-century St. Vincent Cathedral. This afternoon, we set sail to Tournon. (B,L,D)
13 Jun	Tournon & Vienne, France. Board the Train de l’Ardèche this morning for a locomotive ride through the deep gorges of the Ardèche plateau, cut by the Doux River. Return to your ship and enjoy lunch on board as we cruise past dramatic landscapes. Arrive in Vienne this afternoon, a beautiful town with an ancient Roman past. See the Temple of Augustus and Livia, and visit the Gothic Cathedral of St. Maurice on a walking tour before dinner. We remain docked in Vienne this evening. (B,L,D)
14 Jun	Lyon, France. Disembark in Lyon for a tour of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Drive to the top of Fourvière Hill for amazing views of the city. Continue with a guided visit to the Basilica of Notre Dame and drive through town past the magnificent St. Jean Cathedral and the Palace of Justice. Then take a walking tour through the cobblestone streets of Vieux Lyon (Old Town), with free time to shop for souvenirs or sample some of the fine French cuisine for which Lyon is world-famous. (B,L,D)



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15 Jun	Lyon, France. Take a scenic drive through the rolling hills of Beaujolais, where viticultural tradition runs deep and enjoy a tasting in one of Beaujolais's famous cellars. We return to the ship for lunch, rest of your day at leisure. (B,L,D)
16 Jun	Lyon, France. After breakfast, disembark and enjoy a leisurely train ride from Lyon through the countryside of east central France to Paris to board your second ship, where a Welcome Dinner is served.(B,D)
17 Jun	Paris, France. Embark on a tour of this dazzling city and marvel at its most remarkable sights, including the iconic Eiffel Tower. Take in the École Militaire (Military Museum), Orsay Museum and Latin Quarter, and resilient Notre Dame Cathedral. Then drive past the Louvre and Opera House and along the famed Champs-Élysées. Onboard for dinner & start your cruise on the Seine. (B,D)
18 Jun	La Roche-Guyon & Vernon, France. Arrive in La Roche-Guyon before breakfast,morning at your leisure to explore. The village is officially classified as one of France's most beautiful; you will see why as you stroll through the town's narrow streets lined with picturesque houses with wood-paneled facades. Join an included tour to the town of Giverny, where Claude Monet resided from 1883 until his death in 1926. see the water garden with the recognizable Japanese bridge, water lilies, wisteria and azaleas that inspired many of his masterpieces. Dinner onboard. (B,L,D)
19 Jun	Scenic Sailing: Seine River & Rouen. Morning cruising along the Seine. Spend the afternoon in the medieval city of Rouen, preeminent capital of Normandy. Enjoy a walking tour through the center of Old Town, where you see the spectacular Gothic Notre Dame Cathedral. Dine on board or at a sidewalk café. (B,L,D)
20 Jun	Normandy Beaches. Begin your full-day tour to the historic beaches of Normandy. Visit World War II landmarks, such as Omaha Beach, the American Military Cemetery and the Caen Memorial Museum. Alternatively, take a tour of Bayeux, where you can admire the magnificent tapestry that chronicles the pre-Battle of Hastings events. Afterward, head to Normandy's coast and enjoy free time at Juno Beach. Evening at leisure to stroll through Rouen. (B,L,D)
21 Jun	Les Andelys, France. Enjoy a leisurely morning cruise to the small town of Les Andelys, known for its imposing castle, Château Gaillard, built in 1196 by Richard the Lionheart. Disembark and join a guided walk to this fatally flawed masterpiece of Middle Ages architecture before returning to your ship. (B,L,D)
22 Jun	Le Pecq & Paris, France. Disembark for a visit to Château de Malmaison, where Napoleon Bonaparte spent his final days in France. Along with the Tuileries, this elegant manor house, purchased by the emperor's wife Josephine in 1799, served as the seat of Napoleon's French government from 1800 to 1802. This afternoon, join an optional tour to the luxurious Palace of Versailles, former home of Louis XIV. Overnight Paris (B,L,D)
23 Jun	Paris, France. After breakfast and disembark (B)

23-26 Jun	Paris. 3 nights accommodation in a central 5-star hotel with breakfast daily. One guided sightseeing tour, the remainder of your stay is FREE to do as you require, and we will assist you with this. (B).
26 Jun	Depart Paris. Today we are transferred to Paris Airport to start our journey home.
28 Jun	Arrive in New Zealand.

INCLUSIONS:

- » Return airfares from Christchurch / Auckland
- » All relevant airline, airport taxes
- » Stopover in Dubai and inclusions
- » Welcome & Farewell dinners
- » 8-day personally selected Southern France touring with inclusions & meals as shown
- » 4 and 5 star accommodation, based on share twin
- » Full breakfast daily
- » All transfers in our own private coach, with driver and English-speaking guide
- » 15-day Luxury River Cruise from Avignon/Paris/ Normandy/Paris
- » Sightseeing in each destination, with 4 UNESCO World Heritage sites
- » Breakfast, lunch, dinner, morning, and afternoon teas whilst on board cruise ship
- » Local wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner whilst on cruise ship
- » Free WIFI on ship
- » All port taxes onboard ship
- » All gratuities and tipping throughout
- » TGV train between Lyon and Paris
- » 3 nights post cruise in Paris with inclusions as shown
- » Unique and special experiences along the way
- » Services of experienced and personalised tour escort Sandra and Melissa

vivez la vie au maxium

(Live life to the fullest)

Whilst in France on our fabulous experience

* Pricing & itinerary subject to change due to currency or availability. Tour costs are based on 15 guests travelling. T & Cs apply, copy with registration form.

For enquiries & Bookings please contact
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