

7-day cruise

The Seine valley and its meanders

From the Norman Coast to Paris

Fabulous landscapes of chalky hillsides, steep and flat riverbanks

Highlights

- **Sailing through an exceptional setting in Normandy**
- **An itinerary that highlights the splendours of the capital**

Ref.: HON

HONFLEUR – CAUDEBEC-EN-CAUX – ROUEN – LES ANDELYS – PARIS

1st Day: HONFLEUR

Embarkation in **Honfleur** will take place between 6:00-7:00 PM. Time is allowed to settle into your cabin prior to a cocktail reception in the lounge to introduce the Captain and the crew. This is followed by dinner on board with the rest of the evening free. Overnight is in Honfleur.

2nd Day: HONFLEUR – CAUDEBEC EN CAUX

Breakfast is served on board the ship. This morning, an **optional** guided walking tour of Honfleur and its fishing port is offered highlighting its narrow picturesque streets, its old houses, the salt lofts and the Church of **Saint Catherine** (15th - 16th century), which is the biggest church in France built entirely of wood. Honfleur is a truly superb city located at the mouth of the Seine River. After the tour, we return to the ship for lunch. That afternoon, an **optional coach** excursion is offered to the **Côte Fleurie** with stops in the fashionable coastal resort towns of **Trouville** and **Deauville**. You will also visit a distillery where the famous Calvados apple brandy is produced, before returning back on board the ship for dinner. Departure from Honfleur will take place, according to the tides.

3rd Day: CAUDEBEC EN CAUX – ROUEN

After breakfast is served on board the ship, there is an **optional** guided coach tour offered to discover the Road of the **Abbeys**. **The first stop will be at the church in Caudebec en Caux**, which dates from the 15th century. The tour then continues on to **Jumièges** where the ruins of one of the most beautiful abbeys in France can be found, along with the **church of Saint Peter**, which is one of the most beautiful examples of 10th century Norman architecture. After the tour, it's back on board the ship for lunch and departure of the cruise towards **Rouen**. During the afternoon sailing, the ship journeys through a landscape of steep cliffs. At the foot of these cliffs, you will discover a number of charming little villages that are typical of the region. Arrival in **Rouen** is scheduled for around 4:00 PM. Once in Rouen, you will have some free time to explore this river port city on your own prior to dinner on board the ship. Overnight is in Rouen.

4th Day: ROUEN – VERNON

Breakfast is served on board the ship. **In the morning, an optional guided city walking tour** of Rouen is offered. Rouen is the former capital of Normandy where, among other things, you can explore the cathedral made famous by Monet's series of paintings, the historic old quarters, and the Place du Vieux Marché where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake. Then, it is back on the ship for lunch before departure of the cruise for **Vernon**. This afternoon's cruise will travel through a landscape of broad limestone cliffs on its way to Vernon. A gala dinner is planned on board the ship. Overnight is in **Vernon**.

5th Day: VERNON – PARIS

Departure of the cruise is scheduled for early in the morning with breakfast on board. An intermediate stop is made in **Mantes la Jolie**, which will be the starting point for an **optional** guided coach tour to the Chateau of Versailles. (It is closed on Mondays and a visit to the Chateau of Malmaison is offered instead.) The Versailles Palace is one of the most famous and prestigious monuments in the world. It represents one of the most beautiful and complete creations of French 17th century art. After returning back to the ship at around 12:00 Noon in **Conflans-Sainte-Honorine**, lunch will be served. The afternoon sailing takes us through the unfolding landscape as we approach France's capital city of Paris. We glide past the futuristic La Défense district which will impress you with its concrete and glass architecture. Dinner is served during the cruise with arrival at night into the beautifully illuminated capital. Overnight is in Paris.

6th Day: PARIS

Breakfast is served on board. This day will be entirely devoted to **Paris**. We begin with an **optional** half day panoramic city tour exploring the mythical sites of the city, such as; the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysées. Lunch is served on board after the tour. The afternoon is totally free to explore **Paris on your own, now that** you know where everything is located. Dinner is served on board the ship. Overnight is in Paris.

7th Day: PARIS

Breakfast is served on board with disembarkation scheduled for around 9:00 AM. *End of our journey.*

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING THE TOUR TO VERSAILLES

Over the years, it has become increasingly difficult to book group entrances on a last minute basis.

Therefore, from March 2009 onwards, we will only offer this tour as a pre-booked one, (not available on board to be booked by individuals), and for a minimum of 35 persons. If we can not offer Versailles (because of a lack of bookings) ,a tour of "Malmaison Castle" will be offered instead. Please remember that Versailles is always closed on Mondays.