

AN IMPRESSIONIST VIEW OF THE SEINE

*In the company of painters such as
Monet, Renoir, Boudin, and many others*

Highlights

- * thematic presentations
- * visits INCLUDED
- * “guinguette” evening

Ref. IMP

PARIS – GIVERNY – VERNON – ROUEN – CAUDEBEC EN CAUX – HONFLEUR

1st DAY: PARIS

Embarkation takes place in **Paris** between 6:00 and 7:00 PM. Time is allowed to settle into your cabin before the introduction of the crew over a welcome cocktail in the lounge. Dinner is served on board followed by the first thematic presentation entitled: “A definition of Impressionism, its origins, the technique and the context”. Overnight is in Paris.

DAY 2: PARIS - Discover the Impressionists' favorite places

Breakfast is served on board. This morning a coach will arrive to take you to the Paris suburbs for a **guided audio tour of the Chateau of Auvers-sur-Oise**. The town was a peaceful retreat for many of the impressionist painters and the chateau has been transformed into a recreation of life during that time. An enjoyable stroll back in the time of Impressionism will take you to the heart of Haussmann's Paris to the favorite places of the Impressionists: at the water's edge, the “guinguettes”, the cafés, and the beaches of Normandy. Afterwards, it's back to the ship for lunch. In the afternoon, you will get the chance to visit the **Musée Marmottan in Paris**. This museum houses the largest collection of paintings by Claude Monet and provides an overview of how his work developed from the first caricatures of his youth to the water lilies in his mature works. After this visit, we will rejoin the ship for a dinner **cruise on the Seine by night**. Overnight is in Paris.

DAY 3: PARIS / GIVERNY – In the footsteps of Claude Monet / VERNON

The ship begins sailing early towards Conflans Sainte Honorine with breakfast served on board during the cruise. This morning's on board entertainment offers a second thematic presentation: “Claude Monet, the quintessence of Impressionism”. After the presentation, lunch is served on board. This afternoon is devoted to a **tour of Claude Monet's house and gardens in Giverny**. The artist spent half his life here, dividing his time between working on his garden - a living painting if ever there was one - and the great passion of his final years, the famous Water Lilies series. You will be free to explore the house, which displays Monet's private collection of Japanese prints, and the garden, which is a haven of greenery. Back on board the ship in Mantes la Jolie as you sail onwards to Vernon. A “guinguette” evening is planned on board along with dinner. The “guinguette” was a popular old-time caberet from the neighbourhoods of Paris where people would dance, drink and eat. Overnight is in Vernon.

DAY 4: VERNON / ROUEN - In the footsteps of the Impressionists

The ship departs early in the morning for Rouen with breakfast on board during the cruise. Special entertainment is offered, as well as, lunch on board. Our chef's menu takes its inspiration from the recipes of Claude Monet (who was a great lover of food!). In the afternoon, a **thematic guided walking tour of Rouen** takes you right into the footsteps of the Impressionists. There is a visit to the cathedral and the Impressionist collection in the Musée des Beaux-Arts. Then it's back to the ship in time for the gala dinner evening on board. Overnight is in Rouen.

DAY 5: CAUDEBEC-EN-CAUX / HONFLEUR

Breakfast is served on board during the cruise. Today you will discover the most beautiful section of the Seine River. The ship meanders past the sleepy Norman villages which have inspired many a painter. This morning, you will have the third thematic presentation: “The geography of Impressionism: Paris and the suburbs, Honfleur and the Norman coast”. This is followed by lunch on board. In the afternoon, you will **visit the Seine Marine Museum** in Caudebec. This museum is essential in understanding the role of the

Seine River over the years and it clarifies the Seine's importance in the 19th century. The exhibits give you a better understanding of the river's economic, artistic and cultural status. You are then taken back to the ship for dinner on board. Departure time for Honfleur this evening is depending on the tides.

DAY 6: HONFLEUR / ETRETAT & YPORT – the Alabaster Coast

After breakfast on board, there is a walking **tour of Honfleur**. This port town was the cradle of Impressionism where Boudin, Monet, Bazille and Jongkind would meet at the famous Saint Siméon Farm and try to capture the changing light of the estuary. There will be free time to tour the Eugène Boudin Museum before heading back to the ship for lunch on board. The afternoon will be devoted to a coach **tour of the Alabaster Coast**, which is the natural heritage of the Pays de Caux and the Seine estuary, including a visit to the towns of Etretat, Yport and Fécamp. These are not-to-be-missed sites that you will view very differently after this cruise. You return to the ship after the tour for dinner on board. Overnight is in Honfleur.

DAY 7: HONFLEUR

Breakfast is served on board followed by disembarkation at around 9:00 AM. *End of our journey.*

This offer includes: the cruise on full board from dinner on the first day to breakfast on the final day, accommodation in a double air conditioned cabin with shower/WC, the assistance of our hostess on board, the welcome cocktail, entertainment, the thematic presentations, the visit to the Chateau of Auvers-sur-Oise, the visit to Claude Monet's house in Giverny, the thematic guided tour of Rouen, the visit to the Seine marine museum, the tour of Honfleur on foot, the tour of the Alabaster Coast, the "guinguette" evening, the gala evening, port taxes.

This offer does not include: drinks, travel insurance, and personal expenses.