

French Coastal Charms & River Dreams

Brittany | Normandy | Seine River Cruise | Paris

11 nights



Day 1 PARIS

Arrive Paris anytime today. Hotel check in from 3pm but if you arrive early, leave your bags at the hotel and get exploring! By foot is highly recommended or perhaps jump on the Hop On Hop Off bus and get on/off wherever you fancy.

Day 2 PARIS – CHARTRES - DINARD

We leave Paris by road, heading west toward Brittany. Along the way, we stop to explore the magnificent **Chartres Cathedral**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a pinnacle of French Gothic architecture. Its intricate design and soaring stained-glass windows make it one of the most celebrated cathedrals in France.

We arrive in **Dinard** by late afternoon and check in to our hotel, our base for the next three nights. Located on Brittany's **Côte d'Émeraude (Emerald Coast)**, Dinard blossomed during the Belle Époque, when wealthy families built elegant seaside villas—many of which still grace the town today. With its sweeping beaches, gentle climate, and renowned film festival, Dinard continues to attract notable visitors and residents.

Once settled in, you might enjoy a stroll along the scenic seafront promenade or a roam through the town's picturesque narrow streets. In the evening, relax with an apéritif—perhaps a glass of local apple cider renowned in this part of France—and then choose a cozy brasserie for dinner.

Day 3 ST. MALO - DINAN

This morning, a short drive brings us to the walled city of **St. Malo**, once a notorious stronghold of corsairs (pirates). Breathe in the sea air and take in views of the turquoise waters as we explore landmarks like the **castle and its towers**, the **Fort National**—partially designed by the famed military architect Vauban—and the striking **Cathedral of Saint-Vincent**.

In the afternoon, we visit nearby **Dinan**, a true gem of Brittany. With its medieval ramparts, half-timbered houses, and cobbled streets, Dinan is one of the region's best-preserved towns. It's also a haven for artists, known for its charming **galleries, workshops, and local crafts**.

Day 4 MONT ST. MICHEL

Today we travel less than an hour to the extraordinary **Mont Saint-Michel**, a magical island monastery that seems to rise from the sea like something out of a fairytale. It's easy to see why it inspired the setting for Disney's *Tangled*. While a saying goes, "*The Couesnon, in its madness, placed Mont Saint-Michel in Normandy*," the sweeping bay it sits in is undeniably part of Brittany. A **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, Mont Saint-Michel is remarkable for both its **architectural beauty** and **natural surroundings**. Here, you'll find France's highest tides—



reaching up to 14 metres—ever-changing seascapes, mussel farms in neat rows, and reclaimed polders stretching to the horizon. The **abbey itself**, perched high on the island, is a breathtaking blend of history, myth, and artistry, reflected in the shimmering tidal waters below.

Day 5 FOURGERES – LE HAVRE – SEINE RIVER CRUISE

After checking out of our hotel, we travel to **Fougères**, where your first glimpse of the town is likely to be its commanding **granite fortress**—the largest in Europe. Nestled below the ramparts, the charming old town unfolds with **half-timbered houses**, **winding cobbled streets**, and nearly **a thousand years of history** at every turn.

This afternoon, arrive in Le Havre, where you will board your elegant river cruise ship – the **Amadante**. Unpack and relax on deck with a pre-dinner drink before the first of many sumptuous meals onboard.

Day 6 LE HAVRE, HONFLEUR or NORMANDY BEACHES

There are several different choices of excursions, both during the morning and afternoon, depending on your interests. You can choose between:

1. Morning visit to the seaside town of **Honfleur**, renowned for its picturesque harbour, and for being an inspirational site for Impressionist painters. In the afternoon, choose from a city tour of the UNESCO-designated **Le Havre** or a bike tour through Le Havre
2. A full-day excursion to see the historic **Normandy Beaches**, where you may visit such sites as the cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer, Omaha Beach, the artillery battery at Longues-sur-Mer and the village of Arromanches, where the remains of the floating harbor used during the WWII landings can be seen.

Day 7 BAYEUX, CAEN or HARCOURT ARBORETUM - CAUDEBEC-EN-CAUX

This morning choose from:

1. A visit to the medieval city centre of **Bayeux**, and the world-renowned Bayeux Tapestry, which depicts the 1066 Norman invasion of England, followed by a visit to Caen, where one of the top sites is the Château de Caen, an 11th-century castle built by William the Conqueror.
2. Admire the 30-acre **Harcourt Arboretum**, with its nearly 3,000 trees, as well as the palatial **Château du Champ de Bataille** and the commune of **Le Bec-Hellouin**, known for its 11th-century abbey.

Later, enjoy a scenic cruise from Le Havre to Caudebec-en-Caux, where you can:

1. Visit **Museo Seine**, a museum focusing on the history of the Seine River.



2. Immerse yourself in the enchanting history of **Château d'Étrelan**, the first Italian Renaissance Château built in France in 1494, where you may see a wonderful chapel with original wall paintings and the guard house dating back to 1350 in an amazing landscape.

Day 8 ROUEN

Spend the morning enjoying medieval Rouen with a choice of several excursions:

1. A **walking tour** past the imposing Notre Dame Cathedral, painted numerous times by Monet, and see the square where Joan of Arc was martyred, as well as the Medieval Quarter and Great Clock.
2. Delve into the once “haunted” **Château de Bonnemare**, a 16th-century medieval castle housing a historic cider press, a kitchen rotisserie inspired by the designs of Leonardo da Vinci, and the inspiration for a tragic love poem written by Marie de France.
3. “**Tastes of Normandy**” tour, where you’ll be treated to the delicious flavours of the region, including chocolate, macaron, Norman cheese and cider. Later in the day, ride through Rouen’s history-filled streets by bicycle to discover sites like the ossuary of Saint-Maclou, the grand Gothic Rouen Cathedral, the idyllic trails along the city’s moat and through its parks before concluding your peaceful ride back to the ship.

Day 9 VERNON – LA ROCHE-GUYON

Take in the picturesque landscape as we continue cruising along the Seine before disembarking the ship for today’s excellent experiences:

1. Explore the colourful splendour of **Claude Monet**’s magnificent gardens at his former home in **Giverny**, admiring the water lilies, Japanese bridges and graceful willow trees immortalized in his paintings.
2. Pedal through **Vernon on a guided bike tour**.
3. Journey to the beautiful **Gardens d’Acquigny**, boasting waterfalls, bridges, canals and a wide variety of trees and plant life. Enter the Vexin Français Regional Nature Park to **Château de la Roche-Guyon**, a castle built against a cliff perched above the Seine that encompasses several centuries of architectural styles, with the ruins of its medieval tower dominating the village beneath it.

Day 10 MANTES-LA-JOLIE

Watch the scenery go by as you sail to Mantes-La-Jolie, a historic centre where French creatives produced musical instruments and visual art. Your choice this afternoon:

1. Experience the world through your taste buds and join a **tasting tour** during which you’ll get a chance to try the region’s famous cider and cheese at a local farm.



2. **City tour** viewing some of Mantes-La-Jolie's beautiful religious structures, like the Gothic Notre Dame de Mantes, followed by a unique visit to a local bee farm.
3. Visit the distinctive **Château d'Anet**, an elegant Renaissance château built in the 16th century by King Henri II for his mistress, Diane de Poitiers.

Day 11 PARIS

Today we arrive in Paris where you have two excursions to choose from:

1. Experience the “**City of Light**” on a **one-hour cruise** gliding along the river and underneath Paris's ornate bridges. From the boat, you will take in panoramic views of the city's iconic buildings and monuments, including the Musee d'Orsay and the Notre Dame Cathedral.
2. Join a **guided bike tour** of the city's inner highlights.

Day 12 PARIS

Time to say *au revoir* to your sailing friends. Transfer is included to the airport or station for your onward journey. Or perhaps you will stay on in Paris for more exploring of this fascinating city.....

[Click here for ship information](#)

www.amawaterways.nz/ships/amadante-river-cruise-ship

PACKAGE PRICE

Check for best deal at time of booking

YOUR PACKAGE PRICE INCLUDES

- Paris airport or station arrival and departure transfers
- 1-night Paris 4* hotel with breakfast
- 3-nights Dinard 4* hotel with breakfast

- 7 nights luxury accommodation onboard *AMADANTE* in an outside stateroom (Entertainment-On-Demand in all staterooms with free high-speed internet access, movies, music library and English language TV)
- Gratuities
- Port taxes

INCLUDES AMADANTE AMENITIES

- Wellness Activities with a dedicated Wellness Host leading various exercise classes as well as discussions on healthy eating and relaxation techniques, both on board and on shore.
- Personalized service from a highly trained Cruise Manager during both cruise and land programs
- Sun deck whirlpool and walking track, fitness room, massage services and hair salon
- Main Lounge with panoramic views and bar
- Daily entertainment including cultural performances

INCLUDES AMADANTE AWARD-WINNING DINING & REFRESHMENTS

- All onboard dining in a variety of venues
- Regionally inspired cuisine made with locally sourced ingredients
- The Chef's Table specialty restaurant
- Welcome Cocktail, Welcome Dinner, La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Dinner, Captain's Cocktail and Gala Dinner
- La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs exclusive dining experience
- Unlimited fine wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Unlimited sparkling wine and fresh juice with breakfast
- Sip & Sail Cocktail Hour with complimentary wine, beer, spirits and soft drinks
- Tapas, sandwiches, snacks and refreshments served daily in the Main Lounge
- Bottled water replenished daily in your stateroom

INCLUDES A WORLD OF EXPLORATION

- Immersive tours included in every destination
- Gentle, regular, active and late-riser tour options
- Bike tours and hikes
- Special Interest Tours
- Knowledgeable guides
- Personal headset for easy exploration

EXCLUDES

- Airfares/Transportation to/from Paris
- Meals not specified
- Sightseeing not specified

Non-refundable deposit of NZ\$800 at time of confirmation.



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