

LYON & PROVENCE – Detailed Itinerary

Avignon to Lyon x 8-day cruise with 7 guided tours

Tap into your inner van Gogh at an Arles painting class. Discover Roman Provence at Les Arènes amphitheater and the Pont du Gard. Explore Avignon's Palace of the Popes. Excite your palate in Lyon, capital of French gastronomy. Savor Beaujolais wines. Hunt for truffles and see how chèvre cheese is made. Come witness the beauty that inspired artists like Cézanne and Chagall on this 8-day Rhône cruise.



Day 1, Wed Aug 1 — Avignon, France

-- Fly to Marseille. Transfer from the airport to your ship, docked in Avignon.* After boarding, take 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) *Airport meet & greet transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises

Day 2, Thurs Aug 2 — Avignon, France

-- This morning, set out on a guided walk of Avignon. After the tour, enjoy an afternoon at leisure exploring Avignon. You can join the optional tour to Châteauneuf-du-Pape, visiting the vineyards and tasting the famous wine. Lunch and dinner are served on board your ship. We depart for Arles this evening. (B, L, D)

INCLUDED TOUR Avignon Walk & Pope's Palace Morning 3 Hrs - Pope's Palace is the monumental palace that was the seat of seven popes and explore its medieval city. Avignon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is known as the "City of Popes" because the papacy was relocated here from Rome, to great controversy, from 1309 to 1377. With a local guide, follow the historic center of narrow streets to the Place de l'Horloge, the city's central square, a scene of balconies, elegant facades and shading trees. Continue to the renowned Palace of the Popes for a guided tour. This fortress-church is gigantic, the largest Gothic building of the Middle Ages, dwarfing even the neighboring cathedral. After, continue to the Market Hall for an opportunity to taste olives and pickled garlic. Note: The visit to the Palace of the Popes features many stairs.

Flavors of Provence - \$199, Morning & Afternoon, 6 Hrs –Indulge your senses and learn to prepare French specialties during this engaging and flavorful culinary tour. Follow the Passage de l'Oratoire to the elegant Rue Saint-Agricol and Rue Joseph Vernet, two famed shopping streets lined with luxurious shops. Stop at La Cure Gourmande, a paradise of confections, chocolates and biscuits. After sampling some of its sweets, continue to Les Délices du Luberon, where savory tapenades and olive oils give you a true taste of the countryside. After, you will visit La Maison de Fogasses for an enriching cooking class. With your Provençal chef, you will prepare the local specialty, *fougasse*, and enjoy it as a starter. Then, help to make a seasonal entrée that you will enjoy later with handmade éclairs, two glasses of local wine and coffee from one of the last French roasters in Avignon. After a satisfying and rewarding meal, return to your ship.

Chateauneuf-du-Pape Wine Tasting \$64 Afternoon, 4 Hrs - DAVE & HARRY PICK Explore the town named for its "Pope's New Castle," its centuries-old vineyard and its superb wines. Constructed in 1316 by Pope John XXII as a summer residence for the Avignon Popes, Châteauneuf-du-Pape and the town that grew up around it is one of the world's most celebrated wine-producing regions. Begin your excursion with a stop at Maison Bouachon for a wine tasting. Then, you will continue to the hilltop ruins of the castle, where you can take in sweeping views of the Rhône Valley and Avignon. Stroll or drive down to the charming village it overlooks to meet the vintners whose families have lovingly cultivated these vineyards for generations. They invite you to browse their winery cellars and learn the delicate blending process of their extraordinary wine. Toast your experience by sampling the distinctive bouquet and finish of these very special wines in the place of their birth.

Pont du Gard Aqueduct \$64 Afternoon 4 hrs See the magnificent three-tiered structure built without mortar by Romans 2,000 years ago. One of the most ambitious engineering projects of its time, the Pont du Gard aqueduct carried water to the Roman outpost of Nimes from the springs of Uzes, 31 miles away. It stands today as the greatest legacy of Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa, son-in-law of Augustus. Some of its stones weigh six tons and were lifted as high as 160 feet. You will journey to the aqueduct, which straddles the wooded banks of the Gardon River. Spend time at the site's museum, where you can observe the marriage of modern and ancient at fascinating, interactive exhibits. Then marvel at the huge structure that channeled 44 million gallons of water each day over a tiny gradient of 25 inches per mile for 31 miles. For form and function, it is surely one of the Roman Empire's most breathtaking remains.

Historic Avignon Walk & Rhone Canoe \$99 Morning 4 Hrs. - Discover the medieval, bohemian and Mediterranean character of Avignon, the "City of Popes." Cross the gates of historic Avignon's city wall and enter this UNESCO World Heritage Site where students and artists now inhabit its narrow streets. You will admire the imposing Palace of the Popes and the neighboring cathedral before climbing up the Rocher des Doms. Here, find a quiet and shady public park and enjoy sweeping views over Avignon and the Pont d'Avignon. The medieval bridge is a symbol of Avignon and known across the country thanks to the 15th-century song "Sur le Pont d'Avignon." Then,

you will walk down to the bridge and board a canoe for a short ride on the Rhône. Immerse yourself in the tranquil surroundings and stunning vistas of the “City of Popes” as you learn about the flora and fauna of the lower Rhône Valley. Note: As a safety precaution, guests must be able to swim unaided to participate in this tour.

Day 3, Fri Aug 3 — Arles, France -- Disembark after breakfast and take a walking tour of Arles with its diverse architectural highlights. Experience the city’s vibrant colors and striking quality of light that have inspired artists. Return aboard for lunch followed by an afternoon on your own to explore or shop for handcrafted gifts. As always, your Program Director can help you plan your free time. Dinner is served as you depart. (B, L, D)

INCLUDED TOUR Arles in Depth on Foot – Morning & Afternoon 6.5 Hrs - Experience the celebrated city of Arles, where remarkable Roman ruins and vibrant colors have inspired artists. Upon arrival, you will explore by foot, allowing you to immerse yourself in this energetic city of diverse architecture. Begin with a stroll to the massive Les Arènes, an ancient amphitheater able to seat 20,000. Continue to the Antique Theater, peering inside as you pass. This 1st-century wonder stood three stories tall and seated 10,000. Follow the Rue du Cloître to the Place de la République, a bustling square that once hosted the ancient Roman Circus. Here, you will see the 15th-century Church of St. Trophime, a Romanesque triumph named for a 3rd-century bishop. A walk down the Rue de la République delivers you to the Espace van Gogh, the local hospital that treated the artist and today serves as a cultural center. Enjoy free time to explore independently—perhaps browse the shops or enjoy a bite at a local café before returning to your ship.

Unspoiled Camargue - \$149 Morning & Afternoon 9 Hrs - See the wetlands and farms of the untamed Camargue, France’s protected Rhône River Delta region, and visit two of its celebrated historic towns. The Camargue is a refuge for a huge array of birdlife and wild horses and is one of Europe’s most carefully preserved natural parks. En route to this picturesque area, you will visit Arles, city of Roman ruins and home to impressionist painter Vincent van Gogh. After a tour of its major sites, continue to a nearby manade, a natural breeding area for cattle and horses. Board a tractor-drawn carriage for a ride through the cattle field, exchanging glances with bulls along the way. After lunch, enjoy a scenic drive to Aigues-Mortes, a magnificent repository of medieval buildings and churches situated on a scenic marsh. Dramatic ramparts still encircle the town and you will have time to explore before returning to your ship.

Arles in Van Gogh’s Footsteps - \$179 Morning & Afternoon 8.5 Hrs - Attend a private painting class, inspired by the famous impressionist, and glimpse the places van Gogh created his masterpieces. Vincent van Gogh spent 15 months in Arles, from 1888 to 1889. While here, he descended into madness and finished 200 paintings. You will express your artistic side during a painting class at La Couverture Verte (“the Green Blanket”), at Arles’s Siqueiros Fine Arts School, perhaps calling on the creative spirit of the great painter. Open to all levels of talents and abilities. Then, enjoy a walking tour to some of the sites in Arles that were immortalized by van Gogh on canvas, including Place du Forum, where he depicted beautiful landscapes and local café life. After lunch, continue to St. Rémy, where you will visit St. Paul de Mausole Monastery, one of the most beautiful religious monuments in Provence. At the adjoining mental institution, see a replica of the room where van Gogh stayed and created 150 paintings.

Arles, Les Baux & Carriers de Lumieres \$199 Morning & Afternoon 9 Hrs - Discover Roman ruins, historic hillside villages and a remarkable multimedia art installation. Explore the vibrant city of Arles on foot passing its main sights. See the city’s ancient amphitheaters and the bustling square that once hosted the Roman Circus. Pass a Romanesque triumph, the 15th-century Church of St. Trophime, named for a 3rd-century bishop. A walk down the Rue de la République delivers you to the Espace van Gogh, the local hospital that treated the artist. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in Arles then travel to the spectacular Carrières de Lumières, an art installation space carved into an old quarry. The white limestone from this cave was used to build parts of Les Baux and other surrounding villages. Today, it is a stunning venue for art shows. Continue to Les Baux to explore its dramatic and hilly cobblestone lanes. Take a guided walk through the picturesque village, nestled in limestone and crowned by castle ruins.

Day 4, Sat Aug 4 — 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 cobbled streets are dominated by the 12th-century St. Vincent Cathedral. This afternoon, we set sail to Tournon. (B, L, D)

INCLUDED TOUR Viviers Walking Tour, Morning 1.5 Hrs - Discover Roman ruins, historic hillside villages and a remarkable multimedia art installation. Explore the vibrant city of Arles on foot passing its main sights. See the city’s ancient amphitheaters and the bustling square that once hosted the Roman Circus. Pass a Romanesque triumph, the 15th-century Church of St. Trophime, named for a 3rd-century bishop. A walk down the Rue de la République delivers you to the Espace van Gogh, the local hospital that treated the artist. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in Arles then travel to the spectacular Carrières de Lumières, an art installation space carved into an old quarry. The white limestone from this cave was used to build parts of Les Baux and other surrounding villages.

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Charming Ardeche \$179 Morning & Afternoon 8 Hrs. -- DAVE & HARRY PICK ☺ Take in the natural beauty and endless charms of France's picturesque region shaped by the Ardèche River. Enjoy a scenic drive with your guide to learn about one of the region's most renowned harvests: lavender. You will stop at the Lavender Museum and see its distillery, where the essential oil is extracted from the flower. You can peruse the botanical garden, collection room and distillation warehouse. Continue to the Ardèche Gorge, one of France's most spectacular natural wonders. Stop to admire this deep ravine, known as the "Grand Canyon of Europe," and see the magnificent Pont d'Arc, a massive natural bridge that spans almost 200 feet across the gorge. Later, explore the picturesque village of Vogüé on the banks of the Ardèche, called one of the most beautiful villages in France. Enjoy a guided walk past its medieval houses and colorful gardens and visit its charming castle before returning to your ship.

Day 5, Sun Aug 5 — Tournon, France -- All aboard the Train de l'Ardèche this morning for a locomotive ride through the deep gorges of the Ardèche plateau, cut by the Doux River. You'll return to your ship and enjoy lunch aboard as we cruise past dramatic landscapes. Arrive in Vienne this afternoon, a beautiful town with an ancient Roman past. Visit the Temple of Augustus and Livia, the Roman amphitheater and the Gothic Cathedral of St. Maurice on a walking tour before dinner aboard the ship. We remain docked in Vienne this evening. (B, L, D)

INCLUDED TOUR Tournon Steam Train – Morning 4 Hrs -- Traverse one of France's most dramatic and picturesque corners during a train excursion into the wilds of the Doux Valley. You will make the short transfer to the train station and board the Train de l'Ardèche, a meter-gauge steam train and engine listed as French historic monuments. Embark this nostalgic railway and head into the verdant Doux Valley, a conservation area where panoramic views appear around every turn. This untouched region is inaccessible by road, making it a pristine wilderness of unrivalled beauty and clean air. You will skirt along the Doux River, chugging through the serene countryside, heading into verdant valleys and past sylvan woodlands. After you return to Tournon, you will enjoy a walking tour of the city before returning to your ship.

INCLUDED TOUR Vienne Walking Tour – Afternoon 3 Hrs - Get to know Vienne and its rich Roman past on a fun and informative trolley excursion and a leisurely walking tour. You will board an open-sided trolley with your guide and enjoy a ride to Mont Pipet. Here, you can enjoy scenic city views and take some time to view the spectacular amphitheater built into the hillside, one of France's best preserved Roman theaters. Your trolley will leave you at Temple Square in the city center. Here, you will admire the Temple of Augustus & Livia, an incredibly preserved 1st-century structure that has only been out of use since the late 19th century. Then visit the enormous Gothic Cathedral of St. Maurice, built over almost 500 years. You can also spend time exploring an old Roman neighborhood, today's Garden of Cybele. Its grounds are dotted with fascinating Roman remains. Note that the order of this tour varies by group.

Rhone Valley Vineyard Hike – \$59 Morning 4 Hrs -- Explore the landscape, history and culture of the northern Rhône Valley wine country. Drive up to the Chapel of St. Christophe for an expansive view of the vineyards around the small town of Tain l'Hermitage. According to legend, Knight Gaspard de Stérimberg built the small chapel in 1224, spending his remaining days as a hermit after returning from the Crusades. Walk through the vineyards that produce the world-famous Hermitage wine and learn about the history of local viticulture; this is the birthplace of syrah, one of the most popular grape varieties in the world. You will arrive at Tain L'Hermitage and have the opportunity to taste the full-bodied red wines from the vineyards you just walked through, accompanied by locally produced Valrhona Chocolate. Return to Tournon-sur-Rhône, crossing the pedestrian bridge built by Marc Seguin, the inventor of the suspension bridge.

Day 6, Mon Aug 6 — Lyon, France -- After breakfast, disembark in Lyon for a tour of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Begin with a drive to the top of Fourvière Hill for amazing views of the city. Then take a walking tour through the cobbled 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. Your ship remains docked overnight. (B, L, D)

INCLUDED TOUR Panoramic Lyon Morning 4 Hrs - See the magnificent highlights of this gastronomic and cultural center. You will begin with a drive to the Basilica of Notre Dame, at the top of Fourvière Hill. After exploring the interior of this spectacular church, enjoy sweeping views of the red roofs of Vieux Lyon (Old Lyon) and the narrow peninsula of land between the rivers comprising the atmospheric Presqu'île shopping district. Next, drive through town past the flamboyant Gothic St. Jean Cathedral and the Palace of Justice, stopping at the city's famed Painted Houses, a breathtaking collection of outdoor murals depicting some 30 of the city's famous figures. Then, continue with a walking tour along the cobblestone streets of Vieux Lyon, where the city's famous traboules, unique hidden passageways made for busy merchants in medieval days, wend through buildings and courtyards. Later, you can shop for souvenirs, perhaps purchasing some of the fine silk for which Lyon is world famous.

Timeless Town of Perouges \$69 Afternoon 4 Hrs - DAVE & HARRY PICK ☺ Explore a stunning medieval walled village, a wonder of engineering and of brute strength, where farmers and linen weavers led simple 13th-century lives. Rising from the Ain River plain, the simple town of Pérouges seems to have been carved from the earth itself. Here, upon a scenic hill, a bedrock of stone forms the foundations of buildings, churches, streets and fortifications. This treasure of French heritage and culture has been virtually unchanged by the passage of time. Journey here with your guide and stroll the cobblestone streets of what has been called “the most beautiful village in France.” As you explore, you’ll witness the unity in the houses of different classes, from nobility to craftsmen. All the while, you’ll have spectacular views of the French Alps from village overlooks; and you’ll understand why this town of stone has been the setting of period films, including *The Three Musketeers*.

Abbey of Cluny \$59 Afternoon 4.5 Hrs - Visit the picturesque Burgundy town of Cluny, known for its magnificent medieval abbey ruins. In the 11th century the Abbey at Cluny was the most influential church in all Christendom. Founded by Benedictine monks, Cluny established a monastic reform movement that counted 10,000 monks. While the passage of time has taken its toll, the ruins still evoke a sense of its great power and glory. You will journey to the town of Cluny for a brief tour, taking in the typical Burgundy countryside with its small villages and quaint churches. Then discover the abbey’s majestic past in a 3-D film that reveals the church as it once appeared. As you explore the ruins, you’ll marvel at the cloister, the octagonal cupola of the Holy Water Belfry and the former corn storage rooms and gardens, gaining fascinating insight into how the monks lived off the land.

Day 7, Tues Aug 7 — Lyon, France -- After breakfast, take a scenic drive through the rolling hills of Beaujolais, where viticultural tradition runs deep. Return to your ship for lunch. Enjoy the rest of your day at leisure. As always, your Program Director can help you plan your free time. (B, L, D)

INCLUDED TOUR Beaujolais Wine Country Morning 4.5 Hrs - Beaujolais is one of France’s most beloved wine regions, and you’ll discover why during this flavorful and scenic excursion. In full, it is larger than any one district of its neighbor, Burgundy. Vineyards stretch for four miles along the Saône, and the granite soils and warmer climate make it ideal for growing grapes that produce a light flavor. You will join your guide for a scenic drive through the rolling hills of Beaujolais, where viticulture tradition runs deep. See the legendary Moulin-à-Vent, the windmill that gives its name to one of the most prestigious wines of the region. Then stop at a small museum to learn about the art of winemaking, perhaps hearing about the popular Beaujolais Nouveau and the coveted crus that are produced here. You will also stop at one of Beaujolais’s famous cellars to enjoy a tasting with a wine expert.

Beaujolais & Truffles \$199 Morning & Afternoon 9.5 Hrs - Sample the Beaujolais’s most beloved culinary treasures during visits to a wine château and two working farms. With your guide, drive into the scenic countryside, learning about local agriculture along the way. At the Château de Pierreclos, visit the medieval wine cellar for a private wine tasting. Continue to a nearby truffle farm, where you will enjoy a delicious lunch of farm-fresh organic ingredients. Later, watch as the farmer’s dog hunts truffles down in the soil. This highly prized fungus has been called “the diamond of the kitchen” for its rich, earthy flavor. Next, stop at a farm renowned for its production of chèvre, or goat cheese, a major export in France. Tour the farm with your host and learn how the cheese is made. Then sample both fresh and more mature cheeses, with white wine if you wish. After this full day of French gastronomy, return to your ship.

Secrets of the Chateau de Flecheres \$89 Afternoon 4 Hrs -- Marvel at forgotten treasures as you view stunning frescoes from the Italian Renaissance at Château de Fléchères. Some 20 years ago, Pierre Almendros and Marc Simonet-Lengart bought this imposing building hidden in a forest near the Saône, without realizing what treasures lay within. Now, they invite Viking guests to share the secrets of the château whose wood paneling hid spectacular frescoes by painter Pietro Ricchi. Born in Lucca in Tuscany, Ricchi was trained in Florence and came to seek his fortune in Lyon. Very little of his works survived, with the exception of Château de Bagnols in Rhône, and Château de Fléchères. View the magnificently preserved frescoes with your guide, and hear the fascinating story of their discovery. You will then enjoy free time to stroll around the grounds and explore the underground kitchens independently. At the end of your tour, enjoy a chilled refreshment and sample a delicious homemade pastry from a local pastry shop.

Day 8, Wed Aug 8 — Lyon, France -- After breakfast, disembark and proceed to the Lyon airport for your return flight.* (B)

Symbols above mean the following meals are included: B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner

Full Trip Details at www.Travelooza.com/Claremont

And Visit MyVikingJourney.com for details

Contact Jana Huse at 785-259-8696 – Jana@Travelooza.com

Fax 888-523-4127 – Mail PO Box 310, Grinnell, KS 67738

PLEASE MARK WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE RESERVATIONS MADE FOR AND RETURN TO JANA – Your Name _____

Day 2 – Avignon

- Included Tour Avignon Walk & Pope's Palace
- Flavors of Provence \$199 Per
- Chateauneuf-du-Pape Wine Tasting \$64 **DAVE & HARRY PICK** ☺
- Pont du Gard Aqueduct \$64
- Historic Avignon Walk & Rhone Canoe \$99

Day 3 – Arles

- Included Tour Arles in Depth on Foot
- Unspoiled Camargue \$149
- Arles in Van Gogh's Footsteps \$179
- Arles, Les Baux & Carriers de Lumieres \$199

Day 4 – Viviers

- Included Tour Viviers Walking Tour
- Charming Ardeche \$179 **DAVE & HARRY PICK** ☺

Day 5 – Tournon

- Included Tour Tournon Steam Train
- Included Tour Vienne Walking Tour
- Rhone Valley Vineyard \$59

Day 6 – Lyon

- Included Tour Panoramic Lyon
- Timeless Town of Perouges \$69 **DAVE & HARRY PICK** ☺
- Abbey of Cluny \$59

Day 7 – Lyon

- Included Tour Beaujolais Wine Country
- Beaujolais & Truffles \$199
- Secrets of Chateau de Flecheres \$89

*You can make reservations on your own if you like. And you may be able to make reservations on board the ship but no guarantees of availability.