

The Seine: Paris to Normandy

Eight Cities in France: Paris, Pontoise, Vernon, Giverny, Les Andelys, Rouen, Honfleur, Normandy beaches

October 14, 2022 - October 26, 2022



Travel Preview
Thursday, June 2, 2022
Curtiss Hall Seminar Rooms

**10-12pm Travel Preview
with Grand Circle Travel
in classroom with Presenter on Zoom*

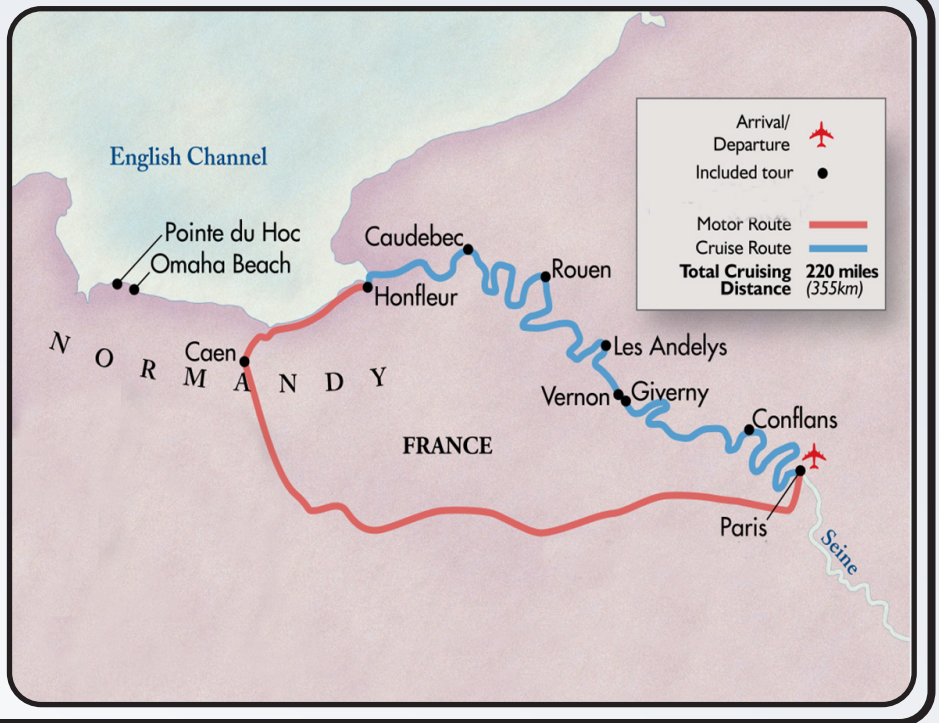
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute



SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

Travel

Embark on a Seine River Cruise from cosmopolitan Paris to the heartland of France, and delve into a region rich in history and culture. Explore Paris, witnessing the monuments, cathedrals, and avenues made famous in film and photographs. Stroll the same streets that inspired Monet on a tour of Montmartre—Paris's bohemian neighborhood. Visit the lovely landscapes of Giverny and enjoy a sweet treat with a local family during a Home-Hosted visit in Rouen. Experience a full day of D-Day discoveries: pause for a moment of silence at the American Military Cemetery, walk Omaha Beach, and head to the devastating 328-foot cliffs of Pointe-Du-Hoc. Experience it all—from the moving history to the local flavors when you join us next year.



Trip Providers



This educational travel experience is offered by the SVSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in conjunction with Grand Circle Travel, a global enterprise which is comprised of a family of companies which offers a variety of travel options. It is committed to changing people's lives by offering high-impact experiences to their travelers. It was established in 1985. Grand Circle Travel was the travel provider for some of our past trips including: Ireland, Australia & New Zealand, England/Scotland/Wales, and two European river cruises.

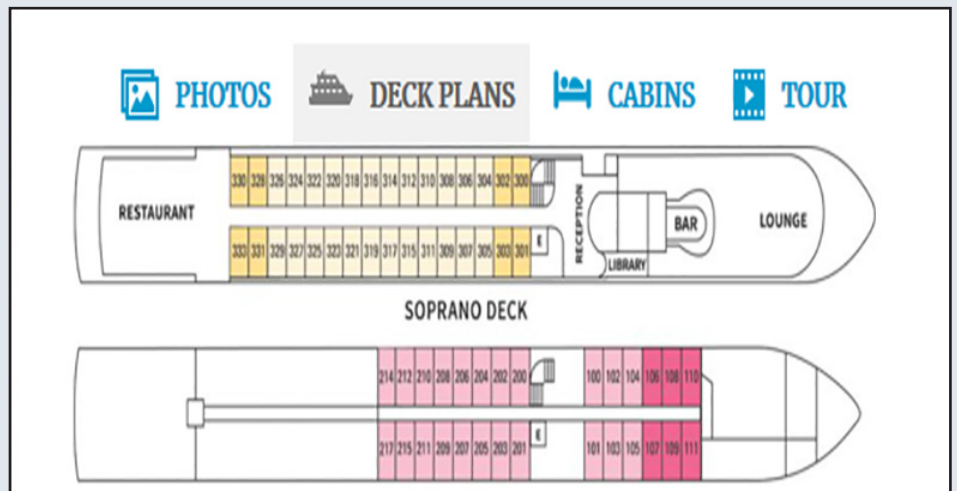
About Our Accommodations

We will travel aboard the M/S Bizet, custom-built with our travelers' needs in mind, your private river ship has a passenger capacity of just 120 with all outside cabins and an English-speaking staff. You'll savor freshly prepared meals from the upper-level dining room. Plus, enjoy leisure time in the bar and lounge, library, and sun deck. Your cabin features a flat-screen TV with CNN and movies, radio, direct-dial telephone, individual heating and air-conditioning controls, twin beds that convert to sofas, and private bath with shower and hair dryer. Complimentary wireless Internet access is available in all cabins, in addition to all common areas.

This 13-Day Trip Includes:

- Twelve days with ten nights lodging aboard the river ship M/S Bizet and a single-night hotel stay.
- (30) Meals included: (11) breakfasts, (9) lunches & (10) dinners - including (1) meal in a local restaurant and all onboard house beer, wine and soft drinks.
- (7) Included guided tours and (5) Exclusive Discovery Series events that include: French Language Lesson, Impressionists Discussion, Home-Hosted Visit, Cooking Demonstration & French Cheese Tasting.
- Grand Circle Program Director from the region.
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees and airline fuel surcharges, and port charges, as well as ground transportation from SVSU to Detroit airport.
- Pre-trip dinner at SVSU*

* We will offer a pre-trip dinner about two weeks prior to departure where you will meet fellow OLLI travelers and receive your travel documents. We will cover trip logistics and questions you may have about your upcoming trip.





Trip Itinerary

■ Day 1: Friday, October 14

We will depart SVSU as a group by motorcoach and head to Detroit airport for our flight to France. Travel details will be given at a later date.

■ Day 2: Saturday, October 15

(Paris, France • Embark ship)

We'll arrive today in Paris, France and begin our tour. A Grand Circle representative will meet us at the airport and escort us to the river ship. After you get settled in, You'll have the balance of the day to do as you wish after your overseas flight. Then before dinner, gather onboard for a Welcome Drink and your first Port Talk—a nightly feature of your River Cruise, designed as an opportunity for your Program Directors to prepare you for the following day's discoveries. (D)

■ Day 3: Sunday, October 16

(Paris • Captain's Welcome Dinner)

After breakfast, we'll spend the morning exploring Paris, being introduced to both the city's classic highlights and more intimate neighborhoods. First, set off on a panoramic tour, witnessing the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame from different perspectives. Then, get a sense of daily life in Paris during a walking tour of one of the city's residential neighborhoods. Finally, cap your tour with a drive along the famed Champs-Elysees, and witness the Arc de Triomphe (commissioned by Napoleon in 1806 and completed in 1836), which stands at the end of the Champs-Elysees at a large central roundabout where twelve elegant, tree-lined avenues converge. Connecting all these iconic landmarks is the banks of the Seine River - Paris's only UNESCO World Heritage Site. After lunch on board the ship you'll have the afternoon free for your own discoveries. After your Port Talk this evening, celebrate the beginning of your trip together with a Welcome Drink and Captain's Welcome Dinner in the dining room. (B/L/D)

■ Day 4: Monday, October 17

(Paris • Montmartre • French language lesson • Pontoise)

After breakfast, explore Montmartre, one of the most famous and lively of the city's 20 arrondissements (districts) on a walking tour. Spend some free time following your included walking tour strolling the charming streets of this romantic neighborhood, and witness the famed Sacre Coeur Basilica, with its dramatic perch on the top of the Montmartre hill. Delight in the views of Paris below, and watch the street artists at work or browse the local shops for a special keepsake to bring home. After lunch on board the ship, enjoy your afternoon at leisure as we set sail this afternoon for the charming port town of Pontoise. After dinner onboard this evening, prepare yourself for the local connections you'll make on your Seine River Cruise during an Exclusive Discovery Series French lesson. (B/L/D)

■ Day 5: Tuesday, October 18

(Pontoise • Optional Path of Van Gogh tour • Vernon)

After breakfast, enjoy a leisurely morning of sailing. Or, join us on an optional Path of Van Gogh tour of Auvers-sur-Oise.

You'll see the final resting place of Vincent van Gogh in the simple and quaint town that inspired much of his work. Begin your travels through the landscapes that inspired Impressionist painter Claude Monet on your way to Vernon. The Seine, the Epte, and the Oise—three French waterways referred to as the “Rivers of Light”—neighbor each other in this region. It was here that the artist and other Impressionists gathered to paint natural scenes that have become recognizable worldwide. Lunch is included on the this tour. Otherwise, it will be served onboard in the ship's dining room. This afternoon will be at leisure with a scenic cruise. Along the way you may also choose to take part in an Exclusive Discovery Series event; an on board discussion about Monet, providing historical context for tomorrow's tour of Giverny. This evening we'll continue to sail towards Vernon. (B/L/D)

■ Day 6: Wednesday, October 19

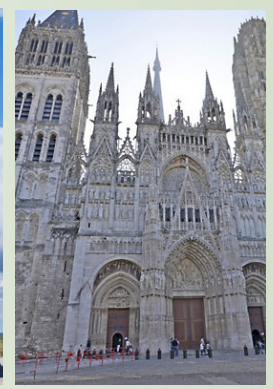
(Vernon • Giverny)

After breakfast, we'll enjoy an excursion into the countryside to see the lovely landscapes that inspired Claude Monet. He first witnessed the village of Giverny while looking out a train window in 1883, and the unique light of the Seine Valley kept him in residence for 43 years. He stayed here until his death in 1926, and you'll find his grave in the family vault at the town's Romanesque church. We'll explore the artist's home and gardens, left by his son Michel to the Academie des Beaux-Arts in 1966 and now a museum dedicated to the great painter. The gardens have been replanted, and as you stroll through them, you'll see with your own eyes the landscapes that have graced countless Monet paintings. After lunch on board, you may return to Vernon and take part in a scavenger hunt throughout this classic French town—an unconventional way to get to know the area like a local. Your program director will provide a map and a list of three French items you must find on your own. After dinner you will have the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll relax in the lounge and watch a live performance. (B/L/D)

■ Day 7: Thursday, October 20

(Vernon • Les Andelys • Rouen)

We'll depart Vernon for Les Andelys after breakfast, arriving mid-morning for a walking tour of this quintessential French village on the banks of the Seine and take in views of Chateau Gaillard, an imposing fortress from the era of Richard the Lionheart. Then enjoy free time for independent exploration. Following lunch on board, we'll have the rest of the of the afternoon at your leisure. Today is another ideal time to borrow one of the ship's complimentary bikes to traverse the little town. Later this afternoon, we'll savor a tasting of classic French bread and cheese during an Exclusive Discovery Series event. During dinner on board, our ship begins sailing towards Rouen this evening. Upon arrival, we'll disembark and enjoy a night cap at a local guinguette, a traditional French bar and oftentimes dance hall. (B/L/D)



■ Day 8: Friday, October 21 (Rouen • Home-Hosted visit)

Later this morning join a local family for a sweet treat, as well as an opportunity to learn more about life in rural France during an Exclusive Discovery Series Home-Hosted Visit. After lunch on board this afternoon we'll disembark for a walking tour of Rouen, the capital of Normandy. This important French commercial center brimming with half-timbered houses has a distinguished history dating to pre-Roman times. However, it is more infamously known as the city where Joan of Arc was imprisoned, tried for heresy, and burned at the stake in 1431. Here you'll see the 14th-century Abbey where she was sentenced to death, and visit the Market Square where her execution took place. During your free time after your tour, you may want to visit the Joan of Arc Museum. Then, we'll stop to savor something sweet during a tasting in a chocolate shop. The rest of the afternoon is free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations. Dinner will be on board in the ship's dining room. (B/L/D)

■ Day 9: Saturday, October 22 (Rouen • Cooking demonstration • Honfleur)

This morning after breakfast you'll have free time for your own discoveries in Rouen—ask your Program Director for recommendations. We'll enjoy a relaxing afternoon of river cruising during which you can partake in an onboard Exclusive Discovery Series event: Learn how to prepare a few of France's culinary delights as your ship's chef demonstrates cooking techniques. Spend the rest of the day at leisure as you sail to Honfleur, your final port of call. En route, you'll pass under the town's 90-foot-tall Tancarville Bridge. Dinner tonight will coincide approximately with your arrival (depending on the tide). (B/L/D)

■ Day 10: Sunday, October 23 (Honfleur • Normandy beaches)

This morning after breakfast we'll embark on a full-day tour of D-Day discoveries. The D-Day landings, code-named "Operation Overland," were the largest military campaigns in recorded history with the beaches of Normandy bearing the brunt of the invasion. Beginning at 6:30 am on June 6, 1944, nearly 7,000 landing craft hit the highly-fortified coastline. Those vessels carried tens of thousands of soldiers from the United States, Great Britain, Canada, and many other Allied nations, all of whom arrived determined to carry out General Eisenhower's order, "Full victory—nothing else." We'll enjoy lunch today at a local restaurant. This afternoon we'll continue to the American Military Cemetery. You'll see a monument honoring the fallen, and visit the cemetery of Colleville sur Mer, where 9,386 American soldiers were laid to rest. Then walk down to Omaha Beach for an up-close look at where the first Allied footing was achieved

in German-occupied France. When they arrived on shore, the Allies were met with a deafening barrage of German gunfire. More than a thousand Allied troops died on Omaha Beach alone. We'll continue delving into D-Day's unprecedented history as we make our way to Pointe du Hoc—a site all Normandy veterans know well—where Allied forces scaled 328-foot cliffs as they sought to silence German artillery. Tonight dinner will be on board in the ship's dining room. (B/L/D)

■ Day 11: Monday, October 24 (Honfleur • Optional Cliffs of Etretat tour • Captain's Farewell Dinner)

After breakfast, set off on a walking tour of the well-preserved port town of Honfleur, founded in the eleventh century. Situated on a Seine estuary opposite Le Havre, the town was once one of the most important ports in France. Many voyages of discovery were launched from here, including the journey of native son Samuel de Champlain—who went on to found Port Royal in Nova Scotia and the settlement of Quebec in Canada. After lunch on board in the ship's dining room, you'll have time to continue exploring Honfleur on your own. **Or**, you may choose to join a half-day optional excursion to the beautiful cliffs on the Normandy coast at Etretat. Tonight we'll gather with our new friends to share memories and toast to our enriching Seine River Cruise at the Captain's Farewell Dinner. Your evening will be at leisure, as the river ship remains in port tonight. (B/L/D)

■ Day 12: Tuesday, October 25 (Honfleur • Disembark ship • Caen Peace Memorial Museum • Roissy-Charles De Gaulle Airport area)

After breakfast this morning, we'll disembark your ship and transfer to the Peace Memorial Museum in Caen, a state-of-the-art facility that vividly presents the events of World War II, including D-Day. It's an excellent way to put into context what you saw at the Normandy beaches. Lunch will be on your own today, as you will have the afternoon free for your own discoveries. Dinner will also be on your own this evening—ask your program director for local restaurant recommendations. This evening we'll transfer to Charles de Gaulle Airport, located 18 miles from the Paris city center, for a final night in France before your return flight. (B)

■ Day 13: Wednesday, October 26 (Honfleur)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. Additional travel details will be given at a later date. (B)

Important Participant Information

Registrations: Please fill out the enclosed registration form and bring it to the OLLI office on the day of registration. Trip registrations are on a first-come-first served basis and must be done through the OLLI office. *(Please contact the OLLI office if you are looking for a roommate).* A fully vaccinated status and passport is required for this trip and must be valid through six months following the end date of the tour. A copy of your passport is required at time of registration. Our office will maintain a wait-list if this trip fills to capacity.

Trip Activity Level: Please note that on this guided tour you can expect to walk up to three miles unassisted and participate in three hours of physical activities daily, including stairs and a variety of terrains including uneven walking surfaces, unpaved paths, hills, stairs, slippery cobblestones, and sand. **Note:** Three days of this trip may require 3-4 miles of walking and 3-6 hours of optional physical activity. Our travel providers reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience. Travelers should be healthy enough to participate in all included walks without assistance. Adding optional excursions may increase the total amount of walking on your tour. You should be able to get off and on motorcoaches, carriages, ferries and boats without assistance. Our travel provider states that this trip is not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters. Travelers using walking assists must travel with a companion who can assist them. (Changes in water-level depths may require adjustments to your itinerary.)

Weather Projection: Daytime temperatures range anywhere from the mid 40's- mid 60's F. Weather can be unpredictable and change quickly.

Cost & Payment Options:

| Deck | Rooms Held | Cost | Optional Travel Protection | Single Supplement | Total |
|------|------------|--------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| A | 8 | \$5495 | \$599 | n/a | \$6094* |
| B | 4 | \$5295 | \$599 | n/a | \$5894* |
| C | 5 | \$5095 | \$599 | n/a | \$5694* |
| D | 2 | \$4795 | \$549 | n/a | \$5344* |

* Non-Members will pay an additional \$30 for 2021/22 OLLI Membership

Payment must be made in full

All payments will be made to Grand Circle Travel

Any credits/discounts will be deducted by Grand Circle Travel

**If you have traveled with Grand Circle in the past two years you are eligible to receive a discount. If the trip was within the last year you will receive 5% off the trip cost, and a 3% discount if your last trip was within two years. This discount will be deducted by GCT.*

Cancellation Fees: We highly recommend trip insurance for this trip! All cancellations must be made in writing to the OLLI office by the traveler. You will be subject to a \$50 change of reservation fee payable to SVSU-OLLI, and any other charges imposed by the airlines or trip provider depending on the date the cancellation takes place. Grand Circle Travel's cancellation policies will prevail. *(Please note that insurance fees are not refundable)*

Trip Insurance: We highly recommend trip insurance. You may elect to purchase Grand Circle's Travel Protection Plan, see cost above. If paying balance in full, you must also pay for insurance at the same time. It is the traveler's responsibility to review insurance coverage to make sure it meets your needs prior to purchase.

I/We have been offered the opportunity to purchase travel insurance with Grand Circle Travel and I/We have elected to choose the following option.

Purchase travel insurance from Grand Circle

Purchase travel insurance from another travel insurance source. Other _____

Decline the purchase of travel insurance

Full vaccination is required to travel. Please be prepared to show proof of vaccination at time of registration

Leave this area blank - for office use only

Occupancy: Single _____
Double _____

Payment: In full _____
Deposit only _____

Documents: Emergency Contact form _____
Passport _____
Insurance Choice _____
Proof of Vaccination (seen) _____

Saginaw Valley State University OLLI - Trip Reservation Form

Please provide accurate information. This will eliminate any change fees or document delays.

Past Grand Circle traveler: Y__ N__ Full name (for your account's name): _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
(Including zip code)

Phone (home): _____ - _____ - _____ Phone (cell): _____ - _____ - _____

Email address: _____

Payment Information:

Please note that Non-members will pay an additional \$30 (payable to SVSU) and will receive a 2021/22 OLLI membership

I authorize full payment of \$ _____ for _____ person(s) Total _____

Optional travel protection plan included with deposit (\$599/549 per person): Yes ___ No ___ Total _____

Electronic Transfer (payment is automatic): Name on Checking Account: _____
Routing Number: _____ Account Number: _____

Credit Card: ___ Master Card ___ Visa ___ Discover Card #: _____

Exp. Date: ___ / ___ / ___ CVV Code _____ Card Holder name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / _____

By signing the above I have read and understand all the terms and conditions and accept them on behalf of myself and my party.

Traveler 1

Title: Mr./Ms./Mrs. _____

First & Middle Name: _____

(Name as shown on passport)

Last: _____

(Name as shown on passport)

Nickname (for name badge): _____

Passport#: _____

Passport Issue Date: ___ / ___ / ___
M M D D Y E A R

Passport Expiration Date: ___ / ___ / ___
M M D D Y E A R

Place of Birth: _____
State _____ Country _____

Date of Birth: ___ / ___ / ___
M M D D Y E A R

Nationality: _____

Country of Issue _____

Occupation: _____ if you are retired
please state Retired and from what ie: Retired teacher, retired
doctor, retired carpenter...etc.

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Cell Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Traveler 2

Title: Mr./Ms./Mrs. _____

First & Middle Name: _____

(Name as shown on passport)

Last: _____

(Name as shown on passport)

Nickname (for name badge): _____

Passport#: _____

Passport Issue Date: ___ / ___ / ___
M M D D Y E A R

Passport Expiration Date: ___ / ___ / ___
M M D D Y E A R

Place of Birth: _____
State _____ Country _____

Date of Birth: ___ / ___ / ___
M M D D Y E A R

Nationality: _____

Country of Issue _____

Occupation: _____ if you are retired
please state Retired and from what ie: Retired teacher, retired
doctor, retired carpenter...etc.

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Cell Number: _____ - _____ - _____