

Southern France Riverboat Cruise October 8-20, 2019



Marvel at the hills of Nice and the lights of Paris, the capital of romance, and cruise through gently sloping hills and vineyards aboard one of our private river ships. Along the way, you'll witness the lovely landscapes and enchanting villages that inspired the great artists of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Get close to ancient history in "Vienne"—a city known for its impressive Roman amphitheater and Corinthian columns. View ornate papal palaces, Gothic cathedrals, and medieval fortifications. And, stroll the jet-setting streets of the Cote d'Azur's premier Riviera hotspot—elegant Nice. Plus, with a maximum of just 46 American travelers, you'll discover it all while enjoying an intimate cruising experience. Best of all, you'll travel in style with your friends from Southern Exposure and Grand Circle Travel. Join us!

REMINDER: Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. To reserve your place today, please call the Southern Exposure office at (269) 962-1255. If you haven't experienced a Southern Exposure travel adventure before, feel free to ask questions or meet with our staff.



Snapshot Itinerary: Southern France Riverboat Cruise

Travel Dates: *October 8-20, 2019*

Day 1 – Depart U.S.

Day 2 – Arrive Nice, France

Day 3 – Explore Nice

Day 4 – Nice / Rhone American Cemetery / French Culture and Language Lesson / Arles / Embark Ship

Day 5 – Arles / Bull farm visit / Captain’s Welcome Dinner / Avignon

Day 6 – Avignon / Optional Afternoon in Provence

Day 7 – Viviers / Herbs of Provence presentation / Cooking demonstration / Vienne

Day 8 – Vienne / Home-Hosted Visit / Lyon

Day 9 – Lyon

Day 10 – Lyon / French market experience / Captain’s Farewell Dinner / Macon

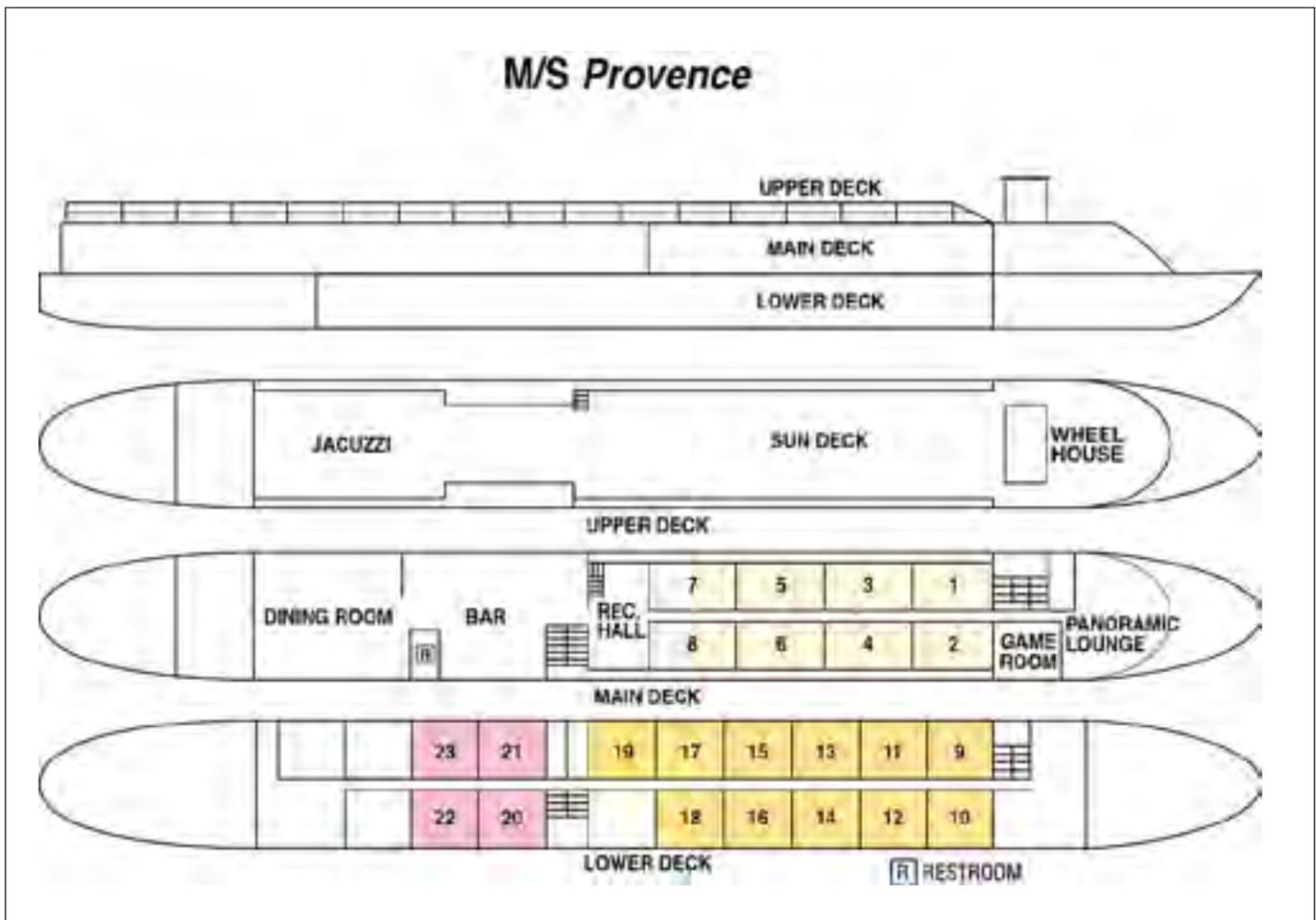
Day 11 – Macon / Disembark ship / Burgundy / Paris

Day 12 – Paris

Day 13 – Paris / Return to U.S.

Day 14 – Lisbon / Sintra & Cascais

Day 15 – Return to U.S.





Detailed Itinerary: Southern France Riverboat Cruise 2019

Day 1 – Depart U.S.

Depart today on your flight to Nice, France.

Day 2 – Arrive Nice, France.

Arrive in Nice today, where you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. You can choose to join your Program Director for a leisurely orientation walk with to get acquainted with the area around your hotel.

This evening, gather with your Program Director and traveling companions, including those from the Nice, France or Italian Riviera & the Cinque Terre, Italy pre-trip extensions, for a Welcome Drink and briefing before enjoying dinner on your own..

Day 3 – Explore Nice

Nice is the Cote d'Azur's premier Riviera resort—a city of art and theater known for its lush gardens and superb setting on the Mediterranean's Bay of Angels. On your discovery walk with your Program Director this morning, take in the city's unique, seaside spirit as you stroll Vieux Nice (Old Town) and the Promenade des Anglais.

Spend the remainder of the day pursuing your personal interests in Nice. Perhaps you'll head over to the Musée Matisse to view works of the famed master artist. Or, unwind on one of the area's local beaches such as Ponchettes or Centenaire. The Cote d'Azur's stunning beachfront is comprised of large, uneven pebbles, known locally as galets. Travelers from across the country and beyond, flock to the coast for a little relaxation and sunshine.

Enjoy lunch and dinner on your own to experience the city's diverse culinary options.

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Day 4 – Nice / Rhone American Cemetery / French Culture and Language Lesson / Arles / Embark ship

Enjoy time on your own in Nice this morning before traveling by motorcoach through scenic Provence as you make your way to Arles.

Stop in Draguignan to visit the Rhone American Cemetery, set on twelve acres outside the city. Established just days after Allied troops landed and began an offensive against the German Army in southern France and the Rhone Valley, the cemetery commemorates one of the important battles that followed the D-Day landings on the beaches of Normandy. Today, 861 American soldiers are buried at the memorial site.

Important Travel Notes:

- For your comfort and safety, we recommend this tour for individuals in good physical condition. If you have difficulty walking, this may be a difficult trip for you.
- We reserve the right to cancel this tour due to insufficient registration. Full refund will be given if tour is canceled due to insufficient registration.
- If traveling alone, we will match you up with a roommate (this tour is double occupancy only).
- Please read the “What to Expect” box on the next page carefully. If you have further questions, please contact the Southern Exposure staff at **(269) 962-1255** during business hours.

As you continue on to Arles, get an introduction to this exceptional country and brush up on your conversational French during an exclusive Discovery Series culture and language lesson.

Arrive late this afternoon to embark the ship. Tonight, enjoy a Provencal-themed onboard dinner.

Day 5 – Arles / Bull farm Visit / Captain’s Welcome Dinner / Avignon

Discover Arles on a morning walking tour of the town beloved by Vincent van Gogh—and find signs indicating places rendered in his works. See the Cafe l’Alcazar, the still-standing establishment where van Gogh stayed and used the manager, Madame Ginoux, as his model for his painting l’Arlesienne.

One of the most distinctive towns in enchanting Provence, visiting Arles is like journeying back to Ancient Rome. The town is filled with landmarks and ruins dating from its periods of Roman domination that began in 30 BC. Witness the out-

side of the colossal hilltop Roman amphitheater, where 21,000 spectators thrilled to gladiator fights in the first century—and where bullfights are held today, more than 20 centuries later. You'll also see the 7,000-seat Antique Theater. Enjoy a bit of time on your own to continue exploring the cobbled lanes.

After lunch onboard, head into the Camargue region—Europe's largest delta, a dramatic landscape caught between land and sea—for an exclusive Discovery Series visit to a bull farm. The keepers of this land are its guardians, akin to our cowboys. They live here with their families, often several generations together, carving out lifestyles in sync with the land, following the rhythms of nature and the needs of the livestock they tend. You'll visit a gardian's bull farm, where you'll experience traditional daily life while taking in their down-to-earth hospitality. You'll also climb aboard a farm truck to see the bulls in their natural environment.

Return to the ship this evening and begin cruising to Avignon. Join your fellow travelers for the Captain's Welcome Reception and Port Talk, followed by the Captain's Welcome Dinner. The ship arrives in Avignon late tonight.

Day 6 – Avignon / Optional Afternoon in Provence

Explore Avignon, known as the “City of Popes,” on a morning walking tour. For most of the 14th century, the popes left the turmoil of Rome and installed themselves in this calm possession of the Catholic Church. Beginning with Clement V (who was born here), they built residences, chateaux, a number of fortified palaces, and churches in Avignon, and you'll have guided exploration of the impressive Papal Palace during your tour. Please Note: A full exploration of the Papal Palace requires climbing more than 200 steps.

The afternoon is yours to make your own discoveries in Avignon. Wend the winding streets of some of the city's ancient neighborhoods, or relax at an outdoor cafe. Or, join an optional Afternoon in Provence to visit Provençal village of Les Baux-de-Provence and the Carrieres de Lumieres, where artwork is displayed on the walls of carved limestone chambers.

Enjoy dinner on the ship this evening along with musical entertainment. Begin cruising overnight to Viviers.

Day 7 – Viviers / Herbs of Provence Presentation / Cooking Demonstration / Vienne

Arrive in Viviers—the gateway to Provence—early this morning. After breakfast, get a closer look at this charming town during walking tour followed by free time to explore independently.

What to Expect: Southern France Riverboat Cruise 2019

We will make every effort to accommodate your travel needs and make sure you have a pleasant, memorable experience. At the same time, it is important to note the following advisories:

■ **Physical Requirements:** 13 days, with 7 nights aboard the M/S Provence, and 2 two-night hotel stays. 1 day features a total of 6 hours of travel through the Burgundy countryside, utilizing 1 motorcoach. Walk 1-3 miles unassisted and participate in 2-3 hours of physical activities each day, including stairs. Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters. Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them. We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience

■ **Terrain & Transportation:** Uneven walking surfaces, including unpaved paths, hills, stairs, and cobblestones, which can be slippery in wet or colder conditions. Travel by 46-passenger river cruiser and 49-seat coach. Changes in water-level depths may require adjustments to your itinerary.

■ **Climate:** Daytime temperatures range from 50-90°F during cruising season. June-August are the warmest months.

Passport & Visa Information

U.S. citizens do not need a visa for this trip. Your passport should meet these requirements for this itinerary. It should be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S. It should have the recommended number of blank pages (refer to the U.S. State Department handbook for details). The blank pages must be labeled “Visas” at the top. Pages labeled “Amendments and Endorsements” are not acceptable.

Vaccinations Information

Generally speaking, vaccinations are not needed for this trip. However, for the latest list of vaccinations that **may** be recommended for this trip, please visit the CDC's “Traveler's Health” website at www.cdc.gov/travel. We strongly recommend that you have an annual physical checkup and any dental work done well in advance of your departure.



Return to the ship for a discussion about Herbs of Provence and its use in the legendary foods associated with this region—the first of two Discovery Series events you can participate in today.

After lunch onboard, you'll spend the rest of the day cruising toward Vienne, where you'll arrive late this evening. En route, see how to prepare (and sample) a few of France's culinary delights as your ship's chef demonstrates cooking techniques.

Tonight dinner is onboard.

Day 8 – Vienne / Home-Hosted Visit / Lyon

Disembark after breakfast in historically-rich Vienne for an included walking tour. This small town has its roots in Gallo-Roman times, and following your tour, you'll have free time to explore its ancient ruins and narrow, cobblestone alleyways on your own. Or you can join your Program Director in a game of Petanque. Akin to horseshoes, players of this local pastime aim to get hollow metal balls as close to a wooden ball as possible without stepping outside of a marked circle.

After lunch onboard, get a glimpse into everyday life in this region of the country when you meet a local family for a sweet treat, coffee, and some conversation, during an exclusive Discovery Series Home-Hosted Visit.

Begin cruising towards Lyon, where your ship will dock overnight. Arrive in the evening, followed by dinner onboard.

Day 9 – Lyon

Disembark in Lyon after breakfast for a tour of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Since its tenure as a Roman capital in the first century B.C., the city has been one of France's most influential cultural and financial hubs. Lyon's international silk industry flourished throughout the Renaissance, only to be brought to its knees by civil war. Fortunes changed once again in the 1800s with the invention of the first automatic loom. Today, France's third-largest metropolis is considered a gastronomic capital—impressive in a country known for its exceptional cuisine.



After your tour, explore all of Lyon's delights on your own, from its modern restaurants to its medieval ramparts.

Later this afternoon, you'll dive into Lyon's World War II history during an informative discussion with a local guide. Dinner is onboard this evening.

DAY 10 – Lyon / French Market Experience / Captain's Farewell Dinner / Macon

Start the day with an exclusive Discovery Series French market experience, which takes place both onboard and off. First, explore a local market in Lyon, taking in the scenes of everyday life and varied sweet and savory items for sale. Then return to the ship to learn more about and taste regional specialties, including the many kinds of French breads, from the long, thin baguettes to the plumper loaves.

Following lunch onboard, begin a leisurely cruise along the Saône River to Macon, soaking in charming riverside scenery as you pass.

After your Captain's Farewell Dinner this evening, arrive in Macon and go ashore for a discovery walk of this charming city with your Program Director—considered the entryway to the Burgundy region and the end of the Beaujolais region.

Day 11 – Macon / Disembark Ship / Burgundy / Paris
 Revel in the art of good living as travel expert Rudy Maxa explores the legendary Burgundy region. Spend the day traveling by motorcoach through the renowned

What's Included in the Package

- International round-trip airfare from Detroit Metro Airport to and from Europe.
- Accommodations for 2 nights at the Millennium Hotel Paris Opera or similar, 7 nights aboard the M/S Provence with wireless Internet access in all common areas and cabins, and 2 nights at the Boscolo Plaza Hotel or similar.
- 26 meals: Daily breakfasts, 7 lunches, 8 dinners—including 1 meal in a local restaurant and 1 light lunch in a chateau—plus all onboard house beer, wine, and soft drinks.
- 8 included tours with personal headsets and 7 exclusive Discovery Series events—
 French culture and language lesson • Cooking demonstration • French market experience • Home-Hosted Visit • Herbs de Provence presentation • Bull farm visit • Rhone American Cemetery visit
- Exclusive services of local Grand Circle Program Director.
- Private motorcoach travel on your main trip.
- Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- All port charges: a value of \$165 per person
- Traveling in style with your friends from Southern Exposure!

province of Burgundy, disembarking the ship in Macon after breakfast for Paris with a scenic ride along Burgundy's Route des Vins (Wine Road).

France is acclaimed for its legendary wine—a deeply ingrained part of its heritage and source of national pride. One of the country's eleven major wine regions, Burgundy's rich soil produces many of the world's finest varietals and its enchanting landscapes are dotted with vineyards. Stop along the way early this afternoon for a Burgundy wine experience, during which you'll visit a local chateau to learn more about this famed region and enjoy a light lunch.

Begin the second half your overland journey to Paris, taking in scenic views of the picturesque countryside, arrive this evening, and check into your hotel. The night is yours to settle in, relax, and enjoy dinner on your own.

Day 12 – Paris

Get to know the famed “City of Lights” this morning, starting with a panoramic tour. Witness the metropolis from different perspectives as you travel along the notable Champs-Elysees—and as it ends at the large central roundabout, where twelve elegant tree-lined avenues converge, see the Arc de Triomphe, commissioned by Napoleon in 1806 and completed in 1836. You'll also drive by the magnificent Gothic Cathedral of Notre Dame. Then, get a sense of daily life in Paris during a walking tour of one of the city's residential neighborhoods.

The afternoon is yours in Paris to pursue your own interests. Head to the Louvre using public transportation, exploring its many galleries at your leisure, or venture out to gilded Palace of Versailles to set eyes on its magnificent Grand Chambers and the Hall of Mirrors, where the Treaty of Versailles, ending World War I, was signed in 1919. Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers at a local restaurant for a Farewell Dinner..

Day 13 – Paris / Return to the U.S.

Pricing Summary & Trip Dates

Trip Name: Southern France Riverboat Cruise 2019

Trip Dates: October 8-20, 2019

Base Price:

Ship Level A: \$4,995

Ship Level B: \$4,395

Ship Level C: \$4,095

Rd. Trip Airfare: \$1,200 (DTW)

Trip Insurance: (highly recommended)

Levels A/ B: \$699

Level C: \$599

Trip Cancellation Coverage – Trip cancellation insurance for “Southern France Riverboat Cruise 2019” is not required but is highly recommended. For details and coverage information, please contact Southern Exposure at (269) 962-1255 during regular business hours.

Reservation Deposit: The deposit to reserve your space on this trip is \$500 per person, fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure.

Need Help? For personal assistance or more information about this trip in the meantime, please call the Southern Exposure office during normal business hours at **(269) 962-1255**, Monday - Friday.

TOUR RESERVATION POLICY:

Reservations can be made by calling Southern Exposure Farm at **(269) 962-1255**. A \$500 deposit is required to guarantee your place (check, cash or credit card accepted), fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure. Remaining balance due 90 days before departure.

Note: The information, dates and prices provided in this document are estimates only based on currently available information. Pricing and itinerary are subject to change.

Pricing Disclaimer: *Every effort will be made to provide accurate pricing information. Operator reserves the right to correct promotional or pricing errors at any time, or to increase the trip price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, cruise fares, currency fluctuations, venue fee increases, taxes, or fuel surcharges, or other reasons, unless you pre-paid according to the terms of the Good Buy Plan prior to the cost increase going into effect. For more information, please contact Southern Exposure at **(269) 962-1255**.*