

10-Day France's Hidden Canals – Loire Valley

Day 1 | Home – Paris, France

Transfer to the airport for your overnight flight across the Atlantic to the capital of France - Paris! One of the most fascinating and visited cities in the world, Paris will not disappoint.

Day 2 | Paris

Upon arrival, embark on a guided city tour of Paris. Sights will include: the Eiffel Tower, l'Arc de Triomphe, Place de la Concorde, Champs-Élysées and more. After, check-in to our hotel and have the afternoon at leisure. Later, get together for our Welcome Dinner at a local Parisienne bistro.

Day 3 | Paris

After breakfast this morning, we enjoy another tour of Paris - from a different perspective. Your local guide will unveil 'hidden Paris' on this insider's look at seldom visited sites. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore this exciting city.

Day 4 | Transfer to Nevers

Leaving the wonderful metropolis of Paris behind, we head into rural France for embarkation and welcome dinner on the M/S Deborah. After nightfall, we'll leave on a walking tour of Nevers with lanterns. We'll remain in port overnight.

Day 5 | Nevers – Marseilles-Les-Aubigny

Our visit of Nevers this morning will begin with the Espace Bernadette Soubirous; the final resting place of the simple country girl from Lourdes who claimed to have seen the Virgin 18 times. Then, continue to the city center to see the Ducal Palace, which is considered the first of the Loire's castles. We will see: the Old Town, The Republic Square and a large park. Enjoy a stroll through the preserved old quarter, (with its half-timbered houses and picturesque streets) before reaching Nevers Cathedral which is a national monument. There will be a brief visit to the pottery quarter before ending our tour with a tasting of local products.

Day 6 | Marseilles-Les-Aubigny – Chapelle Montlinard

We'll leave by coach for the visit to Fontmorigny Abbey, a privately owned French historical monument. This is now one of the main cultural sites in the area and is testimony to over 8 centuries of French religious heritage. The contemporary stained-glass windows are not to be missed. We'll continue on to visit Apremont-sur-Allier and its floral garden. Classified as one of the most beautiful villages in France, this small medieval jewel on the bank of the Allier is an absolute must-see. The village offers a stunning point of view of the castle that overlooks it as well as a nice stroll along the Allier river. During our journey, discover the unique abundance of nature, culture and heritage. You'll have an outstanding view of the Val de Loire Natural Reserve. The evening is free to do as you please.

Day 7 | Chapelle Montlinard – Menetreol-Sous-Sancerre

We'll leave by coach for our tour of La Charit-sur-Loire and an authentic farm. Our visit will begin with the top priory, one of the most important restoration sites in Burgundy for the past 15 years. Then, visit a farm deep in the countryside, where we'll experience the rustic calm and authenticity that can be found only in France. This is a nice stop-over and a perfect way to get to know the animals (sheep, pigs, goats, donkeys, African or Highland cattle, llamas, ostriches, and of course, ducks)! After we return on board, we'll cruise toward Menetreol-sous-Sancerre.

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Day 8 | Menetreol-Sous-Sancerre – Lere

Today, we visit Pouilly-sur-Loire, where we'll visit the Tour De Pouilly-Fume, a wine-tourism center located in a beautiful setting. We'll visit the vineyards, see the wine cellar, and enjoy a tasting. Once we return on board, we'll continue toward Lere. Take advantage of this moment to ride along a portion of the EuroVelo 6 (the bike route travelling from the Atlantic Ocean to the Black Sea). The evening is free to do as you please.

Day 9 | Lere – Briare

Excursion to Sancerre and a goat farm. Set in the historic Berry region, Sancerre overlooks the gorgeous Loire Valley. You'll discover this beautiful medieval city by following the Fil d'Ariane; a red line painted on the streets taking you past the old wine-making neighborhoods, bakeries, fascinating buildings, and lovely art galleries. The Fief Tower (significant stairs to climb) is the only remaining tower of the 14th-century medieval castle. Afterwards, we'll visit a goat farm and have a tasting of its trademark cheeses and the local Sancerre wine. The family on the farm will be happy to share their cheese making secrets with you. We'll spend the afternoon cruising to Briare and cruising through the Briare Aqueduct whose 14 masonry supports were built by the Eiffel Company. Until recently, it was the longest navigable aqueduct in the world. Tonight is our festive gala evening.

Day 10 | Briare – Paris Disembarkation

Enjoy one last breakfast on board before disembarking. Transfer by coach from Briare to Paris for the flight home.

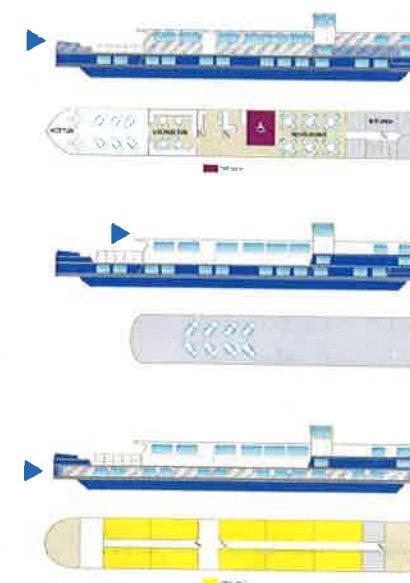
Optional Post-Cruise Hotel

Auberge des Templiers | \$350 / room / night

For those wanting a little extra time in France, the Auberge des Templiers, a Relais & Chateaux hotel, offers the perfect surroundings reminiscent of the cruise.



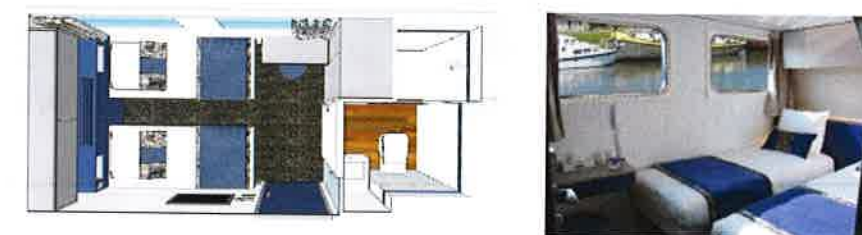
The M/S Deborah



Year built: 2016 | Length: 126 ft. | Width: 17 ft. | Cabins: 10 | Guest Capacity: 20
Staterooms: 20

Onboard amenities: Lounge/bar with large picture windows and dance floor, public patio, restaurant serving all passengers in one sitting, wide sun deck with chaise lounges & boutique.

Conveniences: All staterooms have private bathroom with shower, hair dryer, safe, desk/storage/mini bar area, flat-screen satellite TV, cabin-to-cabin phone, radio, reversible air-conditioning & free Wi-Fi. Complimentary bike usage with helmet also available.



10-Day France's Hidden Canals – Loire Valley | The Details

Airport Transfers* | Roundtrip International Airfare | 2-Nights Pre-Cruise Accommodation Paris
 6-Night Canal Cruise with Tours of Distinction on the M/S Deborah
 2 Breakfasts & Welcome Dinner in Paris | All meals on the M/S Deborah
 Paris City Tour & Paris Gastronomical Tour | Barge Transfers
 Onboard Cabaret Show – A Tours of Distinction Exclusive | Tours of Distinction Tour Director
 7 Guided Shore Excursions | Complimentary Wi-Fi and Bicycle Use
 Unlimited complimentary beverages including beer, fine wine, spirits, soft drinks and specialty coffees
 Gratuities for Tour Director, Driver, Local Guides & Ship Crew All port charges, taxes and fees
 6 Member Barge Crew

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

\$250 per person due at time of reservation + Optional Travel Protection
 \$2,500 per person due **February 28, 2020**
Final Payment: April 4, 2020

OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION:

Optional Travel Protection cost per person, double occupancy | single occupancy:
 \$319 pp | \$388 pp

Categories not listed above or single supplement rates may increase the cost of your Travel Protection. It is advised that you submit the optional Travel Protection payment with your initial deposit. The Plan Document will be provided to you with your tour confirmation packet. Read this document carefully as it provides complete details of the plan, including benefits and exclusions. **IF CANCELLING FOR A MEDICAL REASON, YOU MUST SEE YOUR DOCTOR AND PROVIDE SUPPORTING MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION WHEN SUBMITTING A CLAIM.**

CANCELLATION POLICY: A cancellation fee of \$250.00 per person + non-refundable tour expenses will be charged for any cancellation received from time of booking to 121 days prior to departure. A cancellation fee of 50% of the total tour cost + non-refundable tour expenses will be charged for cancellations 120-91 days prior to departure. A cancellation fee of 100% of the total tour cost will be charged for cancellations received 90-0 days prior to departure.



France's Hidden Canals – The Loire Valley
 July 20-29, 2020



Explore France's canals in the Loire Valley (one of the most beautiful in Europe) on a premier Canal Barge and get an up-close look and feel of local French culture, sights and cuisines on this 22 passenger canal barge. Visit small villages, beautiful vineyards, UNESCO sites and the famous Briare Aqueduct. Journey through the scenic Loire Valley and discover France's hidden canals at your own pace.

Featuring

- Paris & 2 Tours
- The Loire Valley
- 6-Nights Premier Canal Barge
- Docked Nightly
- French Cultural Encounters
- Locally Sourced Exquisite French Cuisine
- Onboard Cabaret Performance – A Tours of Distinction Exclusive
- Fine Wine and Cheese Pairings with Each Meal
- Bike Usage from the M/S Deborah
- Complimentary Wi-fi
- 7 Guided Shore Excursions
- Nevers Lantern Tour
- The Briare Aqueduct
- The Loire Valley
- 6-Member Barge Crew
- Optional Post-Cruise Night Briare



Price (pp dbl occupancy)

\$4,700 pp dbl | \$5,800 sgl

Land ONLY

\$3,800 pp dbl | \$4,600 sgl

Activity Level 🐾🐾

Passport Required

Group Size: Maximum 20

For Information & Reservations

Andrea Bouchard | Farmington Community & Senior Center
 860-675-2491 | 321 New Britain Avenue, Unionville, CT 06085

Disclaimer: We are in the business that plans far ahead of the tour's start date which can, at times, leave us with a change of itinerary, attraction, meal or accommodation. Due to any unforeseen circumstances, Tours of Distinction, Inc., must reserve the right to change the booked itinerary, attractions, restaurants or accommodations. In such an event, the alternative will be of equal or greater value.

