

# ACTIVE & DISCOVERY ON THE RHÔNE (NORTHBOUND)

8 Day River Cruise Arles to Lyon

CRUISE: WLY



Provence presents the ultimate field of dreams with row upon row of bursting purple haze. With its abundant menu of immersive experiences from Lyon to Arles, an Avalon Active & Discovery cruise along the Rhone presents the ultimate vacation of dreams.

Bird watching from the seat of a bicycle. Gorge gorging from the perspective of a kayak. Wine tasting from the cool depths of a cave. These are just a few of the ways our wide array of Classic, Discovery and Active excursions lets you choose how to interact with the scenery, the artistic, and the culinary scenes of France. Whether you admire ancient masterpieces or join a painting workshop – devour haute cuisine or gobble up a French cooking class – the world is your oyster on an Active & Discovery cruise along the Rhone.

Move.

Enjoy a little get-up-and-go on your cruising vacation when you:

- Join an urban hike through Lyon's secret passageways for a glimpse into the city's 19th-century silk trade.
- Take in the panoramic views from the seat of a rail bike along the descent of the Gorges du Doux.
- Cool off with a special underground wine tasting accompanied by a cave guide and winemaking expert.

And be moved.

Get off the beaten path and relish the world when you:

- Join a cooking class in the gastronomic capital of Lyon and make your own Lyonnaise specialty.
- Discover how essential oils are created at an authentic Provencal farmhouse.
- Mimic the brushstrokes of Van Gogh in a painting workshop in Arles where the artist created some of his most famous works.

Plus, Classic sightseeing is always available in every port along the way.

Activate your senses and discover a world of wonder in all-new, entirely "you" ways on your personal, passion-packed cruise along the Rhone.

CRUISE OVERVIEW

 COUNTRIES

France

8

DAYS

1

COUNTRY

DAY-BY-DAY

## ITINERARY

### 1 ARLES, FRANCE (EMBARKATION)

Welcome to France. Your Suite Ship® is Ready for Boarding.

Fights into Marseille must arrive by 3 pm.

Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.

Evening sailing to Port St. Louis

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN PORT ST. LOUIS

## 2 PORT-SAINT-LOUIS

Oysters and Flamingos in the Rhône Delta

Visit the Adventure Center for today's activities with your Adventure Host.



### ACTIVE EXCURSION

Take a Guided Bike Ride through the Camargue Natural Park with an eye out for more than 400 bird species—including pink flamingos—along the trails of the Mediterranean's Rhône delta, OR:



### DISCOVERY EXCURSION

Enjoy a taste of local life with a visit to an oyster farm in the Camargue Natural Park on a Guided Tour, and enjoy an oyster tasting and learn how this delicacy is farmed, OR:



### DISCOVERY EXCURSION

Visit one of France's most popular and pristine nature reserves on this memorable visit to a traditional black bull ranch in Camargue Regional Nature Park!

Cruise to Arles to prepare for tomorrow's exciting activities.

## OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN ARLES

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

## 3 ARLES

A Master Painter and a Matador in Provence



### ACTIVE EXCURSION

Experience the legends of Val d'Enfer with a Guided Hike; an area taking its name from the unique white limestone rock formations, OR:



### DISCOVERY EXCURSION

Attend a Painting Workshop to learn techniques of Vincent van Gogh. Create your own painting in the style of the legendary artist, OR:



### CLASSIC EXCURSION

Join a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Arles to get to know this charming town, including a visit with a local bullfighter to learn about the secrets and traditions handed down through generations.

This afternoon, enjoy free time to shop, stroll, or just relax in a lovely park along Arles' Boulevard des Lices.

Later, enjoy onboard live entertainment.

## EVENING CRUISE TO AVIGNON

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

## 4 AVIGNON

Bike Pedals, Papal Palaces, and Perfumes in Provence



### ACTIVE EXCURSION

Join a leisurely Guided Mountain E-Bike Ride through Gard region; after all, no need to pedal on the way back, OR:

**DISCOVERY EXCURSION**

Visit an authentic Provencal farmhouse for a delightful experience to fill your senses as you see how essential oils are created, OR:

**CLASSIC EXCURSION**

Take a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Avignon, including a visit to the world's largest gothic fortress—the 14th-century Palace Of the Popes. Also, explore Les Halles' covered market.

This afternoon, you may choose to join a Guided Optional Tour of the famed wine cellars of Châteauneuf-du-Pape for a wine tasting, or you may opt for a Guided Optional Excursion on a kayak through the waters of Pont du Gard—the highest of all elevated Roman aqueducts.

You may choose to spend free time to explore Avignon—known as the heart of Provence. Take a leisurely stroll or a bike ride through the tree-lined streets and leafy squares within Avignon's medieval walls.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN AVIGNON**

Breakfast Lunch Dinner

**5 VIVIERS**

River Gorge Kayaks, Underground Wines, and Ghost Stories

Sail through the soaring walls of the Lock Bollène on your way to Viviers.

**ACTIVE EXCURSION**

Immerse yourself in the scenery with a Guided Kayak Trip in the Gorges de l'Ardèche in the spectacular canyons of this Rhône tributary, OR:

**ACTIVE EXCURSION**

Find inspiration from the amazing landscape of the region with a Guided Hike through the Natural Reserve of Cirque d'Estre, OR:

**ACTIVE EXCURSION**

Join a Guided Excursion for a surprising underground wine tasting—under the direction of an expert Speleologist (cave guide) and an oenologist (wine-making expert).

**DISCOVERY EXCURSION**

For a different perspective on the town, join us on a nighttime Guided Tour of Viviers, discovering the legends, tales and ghost stories of this enchanting town.

**OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO TOURNON/TAIN L'HERMITAGE**

Breakfast Lunch Dinner

**6 TOURNON/TAIN L'HERMITAGE**

Chocolatiers and Railway Engineers

Join your Adventure Host for today's special activities.

**ACTIVE EXCURSION**

For a unique experience and panoramic views, join a Guided Excursion this morning on a rail-bike along the descent of the Gorges du Doux, OR:

Join a Guided Hike in the picturesque vineyards surrounding the twin cities of Tournon and Tain-l'Hermitage, OR:

**DISCOVERY EXCURSION**

Have a true "chocolate experience" with a tour of the Valrhona Chocolate Factory and Museum, OR:



#### **CLASSIC EXCURSION**

Take a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Tournon—twin city to Tain-l'Hermitage and one of France's oldest medieval cities. You'll see its imposing 16th-century castle.



#### **DISCOVERY EXCURSION**

Join a Cooking Demonstration and learn how to prepare a Lyonnaise treat while sailing to Lyon.

### OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN LYON

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

7

## **LYON**

A Festival of Colors, Aromas, and Taste



#### **ACTIVE EXCURSION**

Take a Guided Urban Hiking through Lyon's secret passageways (Traboules) for a glimpse into the city's 19th-century silk trade, OR:



#### **DISCOVERY EXCURSION**

Take a Guided Culinary Walk through Lyon to discover architecture and local specialties in a festival of colors, aromas and taste—exclusive for Avalon guests, OR:

Join our Cooking Class to learn to make your own Lyonnaise specialty.

This afternoon, you might take an off-the-beaten-path Guided Optional Tour (Avalon exclusive) through private and public terraces for panoramic views of Lyon, starting on the roof of the Basilica de Fourvière.

This evening, enjoy Lyon's vibrant nightlife on your own after a gala farewell dinner onboard.

### OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN LYON

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

8

## **LYON (DISEMBARKATION)**

Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.

 Breakfast

# NOTES

- In the event of technical or water level issues, it may be necessary to operate the itinerary by motorcoach or alter the program, including hotel overnight when necessary.
- Guided Tours, Optional Excursions, activities, sailing and docking schedules may be contingent on weather conditions or other issues outside of our control and could therefore be subject to change at any time.
- Please check visa requirements with your local consulate(s); responsibility for obtaining visas rests with the traveler.

# HOTELS

We've vetted and hand-selected the best hotels around the world with location, comfort, and style in mind. Enjoy first-class hotels in each destination, and check in with the confidence that we've already checked everything out for your comfort and convenience.

## Marseille

### **NH Collection Marseille**

37 Boulevard Des Dames

 WiFi

 SuperiorFirst-Class Hotel as shown or similar

The NH Collection Marseille has 176 bright, spacious guestrooms all equipped with a flat-screen TV, Free Wi-Fi internet access, a coffee machine, hairdryer and complimentary toiletries. This property is ideally located with the city's vibrant, picturesque old town, trendy boutiques and Le Vieux Port all just a short walk away. The restaurant provides fine wines and gourmet dishes with local and international recipes, the lobby bar serves refreshing drinks and there is also a sixth floor fitness center.

## Lyon

### **Pullman Lyon**

44 Boulevard Vivier Merle

 WiFi

 SuperiorFirst-Class Hotel as shown or similar

Situated in Lyon, the Hotel has 168 elegant and air-conditioned rooms, fully furnished with a desk, a flat-screen TV, free WiFi, a safety deposit box and a private bathroom with hairdryer and free toiletries. A buffet, continental or American breakfast is available each morning at the property. Discover the gourmet dishes at the elegant restaurant, the local and exotic cocktails all assembled by the mixologist at the bar, relax at the patio or enjoy the well equipped fitness area.