ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP

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FRANCE

MS DÈBORAH - HISTORIC RESIDENCES, LOCAL CUISINE, AND HIDDEN GEMS IN THE OISE VALLEY (TOUR CODE: 14903)

STARTS AND ENDS	TRAVEL PERIODS	EXPERIENCE	TRAVEL STYLE
Paris to Pont-l'Évêque	06 May 26 - 01 Jul 26	Cruising Food & Wine Cultural	Barge Cruising

Sail through the picturesque Oise Valley, exploring historic sites, artistic legacies, and French culture, with exquisite cuisine and unique experiences.

Highlights

- From artistic masterpieces to regional flavours, discover the Val d'Oise, a landscape that has long inspired great artists
- Trace Van Gogh's Journey in Auvers-sur-Oise
- Auversois vineyards and the Maison-Atelier de Daubigny
- Compiègne and the Armistice Memorial

Embark on a journey through the picturesque Oise Valley, where the river has shaped the landscape for centuries. This cruise delves into French history, culture, and art. Visit the Château de Malmaison, once home to Napoleon and Joséphine, and explore Van Gogh's legacy in Auvers-sur-Oise at the Musée de l'Absinthe. Discover the elegance of Château de Chantilly and pay tribute at the Armistice Memorial in Compiègne. Savour exquisite French cuisine throughout, with a special crème chantilly masterclass from the Confrérie des Chevaliers Fouetteurs. A perfect blend of heritage, art, and gastronomy awaits

Please note: This tour also operates in the reverse direction.



INCLUSIONS

- 6 nights onboard the MS Déborah in a Twin Room
- All port fees
- Bicycles available on board
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner served onboard daily
- Crew of 6 members guarantee a personalised service
- Drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, are included with meals and at the bar, except for select premium beverages
- Excursions as per itinerary
- Farewell gala dinner on your last night
- Free Wi-Fi onboard
- Official welcome from the captain and crew
- Use of barge facilities

ITINERARY

Deck MS Dèborah

MAIN DECK | 22 Passengers | 6 Crew

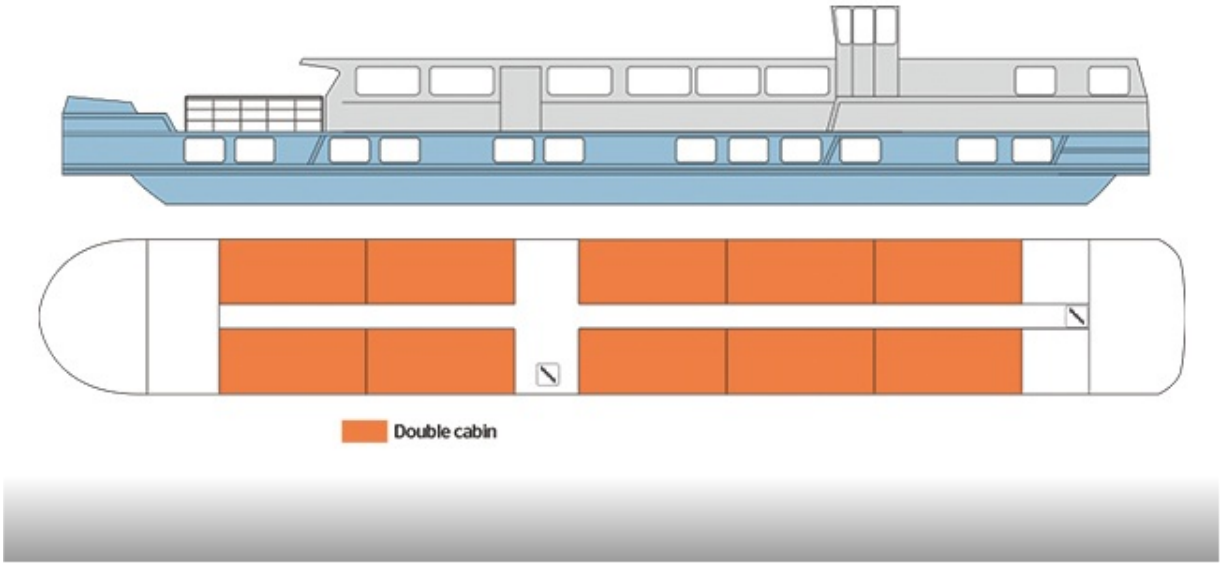
- Canal cruise, measuring 38.5m long and 5m wide
- 10 Twin cabins - 2 single beds (9m2)
- Amenities: TV, bathroom with shower and toilet, towels, telephone (for internal calls only), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V and Wi-Fi
- Please note that there is no laundry service on board the ship

SUN DECK

- Sun loungers

UPPER DECK

- Restaurant, Lounge/bar, terrace, jacuzzi and 1 Double PRM cabin



Day 1 Paris

Passengers may board the ship at 6:00 p.m in Paris. After settling into your cabins, the crew will be introduced during a welcome cocktail before dinner. Tonight, you'll savour dinner onboard.

Later, enjoy a scenic night cruise through Paris (subject to water levels).

Dinner



Day 2 Paris Bougival

The morning is spent cruising towards Bougival, followed by an afternoon excursion to the historic Château de Malmaison. Built in the 17th century, this elegant estate was acquired by Joséphine de Beauharnais in 1779. By 1800, it served as the

headquarters of the government and a key meeting place. The library reflects Bonaparte's industrious nature, while the council room—designed like a military tent—once hosted receptions, dances and games. The musical lounge showcases Joséphine's "troubadour" paintings and her renowned harp, alongside other artworks from the period. After her divorce in 1809, she remained here until her passing in 1814. Inaugurated in 1906, the Napoleonic museum preserves the château's charm and authenticity. The ship remains in port overnight.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner


BOUGIVAL

Day 3

Bougival Pontoise

The morning is spent cruising towards Pontoise, followed by an afternoon excursion to Auvers-sur-Oise and the Maison-Atelier de Daubigny. Travel by coach to this historic site, recognised as a French historical monument since 1991 and awarded the Maisons des Illustres label in 2014. Built in 1861 by Charles-François Daubigny, the studio became a gathering place for renowned landscape painters, including Camille Corot, Honoré Daumier and Berthe Morisot. The walls still display exceptional works from these artists.

Next, visit the Pressoir Auversois vineyards, a once-forgotten heritage revived in the 2000s. Located near the railway tracks, these vineyards offer a glimpse into the region's winemaking traditions. Explore the vineyards, visit the wine press, and enjoy a tasting of local products at Madame Guinguette in a picturesque setting.

Return to the ship in Auvers-sur-Oise, where it will remain docked overnight. Enjoy a free evening to explore at leisure.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



PONTOISE

Day 4 Pontoise Auvers-sur-Oise Saint-Leu-d'Esserent

Travel to Auvers-sur-Oise, a charming village stretching along the Oise River, best known as Vincent van Gogh's final home and resting place. Stroll through its picturesque streets and follow the Artists' Pathway, where Impressionist masterpieces are compared with today's landscapes and architecture.

Next, visit the Musée de l'Absinthe, which recreates the Belle Époque café atmosphere. The museum offers fascinating insight into 19th-century French culture, concluding with a demonstration of the absinthe ritual and a tasting.

Return to the ship in Auvers-sur-Oise for lunch before an afternoon cruise to Saint-Leu-d'Esserent.

A member of the Confrérie des Chevaliers Fouetteurs will join onboard for a hands-on lesson in preparing France's legendary **crème chantilly**—learn the traditional method of whipping this delectable treat by hand!

After dinner, take the evening to explore Saint-Leu-d'Esserent at your own pace. For those feeling adventurous, a walk up to the impressive abbatial church offers stunning views of the valley. The ship remains in port overnight.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Saint-Leu-d'Esserent Pont-Sainte-Maxence Compiegne

Visit Chantilly, home to one of France's most magnificent castles. This remarkable estate was shaped by Henri d'Orléans, Duke of Aumale, son of King Louis-Philippe. Renowned for his extraordinary art collection, the duke transformed Chantilly into a treasure trove of masterpieces and rare manuscripts.

The château remains frozen in time since its donation to the Institut de France, offering a glimpse into its princely past. Explore the grand art galleries, where paintings have remained untouched since the 19th century, the lavish reception rooms and the extensive reading room, one of France's finest libraries.

Return to Pont-Sainte-Maxence for lunch before an afternoon cruise to Compiègne. The ship remains docked overnight—enjoy a free evening at leisure.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 6 Compiegne Pont-l'Évêque

Explore the historic city of Compiègne on a guided tour. Admire the stunning 16th-century town hall with its ornate late-Gothic façade, featuring sculptures of historical figures like Louis XII on horseback. The town hall's tower houses one of France's oldest municipal bells, dating back to 1303. Along the way, discover charming medieval homes, including La Vieille Cassine, built in the 15th century.

After a tasting of regional delicacies, visit the Armistice Memorial, home to the iconic train carriage where the 1918 Armistice was signed, later repurposed by Hitler for France's 1940 surrender. The museum's collection includes a Marne Taxi used to transport troops and 800 stereoscopic images from World War I. The memorial honours all soldiers who fought since 1870, including Augustin Trébuchon, the last French soldier killed on the front in World War I.

Conclude the tour with a visit to the Château de Compiègne the largest neoclassical palace in France. Its grand architecture, exquisite décor, and fine furnishings make it a jewel among imperial residences, alongside Versailles and Fontainebleau.

Return to the ship for lunch before cruising to Pont-l'Évêque, arriving mid-afternoon.

Uncover 2,000 years of history in Noyon, a city rich in heritage and vibrant street art. The highlight is Notre Dame Cathedral, a masterpiece of early Gothic architecture from the late 12th century, where a festival of lights and colours brings its historic beauty to life.

Return to the ship for a festive gala evening.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



PONT-L'ÉVÊQUE

Day 7

Pont-l'Évêque

Savour a final buffet breakfast on board before disembarking at 9:00 a.m. The tour concludes here.

**Please note: Coach transfer to Paris are available upon request for an additional fee. For more information, kindly consult our team.*

Breakfast

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	LOCAL CURRENCY
French	EUR

This itinerary may be subject to change. On alternate weeks, the cruise may be in the reverse direction.

Supplier Booking Conditions Apply

Due to the boutique nature and limited capacity of this travel experience, under our Bookings Conditions this package classifies as “Booking Type 2 – Travel Experience where we act as agent only”. Your contract for the delivery of travel arrangements will be with the principal supplier and will be subject to their Booking Conditions. We will advise you prior to confirming your booking the full details and Booking Conditions of the principal supplier. Our responsibility to you where we sell travel arrangements as agent for the supplier is specified in the ‘Responsibility’ section of our Booking Conditions.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Transfers
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Drinks from the premium list, or drinks ordered during excursions
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.)
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package