

Burgundy & Provence Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

By

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Route Map From Uniworld



Day 1 ARLES (EMBARK)

- Arrive at the airport.
- If your cruise package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship docked in Arles

Day 2 Arles

- Explore a sun-drenched Provençal town today with an allure all its own. Known for its remarkable Roman ruins, Arles so inspired Van Gogh that he painted some 200 paintings there.
- Arles has existed since the sixth century BC, when the ancient Greeks founded it and named it Theline.
- It was here that the Romans built their first bridge across the Rhône River, creating a vital overland route between Italy and Spain.

Day 2 Arles Walking Tour

- Van Gogh paid tribute to Arles' atmospheric beauty in some 200 paintings, including *Starry Night Over the Rhône*. It's an ancient city boasting a remarkable collection of Roman ruins; among them are a theater where the famous Venus of Arles—on display in the Louvre—was discovered in 1651 and an amphitheater that is still used for sporting events.
- Join a local expert for a stroll through this district, where medieval houses crowd in among the ancient structures and the city gates date to the 13th century. Pause before the town hall, built with stone quarried from the Roman theater, and the Romanesque St. Trophime Church, which was erected in the 12th century. It replaced the church where St. Augustine, the man who converted the inhabitants of England to Christianity, was consecrated by the first archbishop of Canterbury.
- Walk in Van Gogh's footsteps past the cheery yellow Café de Nuit—still open and still the same shade of yellow it was when he painted it—and across Forum Square before visiting the town's bountiful farmers' market, which displays seasonal fruits and vegetables, medicinal herbs and many more specialties of Southern France.
- During your free time after the tour, you can peruse the local shops, go olive tasting or delve further into Arles' stunning collection of architectural treasures.

Arles, France

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Arles—Roman Amphitheater



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Inside the Roman Amphitheater Arles

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Arles Narrow Lanes



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Arles
Roman
Ruins
(Left)
Roman
Obelisk
(right)



Arles
Town Hall
(left)
Church of
Saint-
Trôphime
(right)



OLIVE FARM VISIT AND IMMERSIVE ART EXPERIENCE

DAY 2 (EXTRA COST)

- Provence has been one of the world's finest olive-growing regions for more than 2,500 years.
- Learn about traditional olive horticulture and sample the fruits of the groves at an olive farm.
- Afterwards, immerse yourself in art of a special kind - a digital exhibition devoted to a major artist, projected against the limestone quarries of Carrières des Lumières at the foot of Les-Baux-de-Provence.

Day 3 Avignon

- The walled city of Avignon is one of the most fascinating towns in southern France, with a host of historic gems to explore—including the fortress residence of rebellious popes who broke from Rome and once lived and ruled here.
- You'll see the Palace of the Popes and much more today, and also have a chance to kayak under a 2,000-year-old Roman aqueduct.
- *A special Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.*

AVIGNON WALKING TOUR WITH PALACE OF THE POPES

DAY 3

- It's hard to believe, looking at the charming cafés and entertaining street performers in the Clock Tower Square, that this lively scene owes its existence to a 15th-century siege.
- This area was the heart of medieval Avignon (and the site of the original Roman town), crowded with cottages and narrow streets—until a pope had it all demolished in order to give his troops a clearer field of fire.
- That is Avignon in a nutshell: It was the city of the popes.
- The Avignon popes built the ramparts that still surround the Old Town and the huge, nearly impregnable fortress that dominates the UNESCO-designated district; in fact, the city did not officially become part of France until 1791.
- Stand below the high, thick walls to get a sense of just how daunting these fortifications were, then prepare to climb many steps as you tour the Palace of the Popes itself—it's worth it!

Avignon City Walls



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Avignon Palace of the Popes

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Pont d'Avignon—the famous bridge of the nursery -rhyme

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



PONT DU GARD ROMAN AQUEDUCT VISIT

DAY 3

- In the middle of the first century, Roman engineers responded to Nîmes's need for water to fill its baths, fountains and pools by building a 30-mile-long aqueduct from Uzès to Nîmes—which required transporting Uzès springwater over the River Gardon.
- A thousand workers quarried 50,000 tons of soft golden limestone and used it to construct—without mortar—the magnificent tri-level bridge that still spans the river.
- An expert guide will explain the techniques used to build this engineering marvel, which has withstood 2,000 years of floods and storms that swept away much newer bridges.
- You can see notations those ancient Romans made in the stones as they cut and fitted them into place when you view the bridge itself, and you can learn about the entire project at the museum.
- The UNESCO World Heritage Site is as beautiful as it is fascinating.

Pont du Gard

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Pont du Gard



COOKING LESSON AT LA MIRANDE (EXTRA COST) DAY 3

- Don't miss the chance to stroll through Avignon's famous covered market, which always displays the best of local produce as well as seafood and such Provencal specialties as lavender and textiles and learn how to put that produce to use at a famous cooking school.
- La Mirande, a grand 17th-century house that stands in the shadow of the Palace of the Popes, has been repurposed as an elegant hotel with a fine restaurant and a noted cooking school.
- In the atmospheric 19th-century kitchen where your class convenes-it resembles a museum devoted to traditional Provencal cuisine, complete with wood-burning stove-the chef will happily show you how to create a delectable lunch using the freshest ingredients and traditional techniques.
- Before you sit down to enjoy the meal you've contributed to, you have a chance to taste some wines in the cellar with the sommelier, then sip an aperitif and take your place at the family table for your meal, which will be accompanied by well-chosen Côtes du Rhône wines.

LET'S GO KAYAK RIDE ON THE GARDON RIVER (EXTRA COST) DAY 3

- Slather on some sunscreen and plan to get wet as you spend a couple of fun and relaxing hours on the clear, tranquil waters of the Gardon. Accompanied by a soundtrack of chirping cicadas, you'll paddle along the river, spotting trout and water birds on the shores.
- Your adventure ends with a marvelous view of the arches of the oldest extant Roman aqueduct in France, the 2,000-year-old, UNESCO-designated Pont du Gard.
- This magnificent tri-level aqueduct bridge has spanned the Gardon since 19 BC, when it was constructed as part of the system that carried water from Uzès to Nîmes.

Day 4 VIVIERS

- An enchanting village where time seems to have stopped centuries ago, Viviers has a long and storied past that goes back more than 1,600 years—and a splendid architectural heritage to match.
- At one time, Viviers was divided along religious lines—the clergy lived in the upper part of the town, the laity in the lower part.
- Your exploration of the town will take you through both parts, as you begin at the crest and make your way to the riverbank.

Day 4 INTIMATE VIVIERS “VILLAGE DAY”

- Sycamores line some of Viviers’ stone-paved streets (planted, so they say, to provide shade for Napoleon’s soldiers), and houses here bear the watermarks of floods over the years.
- A local expert will show you the fountain squares in the Old Town, which combines Roman and medieval influences, and cobblestone lanes so narrow you can stand in the middle and touch the medieval houses on either side.
- Viviers climbs a hill crowned by 12th-century St. Vincent’s Cathedral. View the smallest cathedral in France before you meet some of the local residents.
- You might choose to learn how a local potter makes the attractive wares sold at Poterie; step into one of two homes—one a mansion, the other more modest; take a dance class; or sample the wares at a popular bar.
- Don’t feel that you must opt for the bar if you’d like a little refreshment; all visits include an aperitif.
- On your way back to the ship, stop to try your hand at a game of *pétanque*, which is akin to horseshoes, only it’s played with steel balls.

Day 4 TRUFFLE HUNTING & VILLAGE OF GRIGNAN (EXTRA COST)

- Beautiful Renaissance châteaux dot the hillsides as you travel to the medieval village of Grignan, situated in the Provençal countryside.
- A pale stone construction perched on a hilltop and surrounded by lush landscapes, Grignan is about as picturesque as can be.
- Your next stop: a family-owned truffle farm for a tasting of their "black diamonds," accompanied by a local wine.
- Meet the farmer for an introduction to the mystery and complexity of black truffles, partake in a hunt led by truffle dogs and learn about the production of this highly valued ingredient.

Grignan



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Truffle Dog

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Day 5 TOURNON (TAIN-L'HERMITAGE)

- If you love fine wine, you'll love the twin villages of Tournon and Tain-l'Hermitage.
- Tournon may be a small town, but stirring events took place here: A castle was raised on the hilltop in the 10th century to protect the region, and new fortifications were added over the centuries, including two "new" towers built to defend against Protestant attacks in the 16th century.
- You'll see the handsome houses constructed by wealthy merchants and garrison officers when you walk through the Rue de Doux area, and you'll pass the 14th-century church and the oldest secondary school in France.

Tournon



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

TOURNON AND TAIN-L'HERMITAGE TWIN VILLAGES

STROLL WITH WINE TASTING DAY 5

- Nestled on opposite sides of the river in the heart of the Côtes du Rhône, the twin cities of Tournon and Tain-l'Hermitage are an ideal destination for connoisseurs of fine wine.
- Tournon may be a small town, but stirring events took place here: A castle was raised on the hilltop in the 10th century to protect the region, and new fortifications were added over the centuries, including two “new” towers built to defend against Protestant attacks in the 16th century.
- You'll see the handsome houses constructed by wealthy merchants and garrison officers when you walk through the Rue de Doux area, and you'll pass the 14th-century church—unusual for the number of houses incorporated in its walls—and the oldest secondary school in France.
- Cross the pretty flower-decked Marc Seguin suspension bridge to Tain-l'Hermitage to visit local wine cellars, where you'll taste the region's famous Côtes du Rhône, Saint-Joseph and Crozes-Hermitage wines.
- These wines are produced from the Syrah grapes that grow on the steep slopes lining the river. After your wine tasting, you'll have time to browse through the shops; the Valrhona chocolate factory is always a popular stop.

“Let's Go” Hermitage terrace vineyards hike with wine tasting Day 5

- Are you ready to explore the steepest vineyards on the Rhône?
- The vines producing the world-famous Hermitage wines grow on precipitous slopes above the river, so steep that terracing is essential. Hike along the paths that parallel the rough courses of stone through the vineyards, each one situated to catch the afternoon sun.
- After you've seen how the grapes—primarily Syrah—are grown, taste the fruit that has been transformed by the vintners' craft into legendary wine.

PREMIUM WINE TASTING ON THE HERMITAGE HILL DAY 5 (EXTRA COST)

- Embark on drive through Tain-l'Hermitage and up to its hilltop vineyards for an excellent vista overlooking rows upon rows of neatly arranged vines, the river and the village below.
- At the very top of the hill, you'll discover that the wines produced here are just as phenomenal as the view.
- During your private outdoor tasting, a sommelier will present you with a selection of premium wines, explaining the terroir and the characteristics of each sample.

Day 6 LYON

- As the epicenter of French gastronomy, Lyon is a city of tantalizing contrasts.
- There's much to explore here, from the work of culinary visionaries to silk weavers' secret passageways.
- After your choice of excursions, embrace the locals' favorite mode of transportation with a bike ride—a great way to see the sights.
- *A special Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.*

Day 6 LYON PANORAMIC TOUR WITH TRABOULES VISIT

- No one eats better than the citizens of Lyon, a tradition that harks back more than a century, when women opened unpretentious restaurants, called bouchons, to feed hungry workers.
- The traditional bouchon serves hearty meat-based dishes, but quenelles—luscious dumplings—and a seasoned cream cheese called cervelle de canut are longtime local favorites too.
- While explaining Lyon's important gastronomic history, your guide will show you the city's bouchons and specialty food shops and take you into the legendary local gourmet scene—and you'll have a chance to taste some delectable offerings. Don't miss the macarons!
- On the way to these fabulous culinary destinations, you'll see some of Lyon's historic old quarter, with its many spectacular examples of medieval and Renaissance architecture, and les traboules, the city's old passageways.

Fourviere-- Basilica of Notre-Dame

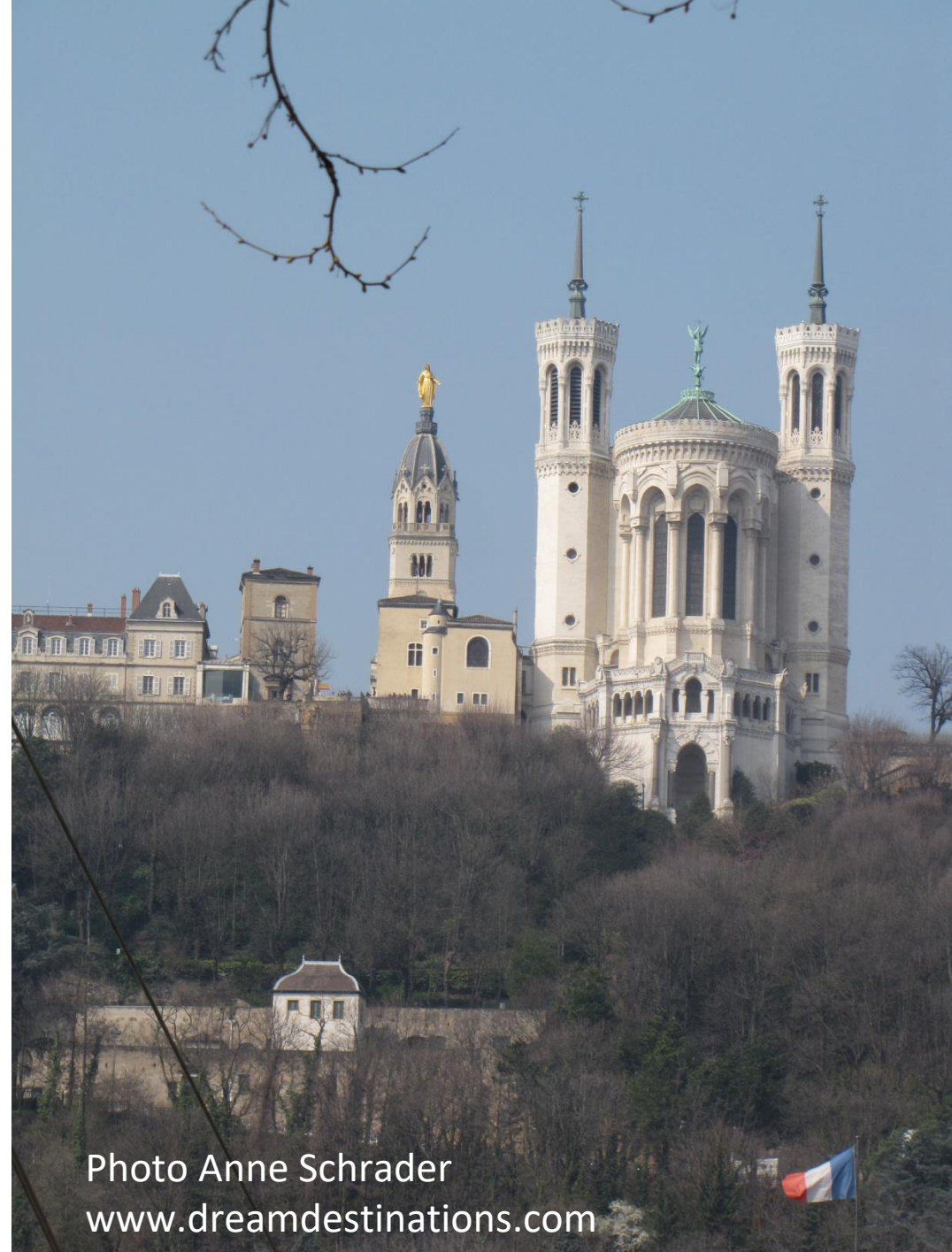


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Old Town Lyon



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Old Town Lyon

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Narrow Streets of Old Town Lyon



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DAY 6 SILK WEAVERS WALKING TOUR

- Lyon's history is entwined with silk, which dominated the city's economy for centuries—at one time, almost a third of the city's population were silk weavers.
- Jump on a tram and head for Lyon-Perrache station with your guide, who will take you into the historic Saint-Jean Quarter, part of the UNESCO-honored Old Town.
- The Gothic cathedral is probably the most striking heirloom of the Middle Ages, but the tall rose and other buildings dating to the Renaissance pay tribute to the importance of the silk trade with Italy in that era.
- Enter the courtyard of the Gadagne Museum, which is housed in an early 16th-century building, and stroll along Rue Juiverie, which has been occupied since Roman times and was once home to Nostradamus.
- You'll see some of the traboules, the old passageways that snake between and through buildings, secret shortcuts that silk weavers took to keep their delicate fabrics out of the rain.
- You'll pass cozy bouchons, which serve traditional local dishes, and you'll have a chance to see a Jacquard loom in use.

A typical bouchon. These are small bistros often identified by their red and white checkered table cloths



Photo Anne Schrader
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A Street Side crepe cart Old Town Lyon





Photo Anne Schrader
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Traboules



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DAY 6 “LET'S GO” LYON PENINSULA BIKE TOUR

- Get out and about with a bike ride along the river.
- Lyon boasts a thriving bike-rental scene, which tells you just how popular this mode of transportation is—you will definitely have two-wheeled company as you pedal along the banks of the Rhône on a sunny day.
- Your route takes you over the new Raymond Barre Bridge, past the spectacular new Museum of Confluences (so named because it sits at the confluence of the Rhône and the Saône) and along the peninsula, a strip of land with the Saône on one side and the Rhône on the other.
- Here, houseboats tie up along the banks, swans float on the water and locals take advantage of the lovely park like setting.
- You'll also have a great view of the Old Town on the other side of the river.
- This outing gives you a little taste of what it is like to live in Lyon, as well as a little exercise.

DAY 7 MÂCON (BEAUNE)

- The pace of life is decidedly more relaxed in Burgundy, where endless rows of grapes hang heavy on the vine.
- The capital of the region's wine trade, Beaune is renowned for its history, beauty and highly prized wine, as well as its medieval-era hospital—the Hospices de Beaune.
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BURGUNDY LANDSCAPES, BEAUNE AND THE HOSPICES

- Beaune was the seat of the warlike dukes of Burgundy until the 16th century. It is best known for two magnificent sights: the Hospices de Beaune and the open-air market.
- You'll recognize the Hospices de Beaune (also known as Hôtel-Dieu) immediately by its fabulous multicolored-tile roof—it's a symbol of Burgundy.
- Founded as a charitable institution by the duke's chancellor in 1443, the hospital became a model for charitable giving in southern France, one with a unique fundraising tradition that continues to this day.
- Over the centuries, the hospice monks were given wine and vineyards, and they began selling the wine at auction in order to support their charitable work.
- The wine auction is now world-famous, and the institution remains a working hospital for the poor, with modern facilities standing alongside the historic Hôtel-Dieu.
- After seeing Hôtel-Dieu, check out the farmers' market, which spills from street to street in the Old Town. Cheeses, fruits, vegetables, local sausages, breads—all are on colorful display here. Browse and assemble your own picnic lunch or take advantage of one of the many delightful sidewalk cafés for lunch.
- *Note: The open-air farmers' market visit will take place in Arles on the reverse direction cruise (Lyon to Avignon).*
- *Note: Today's lunch will be on your own.*

Hospices de Beaune

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Hospices de Beaune



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Hospices de Beaune Wine Action



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CHÂTEAU DE RULLY WINE TASTING & LUNCH (EXTRA COST)

- Drive through picturesque hamlets and pristine vineyards to a Burgundy wine estate, where you'll meet the owners and indulge in a lunch showcasing regional specialties.
- You'll also enjoy a tasting that will bring to life the delicate flavors of southern Burgundy wine and illuminate the passion behind local winemaking traditions.

DAY 8 LYON (DISEMBARK)

- Disembark the ship.
- If your cruise package includes a group departure transfer or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to Lyon-Saint Exupéry Airport for your flight home.
- Alternatively, you can continue your adventure with an extension to Paris.

PARIS POST-CRUISE EXTENSION

- No visit to France would be complete without seeing the city that is widely regarded as the most beautiful in the world—Paris.
- Nothing compares to the charm of its neighborhoods, the grandeur of its awe-inspiring architecture and monuments, or the cosmopolitan elegance of its boulevards.
- Delve into the delights this magnificent city has to offer, from the Eiffel Tower and the Champs-Élysées to the quaint neighborhood cafés beloved by locals.
- 2 nights at the Hôtel du Louvre (or similar)
- Breakfast daily and all service charges, taxes and portorage
- Opera Garnier Discovery Walk (or similar)
- English-speaking expert
- All transfers

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