

# Lyon & Provence Viking River Cruises

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

# Route Map from Viking



# Overview

- Tap into your inner van Gogh at an Arles painting class.
- Discover Roman Provence at Les Arènes amphitheater and the Pont du Gard.
- Explore Avignon's Palace of the Popes.
- Excite your palate in Lyon, capital of French gastronomy. Savor Beaujolais wines.
- Hunt for truffles and see how chèvre cheese is made.
- Come witness the beauty that inspired artists like Cézanne and Chagall on this 8-day Rhône cruise.

## DAY 1 Avignon, France

- Fly to Marseille. Transfer from the airport to your ship, docked in Avignon.\*
- After boarding, take free time to explore this quaint town on the scenic Rhône River, or join our “welcome walk” to stretch your legs and get oriented. (Dinner)
- \* Ground transfers are included with Viking Air purchase.

## Day 2 Arles, France

- Disembark after breakfast and take a walking tour of Arles with its diverse architectural highlights.
- Experience the city's vibrant colors and striking quality of light that have inspired artists.
- Arles is also the site of some impressive Roman ruins, including Les Arènes, an arena that seats 20,000 and is still in use, as well as Romanesque monuments such as the Church of Saint-Trôphime, completed in the 15th century.
- Enjoy free time to explore Arles on your own. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 2 Shore Excursions

- Arles Walking Tour—included
- Unspoiled Camargue & Architectural Gems—see the wetlands and farms of France's protected Rhone Delta region and visit 2 celebrated towns.
- Les Baux & Carrieres de Lumieres—see a remarkable multimedia art installation in a former quarry, then ascend to the rock-hewn hamlet of Les Baux.
- Delights of Provence—discover one family's passion for olive oil during a visit to a countryside mill in the heart of Provence.

# Arles



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# Arles—Roman Amphitheater



Photo Anne Schrader

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# Inside the Roman Amphitheater Arles

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# Arles Narrow Lanes

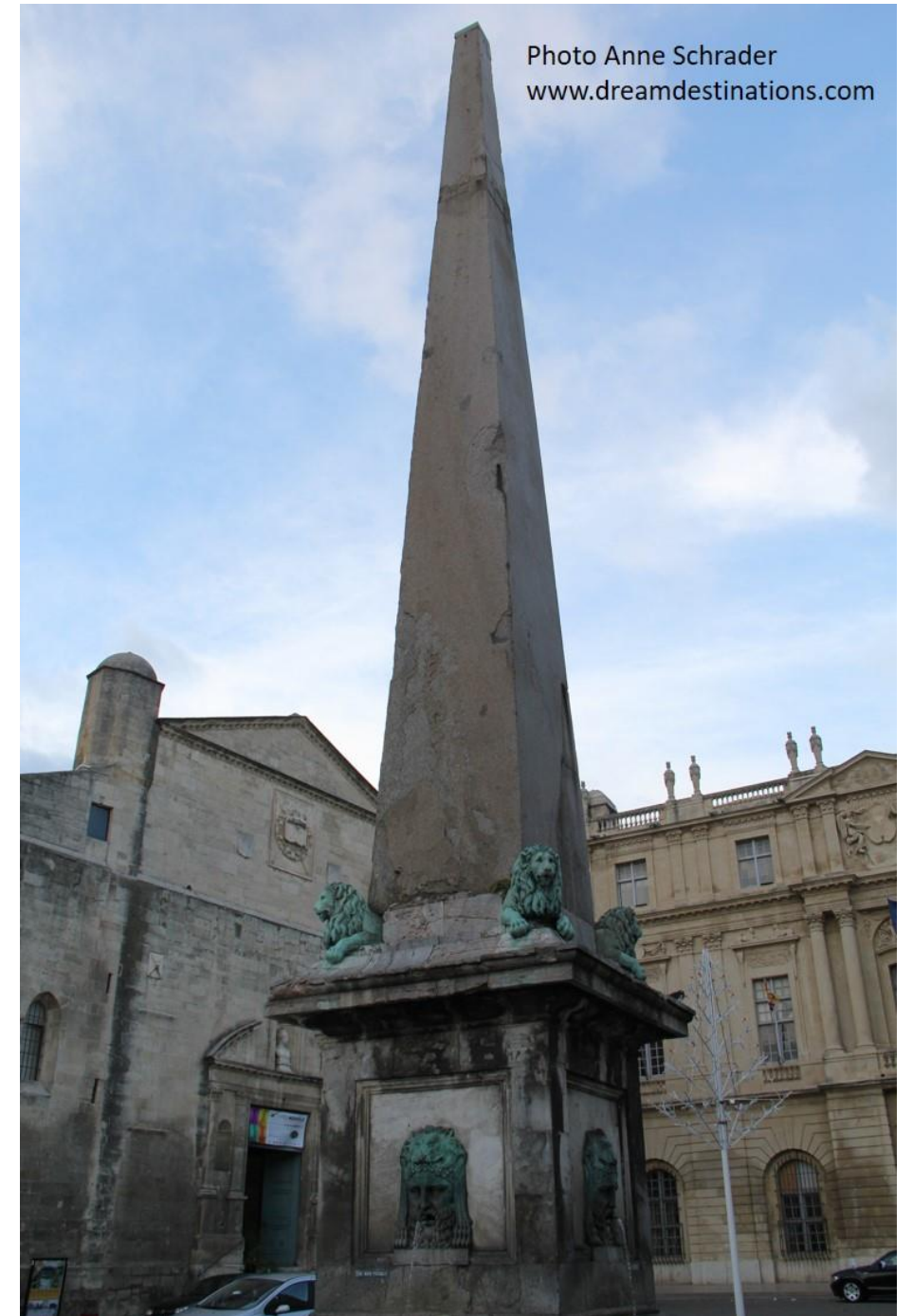
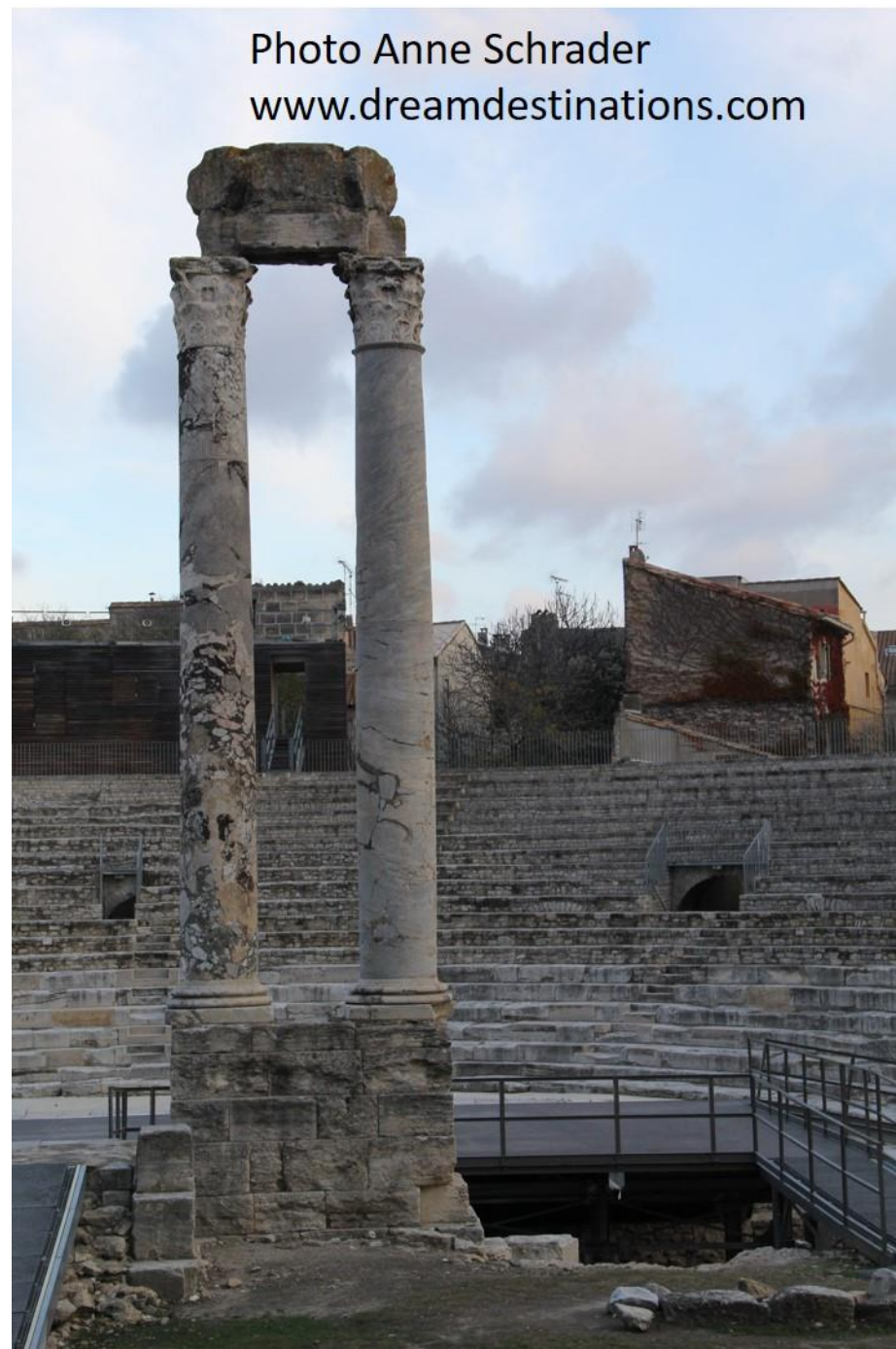


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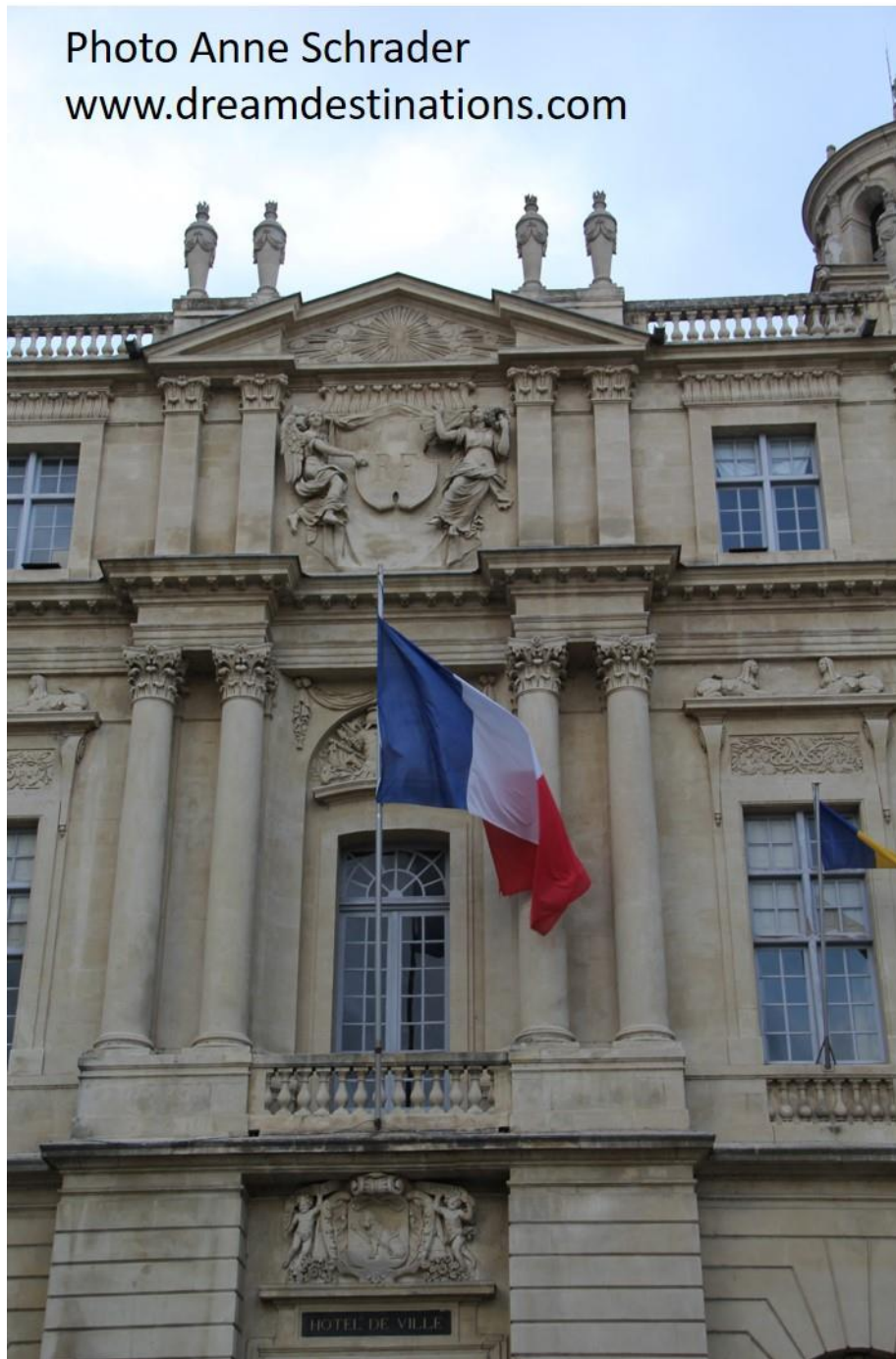


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Arles  
Roman  
Ruins  
(Left)  
Roman  
Obelisk  
(right)



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



# Day 3 Avignon, France

- This morning, set out on a guided walk of Avignon, nicknamed “City of Popes” because it was home to seven popes from 1309 to 1377.
- Stroll through the historic center, see the picturesque Pont d’Avignon and walk the Place de l’Horloge.
- Continue to the renowned Palace of the Popes for a guided tour through this rambling maze of Gothic architecture that served as papal residence, fortress, church and palace.
- After the tour, enjoy an afternoon at leisure exploring Avignon.
- You can join the optional tour to Châteauneuf-du-Pape, visiting the vineyards and tasting the famous wine.
- Lunch and dinner are served on board your ship.
- We depart for Viviers this evening. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 3 Shore Excursions

- Avignon Walk & Pope's Palace--included
- Lavender Fields of Provence—learn about legendary lavender that graces the field of Provence each summer on this enlightening and fragrant full-day tour.
- Chateauneuf-du-Pape Wine Tasting—explore the town named for its “Pope’s New Castle”, its centuries old vineyard and its superb wines.
- Pont du Gard Aqueduct—see the magnificent three-tiered structure built without mortar by the Romans 2,000 years ago.
- Canoe the Rhone River—admire the beauty of Avignon and learn about the ecosystem of the Rhone River during a scenic canoe ride.

# Avignon City Walls



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# Avignon Palace of the Popes

Photo Hank Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)





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

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## Day 4 Viviers, France

- This morning join a walking tour of Viviers' Old Town with its medieval and Renaissance buildings.
- Once a 5th-century Roman settlement, today the cobblestone streets are dominated by the 12th-century St. Vincent Cathedral.
- This afternoon, we set sail to Tournon.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 4 Shore Excursions

- Viviers Walking Tour—included
- Charming Ardeche—take in the natural beauty and endless charms of Franc's picturesque region shaped by the Ardeche River

## Day 5 Tournon, France

- Board the Train de l'Ardèche this morning for a locomotive ride through the deep gorges of the Ardèche plateau, cut by the Doux River.
- Return to your ship and enjoy lunch on board as we cruise past dramatic landscapes.
- Arrive in Vienne this afternoon, a beautiful town with an ancient Roman past.
- Visit the Temple of Augustus and Livia, the Roman amphitheater and the Gothic Cathedral of St. Maurice on a walking tour before dinner on board the ship.
- We remain docked in Vienne this evening.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 5 Shore Excursions

- Tournon Steam Train—included—traverse one of France's most picturesque corners during a train excursion into the wilds of the Doux Valley.
- Viviers Walking Tour—included
- Charming Ardeche—take in the natural beauty and endless charms of France's picturesque region shaped by the Ardeche River
- Rhone Valley Vineyard Hike—explore the landscape history and culture of the northern Rhone valley wine country.

# Tournon



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# Roman Amphitheatre Vienne



Photo Hank Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Roman Temple of Augustus & Livia





# Roman Relics Vienne

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# Day 6 Lyon

- After breakfast, disembark in Lyon for a tour of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Begin with a drive to the top of Fourvière Hill for amazing views of the city.
- Continue with a guided visit to the Basilica of Notre Dame and drive through town past the magnificent St. Jean Cathedral and the Palace of Justice.
- Then take a walking tour through the cobblestone streets of Vieux Lyon (Old Town), with free time to shop for souvenirs or sample some of the fine French cuisine for which Lyon is world-famous.
- Your ship remains docked overnight.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 6 Excursions

- Panoramic Lyon—included
- Timeless Town of Perouges—step back in time to the medieval stone village of Perouges.
- Trek Vieux Lyon—discover the rich history that lies throughout Lyon's charming Old Town known as Vieux Lyon.

# Old Town Lyon

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# Old Town Lyon



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Notre-Dame Basilica

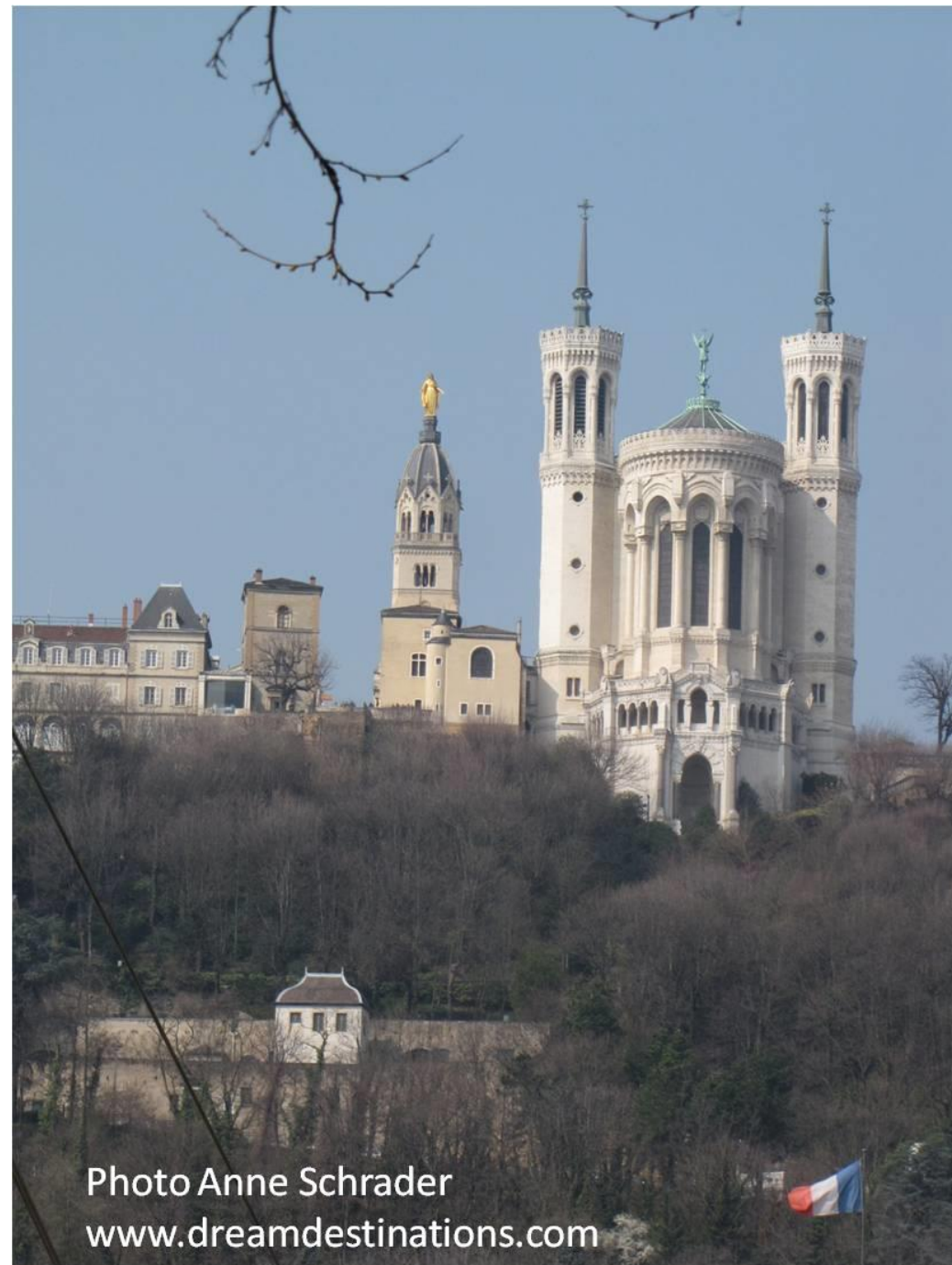


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# St. Jean Cathedral



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# Inside St. Jean Cathedral





# Narrow Streets of Old Town Lyon



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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



## Day 7 Lyon, France

- After breakfast, take a scenic drive through the rolling hills of Beaujolais, where viticultural tradition runs deep and enjoy a tasting in one of Beaujolais's famous cellars.
- Return to your ship for lunch and enjoy the rest of your day at leisure.
- As always, your Program Director can help you plan your free time.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 7 Shore Excursions

- Beaujolais Wine Country (included)
- Beaujolais & Truffles—sample Beaujolais during a visit to a wine chateau and two working farms
- Flavors of Lyon—treat your taste buds to the culinary delights of Lyon, once hailed as “world capital of gastronomy”

## Day 8 Lyon, France

- After breakfast, disembark and proceed to the Lyon airport for your return flight.\*
- Or, extend your time in France with three exciting nights in Paris, one of the world's most romantic cities.
- (Breakfast)
- \* Ground transfers are included with Viking Air purchase.



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