

CRUISE OF 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS - REF. NSN_CLR

# From the Châteaux of Chambord and Chenonceau to the Loire Valley

FRANCE

A taste of Paris linked with the history of France: discover the castles of the Loire between Chambord and Chenonceau before boarding the river boat for a cruise on the Royal Loire river whose beautiful landscapes are legendary. Visit Nantes and The Machines of the Isle of Nantes, a gallery that recreates the imaginary world of the famous writer Jules Verne. Discover Saint-Nazaire (6) and admire its shipyard and the Escal'Atlantic which immerses you in the world of steamships from the beginnings of their gigantic construction to life on board. Soak up the magical castles of the Loire such as Brissac, the highest castle in France whose monumental facades rise up from its large landscaped park.





## HIGHLIGHTS

- ONLY WITH CROISIEUROPE: A luxury cruise on an authentic paddle riverboat
- INCLUDED:1-night/2-day extended trip to the Châteaux of the Loire Valley including:
- Accommodations at a 3- or 4-star hotel in Paris
- Dinner in a typical French brasserie
- Visit the Chambord and Chenonceau châteaux
- Unforgettable moments:
- OFFERED : A full-day excursion through the Loire-Château d'Ussé, Château d'Azay-le-Rideau, and the gardens at the Château de Villandry
- Tasting of wines* in the cellar of the Château de Brissac(1)
- Explore Nantes, and its secret courtyards and passages(1)
- The Saint-Nazaire shipyard, French excellence(1,6)
- The Muscadet Wine Route, regional vineyards(1)

## THE CROISIEUROPE DIFFERENCE

- All meals included - DRINKS INCLUDED with meals and at the bar
- Refined French cuisine - Gala dinner and evening - Welcome cocktail
- Free Wi-Fi onboard
- Headsets are included for excursions
- Official welcome from the captain and crew
- Onboard activities
- Travel assistance and repatriation insurance
- All port fees included

# Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 1

### Paris

Meeting point from 5pm at the hotel in Paris. Welcome by your guide. Dinner at the hotel or restaurant. Accommodation in a 3* or 4*NL hotel.

DAY 2

### Paris - Châteaux of the Loire - NANTES - SAINT-NAZAIRE(4)

Breakfast will be served at the hotel. At 6:30 a.m., we'll set off by coach for the Château de Chambord, one of the most recognizable châteaux in the world because of its very distinctive architecture blending traditional French medieval forms with classical Renaissance structures. Enjoy a tour of this majestic castle and its grounds. We'll then continue on to Chenonceau, stopping for lunch in a local restaurant. Our afternoon will be spent visiting the Château de Chenonceau, one of the best-known and most-visited châteaux in the Loire Valley with an architecture mixing late Gothic and early Renaissance. After our visit, we'll head to Nantes, arriving in the evening. We'll welcome our passengers on board upon your arrival. After comfortably settling into your cabins, we'll introduce our crew at a welcome cocktail.

DAY 3

### SAINT-NAZAIRE(4) - NANTES

This morning, join us for an optional CLASSIC / DISCOVERY excursion: Saint-Nazaire (6), a seaside town. We'll begin our visit with Escal'Atlantic, which traces the history of Norman and French ocean liners. We'll then visit the actual Saint-Nazaire shipyard as it is today. Once the birthplace of the most outstanding French transatlantic liners, it is now the construction site for modern, elegant cruise ships. While following a tour designed especially for understanding the complexity of constructing these veritable floating palaces, you'll discover the immensity of this site (267 acres), the stunning logistics, and the high technology put in place to build the ships (This excursion must be booked in advance through your travel agency. Each passenger will be asked to produce a valid passport in order to book the excursion and gain access to the shipyard).

DAY 4

### NANTES

This morning, join us for the optional excursions proposed: - CLASSIC: Guided tour of Nantes and the Castle of the Dukes of Brittany. - DISCOVERY: Nantes, the Machines de l'Île(2), secret courtyards and covered passageways. This afternoon, join us for the optional CLASSIC / DISCOVERY excursion: The Muscadet Wine Route and the medieval village of Clisson. We'll pass through many of the villages attesting to the region's vigorous wine culture. We'll continue toward La Chapelle Heulin and stop at the Château Cassemichère (or similar site). This exceptional site invites you to discover its history-filled vineyards, visit its cellars and taste the dry, light, fruity and aromatic wine. Our next stop will be Clisson, a charming medieval city with 15th century ruins and an Italian flair.

DAY 5

## ANCENIS - The Châteaux of the Loire Valley - CHALONNES-SUR-LOIRE(3)

Today will be dedicated to an offered full day's excursion to the Châteaux of the Loire Valley. Departure by coach towards the Château d'Azay-le-Rideau. Built on an island in the middle of the Indre River, the structure as it stands today was erected during the reign of Francis I by a wealthy financier, Gilles Berthelot, who sought to combine Italian innovations with French architectural art. Listed as a historic monument, the Château d'Azay-le-Rideau embodies all the refinement of an early French Renaissance château. Continuation to Villandry for lunch. In the afternoon, enjoy a stroll through the gardens of the Château de Villandry: spread over three levels, they combine aesthetics, diversity, and harmony. Then, visit the Château de Villandry. Through its furniture, décor, and atmosphere, it stands as a living testament to French heritage. The estate of Villandry has evolved over the centuries. Acquired by Jean Le Breton, it transitioned from a medieval fortress to a residence enriched with Renaissance elements. In the 18th century, the Marquis de Castellane transformed it into a comfortable and luminous place, reflecting the art of living of the time. In the 19th century, it was saved by Joachim Carvallo and Ann Coleman, who restored it to its Renaissance state. Today, Henri Carvallo continues this legacy by combining preservation with the enhancement of the site. (The coach transfer time is estimated at approximately 4 hours round trip.) We'll return on board in Chalonnes-sur-Loire.

DAY 6

## CHALONNES-SUR-LOIRE(3) - Angers(1) - ANCENIS - NANTES

In the morning, optional excursions proposed: - CLASSIC: Visit the historical sections of Angers and see the legendary Apocalypse Tapestry(8). Capital of the Anjou region, Angers has many artistic and historic treasures and has become famous as much for its rich heritage as for its modernity and excellent quality of life. We'll visit the Château d'Angers, which dominates the old town, and admire the extraordinary Apocalypse Tapestry(8), one of the most important collections of medieval tapestries in the world. And we'll finish up with a tour of the cathedral area, combining Roman art ruins and rich Gothic-style architecture. - DISCOVERY: Tour of the Château de Brissac and wine tasting (7). We'll leave by coach for the Château de Brissac and visit the seven-story, 204-room splendid residence. The castle's spectacular decorations and the breathtaking Belle Époque theater are definitely not to be missed! At the end of our tour, we'll discover the castle cellars and enjoy a wine tasting. We'll return on board. We'll spend the afternoon cruising to Ancenis. Tonight is our gala evening. We'll be cruising to Nantes.

DAY 7

## NANTES - Paris(5)

Enjoy one last buffet breakfast before disembarking at 09:00 a.m. Transfer by coach(5) from Nantes to Paris. End of our services.

# Excursions

## Included excursions (1)



### DAY TOUR CASTLE OF THE LOIRE

11h Classic JOURNEE

## Optional excursions (7)



### ST NAZAIRE SHIPYARD AND ESCAL ATLANTIC

4h30 Classic MATIN



### ROAD OF THE MUSCADET WINE

5h Classic PM



### NANTES THE MACHINES DE L ILE

4h30 Discovery MATIN



### Guided tour of Nantes and the Castle of the Dukes of Brittany

4h30 Classic MATIN



### ANGERS GUIDED TOUR

4h Classic MATIN



### BRISSAC CASTLE

4h Discovery MATIN



## EXCURSIONS PACKAGE NSN

1 day  Classic

# Our price includes

Coach transport on Day 1 and Day 2, dinner on Day 1, accommodations at a 3-star or 4-star hotel in Paris, the full-day excursion to the Châteaux de la Loire with visits to the Châteaux de Chenonceau and Chambord, lunch on Day 2 - coach transfer from Nantes to Paris on D7 - your cruise with all meals from dinner the first evening to breakfast on the final day - onboard drinks included (except for drinks from our special lists) - accommodations in double-occupancy cabin with shower in private bathroom - onboard activities - welcome cocktail - gala evening - assistance from our onboard, multi-lingual host/hostess - “Châteaux de la Loire” excursion - emergency/repatriation insurance - all port fees.

*For optimal organization of your cruise, the order of the excursions can be modified according to the tides. For safety reasons, the company and/or the captain of the ship are the only authorities who can modify the cruise itinerary. The cruise schedule may vary according to tides; the order of the ship’s itinerary may be subject to change on the first two days. As the Loire is a wild river, variations in water levels are anticipated. Depending on navigation conditions, some stops may be cancelled. CroisiEurope is committed to implementing the necessary solutions to ensure passenger comfort and the continuation of the sightseeing programme. (1) Optional excursions. (2) The Machines de l’Île are closed on Mondays, replaced by the classic excursion (3) The stopover in Chalonnes-sur-Loire may be replaced by Ancenis. (4) The stopover in Saint-Nazaire may be replaced by Paimboeuf. (5) Our transfers are guaranteed from a minimum of 25 participants. Below that minimum, a train alternative may be offered to you. (6) The shipyard tour is only accessible to children aged 4 and over. (7) The Château de Brissac is closed on Tuesdays, replaced by the Discovery Angers Excursion (8) the Apocalypse Tapestry is closed on January 1st, May 1st, November 1st and 11th, and December 25th. *Alcohol can be dangerous to your health. Please drink in moderation.*

# Our price does not include

Drinks from our special lists, or drinks ordered during excursions or transfers - cancellation and baggage insurance - optional excursions (must be reserved and paid for on board or at travel agency) - transfers/travel to and from departure/arrival points - personal expenses.

# Practical information

## REQUIREMENTS

Valid passport required. Non-EU nationals are advised to consult their embassy or consulate.