

The Rhone River

# Provence & Burgundy Adventure Cruising



*Classic*  
JOURNEYS™





“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## River Cruising, Reimagined

Classic Journeys takes river cruising to a whole new level when you join us on France's legendary Rhone river. Aboard your Swiss-built 5-star cruise ship, you unpack just once—and embark on a daily collection of cultural and walking experiences handcrafted exclusively for our guests only. Your dedicated/expert/super well-connected/traveling-with-you local guide whisks you away from the crowded riverside attractions to which the other passengers are limited. In Burgundy, you wander in the wine capital of Beaune and have a private tasting at the Corton-Charlemagne vineyard. In Provence, your bespoke cultural experiences include the chance to cook with a Michelin-starred chef and a visit to our friend's award-winning olive mill. Throughout, you enjoy scenic country walks and village visits that the ship's other passengers can only dream about. Of course, you have unfettered use of all of the onboard amenities from observation lounge to wellness center and rooftop deck. Your luxuriously appointed stateroom has a wall of floor-to-ceiling windows, and the ship's own crew is hospitable to the Nth degree. To take your cruise another step beyond the usual, Classic Journeys treats you to a luscious variety of on-shore dining experiences in some of the regions' finest cafes and restaurants.

## DAY 1

## AVIGNON

- **Settle in aboard the MS Lord Byron**
- **Join your Classic Journeys guide for a festive welcome dinner in Avignon**

Welcome aboard your luxury cruise ship moored in the heart of Avignon. You'll be greeted by your Classic Journeys guide – your new friend and local expert who will be with you all week to host you on immersive small-group explorations handcrafted exclusively for you. While your cultural and walking activities will be far above and beyond those available to the other passengers, you'll all share the 5-star attention of the ship's hospitable crew. After you settle into your stateroom, strike out to discover all of the facilities from the expansive topside deck to the fine restaurants and wellness center.

Tonight, your Classic Journeys guide will arrange a festive private dinner on shore in one of Avignon's exceptional Provençal restaurants.

**Overnight:** Avignon

**Meals:** D

## DAY 2

## AVIGNON

- **Visit Se'nanque Abbey • Explore the enigmatic stone hut bories • Enjoy a guided walk of Avignon • See the Palais des Papes, where the Popes lived in the 14th and 15th centuries**

After breakfast, you'll wave good-bye to your fellow passengers as you head for the village of Roussillon. It's a startling sight, constructed as it was from 17 different shades of red sandstone. You'll take a short, enjoyable walk through the ochre quarries, then depart for Se'nanque Abbey, set in an isolated valley surrounded by a field of lavender and oaks. One of only three Cistercian monasteries in Provence, it is still occupied by the monks. After lunch and a visit, it's an easy stroll to Gordes. Your trail winds past a borie, one of the trademark structures of Provence. Bories are amazing corbelled vaults of flagstones, stacked high with no mortar to secure them. Similar to Neolithic examples found elsewhere in Europe, these are believed to be from the 18th or 19th century. They're remotely located and some experts speculate that they were built to escape the plague. If you'd prefer to skip this walk, you can ride ahead in the van and arrive in Gordes early, with time to go people-watching and shopping. Back in Avignon, your guide leads you on a walk through the streets. Dominating it all is the Palais des Papes, home of the breakaway papacy from 1316 until the 15th century. Today, its sweeping forecourt is sprinkled with lovely cafes and it's a stage for street performers who vie for your attention.

**Overnight:** Arles

**Meals:** B, L, D

## DAY 3

## LES BAUX / ST. RÉMY

- **Taste the olive oil at our friend's mill**
- **Stroll in the market village of Saint-Rémy**
- **Visit a 12th-century cloister once inhabited by van Gogh**

That's Arles you see through your floor-to-ceiling windows this morning. Once again today, you'll put the river behind you and head into the scenic heart of Provence. The region is called the Luberon, which you may recognize from Peter Mayle's book "A Year in Provence". You'll stop at Moulin Barbentane, a traditional olive mill that's a labor of love for our friends Isabelle and Jean. Their pressings have won international awards, and they tell you about the art of raising and selecting olives before treating you to a tasting of their oils.

Next, you'll visit Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, a picture-perfect market village that gives you a wonderful look at the quiet, quaint culture of the south of France. From Saint Rémy, the path to Les Baux reveals this gorgeous medieval village perched on a rocky crest jutting up abruptly from the plains below. It is the perfect view to accompany the authentic pique-nique arranged for you by your guide

In a scenic rock quarry, you'll take in the town's monumental sound and light show, Carrières de Lumière. Here, projected images of famous artwork are dramatically cast upon vast stretches of natural rock. Inspired by the art, continue on near St. Rémy, to St. Paul de Mausole, the 12th-century cloister where van Gogh spent the last year of his life. Using reproductions, the caretakers make it easy to see how much of the local landscape appeared in his paintings.



## DAILY ITINERARY

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After the quintessential Provençal day, you'll return to the ship for a relaxing evening. Perhaps you'll opt for a glass of the local wines in the panoramic observation lounge or choose to take a sauna or use the steam room before dinner.

**Overnight:** Cruise to Viviers

**Meals:** B, L, D

### DAY 4

## ORANGE / CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

• Explore the Roman Theater in Orange • Savor a Châteauneuf-du-Pape wine tasting • Cook with a Michelin-starred chef

Today, while the ship sails ahead for a series of brief stops along the Rhône, your Classic Journeys guide will lead you on an immersive, unforgettable day in the real world of Provence. First, you'll enjoy a leisurely amble through the region's vineyards, before arriving at the Roman theater of Orange, another of the best-preserved structures dating back to ancient times. After a morning spent among the vineyards, it wouldn't be right not to visit one of the finest! Even if you're not a certified wine-lover, you'll recognize Châteauneuf-du-Pape as one of France's premier wine regions. Because your group is small, you'll be able to enter the cellars for a tasting. You'll also see the ruins of Chateau des Papes, the summer retreat of the Popes. From the remaining walls, the view across the Rhône valley is breathtaking. Your afternoon is the culinary pinnacle of the week as you join Michelin-starred Chef Alain for an amazing cooking instruction. He shares the secrets of cuisine à la Provençale, the complex and savory flavors built on fresh herbs, peppery olive oil, garlic, and tomatoes. With the kitchen full of fresh Mediterranean produce, you'll roll up your sleeves, fire up the stove, and get a memorable hands-on lesson from a true master. Appetites stoked by the aromas of Chef Alain's kitchen, you sit down to the spectacular dinner you helped prepare.

**Overnight:** Tournon

**Meals:** B, L, D

### DAY 5

## PONT-DU-GARD / UZÈS

• Follow a countryside path to the Pont-du-Gard aqueduct • Walk past old watermills in the Alzon River Valley

Treat yourself to a hearty breakfast. From the dock in Vienne, you're off on a beautiful countryside walk. At the end: the Pont-du-Gard, one of the surviving Roman wonders of the world. An aqueduct system built over 2,000 years ago, the arched structure soars over the Gardon River. It's a classical treasure...and a monumental lesson in the vivid history of the region. Later, your Classic Journeys guide will make sure you arrive in the charming village of Uzès in time for lunch at a café. You'll have the option of staying on a little longer to explore and shop, or you can choose from two walks into the Alzon River valley to see the old watermill houses. Afterward, you'll meet back up with the MS Lord Byron in Tournon for a fun evening aboard.

**Overnight:** Cruise to Chalon-sur-Saone

**Meals:** B, L, D

### DAY 6

## VINEYARD WALK / BEAUNE

• Taste the wines of Corton-Charlemagne • Explore the wine capital of Beaune

Open your eyes this morning in Chalon-sur-Saone, in the scenic south of Burgundy. With your fellow Classic Journeys guests, you'll leave the ship behind to wander in the medieval town of Beaune, the wine capital of Burgundy. Here, even the simplest lunch is a culinary treat that you won't forget. Afternoon offers an amazing walk in the countryside where vineyards stretch as far as you can see in every direction. The path leads to a classic vineyard where you enjoy an intimate tasting of the Grand Cru white wines known as Corton-Charlemagne. The balance of the afternoon is back aboard as you bask in the particular pleasure of a river cruise, watching the scenic landscape glide by from the panoramic observation lounge or topside. (Try not to make your fellow passengers feel too jealous as you tell them about your day's Classic Journeys experiences.) Enjoy dinner tonight in one of the ship's fine restaurants.

**Overnight:** Cruise to Lyon

**Meals:** B, L, D

### DAY 7

## LYON

• Discover historic Lyon on a guided walk • Enjoy a relaxing afternoon on board or explore on your own

After this day, you just may agree with the citizens of Lyon that their home is the equal of Paris. It's one enormous UNESCO World Heritage Site with wonderful Renaissance buildings, Roman ruins, and lively street life. On a walk with your Classic

## DAILY ITINERARY

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Journeys guide, explore Vieux Lyon, the center of the silk industry for three centuries. You enter the renaissance passageways known as traboules, many of which are part of private homes today. And amidst it all, there's Parc de la Tete d'Or, a magnificent urban park with France's finest botanical garden. You'll return to the ship in time for lunch. The afternoon is yours for more exploring, a massage in the spa, or to catch some rays on the Sun Deck with the city's skyline as your backdrop.

**Overnight:** Overnight:Lyon

**Meals:** B, L, D

## DAY 8

### LYON

• Bid a fond farewell to the ship and your guide • Continue your travels or begin your homeward journey

After breakfast, you disembark for your flight home or to continue your travels.

**Meals:** B



## Tour Hotels



### **MS Lord Byron**

On your Swiss-built 5-star vessel, a crew of 36 serves a maximum of just 140 guests. Your stateroom offers a French balcony and floor-to-ceiling windows. Amenities include fine dining, panoramic observation lounge, spa, fitness room, plunge pool and wifi.

**OVERNIGHT:** Fairfield | **NIGHTS:** 7

## Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

## Trip Essentials

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>TRIP LENGTH</b> | 8 Days, 7 Nights                            |
| <b>START</b>       | On board the MS Lord Byron, Avignon, France |
| <b>END</b>         | Port of Lyon, Lyon, France                  |
| <b>TERRAIN</b>     | Easy to moderate on good trails.            |

## What's Included

- All meals are included
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for cruise, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Wine on Us
- Perfect Pairings Dinners
- Privileged Access Events

**READY TO BOOK?**  
**CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION**

## Or give us a call

**1-800-200-3887**

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST  
[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)

### AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

### ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference

## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

  
President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



**Luxurious Lodgings:**  
Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



**Included Activities:**  
You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



**Local Guides:**  
Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



**Small Group Travel:**  
With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



**Amazing Cuisine:**  
From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



**Unmatched Value:**  
"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

## You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Provence & Burgundy...

- Unpacking once on your 5-star river cruise boat
- Wine-tastings at fine vineyards in Burgundy and Provence
- Exclusive walks in the iconic Provençal countryside and villages
- A chance to cook with a Michelin-starred chef in his kitchen
- Dining extravagantly at onshore dinners for Classic Journeys guests only

"Classic Journeys excels in providing exceptional guides familiar with the local area."

-Bert and Jo Ann E.,