

## Paris – a Waterways Exploration

4 days part board with two days of cruising the Seine and Canal St-Martin

### Departure Dates in 2022

Wed 14<sup>th</sup>, Mon 19<sup>th</sup>, Tue 20<sup>th</sup>, Sun 25<sup>th</sup> September  
Thu 20<sup>th</sup> & Fri 21<sup>st</sup> October

**£695**

Single room supplement £135

Optional Extras with Devour Tours <https://devourparisfoodtours.com/tours/>

*Day 2 afternoon Food Tour in Le Marais District add £95*

*Day 3 evening gourmet food & wine experience in the 11<sup>th</sup> Arrondissement add £120*



*One of the hidden attractions of Paris – we are about to lock down to enter the 2km tunnel underneath Place de Bastille on the Canal St-Martin*

A compelling tour-and-cruise programme following the Upper Seine through the centre of Paris and including a fascinating trip along the Canal St-Martin in the city centre. To most regular river cruise customers this will be a new cruise experience as low bridge clearances mean that the big hotel boats cannot reach Paris itself, and we make our cruising early in the day before the Seine gets busy with all the tourist day boats.

Our 2-day cruise programme is separated by a clear day for the chance to explore central Paris independently. Our hotel is perfectly situated close to our mooring in La Villette Basin, and from here there is a wealth of visiting options across the city including the Sacre Cœur in Montmartre, a short distance away from La Villette on the tram. La Villette itself is a major visitor attraction, in addition to its vibrant cultural setting and splendid canal-side walks the park is home to the newly-commissioned Paris Conservatoire and the Cité des Sciences, the largest science museum in Europe.

On outward travel day we aim for a late-morning Eurostar crossing to bring us into Paris by mid-afternoon UK time. A local bus will transfer us the short way to our hotel in La Villette and the rest of the day is then free for local exploration. There is a wealth of shopping and dining options around La Villette so for this getaway we don't include evening meals and our guests can have fun selecting their own venues.

Our cruise programme comprises two half-days which may be in either order. One cruise follows the Canal St Martin down to the canal's junction with the Seine at Paris Arsenal. This is a fascinating journey as we negotiate a series of double-chambered locks and pass through the tunnel underneath Place de la Bastille before reaching the canal's junction with the Seine at Paris Arsenal. From here we turn briefly upstream on the Seine before mooring at Bercy.

For our other cruise we spend a half-day cruising downstream, past île Saint-Louis and Île de la Cité, through all of the great bridges, past the Eiffel Tower and onwards as far as the National Park of St-Cloud. We then turnabout and re-trace our pathway through the heart of Paris, with a view from the river of the restoration work under way at the Notre-Dame Cathedral before we return to our mooring in Bercy.

For both our cruises we will lunch aboard the boat with a complimentary bar in operation throughout cruising, and a local operator will provide our bus shuttle back to hotel. After our second cruise it's time to head for home and we will transfer to Gare du Nord for a late afternoon train bringing us back into London early evening.

The first cruise day afternoon and intervening free day are then free for relaxed exploration. In addition to the tramway stop close to Porte de Pantin, there are several Metro lines with nearby stops for connection to all the great visitor attractions either side of the Seine. For these trips we are also delighted to offer food & wine tasting experiences provided by our friends from Devour Tours. Guests can book these on-foot tours with their cruise by paying the supplements as shown, with the underlisted options available (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7r1xcbFwBw> for a "taste" of the action!)

#### **Option 1 - Day 2      14:30-18:30      Ultimate Paris Food Tour**

Devour Tours offers us visits to local outlets to include at least 11 food tastings and two different French wines as we walk around *Le Marais* District. You will be able to:

- Meet the family who revolutionized French bread—by sticking to traditional recipes - and try their famous bread for yourself!
- Visit the oldest covered market in Paris, dating back to the 1600s and learn about some of the fresh produce that has turned the French meal into a UNESCO-recognized tradition!
- Follow your expert culinary guide into the heart of the Jewish quarter and taste an unexpectedly Parisian pastry.
- Have a late lunch like the French in an old-school bistro with a classic French dish and learn the ins and outs of eating like a Parisian.

- Visit the last remaining multigenerational family run businesses in the historic Marais neighbourhood, some operating for nearly a century!

**Option 2 - Day 3      17:00-21:00      Paris by Night: Gourmet Food & Wine Experience**

Devour Tours invite you to experience French wine and dining like never before, with each glass paired with the perfect dish as you explore the trendy 11th arrondissement. Your tour includes:

- Enough food for a full dinner in enjoying at least 10 tastes and six fine French wines to help you understand what the French wine culture is all about
- Soak up the local feel of the 11th arrondissement as you enjoy its best bites.
- Crack the code of what the difference is between a bistro, a brasserie and a restaurant as you experience them first-hand.
- Visit a locally-loved modern French restaurant for seasonal shared plates of organic produce.
- Discover the real *apéritif* culture, what it is, and why it's so well done in France!
- Find your new favourite bites among the traditional French dishes you probably wouldn't order on your own.

For both tours we include taxi or minibus transfers between hotel and tour start/finish points. Guests will need to walk around 2.5km during each tour, but this is over more than 3 hours so not overly strenuous.

**The Daily Programme:**

Paris Short Break Cruise						
Day	Embark	Disembark	Km/Locks	Lunch	Added Options	Hotel ETD/ETA
Day 1	Report St Pancras by 09:00 for late morning Eurostar departure to Paris Gare du Nord and hotel check-in at around 16:30 local time. Free for local exploration for remainder of day					
Day 2*	La Villette Basin 10:00	Paris Bercy 13:30	7/5	On board	Optional food tour of Le Marais district provided by Devour tours 14:30-18:30	09:30/15:00
Day 3	Private sightseeing in Paris. Lunch not included today. Optional Gourmet food & wine experience provided by Devour Tours 17:00-21:00					-
Day 4*	Paris Bercy 10:00	Paris Bercy (via Île Seguin) 14:00	20/0	On board	Homebound post-cruise	ETD 09:00
Coach to collect stored luggage from hotel then transfer post-cruise to Gare du Nord for return Eurostar booked to depart around 17:20 for arrival St Pancras around 19:00 UK time						

*\*For some departures the cruise itinerary may be reversed*



*Your cruiser awaits – illustrated in this picture in the delightful setting of Auxerre on the River Yonne*

**What's Included:**

- Eurostar transfers London-Paris
- Local charter-bus transfers in Paris
- 3 Nights hotel accommodation at the 3\* Ibis Cité-des-Sciences Paris La Villette, B&B
- 2 half-day cruises on the waterways of Paris
- Lunches on board on cruise days
- Complimentary bar whilst cruising
- A free day in Paris
- Tour Manager services
- Optional Food tour experiences with Devour Tours (at additional cost)

**Guests Should Please Budget separately for:**

- Travel to or from London St Pancras
- Any overnight accommodation required in UK preceding or following our Eurostar transfers
- Lunches on the two travel days and on the day we are free in Paris
- All evening meals
- Travel and Health Insurance

**Our Hotel:**

We stay at the modern and high-rise Ibis Cité-des-Sciences Hotel located alongside our moorings on the Quai de L'Oise, and adjacent to the junction of the Canal St-Martin and the Canal de St-Denis. The Metro Stations of Corentin Cariou (line 7) and Porte de Pantin (line 5) are both within 10 minutes walk of the hotel, and the green spaces of the Parc de la Villette are directly opposite. This light and airy hotel has 284 rooms and offers all facilities to be expected of a mid-range 3\* Accor establishment, including a good and competitively-priced restaurant for those who are less interested in dining out.

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**Travelling Direct:**

Guests wishing to join the tour in Paris by either driving direct or connecting independently will be welcome to meet us at the hotel and in this event your tour price will be abated by the value of the Eurostar ticket saved.