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Emerald Waterways River Cruises Through Burgundy and Provence

Offer an Ideal Way To Explore This Bucket List Destination

Guests Will Enjoy Free Optional Excursions and \$1,500 Savings Per Couple

When Booking By October 31

Boston, MA (September 2020) – Two of the most storied and idyllic regions of France—Provence and Burgundy—are travel destinations that top many a bucket list. The multitude of charming towns and villages to explore here are part of what make these areas of France so appealing—but can also translate to daunting logistics and expenses. Not so with an [Emerald Waterways](#) river cruise, where guests can explore the magical region between France’s bustling gastronomic hub of Lyon and Vincent Van Gogh’s charming Arles without needing to rent a car, book a hotel, hire a tour guide or worry about dinner reservations.

Emerald Waterways’ [Sensations of Lyon and Provence](#) eight-day sailing along the Rhône and Saône rivers embodies the ideal Southern France and Provence vacation, complete with a mix of historic tours, visits to wineries and local markets, and plenty of free time for travelers to explore on their own. Featuring a new port complete with included tours every day, this sailing offers a taste of Southern France that is entirely hassle-free. And because Emerald Waterways’ pricing is inclusive of all meals, gratuities, tours, and even airport transfers to and from the ship, travelers don’t have to worry about keeping an eye on their expenses.

Guests booking any 2021 French river cruise of eight days or longer will receive their choice of \$1,500 savings per couple or \$295 round trip air per person, while those booking the five-day Christmas sailing will receive \$1,000 savings per couple or round trip air for just \$695 per person. Additionally all guests booking a 2021 France sailing will receive all DiscoverMORE tours—a collection of special events that invite you to delve deep into the region—for free. All bookings include a complimentary [Deposit Protection Plan](#), allowing guests to book with confidence in the event plans change. [Offer is good on bookings made by October 31, 2020.](#)

Beginning or ending the eight-day cruise in Lyon—France’s second largest city and former Roman capital—gives guests the chance to explore the culinary wonders here, including a visit to the famed Halles de Lyon, founded by French master chef Paul Bocuse. Foodies can take advantage of a free afternoon to have lunch at one of the 20 Michelin starred restaurants located here, or enjoy a more casual meal or snack al fresco at a traditional Lyonnaise *bouchon*.

The small towns and villages along the Rhône and Saône rivers are what give this region its quaint character, and Emerald Waterways’ itinerary visits many of the highlights. In gorgeous Tournon, one of the oldest monastic towns in France’s Burgundy region, a walking tour of the 17th-century castle (with optional wine tasting) highlights the city’s past. Picturesque Viviers is the perfect historic French town for losing oneself among the winding side streets and snapping dozens photos of adorable homes and incredible views from the town’s apex. A guided walking tour through historic Avignon, once the residence of Popes, uncovers the historic center as guests stroll the cobbled laneways and browse the shops overlooking the famous ‘Pont de Avignon.’ The sailing ends (or begins) in Arles, famed for its incredible quality of light that defines some of Vincent Van Gogh’s most popular paintings.

Provence is especially magical during the holidays, and Emerald Waterways’ new five-day [Christmas in Southern France](#) sailing between Avignon and Arles immerses guests in the traditions, crafts and culinary delights that define this time of year. December is olive season in Provence, which means in addition to shopping the markets and sampling the goodies, guests have the opportunity to taste freshly pressed olive oil while in Tarascon.

While touring these towns and meeting the locals there are certainly focal points for guests, the accompanying onboard programming extends the magic of Provence and Burgundy into a 24/7 experience. An afternoon cheese and olive tasting educates guests (in the most delicious way) on the many varieties that come from this abundant region, while a wine presentation and tasting with a local expert takes a deeper dive into one of the area’s most important exports. The highlight comes with an onboard Provençal dinner in Avignon, hosted by renowned local chef and Top Chef France finalist Fabien Morreale.

A river cruise can be as relaxed or active as one chooses, and Emerald Waterways’ signature EmeraldACTIVE programs offers a variety of tours to help guests to stay fit while traveling: guided bike tours in Lyon and Tournon, an active hike in Viviers, and new for 2021, a canoe trip in the waters around Avignon.

The Sensations of Lyon and Provence take place on board the *Emerald Liberté*, which was built specifically to sail the rivers of France and carries just 138 guests in 70 suites and staterooms, with a three-to-one guest/crew ratio. Guests have a choice of two dining areas—Reflections, the main dining room, and The Terrace for light breakfast and lunch—and enjoy accommodations in the signature

Emerald Waterways cabin design that replaces the French balcony, common to most ships, with an indoor balcony complete with decked area and an ingenious open-air system.

Emerald Cruises is the parent brand of Emerald Waterways and the newly formed Emerald Yacht Cruises. The *Emerald Azzurra*, the first yacht to launch under the Emerald Yacht Cruises brand, is a 100-guest super yacht that will ply the warm waters of the Mediterranean, Adriatic and Red seas. Emerald Waterways features nine branded Star-Ships offering river sailings in Europe and on the Mekong, as well as the chartered river ship along the Volga River in Russia (MS *Nizhny Novgorod*). The brand offers contemporary deluxe ships, outstanding service and an incredibly inclusive pricing plan that has won them the honor of being named Best River Cruise Line for Value by the Cruise Critic Editors' Picks Awards for five years running.

Additional information can be found by contacting your local travel advisor; on Emerald Waterways' website, www.emeraldwaterways.com; or by calling the consumer/travel agent reservations line at 844-428-8389. Digital brochure downloads are available on the website.

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EW-17-September 2020