



THE TASTE OF THE ATLANTIC COAST - FRANCE SAILING CRUISE

Embark on a delectable culinary journey between the Basque Country and Normandy, savoring fresh fish, seafood, and wine along the way. Begin your adventure with an exclusive evening event at the fascinating Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, where you'll be mesmerized by the magnificent collection of contemporary art. Continue to Bordeaux, a wine lover's paradise, where vintage wines, upscale lifestyle, and stunning 18th-century architecture await. Indulge in the delights of La Rochelle, where charming streets surrounding the Vieux Port offer Cognac, Pineau, and fresh oysters to tantalize your taste buds. Experience the serene beauty of Belle-Ile-en-Mer, a Breton island boasting rugged cliffs and charming harbor towns. Then, discover the enchanting idyll of Guernsey in the English Channel, with its steep headlands and picturesque bays, inspiring a sense of wonder. This exceptional voyage promises a perfect fusion of art, culture, and gastronomy, providing a feast for the senses as you savor the finest offerings from the sea and the vineyards between the Basque Country and Normandy.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 | BILBAO/SPAIN

Departure 11.00 pm Bilbao has always been an important port and industrial city. In 1993, Bilbao was a pilgrimage destination for lovers of modern art and avant-garde architecture. The Guggenheim Museum, with its idiosyncratic and unique design by famous architect Frank O Gehry, showcases everything that is important within its 11,000 square meters (118,403 foot).



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Steel used to be manufactured in Bilbao and it now plays a major role here, since other renowned architects have also been inspired to give Bilbao an attractive, distinctive look. Cross the futuristic Calatrava Bridge to reach the old town, where you can take a delightful stroll round the lanes and enjoy the art of Basque cuisine.

DAY 2 | DAY BENEATH FULL SAILS

Climbing the rigging, untying ropes, setting sails - today is all about sailing. Time to lean back and relax in the deck chair and watch the passionate crew hoisting the sails by hand.

DAYS 3 - 4 | BORDEAUX (PAUILLAC)/FRANCE

Arrival 12.30 pm Pauillac on the Medoc peninsula at the mouth of the Gironde north-west of Bordeaux is one of the oldest marinas in France. Its wide quayside is just under a mile long and takes a prominent position in the peaceful town center. However, it is Pauillac's location in the middle of one of the best wine-growing areas which has made it famous around the world. The town produces by far the most full-bodied wines in the Medoc and Bordeaux regions. On the outskirts of this town, which has its own 'appellation d'origine controlee', are no fewer than 18 of the 61 chateaux included in the list of Grand-Crus in the 1855 Bordeaux Classification, as well as three of the five Premier Grand-Cru wine estates: Chateau Lafite-Rothschild, Chateau Latour and Chateau Mouton-Rothschild. An excursion to Bordeaux is more than just a visit to an exquisite city with an old town which features on the UNESCO world heritage list. It is a visual and gastronomic treat for gourmets and sightseers

alike.

DAY 5 | LA ROCHELLE (LA PALLICE)/FRANCE

Arrival 08.00 am, Departure 01.30 pm The Vieux Port dock and the beautiful front, which teems with cafes, form the center of the picturesque old town. Two imposing towers once served as lookout posts for the harbor and town, and are now the symbol of La Rochelle. The medieval town walls, town hall, churches and shipowners' offices bear testament to its former glory. Today, the Les Minimes marina is one of the largest examples of its kind in Europe. A bridge spans the 3km gap between the mainland and the Ile-de-Re. With its enchanting beaches and dunes, little villages, cottages with green shutters and alleyways lined with hollyhocks, the 'White Isle' is a paradise for cyclists.

DAY 6 | LE PALAIS/BELLE-ÎLE-EN-MER

Arrival 08.00 am, Departure 01.30 pm At 54 square miles, Belle-Île-en-Mer, south of Lorient is the largest of Brittany's islands. For a few weeks every summer, the storms and crashing waves subside and the island takes on a laid-back holiday atmosphere, with lots of bicycles, beach towels and music. On the west coast, the waves break on the rocks causing white crests to dance on the water. Small, idyllic bays and beaches nestle in deep inlets in the rocky coastline, sometimes only accessible from the sea. The island's capital is the port of Le Palais with its imposing citadel and countless street cafes along the harbor and in the Place de la Republique. Claude Monet spent two and a half months on the island, producing 39 paintings of the wild Cote Sauvage.

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DAY 7 | DAY BENEATH FULL SAILS

Just enjoy the perfect sailing conditions with fitness, cosmetics, massage or with a good book in a teak chair.

DAY 8 | ST PETER PORT/GUERNSEY

Arrival 08.00 am, Departure 01.30 pm A piece of France fallen into the sea and grabbed up by the English' is how Victor Hugo described his place of exile in the Bay of St. Malo, which is closer to the northern coast of France than the south coast of England. Guernsey, the second largest British Channel Island, later inspired Auguste Renoir to produce a whole series of paintings. Narrow, meandering roads bordered by hedges and embankments wind through the interior of the island, which boasts lush vegetation courtesy of the mild Gulf Stream climate, while in the south, green hills give way to rocky cliffs on the sea's edge. Here, spectacular crags, bays and sandy beaches have been shaped by the vast tidal range pummeling the rock. The pretty island capital of St. Peter Port overlooking the large sheltered harbor and castle boasts a fascinating mixture of styles in a tangle of terraces and stepped gardens.

DAY 9 | HONFLEUR (PARIS)/FRANCE

Arrival 08.00 am Many famous impressionists caught the quaint atmosphere of this town at the mouth of the Seine on canvas in the 19th century. This small town in Normandy is still one of the most charming places in Normandy. Tall and narrow slate-clad buildings crowd around the quayside, the exquisite Vieux Bassin

and the old 17th century dock. Honfleur honours its famous sons, painter Eugene Boudin and composer Eric Satie, in a museum. East of Honfleur, the breathtaking Pont de Normandie spans the Seine estuary and links Honfleur with Le Havre, an engineering masterpiece and one of the longest bridges in Europe.

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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YOUR SHIP: Sea Cloud Spirit

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

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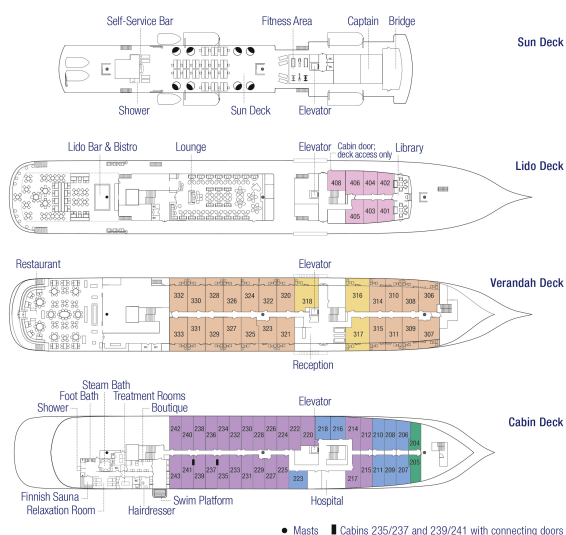
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