

« Savoir Vivre »

«Living like God in France» Cruise to Normandie on the Seine aboard the MS Excellence Royal



Paris – Rouen – Caudebec-en-Caux – Paris
10 to 16 November 2026

Normandy – the very name evokes enchanting aromas, the sound of lyres, and dreamlike images: ancient farmhouses, stately country estates, and dovecotes; a patchwork of meadows and fields, cows grazing in the shade of apple trees, a jug of freshly milked cream, elderly gentlemen enjoying a glass of Calvados. A small fishing harbor suddenly appearing from behind a cliff, a brightly painted boat, the crunch of pebbles beneath your feet, the cries of seagulls overhead – a true paradise on earth.



The MS Excellence Royal provides the perfect setting for our journey along one of Europe's most beautiful rivers – comfortable, stylish, and dedicated to the art of enjoyment. The ship impresses with its refined and elegant ambiance, spacious light-filled interiors, high-quality materials, and a harmonious color scheme. Its superior furnishings create an atmosphere where comfort and aesthetics blend seamlessly, making this river cruise a truly memorable experience. From the bright and welcoming foyer, guests enter the elegantly designed lounge and bar, whose sophisticated atmosphere invites relaxation. Whether enjoying a café noir, a fine glass of wine, or a Calvados, it is the perfect place to unwind at the end of the day while reflecting on the experiences and impressions gathered along the way. The ship's commitment to quality continues in its stylish restaurant. The menus combine carefully crafted regional specialties with international classics, showcasing the culinary diversity of the regions visited during the cruise. The comfortable cabins are located on three decks – the Upper, Middle, and Main Deck. All cabins are equipped with modern amenities, including a private shower and toilet, individually controlled air conditioning, satellite TV, minibar, safe, telephone, and hairdryer.



The arranged sightseeing tours and excursions are accompanied and narrated by experienced local English-speaking guides

Tuesday 10 November 2026

Individual arrival in Paris and transfer to the ship's embarkation point. In the evening, we gather for a welcome cocktail, followed by dinner.

Wednesday 11 November 2026

Late in the morning, we arrive in **Les Andelys**. High above the Seine rises the **impressive ruin of Château Gaillard**, built at the end of the 12th century by **Richard the Lionheart** to defend Normandy. However, the mighty fortress was captured as early as 1204 by **King Philip II Augustus**, bringing Normandy under French rule. The **remarkable ruins** have been protected as a **historic monument**

since 1852. A walk up to the castle rewards visitors with magnificent views over the Seine Valley and the picturesque town of Les Andelys.

We then continue our **journey through the most beautiful landscapes along the Seine**, passing the impressive limestone cliffs of the Seine Valley.

In the evening, we arrive in **Rouen**, whose **picturesque old town** invites you to enjoy an individual stroll before or after dinner.



Thursday 12 November 2026

Rouen is the **enchancing capital** of the Haute-Normandie region. In the morning, our tour guide will introduce us to the historic old town. The market square is lined with picturesque secular and religious buildings. On 30 May 1431, **Joan of Arc** was burned at the stake on this very square.

The richly sculpted late **Gothic cathedral** alone – **once a coronation church and burial place of dukes** – is worth the journey in itself. And there are many churches in Rouen; Victor Hugo therefore called it the “**city of a hundred bell towers.**”

The **afternoon** is free for **individual exploration**, or you may join a guided visit to the **Rouen Museum of Fine Arts**, which houses **one of the most important public art collections in France**. The museum is especially renowned for its extensive **Impressionist collection**, including **Claude Monet's** famous series of paintings of **Rouen Cathedral**.

Friday 13 November 2026

“Living like God in France” is the motto of our **day excursion**. We cross the **Pont de Normandie**, a **remarkable feat of engineering**, into the region famous for **Calvados**, **Camembert**, and **Cider**. **Honfleur** is a charming **harbor town** dating back to the Middle Ages and the Viking era. We visit the late Gothic wooden church with its separate bell tower. In the harbor, there is a lively atmosphere: fishing boats bring in fresh fish and shellfish every day. In the Middle Ages, Honfleur was the deep-sea port of Paris and played an important role in international trade.



Creamy Camembert meets crisp, sparkling cider – a true culinary experience. We discover one of France's most iconic gastronomic pairings. **Calvados** is one of Normandy's most renowned specialties. During a visit to a traditional distillery, we learn more about the production of this fine apple brandy – from the apple harvest and distillation to maturation in oak barrels. A tasting session brings this visit to a delightful conclusion.

Saturday 14 November 2026

In the morning, we visit the **chalk cliffs of Étretat** in Normandy. This **spectacular coastal landscape** is one of **France's most famous natural attractions**. The striking rock arches, **Porte d'Aval** and **Manneporte**, as well as the freestanding needle-shaped rock formation, define this unique panorama and rise up to **90 metres above the English Channel**. Along the well-maintained cliffside paths, visitors are rewarded with breathtaking views of the dramatic coastline and the sea.



Around midday, the **MS Excellence Royal** sets sail and heads towards Paris. The afternoon is spent in a calm and relaxed atmosphere on board, accompanied by ever-changing views along the Seine.

Sunday 15 November 2026

While the floating grand hotel continues its journey towards its destination, we enjoy the ship's many comforts. In a relaxed setting, the ever-changing river landscapes drift by quiet riverbanks, small villages, and wide fields that reveal themselves again in the gentle light of Normandy.

After our arrival in Paris in the afternoon, there is of course time for an individual stroll.



Monday 16 November 2026

After breakfast, we disembark and begin our individual journey home, filled with many wonderful impressions and unforgettable memories of the trip.

If desired, your stay in Paris can be extended by joining the optional extension program, offering further opportunities to discover and enjoy the city.

Prices per person, plus 0.25% risk contribution for the guarantee fund

CHF 2,245.- double cabin main deck

CHF 2,245.- single cabin main deck

CHF 2,395.- double cabin middle deck

CHF 2,445.- double cabin middle deck aft

CHF 2,495.- double cabin middle deck Mini Suite

CHF 3,715.- single cabin middle deck

CHF 2,545.- double cabin upper deck

CHF 2,595.- double cabin upper deck Mini Suite

CHF 3,985.- single cabin upper deck

What's included

Cruise aboard the floating Grand Hotel MS Excellence Royal in the cabin category of your choice, including all port taxes and ship fees, tourist tax for Paris, full board starting with dinner on the first day and ending with breakfast on the last day, sightseeing tours and excursions as described with English-speaking local guide, beverages served with lunch during the day excursion to Honfleur, a chanson evening in Rouen, the services of an experienced tour manager.

Programme and routes subject to change. The organiser's general information and conditions of travel apply. A minimum number of travellers is required for the trip to take place.

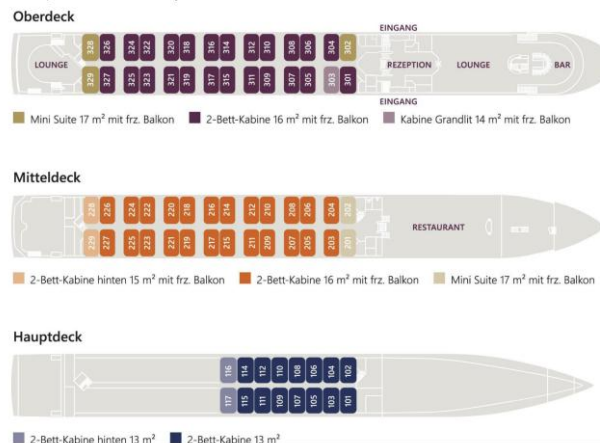
MS Excellence Royal

The MS Excellence Royal built in 2010 / sails under the Swiss flag and is operated by Swiss Excellence River Cruise based in Basel / 4 decks / 71 cabins / draught of just 1,60 m / the ship has been awarded the Gold Standard by the Green Award Foundation, an independent organization that recognizes ships demonstrating exemplary performance in safety, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility. This prestigious certification reflects the vessel's commitment to maintaining the highest operational and ecological standards.

Main deck: With upper windows that cannot be opened for safety reasons. Features a double bed, which can be converted into twin beds on request (except for the grand lit bed in Cabin 102).

Middle and upper deck: French balcony, floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows with sliding door, double bed, with the option of separate twin beds on request (except for the grand lit beds in Cabins 201, 202, and 301-303).

Deckplan Excellence Royal



Paris Extension Programme

Monday 16 November 2026

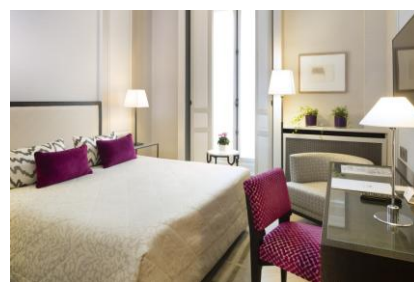
Excursion to **Longueville** to visit **AJECTA** (*Association des Jeunes pour l'Exploitation de Chemins de Fer Touristiques et d'Attraction* – Association of Young Enthusiasts for the Operation of Tourist and Heritage Railways). The museum will be **opened exclusively for our group**.

Founded in the Paris region in 1968, the organization is dedicated to rescuing historic steam locomotives from scrapping. In 1971, AJECTA took over the former locomotive depot at Longueville, located approximately 100 km southeast of Paris. **The centrepiece of the site is a turntable and a 20-track roundhouse dating from 1911.** Today, the **museum's collection includes twelve locomotives** as well as **other historic rolling stock**, some of which is still undergoing restoration. The **oldest locomotive** in the collection was built by **Schneider in 1862** in Le Creusot.



The collection also includes numerous carriages of the former **Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits (CIWL)**, among them sleeping cars, Pullman coaches, and dining cars such as the famous **"Côte d'Azur."** We will then enjoy an **aperitif aboard the Pullman car "Côte d'Azur" No. 4155**, followed by a **fine lunch served in dining car No. 4207.**

Upon our return to Paris, we check in to the **Hôtel Bedford******. This historic hotel enjoys a central location and combines **classic Parisian charm with timeless elegance**. Its tastefully furnished rooms offer comfort and tranquility in the heart of the vibrant French capital, providing the perfect setting to relax and unwind after an eventful day.



Tuesday 17 November 2026

In the morning, we take a **guided walk** through the neighbourhood surrounding the **Gare du Nord**. During this tour, we explore one of Paris's most vibrant and diverse districts, shaped by its role as a major international railway hub. Amid historic station buildings, bustling streets, and the **distinctive atmosphere of a great European metropolis**, the area reveals a **fascinating blend of railway heritage**, migration, and everyday urban life. At the heart of the district stands the station itself, one of Europe's most **important transport interchanges** and a key gateway to the French capital.

For lunch, we visit one of the **most beautiful restaurants in Paris** and at the same time the world's most famous railway restaurant: **Le Train Bleu**, located within the **Gare de Lyon**. Set in magnificent **Belle Époque** surroundings, adorned with lavish **stucco work, gilded decorations**, and impressive murals, the restaurant exudes an atmosphere of timeless elegance. Entering Le Train Bleu is an experience in itself: the **monumental dining** hall captivates visitors with its opulent design, transporting guests into the glamorous world of a bygone era.



The rest of the day is at leisure and may be used for individual activities and personal exploration of Paris.

Wednesday 18 November 2026

After a final breakfast, it is unfortunately time to say goodbye. We enjoy our last hours together before beginning our individual journeys home. With many wonderful memories to take with us and a touch of nostalgia in our hearts, this remarkable journey comes to an end—one enriched by impressive landscapes, memorable encounters, and unforgettable experiences that will stay with us long after our return.

Prices per person, plus 0.25% risk contribution for the guarantee fund

CHF 1,730.- double room Classic

CHF 1,795.- double room Superior

CHF 2,145.- single room Classic

CHF 2,275.- single room Superior

What's included

Two nights at the Hôtel Bedford in central Paris, including breakfast and all taxes, including the city tax. sightseeing tours and excursions as described, accompanied by English-speaking local guide, two lunches with table beverages served during the meals, services of an experienced tour manager.

Classic Room with a king-size bed (150 or 160 cm), bathroom with bath or shower/WC, minibar, safe, satellite TV, approx. 19 m².

Superior Room with a double bed or king-size bed (180 cm), bathroom with bath or shower/WC, minibar, safe, satellite TV, approx. 22 m².

We will also be pleased to arrange your evening entertainment in Paris. Whether it is a glamorous performance at the opera, an exclusive concert, or a visit to a world-famous cabaret show such as the Moulin Rouge – we will secure the desired tickets for you. Simply let us know your preferences.

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