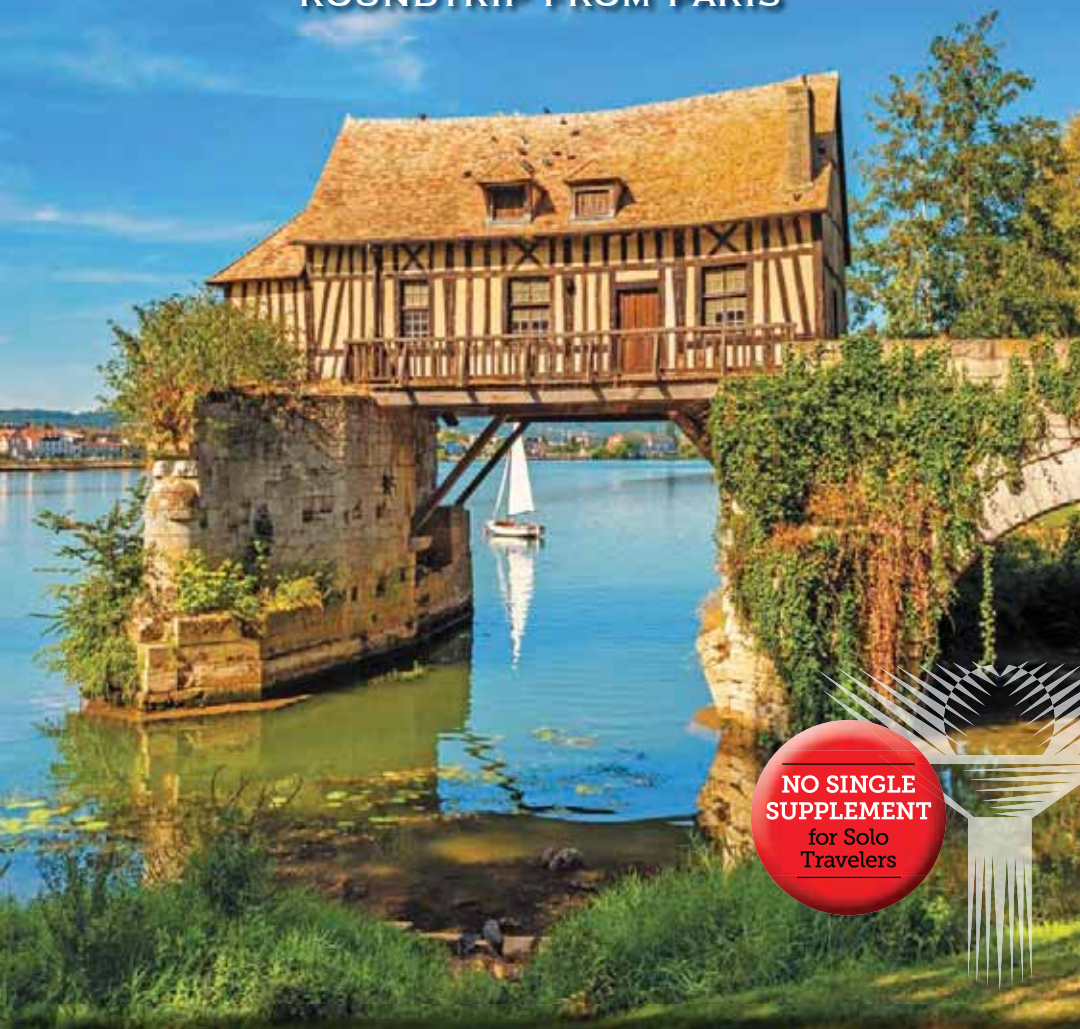


GRAND Seine River & Normandy Passage

ROUNDRIP FROM PARIS



NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT
for Solo
Travelers

SPONSORED BY

University of Illinois Alumni Association

EXPLORERS
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

September 15-23, 2025

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Join us for a cultural journey along the storied Seine River! Set sail from Paris on an unforgettable round-trip cruise that showcases this special corner of France.

As your riverboat glides through Normandy's bucolic countryside, history will come to life. Visit celebrated destinations, including Versailles, Honfleur and Rouen, and explore Claude Monet's blooming gardens in Giverny. Spend a day immersed in World War II history at the Caen Memorial and the poignant beaches that once served as battlegrounds. After discovering the essence of Normandy, return to the heart of Paris to enjoy more time in this romantic city, plus enjoy a tour of the Latin Quarter. Together, we'll turn the pages of this remarkable history book!

This thoughtfully designed journey features enrichment from expert guides and lecturers, along with the security and ease of group travel. Plus, you'll appreciate the camaraderie of other curious travelers and make your own discoveries during free time.

Our Seine River cruise has always proven to be a crowd-pleaser! Guarantee your spot by making your reservation today!

Sincerely,



David Bambrey
President

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

UNESCO World Heritage

1. Paris, Banks of the Seine
2. Palace and Park of Versailles



Notre Dame, Paris



Versailles



A World of Discovery



The legendary Seine River snakes its way through Normandy, a region shaped by a profound history and rich traditions. Sit back on your first-class river ship and revel in the passing landscape. History comes to life while visiting ancient abbeys, harbor towns brimming with antiquity and the home of master painter Claude Monet. Trace the footsteps of Allied forces before capping off the journey in timeless Paris.

*Top: Abbey of Jumieges | Above: Giverny
Cover: Vernon on the Seine
Mail panel: MS Renoir sailing in Paris |
Monument, Normandy American Cemetery*

Inspiring Moments



- Pay tribute to the sacrifice and valor of the Allied Forces at significant **D-Day beaches**.
- Discover the impact of World War II at the **Caen Memorial Museum**.
- Explore the outstanding palace and gardens of **Versailles**, a decadent symbol of royal power.
- **Cruise through Paris** and behold the glorious sights of this celebrated city.
- Uncover the life of Claude Monet while exploring his **Giverny home and gardens**.
- Visit medieval abbeys nestled in the **French countryside**.
- See **Rouen's splendid Cathedral**, one of the greatest in all of France.
- Experience two **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.



Étretat

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Paris, France. 🌐

Day 2 | Paris, France

Upon arrival, transfer 🚗 and embark your ship. Settle in your comfortable cabin and get acquainted with the ship's modern amenities. Later, gather with new friends for a Welcome Reception and Dinner. Then bid farewell to Paris as the ship departs for your Seine River cruise!

Day 3 | Versailles | Conflans-Sainte-Honorine

Versailles Discovery. Travel to France's grandest palace. Versailles was France's political capital and seat of the royal court from 1682-1789. See the opulent rooms, sprawling gardens and the famous Hall of Mirrors. The Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I, was signed in the famous Hall of Mirrors.

Take some time to craft your own path through the celebrated gardens filled with lakes, fountains, flowerbeds and flowers.

Return to the ship for lunch and relaxation. Head to the sun deck while cruising to Rouen.

Day 4 | Rouen | Jumièges

Ancient Abbeys. Venture through the French countryside to visit the ruins of the Benedictine Abbey of Jumièges, one of the most powerful abbeys in medieval France. The ruins of the current building are from the 11th century, but the original monastery was built 300 years earlier. See the abbey's cloisters and the remains of the Église St Pierre. Continue to Abbey Saint-Wandrille, recognized as one of Normandy's first Benedictine abbeys. The buildings, which flaunt rococo-style and Gothic decorations, still house a monastic community.

Back on board, enjoy a delicious lunch.

Rouen. Embark on a walking tour of historic Rouen. The medieval quarter is filled with ornate Gothic churches and half-timbered houses. Witness Notre-Dame de Rouen, the city's grand cathedral captured so brilliantly in paintings by Claude Monet. Marvel at Le Gros-Horloge, the famous astronomical clock. Along the way, listen to tales of Joan of Arc. After this thrilling day of sightseeing, return to the ship for dinner and cruise to Le Havre.

Day 5 | Le Havre | Étretat | Honfleur

Étretat. The grand white cliffs and arches along Étretat's coastline are represented in nearly 80 works of art by Monet. Take a gentle stroll along a cliff-top path, enjoying views before you.

🌐 **PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

- **Calvados Farm Tour.** Head to the country to visit a family-run cider farm. Tour the farm and learn about the production of pure fruit juices, Calvados and Pommeau, a delightful mixture of apple juice and apple brandy. Enjoy a sampling of these special items! (Active)

Gardens at Versailles





Honfleur

- **Musée d'art moderne André Malraux.**

Join a tour of the MuMa, a fabulous museum known for its collections of European art from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Marvel at paintings by Renoir, Dufy, Pissarro and more.

- **Deauville.** Get to know this beautiful seaside resort located along the Côte Fleurie. Wander along the boardwalk, lined with elegant shops, hotels and golden-sand beaches.

Honfleur. Continue the day in the French port town that has captivated artists for centuries, including Monet and Boudin. Soak up the ambience of its picture-perfect old harbor, located where the Seine River meets the English Channel. Stroll through the pretty harbor and along the narrow side streets to see the city's landmarks. The Church of Sainte-Cathérine is a special stand-out.

Enrichment: Normandy's Culture, History

& People. Join a local expert to uncover the rich, fascinating history of the Normandy area.

Omaha Beach



Day 6 | Honfleur | D-Day Beaches | Caen | Caudebec-en-Caux

Normandy & D-Day. Journey into World War II history at Pointe du Hoc. It was here that U.S. Rangers scaled cliffs to destroy German artillery emplacements that posed a threat to troops landing on Omaha and Utah beaches. Learn about this treacherous mission from your guide. At Omaha Beach, contemplate the bravery of the Allied landing forces who advanced under devastating fire across the heavily fortified shoreline to overcome German troops. Next, visit the Normandy American Cemetery, which contains 9,385 graves of Americans who died in the invasion and subsequent battles, followed by a touching visit to the Caen Peace Memorial Museum.

Normandy American Cemetery





Day 7 | Les Andelys | Giverny | Vernon

Monet, His Life in Giverny. Delve into the life of impressionist Claude Monet at his Giverny home. Admire the Japanese garden, pond filled with lilies and green footbridge captured in his artistry. Visit the studio where he created his famous “Water Lilies” series and step into his home to admire the cheerful rooms painted in bright yellows and blues. Relax over lunch while sailing to Paris.

Day 8 | Paris

Gems of Paris. See the City of Light during a cruise on the Seine. Admire iconic landmarks, including the Louvre, and float under charming bridges. Continue on a walking tour through the heart of Paris, passing the magnificent Notre-Dame. Cross the Pont de l’Achevéché for an intimate look at the Latin Quarter.

Free Time: The afternoon is at your leisure. Join a Farewell Reception and Dinner tonight.

Day 9 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer ➡ to the airport for the return flight ✈ to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

✈ Flights and ➡ transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

🌟 PYJ experiences are included.

🕒 Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

Note About Activity Levels

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **Unpack once** and sail for **7 nights** aboard the **exclusively chartered**, first-class MS Renoir.

Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- 🌟 **PYJ | Personalize Your Journey |** A choice of excursions in selected locales.
- 🕒 **Electives** and free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- 🌱 **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Notre-Dame de Rouen



MS Renoir



Step aboard the stylish MS Renoir and embark on a cruise where your comfort and enjoyment are the highest priority. From the ship's beautiful decor to gourmet dining experiences and generous, comfortable public spaces, your floating hotel provides a stress-free stay while discovering the Seine River and beyond. Along the way, delight in a variety of shipboard entertainment, live music and cultural programs.



EXTEND YOUR STAY



Opera Garnier, Paris

Paris | 2 Nights

{ Elective PRE-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Spend two additional nights in thrilling Paris! Enjoy a tour of the historic Le Marais neighborhood and spend free time exploring Paris' world-class museums, boutiques and more. This extension includes two nights at the Hilton Paris Opera; Welcome Reception and daily breakfast; guided tour of Le Marais; services of an AHI Travel Director and AHI Hospitality Desk; transfer with baggage handling between the hotel and the ship; and all taxes and service charges.

\$1,095 per person, double occupancy | \$1,590 single occupancy

Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,
please call our AHI Travel Experts
at **844-414-0369** or
visit **<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**.

Program Dates

Travel dates ✈

September 15-23, 2025

✈ Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates*

September 16-23, 2025

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Cruise Program

Category-Deck	Full Price	Early Booking Special Price*
D-Main Deck (Aft)	\$5,240	\$4,490
C-Main Deck (Forward)	\$5,440	\$4,690
B-Upper Deck (Aft)	\$5,940	\$5,190
A-Upper Deck (Forward)	\$6,140	\$5,390

Early Booking Special Price includes \$750 special savings.

*Early Booking Special Price valid if booked by date on address panel and paid in full at booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$250 per person.

A category features a private balcony and large window. B category features a large window. Categories C and D feature a porthole.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1882A?schoold=69>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.



The Louvre, Paris



Abbey Saint-Wandrille

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays



Calvados

AHI Travel Expertise

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

Travel Consultants stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators each offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Once you arrive:

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

Knowledgeable Lecturers deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Gros-Horloge, Rouen

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

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