

Bringing history to life

The River Seine to the Beaches of Normandy

Paris • Arromanches • Normandy Beaches • Rouen • Dieppe Les Andelys • La Roche Guyon • Mantes-la-Jolie • Auvers-sur-Ois

October 29-November 6, 2023



Featuring World-Renowned Authors and Historians John C. McManus, PhD & Craig L. Symonds, PhD







Featuring an exclusive lecture series and comprehensive touring, this unique educational program combines learning and sightseeing with a whole new level of luxury.

STEPHEN J. WATSON

Dear Friend of The National WWII Museum,

We have long honored our mission preserve the history of World War II through exhibitions, educational programs, and battlefield tours. It is with great excitement that I invite you join the Museum's Travel Team for a unique custom itinerary cruising the Seine River into the heart of Normandy, delving into the stories of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy along the French coast, and exploring the rich culture of the Normandy countryside.

Aboard Uniworld's S.S. Joie de Vivre, you will be joined by renowned historians and authors John McManus, PhD, and Craig Symonds, PhD, both experts on World War II. Throughout the journey, these special guests will bring interesting historical insight to the places you will visit through a custom lecture series. Accompanied by local battlefield guides and with access to the digital archives of The National WWII Museum, this is truly the best, most educational, and luxurious way to dive deeper into your study of the rich cultural and military history of the region of Normandy. Guests may also choose to relive the joys of the long-awaited liberation of the "City of Light" during an optional three-night Paris pre-cruise program.

Even if you have visited France before, I encourage you to join us on this poignant, unforgettable journey. This exclusive charter and chateau buyout provides a backdrop that unites curious life-long learners seeking rich educational experiences. The rich itinerary creates a fulfilling and engaging atmosphere during the entire journey.

We are honored to share and remember the stories of the heroes to whom we owe so much.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Watson

President & CEO, The National WWII Museum

"This was an amazing trip. We have traveled around the world, but this trip was more meaningful than any we have taken because of the history of the places we visited. What happened in Normandy and the rest of France had an enormous impact on us as Americans. Our lives would have been very different had the Normandy invasion failed. We can't wait to visit the Museum and share what we learned on our trip with our children and grandchildren."

- Sharon A., La Jolla, CA

"This trip was truly the finest we have been on from start to finish. Every aspect showed attention to detail, comfort, learning and enjoyment. We have already recommended this to friends. Thank you so very much for such a wonderful and meaningful voyage."

– Carolyn B., Louisville, KY











Museum **Quick Facts**



8 million+

visitors since the Museum opened on June 6, 2000



\$2 billion+ in economic impact



160.000+ active Museum members



8,000+ travelers, representing every US state



625.000+ social media followers

TRAVEL WITH EXPERTS



COUNTRIES covering all theaters of World War II **Tour Programs** operated on average per year, at times accompanied by **WWII** veterans



ww2museumtours.org







AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN CRAIG L. SYMONDS, PhD



CREDIT: DUDLEY HARRIS

Craig L. Symonds, PhD, is Professor Emeritus of History and former History Department Chair at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he taught for thirty years. He is the author of sixteen books on Civil War and World War II topics, including *Operation Neptune: The D-Day Landings* and the Invasion of Europe which received the 2015 Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature. He is also the author of The Battle of Midway (2011) and World War II at Sea: A Global History (2017), both from Oxford University Press. From 2017 to 2020 he was the Ernest J. King Distinguished Professor of Maritime History at the US Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

In this gripping account of D-Day, Symonds delves into the critical role of the naval forces—British and American, Coast Guard and Navy—and how the success depended mostly on the men themselves: the junior officers and enlisted men who drove the landing craft, cleared the mines, seized the beaches and assailed the bluffs behind them, securing the foothold for the eventual campaign to Berlin, and the end of the most terrible war in human history.



AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN JOHN C. MCMANUS, PhD

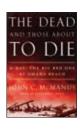


John C. McManus, PhD is Curators' Distinguished Professor of US Military History at Missouri University of Science and Technology, and one of the world's leading historians of World War II. He has written 12 books, most of which cover some aspect of the American combat experience in World War II, including *The Americans at D-Day*; *The Americans* at Normandy; September Hope: The American Side of a Bridge Too Far; Alamo in the Ardennes; and The Dead and Those About to Die, D-Day: The Big Red One at Omaha Beach. He is in frequent demand as a speaker and has made hundreds of appearances as an expert commentator for radio and television outlets. He has appeared in

numerous major documentaries that have aired on PBS, the History Channel, Netflix, the Smithsonian Network, the Discovery Channel, the National Geographic Channel, and others.

"There are two kinds of people who are staying on this beach, those who are dead and those who are going to die. Now let's get the hell out of here."

- Colonel George A. Taylor on June 6, 1944, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division



THE RIVER SEINE TO THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY

OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Your journey in Normandy and on the Seine River features expert local guides with unparalleled knowledge of WWII locations—from lesser-known sites available exclusively to The National WWII Museum's travel programs to iconic landmarks steeped in heroism and history. Visit the famous church in Sainte-Mère-Église, stand on Omaha Beach to view the intricate German defense system, and ponder the overwhelming odds the American soldiers faced on June 6, 1944. Cross Pegasus Bridge, where the men of the British 6th Airborne Division won the first battle of D-Day just minutes after midnight. Along the way, hear from top-rated battlefield guides, and appreciate the beauty, culture, and history of a region that has played a critical role throughout world history.



DAY ONE

Depart the US, Paris Arrival, & Transfer to the *S.S. Joie De Vivre*

October 28/29 – Depart the US on October 28 and arrive at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport on October 29. Guests are warmly welcomed and transferred to *S.S. Joie de Vivre*. Early morning arrivals may choose to enjoy a morning exploring Paris independently after dropping luggage at the ship or may board the vessel and enjoy the ship's public areas* before settling into a luxurious stateroom or suite this afternoon. This evening, bid farewell to the "City of Light" during a welcome reception and dinner on the Seine River.

Accommodations: S.S. Joie de Vivre (R, D)*

*Light lunch available on S.S. Joie de Vivre from 12:00pm-2:00pm for those arriving in the morning.



PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Full-time featured historians John C. McManus, PhD, and Craig L. Symonds, PhD
- Full-time expert local guides
- Full-time Museum logistical tour managers
- Four-nights accommodation aboard the 5-star S.S. Joie de Vivre
- Four-nights accommodation in Normandy at the hand-selected
 5-star château
- Most meals, including: (8) breakfasts,
 (4) lunches, (8) dinners, (8) receptions
- House wines, beer, and spirits with included lunches and dinners during land program
- House wines, beer, and spirits through out the cruise while aboard the S.S. Joie de Vivre

- All gratuities to drivers, guides, and shipboard staff
- Entrance fees to all sites, museums, and attractions
- Private first-class, air-conditioned motorcoach transportation
- Personal listening devices for touring
- Roundtrip airport transfers (when arriving and departing on scheduled group tour dates)
- Informative map book to be used throughout your journey
- Personalized luggage tags and name badge

THROUGH THEIR EYES

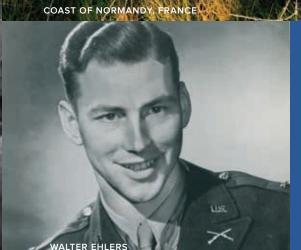
REMEMBERING THE FALLEN IN NORMANDY



WALT EHLERS: A HISTORY OF SERVICE

In 1940, Walter "Walt" Ehlers of Kansas wanted to join his brother Roland in the Army but needed his mother's permission to enlist since he was not yet of age. Serving in the same unit of the 3rd Infantry Division, the two brothers first saw combat in North Africa, landing near Casablanca during Operation TORCH, then at the famous battle of El Guettar, where the Americans were able to defeat the more experienced German forces.

They were transferred to the 1st Infantry Division together and participated in the invasion of and battle for Sicily. The Ehlers boys then shipped to England in preparation to spearhead the Normandy invasion with the 1st Infantry Division. In anticipation of high casualties, their commander placed the brothers in different companies, to avoid both brothers being killed together. Before they parted ways, Walt and Roland made a promise to shake hands on top of the bluffs overlooking Omaha Beach.



- MEDAL OF HONOR -

WALTER D. EHLERS 1921 – 2014

Staff Sergeant, US Army, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division

Landing on June 6, 1944, Staff Sergeant Walt Ehlers and his entire squad made it off the beach unscathed, and pushed inland. Unfortunately, Roland wouldn't make it up to the bluffs. Roland was among the more than 1,400 Americans killed in action that day.

On June 9, 1944, near the small Norman village of Goville, Ehlers led his men on an attack that knocked out a German mortar position and multiple machine gun nests. The next day, as his unit encountered German resistance, he was wounded while covering the retreat of his comrades. Despite his wound, he carried one of his squad members back to safety. It would be six long

months before Walt learned that he was awarded the Medal of Honor for these actions.

After the Normandy campaign, Ehlers and the 1st Infantry Division pushed across France, into the Huertgen Forest, and then into Germany. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Ehlers received three Purple Hearts and a Silver Star. Following the war, Ehlers became an advocate for military veteran benefits, interviewing a wide range of veterans through his work with the Veterans Administration. The National WWII Museum is honored to have Walter Ehlers' Medal of Honor and Oral History in our collection and on exhibit.

DAY TWO

La Roche-Guyon & Les Andelys

October 30- This morning, arrive at La Roche-Guyon, the famous 12th century château on the Seine, where Field Marshal Erwin Rommel had his headquarters. At La Roche-Guyon, "The Desert Fox" planned and prepared the tough defenses that the Allies encountered on D-Day, as well as the German movements during the campaign that followed. After lunch onboard the ship, dock at Les Andelys and visit Château Gaillard—Richard the Lionheart's 12th century stronghold—offering inspiring views of the Seine River. Accommodations: S.S. Joie de Vivre (B, L, R, D)

PHOTO: VIEW FROM CHÂTEAU GAILLARD, LES ANDELYS. COURTESY OF MIKE LOUAGIE/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.





HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

ERWIN ROMMEL, "THE DESERT FOX"

Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was Germany's most celebrated commander during the war. Known as "The Desert Fox" for his achievements against the British in North Africa, he was appointed by Hitler to be in command of the Normandy region's coastal fortifications and defenses. When he arrived in early 1944, he quickly and markedly improved the German defenses that would await the Allies on D-Day.

PHOTO: FIELD MARSHAL ERWIN ROMMEL INSPECTS GERMAN BEACH DEFENSES ON THE NORMANDY BEACH IN EARLY 1944. COURTESY OF PICTORIAL PRESS LTD/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.

DAY THREE Versailles or Auvers-sur-Oise

October 31 - This morning, dock in Mantes-la-Jolie, gateway to both the city of Versailles and the commune of Auvers-sur-Oise. At the end of World War I, the world's statesmen gathered at The Palace of Versailles to sign the ill-fated peace treaty ending "The Great War." The defeated Germans ultimately rejected the harsh provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, setting the stage for another world war just two decades later. Visit the famous *Galerie des Glaces* (Hall of Mirrors), the actual site of the treaty signing. Also included is an exclusive tour of the royal apartments, which still look much as they did when Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette fled before an outraged mob in 1789. Alternatively, for those that may have visited Versailles on prior trips, there is the option to tour Auvers-sur-Oise, where Vincent van Gogh spent the last days of his life and where he is buried. While in the village, a visit to Château d'Auvers-sur-Oise offers a look at various Impressionist artists who visited this area, or you may spend free time exploring independently.

DAY FOUR Rouen & Dieppe

November 1 - On the northern coast of France lies the fishing community of Dieppe. It was here in August 1942, that the ill-fated raid by mostly Canadian forces would offer invaluable lessons for D-Day nearly two years later. Marvel at the smooth pebbles that make up the beach and imagine the difficulty of landing and running while under fire. The boardwalk behind the beach contains tributes to the men who came ashore in hopes of liberating the town, and a keen eye will be able to spot the German emplacements on the cliffs above Dieppe. After free time for lunch, explore this charming seaside town then return to Rouen. Described by Victor Hugo as "the city with a hundred bell towers," and the scene of the Eighth Air Force's first bombing mission over Europe in 1942, take part in a walking tour of the town center or return to the ship to relax before dinner this evening.

Accommodations: S.S. Joie de Vivre (B, R, D)





THE ROAD TO NORMANDY

From the moment the Nazis conquered Western Europe in their great blitzkrieg offensive of May-June 1940, the Allies began to plan and prepare for their eventual cross-channel invasion and return to the continent. It would be four years before the Allied nations made their triumphant return to the continent on June 6, 1944. While it was an eventual success, it was a hard, bitter fight to invade the vast, open beaches at Normandy and fight inland towards Paris, then Germanyand to ultimate victory. Only a fraction of the 16 million Americans who served in WWII are still alive today. This exceptional journey allows us to hear their stories, pay homage to their fallen brothers, and to truly honor a generation who sacrificed everything for the betterment of the world.

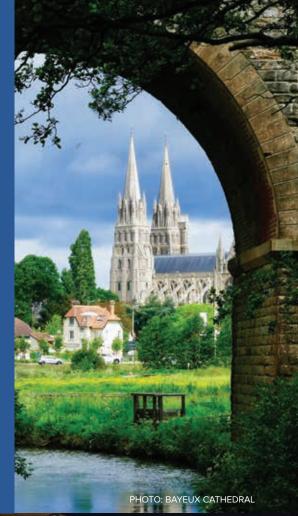




PHOTO: BAYEUX TAPESTRY, BAYEUX

DAY FIVE Disembarkation / Bayeux

November 2 - Disembark from the *S.S. Joie de Vivre* and depart for the picturesque town of Bayeux. Upon arrival, enjoy free time for lunch in one Bayeux's quaint cafés. This afternoon includes a viewing of the Bayeux Tapestry—a 230-foot-long embroidered chronicle of William the Conqueror's cross-channel invasion of England in 1066. Continue to the medieval center of the town, the Bayeux Cathedral, where a guided tour brings to life the construction of the cathedral, from the crypt to the spires. This evening, settle into the Norman countryside at your luxury château. *Accommodations: Château (B, R, D)*



PHOTO: PEGASUS BRIDGE: NO 1 GLIDER PILOTED BY JIM WALLWORK IS WITHIN FEET OF THE PLANNED TARGET. COURTESY OF PICTORIAL PRESS LTD/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.

PHOTO: PEGASUS BRIDGE

DAY SIX British Sector

November 3 - The first full day in Normandy begins where British airborne troops fired the first shots of the invasion at the crucial Pegasus Bridge. Landing their wooden gliders just yards from the bridge, the men of the British 6th Airborne Division surprised the defenders and scored D-Day's first victory.

The tour then follows the coastal road past Sword, Juno, and Gold Beaches before arriving in Arromanches, known for the remains of an artificial "Mulberry Harbor", constructed by the Allies after D-Day. Next is a trip to Longues-sur-Mer, the only German battery in Normandy with the original guns still in place. Accommodations: Château (B, D)



DAY SEVEN

US Airborne: Sainte-Mère-Église & Utah Beach

November 4 - This morning starts with an exclusive visit to Château de Bernaville, which served as the headquarters of a German General Wilhelm Falley. In the early morning hours of June 6th, US paratroopers ambushed and killed General Falley, making him the first German general killed in the Normandy campaign, while also disrupting the German defenses at a critical moment in the Allied landing. Next, visit the town of Sainte-Mère-Église, where paratroopers landed during the predawn hours of D-Day. Dropping into the town square, the men of the 82nd Airborne Division fought tenaciously against the German defenders for control of this vital crossroads. Tour highlights include a visit to *Musée Airborne* and to the church made famous in the film *The Longest Day*.

This afternoon, explore Utah Beach, one of two American beaches, with its broad vistas and four causeway exits through flooded fields. Hear the story of General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and visit the Utah Beach Museum, which features a restored B-26 Marauder and detailed recreations of the German beach defenses. End the touring day with a stop at Brécourt Manor, widely known as the scene of Major Dick Winter's D-Day assault in the HBO mini-series *Band of Brothers*.

Accommodations: Château (B, L, R, D)

PHOTO: LANDING CRAFT, UTAH BEACH, NORMANDY

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

THE CHURCH AT SAINT-MÈRE-ÉGLISE

On the night of June 5/6, 1944, during the parachute drop of airborne troops in the area of Sainte-Mère-Église, Trooper John Steele was hit in the foot by a burst of flak. He could not control his parachute and landed on the steeple of the church around 1:00 a.m. Steele tried to free himself from his parachute for more than two hours while the battle raged on the church square below. Finally, two German soldiers freed him, took him prisoner, and cared for his wounded foot. He escaped and three days later joined the Allied lines and was transferred to a hospital in England. For his actions and his injuries, John Steele was awarded the Bronze Star medal for bravery and a Purple Heart medal for wounds in combat. This action was featured in the movie *The Longest Day* and, to this day, a dummy paratrooper hangs from the church steeple commemorating this event.







PHOTO: LES BRAVES MONUMENT, VIERVILLE-SUR-MER, OMAHA BEACH, NORMANDY

DAY EIGHT Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach, & Normandy American Cemetery

November 5 - The morning touring begins at Pointe du Hoc, where the 2nd Ranger Battalion landed at the base of a 100-foot cliff and scaled the vertical face in order to neutralize this heavily fortified German position. A visit to nearby "Bloody Omaha" honors the sacrifice on its sands, while a close-up view of the intricate German defense system at St. Laurent-sur-Mer and Vierville-sur-Mer gives a sense of the overwhelming odds those soldiers faced. The day concludes with a visit to the Normandy American Cemetery to pay respects to the 9,387 Americans buried in the ground they helped liberate. Enjoy a "Farewell to Normandy" dinner at the château this evening.

Accommodations: Château (B, L, R, D)

DAY NINE Departure

November 6 - This morning, bid farewell to Normandy and transfer to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport for individual journeys home *(B)*

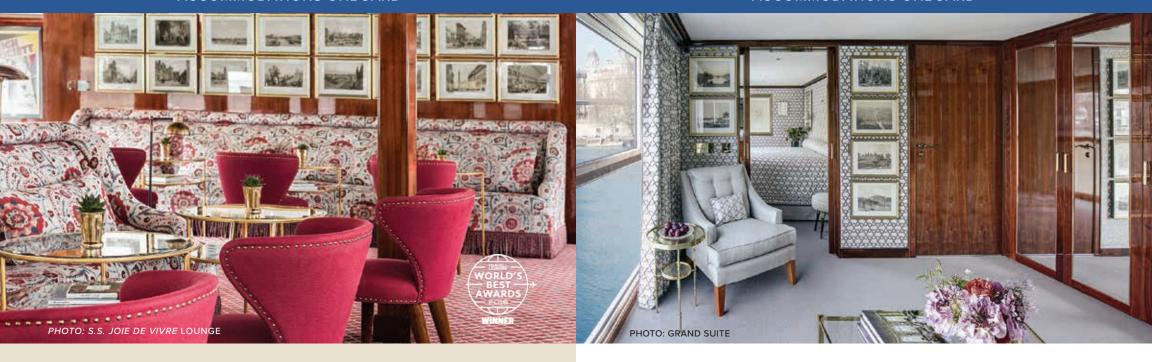


CHÂTEAU LA CHENEVIÈRE

Château la Chenevière is a 5-star hotel renovated from an 18th century mansion and farm. The château was occupied by the Germans during World War II and then the Americans after the D-Day landings. It was fully restored in 1988 to become the lush hotel-restaurant that it is today. La Chenevière boasts twenty-eight spacious and comfortable rooms that reflect the elegance and romance of its design. The decor of each room has an individual design, with a perfect blend of modern comforts and traditional luxury. Room amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi, fully stocked mini bar, hair dryer, bathrobe and slippers, and courtesy l'Occitane toiletries. For more information, visit http://lacheneviere.com/

CHÂTEAU D'AUDRIEU

Château D'Audrieu, a 5-star hotel situated between Caen and Bayeux in Calvados, is ideally located in the heart of Normandy's countryside. During World War II, the German army set up their headquarters here. On the June 8, 1944, 45 members of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division and two British soldiers were killed in the orchards, forests, and clearings around the château. This 18th century residence is listed as a Historical Monument and joined the prestigious Relais et Châteaux Association in 1977. Twenty-nine elegant rooms with garden views feature satellite TV, Wi-Fi access, and minibars. Suites offer original Louis XV and XVI furniture, or art deco styling. Le Séran restaurant serves high-end cuisine. The property also includes a bar, period-style lounges, and a charming breakfast room. For more information, visit https://www.chateaudaudrieu.com/



THE S.S. JOIE DE VIVRE - UNIQUELY BOUTIQUE

The S.S. Joie de Vivre, a brightly colored, chic, and sophisticated "super yacht" on the Seine, provides a relaxed social atmosphere and plenty of space for private contemplation. Under the guidance of Uniworld's talented chef, savor wraparound views of the Seine while enjoying classic French cuisine. After retracing remarkable battlefield stories on shore, reflect and recharge at Club L'Esprit, the onboard spa and wellness center. Experience the magic each evening as Club L'Esprit transforms into Claude's, a vibrant bar and entertainment venue. Claude's glitzy and glamorous atmosphere is the perfect place to listen to local music and enjoy signature cocktails with fellow guests and the world-renowned featured tour historians.

SHIP FEATURES & AMENITIES

- Salon de Toulouse with full-service bar
- · Bistro Saint-Germain
- Le Restaurant Pigalle
- Claude's with full-service bar
- Deck de Montmartre with life-sized checkers board
- Heated enclosed swimming pool

- Café Flore
- BF's Café
- Well-equipped fitness center and spa
- Laundry
- Elevator
- 24-hour specialty coffee and tea station
- Free internet & WI-FI access

S.S. JOIE DE VIVRE SUITES

In addition to the amenities listed below, all suites onboard also enjoy in-suite butler service, daily fruit & cookie plate, evening snacks, Nespresso coffee machine and fine teas, and a fully stocked mini-bar including bottled water. Bottle of wine on arrival, shoeshine, free laundry service and special dinner in Le Club l'Esprit.

GRAND SUITE (410 SQ FT.)

- · French Balcony
- Spacious separate living room
- · Separate rain shower and tub
- · Secluded toilet and bidet area
- Handcrafted Savolr® Beds of England
- · Built-in closet
- · Hair dryer
- Safe
- · Individual thermostat
- Flat-screen TV with infotainment center and satellite

SUITE (260 SQ FT.)

- French Balcony
- Handcrafted Savolr® Beds of England
- Built-in closet
- Hair dryer
- Safe
- Individual thermostat
- Flat-screen TV with infotainment center and satellite

GRAND SUITE BATHROOM



SLIIT











DELUXE FRENCH BALCONY (194 SQ FT.)

- French Balcony
- Marble bath with Asprey bath and body products
- Plush towels and towel warmer
- Cozy bathrobes and slippers
- · Handcrafted Savolr® Beds of England
- · Built-in closet
- Hair dryer
- Safe
- Individual thermostat
- Flat-screen TV with infotainment center and satellite
- Bottled water

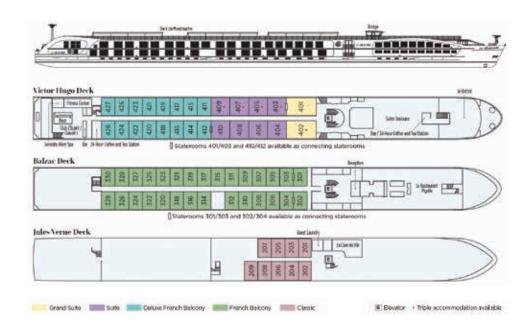
FRENCH BALCONY (194 SQ FT.)

- French Balcony
- · Marble bath with Asprey bath and body products
- Plush towels and towel warmer
- Cozy bathrobes and slippers
- · Handcrafted Savolr® Beds of England
- Built-in closet
- Hair dryer
- Safe
- Individual thermostat
- Flat-screen TV with infotainment center and satellite
- Bottled water

CLASSIC (162-180 SQ FT.)

- Marble bath with Asprey bath and body products
- Plush towels and towel warmer
- Cozy bathrobes and slippers
- Handcrafted Savolr® Beds of England
- Built-in closet Hair dryer
- Safe
- Individual thermostat
- Flat-screen TV with infotainment center and satellite
- Bottled water

DECK PLAN



BOOK ONLINE NOW. ONLY I DEPARTURE OFFERED PER YEAR!



Learn more about Uniworld S.S. Joie de Vivre. Simply scan the code with your smartphone camera.

PRICING (Book early and save up to \$2,000 per couple)

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	CATEGORY	REGULAR PRICE (Double Occupancy)	EARLY BOOKING*	REGULAR PRICE (Single Occupancy)	EARLY BOOKING*
	Grand Suite*	\$12,499	\$11,499	Not Available	N/A
	Suite*	\$10,999	\$9,999	Not Available	N/A
	Deluxe French Balcony*	\$9,499	\$8,499	Not Available	N/A
	French Balcony*	\$8,999	\$7,999	\$11,498	\$10,998
	Classic Stateroom*	\$8,499	\$7,499	\$10,798	\$10,298

*\$299 per person taxes and fees are additional.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Guests who book a suite aboard S.S. Joie de Vivre will receive a suite at either the Château D'Audrieu or Château la Chenevière. Guests booking in the French Balcony category may have the option to upgrade to a suite at their château if desired, for an additional fee. All other levels of accommodation will receive Standard/Classic or Deluxe rooms as assigned by the château.

Single accommodations are available in limited quantities in the French Balcony and Classic Stateroom categories only. Pricing and itinerary subject to change. Airfare is not included in the prices listed.



PHOTO: LILIANE BERT, A FRENCH FILM ACTRESS, SHOWS HER JOY AT HOTEL DE VILLE, LIBERATION OF PARIS, 1944. COURTESY OF SERGE DE SAZO, GAMMA-RAPHO COLLECTION, GETTY IMAGES.



Bringing history to life