



Decouvertes

Exclusive cultural tours
Luxury independent Travel



Flowery and Artistic Normandy

Full-day excursion to Giverny & Rouen

This day-trip allows the traveler to discover two beautiful sites in Normandy: Giverny and Rouen. In Giverny, you will visit the house and gardens that inspired Monet's nymphs and in Rouen, you will discover a picturesque city of the Normandy region

Make it Abbeys!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional special venue: Scenic ride and guided visit to Jumièges and Saint-Wandrille abbeys.

Please see the last page for more information

Make it Chateau!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional special venue: Guided visit to the Chateau de la Roche-Guyon.

Please see the last page for more information



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From Paris to Giverny & Rouen

08:30am: Meet your driver-guide in the lobby of your hotel in Paris.

Go to Giverny where you will visit **the home, studio and gardens of Claude Monet, the great impressionist painter**. His stunning art immortalized Giverny's lush flower gardens and the water lilies on his private lake. Inside the house, Monet's furniture and décor remain just as they were when he painted there, with a similar color scheme. The rooms are filled with Monet's collection of Japanese engravings.

We begin with a **walk through the romantic nymphaea pond gardens** and continue towards **Claude Monet's house through the flower bed paths**. The flower beds are exquisite, absolutely perfect color combinations that only a fine artist could conceive. Here Claude Monet began his well-known "Séries" which later made him famous.

Monet's gardens, like his impressionist paintings, are a bold mix of colors and textures. Roses are planted extensively and the pallet of plants is diverse. Monet did not like to organize his gardens. He married flowers according to their colours and left them to grow rather freely.

Visit the water garden where you will find the famous Japanese bridge covered with wisterias, other smaller bridges, weeping willows, a bamboo wood and above all the famous nymphaeas which are in bloom all summer long. The pond and the surrounding vegetation form an enclosure separated from the surrounding countryside.

Monet found his inspiration in this water garden for more than twenty years. Always looking for mist and transparencies, Monet would dedicate himself less to flowers than to reflections in water, a kind of inverted world transfigured by the liquid element.

Continue onto Rouen.

The city, also known as the '**Ville aux cent clochers**' dear to Victor Hugo, has preserved much of its historical center, which is now largely composed of pedestrian streets.

As you walk through the historical center, past **half timbered houses**, discover architectural treasures, for example Gothic monuments like **the Notre Dame Cathedral**, St Ouen Abbey, Saint Maclou Church





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and the Palais de Justice, or Renaissance style monuments like the Gros Horloge, Saint Maclou Ossuary and the Bourgheroulde Mansion.

You will follow in the steps of Richard the Lion Heart, Joan of Arc, Pierre Corneille and Gustave Flaubert, some of the many characters who have been part of Rouen's history.

Lunch is at leisure in Rouen: **we suggest la Couronne**, a superbly-preserved, 14th century house which is France's oldest inn.

What about a visit to the **Museum of Fine Arts**? The museum's collection of paintings, sculptures, drawings and art objects - one of the finest in provincial France - covers all the schools from the 16th to the 20th century.

The 17th century is well represented with works by **Caravaggio, Velàzquez** and **Poussin**, and a significant number of religious paintings from the French school. The collection of French 19th-century paintings is particularly complete, with works by **Géricault, Ingres** and **Delacroix**, and is the largest group of Impressionist paintings outside Paris (**Monet, Renoir, Sisley...**).

You may prefer **antiques hunting or window-shopping in the local faïence** (the glazed pottery famous in the region since the 14th century), **Rouen is your paradise**.

Drive back to Paris at the end of the day.





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NB: this excursion is available from April 01 to October 31, every day except on Mondays. We suggest that you check with our Production Managers

This package includes

- Deluxe Sedan or Minivan carrying up to 6 passengers
- Services of a professional English-speaking licensed guide-driver who is licensed to guide and accompany you on walking tours, as well as into museums and monuments
- Découvertes fees
- Emergency 24 hour assistance available during your stay
- All taxes

This package does not include

- Entrance fees
- Tips
- Lunch or dinner

Découvertes can also suggest:

- Pre-payment of all entrance fees to museums and other sites.
- Lunch reservations



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Make it Optional

Make it Abbeys!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional special venue

Scenic ride along the Seine Valley and a stop in two of the most magnificent abbeys of the region: St Wandrille and Jumièges.

In St Wandrille you will see the ruins of a 13th century abbey church. The current church (set in a converted barn) and the cloister are open to visitors. The rest of the buildings of the monastery are inhabited by Benedictine monks. Jumièges is an impressive sample of the first major achievements of Romanesque Art in Normandy. The façade, bare and striking, is flanked by 46-meter high towers. Before the destructions of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the monastery buildings were set around the cloister, of which only the outline remains, while a few remnants of the monastery buildings can still be seen. An exceptional site!



Please contact us for more information and price. Upon request and availability.

Make it Chateau!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional special venue

Visit the surprising chateau de la Roche-Guyon. The Abbé Suger described its grim aspect: "At the summit of a steep promontory, dominating the bank of the great river Seine, rises a frightful castle without title to nobility, called La Roche. Invisible on the surface, it is hollowed out of a high cliff. The able hand of the builder has established in the mountainside, digging into the rock, an ample dwelling provided with a few openings. The Château that dominates the village occupies three levels and represents three periods: the eighteenth century age of decorated splendor, the Renaissance and the Middle Ages. The chateau also harbors memories of strong American connections, as the Duc de la Rochefoucauld (owner of the chateau) was a close friend of Thomas Jefferson, who often visited here during the five years he resided in France.



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