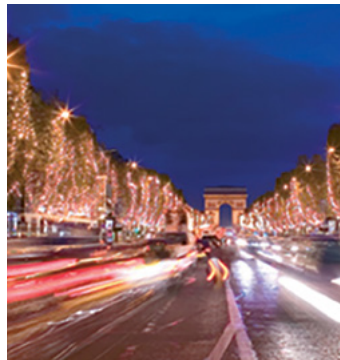


CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND HOLIDAY DELIGHTS

December 10-19, 2025



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DECEMBER 10-19, 2025

The dark evenings of December in Paris sparkle with the spirit of Christmas festivities, as the city's iconic landmarks shimmer with dazzling displays, transforming the streets and main squares into a winter wonderland.

Alsace, nestled in northeastern France, enchants with its storybook villages adorned with twinkling lights and half-timbered houses. The Christmas markets in Alsace, steeped in tradition and community spirit, come alive with the scent of mulled wine and gingerbread, creating a truly enchanting atmosphere.

Explore from well-located boutique hotels in Paris and Strasbourg, and enjoy superlative French service aboard your intimate canal barge.

Savor Parisian flavors and Alsatian holiday traditional treats and plenty of *vin chaud* - mulled wine - to keep warm as you stroll the wintry, cobblestone streets.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Delight in the glittering holiday lights of Paris
- Enjoy exclusive access during a visit of Chateau Vaux-le-Vicomte, festooned for the holidays
- Explore the Queen of Alsace – Strasbourg - on a guided walk.
- Discover the stunning 12th century Château du Haut-Kœnigsbourg, situated on a high hill overlooking the Alsace plain
- Stroll charming Alsatian Christmas markets in Strasbourg, picturesque Little Venice in Colmar, colorful Riquewihr, charming Eguisheim and enchanting Obernai.
- View French masterpieces from the Renaissance to Impressionism at the Marmottan and Unterlinden Museums
- Enjoy expert guiding throughout the journey with your Conservancy Travel Trip Leader, and licensed professional guides.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

- Paris, 2 nights at Les Jardins du Marais
- Strasbourg, 2 nights at Hotel de l'Europe or similar
- Canal Barge MS *Madeleine*, 3 nights
- Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport, 1 night Oceania Roissy CDG

**Choice of 1, 2 or 3 Additional Nights in Paris,
Available Pre-tour**



DETAILED ITINERARY

Wednesday, December 10

Independent Departures from the USA

DAY 1 PARIS

Thursday, December 11

Arrivals in Paris. Note: Hotel check-in is available from 3:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m. Meet your Conservancy Travel Trip Leader for a welcome and orientation meeting, then walk to a nearby restaurant for a traditional French dinner including limited choice of appetizer, entrée and dessert; a glass of wine, water and a choice of tea or coffee. *Les Jardins du Marais Meals: D*

DAY 2 PARIS

Friday, December 12

After breakfast, depart the hotel on foot and take the Paris Métro (subway) to the Île de la Cité to visit the newly reconstructed Notre Dame Cathedral. Construction on the cathedral began in 1163 and was not finally completed until 1345. Damaged and restored several times, it remains one of the largest and finest examples of Gothic architecture anywhere. Continue to La Sainte Chapelle, begun in 1239, the stained-glass windows and soaring pinnacle spires are one of the glories of Gothic architecture.

We'll have lunch in a local restaurant.

In the late afternoon, we depart Paris by private motorcoach for a special visit of Chateau Vaux-le-Vicomte, decorated for the holidays with candlelight, tables laden with gourmet delicacies and twinkling Christmas decorations. Dinner on own. *Les Jardins du Marais Meals: B, L*



DAY 3 PARIS – STRASBOURG

Saturday, December 13

After breakfast, check out of the hotel. Depart to the Marmottan Museum, where we'll learn about the masterpieces by Claude Monet and his friends. Enjoy traditional cuisine for lunch in a local restaurant.

Late-afternoon, take the high-speed train from Paris to Strasbourg. Check in at the hotel, then we'll stroll through the Christmas Market around the main square and walk to dinner in a nearby restaurant. *Hotel de l'Europe Meals: B, L, D*

DAY 4 STRASBOURG

Sunday, December 14

This morning, set out on foot for a guided tour of the Alsatian capital that will take you through the beautifully preserved district of "Petite France." Then, visit the cathedral, famed for its beauty.

For lunch, enjoy regional cuisine in a typical Alsatian restaurant.

Afterwards, enjoy the magical atmosphere of the numerous Christmas Markets located in several squares across the city. Dinner on your own. *Hotel de l'Europe Meals: B, L*

DAY 5 STRASBOURG – COLMAR / EMBARK CANAL BARGE

Monday, December 15

After breakfast, check out of our hotel, and depart south along the Alsace wine route. We drive through picturesque villages and vineyards and visit the Château du Haut-Kœnigsbourg, a stunning medieval 12th century castle perched on a strategic hill in the Vosges mountains, overlooking the Alsace plain. The castle is an architectural marvel, featuring a mix of medieval and Renaissance styles.

We'll have an included lunch featuring local wine.



We arrive in Colmar and visit one of the Christmas Markets.

At 6:00 p.m. we embark the canal barge. We'll enjoy a welcome cocktail then dinner on board. Our lunches and dinners on board feature refined French cuisine and include a choice of a 1/4-liter carafe of wine or a bottle of mineral water, and an espresso coffee. *Canal Barge MS Madeleine* Meals: B, L, D



DAY 6 CANAL CRUISING COLMAR - KUNHEIM

Tuesday, December 16

We'll spend the morning cruising along the canal from Colmar to Kunheim, passing through fields and forest, and enjoy an Alsatian gingerbread tasting. Lunch on board. This afternoon, we'll visit the charming Christmas Market of Eguisheim. Next is Riquewihr, a charming medieval village nestled among the vineyards, with a traditional Christmas market. The brightly decorated, half-timbered homes add to the postcard-like setting of traditional Alsace. Wander the cobblestone streets and admire the marvelous decorations covering the facades and village monuments. Dinner on board the barge.

Canal Barge MS Madeleine Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7 CANAL CRUISING KUNHEIM - COLMAR

Wednesday, December 17

Relax on board as we cruise to Colmar this morning. Lunch on board.

This afternoon, we'll explore the center of Colmar, beginning in Little Venice, where the Lauch River canals wind their way through the city, dotted with colorful, half-timbered homes. During the holidays, everything is decorated to the hilt. In the center of the holiday activity, we stop in at the Choco-Story chocolate museum, to warm up with a cup of delightful hot chocolate. Afterwards, spend some time strolling through the Christmas market enjoying the traditional wooden market stalls filled with Christmas decorations, artisan crafts and culinary specialties whose tempting, spicy notes waft through the market. Back on board the ship, we enjoy a festive gala dinner.

Canal Barge MS Madeleine Meals: B, L, D



DAY 8 UNTERLINDEN MUSEUM - RETURN TO PARIS-CDG
Thursday, December 18

Early breakfast and disembarkation at 9:00 a.m.

Before departing Colmar, we visit the exquisite Unterlinden Museum, celebrated for its extensive collection. The museum's diverse exhibits, set in a former Dominican convent with a peaceful cloister and gardens, include the works of major 20th century artists such as Monet, de Staël, Picasso and Dubuffet

showcased in the contemporary wing. A highlight is the 16th century Isenheim Altarpiece, renowned for its emotional depth and intricate craftsmanship within the context of Renaissance art.

We'll enjoy a celebratory Farewell Lunch. Visit the Christmas Market in enchanting Obernai. Late afternoon, transfer to Strasbourg and travel to Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport by highspeed train then check-in at the hotel for overnight.
Oceania Roissy CDG Hotel Meals: B, L

END OF TOUR PROGRAM

DAY 9 INDEPENDENT DEPARTURES

Friday, December 19

Independent departures from Paris. The hotel has a complimentary airport shuttle. *Meals: B*

ACTIVITY LEVEL: Walking up to 3 miles per day on pavement and cobblestones. Using the Metro in Paris involves some unavoidable stairs. The centers of European cities are pedestrian-only, and access for motorcoaches is strictly limited. Travel by motorcoach, train and aboard a river barge. You must be able to manage your hand baggage independently while boarding and disembarking the train Paris – Strasbourg and Strasbourg – CDG.





THREE-NIGHT PRE-TOUR PARIS EXTENSION **DECEMBER 8, 9, 10**

Included: Three additional nights hotel with daily breakfast;
Private Airport Meet & Greet with transfer to the hotel;
1.5 carnet (15) Paris Metro tickets.

\$691 per person sharing a double room

TWO-NIGHT PRE-TOUR PARIS EXTENSION **December 9, 10**

Included: Two additional nights hotel with daily breakfast;
Private Airport Meet & Greet with transfer to the hotel;
1 carnet (10) Paris Metro tickets.

\$449 per person sharing a double room

ONE-NIGHT PRE-TOUR PARIS EXTENSION **December 10**

Included: One additional night hotel with daily breakfast;
Private Airport Meet & Greet with transfer to the hotel;
5 Paris Metro tickets.

\$228 per person sharing a double room



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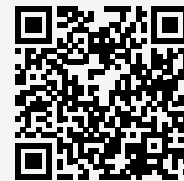
\$5,662 per person in a double room

Deposit: \$1,000 per person

Balance Due: August 10, 2025

Register Online at

conservancytravel.org/ChristmasParis2025EDC



INCLUSIONS:

- ✓ Arrival Meet & Greet with Airport Transfer from Paris-CDG airport to the hotel
- ✓ Conservancy Travel Trip Leader
- ✓ Guiding by certified, French National Guide(s) throughout the journey
- ✓ Enhanced breakfast in French hotels
- ✓ Porterage for one suitcase per person where available (hotels, motorcoaches, ship and transport between Paris - Strasbourg)
- ✓ Transportation for all included activities by Paris Metro/ High Speed Train / Private Motorcoach
- ✓ Meals: (8B, 7L, 5D)
- ✓ Gratuities for included meals
- ✓ Gratuities for local guides, drivers

EXCLUSIONS:

- International airfare and baggage fees
- Passport fees / European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) fee
- Travel Insurance
- Trip Cancellation/Interruption/Emergency medical
- Items of a personal nature, laundry, phone calls, internet access, beverages not included with meals
- Specific items described as Not Included or Optional
- Gratuity for *La Madeleine* barge crew, suggested at \$50 per person
- Gratuity for Conservancy Travel Trip Leader, suggested at \$10-\$15 per day

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Conservancy Travel
contact@conservancytravel.org



ACCOMMODATIONS

A cruise aboard a canal barge is an authentic discovery of *La douce France* – the simple pleasures of slow-paced French living – while experiencing all that the countryside and small villages along its canals can offer.

The MS Madeleine is an elegant, intimate premium canal barge, measuring 126.32 feet long and 16.63 feet wide. Located on the upper deck are the restaurant, the lounge bar and an outdoor terrace with a Jacuzzi. The barge accommodates a total of 22 passengers in 11 cabins. Cabins are 97 square feet, with picture window, two single beds.

Each cabin has a TV, telephone for internal ship calls, private bathroom with shower and toilet, in-room safe, individually controlled thermostat. The electrical outlets are French and the electrical current is 220V. Free Wi-Fi on board. Please note that there is no elevator and no laundry service on board the ship. Six crew members guarantee a personalized service.

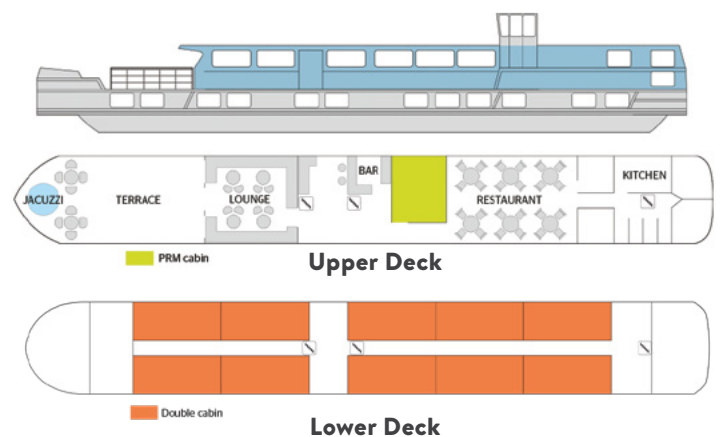


PARIS

Hotel Les Jardins du Marais is a Four-Star retreat nestled in the heart of Paris's vibrant Marais district. Boasting a blend of Art Deco charm and modern elegance, the hotel features rooms and suites overlooking a serene courtyard garden. Its prime location places you just steps away from trendy boutiques, art galleries, and historic landmarks, and Metro lines 8 and 9.

STRASBOURG

Hotel de l'Europe is a charming Four-Star hotel situated in the heart of Strasbourg's historic Petite France district. Housed in a meticulously preserved 15th-century former coaching inn, the hotel seamlessly blends traditional Alsatian architecture with modern comforts. Each of the 67 thoughtfully decorated rooms combines classic and contemporary elements, offering a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The hotel's prime location is in the heart of Strasbourg's Christmas Markets.





December 10-19, 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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REGISTER ONLINE:

conservancytravel.org/ChristmasParis2025EDC

