



MUSEUM TRAVEL  
— ALLIANCE —

BY ARRANGEMENTS ABROAD



THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION

Americans in Alliance with the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland

# Monet in Normandy & Paris

Impressionist Painting Retreat on the Seine Aboard *AmaDante*

June 12 - 20, 2026

With Jennifer Dasal, Lecturer



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# Trip Highlights

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**Sail** through the landscapes that stirred **Claude Monet**'s imagination over his lifetime aboard the splendid *AmaDante*, cruising the **Seine** from Paris to the dramatic coastline of **Normandy**.

**Participate** in daily **outdoor painting sessions** guided by an **expert art mentor**, practicing the *en plein air* style that defined Monet and his circle—no experience required, materials provided.

**Travel** with art historian and *ArtCurious* host **Jennifer Dasal** for a fresh perspective on Impressionism's origins, its overlooked figures, and its enduring emotional pull.

**Visit** Monet's private home and gardens in **Giverny** with a specialist guide, witnessing his late-life palette across the lily ponds, bridges, and flowerbeds he designed himself.

**Share** a **private dinner at a 17th-century château** overlooking the Seine, a gathering place for artists during Monet's time, with exclusive access to rarely seen original works from its collection.

**Explore** the **Musée Marmottan Monet** in Paris on a private, curator-led tour, including Monet's *Impression*, *Sunrise* and the world's most extensive holdings of his work.

**Paint** at dawn in front of **Rouen Cathedral**, capturing the same play of light that drew Monet to return again and again to its changing façade.

**Spend** a day in **Auvers-sur-Oise**, where Van Gogh painted more than 70 works in his final months; see the quiet attic room where he lived and died, left untouched since 1890.

**Channel** Monet's vision during painting sessions in the very places he worked: from the coastal cliffs of **Étretat** to the riverbank at **Vétheuil** and the harbor in **Honfleur**.

**Walk** through **Montmartre** on a guided tour of its artists' homes and studios, with a private visit to **Vignes du Clos Montmartre** and a tasting in Paris's last active vineyard.

**Join** an expert-led tour at the **Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rouen**, home to the second-largest Impressionist collection in France.



The Porte d'Aval, Cliffs of Étretat



## Traveling With *You*

**Jennifer Dasal** is an art historian, lecturer, and tour director. She is the author of the book *ArtCurious: Stories of the Unexpected, Slightly Odd, and Strangely Wonderful in Art History* (Penguin). She is also beloved as the creator/host of the worldwide hit podcast *ArtCurious* (2016-23). Her second book, *The Club: Where American Women Artists Found Refuge in Belle Époque Paris*, was released by Bloomsbury in July 2025. She previously served as Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the North Carolina Museum of Art for 13 years. She earned a B.A. from the University of California, Davis, and an M.A. from the University of Notre Dame, both in art history. She also completed Ph.D. coursework in art history at Pennsylvania State University.

From **June 12 to 20, 2026**, join the Royal Oak Foundation and the Museum Travel Alliance as we chart the creative journey of **Claude Monet** through northern France and Paris. Aboard the elegant *AmaDante*, you can watch the Norman countryside pass from your private French balcony as we trace the painter's life along the Seine. Designed for artists and art lovers of all levels, this journey combines immersive historical context with optional hands-on painting workshops, where an expert art mentor will guide you in mastering the *en plein air* style that defined the Impressionists.

Step ashore for curator-led tours of museums housing Monet's paintings and private dinners in historic settings. Travel alongside art historian and author **Jennifer Dasal**, whose work reveals the surprising and overlooked stories that give context to the art we love. We spoke with Jennifer about what it means to experience France through Monet's eyes.

**To reserve your cabin aboard *AmaDante***, contact the Museum Travel Alliance at Arrangements Abroad: 212-324-1893 or [trips@museumtravelalliance.com](mailto:trips@museumtravelalliance.com).

### **This program follows Monet's life along the Seine. How does the river itself shape the story?**

**Jennifer Dasal:** The Seine is the organizing principle for Monet's career. The river cruise allows us to experience his biography geographically, which is a powerful way to understand his development. With expert-guided access, we move from his childhood home in **Le Havre**, where his mentor Eugène Boudin first pushed him to paint outdoors, to **Rouen**, the site of his obsessive cathedral series.

We then arrive at **Vétheuil**, where a period of intense personal hardship produced a profound shift in his work toward landscape and seriality. The journey culminates at **Giverny**, the sanctuary he built and painted for decades, with its lily pond and Japanese bridge, and in Paris, whose modern urban landscape fascinated him as a student.

### **The itinerary includes hands-on painting workshops. What is the value of creating art in these specific locations?**

**Jennifer Dasal:** There is a kind of understanding that can only come from doing. Standing before the façade of the **Rouen Cathedral** in the early morning, trying to render the way light dissolves its stone form, connects you directly to the perceptual problem that fascinated Monet. It moves you beyond intellectual appreciation into a physical, kinesthetic knowledge of his process.

This hands-on connection continues as we set up our easels at the very sites where he stood. We'll have the opportunity to paint the sunrise from the **Port of Le Havre**, the scene that gave birth to *Impression, Sunrise*. We'll render the dramatic coastline at **Étretat**, and, later in the journey, the riverside landscapes at **Vétheuil** that so inspired him during a pivotal period of his life. The goal isn't to replicate a masterpiece, but to experience the conditions that produced one.



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TRAVEL  
ALLIANCE**  
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**Activity Level:**  
Intermediate



**Pace Level:**  
Moderato



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs).

# Monet in Normandy & Paris

## Impressionist Painting Retreat on the Seine Aboard *AmaDante*

June 12 - 20, 2026

### Friday, June 12:

#### *Departure*

Depart for Paris on an overnight flight.

### Saturday, June 13:

#### *Paris / Embark AmaDante*

Upon arrival in Paris in the morning, you will transfer to *AmaDante* for a light lunch. You may enjoy the afternoon at leisure or join an optional tour of the **Musée Marmottan Monet**, home to the world's largest collection of Claude Monet's paintings.

At the museum, see several of Monet's works whose inspirations we will later experience on the cruise, including *Impression*, *Sunrise*, the very painting that gave the Impressionist movement its title. The collection also includes Monet's *Water Lilies* series, the most comprehensive public collection of paintings by Berthe Morisot, and works by Degas, Manet, and Gauguin. Later, we will gather for the welcome reception and dinner this evening aboard *AmaDante*. **L,R,D**



Musée Marmottan Monet, Paris

### Sunday, June 14:

#### *Les Andelys*

How did Monet and his contemporaries change the course of art? An introductory lecture this morning contextualizes their work before you arrive in **Les Andelys**. Choose between two optional excursions today:

**Option 1:** Join an expert-led tour of **Château Gaillard**, the 12th-century stronghold of Richard the Lionheart, positioned on chalk cliffs high above the Seine.

**Option 2:** Pedal past the timber-framed houses and along the banks of the Seine on a **guided bike tour through Les Andelys**.

Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon cruise toward Le Havre. You may gather on the sun deck for **an optional introductory en plein air painting workshop**. Learn the outdoor, quick-brush technique Monet used to capture the light on the Seine. Alternatively, a guided yoga and meditation session is available. **B,L,D**



Map of the region



## Monday, June 15:

### *Le Havre / Honfleur*

Arrive in **Le Havre**, Monet's seaside hometown, and select from today's optional excursions:

**Option 1:** A guided tour of the **Musée d'art moderne André Malraux (MuMa)** reveals one of France's most important Impressionist collections outside of Paris.

After lunch, cross the Seine to **Honfleur**, where the artist Eugène Boudin mentored a teenage Claude Monet. Following a walking tour, you are invited for a special visit to a **17th-century château** favored by the Impressionists.

You will view the *château's* little-known collection of original works and take part in a **guided painting workshop in its garden**, followed by a private dinner. Afterwards, return to *AmaDante*.

**Option 2:** You may instead choose a **morning architectural tour of Honfleur**, returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon, select a **bike tour** through either Le Havre or Honfleur, with dinner aboard *AmaDante* this evening. **B,L,D**

## Tuesday, June 16:

### *Le Havre / Étretat or Normandy Beaches or Pays d'Auge / Caudebec-En-Caux*

At sunrise from the **Port of Le Havre**, you may paint the scene Monet depicted in *Impression, Sunrise*. After breakfast, select one of three full-day excursions before returning for dinner and an onboard evening performance.



Henri-Georges Adam, *The Signal*, 1961, Musée d'art moderne André Malraux (MuMa), Le Havre



Church of Saint-Maclou, Rouen

**Option 1:** Travel to **Étretat**, where white-chalk cliffs rise nearly 300 feet above the sea. Here, you will explore **Les Jardins d'Étretat**, an avant-garde clifftop garden created by Monet's friend, the actress Madame Thébault. After lunch, join a **guided painting workshop** with a local artist to render the cliffs that once inspired Monet.

**Option 2:** For those interested in World War II history, you may take a guided tour of the American sector of the **Normandy Beaches**.

**Option 3:** For a taste of Normandy's culinary traditions, go to the **Pays d'Auge** region, known for its apple orchards.

All guests transfer to Caudebec-en-Caux to reboard the ship for dinner this evening. **B,L,D**

## Wednesday, June 17:

### *Rouen*

Early this morning, call at Rouen. You may enjoy an **early-morning painting workshop** at the medieval Gothic **Rouen Cathedral**, which Monet obsessively captured in more than 30 paintings.

You may then choose from four optional all-day excursions:

**Option 1:** Take a private guided tour of the **Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rouen**, home to France's second-largest collection of Impressionist works.

**Option 2:** A guided walking tour leads you through Rouen's medieval quarter.

At the **Place du Vieux-Marché**, stand on the ground where Joan of Arc was martyred in 1431 before viewing the **Church of Saint-Maclou**.

**Option 3: A tasting tour of Norman specialties** introduces you to Rouen's chocolates and local cheeses.

**Option 4:** Visit the 16th-century **Château de Bonnemare** and its 54-acre grounds.

Following the excursions, explore Rouen at your own pace before dinner on board. **B,L,D**

## Thursday, June 18: *Vernon / Giverny / Vétheuil*

Following a lecture, you will sail to the medieval town of **Vernon**. Here, you will have the afternoon to choose your own experience:

**Option 1:** At **Giverny**, Monet's garden estate, embark on a guided tour of his home and gardens. See the Japanese bridge and pond that he filled with water lilies, which he captured in his famous series of paintings.

Afterwards, you will transfer to **Vétheuil**, where Monet produced nearly 300 paintings. A **riverside painting workshop** will allow you to render the landscapes that so enchanted him.

**Option 2:** You may choose an escorted tour of the 18th-century **Château de Bizy**. With stables designed to resemble those of Versailles and interiors filled with Bonaparte family treasures, it is known as "the little Versailles of Normandy."



Montmartre, Paris

**Option 3: A guided cycling tour** offers an active afternoon through the French countryside.

This evening, all guests will gather for a reception and dinner with the captain. **B,L,D**

## Friday, June 19: *Paris or Auvers-Sur-Oise*

Our journey concludes in **Paris**, where Monet first arrived as a student in 1859. You may choose a full-day experience or a combination of morning and afternoon options:

**Full-Day Option:** A guided tour of **Montmartre**, the city's bohemian enclave, takes you past the former residences of Monet, Cassatt, and Degas. After lunch, you are invited for **an exclusive visit to a local artist's studio**.

An expert-led visit to the **Musée de Montmartre**, housed in the 17th-century residence where Renoir once lived and worked, is next. The day ends with a private visit to the **Vignes du Clos Montmartre**, the last active vineyard in Paris, with a wine and cheese tasting.

**Morning Option 1:** Transfer to **Auvers-sur-Oise** to visit the **Auberge Ravoux**, Vincent van Gogh's final residence, where he produced more than 80 paintings.

**Morning Option 2:** Visit the **Château de Malmaison**, the former home of Napoleon and Joséphine Bonaparte.

**Morning Option 3: A guided cycling tour** takes you pedaling through the city.

**Guests who select a morning option will return to the ship for lunch.**

**Afternoon Option:** Board a boat for a **one-hour cruise along the Seine**. You will glide under the city's bridges and see its famous buildings from the water.

All guests will gather for a festive farewell dinner this evening. **B,L,D**

## Saturday, June 20: *Paris / Disembark / Return*

Disembark *AmaDante* and transfer to the airport for flights home. **B**

**DISCLAIMER:** *This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Museum Travel Alliance and The Royal Oak Foundation. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at <https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php>.*

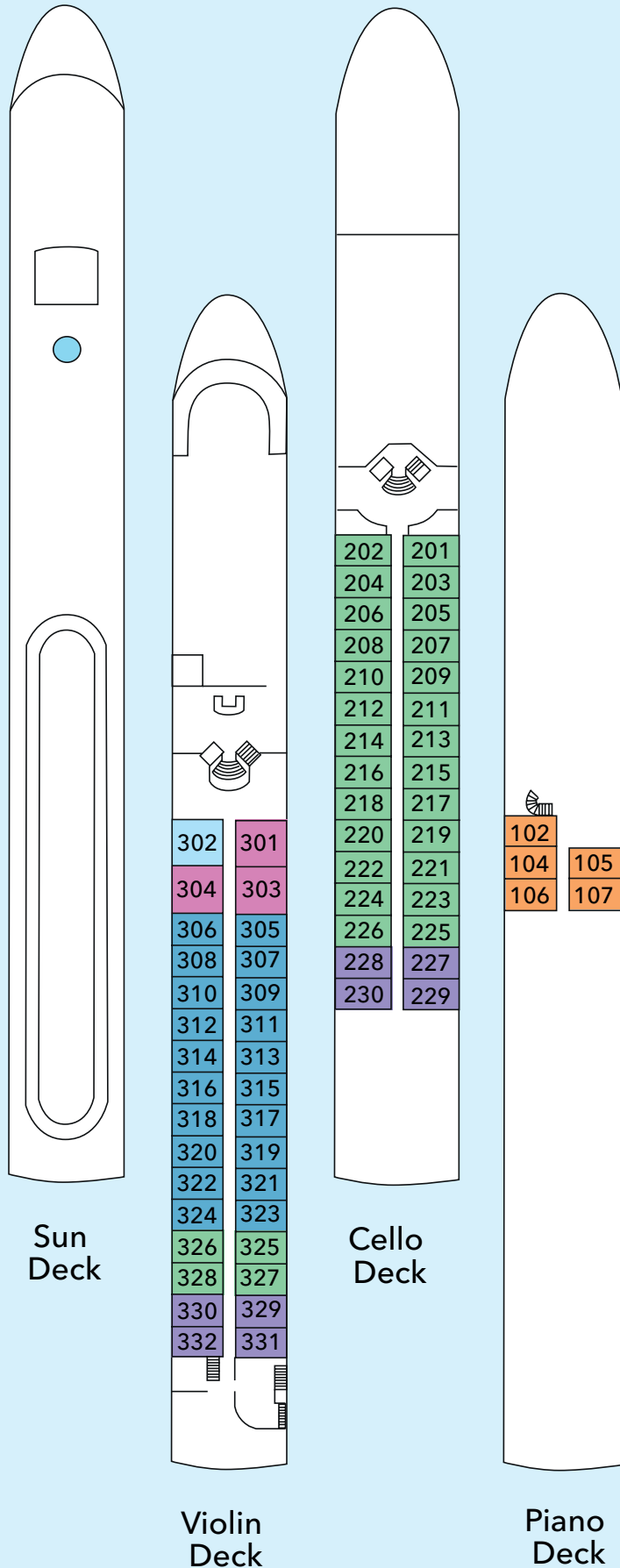
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Front cover: Monet's garden at Giverny. Back cover: Claude Monet, *Lilies* (detail), 1914, Musée Marmottan Monet, Paris (top); The Porte d'Aval, Cliffs of Étretat (bottom).

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# AmaDante



The Seine, Les Andelys

## Cruise Rates

Cabins	Decks	Double	Single
<b>102-107</b>	<b>Piano Deck</b>	<b>\$6,999</b>	<b>\$9,999</b>
Category D (Fixed window, 170 sq. ft.)			
<b>227-230 &amp; 329-332</b>	<b>Cello &amp; Violin Decks</b>	<b>\$7,999</b>	<b>\$11,599</b>
Category C (French Balcony, 170 sq. ft.)			
<b>201-226 &amp; 325-328</b>	<b>Cello &amp; Violin Decks</b>	<b>\$8,499</b>	<b>\$12,799</b>
Category B (French Balcony, 170 sq. ft.)			
<b>305-324</b>	<b>Violin Deck</b>	<b>\$9,999</b>	<b>\$15,499</b>
Category A (French Balcony, 170 sq. ft.)			
<b>302</b>	<b>Violin Deck</b>	<b>\$11,999</b>	<b>Inquire</b>
Category A+ (French Balcony, 225 sq. ft.)			
<b>301, 303 &amp; 304</b>	<b>Violin Deck</b>	<b>\$14,999</b>	<b>Inquire</b>
Suites, French Balcony, 255 sq. ft.			

## Rates Include

- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard *AmaDante*
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine and beer at all lunches and dinners.
- Enrichment program of lectures and workshops
- Painting supplies
- Airport/pier/airport group transfers for participants on arrival and departure days
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuities

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATES:** International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for participants on arrival and departure days; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

# AmaDante



Settle into spacious staterooms, most with French balconies. Revel in the indulgences offered by the sauna, whirlpool, and massage and hair salon. Take advantage of the Sun Deck walking track, fitness room, and fleet of complimentary bikes to explore the charming riverside towns along the Seine on your own.

Note: The elevator reaches the Main Restaurant, Lobby/ Main Lounge, and staterooms on the Violin and Cello Decks but does not reach the Piano Deck or Sun Deck.



Dining room, (top) and Category A cabin, Violin Deck, AmaDante (above)



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**RESERVATION FORM**

To reserve a place, please call Museum Travel Alliance at 212-324-1893 or 855-533-0033, fax: 212-344-7493; email: [trips@museumtravelalliance.com](mailto:trips@museumtravelalliance.com); or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) to *Museum Travel Alliance*. Mail to: Museum Travel Alliance, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (mobile)

(home)

E-mail

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

*AmaDante* cabin preference (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to share a room/cabin with

**FORM OF PAYMENT**

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to *Museum Travel Alliance*)

☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see <https://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms-conditions/> to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment by check, wire transfer, or credit card 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date