

## *Brilliant Bordeaux*



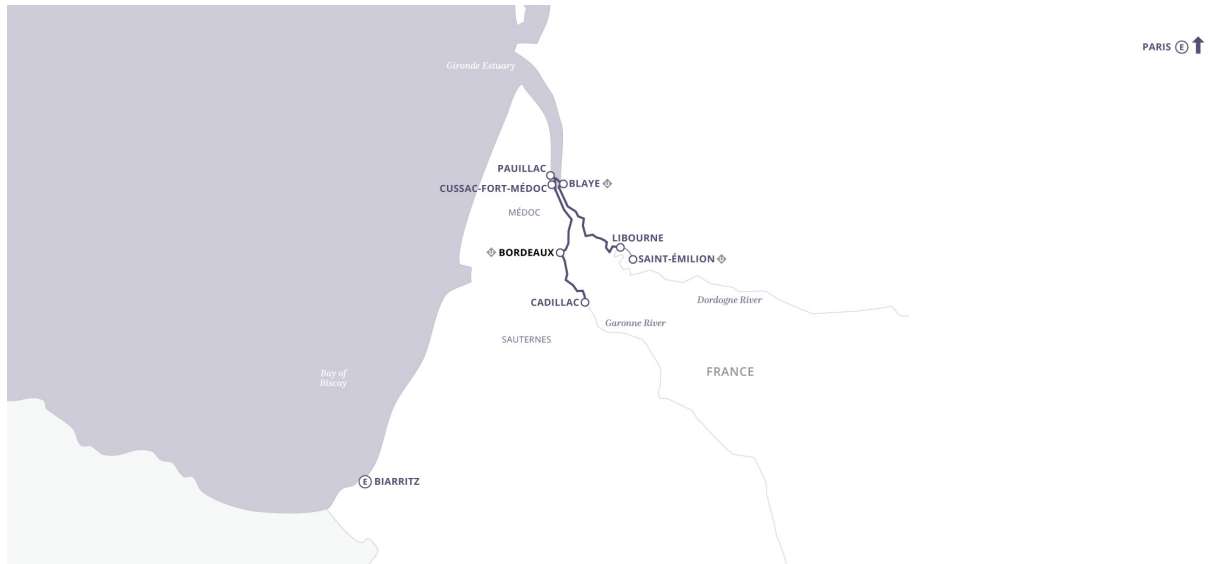
**8**

DAYS

**1**

COUNTRY

Set sail along three stunning rivers, the Garonne, Dordogne, and Gironde, on one fascinatingly historical and invigorating journey. Explore the country's breathtaking backdrops, wines, and cultural treasures across the region in Bordeaux, Fort Médoc, Cadillac, Blaye, Libourne, and more. Wander through archaeological marvels, historic landmarks, and magnificent vineyards where you'll be treated to a sampling of quintessentially French experiences. Embark on a scenic drive from Blaye to Bourg along the Route de la Corniche Fleurie and marvel at the sights of Blaye Fortress and Lansac Windmill along the way. Slow things down in Libourne and on your return to Bordeaux with multiple wine tastings, village tours, a farmers' market visit, and Bordeaux heritage walking tour. Join us on a showcase of the best Southwest France has to offer.



---

Contact us at 1-800-257-2407 or call your Travel Advisor | [uniworld.com](http://uniworld.com)  
Prices, itineraries, inclusions, and availability are subject to change without notice.

## ***Bordeaux to Bordeaux***

---

### **Day 1: Bordeaux (Embark)**



Arrive at Bordeaux-Mérignac International Airport. If you have arranged a Uniworld arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship.

---

### **Day 2: Cadillac**

The French phrase “la douceur de vivre” is an accurate description for your time in Cadillac, known for its deliciously flavored dessert wines. Visit Château Royal de Cazeneuve, site of Henry IV’s and Queen Margot’s tempestuous love. Meet the owner around a glass of Sauternes in the reception hall.

*Select your choice of these carefully curated excursions, which operate at the same time.*

## **Royal Château Cazeneuve with Private Sauternes Toast**

You'll journey through the vineyards to Château Royal de Cazeneuve, a polygonal 14th-century fortress with a royal pedigree. A favored residence of Henry IV, who inherited it from his mother, Jeanne d'Albret. The beautifully restored château still belongs to descendants of the Albret family. After your intimate visit you will meet Louis and Caroline de Sabran-Pontevès, the owner and his wife for a Sauternes toast, sampling the unique perfume and flavor of the area.

---

## **The Colorful Life of Toulouse-Lautrec**

Uncover the history of artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. Originally the home of his mother, Adèle, Château Toulouse-Lautrec would soon inspire much of his artwork. As one of the best painters of the post-impressionist period, Toulouse-Lautrec is known for his distinctive and colorful take on Paris in the late 1800s as well as his fascination with Moulin Rouge dancers and famous singers, who were prominent in much of his work. Venture to the nearby town of Verdélais, where you'll notice two beautiful central walkways lined with trees and 19th-century façades. It is in Verdélais' cemetery that Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec is buried.

---

## **Day 3: Cussac Fort Médoc**

The legendary Médoc region abounds with prestigious wine châteaux in a dizzying array of architectural styles, as well as miles of grapevines stretching to infinity. Take a scenic drive through the storied Médoc wine route, followed by a wine tasting at a beautiful wine estate.

*Select your choice of these carefully curated excursions, which operate at the same time.*

### **Médoc Châteaux Route with Private Wine Tasting**

In 1855, when Napoleon III asked for a classification of the best wines in France to give visitors, some 60 Médoc wines were awarded Grand Cru status—out of 61 total. A panoramic tour of this legendary landscape takes you from Pauillac to the tip of the Médoc peninsula, past storied vineyards of the region, including Château Latour, Mouton Rothschild and Pichon Longueville Baron, and through the villages of Margaux, Saint-Julien and Saint-Estèphe. You might be surprised to discover that the peninsula is only three miles wide, though it is 50 miles long, and the road carries you past a dizzying array of architectural styles— Renaissance, Greek Revival and medieval—as well as miles of grapevines. You'll turn off the road and enter one of these châteaux for a private tour and a tasting of superior wines.

---

## **Let's Go: Bike in the Médoc Vineyards**

Combine fresh air, gorgeous scenery and fine wine with a bicycle ride among the prestigious Médoc vineyards. Meet your guide and mount your bicycle to pedal through the lush landscapes of historic estates that have seemingly remained unchanged for centuries. Truly experience the atmosphere—the earth, the sunshine—of this famous wine-growing region.

*Featured excursions included in your journey*

### **Fresh Médoc Oysters Tasting**

Oysters have long been a beloved product of the Médoc—and for good reason. Discover why today as you join an oyster farmer at the Guards' House terrace for a tasting of this delicacy, accompanied by a glass of local white wine.

---

## **Day 4: Blaye, Bourg sur Gironde**



The Route de la Corniche Fleurie...could this be the most beautiful road you've ever traveled? Find out today on the drive to Blaye Fortress, passing through one impossibly picturesque hamlet after another. Once you arrive, you'll discover the wonders of this historic fortress, a UNESCO-designated citadel that once protected Bordeaux from attacks by sea.

*Select your choice of these carefully curated excursions, which operate at the same time.*

### **Intimate Experience with Local Wine & Art Connoisseurs**

Today you are invited to join an informal wine tasting hosted by the owner of La Petite Cave, a charming wine bar in Blaye. The owner here will give you a personal look into the life of a local wine lover, take you into his art studio, and show you his collections of wine and antique cars. From here, you're welcome to explore Blaye at your leisure before returning to the ship.

---

## **Panoramas of Route de la Corniche Fleurie with Blaye Fortress**

This little road between Blaye and Bourg-sur-Gironde winds through picturesque hamlets with equally picturesque names—Pain de Sucre, Marmisson and Roque de Thau among them—limestone cliffs on one side, the Gironde on the other. Fishing huts on stilts stand above the waters of the estuary; charming 19th-century stone houses built by sea captains sit tidily along the road. Many of these captains traveled to far-off places and returned with exotic plants, which they planted in their gardens and along the road (hence the route's name). But the history of these cliffs extends far beyond the 19th century—people have inhabited the area for thousands of years.

Upon returning to Blaye, your guide will take you through the 17th-century demilune-shaped citadel built by famed military engineer Vauban. This fortress design was the one Vauban, Louis XIV's favorite military engineer, found most satisfactory, and he built some 300 of them in the Sun King's realm. The citadel contains the ruins of a medieval castle, houses, squares, streets, even a convent, all enclosed within stark walls. If you stand on top of those walls, you will have a terrific view of the estuary—this view was the field of fire, giving the citadel command of the river.

### *Featured excursions included in your journey*

#### **Bourg sur Gironde Stroll**

On your way through Bourg sur Gironde today, you'll see the upper town, walk through the medieval gates, pass the spring, and learn why figs are an important part of the history of Blaye. Your expedition comes to an end at the remains of the old citadel, where you can admire a spectacular view overlooking the estuary and the Dordogne before returning to the ship at your own pace.

*Please note, this excursion requires walking up many steps and may not be suitable for gentle walkers.*

---

## **Day 5: Libourne (Saint-Émilion)**



With Libourne as your base, travel to nearby breathtaking Saint-Émilion and immerse yourself more deeply in the region's history and wine culture. The medieval town of Saint-Émilion is an ideal place to linger. Wander its cobblestone lanes lined with wine shops and bakeries, and stop to admire the amazing rock-hewn church that extends beneath the city's streets.

*Select your choice of these carefully curated excursions, which operate at the same time.*

## Saint-Émilion Walking Tour with Wine Tasting

Hilltop Saint-Émilion offers both exceptional architecture and historic vineyards. The Romans were the first to plant grapes here, and this was the first vineyard region to be protected by UNESCO because of its history. Shops brimming with wine and wine tools line the steep cobblestone streets; medieval ramparts that bore witness to battles for control between French and English monarchs still stand; and vineyards encroach upon the village. Of all the sights, however, perhaps the most extraordinary is the 12th-century church carved into a cliff. Only the tower is above ground; the rest of the church is subterranean. Its numerous underground galleries provided refuge during periods of strife, and include the grotto where St. Émilion, for whom the town is named, lived out his life in the ninth century. You have to see it for yourself—you'll be amazed by its almost unfathomable construction. After touring Saint-Émilion, you'll visit the cellars of a fantastic estate where you'll taste some of the world's most highly rated wines.

---

## Dordogne Valley

---

### Day 6: Libourne, Bordeaux



France's rich agricultural tradition is the heart and soul of the region's exquisite cuisine—and what better way to get a taste for the freshest vegetables, cheeses, breads and fruits than with a visit to Libourne's lively farmers' market?

*Featured excursions included in your journey*

#### **Nights Out: After Hours at the Bassins des Lumières**

Bordeaux's *Port de la Lune* is home to a submarine base with a checkered past. Originally built during the German occupation of France in WWII, and later the target of allied bombings, this building has since attracted artists who wish to reclaim the site for beauty and culture. Its stark walls and history have served as a poignant backdrop to artistic installations for decades. Tonight, you'll experience this for yourself at the *Bassins des Lumières*, a stunning and immersive light show projected against the walls of the base.

*Select your choice of these carefully curated excursions, which operate at the same time.*

## Libourne Walking Tour with Farmer's Market

How could you visit this rich agricultural land without delving into a farmer's market? Libourne's market is the heart and soul of the town; everyone comes here to choose the freshest vegetables, the ripest cheeses, the most luscious fruits, the loveliest flowers, and to chat with the producers and growers. Check out the stalls brimming with produce in the market square, then duck into the covered market and savor the enticing aromas of bread and cheese, fish and meat.

---

## Libourne Bike Ride

## Château Boutinet Visit

---

## Day 7: Bordeaux



Discover Bordeaux's many charms today, either on foot with a local expert or on two wheels—the locals' preferred way to navigate the city's charming backstreets. You have a wonderful selection of active opportunities to see this magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Site.

*Select your choice of these carefully curated excursions, which operate at the same time.*

### **Do as the Locals Do: Bordeaux Walking Tour**

Catch a tram at the Quai des Chartrons to the Place de la Comédie, the heart of Bordeaux' Golden Triangle. Though Bordeaux was the capital of Aquitaine in the Middle Ages and has its share of Gothic churches, it reached its apex in the 18th century. The splendid honey-colored stone buildings from this era make up a city core that UNESCO has designated a World Heritage Site (this is the district that inspired Baron Haussmann when he redesigned Paris at the behest of Napoleon III). Trade with the French colonies built this handsome district, furnishing vanilla, sugar, spices and cocoa to inventive chocolatiers and bakers, who used these goods to create iconic desserts. Chocolate, once a Spanish monopoly, became part of Bordeaux' culinary heritage when banished Spanish Jews brought the art of chocolate-making to France. What are Bordeaux' present-day residents enjoying when they step inside the luxurious food halls and elegant shops in this neighborhood? Find out as you sample the delicious handiwork of Bordeaux's bakers, and learn a few recipes too!

---

## Let's Go: Bike Bordeaux Backstreets

Hop on a bike and wheel with your expert guide along the Quai des Chartrons, a riverfront neighborhood that was the purview of British wine merchants back when they dominated the wine trade. It fell on hard times in the 20th century, but the tall merchant houses have since been reclaimed; now they house welcoming shops and cafés. Pedal past the antiques shops of Rue Notre Dame and the Church of St. Louis on your way to major city squares such as the Bourse and Parliament before heading back to the ship along the banks of the Garonne. Of course your outing will include a stop for refreshments at one of the delightful cafés you pass.

---

## Day 8: Bordeaux (Disembark)



Disembark the ship. If you have arranged a Uniworld departure transfer, you will be transferred to Bordeaux-Mérignac International Airport for your flight home.

---

# Optional Extensions

---

## PRE-CRUISE EXTENSION

### **Biarritz Basque Country Pre-Cruise Extension**

Start your Uniworld experience with a four-day adventure in the Biarritz Basque Country. This beautiful resort town, known affectionately as “queen of the beaches, and beach of the kings,” will be your introduction to the rich cultural heritage of Basque country.

#### **Included in your 4-day stay:**

- 3 nights at the Hotel du Palais Biarritz (or similar)
- Breakfast daily
- All service charges, taxes, and portorage
- Biarritz walking tour with market visit
- Biarritz Lighthouse
- Bayonne
- St. Jean de Luz
- English-speaking expert

#### **Day to Day:**

2027 Biarritz Basque Country Pre-Cruise/Tour Day to Day Overview ([click here for details](#))

#### **Day 1: Biarritz**

If you have arranged a Uniworld arrival transfer, you will be greeted at the Biarritz Airport by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the Hotel du Palais Biarritz. This property was originally a lavish palace commissioned by Napoleon III for his wife, Empress Eugénie—in fact, a bird’s-eye-view of the hotel reveals a clear “E” shape in her honor. Biarritz was the empress’s favorite place to holiday, and it may just be yours after your stay here.

#### **Day 2: Biarritz**

FEATURED EXCURSION: *Biarritz Walking Tour with Market Visit*

Today after breakfast you will embark on an exciting tour of Biarritz. Start with a visit to the Biarritz lighthouse, where you can enjoy a fantastic view of the bay. If you so choose, you can climb the 248 steps to the top and take in a view of the cape that highlights the boundary separating the sandy coast and rocky mountains of the Basque country. Next, take in the historic architecture of the Biarritz city center on a walking tour. We’ll end our tour at the market hall, where you might choose to stay and explore during your free time before returning to the hotel.

#### **Day 3: Biarritz**

FEATURED EXCURSION: *Discover the Basque Country*

Today after breakfast you will discover the cities of Bayonne and St. Jean de Luz. In contrast to the resort town of Biarritz, Bayonne offers a laid-back, authentic take on Basque life. And while it may surprise you, this mellow town is also the capital of French chocolate. You'll find several master chocolatiers crowded into the charmingly narrow shops and alleyways of Bayonne, alongside an eclectic array of small boutiques.

Next up: the Atlantic fishing village of St. Jean de Luz. Right by the border to Spain, this town is famous for hosting the marriage of King Louis XIV of France and Maria Theresa of Spain, a union that helped end the Franco-Spanish War.

#### **Day 4: Biarritz**

Today after breakfast you will transfer from the hotel in Biarritz to the ship in Bordeaux to begin your cruise.

*Extensions may not be offered on all departure dates—please check with our Reservations team for availability.*

---

#### **POST-CRUISE EXTENSION**

### **Paris: City of Light Post-Cruise Extension**

No visit to France would be complete without seeing the city that is widely regarded as the most beautiful in the world—Paris. Nothing compares to the charm of its neighborhoods, the grandeur of its awe-inspiring architecture and monuments, or the cosmopolitan elegance of its boulevards. Delve into the delights this magnificent city has to offer, with easy access from the centrally located Hôtel Napoléon. This chic, 5-star stay is just a leisurely stroll away from the Champs-Élysées and the Arc de Triomphe.

#### **Included in your 3-day stay:**

- 2 nights at the Hôtel Napoléon (or similar)
- Breakfast daily
- All service charges, taxes, and portorage
- Opera Garnier Discovery Walk
- English-speaking expert

#### **Day to Day:**

2027 Paris Post-Cruise Day to Day Overview ([click here for details](#))

#### **Day 1: Paris**

You'll disembark and travel aboard a TGV train bound for the dazzling city of Paris, riding at high speed through the serene French countryside. Once you reach the hotel, you will be greeted by your local host, who will show you the neighborhood. The rest of the day is yours to do with as you wish. Unwind at the hotel or go out and explore the city. There are so many fabulous things to see and do in Paris; your host can offer suggestions to help you make the best use of your time. You might visit Montmartre to watch

the artists working in the Place du Tertre or go for a stroll down the famed Champs-Élysées.

## **Day 2: Paris**

### FEATURED EXCURSION: *Opera Garnier discovery walk*

Put on comfortable walking shoes and plan to spend a couple of hours strolling through the geographical heart of Paris. Begin in the 9th arrondissement and the Opéra de Paris Garnier, also known as Palais Garnier. Work on this extravagant opera house began in 1865 and continued for 15 trouble-filled years, which included the discovery of an underground lake beneath the construction site. It's still there, incidentally—confined to an enormous cistern where carp swim and rescue divers train. Your guide will take you inside to explore this glorious tribute to Second Empire opulence, complete with dazzling chandeliers, red-velvet wall coverings and draperies, gold-leafed cherubs, marble friezes, and a spectacular 20th-century ceiling by Marc Chagall.

Then head out through the 8th arrondissement, exploring the wide avenues and arcades designed by Baron Haussmann when he modernized Paris between 1852 and 1870. As you walk toward the river and the 1st arrondissement, you'll come to the Palais-Royal, built by Cardinal Richelieu in 1629 (Louis XIV lived here as a child). The palace itself now houses government offices, but the garden offers a lovely breath of fresh air and greenery.

Your next destination, just a block or two away, is La Comédie-Française, the only state theater to have its own troupe—it specializes in the work of Molière— before you loop back toward your hotel, passing the National Library and the Paris Bourse.

*Note: Occasionally, the Opera Garnier will not be available for this extension. On such occasions, an alternative experience will be arranged, such as a visit to the Musée d'Orsay or a walking tour of Paris' popular Le Marais district.*

## **Day 3: Paris**

You have sampled exquisite culinary delights and experienced the best of Paris' legendary sights. Now it's time to check out of the hotel. If you have arranged a Uniworld departure transfer, you will be transferred to Paris Charles de Gaulle International Airport for your trip home. Your Uniworld adventure may be over, but we know you'll enjoy the memories you've made for years to come.

*Extensions may not be offered on all departure dates—please check with our Reservations team for availability.*