



## Shore Excursions

### Magical Christmas Markets

December 14, 2019  
5 nights all-inclusive  
aboard Saga Sapphire

**SAGA**  
keep doing

# Choose from an exciting range of excursions

This booklet details the optional excursions available during your cruise aboard Saga Sapphire. Each has been carefully planned to help you make the most of your time ashore, allowing you to gain a better understanding of the places you are visiting, without the worry or hassle of exploring independently. Wherever possible we have included a choice of excursions to match a variety of tastes and walking abilities. We also ensure that the main sights are always included and balance the itinerary with lunch stops and rest breaks.

*Please note: The route used and the order of sights visited on any excursion may vary on the day.*

## Magical Christmas Markets

### PORT OF CALL

- Rotterdam, Netherlands . . . . .
- Zeebrugge, Belgium . . . . .
- Le Havre, France . . . . .



## How to book

There are three ways to book your excursions, by telephone, online or on board. To avoid disappointment, we strongly recommend that tours are booked prior to sailing as spaces are filled very quickly. Please refer to the shore excursion pricing enclosed. Every excursion available during your cruise will be listed, including those in selected ports where you can enjoy more than one excursion on the same day. When you have decided which excursions you would like to join, you can now book online for immediate confirmation. Simply log in to your holiday account at [travel.saga.co.uk/managemybooking](https://travel.saga.co.uk/managemybooking) to book. Alternatively you can call our cruise consultants FREE on 0800 056 7534 to confirm your choice and make payment.

If you would prefer to book your excursions onboard, please speak to the Explore Ashore team who will confirm your tour adding the cost to your onboard account. The Explore Ashore desk is located in the ships reception area. Please refer to the Today Programme for the booking deadline for each excursion. You should be aware that all bookings are subject to our excursion booking conditions.

### Also look out for...

**Something different** Perfect for people who may be visiting a port for the second time, this highlights tours which include something a little out of the ordinary.

**Limited availability** There is limited space on these excursions, therefore early booking is highly recommended.



A meal, refreshments or alcohol tasting is included where you see these symbols.

“Enjoy a glass of warming gluhwein as you browse the Christmas markets in Bruges, try out ice skating in Amsterdam or seek out the Medieval charms of Ghent. What will you discover on this seasonal cruise?”

**Simon Giles**

**Senior Shore Excursion Executive**

## Walking Information

To help you choose the excursions most suitable for you, we have graded each according to the activity involved, as detailed below:



**Panoramic tour:** A slower-paced excursion with the majority of sightseeing taking place from your vehicle. There may be a short walk at the port to join your vehicle and any other walking will be at your own discretion, for example at photo stops.



**Easy activity:** Up to approximately 500 yards on mainly flat terrain, with the possibility of some steps.



**Moderate activity:** Between 500 yards and one mile over mixed terrain, often with steps.



**Strenuous activity:** Considerable walking for distances over a mile, usually over uneven terrain with many steps.

*Seek out your favourite festive treats*



## Your questions answered...

To help make choosing your excursions as easy as possible, we have answered some of your frequently asked questions.

### What should I wear ashore?

First and foremost, we recommend that you wear comfortable, low-heeled shoes for all excursions. Casual clothing is perfectly acceptable, although if your excursion visits churches, mosques or other religious sites we would suggest that you dress conservatively and ensure your arms and legs are covered.

### How will I know what time my excursion begins?

The envisaged departure times of all tours are shown on the shore excursion pricing and can be viewed on the website by logging into 'MyHoliday' at [travel.saga.co.uk/managemybooking](http://travel.saga.co.uk/managemybooking). Actual departure times will be confirmed in the Today Programme, which will be delivered to your cabin.

### What happens if my chosen excursion is full?

We will offer an alternative tour departure time where possible. Your confirmation letter will list all the tours you have been booked on. For those wishing to book online, please note that the website will only allow you to book those tour departures which still have availability. Should additional capacity become available at a later date, then this will be advertised on board and offered on a first come, first served basis.

### How can I make sure I am on the same excursion vehicle as my friends?

If you wish to travel with your friends please arrive together when joining your excursion and we will do our best to seat you all on the same vehicle.

### I have a disability. Will I have a problem embarking and disembarking the ship?

Please enquire in advance whether we will be able to accommodate your needs on your preferred tours. It is important to keep in mind that shore excursion operators are subject to the laws of their own country with respect to accommodating the needs of guests with disabilities. The decision whether or not to provide mobility assistance to a guest and their mobility assistance device (collapsible wheelchair, walker etc) up or down the ship's gangway is at the sole discretion of the captain, based on their evaluation of guest and crew safety. Please note that scooters are not permitted on the tour vehicles.

*Unique architecture in Rotterdam*







*Street canals of Amsterdam*

### **What type of vehicles are used?**

The shore excursions presented in this booklet require passengers to use a coach or other forms of transport with two or three steps, at least 10 inches high each. Neither Saga nor the local suppliers are able to provide portable steps to access coaches due to insurance implications. Most, but not all, coaches used can accommodate collapsible wheelchairs which may be stored in the luggage compartment under the coach at the discretion of the local coach operator. It should be noted that escorts, guides, drivers and shipboard staff are not obliged to lift guests into vehicles. The onboard facilities are for emergency use only and may only be made available at the discretion of the local coach operator, subject to local regulations.

### **What does 'land by launch or tender' mean?**

At most ports the ship will berth in a harbour, so you'll walk along the gangway into the main area. At some ports, your ship will anchor offshore. This means you will join a smaller boat and sail to shore. These are known as 'tenders' or 'launches'.

### **Safe boarding of a tender or launch**

Prior to embarking a tender or launch, all passengers will be required to demonstrate their ability to step unaided across a marked distance of 35cm. This is to ensure safe boarding of the tender or launch.

If for any reason the ship is diverted or moved away from a berth to anchor, the step test will take place.

**Please note:** booking for all excursions closes approximately one week before the departure date. After this time, bookings will need to be made on board.

## Rotterdam, Holland

Home of the largest port in Europe and an ethnically-diverse population of 600,000 people, the second city of the Netherlands sits on the banks of the Nieuwe Maas, one of the channels formed by the delta of the Rhine and Meuse rivers. Badly damaged by German bombs during World War II, Rotterdam has become a centre for modern architecture, with the world-renowned cube houses and the Erasmus Bridge two of its highlights, whilst its skyline is dominated by the iconic 600-foot high Euromast. Today Rotterdam and its surroundings offer a wide variety of attractions: history, modern architecture, culture, beaches, nature, shopping and an enjoyable city centre, whilst Amsterdam is under 50 miles away.

### FACTFILE

**Population:** 600,000

**Language:** Dutch

**Currency:** Euro

**Time difference:** UK +1

**Climate:** Temperate

**Distance from centre:** 1½ miles

### USEFUL INFORMATION

**Shopping:** The main shopping areas are the Beurstraverse, the Lijnbaan, the Van Oldenbarneveltstraat, Karel Doormanstraat, Nieuwe Binnenweg, Witte de Withstraat and the Kruiskade.

**Shop opening hours:** Monday from 1100 to 1800, Tuesday to Friday from 0900 to 1800, Saturday from 0900 to 1700, Sunday from 1200 to 1800

**Post office:** The nearest post office is the TNT Post inside the Bruna shop on Vuurplaats. It is open from 0830 to 1730.

**Banks:** ABN-AMRO is located on Coolingsingel. It is open from 0900 to 1700.

**Tourist office:** The city centre tourist office is on Coolingsingel.

**How to phone home:** For the UK dial 0044 followed by area code and number – omit the first zero of the area code

**Emergency services:** For all emergencies dial 112

## The Hague's Royal Christmas Fair

4 hours



*Immerse yourself in the Christmas spirit*

The linden tree-lined Lange Voorhout is a window into the past: its wide roads were once traversed by clip-clopping horse and carriages, and members of the 18th-century upper class would regularly gather here to see and be seen. It is not however the peacocking of the past that brings us here today; instead, you will find one of the finest Christmas markets in all of the Netherlands: The Royal Christmas Fair. Often compared with a festive carnival, there will be storytellers, theatre groups, choirs and over 80 stalls selling handicrafts, refreshments and Christmas decorations. Why not take this opportunity to shop for a last-minute special something to give as a gift while enjoying a glass of Gluhwein or a steaming mug of hot chocolate – topped with whipped cream, of course! Thousands of twinkling lights illuminate the pathways and among the throng of people you may spot one or two locals dressed in traditional Renaissance masquerade outfits, immersing themselves in the spirit of the fair! Make your return journey back to the port, perhaps still humming the hymns and ready to wish those at home a 'vrolijk Kerstfeest' or merry Christmas!



**Please note, this is a transfer to the Royal Christmas Fair in the Hague. Upon arrival there will be a short walk between the coach and Christmas market location. You will have approximately two hours free time here.**



*Eye-catching modern architecture in Rotterdam*

## An Introduction to Rotterdam

2 ½ hours

Rotterdam is a city that suffered extensive destruction by both German and Allied bombing raids. When the war came to its conclusion the local government therefore had a significant decision to make: should the city be rebuilt to reflect its glorious, golden past; or rise like a modern phoenix, filled with pioneering urban splendour? Those in charge chose the latter, opting for the revolutionary approach, sparking an architectural boom which continues today. Despite this future-facing perspective, much of the city's past is tastefully preserved and, on this excursion, you have an opportunity to step into Rotterdam's history while still enjoying its trailblazing future. Begin with a sightseeing drive through the city, stopping at Veerhaven where 'historic sailing ships rock gently on the water.' Also pass beneath the towering Weena Building for a second stop at the 'Cubic Houses' which were conceived by Piet Blom in the 1970s and are said to represent an urban forest. Pass along Coolingsingel, a commercial thoroughfare filled with urban hubbub before your optional walking exploration of Delfshaven begins. It is one of the few parts of the old city to have survived World War Two and is internationally famous as the departure point for the Pilgrim Fathers who sailed for America in the 17th century. Stroll along its streets lined with warehouses, museums, and perhaps capture its waterside

windmill wonder before returning to your awaiting ship.



**Please note that the walking in Delfshaven covers approximately one mile, however this is optional. If you choose not to take part in the optional walking element, this excursion would be rated as 'easy'.**



Wheels of 'Gouda' cheese

## Delights of Gouda and Hoogerwaard Farm

4½ hours

Gouda is a cheese that is instantly recognizable—characterized by its smooth taste enclosed within a dark orange or red skin – however it may shock you to know that despite being named after the city of Gouda, the cheese has never been produced there! This fact, among a host of others is waiting to be learned on this excursion which guides you around a gouda-producing farm before displaying the visual wonders belonging to the city of Gouda itself. Travel to the 17th-century Hoogerwaard Farm to observe the cheese-making process in its entirety: each step has been carefully developed to enhance taste while adhering to traditional principles. After asking any questions that you may have (the team like to be tested) it's time to taste three distinctly different cheeses. You may like the 'Jong' cheese which boasts a mild flavour, or perhaps you are a fan of 'Oud' proving more pungent in taste and flakier in texture. Still at the historical farm, enjoy coffee or tea accompanied by a Dutch syrup waffle before a short journey to the pretty city of Gouda. Enjoy a walking tour to see the exterior of St John's Church, and of course the 'Stadhuis', or 'city hall'. This Renaissance-style building rises high above the market square, a reminder of the city's mercantile past, and offers an opportunity every half an hour to hear the twinkling Carillon – a charming sound accompanied by the appearance

of several colourful figures. Spend some free time to explore Gouda's cobbled streets before returning to the ship.



**Please note that there will be at least two miles of walking on this excursion. Surfaces may prove uneven, especially where cobblestones are present.**





*Ice Skating in Amsterdam*

## A Day in Amsterdam

8 hours

For those that want to adventure into Amsterdam and explore independently, this excursion may well be for you. Upon arrival into the heart of the city, you will have approximately four hours of free time ahead of you: the hardest decision will be deciding what to do first! Consult your guide to tailor-make your ideal visit before venturing out into the 'Venice of the North'. Perhaps stroll through the 'Gallery of Honour' at the Rijksmuseum to see the very best of Dutch fine art or take a trip to the Van Gogh Museum and immerse yourself in the life and work of one of the Netherlands' most talented sons. Perhaps taste a tipple in a traditional pub and soak up the local atmosphere or visit the flower market to capture its dazzling colour on your camera. If you are feeling brave, take to the ice by skating next to the Rijksmuseum, surrounded by cosy stalls selling winter warming refreshments or for further festive fun, make your way to the Christmas markets. It is a smorgasbord of culture and we hope this excursion offers an opportunity to take a big bite!



**Please note that much of the activity on this excursion is at your discretion. A local guide will escort your coach journey to provide you with an introduction to Amsterdam and upon arrival, will be**

**happy to give you advice and offer suggestions to help you make the most of your time here. The coach journey should take approximately 90 minutes each way. The drop off and pick up location is situated close to Museum Square. Expect to walk at least one and a half miles across mostly flat surfaces which may prove uneven at times.**



*An example of the porcelain for which 'Delft' is famous*

## Royal Delft and the Hague Christmas Fair

6 hours

Between the 17th and 19th centuries, a popular past time enjoyed by the Dutch upper class was showing off their 'Blue Delft' collections: having delighted their guests with an entertaining dinner party, the enigmatic host might dramatically rise from their seat and guide all present attention to their wondrous collection of the tin-glazed porcelain – and for good reason. Blue patterns swirl and curl across a white background, portraying romanticised scenes from everyday life in the Netherlands. At the height of their fashion, 33 factories were in operation and today, just one remains – De Porceleynse Fles – adhering to the techniques used in the 17th century. In fact, experts attest that delftware produced by the workshop is the standard against which all other delftware is judged. Its authenticity and quality are unparalleled. Step inside the workshop to watch the artists at work: a steady hand and an abundance of patience is required to create these works of art. Discover the history of the earthenware and perhaps pick up a piece for yourself, stamped with the date, factory mark and artist's initials to ensure authenticity. Rejoin your tour vehicle and journey to The Hague for a magical Christmas experience. Bathe in the light of thousands of twinkling lights which create a fairytale atmosphere and lose yourself in the Christmas markets. Browse the selection of

handmade decorations or simply enjoy a hot drink and watch the world go by in Lange Voorhout – one of the most attractive areas of the city. Return to the ship, perhaps still feeling a festive glow or reflecting on the splendour on show at De Porceleynse Fles.



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New

**Please note, you will spend approximately one hour and 45 minutes at the Hague Christmas Festival. On arrival there will be a short walk from the coach parking location to the Christmas fair. The walking distance on this tour will total at least one mile but walking at the fair is at your discretion. There may be stairs to negotiate.**



*Dordrecht Christmas Market*

## Dordrecht Christmas Market

4 hours

With over 200 stalls stretched across one and a half miles, the Christmas market in Dordrecht, open only one weekend each year, is the Netherlands' largest. On this included excursion, we invite you to step into the festivities and enjoy the sounds, sights, smells and tastes of this magical wonderland. Throughout the inner city you will hear Christmas songs being sung, bathed in the light shining down from thousands of fairy lights. Perhaps take home a tree-topping decoration to remind you of Dordrecht, see the full-sized nativity scene or simply sit down with a glass of spiced wine while becoming absorbed by the ongoing excitement.



The coach journey from Rotterdam to Dordrecht will take approximately one hour. Upon arrival there will be a short walk between the coach and Christmas market location. The exact distance is dependent on the availability of coach parking at the time of arrival, but we expect the walk duration to be approximately 15 minutes each way. Activity at the Christmas market is at your discretion; however, to explore the markets in full you should expect to walk at least 500 yards across surfaces which may be uneven. You will have approximately two hours to explore the markets at your leisure before returning to your ship.

## Zeebrugge, Belgium

In 1895 work began to construct a new seaport and harbour next to the tiny village of Zeebrugge, situated on the North Sea coast. Today the fast-expanding port of Zeebrugge is one of the busiest in Europe and its marina is Belgium's most important fishing port. Many attempts were made to destroy this port during both World Wars. Zeebrugge is ideally located for discovering the historic city of Bruges, and delightful seaside resorts with long sandy beaches can be visited by using the trams that run the whole length of the Belgian coast. Please note that no food may be taken ashore in Belgium. We shall not be offering shuttle buses to Bruges, but you may visit the city on an excursion: those visiting Bruges should note that there may be quite a long walk from the coach to the town centre.

### FACTFILE

**Population:** 3,900 (approximate)

**Language:** Flemish

**Currency:** Euro

**Time difference:** UK+1

**Climate:** Temperate

**Distance from centre:** 3 miles (approximately)

### USEFUL INFORMATION

**Shopping:** There are shops available in Blankenberge: Kerkstraat. However, the main shopping area is located in Bruges: Steenstraat and Noordzandstraat.

**Shop opening hours:** Generally open Monday to Saturday from 1000 - 1800. Some souvenir shops open on Sundays.

**Post office:** The post office is located at Smet de Naeyerlaan 147, Blankenberge. Open Monday to Friday 0900 - 1730; Saturday 0930 - 1200. Closed on Sunday.

**Banks:** KBC/P, Devauxstraat 10, Blankenberge. Open Monday - Friday 0930 - 1230 and 1400 - 1630; Saturday 0900 - 1200. Closed Sundays. ATMs are available.

**Tourist office:** The tourist office is located at Koning Leopold III Square, Blankenberge. Open daily April - September 0900 - 1145 and 1330 - 1700.

**How to phone home:** For the UK dial 00 44 followed by the full STD number, omitting the first zero.

**Emergency services:** For all emergencies dial 112.

## Loppem Castle and Damme

4 hours



Loppem Castle

Drive through the Belgian countryside to the quaint village of Damme. This typical Flemish village has retained its historic character. Here you have free time to stroll or sit down at a café and enjoy one of the many kinds of beer that Belgium produces. Damme is known as a book town, with numerous bookshops and regular book fairs. Continue your tour with a drive through the outskirts of Bruges, passing windmills and the medieval gates, stopping at one of the region's largest chocolate shops. Afterwards, you will be taken south of Bruges to visit the impressive Castle of Loppem. A country house rather than a fortress, it was built between 1859 and 1862 for Baron Charles van Caloen and his family, and designed by the British architect Edward Welby Pugin, whose father, August Welby Northmore Pugin, was one of the architects of the British Houses of Parliament. Pugin was assisted by Jean-Baptiste de Béthune, who gave the building something of a Flemish character. Loppem Castle came to play a prominent role in the political history of Belgium at the end of World War I. The castle has a richly decorated and furnished interior, and houses a collection of works of art - paintings, stained glass and statuary. It is surrounded by a romantic park with ponds and a maze.



**There is approximately 450 yards' unavoidable walking on this tour, plus additional walking at your discretion, sometimes over cobblestones.**





*Experience the festive traditions of Bruges*

## Bruges Festive Markets

4 or 6 hours

The arrival of the festive markets to Bruges is a prominent event in the calendars of locals, travellers, Christmas-enthusiasts and everyone in between. And for good reason. The cobblestone streets become characterized by their brightly-lit Christmas trees and the cool, crisp air makes a glass of warm, spiced wine very welcome. After a 30-minute walk from the drop off location to the markets you will have two hours to experience what makes Bruges' Christmas markets so special. Perhaps pick up a hand-made Christmas decoration or search out the perfect gift. It is a delightfully-festive atmosphere in which to immerse yourself during two hours of free time before returning to the ship.

### **Spend Longer in Bruges...**

We are also offering a six-hour version of 'Bruges Festive Markets' which includes four hours of free time at the markets and time to explore Bruges further at leisure.

The duration is the only difference between the two excursions.

**Due to coach parking restrictions in Bruges, your tour vehicle will park approximately one mile from the Market Square. We estimate that the walk will take between 20 and 30 minutes in each direction. A local guide will escort you to and from the Christmas Market. Some sections of the walking route will be over uneven ground and cobblestones. You should expect to be on your feet for the majority of this excursion.**



*Cobbled lanes of Bruges*

## Romantic Bruges and the Festive Markets

6 hours

The city of Bruges has been described by Lonely Planet as a 'perfectly-preserved time capsule', offering plenty of medieval architecture, and when the Christmas markets arrive it is filled with festive wonder: tall towers overlook a maze of cobbled streets flanked by what appear to be gingerbread houses straight out of a children's fairy-tale. You are invited to delve a little deeper into Bruges' history on an inciteful walking tour before indulging in a feast for the senses at the Christmas markets. Having arrived at the designated parking area, your step-by-step walk through time can begin: discover the importance of the market square which, from the 10th century onwards, witnessed festivals, fairs, uprisings and executions and draw your gaze upwards to the 270-foot belfry that houses a carillon with 47 bells – described by the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow as being 'a heart of iron beating in the ancient tower'. Your guide may also point out Bruges' City Hall, from which the city has been governed for over 600 years, and the richly-adorned Basilica of the Holy Blood – recognizable by the bright golden figures which overlook the entrance. During your walking tour, you won't fail to notice the magical Christmas market. Enjoy some free time amongst its seasonal hustle and bustle to immerse yourself in the festive fun, accompanied by the ever-present scent of fresh waffles. Also present is a giant

Christmas tree to ensure that you return to the ship with a warm Christmassy feeling in your heart and plenty of fun facts about this fabulous city.



**Please note, we have graded this excursion as strenuous because you will be expected to stand and walk for upwards of two hours during your walking tour. You will have approximately two hours to explore the Christmas markets at your own pace when walking will be at your discretion. Surfaces may be uneven, and the markets may be busy. The compulsory total walking distance will amount to more than one and a half miles.**



*Picture-perfect Ghent in Belgium*

## Medieval Charms of Ghent

5 hours

The charming city of Ghent has been described as one that simply 'feels human.' Its canal-side blend of Medieval and Classical architecture, combined with its thriving modern energy ensures that Ghent remains personal while continuing to grow. On this historic walking tour, pause on St. Michael's Bridge and see the three glorious medieval steeples that rise above Ghent. Continue to the magnificent St Bavo's Cathedral. Standing on the site of a 10th-century church, the Gothic cathedral was developed throughout the 15th and 16th centuries and holds a huge number of treasured works of art. See the crypt, decorated with medieval wall paintings, the 'Rococo' Pulpit completed using oak, gilded wood and Flemish marble, and of course The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb, a vibrant altarpiece nicknamed the 'most stolen artwork of all time,' depicting redemption through the lamb's sacrifice. Created by the Van Eyck brothers in 1432, discover how the artwork escaped fire in the 16th century, was plundered by Napoleon in the 18th and is still the subject of one of the most fascinating art heists of the 20th century, remaining unsolved to this day. Leaving the cathedral and its abundance of artistic treasures, enjoy some free time to perhaps browse Ghent's selection of lace or chocolate shops, before returning to the ship.



**You should expect to walk approximately one mile on the guided part of this tour across cobblestone streets and there are up to fifteen steps throughout. Walking during free time is entirely at your discretion. Not all venues in the city centre of Ghent are wheelchair accessible.**

## Le Havre, France

Built in the 16th century for François I when the port of Harfleur became unnavigable, Le Havre suffered more damage in World War II than any other city in France. It had to be almost completely rebuilt and rose from the ashes with a new face and identity under the direction of French architect Auguste Perret. Set amid pastoral countryside in Normandy, Le Havre has a fine art museum with works by famous artists such as Raoul Dufy and the Impressionists. It also has many interesting buildings including the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville, the Cathedral of Notre-Dame and the ultra-modern Maison de la Culture du Havre. You can also explore the Quartier St-François, the town's oldest district, which is almost an island and is linked to the rest of the town by bridges.

### FACTFILE

**Population:** 184,000

**Language:** French

**Currency:** Euro

**Time difference:** UK+1

**Climate:** Temperate

**Distance from centre:** 1½ miles

### USEFUL INFORMATION

**Shopping:** The best shops are in the streets around the Town Hall, such as Rue Paul Doumer and Place de l'Hôtel de Ville. Espace Coty is a large shopping mall in the city centre.

**Shop opening hours:** Shops are typically open Monday to Saturday from 0830-1800, usually with a break at lunchtime.

**Post office:** The main post office is at 172 Boulevard de Strasbourg, and is open 0830-1800 from Monday to Friday and 0900-1200 on Saturdays.

**Banks:** There are several banks in the city centre along Boulevard de Strasbourg and nearby streets. 24-hour ATMs are widely available.

**Tourist office:** There are tourist information centres in the cruise terminal and at 186 Boulevard Clémenceau, on the seafront between the beach and marina.

**How to phone home:** To call the UK dial 00 44 followed by the full STD number, omitting the first zero.

**Emergency services:** For all emergencies dial 112.

## Deauville and Calvados Tasting

5 hours



*The Château de Breuil in Normandy*

Leaving the port, take a scenic drive along the Côte Fleurie, passing through chic resorts with colourful flowerbeds to reach your first stop at Deauville. This charming and sophisticated town was developed in the 1860s by the Duc de Morny and transformed from a small farming village into a luxurious holiday resort. After a short orientation tour, enjoy free time to purchase a coffee or simply stroll along the famous 'Planches', a promenade constructed in 1923 from Madagascan hardwood and running the length of the beach. Your tour continues with a drive to the lush Pays d'Auge region. Sheltered valleys, half-timbered houses and stud farms surround you as you travel through this delightful area, home to cider apples, fine horses and distinctive cheeses. Discover the secrets of Calvados as you visit the lovely slate-roofed Château de Breuil and see the distillery with its gleaming copper stills. The Château was built in the 16th and 17th centuries and the famous apple brandy is aged in oak casks deep in its cellars. Sample this delectable product before your drive back to Le Havre.



**This excursion involves walking approximately 1½ miles - approximately ¾-mile over mostly level ground in Deauville, and roughly the same distance at the Château de Breuil, with up to 20 steps. You will also need to remain standing at times while your guide gives a commentary. Walking in Deauville is at your discretion.**





*Gaze up at St Joseph's Church*

## Le Havre Walking Tour

3 hours

By European standards, Le Havre is a relatively modern city, dating back only to the 16th century. It was very badly bombed during the Second World War and lost most of its architectural heritage.

Despite this, the rebuilt city is now listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The post-war reconstruction paid homage to the town's original layout and to its surviving historical buildings, but introduced new ideas of town planning. Today Le Havre is considered a masterpiece of urban planning and 20th-century architecture. During your walking tour you visit the cathedral, one of the very few buildings in central Le Havre to have survived World War II. You also see the impressive Town Hall – built in 1958 and boasting a tower 295 feet high – and St Joseph's Church, which was built as a memorial to the 5,000 citizens of Le Havre who died during the War. Auguste Perret designed the tall church steeple as a beacon visible out at sea; it also acts as a lantern, with its stained glass windows giving light and colour to the interior. After visiting the church, you will have free time for sightseeing on your own before returning to the ship.

**occasional cobblestones. Admission to the cathedral and to St Joseph's Church may not be possible if a religious service is taking place.**



**You should expect to walk approximately one and a half miles, mostly over flat, paved ground, with**



Charming Rouen

## Christmas in Rouen

5 hours

During the festive period each year, the engaging, historically-rich city of Rouen, which was rightfully nicknamed the 'city of 100 bell towers' by writer Victor Higo, becomes a winter wonderland filled with Christmas villages, tall, tastefully-decorated trees and an excited energy, celebrating the season in style. Transfer from the port to this fabulous city and, upon arrival, decide where to venture – keeping in mind distances from the drop-off point, afterall, Rouen is a rather large place! Perhaps you may be attracted by Rue du Bac, all lit up in festive majesty, or if you are looking for the perfect gift, consider the Christmas 'village' located at the Place de la Cathedrale. If you are feeling particularly brave, why not strap on a pair of skates and take to the ice rink beneath the lofty spire of St Ouen Church. Alternatively, if markets and Christmas lights aren't for you, why not grab a camera and seek out some of Rouen's most beautiful half-timbered houses or spot the tiny Rue des Chanoines, measuring just 35 inches wide! Return to the ship having immersed yourself in the seasonal spirit or simply having enjoyed Rouen's renovated medieval splendour.

**Rouen, walking distances will be at your discretion. This is a transfer to Rouen only.**



**Please note, the journey by tour vehicle will be at least an hour and a half each way. Upon arrival at**



*Just one of Rouen's many charming features*

## Highlights of Gothic Rouen

5 hours

Filled with unignorable history, the city of Rouen has seen the demise of a French heroine and features such visual treasures as a 14th-century astronomical clock and plenty of figures carved into its masonry. On this tour, explore two of this Norman city's most significant sites – the Notre Dame Cathedral and Place du Vieux Marche. Begin your walking tour by passing along La Rue Saint Romain, a narrow street flanked by half-timbered houses. The dramatic Gothic façade of the Notre Dame Cathedral (Our Lady Cathedral) will quickly appear before you. Here, you will enjoy a fascinating tour beneath the vaulted ceilings of this magnificent holy place. See the 15th-century church of Saint Maclou, used during the French Revolution as a weapons factory, and gaze up at the Gros Horloge Astronomical Clock. Your final destination is the Place du Vieux Marché, where a daily market is held (except for Mondays). However, it is not for trade that the square is known: on 30 May 1431, Joan of Arc was burned at the stake by Anglo-Burgundian forces. Take some free time to properly explore the city before returning to the ship, now understanding why Rouen is considered a 'must see' city by those that visit.

**Expect to walk more than a mile on this excursion, across terrain which may at times be uneven. Please note that a 'whisper system' is used on this excursion.**





*The colourful steeple of St Joseph's Church*

## Snapshot of Le Havre

2 hours

Despite being founded in the 16th century, Le Havre lost almost three quarters of its original buildings to the destruction that World War Two brought. Afterwards, the extensive reconstruction of its architecture earned it a suitable reputation as a beautiful city which contrasts both the old and the new harmoniously; or as UNESCO put it, 'Le Havre is exceptional among many reconstructed cities for its unity and integrity'. During this panoramic tour, pass the cathedral (one of the few buildings to survive the Allied bombing raids) and the post-war town hall which prides itself on its symmetry, before stopping at the St Joseph's Church. The church features a tall tower, lined with coloured glass which contributes to the Gothic-revival's tranquil interior. Leaving one architectural gem in the city's post-war crown for another, you will pass Le Volca, one of Le Havre's most conspicuous landmarks, designed by Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer and opened in 1982. Return to the port, perhaps now understanding how a city so vehemently bombarded during the Second World War can rise from its own ashes.

**While there may be at least 100 yards of essential walking, further activity is at your discretion. You should expect uneven steps when entering St Joseph's Church.**







*The beauty of Honfleur*

## Beautiful Honfleur at Christmas

4 hours

A short drive from the port brings you to historic Honfleur, filled with plenty of Christmas magic. As well as the festive fun on display, this small Normandy port has a glorious past and remains today a major centre for the Arts: it features in numerous paintings by famous Pre-Impressionist artists from the Barbizon School, and many poets have written of its charms. Leaving your coach, your guide will escort you to the slightly elevated town centre that overlooks the harbour where your walking tour begins. See the 15th-century wooden St Catherine's Church, the former salt warehouses, the Lieutenantcy - where the town's governor once lived - and the old port with its picturesque quaysides. Enjoy free time to perhaps seek out the seasonal splendour before re-joining your coach for the short drive back to your ship.



**All sightseeing is on foot: you should be prepared to walk at least one mile over uneven terrain and cobbled streets, with occasional steps. Admission to St Catherine's church may not be possible if a religious service is taking place.**

## Optional excursions booking conditions

**Book in advance:** For added convenience and to save queuing on board, you can book your shore excursions in advance by visiting [saga.co.uk/managemybooking](http://saga.co.uk/managemybooking) for immediate confirmation, alternatively you can call our cruise consultants FREE on 0800 056 7534 to confirm your choice and make payment.

When booked in advance tickets will be delivered to your cabin when you join your ship.

**Cancellations:** All excursions may be cancelled without charge at any time before the Explore Ashore Desk closes sales for a particular excursion. Please check the ship's Today Programme for closing time of sales, which is normally 48 hours before arrival in the relevant port unless stated otherwise on the booking form, online and/or in the Today Programme. If you cancel after sales close, a cancellation fee of 75% is payable. This cancellation fee is waived for those passengers holding Saga's optional insurance and additional cancellations rights if the cancellation is due to illness certified by the ship's doctor. All refunds will be credited to your on-board account. We reserve the right to cancel excursions or to substitute one excursion for another at any time in the interests of the passengers or of the ship, or if there are not sufficient bookings. If we cancel an excursion we will refund your payment.

Please note for certain tours we may incur costs for cancelling the arrangements and therefore a cancellation charge will be applicable.

**Clothing:** For all shore excursions it is advisable that you wear comfortable, low-heeled walking shoes with non-slip soles and a waterproof and windproof jacket. In anticipation of a variety of temperatures, your wardrobe should be versatile. We recommend wearing layers of clothes which can be shed or added to depending on the weather. A daily weather forecast will be issued to allow passengers to judge the appropriate clothing for that day. Do not forget a camera, film and binoculars. Staff on board will be pleased to offer further advice.

**Suitability of excursions:** If you have walking difficulties or a disability please refer to the excursion details to see if it is suitable. Staff at the Explore Ashore Desk, during shore excursion talks and at the port talks, can also advise you about those excursions which you may find more suitable. Please note that the suitability of individual excursions does vary and while we give you advice and guidance, the decision on whether or not the excursion is suitable is essentially for you to make, save where Saga believes the proper operation of the excursion will be prevented or where safety concerns exist.

**Disembarkation:** Disembarkation takes place as soon as possible after the ship's arrival in port. For safety reasons, please wait in the recommended areas until an announcement is made by staff calling you to disembark for your chosen excursion.

**Times and schedules:** Durations given for excursions are approximate and should be taken as a guide only. Please check the ship's Today Programme for confirmed departure times.

*Visit The Hague in the late afternoon*





*Le Havre illuminated at dusk*

**Itineraries:** Some excursions may operate in reverse. Please ensure that you do not book excursions which run at the same time. Please refer to the enclosed price list which explains which excursions can or cannot be taken together.

**Transport:** In some places you may travel on under-developed roads and transportation may not be of British or European standards. However, we do use the best transport available.

**Bathroom stops:** Wherever possible, regular bathroom stops have been planned into your itinerary at the best facilities available.

**Smoking:** Saga operates a worldwide policy of no smoking on all excursion vehicles.

**Conduct:** If, by your conduct, you prejudice the enjoyment of an excursion by others, we reserve the right to exclude you from that or any future excursions. No refund of the excursion cost will be available in these circumstances.

**If you become lost:** Should you become separated from your group during an excursion, please locate a taxi and return to the ship immediately, notifying the Reception Desk on arrival. If you have no local currency to pay the driver, the Reception Desk will assist you and charge the amount to your on-board account.

**Included in the price:** Admission charges to attractions as stated • A guide or driver guide (unless otherwise stated) • A Saga Representative from the ship to accompany the excursion (not as guide or lecturer) • Meals and refreshments as detailed.

**Maximum and minimum numbers:** All excursions are subject to maximum and minimum numbers. We recommend that you book in advance to secure the excursions of your choice. If there are insufficient bookings, we may have to cancel tours.

**Liability:** Except for death or personal injury (caused by our negligence) our liability for any loss or damage (including, but not limited to, loss of property) you may suffer during, or in relation to, an excursion is limited to twice the price of the excursion which you pay. These conditions are subject to English law and both parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

**Please note:** Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the shore excursion leaflet, all details are subject to change. We cannot accept any responsibility for such alteration but will notify you of any known change, if possible, prior to or during the cruise.

**Payment options:** You can pay by debit or credit card. There is no charge for payments made by debit card.



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