

AVALON WATERWAYS INTRODUCES NEW ART & IMPRESSIONIST CRUISE SAILING IN 2011

Avalon Waterways, the award-winning cruise line specializing in river and small ship cruises, has announced a new addition to their highly popular themed cruises. The new Art & Impressionist cruise will set sail on the Avalon Creativity in November 2011.

Designed with art admirers in mind, the Art & Impressionist River Cruise provides a perfect way to explore picturesque Northern France. The itinerary includes a visit to Paris' Musée d'Orsay with a local expert to guide travelers through the remarkable collection of masterpieces; the chance to explore Claude Monet's Giverny home, the Musée des Impressionismes, for a closer look at the artist's work, as well as Rouen's extraordinary cathedral, a favorite subject for Monet.

Passengers will also have the opportunity to visit the Musée des Beaux-Arts André Malraux in Le Havre and attend special onboard art lectures.

"Avalon's inspired, 360-degree cruise experience affords travelers the chance to immerse themselves into a destination, culture and passion thanks to unparalleled land programs and world-class guides," said Patrick Clark, managing director of Avalon Waterways.

"Our Cruise Directors and special guest lectures also offer them a vast onboard education experience, giving cruisers the chance to soak in the history, culture and in this case, the art of a region as they drift from village to village."

The Art & Impressionist River Cruise was created to meet an increased demand for what Avalon dubs "passion travel," trips and itineraries geared towards travelers seeking to immerse themselves in the culture and history of their destinations in specific ways. Avalon already offers a robust selection of wine-, music- and holiday-themed vacations.

River cruising has long-enjoyed success and popularity among a niche market of travelers, but has rapidly gained the attention of the mainstream as a must-try travel experience, a trend attributed in part to the huge traveler base for "big ship cruising." More than 30 million Americans take a cruise annually, and river cruising offers them a way to broaden their worlds with new, in-depth experiences combined with the style of vacation that they know and enjoy.

Avalon's eight-day Art & Impressionist cruise is priced from \$2,349. For more information about Avalon Waterways' 2011 themed vacations, travelers can contact a Liberty Travel Vacation Expert by calling 1.877.Liberty or enquiring online at libertytravel.com.

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