Discover the Rhône with Nora Hamerman-Osher at JHU Faculty Member

Nora Hamerman, MA

Nora is an expert on art of the Renaissance and Baroque periods and has published hundreds of reviews of art exhibits in the DC area. She spent three years studying in Italy as a Fulbright Scholar and Chester Dale Fellow of the National Gallery of Art. She taught art history at the University of Virginia and Shenandoah University, and worked for 11 years in New York as an editor and translator from several European languages.

Lectures

FROM THE ROMANS TO THE ROMANESQUE: The church of St.-Trophime in Arles is one of the great treasures of French Romanesque architecture, built between the 11th and 15th century over an earlier 5th century church. The builders were able to draw inspiration from the ancient Roman monuments which still stand in Arles, including an amphitheater, triumphal arch, Roman circus and a full circuit of walls. Arles, which had served the ancient Romans as their military headquarters in France, was the favorite city of the Roman Emperor Constantine in the fourth century CE and became a key location for Roman Christianity. St-Trophime enjoyed a role as an important station on medieval pilgrimage routes to Spain. The church’s West Portal depicting the story of the Apocalypse is particularly famous, while the carved capitals of the columns in the cloisters illustrate stories from Old and New Testament, the lives of saints, and mythological beasts in styles that evolve from Romanesque to Gothic.

MODERN ERA: VAN GOGH AND GAUGUIN. Arles became a backwater when the introduction of rail transport diminished the importance of the river Rhone. This made it an attractive place for Vincent Van Gogh in his last years 1888-89. Although his “yellow house” was demolished, there is now a Van Gogh museum that borrows works by him from the Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam. The lecture would be about the “Petit Boulevard” that is the artists who did not fit into the mainstream of Impressionist art, especially Van Gogh and Gauguin who visited him in Arles.

AVIGNON: This lecture will focus on the Avignon papacy from 1309 to 1376 when the popes left Rome and settled in southern France under the protection of the French monarchy. The Avignon papacy was a watershed in church history, as it marked the politicization of the papacy and the development of the papal bureaucracy that continued after the popes returned to Rome. The great Sienese Gothic painter Simone Martini moved to Avignon in 1336. The Italian poet Petrarch, who launched the idea of the Renaissance, spent most of his youth in Avignon. The papal palace in Avignon is one of the best examples of international Gothic style.

FOR LECTURE INFORMATION
Ann Wiker - Administrative Supervisor
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Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Johns Hopkins University
Montgomery County Campus
9601 Medical Center Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION!

THERESA GRAHAM
541-349-0036 x 201 • T.Graham@DreamVacations.com • TravelPerks.com
**AUGUST 1-3 IN PARIS (OPTIONAL) – PRE-RIVER CRUISE TOUR FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RESERVED THEIR SPACE**

August 1: Arrive in Paris, standard airport transfers to the hotel are included. Meet your hosts and enjoy the rest of the day on your own.

August 2: Choose from a selection of morning tours that are included with your stay in Paris. In the evening, enjoy a group dinner and an illumination cruise of Paris on the Seine.

August 3: This is your day to enjoy as you wish. Choose from optional tours or enjoy time on your own.

**AUGUST 4 IN LYON (EMBARKATION) – BIENVENUE EN FRANCE! YOUR SUITE SHIP® IS READY TO BOARD ALL SEVEN-DAY CRUISE PASSENGERS**

After breakfast we’ll transfer from Paris to Lyon where we’ll meet our ship. Along the way, we’ll stop in Beaune to see the Hotel Dieu and have free time for lunch.

**Note:** At this time we are trying to arrange a wine tasting in Beaune on the way to the ship, but this has not been confirmed.

**SEVEN NIGHT RIVER CRUISE ON AVALON POETRY II FROM LYON TO ARLES, FRANCE**

**Note:** There will be two additional onboard wine tastings led by our own American Wine Society Certified Judge, Scott Montgomery. These are included with the cruise at no extra charge. Dates/times TBD.

**Embarkation:** Arrive at the ship in the afternoon. Enjoy Lyon on your own in the evening.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKED IN LYON**

**AUGUST 5 IN LYON – A FESTIVAL OF COLORS, AROMAS, AND TASTES**

**CHOOSE 1 FROM THESE 3 INCLUDED EXCURSIONS:**

- **Active:** Join a guided hike of Parc de la Tête d’Or, a vast urban park with many trails and a lake.
- **Discovery:** Take a guided culinary walk through Lyon to discover architecture and local specialties in a festival of colors, aromas and tastes—exclusive for Avalon guests.
- **Discovery:** Join our cooking class to learn to make your own Saucisson brioché and other local culinary favorites.

**Afternoon:** You can choose from optional excursions that include guided tours, mountain biking through wine country, or simply enjoy Lyon at your own pace.

**EVENING CRUISE TO TAIN L’HERMITAGE/TOURNON**

**Lecture Series - Nora Hamerman - “Modern Era: Van Gogh and Gauguin”**

**AUGUST 6 IN TAIN L’HERMITAGE/TOURNON – CHOCOLATIERS AND RAILWAY ENGINEERS IN THE TWIN CITY GORGE**

**CHOOSE 1 FROM THESE 5 INCLUDED EXCURSIONS:**

- **Active:** For a unique experience and panoramic views, join a guided excursion in the morning on a rail-bike along the descent of the Gorges du Doux.
- **Active:** Join a guided hike in the picturesque vineyards surrounding the twin cities of Tournon and Tain-l’Hermitage.
- **Discovery:** Have a true “chocolate experience” with a tour of the Valrhona Chocolate Factory and Museum. Make your own signature chocolate bar and, of course, taste to your heart’s content!
- **Class:** Take a guided sightseeing tour of Tournon–twin city to Tain-l’Hermitage and one of France’s oldest medieval cities. You’ll see its imposing 16th-century castle and Roman ruins.
- **Discovery:** Join a cooking demonstration and learn how to prepare Lyonnaise specialties while sailing to Viviers.

**Evening in Viviers:** Join us on a nighttime guided tour of Viviers, discovering legends, tales, and ghost stories of this enchanting town.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKED IN VIVIERS**

**AUGUST 7 IN VIVIERS, LOCK BOLLÈNE – RIVER GORGE CANOEING, CROCODILES, AND WINE CAVES**

**CHOOSE 1 FROM THESE 5 INCLUDED EXCURSIONS:**

- **Active:** Immerse yourself in the scenery with a guided canoe trip in the Gorges de l’Ardeche on the spectacular canyons of this Rhone tributary.
- **Active:** Find inspiration from the amazing landscape of the region with a guided hike through the Natural Reserve of Cirque d’Estre.
- **Active:** Join a guided visit for a surprising underground Wine Tasting with the direction of an expert Speleologist (cave guide) and an oenologist (wine-making expert).
- **Discovery:** Visit a crocodile farm and discover the wonderful world of reptiles. Not only crocodiles, but also snakes, turtles, iguanas, and an amazing botanical garden.
- **Class:** Visit the awe-inspiring water facility at Bollene and tour the power plant of this immense lock along the Rhone.

**Afternoon:** Cruise through the soaring walls of the Lock Bollene on your way to Avignon.

**OVERNIGHT DOCKED IN AVIGNON**

**Lecture Series - Nora Hamerman - “Gothic to Renaissance”**

**AUGUST 8 IN AVIGNON – ESSENTIAL OILS AND ANCIENT ROMAN AQUEDUCTS**

**CHOOSE 1 FROM THESE 3 INCLUDED EXCURSIONS:**

- **Active:** Join a leisurely guided electric bike ride through Tavel—birthplace of French Rosé. After the tour, enjoy a wine tasting in a local cave; after all, no need to pedal on the way back.
- **Discovery:** Experience the French art of fragrance with a guided tour of the Musée des Arômes et du Parfum where aromatic herbs and essential oils in this museum will inspire your senses and help you create your own unique fragrance.
- **Class:** Take a guided sightseeing tour of Avignon, including a visit to the world’s largest gothic fortress—the 14th-century Palace of the Popes. Also, explore Les Halles’ covered market.

**Extra Bonus:** This afternoon go on a guided tour of the famed wine cellars of Chateauneuf-du-Pape for a wine tasting, as well as a chance to make your own wine blend, or you may opt for a guided optional excursion on a canoe through the waters of Pont du Gard, the highest of all elevated Roman aqueducts. Finally, you can always opt for extra free time in Avignon to explore on your own.

**EVENING CRUISE TO ARLES, OVERNIGHT IN ARLES**

**Lecture Series - Nora Hamerman - “The Romans in Provence–Arles”**
YOUR EXPERIENCED TRAVEL HOSTS
This unique river cruise opportunity comes complete with two expert river cruise hosts, Gary Smith and Theresa Graham. They will travel with you to make your cruise an unforgettable event.
For more information Contact Theresa Graham at T.Graham@DreamVacations.com

AUGUST 9 IN ARLES – A MASTER CLASS, MYSTERIOUS IMAGES, AND A MATADOR IN PROVENCE

CHOOSE 1 FROM THESE 3 INCLUDED EXCURSIONS:

- **Active:** Experience the legends of Val d’Enfer with a Guided Hike; an area taking its name from the unique white limestone rock formations. This excursion includes an unforgettable audio/visual experience of light, imagery, and music at the Carrières de Lumières.
- **Discovery:** Attend a painting workshop to learn the style and techniques of Vincent van Gogh. You’ll create your own painting in the style of the classic master who took inspiration from the Provence light and landscape in Arles.
- **Classic:** Join a guided sightseeing tour of Arles to get to know this charming town, including a visit with a local bullfighter to learn about the secrets and traditions handed down through generations.

Optional Extra Cost Excursion: Guided tour to the natural salt marsh of Salin d’Aigues-Mortes, to discover the magic of pink waters of the Camargue. Or you can enjoy free time to shop and explore this wonderful town.

OVERNIGHT IN ARLES

AUGUST 10 IN PORT-SAINT-LOUIS – OYSTERS AND FLAMINGOS IN THE RHÔNE DELTA

ENJOY A MORNING CRUISE TO PORT-SAINT-LOUIS ON THE SKY DECK OF OUR WONDERFUL SHIP

CHOOSE 1 FROM THESE 3 INCLUDED EXCURSIONS:

- **Active:** Join a guided hike through the Camargue Regional Nature Park. You’ll see its lush marshland habitat at the mouth of the Rhône—home to a wide variety of flora and fauna—in one of France’s most protected and natural reserves.
- **Active:** Take a guided bike ride through the Camargue Natural Park with an eye out for more than 400 bird species—including pink flamingos—along the trails of the Mediterranean’s Rhône delta.
- **Discovery:** Enjoy a taste of local life with a visit to an oyster farm in the Camargue Natural Park on a guided tour to enjoy an oyster tasting and learn how this delicacy is farmed.

EVENING CRUISE BACK TO ARLES, OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN ARLES

AUGUST 11 ARLES – YOUR CRUISE ENDS WITH BREAKFAST THIS MORNING

Disembarkation: Flights should not leave Marseille airport before 10 am.

Post Tour: Three nights in Nice - Space is very limited on this tour, reserve early.

AFTER BREAKFAST, WE TRAVEL TO NICE BY BUS. ONCE AT THE HOTEL, YOU’LL HAVE THE AFTERNOON FOR LUNCH AND FREE TIME.

AUGUST 12-14 IN NICE (OPTIONAL) – POST-RIVER CRUISE FUN FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RESERVED THEIR SPACE

August 12: Morning sightseeing tour of Nice with the option of returning to the hotel or staying by the ocean for lunch. Afternoon is free time.

August 13: Included full day tour that includes visits to Eze, Monaco, and Menton, with a group farewell dinner in Menton before returning to our hotel.

August 14: After breakfast, transfer to the Nice airport for flights home.

GET ALL THE AVALON STANDARD PERKS
PLUS 6 EXCLUSIVE EXTRA PERKS

Wine Tastings with Award Winning Wine Experts ($110 value pp) • Pre-Paid Gratuities and Port Charges ($378 value pp) • Transfers to and from the Airport ($150 value pp) • Onboard Spending Money ($100 value pp**) • Additional Excursions ($300 value pp) • Guest Lecturer (Nora Hamerman-Osher at JHU Faculty Member)

EXTRA PERKS ARE OVER $1,030 IN SAVINGS!

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**French Balcony and above cabins only. Deposit and Final Payment: Initial Deposit of $750pp. Second payment due by 10/1/2019: $1000pp. Final & Full payment is due by 4/1/2020. All payments are 100% non-refundable. Airfare is not included, call for pricing. All pricing is per person, double occupancy only - call for single pricing. See Avalon Waterways brochure and any airline websites for additional terms and conditions. TravelPerks Dream Vacations is not responsible for any injury or loss resulting from participation in any aspect of this vacation package. This cruise is capacity controlled, values & savings are estimated and based on historical values of the total for 2 people and are subject to change. TravelPerks Dream Vacations not responsible for errors in this information, all details subject to change. While we don’t expect any changes, Pre/Post tour pricing is subject to change until 11 months before departure – this is due to possible fluctuations in exchange rates that cannot be locked in until that time. All prices are based on payment by check or eCheck. If paying by credit card, there will be a 3% surcharge added to the cost. This proud Dream Vacations franchise is an independently owned franchise of CruiseOne/Dream Vacations, owned and operated by On & On Inc, an Oregon Corporation. Licensed under OR License #100228074. CST 2066278-40, WA 601698664, IA 655, FLST 35829. © 2018 Dream Vacations.
Discover the Rhône

You’re invited to an exclusively customized exploration of France and the Rhône River. Join our experienced hosts who have curated one-of-a-kind experiences and partnered with the very best locations and guides. Enjoy wonderfully planned activities like extra wine tastings with a certified wine judge, a culinary walk, or a bike ride through nature and have the chance to customize your trip with many additional and optional excursions that are included at no extra cost.

**PRE-CRUISE**  
OPTIONAL – $1,499*  
Tour the City of Lights and the Paris food scene

**POST-CRUISE**  
OPTIONAL – $1,199*  
Fun in Nice that includes visits to Eze, Monaco, and Menton

Prices start at $3,999*

7-NIGHT CRUISE PRICING MATRIX

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(Does not include pre or post-cruise pricing)

GUEST WINE SPECIALIST - EXTRA PERK

Scott Montgomery

Italian Wine Specialist and graduate of the American Wine Society's Wine Judge Certification Program. He will be on board with us the entire cruise, and will join us for two wine tastings on the ship as well as some of the wine excursions. He has judged many international, national, regional and state wine competitions and won numerous medals for his own homemade wines over the last thirty years. Scott is also a big fan of the wines of southern France and the Rhone Valley in particular (red, white and rosé). A third-generation Oregonian, Scott and his wife now reside in Birmingham, Alabama.

7-NIGHT LUXURY RIVER CRUISE

Avalon Waterways Poetry ll • August 4 – 11, 2020