



Decouvertes

Exclusive cultural tours
Luxury independent Travel



From La Rochelle to the Isle de Ré

Full-day discovery of La Rochelle and the Isle de Ré

Shore excursion from La Rochelle

Morning visit to La Rochelle to discover a city which was the departure spot for many Huguenots who emigrated to America, founding cities such as New Rochelle. The city has beautifully maintained its historical architecture, making it one of the most picturesque and historically rich cities on the Atlantic coast. Afternoon drive to the Isle de Ré, one of the most famous islands in France.

Make it Historical!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue: Guided visit to the Musée d'Orbigny Bernon in La Rochelle

Please see the last page for more information

Make it La Fayette!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue: Guided visit to the Hermione and the Corderie Royale in Rochefort

Please see the last page for more information



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La Rochelle & the Isle de Ré

9.00 am: Meet your guide-driver at the foot of your ship in **La Rochelle**.

Morning guided walking tour of the old city and the harbor. In the old town you will see the interesting architecture of the **Gothic style City Hall**.

The building has undergone transformations over the centuries, but remains nonetheless the symbol of this city's prosperity and its great spirit of independence. It can only arouse admiration with its **fortress-like appearance** and its **flamboyant Gothic surrounding wall** firmly anchored in the heart of the city for over 600 years.

Continue your walk and you may wish to **climb to the top of the three towers for fantastic views across the harbor**.

In the St Nicolas Tower, a maze of hallways leads to several superimposed rooms connected by a **double-rising spiral staircase**. This enables two people to climb or go down it without ever meeting each other.

You may wish to visit the **New World Museum** with its very interesting presentation of the history of French emigration to the Americas.

Lunch is on your own in La Rochelle: What about "**les Flots**", an 18th century tavern at the foot of the Tour de la Chaîne?. Taste seafood in a rustic setting, modernized in a nautical style.

Drive to the Isle de Ré, accessible by an elegantly constructed, arch-shaped bridge that is nearly two miles long.

A drive through the island will lead you to **the whale lighthouse in the fortified town of St-Martin**. The lighthouse was built in 1849 by architect Léonce Reynaud.

If you choose to **climb the 257 steps to the top** you will be rewarded with dramatic vistas, especially on the isle of Oléron and the conche of the whales, one of the most beautiful beaches on the island.

Drive back to La Rochelle at the end of the afternoon.





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NB: Please note that some sites mentioned in the itinerary might not be available every day or all year long. We suggest you check with our Production Managers

This package includes

- Deluxe minivan which can carry up to 6 passengers
- Professional English-speaking guide-driver who will chauffeur you on your sightseeing tour and is licensed to guide and accompany you on walking tours, as well as into museums and monuments
- Découvertes fees
- 24-hour assistance available during your stay
- All taxes

This package does not include

- Entrance fees
- Tips
- Lunch or dinner

Découvertes can also provide:

- Pre-payment of all entrance fees to museums and other sites
- Lunch reservations



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Make it Optional

Make it Historical!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue

Guided visit to Musée d'Orbigny Bernon. Housed in a town house dating from the end of the 19th century, the museum is remarkable for the diversity and richness of its collection. It illustrates the great stages in La Rochelle's history, such as the famous Sieges of 1573 and 1627-1678 and the Second World War. It shows the remnants of its architectural heritage. Its collection of china and porcelain is one of the best in France. The Far-East exhibition, composed of gifts, legacies and loans from the Guimet Museum is a call to dream and evasion.



Please contact us for more information and price. Upon request and availability.

Make it La Fayette!

DECOUVERTES ADVICE for an optional venue

Visit the frigate "Hermione", an exact replica of the ship which took La Fayette to America. A team of dedicated people have undertaken a tremendous challenge – the reconstruction of the Hermione, the ship which La Fayette embarked in 1780 to bring help and support to the American insurgents.

Since its beginning, the construction site has been a true living show place, open yearly to visitors. Once the Hermione is fully completed, she is intended to be sailed again on La Fayette's path from Rochefort to Boston, through the Franco-American historical stops along the eastern coast. Continue on to visit the famous "Corderie" built under Louis XIV, it is one of the finest jewels of our maritime heritage, and the symbol of an extraordinary ambition: to rejoin the sea



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