

Chalon-sur-Saône, Burgundy, France

Birthplace of photography and gateway to Burgundy's legendary vineyards, Chalon-sur-Saône rewards explorers with a walkable old town, free world-class museums, and cellar doors just minutes away.

Docked (Saône quays)

Typical call: 7–9 hrs

Euro (€)

French

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Ships berth along Quai Gambetta or Quai des Messageries — steps from the city center

Best For: History, photography, Burgundy wine, relaxed riverfront strolls

Walk to center: 2–5 min on foot to Place de l'Hôtel de Ville

Don't Miss: Nicéphore Niépce Museum (free) and Saint-Vincent Cathedral's Romanesque cloister

Getting around: Taxi €8–€14 · Rideshare Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Nicéphore Niépce Museum** — The world's foremost photography museum occupies a mansion on the Saône quay.
- **Saint-Vincent Cathedral & Cloister** — A soaring Gothic cathedral begun in Romanesque style around 1090.
- **Burgundy Wine & Côte Chalonnaise Tasting** — The Côte Chalonnaise — Mercurey, Givry, Rully, Montagny — begins right at Chalon's doorstep.
- **Beaune Day Trip** — Just 30 km north, Beaune is Burgundy's wine capital.
- **Autun Roman Ruins** — An hour's drive brings you to Autun, one of the best-preserved Roman cities in France.

BEST WALKS

- **Chemin de l'Orbandale — Historic Center Circuit** 2–3 km | 1.5–2 hrs | Easy | Self-guided — The city's official heritage walk loops through 30 architectural highlights: half-timbered houses, Renaissance facades, the cathedral, and the photography museum.
- **Saône Riverside Stroll to Saint-Laurent Island** 1.5 km | 30–45 min | Easy | Scenic — Walk south along the quays to the Pont Saint-Laurent and cross to Île Saint-Laurent, where a 16th-century hospital and neoclassical chapel make a peaceful detour away...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		61°	43°	10d
Jun		77°	59°	11d
Aug		80°	61°	8d
Sep		73°	55°	8d
Oct		63°	49°	10d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:53AM–8:28PM · Jun 5:46AM–9:36PM · Aug 6:38AM–8:50PM · Sep 7:18AM–7:51PM · Oct 7:58AM–6:53PM

Euro (€)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Free museums: Both the Nicéphore Niépce Museum and Musée Vivant Denon are permanently free — no need to budget entry fees.
- Market days: Place Saint-Vincent hosts a lively market on Sunday and Friday mornings — great for local cheese, charcuterie, and regional produce.
- Wine bargains: The Côte Chalonnaise offers excellent Burgundy at a fraction of Côte d'Or prices — ideal for buying bottles to take home.
- Getting to Beaune: Taxis for a Beaune half-day run roughly €60–80 return; ship-organised excursions cost more but include a guide. Confirm return time with your driver.
- Cobblestones: The old town has uneven cobbled streets — comfortable walking shoes are essential.
- Water & shade: Summer calls can be hot. The tree-lined quayside and covered market halls offer relief — carry a water bottle.

Chalon-sur-Saône, Burgundy, France — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1** **Hotel de Ville de Chalon-sur-Saône** A neoclassical 1845 city hall built on a site with roots as a 15th-century meeting house, with a mayoral portrait gallery inside.
- 3** **Cathedrale Saint-Vincent** Chalon's former cathedral showing a mix of Romanesque, Gothic, and Classical architecture built up over centuries.
- P** **Cruise port / terminal**

- 2** **Roseraie Saint-Nicolas** A rose garden of roughly 25,000 plants within the sprawling Parc Saint-Nicolas, alongside a 4,000-tree arboretum.
- 4** **Musee Denon** A fine arts and archaeology museum named for Vivant Denon, Napoleon's first Louvre director, born in the region.