

Europe, July to September 2026

August 1, Northern France

Our trip today started with a 90-minute bus ride to Rouen. It also started at 7:30 AM. One “ding” for the cruise line.

Rouen is a historic town. Surprise! It has a historic church. Surprise number 2. I will show some pictures of the church because churches are a part of Europe accounting for 115% of tourist stops. But, unless there are some exceptional reasons to do so, these will be the only church pictures for the blog.

Church





The last picture was our tour guide describing an inscription. Her strange wand and white top made me think of Glenda, the good witch of the North.

Joan

The big claim to fame for Rouen is that it was the place where Joan of Arc was burned. Here is a memorial cross erected at that sight. It was hard to get a good picture.



More Rouen

Almost all towns in France have a carousel in the downtown area. The one in Rouen was a cute small one.



And, in a tribute to modern times, there is this store.



Notice the bears? I assume the answer to that question is “Yes”. Turns out it is a very successful marketing stunt. The tour guide said that Internet influencers go around the country posting pictures of the various sites with these bears, causing sales to increase 30%.

However, when I looked that up online, I could find no corroborating information. So, assume it is true, but take it with un grain de sel.

Conclusion

When we got back on the bus, the driver announced he had found a cruise identification card someone had dropped. The card is needed to get back on the ship. It was mine. Got a bit lucky there. Otherwise, I might have had to move to Rouen.