

THE WATERWAYS OF FRANCE

Canal and river holidays are fun, yet relaxing. A great way to holiday with family or friends. Discover the soul of the country – explore historical treasures – encounter the lifestyles of those living by the waterways.

Hotel Cruising with European Waterways

Far removed from the hustle and bustle of city life, all-inclusive hotel barge holidays offer a unique opportunity to travel in comfort without the strains of unpacking and repacking – whilst enjoying a balanced blend of daily excursions and fascinating cruising. If you are part of a group – consider chartering the whole boat.

Your voyage includes accommodation, all meals aboard and ashore, champagne welcome, open bar, excursions and admittance fees, and use of bikes. Optional excursions will also be available, or even the opportunity to take in a game of tennis or a round of golf.

Daily excursions are a highlight of all cruises - either a short walk away from the barge, or if further by minibus. There is also time to stroll or bike along the tow-paths, assist a lock keeper, discover enchanting vineyards, or wander into riverside villages and towns. While on board you may relax on deck or in the saloon – reading a book, listening to music, or just admiring the landscape slowly rolling past.

Your floating hotel is furnished with every modern comfort. The finest cuisine is prepared by your on-board chef, complemented by a fine array of wines and an open bar. And the experienced and knowledgeable English-speaking crew is there to attend to your slightest need. The crew includes your Captain, Chef, a housekeeper and deckhand.



Themed cruises

Special itineraries have been planned on particular themes.

The *Anjodi* has: 23 April 2006 – Golf Cruise, 08 October 2006 – Wine Cruise.

Group Charters

If you are travelling with a group – whether it is friends or family – you can charter the whole boat. You will have the whole vessel to yourselves, with the benefit of the crew doing all the hard work for you! Particular needs or preferences of the group can also be taken into account to adapt the itinerary and excursions.

Information and rates based on information as at August 2005. Full brochure available.

NZD Rates are a guide only, and are subject to tariff and exchange variance. Please see separate flyer for full dates and rates.



Eurolynx Travel Limited

Specialising in wholesale travel for Europe

P O Box 68637, Newton, Auckland 1032, New Zealand
DX: CP29517

Tel.: 64-9-361 3661 Fax.: 64-9-361 3664

Email: info@eurolynx.co.nz

Web: eurolynx.co.nz

Agent Stamp:

Burgundy - La Belle Epoque

12-passenger vessel – seven day voyage

The 12 passenger La Belle Epoque is a state-of-the art luxury hotel barge and sister ship to L'impressionniste in our European fleet.

Prices start from NZD 4,300 per person per voyage for a Junior Suite.

La Belle Epoque has been designed with both elegance and passenger comfort in mind, and offers a sun-deck spa pool, plus sauna and fitness studio, wood panelled saloon and dining room, all fully air-conditioned. The spacious cabins offer a choice of twin or double beds, with marble en-suite facilities.

Sunday, Day 1 Paris to Auxerre Guests are met in Paris and transferred to the elegant La Belle Époque. Following a Champagne Welcome, you are free to explore the medieval town of Auxerre or take a stroll along the banks of the river Yonne before returning for dinner aboard.

Monday, Day 2 Auxerre to Vincelles Our morning cruise takes us past vineyard-clad hillside to Vincelles where we moor in rural bliss. The afternoon excursion is to St Bris with its extraordinary network of medieval passages beneath the town. A wine tasting introduces you to the outstanding Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in the 12th century cellars of Monsieur Bersan. Dinner aboard.

Tuesday, Day 3 Vincelles to Vermenton The morning excursion to the town of Auxerre allows us to discover the medieval town centre. Originally the capital of Lower Burgundy, Auxerre prides itself on a collection of fine churches. During the afternoon we cruise through rich pasture lands and past grazing Charolais cattle to Vermenton. Dinner ashore in a local auberge .

Wednesday, Day 4 Vermenton to Mailly le château We take a morning cruise southwards through the Yonne valley past dramatic steep cliffs to the market town of Mailly. In the afternoon we enjoy an excursion to Vézelay, one of Burgundy's most famous treasures with the Roman Basilica of St Mary Magdalene, craft shops and fine views of the surrounding countryside. Dinner aboard.

Thursday, Day 5 Mailly le château to Lucy sur Yonne In the morning we cruise past the Saussois cliffs where an international climbing center creates a spectacular setting to Lucy sur Yonne. We take an excursion to the 18th century Ferme de Miserey where traditional farming methods are explained and a foie gras tasting is accompanied by a noble Chablis. Dinner aboard.

Friday, Day 6 Lucy sur Yonne to Clamecy A morning cruise through beautiful countryside towards Clamecy, where there is time to wander through the narrow streets lined with ancient buildings. In the afternoon we visit the Chateau of Bazoches, home of Maréchal Vauban, whose illustrious visitors included Richard the Lionheart. Captain's farewell dinner aboard.

Saturday, Day 7 Clamecy to Paris Disembark after breakfast, and then return to Paris.

NOTE: On alternate weeks, cruise will be in reverse direction. This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change.

Burgundy - L'Art de Vivre

8-passenger vessel – seven day voyage

The 8 passenger L'Art de Vivre started life as a Scottish munitions carrier and survived long enough to be transformed by a team of skilled crafts-men into a floating celebration of the Burgundian "good life".

The Upper Nivernais remains an undiscovered region, well off the beaten track on the edge of the Morvan hills. The sleepy hamlets, white grazing Charolais cattle, woods and forests are typical of the scenery.

During the summer months we visit the Valley of Sardy, a canal section with smaller locks, where time seems to have stood still for over two hundred years. The hand-swung bridges are a delight and we pass old logging sites which are now almost forgotten memory for the local people.

Prices start from NZD 3,750 per person per voyage for a stateroom.

Sunday, Day 1 PARIS TO CLAMECY Guests are met in Paris and transferred to L'Art de Vivre. After a Champagne Welcome, wander the logging capital and raison d'etre of the Nivernais canal, enjoying the 13th century cathedral, old winding streets and views of the River Yonne. Dinner aboard.

Monday, Day 2 CLAMECY TO VILLIERS SUR YONNE Morning cruise from Clamecy, with a stop at Chevroches for a visit to the 18th century model farm of Misery with the owner Mme Dhuick as our guide. Here we taste farm produce from jam to the famed Foie Gras, all of this accompanied by a fragrant Chablis. We continue our first day's cruise to the charming hamlet of Villiers sur Yonne. Dinner aboard.

Tuesday, Day 3 VILLIERS SUR YONNE TO TANNAY Enjoy an early cruise and a fascinating stop in Asnois to visit "Le Bouc qui Fume" or the "Smoking Billy Goat", a chapel based antique/curiosity shop. After passing the impressive double lock at Tannay, we moor in the old logging port and visit the Château of Bazoches, home of Marechal Vauban, whose illustrious visitors included Richard the Lionheart. Dinner aboard.

Wednesday, Day 4 TANNAY TO CHITRY LES MINES Morning visit to one of Burgundy's most picturesque hill-top settings - Vézelay. Discover the treasured Roman Basilica of St Mary Magdalene, lace and craft shops, superb views over the surrounding countryside and a delightful drive back to the barge before cruising to Chitry, passing through Dirol and its two Van Gogh style hand-operated lift bridges. Dinner ashore.

Thursday, Day 5 CHITRY LES MINES TO SARDY After a morning stroll around the village of Chitry we visit Elise Villiers, a viticulteur from Precy le Moul to taste some of the regions finest Chardonnays and the famed wine made from the "Melon" grape. Return to the barge and cruise to Sardy. Dinner aboard.

Friday, Day 6 SARDY TO BAYE Today we begin our day making our passage through the 16 lock flight leading to the summit of the Nivernais canal. These locks are sometimes less than 200 yards apart! And alongside each lock is a pretty waterfall, maintaining the canal level. Considered by many to be one of the most beautiful canal reaches in France, some of the lock houses are now craft shops and you can embark and disembark as we ascend to the three tunnels of La Collancelle before the lake at Baye which marks the summit. Captains Farewell Dinner aboard.

Saturday, Day 7 BAYE TO PARIS After breakfast return to Paris by coach.

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Provence and Camargue - L'Impressionniste

12-passenger vessel – seven day voyage

The 12 passenger L'Impressionniste began life as a cargo barge in Holland before undergoing a complete transformation into the powerful canal and river cruiser she is today.

The light and airy interior features picture windows and selections of decor reminiscent of the turn of the century era after which she has been named.

Prices start from NZD 4,300 per person per voyage for a junior suite.

L'Impressionniste's classic route covers some fine rural cruising, with plenty of opportunity to cycle and stroll along the tow-path and wander into nearby villages

Sunday, Day 1 AVIGNON You will be met in Montpellier and escorted by minibus to the L'Impressionniste for a Champagne Welcome. Spend the night onboard in Avignon.

Monday, Day 2 AVIGNON TO ARLES This morning we visit the Palais des Papes, a massive monument to the era of the 'other Rome', when the popes moved to France. After a stroll through the vibrant shopping district of Avignon, return to the barge for lunch. In the afternoon we cruise down the mighty Rhone River to Arles, passing the immense citadel of King René at Tarascon, and the foothills of the Alpilles. Dinner on board.

Tuesday, Day 3 ARLES TO AIGUES MORTES This morning we explore Arles, the Roman Arena, St. Trophime's Basilica and the Museum of Provençal life. We visit some of Vincent Van Gogh's haunts on foot through the heart of this old capital of the Camargue. Then a cruise down the Petit Rhone and on to the Canal de Rhone a Sete, passing several herds of wild Black bulls. We moor at the fortified town of Aigues Mortes. Dinner on board.

Wednesday, Day 4 AIGUES MORTES TO FRONTIGNAN Stroll from our mooring outside the town walls to visit the Tour de Constance, built in 1248 as a lighthouse and since used as a prison. Then in the afternoon we cruise the Canal du Rhone à Sete through the Camargue National Park with its wild horses, black bulls and pink flamingos, to the hamlet of Les Aresquiers where we are 200 yards from the Mediterranean. Dinner on board.

Thursday, Day 5 FRONTIGNAN TO MARSEILLAN An early start to pass under the lifting Bridge at Frontignan, then we sail out onto the Etang de Thau, a large, inland, salt water lagoon full of oyster beds. Mid-morning we stop briefly at Bouzigues to visit the Museum of the lake with its exhibition on oyster culture, which is the main activity of the many local fishermen. After lunch on board, we have a short minibus ride to the 12thC Abbaye de Valmagne with its vast Cistercian church and beautiful cloister. Our tour ends with a chance to taste its award winning range of wines. Returning to the barge, we have an afternoon cruise on the lake to the port of Marseillan, where we stroll into the marketplace for dinner ashore. This gives you a chance to taste many of the local seafood delicacies.

Friday, Day 6 MARSEILLAN TO AGDE Before the ship sails an opportunity to tour the cellars and distillery of the world famous aperitif, Noilly Prat, with tasting! Then an afternoon cruise on the Canal du Midi, through the renowned round lock and finishing our voyage on the River Hérault. We will be moored in the shadow of the Cathedral of the fishing town of Agde, built of lava blocks from the nearby Black Mountains. Captain's Dinner on board.

Saturday, Day 7 Return transfer by minibus to Beziers or Montpellier.

NOTE: On alternate weeks, cruise will be in reverse direction. This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change.

Canal du Midi - Anjodi

8-passenger vessel – seven day voyage

The 8 passenger Anjodi is of classic Dutch design, specifically rebuilt to navigate the 300 year old Canal du Midi. She has been completely re-furbished in the tasteful tradition of African hardwoods, hand-crafted panelling and shining brass, creating a comfortable and charming ambience.

The well planned accommodation offers four air-conditioned staterooms with full en-suite facilities. The sun deck is spacious and has a heated sunken Jacuzzi.

Prices start from NZD 3,800 per person per voyage for a stateroom.

Sunday, Day 1 BÉZIERS We are met near Béziers. Champagne Welcome aboard followed by an evening cruise across the impressive River Orb aqueduct and ascend the 100 foot flight of locks at Fonsérannes. Dinner aboard.

Monday, Day 2 BÉZIERS TO CAPESTANG A morning visit to Béziers' 13th century fortified cathedral of Saint Nazaire, with a commanding view across to the Pyrenees Mountains. Explore l'Oppidum D'Enserune, a pre-Roman hill-top settlement with Greek and Iberian excavations dating from 600 B.C. Cruise to Capestang in the afternoon, through the world's oldest canal tunnel at Malpas to Domaine de Guery for a pre-dinner wine tasting. Dinner aboard.

Tuesday, Day 3 CAPESTANG TO LE SOMAIL Today's excursion is to Narbonne, a Roman Mediterranean capital where the Visigoth Monarchs once lived. Enjoy a visit to the Archbishop's Palace and Horreum. Explore the indoor market, at the hub of this bustling Midi town; with time to shop or simply absorb the relaxed atmosphere. Afternoon cruise to Le Somail, where we moor near the old stone bridge, a perfect setting to enjoy dinner aboard.

Wednesday, Day 4 LE SOMAIL TO HOMPS Begin the day with a trip to Lezignan market, full of vivid colours and characters. Following a leisurely cruise we sample the full-bodied Corbières wine of 17th century Chateau LaVoulte Gaspereys. This evening we dine ashore, at a charming canal-side inn, in the heart of the village of Homps.

Thursday, Day 5 HOMPS TO MARSEILLETTE Enjoy a morning cruise to Puicheric. This afternoon's excursion to Minerve, the ancient capital of the Minervois, hosts a 12th century Cathar fort that is surrounded by deep limestone gorges. Besieged by Simon de Montfort in 1215, its hill-top location affords spectacular views. A fascinating recreation in miniature of the blood-thirsty Cathar rebellion and small museum complete the intriguing picture. Twilight cruise to Marseillette and dinner aboard.

Friday, Day 6 MARSEILLETTE TO TRÉBES Fascinating morning tour of Carcassonne. Dating back to the Gallo-Roman era, this is the most complete mediaeval, fortified city in existence today. With its 52 watch towers, portcullis and extraordinary repertoire of defences which resisted the many armies that tried to storm this Camelot setting. Afternoon cruise to Trebes, through vineyards and pine trees. Captain's Farewell Dinner aboard.

Saturday, Day 7 TRÉBES TO BÉZIERS After breakfast, return to Béziers.

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Bordeaux & south-west France – Rosa

8-passenger vessel – seven day voyage

The Rosa is an old Dutch "Clipper" barge, completely refitted to a high specification including air-conditioning. Her saloon is particularly cosy with panelled woods and comfortable. The large opening roof allows open air cruising without going on deck.

Prices start from NZD 3,600 per person per voyage for a stateroom.

We cruise by old fortified villages, and quaint farms each with its pigeon loft and historic towns such as Agen, Moissac and Toulouse, the "rose coloured city" The 12 passenger L'Impressionniste began life as a cargo barge in Holland before undergoing a complete transformation into the powerful canal and river cruiser she is today.

Sunday, Day 1 TOULOUSE TO MONTECH WeGuests are met in Toulouse and escorted to the Rosa, lying in the canal nearby. We get underway immediately, cruising for an hour into the Forest of Montech before stopping for our Champagne Welcome and dinner aboard.

Monday, Day 2 MONTECH TO CASTELSARRASIN Morning cruise to Montech with its 15th century church; either stay on aboard, enjoy a walk or bike ride through the forest, rejoining the barge for lunch alongside the village quay. In the afternoon, we negotiate the remarkable inclined Water Plane at Montauban by passing five locks and lowering the barge 43 feet in one go! Later. We arrive in Castelsarrasin for a wander around the village before dinner aboard.

Tuesday, Day 3 CASTELSARRASIN TO MOISSAC After breakfast, we cross the river Tarn via a 1000 foot long aqueduct to descend towards Moissac through a staircase of locks. In the afternoon, an excursion on the Tarn river with motorized dingy and then we visit Moissac's ancient Abbey founded in the 7th century with its wonderfully preserved cloisters and chapel. Before dinner aboard, try your hand at a game of Boules on the quay.

Wednesday, Day 4 MOISSAC TO VALENCE D'AGEN Early start by minibus to visit the birthplace of M. de la Mothe Cadillac who founded Detroit and gave his name to the famous car. From here, we drive to Château de St Roch and Auvillar, a 15th century village perched high on the side of a gorge above the river Garonne. After lunch on board, we cruise to Valence d'Agen, ancient "Bastide" viewing its Paladian canalside public wash-house and its market place with "couverts". Dinner aboard.

Thursday, Day 5 VALENCE D'AGEN TO BOÉ Cruise through the bucolic countryside to Lamagistère for archery practice. Any energetic types can climb the Clermont Soubiran for a spectacular view from the summit. Reboard Rosa for a leisurely cruise to Agen. Dinner aboard.

Friday, Day 6 BOÉ TO SERIGNAC Morning departure for an excursion by mini-bus to Buzet for a demonstration of barrel making and private wine tasting. Visit to Vianne, the site of a famous crystal factory and historic bastide and its ramparts. After lunch in Nérac, visit and tasting at an Armagnac producer. Return to Rosa for an aqueduct crossing of the River Garonne. Dinner aboard.

Saturday, Day 7 SERIGNAC TO BRAX Breakfast aboard and return to Toulouse

NOTE: On alternate weeks, cruise will be in reverse direction. This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change.

Loire Valley – Nymphia

6-passenger vessel – seven day voyage

The 6 passenger Nymphaea is a classic Dutch design with shallow draft and is ideal for navigating the incredibly beautiful reaches of the river Cher valley.

Prices start from NZD 4,100 per person per voyage for a stateroom.

Nymphaea has three comfortable cabins with en-suite facilities. Refitted throughout, her traditional ship interior features a warm classic decor of rich varnished hardwoods, stained glass and a welcoming country house atmosphere

Sunday, Day 1 AZAY SUR CHER TO MOULIN DE NITRAY You are met St Pierre des Corps and transferred to Nymphaea where a Champagne Welcome awaits you. Cruise upstream to our mooring opposite the 17th century Moulin de Nitray. Dinner aboard.

Monday, Day 2 MOULIN DE NITRAY TO BLÉRÉ A morning cruise through two locks takes us to the quaint town of Bléré where we moor for lunch. Afternoon excursion to Chateau D'Amboise and the Clos Lucé, Leonardo Da Vinci's home. Dinner aboard.

Tuesday, Day 3 BLÉRÉ TO CHISSAY EN TOURAINE A short stroll over the bridge to admire the colourful street market in Bléré. Morning cruise to Civray de Touraine where an optional short cycle ride takes us to Les Caves de Père Auguste for a wine tasting. After lunch we cruise under the 5 arch bridge of the impressive Chateau de Chenonceau and moor at Chisseaux. From there we depart by minibus to visit the Chateau. Early evening cruise to the village of Chissay en Touraine. Dinner aboard.

Wednesday, Day 4 CHISSAY EN TOURAINE TO ST AIGNAN An early start sees the Nymphaea tackling the upper reaches of the navigable Cher, arriving at St Aignan, the head of navigation where we moor in the shadow of the castle. An afternoon excursion is made either to Blois with its chateau, Musée de la Résistance and cosmopolitan shopping streets, or the Chateau de ValenVay, with its renowned gardens. Dinner ashore in a local hostelry.

Thursday, Day 5 ST AIGNAN TO MONTRICHARD After a stroll the old centre of St Aignan, we cruise downstream to the hamlet of Bourré. A short walk from the lock takes us to one of the more unusual dwellings in the Loire Valley, La Magnaneraie. This hillside troglodyte habitation, which has been in turn wine cellar, quarry for the tuffeau stone, and lastly a silkworm nursery. Returning to the barge we cruise to Montrichard where we moor for the night. Before supper we visit the local vineyard of the Meriau family, to taste the regional Touraine vintages. Dinner aboard.

Friday, Day 6 MONTRICHARD TO NITRAY Following breakfast, a short stroll takes us to the heart of Montrichard, into the midst of one of the largest weekly street markets in Touraine. There is much to explore at the 12th century Chateau of Foulques Nerra overlooking the mediaeval town square. After an early lunch, Nymphaea sets off downstream again, for another passage under Chenonceau and arrives at the hamlet of Nitray in time to visit the Chateau and rose garden of Nitray. Enjoy a pre-Captains dinner aperitif from their vineyards. Captains Dinner aboard.

Saturday, Day 7 After breakfast disembark and transfer St Pierre des Corps.

NOTE: On alternate weeks, cruise will be in reverse direction. This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change.