

IRELAND

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.

Daily excursions are a highlight of all cruises. They are either a short walk away from the barge, or if further by minibus.

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 voyage includes accommodation, all meals on-board and ashore, Irish coffee welcome, open bar, transfers to/from Dublin, excursions and admittance fees. Optional excursions will also be available, including horse riding or a round of golf.



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 refer separate flyer for full pricing.*



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Shannon Princess

10-passenger vessel – seven day voyage

The 10 passenger Shannon Princess II is the largest luxury hotel barge cruising the Lower Shannon. Newly commissioned for late 2002, her thoughtfully designed interior includes twin or double beds with Lough views, a comfortable saloon, dining area and full length sun deck.

Her experienced Captain and crew go out of their way to ensure your every need is accommodated. Your chef was trained at the Ballymaloe School and distinguishes herself at every meal with signature dishes such as parcels of wild salmon, roast of spring lamb, variations of shellfish stew with fresh herbs and of course a grand selection of desserts

Prices start from NZD 7,200 per person per voyage for a stateroom.



Day 1 Sunday : Athlone Guests meet in Dublin and transferred by coach to the Shannon Princess at her charming Castleside mooring in the heart of Athlone. Athlone is a flourishing riverside and garrison town dating from the 13th. Century. Your Captain and his crew welcome you onboard the delightful Shannon Princess with Champagne, Black Velvets or Irish Coffees!

Day 2 Monday : Athlone To Banagher The Shannon Princess descends through Athlone Lock and heads south through Europe's richest example of Callow landscape. Countryside little changed in over 1000 years. This is one of Irelands premier Wildfowl Reserves. We moor at Clonmacnoise ruins, a famed 6th. Century University and early Christian settlement. After a visit to the interpretive centre we lunch onboard enroute to Banagher arriving mid-afternoon to this typical Irish riverside town. A short bus ride to the narrow gauge bog railway where you will get a fascinating insight to the unique boglands of Ireland. Dinner onboard.

Day 3 Tuesday : Banagher To Terryglass We travel a very pretty stretch of the Shannon with an ever-changing landscape slipping by. Travelling down through Meelick lock, pausing as Portumna swing bridge is opened to allow the Shannon Princess passage onto idyllic Lough Derg. We moor at Terryglass Harbour. Time to explore this charming Hamlet before an afternoon excursion to Birr Castle with its glorious landscaped gardens dating from 17th. Century and family seat of the Earls of Ross Lunch in The Derg Inn in the village.

Day 4 Wednesday : Terryglass To Galway A full day excursion to Galway City A lively University City and cultural centre for Irish speaking regions in Western Ireland. Visit Galway crystal and a profusion of craft and linen shops. Lunch at a Traditional Guinness & Oyster pub. Return to Shannon Princess for Dinner.

Day 5 Thursday: Terryglass To Mountshannon We sail south through the especially beautiful Lough Derg passing Forrest park and ancient mountains as we set our course for Mountshannon a lovely lakeside village perched above the Lough. The afternoon excursion is to a unique project set in the grounds of Graggaunowen Castle, designed to bring Bronze Age & Celtic culture to life. Also on display is a reconstructed hide boat used by Irish Monks to sail to North America in the 5th. Century Dinner onboard.

Day 6 Friday : Mountshannon To Killaloe This morning we cruise through south Lough Derg and her many Islands rejoining the River Shannon and entering Killaloe, once home to the court of the greatest High King of Ireland Brian Boru. We moor on the Tipperary side of this elegant little town. A visit that afternoon to the famous Hunt Museum housed in Limerick City. This is a fascinating collection donated to the state by the Hunt Family Extra optional activities in the afternoon include a visit to Tinaranna House Spa where you can pamper yourself with Sauna, Massage, Aromatherapy and other Spa Services. Alternatively your Captain can hire a private fishing boat and guide. Farewell dinner ends your cruise in style.

Day 7 Saturday : Killaloe To Dublin

NOTE: this is a sample itinerary and is subject to change.



Photo credits: European Waterways, T Franklin