



The Renaissance barge cruising along Canal de Briare



## FRANCE

# RENAISSANCE BARGE - UPPER LOIRE & WESTERN BURGUNDY CRUISE

(TOUR CODE: 11147)

### STARTS AND ENDS

in Paris

### TRAVEL PERIODS

30 Mar 25 - 26 Oct 25 & 29 Mar  
26 - 25 Oct 26

### EXPERIENCE

Food & Wine  
Luxury

### TRAVEL STYLE

Cruise

Discover the charm and beauty of Upper Loire & Western Burgundy as you cruise along Canal de Briare and the Loire River aboard Renaissance.

## Highlights

- Visit the **"time capsule"** studio home of 19th century artist Rosa Bonheur with a private lunch in her salon
- Experience the **seven lock flight at Rogny-Les-Sept-Écluses** – a national historic monument
- Cruise across the **aqueduct at Briare**, built by Gustave Eiffel over the River Loire
- Explore Montargis with a visit to its **11th-century château** and Church of the Madeleine
- **Private wine tasting** in Sancerre
- Excellent opportunities for walking and biking

Originally built in 1960 in Belgium to transport grain and ore, Renaissance was converted into a luxury hotel barge in 1997. Now cruising the scenic Canal de Briare and the Loire River, this elegant vessel accommodates up to eight guests in four spacious ensuite suites. Onboard amenities include a stylish saloon, dining room, sun deck with spa pool, library and bicycles. The journey through the Loire Valley and Burgundy features historic highlights such as Château de Fontainebleau, Château de Ratilly, and the picturesque towns of Gien and Briare.



## INCLUSIONS

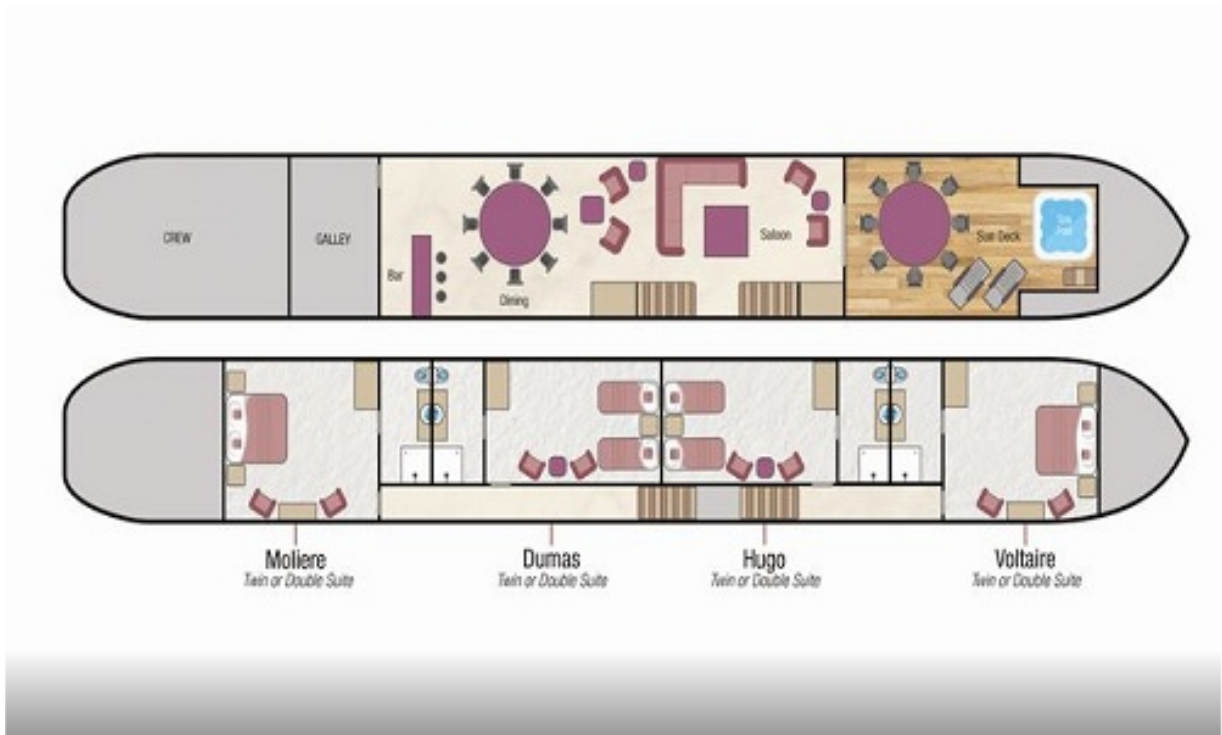
- 6 nights onboard the Hotel Barge Renaissance in a Suite
- Crew of 5 (Captain, tour guide, chef and hostesses)
- Transfers by an air-conditioned minivan
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily prepared by your chef
- Captains farewell dinner on your last night
- Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- Excursions as per itinerary
- Use of barge facilities

## ITINERARY

### Deck Hotel Barge Renaissance

#### Ultra Deluxe | 8 Passengers | 5 Crew

- 127 Feet Long
- 4 Twin/Double Suites (Average 250sq ft incl. en suite)
- Spa Pool
- Air-Conditioned / Centrally Heated
- TV / DVD in suites



Day 1 Paris Montargis Amilly

You are met at your meeting point in Paris and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to the spacious Renaissance where a **Champagne welcome with canapés** awaits you and you meet the Captain and crew. Enjoy an afternoon cruise through picturesque **Montargis**, known as the 'Venice of Gâtinais' with its 131 bridges connecting the streets and crossing the Canal de Briare and the River Loing. Dinner on board.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge Renaissance** in a Suite.

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Dinner



CHAMPAGNE WELCOME ABOARD RENAISSANCE

Day 2 Amilly Montbouy

This morning, embark on your first cruise through the Loire countryside, with great towpath walking and cycling



opportunities, to moor at **Montbouy**.

After lunch on board, your visit this afternoon is to the splendid **Château de Fontainebleau**, a national museum and UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is the only royal and imperial château to have been continuously inhabited for seven centuries and every French royal family has added its own architectural style and features when in residence. Have a private tour through rooms and galleries not usually on public view, including Napoleon III's Imperial Theatre. Dinner on board.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge Renaissance** in a Suite.

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **3**

### Montbouy Rogny-les-Sept-Ecluses

After breakfast, explore the town of **Montargis** on foot, viewing the 11th century château before passing through the picturesque Fishermen's Quarter; its half-timbered houses bordering the canals. Arriving at the 12th century Church of the Madeleine, stop to admire its soaring 62-foot-high nave. Your footsteps finally bring you to Mazet, the confectioners renowned for creating the original praline recipe over one hundred years ago. Here, you will observe the **chocolate production and enjoy a tasting of their delicious products**.

Later, enjoy an afternoon cruise to your mooring at the pretty village of **Rogny-les-Sept-Écluses**, near its 350-year-old seven lock-flight, now disused and a national monument, from which it takes its name. A short stroll to the locks is worthwhile before dinner on board.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge Renaissance** in a Suite.

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



RENAISSANCE MOORED IN MONTBOUY

## Day 4 Rogny-les-Sept-Ecluses La Gazonne

Toda, immerse yourself in the world of Impressionist art. Start with a short **walking tour of Moret-sur-Loing**, famous for its association with the Impressionist painter Alfred Sisley and see several of his most famous scenes before continuing to the **château home of Rosa Bonheur**. Rosa Bonheur was the most celebrated female artist of the 19th century; a pioneer in a man's world and a champion of women's rights. Her best-known paintings are of animal scenes including one of 'Buffalo Bill' Cody on horseback which prompted an enduring friendship between the two.

Take lunch in the private salon of the château before joining one of the present owners for a tour and to hear more about the history of this remarkable lady and view some of her works.

Later, enjoy an afternoon cruise past the Rogny lock flight to **La Gazonne**, a beautiful rural mooring surrounded by lakes and ponds that provide water for the workings of the Canal de Briare. Dinner on board.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge Renaissance** in a Suite.

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



ROSABONHEUR



A morning cruise to your mooring at the little town of **Briare**, site of Gustave Eiffel's magical aqueduct across the River Loire, again with excellent walking and cycling opportunities. Preview Friday's crossing of this amazing 10,000-ton, 662 metre Pont Canal which was completed in September 1896.

Your afternoon visit is to the renowned **Sancerre winery of Hubert Brochard**. Stroll through the exceptional terroir to learn about the viticulture of the renowned Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé appellations, before heading into the winery to understand their winemaking process. Here, you'll enjoy a **private tour and tasting of some of their best vintages, complete with a sample of the critically-acclaimed Loire Valley 'Crottin de Chavignol' goat cheese**. A true Sancerre immersion! Dinner on board.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge Renaissance** in a Suite.

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



RENAISSANCE CRUISING THE BRIARE AQUEDUCT

## Day 6

### Briare Châtillon-sur-Loire

This morning you will visit the market in **Briare** with its food and fashion stalls before returning to the hotel barge for lunch and a spectacular cruise across the Briare aqueduct with its ornate iron lampposts and railings, spanning the wide River Loire below.

In the afternoon, visit the delightful **Château de Ratilly** and its rather unusual selection of turreted towers, construction of which began in 1270. In the castle's workshops, see traditional pottery being hand thrown and have the chance to try this artisanal craft for ourselves. **Captain's Farewell Dinner** on board.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge Renaissance** in a Suite.

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



**Day 7** Châtillon-sur-Loire Paris

After breakfast, you are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Paris.

Breakfast

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**

French

**LOCAL CURRENCY**

EUR

**Departure Dates and Pricing:**

2025 Cruise Rates		
Rates are for 6 nights either: per person based on double occupancy per cabin or on a whole barge charter basis. Prices below are in Euros.		
Accommodation	Value	Regular
Suite	€7,990	€9,290
Single Supplement	€3,000	€3,500
Charter (Whole Barge)		
Charter 6 passengers	€54,500	€63,700
Charter 7 passengers	€56,500	€66,100
Charter 8 passengers	€58,500	€68,500
Departure Dates (Sunday)	Rates	Cruise Region
Mar 30; Apr 6, 13, 20	Value	France - Western
		Burgundy & Upper Loire
Apr 27; May 4, 11, 18, 25; Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Jul 6, 13	Regular	France - Western
		Burgundy & Upper Loire

Jul 20, 27; Aug 3, 10, 17	Value	France - Western Burgundy & Upper Loire
Aug 24, 31; Sep 7, 14, 21, 28; Oct 5, 12	Regular	France - Western Burgundy & Upper Loire
Oct 19 & 26	Value	France - Western Burgundy & Upper Loire

- This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change. On alternate weeks, the cruise will be in the reverse direction.
- This barge is available for charter bookings and theme cruises. Contact us for more details.

#### **Pick-up Point**

- Cabin bookings - The Hotel Westminster, Paris at 2:30 pm
- Charter bookings - One location of the group's choice in Paris at 2:30 pm OR a TGV train station close to the barge after 4:00 pm

#### **Drop-off Point**

- Cabin bookings - The Hotel Westminster by 12:00 noon
- Charter bookings - One location of the group's choice in Paris by 12noon OR at a local TGV train station by 10:00 am

#### **Booking / Payment Process**

- On our website the Barge Cruise prices are show in Euros
- All payments will be made to us in Australian Dollars
- The current exchange rate will be used at the time of deposit and balance
- Our invoice will make this clear and our team is here to assist you

#### **Supplier Booking Conditions Apply**

Due to the boutique nature and limited capacity of this travel experience, under our Bookings Conditions this package classifies as "Booking Type 2 – Travel Experience where we act as agent only". Your contract for the delivery of travel arrangements will be with the principal supplier and will be subject to their Booking Conditions. We will advise you prior to confirming your booking the full details and Booking Conditions of the principal supplier. Our responsibility to you where we sell travel arrangements as agent for the supplier is specified in the 'Responsibility' section of our Booking Conditions.

Blackout dates may apply during festive season.

#### **Excluded**

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package