



FRANCE

RENAISSANCE BARGE - UPPER LOIRE & WESTERN BURGUNDY CRUISE

(TOUR CODE: 11147)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Paris

TRAVEL PERIODS

02 Apr 23 - 20 Oct 24

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 to and guided tour of the magnificent Château de Fontainebleau
- 7-lock flight at Rogny-Les-Sept-Ecluses, a national historic monument
- Cruise across the aqueduct at Briare, built by Gustave Eiffel over the River Loire
- Visit Gien, home of the Faience pottery
- Private wine tasting in Sancerre
- Excellent opportunities for walking and biking

Renaissance was built in 1960 in Belgium and used to carry grain and ore. She was converted to a hotel barge in 1997 and now cruises in the waterways of Burgundy and Loire Valley. The elegant, 8-passenger

Renaissance cruises along the scenic Canal de Briare, France's oldest canal, and the Loire River, the longest river in the country. Renaissance can accommodate up to eight passengers with four spacious suites with en-suite facilities, saloon dining room, relaxing sun deck with spa pool, small library and bicycles.

Renaissance will take you to the heart of upper Loire Valley region and western Burgundy, steeped in history, culture and breathtaking countryside. This classic cruise highlights include Château de Fontainebleau, Château de Ratilly and the charming 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

Day 1 Paris Montargis

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. Time enough for a walking tour of the pretty village of **Montargis** before dinner on board.

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

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Dinner



Day 2 Montargis Montbouy

This morning, we embark on our first cruise through the Loire countryside, with great towpath walking and cycling opportunities, to moor at Montbouy. After lunch on board, our 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. We make 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

This morning we visit the privately-owned Château de La Bussière, known as the 'fishermen's castle', with its wonderful ornamental and vegetable gardens, where we enjoy a cooking demonstration using wild and medicinal plants. Following lunch back on board, we make an afternoon cruise to our mooring at the pretty village of Rogny-les-Sept-Ecluses, near its original 350-year-old 7 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



Today, we immerse ourselves in the world of impressionist art. We 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 Chateau 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 on horseback which prompted an enduring friendship between the two. We take lunch in the private salon of the chateau before joining the present owner for a tour and to hear more about the history of this remarkable lady and view some of her works. Later, we 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



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 bicycling opportunities. Preview Friday's crossing of this amazing 10,000 ton, 662 metre Pont Canal which was completed in September 1896. In the afternoon visit a renowned winery in **Sancerre**, such as Domaine Henri Bourgeois in Chavignol, for a tour and private tasting. This medieval hilltop village overlooks a vibrant region which has known viticulture since Roman times. 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 we visit the market in **Briare** with its food and fashion stalls before returning to the hotel barge for lunch and a spectacular short cruise across the Briare aqueduct with its ornate iron lampposts and railings, spanning the wide River Loire below. This afternoon, we 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, we 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



RATILLY DRIVE

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:

2023 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	€6,850	€7,950
Single Supplement	€2,600	€3,000
Charter (Whole Barge)		
Charter 6 passengers	€46,400	€53,800
Charter 7 passengers	€48,200	€55,900
Charter 8 passengers	€50,000	€58,000
Departure Dates (Sunday)	Rates	Cruise Region
Apr 2, 9, 16, 23	Value	France - Upper Loire & Western Burgundy
Apr 30; May 7, 14, 21, 28; Jun 4, 11, 18, 25; Jul 2, 9	Regular	France - Upper Loire & Western Burgundy
Jul 16, 23, 30; Aug 6, 13, 20	Value	France - Upper Loire & Western Burgundy
Aug 27; Sep 3, 10, 17, 24; Oct 1	Regular	France - Upper Loire & Western Burgundy
Oct 8, 15, 22	Value	France - Upper Loire & Western Burgundy

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Departure Dates (Sunday)	Rates	Cruise Region
Mar 31; Apr 7, 14, 21	Value	France - Upper Loire & Western Burgundy
Apr 28; May 5, 12, 19, 26; Jun 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Jul 7, 14	Regular	France - Upper Loire & Western Burgundy
Jul 21, 28; Aug 4, 11, 18	Value	France - Upper Loire & Western Burgundy
Aug 25; Sep 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Regular	France - Upper Loire & Western Burgundy
Oct 6, 13, 20	Value	France - Upper Loire & Western Burgundy

- 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 2:00 pm
- Charter bookings - One location of the group's choice in Paris at 2:00 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