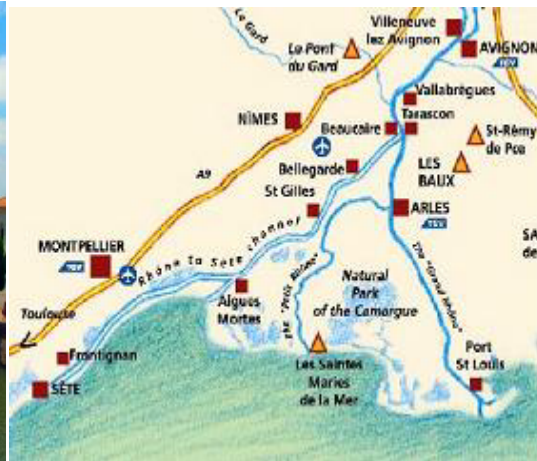


LE PHÉNICIEN – PROVENCE & THE CAMARGUE



Duration: 7-days / 6-nights

Cruising: Avignon to Aigues Mortes or vice versa

Highlights: The Rhone Delta & Camargue with its flamingos, bulls & horses, ancient churches & Roman history, Van Gogh's Arles, the mediaeval village of Les Baux & wines of Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Cost: From AU\$4435 per person twin share. Single cabin supplement from AU\$1,585.

Departs: 16 May*, 23 May, 11 July, 1 August, 2010

* On 16th May 2010 we offer a special Wine Cruise with extra inclusions, please ask for details.

Full group Charters also available on selected dates at discounted rates – ask for details

Includes: Cabin accommodation with ensuite bathroom - there are now six queen-bedded cabins and three twin-bedded cabins - all meals with wine, transfers from the pick up point to the barge & return, excursions, full open bar, tour guide & crew

Recently extensively renovated, everything in these cruises has been designed to help you feel at home. Rest and relax whilst the boat meanders through the tranquil waterways of southern France.

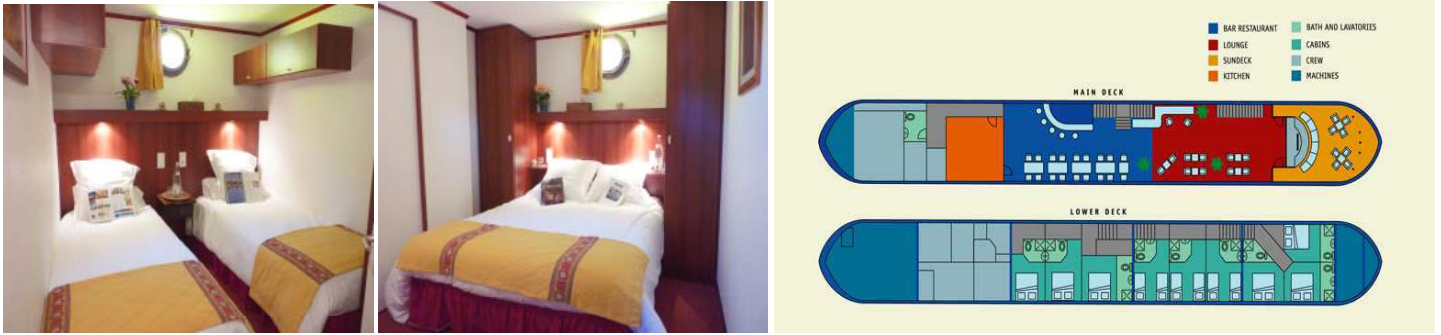
Once on board, you will be introduced to the crew with a welcome drink. After a brief presentation you will be guided through the boat by the captain. Then a brilliant dinner specially prepared by our resident Chef is served. Next morning we leave for our first day of cruising. All meals are served on board - prepared from selected local ingredients. Breakfast and lunch usually consist of a hot or cold buffet. Dinner is a more traditional gourmet meal served at table. You can discover a wide variety of regional specialties including fresh local cheeses, local wines including red, white or rosé, French Champagne and other local sparkling wines.

Between 2 to 6 hours a day are dedicated to cruising. One or two guided excursions a day are organized by our air-conditioned bus for each departure. These the excursions we offer have been designed exclusively for our passengers, sometimes to places where perhaps other tourists are not welcomed. We also visit some of the more famous monuments and places of interest across the region (but usually we avoid the busy periods).

On board Le Phénicien there is a great selection of books and games. The décor is stylish and very French with paintings from local artists exhibited in the main lounge. Cycling is an invigorating way to stimulate your appetite with bikes available on-board there is usually free time to explore our ports of call in the evening.

On Saturday, the last day, you will be transferred from the boat to a defined transfer point (usually by bus).

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary (subject to change – cruises may be offered in reverse on alternate weeks):

Sunday

Transfer by arrangement to *Le Phénicien*, which is moored close to the Avignon ramparts. Free time to explore the city before your first dinner on board which will give you an indication of the high standard of cuisine that will be served during the cruise and the accompanying wines have been specially chosen from local vineyards.

Monday

Our focus today is on mediaeval history and the spectacular and world-renowned wines of the region. We first take a guided tour to learn about the religious and artistic importance of Avignon's city's past with a visit to the Palace of the Popes. Then a lunch cruise takes us closer to one of the best cellars of Châteauneuf-du-Pape where we have a guided tour followed by a wine tasting. This evening we sail to Villeneuve lès Avignon where we will stay overnight. The wines tasted in the morning are back on the table at dinner!

Tuesday

Today's highlight is the Roman aqueduct "Le Pont du Gard" and we will have time to explore or visit the nearby museum. Afterwards we return to the barge and sail to Vallabrègues a quiet, charming river port where we have time to relax, have a bike ride or play the pétanque under the plane trees.

Wednesday

After breakfast we visit the charming mediaeval village of Les Baux de Provence with some free time for shopping. Back on board we pass through the massive 10-metre lock of Beaucaire and sail down to Arles, the wonderful 'open-air museum' full of the highlights of Provence.

Thursday

We explore Arles in the morning to see the shops and market. To unravel the joys and despair of the painter Vincent Van Gogh who painted 300 canvases during his time here in 1888. In the afternoon we navigate our way towards the spectacular Camargue. We cruise on the Rhône River, the Petit Rhône and by canal to reach the quiet and traditional village of Gallician. Look out for pretty pink flamingos that are frequently here.

Friday

Our last excursion is to visit the wilder side of the Camargue? We visit a *manade*, a typical ranch, where the gardians à cheval, the local authentic cowboys, will show us how they manage the herds of black fighting bulls on their superb grey or white horses. Our final destination is Aigues-Mortes - a 14th century walled city rising from a flat landscape from which Saint Louis set sail on his Holy Crusades - and our farewell dinner!

Saturday

The cruise ends after breakfast with a transfer to the defined transfer point.

Outdoor Travel offers other cruising holidays including hotel barges; narrowboats & self-skipped motor cruisers are available in most destinations in Europe including England & Ireland:

Contact Outdoor Travel or your travel agent for brochures and reservations

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