

7-days / 6-nights Cruising in Burgundy or Alsace



Hotel barge cruises combine two popular ways of exploring Europe, canal or river cruising with guided sightseeing excursions by bus. Our smaller boats with just 10 – 12 cabins allow access to the smaller waterways linking smaller towns, villages chateaux or vineyards and our accompanying bus gives access to the larger sightseeing destinations such as Strasbourg, Beaune and Dijon. You unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom.

These all-inclusive cruises offer a high standard of meals prepared by our onboard chef, serving traditional and regional cuisine with local wines and cheeses. In the afternoon or early evening there is an opportunity to take a stroll or bike ride along the towpaths or perhaps a guided city-walk or a host of other activities.

- Departs:** **Burgundy** every Saturday from 3rd April to 5th June 2010
Alsace every Saturday from 14th August to 30th October 2010
- Cost:** \$3440 per person twin share (low season in April)
 \$3620 per person twin share (high season – all other dates)
- Single Supplement:** \$1255

During the summer – departures from 12th June to 17th July 2010 - the Caprice offers cruises on the route from Chagny to Paray-le-Monial and the Lorraine from Dijon to St Leger. Both boats offer transition cruises such as the Lorraine; Dijon - Corre, Fontenoy-Le-Chateau - Nancy or Caprice; Chagny - Paray-le-Monial June to August.

With this combinations of routes and with two boats on these cruises there is an opportunity for two-week cruise combinations on most weeks during the season – ask for details if you are interested in longer cruises.



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Burgundy cruise highlights include:

- * St Jean de Losne, Dijon, Beaune & vineyards
- * 12th century Clos de Vougeot winery
- * Chateau de Marguerite of Burgundy
- * Wine tastings at Meursault

Alsace cruise highlights include:

- * Sarrebourg, Strasbourg, Saverne & Colmar
- * Chapel of the Cordeliers & Chagall's window
- * The Arzviller barge lift
- * Fascinating visit to a crystal factory.

Burgundy - Suggested itinerary from Dijon to Paray-le-Monial or return:

The **Canal du Centre** offers some of the most beautiful regions of rural France. We begin our cruise from Chagny in the very heart of the famous Burgundy wine region. We moor among the vineyards and cruise southwest along the Canal du Centre to Paray-le-Monial. On the way we will stop to visit charming villages dating from medieval times, an ancient Roman Amphitheatre, a picturesque Chateau where we will taste some excellent wines, an ancient Abbey, a spa town and an master chocolatier.

This route offers some of the best bicycling and walking of all the canals regions of France. The terrain is gentle and the villages are inviting you to come explore.

Suggested itinerary:

Saturday Our meeting place is **Le Creusot Mo TGV** train station at 3:15pm(. You will be met at the station and transferred to our hotel barge at **Chagny**. Welcome drink on board while the crew stores your bags in your cabin. We begin cruising to our first nights mooring in the delightful vineyard village of **Santaney**. There will be time for a stroll around the village or a bicycle ride before we enjoy our first Gourmet Dinner aboard.

Sunday An excursion today to the charming town of **Chalon** for a guided tour. We return to the barge to cruise for our overnight mooring in the canal town of **St Leger sur Dheune**. On the way we will pass through many locks offering you the opportunity to walk or bicycle along the towpath.

Monday Today's excursion is to the lovely **Chateau de Rully** where we are usually greeted by the Countess de Rully and treated to a private **wine tasting** in her cave (wine cellar). We continue our cruise to **Montchanin**, which is the highest point on the Canal du Centre

Tuesday Today we will experience some delightful cruising through picturesque countryside to **Montceau les Mines**. Our bus excursion today is to **Cluny**, a world heritage sight. Cluny offers a visit to the remains of the famous Benedictine Abbey founded in 910 by William the Pious. Before the construction of St Peter's in Rome, Cluny contained the largest church in Christendom.

Wednesday Our cruise continues through beautiful valleys to the village of **Genelard**. Along the way we will visit the ancient city of Autun, which was founded by the Roman Emperor Augustus. Here we will find the remains of a Roman Theatre and two decorative city gates. We will also visit the cathedral of **St Lazare** and the medieval district of **Autun** with its winding cobble stone streets.

Thursday Chocolate lovers will really enjoy themselves today. We drive to the town of **La Clayette** to visit Master Chocolate maker **Bernard Dufoux**, with, of course some samples of his wares. We visit the Automobile museum housed in a 14th century Castle La Clayette. Our cruise today is to Paray-le-Monial where the 12th century basilica was built as a smaller reproduction of the abbey church of Cluny. We have time to explore, to stroll around the town centre before we return to the barge for our **Gala Farewell dinner**.

Friday After breakfast you will board our bus for the journey to Le Creusot rail station and the end of a perfect week



These sample itineraries are subject to modification in the case of unforeseen circumstances such as canal closures and navigation problems. The boat cruises in the opposite direction on alternate weeks.

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ALSACE - Suggested itinerary from Xouaxange to Strasbourg or return:

A cruise to the border lands between France and Germany where culture architecture and even language entwine to create one of France's most enchanting regions. Fairytale Colmar and the European Parliament city of Strasbourg are fascinating cities to visit. The white wines are spectacular and world-renowned (we serve 24 different wines during the cruise and eat some truly gourmet foods).



Suggested itinerary:

Saturday Meet at Strasbourg train station at 2:15pm to transfer to the hotel barge *Lorraine*, moored on the East side of Strasbourg. A welcome drink and meet the crew while your bags are put in your cabin. Followed by a short air-conditioned coach tour of Strasbourg as a first brief introduction to this historic town. Shortly thereafter you will enjoy your first gourmet dinner on board this evening.

Sunday After breakfast we visit **Colmar**, renowned for its magnificent medieval and Renaissance buildings, 13th-century collegiate church, and the waterside Little Venice district. This is an all day program. You will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in Colmar. There is free time too to explore. Stop at the **Unterlinden Museum**, famous for its Renaissance art and home to the "Issenheim Altarpiece."

We will return to the barge through the famous "**Route Des Vins**" a small road at the base of the Vosges Mountains, running parallel to the Rhine, through the famous vineyards of Alsace. We pause in picturesque Medieval **Riquewihr** for wine tasting of local vintages and souvenir shopping before returning to *Lorraine*.

Monday Cruising over breakfast we enter the heart of Strasbourg and pass the ultra modern buildings of the European Parliament. There is a guided walk of the cobbled streets, half-timbered houses and picturesque "**petite France**" riverside district and the remarkable cathedral of **Notre Dame**, with its flamboyant gothic spire. We continue cruising to Hochfelden and our overnight mooring. There is ample opportunity to walk between locks on the towpath or to bicycle into nearby villages.

Tuesday Again leaving early we cruise after breakfast passing several typical Alsatian villages where beer was brewed early as 870 AD. We visit a small local brewery and sample some delicious Alsatian Beer. It is said the best French beers are brewed in Alsace. Today there are excellent opportunities for **walking and cycling** (perhaps diverting to a **bierstub** to appreciate the local brewery). Later, a delightful afternoon cruise brings us to the picturesque small town of **Lutzelbourg** nestled in the Vosges Mountains.

Wednesday After breakfast we drive to a local crystal glass factory to see the beautiful pieces of crystal still individually blown and fashioned by hand. Back on board, we cruise into Lorraine, where the canal follows the steep-sided valley of the River Zorn to the famous **inclined plane of Arzwiller**. Here, a counterbalanced barge lift hauls us up nearly 40-metres to the Marne to Rhine Canal. We cruise through a cutting and two tunnels under the peak of the Vosges Mountains before mooring at a quiet spot near the village of **Hess**.

Thursday We cruise the highest section of the Marne to Rhine canal some 30-km without locks through the Lorraine reserve with numerous lakes and vast areas of woodland. The canal descends to the Lorraine plain. In the afternoon we take the coach for a drive to **Sarrebourg** and visit the chapel of the Cordeliers where we can see the stained glass window created by **Marc Chagall**. We return to Lorraine for a **farewell gala dinner**.

Friday The tour ends after breakfast with a bus transfer to the Strasbourg train station arriving midday.

Contact Outdoor Travel or your travel agent for more details, travel brochures and reservations

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