

## CRUISING IN ALSACE OR BURGUNDY

(At 4/10/11)

7-days / 6-nights cruising and sightseeing - a two-week combination cruise is also available



Hotel barge cruises combine two popular ways of exploring Europe, canal or river cruising with guided sightseeing excursions by coach or mini-bus. Our medium sized boats with just 10 – 12 cabins allow access to the smaller waterways linking smaller towns, villages, charming French chateaux or vineyards. The bus gives access to the larger sightseeing destinations such as Strasbourg, Beaune and Dijon. You unpack once and come 'home' each afternoon to your 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.

### Burgundy cruise highlights include:

- \* St Jean de Losne, Dijon, Beaune & vineyards
- \* 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Departs:** **Burgundy** every Saturday from 7 April to 27 October 2012

**Alsace** every Saturday from 7 April to 27 October 2012

**Cost per person:** \$3360 twin share (departures on 7, 14, 21 April, 21, 28 July, 4, 11, 18 Aug, 20, 27 Oct)  
\$3580 twin share (in high season – for all other departure dates)

**Single Supplement:** \$1470

The Burgundy cruises go from Dijon to St Leger & vice versa, for the entire season. The cruises in Alsace travel from Strasbourg to Xouaxange & vice versa, for the entire season. There are transition cruises at the beginning of April & the end of October, between Burgundy & Alsace or themed cruises on select dates on 'food & wine'.

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



**CALL OUTDOOR TRAVEL FOR BOOKINGS ON 1800 331 582**

## ALSACE - From XOUAXANGE to STRASBOURG or return:



A cruise to the borderlands between France and Germany where culture, architecture and even language entwine to create one of France's most diverse and enchanting regions. Fairytale Colmar and the European Parliament city of Strasbourg are fascinating places to visit, the wines are spectacular and world-renowned.

### Suggested itinerary:

**Saturday** Meet at Strasbourg train station at 2:15pm to transfer to our Hotel Barge, moored on the east side of Strasbourg. A welcome drink and meet the crew while your bags are put in your cabin. A short air-conditioned coach tour will then take you to Strasbourg as a first brief introduction to this historic town. Your first gourmet dinner is served on board this evening.

**Sunday** After breakfast we visit **Colmar**, renowned for its magnificent medieval and Renaissance buildings, 13<sup>th</sup> Century collegiate church, and the waterside *Little Venice* district. This is an all day sightseeing program, which includes lunch at a local restaurant in Colmar. There is also free time to explore and for shopping. Perhaps visit the **Unterlinden Museum**, famous for its Renaissance art, home to the "Issenheim Altarpiece."

We return to the barge along the famous "**Route Des Vins**" a small road at the base of the Vosges Mountains, running parallel to the Rhine. We pass the famous vineyards of Alsace and pause in picturesque medieval town of **Riquewih**r for wine tasting and souvenir shopping before returning to the barge.

**Monday** Cruising over breakfast we enter the heart of the city of Strasbourg and pass the ultra modern buildings of the European Parliament. We stop for a guided city walk along the cobbled streets, past half-timbered houses and picturesque '*petite France*' riverside district. There is time to see the remarkable cathedral of **Notre Dame**, with its flamboyant gothic spire before we continue cruising to Hochfelden and our overnight mooring. There is opportunity to take a stroll along the towpath or to bicycle into nearby villages.

**Tuesday** We leave early, cruising after breakfast past several typical **Alsatian** villages where beer has been brewed since 870 AD. We visit a small traditional brewery and sample some delicious Alsatian beer remembering it is said the best French beer is brewed in Alsace. There are excellent opportunities for **walking and cycling** (perhaps diverting to a *bierstub* to appreciate another 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 visit a local crystal glass factory where beautiful pieces of crystal are still individually blown and crafted by hand. Back on board, we cruise into the Lorraine region, 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 the barge up 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 **Hesse**.

**Thursday** Today we cruise the highest section of the Marne to Rhine canal some 30km without locks through the Lorraine Nature Reserve with its numerous lakes and vast areas of woodland. The canal descends to the Lorraine plain and in the afternoon we take the coach to **Sarrebourg** and visit the chapel of the Cordeliers where we can see the stained glass window created by **Marc Chagall**. We return to the barge for this evening's **farewell gala dinner**.

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

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## BURGUNDY – From DIJON to ST LEGER SUR DHEUNE or return:

We offer a delightful cruise along the Burgundy Canal with many interesting shore excursions by coach, on foot or by bicycle. This region is world-renowned for its exquisite cuisine and fine wine and this itinerary is ideal for wine lovers as it cruises through several growing regions.

**Saturday** Meet at Dijon Railway station at 4:15p.m and transfer to our Hotel barge for welcome aboard drinks and an introduction of the crew. As you are getting acquainted with your new sailing mates the barge will begin its journey along the Canal de Bourgogne to its evening mooring at Ouges

**Sunday** After your buffet breakfast on board our motor coach will whisk you to Dijon for a tour of this capital of Burgundy. Meanwhile the barge continues down the Canal de Bourgogne. Passengers return to the boat for lunch and continued cruising along the canal. There are many opportunities to walk along the towpath or cycle to nearby villages. This evening we will moor in St Jean de Losne, traditionally the centre of barging in Burgundy. It is in St Jean de Losne that the Canal de Bourgogne with merges with the river Saone. There is ample opportunity to walk the village before dinner and stroll the quiet streets after dinner. There are hundreds of barges moored here in addition to major barge manufacturers. Live aboard barge owners are abundant. It is a unique village.

**Monday** This morning your guide will take you to visit Clos de Vougeot. As early as the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, the local monks produced wine here and wine tasting is arranged before we return to the boat. This afternoon we will cruise to Chalons sur Saone. Chalon Sur Saone is the second largest city in Burgundy and has been an important trading centre since gallo-roman times. There will be time to visit the beautiful medieval town centre surrounding the Cathedral St Vincent.

**Tuesday** We enter the Canal du Centre from the Saone through a lock and a 30-metre rise. We cruise along an attractive winding stretch where a good towpath and fairly frequent locks give ample opportunities to stretch your legs with a walk or cycling. This afternoon we have an excursion to the village of Rully with a private guided tour of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century chateau. When return to our barge moored in the lovely little town of Chagny.

**Wednesday** Morning excursion to Beaune. Beaune is the wine capital of Burgundy and home to the magnificent Hôtel-Dieu, a charity hospital founded in the year 1443. This monument boasts the finest Burgundian-Flemish architecture in the world. Leisurely afternoons cruise meandering along the Canal du Centre to our mooring in the midst of the famous vineyards of Santenay.

**Thursday** Today we navigate a route to the quiet village of Dennevly and drive to Couches to visit the chateau of Marguerite of Burgundy. This is a beautifully preserved vestige of a vast medieval fortress where we can taste the wines made by Emmanuel Cayot, son of the owner. We have ample time for walking or cycling today. Later we cruise on to the picturesque village of St Léger-sur-Dheune for a farewell gala dinner.

**Friday:** Transfer to Dijon station after breakfast



*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.*

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

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