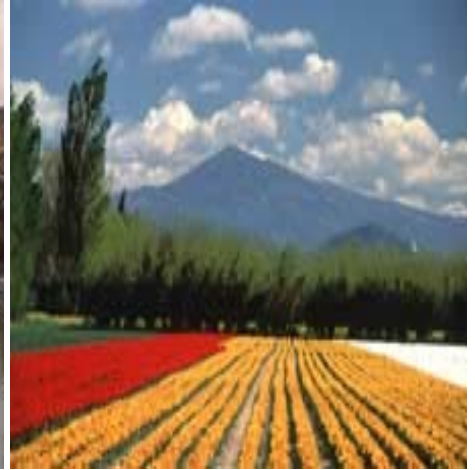


PROVENCE – CAMARGUE & RHÔNE RIVER CRUISE TO AVIGNON

7-days / 6-night quality river cruising, wildlife, history & natural beauty

(at 4/10/11)



Duration: 7-days / 6-nights

Cruising: Avignon to Aigues Mortes or return

Highlights: The Rhône River delta and Camargue with its flamingos, black fighting bulls and wild horses, its churches and ancient Roman history, Van Gogh's Arles, the mediaeval village of Les Baux and the world renowned wines of Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Cost: From AU\$3670 per person twin share Single cabin supplement from AU\$1185

Departs: 1st July, 12th August 2012 (more dates to be advised, so please ask for the latest availability)

On 15th July 2012 we offer a special **cycling cruise** - ask for details and the additional costs.

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

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

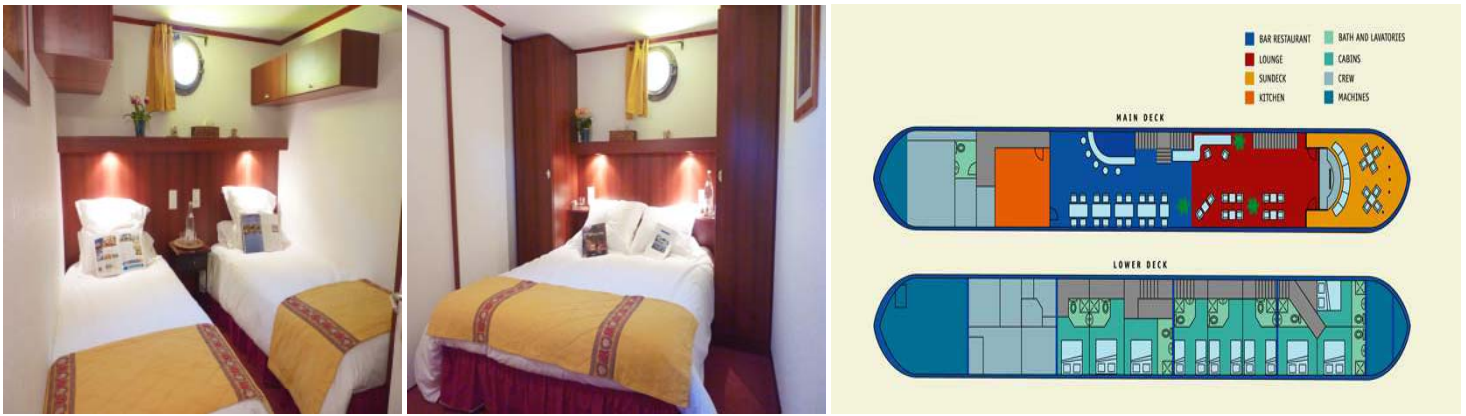
Rest and relax whilst our comfortable *French family run* hotel barge meanders its way through the tranquil waterways of Provence and southern France.

Extensively renovated, everything about these cruises has been designed to help you feel at home. The décor is stylish and very French with paintings from local artists exhibited in the main lounge. 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. A brilliant *welcome* dinner is specially prepared and served by our resident Chef. 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. Guided excursions are organized each day by our air-conditioned bus. These excursions have been designed exclusively for our passengers, often to places where perhaps other tourists rarely are allowed. We visit some of the more famous monuments and places of interest across the region usually avoiding the busy periods. On Saturday, the last day, we transfer you from the boat to a defined transfer point (usually by bus) for your onward travel connections.

On board the barge there is a selection of books and games. Cycling is an invigorating way to stimulate your appetite, there are bikes available on-board with free time to explore our ports of call in the evening.

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 the barge, which is moored on the River Rhône close to the city of Avignon and its mediaeval 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. 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 French Popes. 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 cruise to Villeneuve lès Avignon where we will stay overnight. The wines we 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. We return to the barge and cruise to Vallabrègues a quiet, charming river port. Here we have time to relax, perhaps take a walk or a bike ride or play the pétanque under the plane trees.

Wednesday

After breakfast we visit the charming historical 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 Roman ruins and historical buildings, the highlights of Provence.

Thursday

We explore Arles in the morning to see the shops and market. We can try 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 marshlands and wildlife sanctuary, the 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 a wide variety of cruising holidays - including hotel barges; narrowboats, self-skipped motor cruisers and Bike & Barge crises in most regions of France and in many other destinations in Europe including, Italy, England and Ireland.

Contact Outdoor Travel or your travel agent for reservations

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