

## FRANCE – RHÔNE RIVER FROM BURGUNDY TO PROVENCE

8-days / 7-nights Easy to Moderate **PREMIUM PLUS GUIDED** or **SELF-GUIDED** cycling cruises



For 2020 we offer a return to a hotel barge where we began our Bike & Barge journeys, in Provence. Cruising from Lyon to Arles or return our **PREMIUM PLUS** class barge offers a high standard of meals and comfortable hotel-style cabin accommodation (with twin beds and an ensuite bathroom). All cabins have heating and air-conditioning and windows. Upper deck suites offer sliding doors to a private balcony with views. On the main deck there is a comfortable bar and lounge area, library and sun deck with two Jacuzzis to relax and enjoy.

<b>Departs:</b>	Selected Saturdays from 21 <sup>st</sup> March to 24 <sup>th</sup> October, 2020	
<b>Lyon to Arles:</b>	Low season	21 <sup>st</sup> March, 4 <sup>th</sup> April, 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> October,
<b>Burgundy to Provence</b>	Regular season	18 <sup>th</sup> April, 11 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> July, 8 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> August,
	High Season	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> May, 13 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> June, 5 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Arles to Lyon:</b>	Low season	28 <sup>th</sup> March, 11 <sup>th</sup> April, 10 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> October,
<b>Provence to Burgundy</b>	Regular season	25 <sup>th</sup> April, 4 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> July, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> August,
	High Season	9 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> May, 6 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> June, 29 <sup>th</sup> August, 12 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> September

**SELF-GUIDED** cost per person, twin share from:

	<b>Soleil Suite</b> (Lower deck)	<b>Lavender Suite</b> (Lower deck)	<b>Imperial Suite</b> (Upper deck)
Low season	<b>\$2985</b>	<b>\$3070</b>	<b>\$3685</b>
Regular season	<b>\$3070</b>	<b>\$3160</b>	<b>\$3860</b>
High Season	<b>\$3160</b>	<b>\$3245</b>	<b>\$4035</b>

**GUIDED cycling** add **\$330** per person Single Suite \$3335 - \$3510 per person – limited availability, book early.

**Self-guided cycling tour includes:** 7 nights' cabin accommodation with own shower/toilet; 7 breakfasts, 6 packed lunches, 6 dinners; tea and coffee aboard, house wine, regular beer and soft drinks with dinner, welcome drink; drinking water; daily cabin cleaning; multi-gear hybrid bicycle hire with water bottle, pannier and lock; city walks in Lyon and Avignon, daily route briefing, maps and route information (1 set per cabin); port fees.

**E-bikes are available** at extra cost - request when you make your booking as supply is limited.

**Guided cycling tour includes:** the items above, plus services of a Bike Tour Guide on the daily cycling route.

**Not included:** Dinner in Avignon, personal expenses, gratuities, other drinks on board, entrance fees, excursions and wine tastings, bicycle insurance, transfers to/from ship mooring point. Special diets may be available at a supplement – ask for details and request when making your booking.

**Bike helmets** are mandatory on this tour, we recommend you bring your own or purchase one locally.

**Difficulty:** Easy to moderate with daily cycling distances from 35 to 45km, mainly on quieter, secondary roads, there will be short sections on semi-paved paths. The terrain is relatively flat in parts, as well as undulations with some climbs out of the river valleys to surrounding vineyard areas.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**



Bike & Barge cruises combine cycling and river cruising, allowing partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together as leisure cyclists or enthusiasts. Unpack once and come 'home' each night to dinner and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. Well-maintained multi-gear bicycles with panniers are provided – comfortable, easy to ride and ideal for this route – and a varied cycling route with free time to explore.

Here is a suggested itinerary - the cruise operates in the reverse direction on alternate weeks. The day to day itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the captain / cycling guide (where necessary). Cycling distances shown are approximate:

#### **Day 1 Saturday: Arrival in Lyon**

Make your own way to board the barge in Lyon at around 6.00pm (you can bring your luggage aboard from 2.00pm but there is no access to the cabins until later). Around 7.00pm there is a welcome drink and dinner, after which there is a briefing on the week ahead and about life on board.

#### **Day 2 Sunday: Lyon**

**cycling @ 40km**

Spend the day exploring the UNESCO World Heritage listed city of Lyon, with a cultural heritage that dates back over 2000 years. Once the capital of the Roman province Gallia and later the capital of Burgundy, Lyon offers a balance between green parks, gardens and historic architecture. Park your bike and explore the island between the rivers Saône and Rhône, enjoy the views, then take a stroll on the cobbled streets into the oldest part of town. During dinner we cruise towards Vienne.

#### **Day 3 Monday: Vienne – Andance – Tournon sur Rhône**

**cycling @ 45km**

Today we cycle from Vienne into the peace and tranquillity of the Île au Beurre nature reserve. The landscape changes to vineyards as we enter the famous home of the *Côte Rôtie*. The view changes again, this time into farmland and rolling pastures and woodlands of the Ardèche. The barge is moored in Andance and once onboard we start cruising before dinner enroute to Tournon sur Rhône.

#### **Day 4 Tuesday: Tournon sur Rhône – Valence – Pouzin**

**cycling @ 35km**

This morning there is an early cruise to the city of Valence, arriving after breakfast. This city, with its colourful markets and historic "Quartiers" is the starting point for the ride today. We cycle through small villages of the Ardèche, then through meadows and farms to Pouzin in the Drôme area.

#### **Day 5 Wednesday: Pouzin – Viviers**

**cycling @ 45km**

Today starts with a ride to the medieval abbey of Cruas. We cross the rope bridge in Rochemaure and end the day with a stroll through the historic village of Viviers.

#### **Day 6 Thursday: Viviers – Saint-Etienne-des-Sorts – Avignon**

**cycling @ 40km**

After a morning cruise, the barge reaches Saint-Etienne-des-Sorts and we ride into the famous wine growing region of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The ride through the vineyards is at first hilly, then we follow almost completely flat bike path along the river. We soon see the historic city of Avignon, which was the centre for the French Popes in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. Once in the city, we can visit the Pope's Palace, the Roman Bridge over the Rhone and the many old streets and alleyways, shops, historical buildings, squares and terraces.

#### **Day 7 Friday: Avignon – Arles**

**cycling @ 45km**

Our last cycling day offers a ride from the ancient city of Popes to the home of Van Gogh. Halfway through the ride arrive in Beaucaire, where the Languedoc and Provence regions meet. Later on, take the time to explore the last destination of Arles and all the locations that van Gogh painted here.

#### **Day 8 Saturday: Depart Arles**

Disembark after breakfast, by 9.00am..



**Outdoor Travel** offer similar cruises in France, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Austria, Romania or Hungary. Bike & Boat holidays are offered in Italy, Croatia, Greece, Turkey and Vietnam. We offer inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling tours, walking holidays or river and canal hotel barge cruises in many areas of Europe.

**Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:**

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