

FRANCE – LOIRE TO FONTAINEBLEAU, CANALS & GARDENS

8-days / 7-nights easy to moderate **GUIDED** cycling on a **STANDARD PLUS** barge, Briare to Moret or v.v.



Starting at Briare on the Loire River, and ending in beautiful Moret-sur-Loing, south of Paris, this cycling tour traverses a historically interesting part of France and visits the beautiful gardens (and if possible, the Palace) of Fontainebleau and its vast forest. Cycling in gently rolling countryside with occasional steeper climbs, the route includes famous painters' villages such as Moret-sur-Loing, where Alfred Sisley lived and painted. Staying aboard a cosy, traditional style barge there is also opportunity to sample the local cuisine that makes this region so famous.

Bike & Barge cruises combine two popular ways of exploring Europe (cycling and river cruising), allowing partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for leisure cyclists OR enthusiasts). Unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. Well-maintained multi-geared bicycles with panniers are provided – easy to ride and ideal for the route – and the guided cycling program is fascinating and varied, with free time to explore each day's destination.

We offer this as a guided Bike & Boat cycling cruise; however, you can decide each day if you want to join the guided tour or ride independently. There may be chance to stay on-board to enjoy the cruising instead of cycling on some days but there is no sightseeing arranged for non-cyclists - talk to us for more details for non-cyclists.

2027 Departures:

Briare to Moret-sur-Loing: 18 May, 1, 15, 29 June, 13, 29 July, 12, 26 August, 9, 23 September, 7 October

Moret-sur-Loing to Briare: 11, 25 May, 8, 22 June, 6 July, 5, 19 August, 2, 16, 30 September, 14 October

Cost (per person twin-share) from:	\$2905	29 June, 6, 13, 29 July, 5, 12 August
	\$3270	22 June, 7, 14 October
	\$3560	11, 18, 25 May, 1, 8, 15 June, 19, 26 August, 23, 30 September
	\$3845	2, 9, 16 September

Single cabin (only one per departure): \$3015-\$3995 Double cabin for single use supplement: \$1175-\$1595

A limited number of E-Bikes are available (at extra cost - request early to avoid disappointment).

Included: Simple share cabins with twin split-level beds or double bed and compact ensuite, full board (includes breakfast, packed lunch and dinner each night), coffee and tea, daily easy to moderate cycling with an English-speaking guide, city walks, route information (1 set per cabin), hybrid bike hire with pannier, lock, water bottle and bike helmet rental; bike insurance; ferry fares en-route, GPS tracks on request.

Not Included: Transfers other than those indicated, excursions, entrance fees, drinks, travel insurance, personal expenses and gratuities, Special diets at extra cost (advise when booking).

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on (03) 5750 1441 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary: *subject to change at the discretion of the captain and tour guide. Cycling distances shown are all approximate. Tour operates in reverse direction on alternate weeks.*

Day 1: Arrive in Briare

cycling @ 15km

Plan to arrive by 2.00pm to the barge moored at the town of Briare. Once settled into your cabin, relax with a cup of tea or coffee. You will meet your crew and fellow passengers before a short warm-up ride.

Day 2: Sancerre round trip

cycling @ 50km

Start today taking your bike on the train to the town of Sancerre, home of the famous white wine by the same name. Visit the Maison de Sancerre to find out more about the different sorts of Sancerre wines, then enjoy a scenic ride back to Briare along the signposted Loire Velo path.

Day 3: Briare - Rogny-les-sept-Écluses

cycling @ 45km

After breakfast take time to visit the magnificent aqueduct over the Loire River in Briare before cycling along the Loire, through the township of Gien to the 17th Century castle of Bussiere, which is a good lunch spot. Later ride through a region of lakes named Ouzouer-sur-Trézée before arriving at Rogny-les-Sept-Écluses, known for its historical seven locks.

Day 4: Rogny-les-sept-Écluses – Chatillon

cycling @ 40km

There is time this morning to explore the intriguing system of locks at Rogny-les-sept-Ecluses. Then head off on today's ride to Chatillon which is an inland route through a varied landscape and small villages. Not a lot of places for a coffee or lunch break, but plenty of scenic spots to eat your packed lunch.

Day 5: Chatillon – Montargis

cycling @ 50km

Cycle along the river Loing reach the small town of Montcresson, then turn inland and ride on country roads to Chateau Renard, with its medieval castle where Jeanne d'Arc (Joan of Arc) stayed for two nights. Chateau Renard has many charming streets and Tudor style houses and is a nice stop for coffee or lunch. End the day with a beautiful ride along the Ouanne river to your destination, the charming old town of Montargis.

Day 6: Montargis – Nemours

cycling @ 50km

Depart Montargis and ride on country roads away from the river to the archaeological excavations of Aquae Segetae, which in Roman times was a huge complex with hot water pools and temples, built on an even older Celtic sanctuary. Continue on to the small town of Château- Landon for a picnic lunch on a hill top overlooking the river and the Loing Canal. Then ride down from the hills to Nemours, with its 12th Century castle, on the Loing river.

Day 7: Nemours – Fontainebleau – Moret-sur-Loing

cycling @ 50km

Begin the day cycling along the Loing river, then take a short climb up to the Forêt de Fontainebleau, with its palace and beautiful gardens, much favored by French kings because of the extensive hunting available in the surrounding forests. At Fontainebleau there is enough time for you to explore and enjoy the justifiably renowned gardens. Later in the day, ride down to the final destination, the small medieval town of Moret-sur-Loing. This town is famous for being the home to the impressionist painter Alfred Sisley, who lived and painted there at the end of the 19th century. Take time to stroll around town and explore the impressive city gates and cathedral.

Day 8: Tour ends in Moret-sur-Long

Tour arrangements end after breakfast.

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Photo-Alain-Doire

Outdoor Travel offers Bike & Barge cruises on the canals and rivers of France, Holland, Belgium, Germany, or Italy; and along the Danube in Austria, Hungary and Romania. Bike & Boat holidays are available in the coastal and island regions of Croatia, Greece and Turkey or Vietnam.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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