

## FRANCE – A TASTE OF BURGUNDY

8-days / 7-nights of easy to moderate cycling



Travel through a landscape of vineyards, imposing castles, ancient monasteries and attractive towns. Starting in the capital of Burgundy, Dijon, you follow the Canal of Burgundy and the River Saône. The scenery changes from small villages and rolling hills to lively and attractive historical towns like Beaune and Chalon sur Saône.

Bike & Barge cruises combines two popular ways of exploring Europe (cycling and river cruising), they allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for leisure cyclist OR enthusiasts), you unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom.

Combining an easy-to-moderate guided cycling route, this cruise through one of France's richest regions Burgundy offers some excellent cycling with comfortable barge accommodation plus the opportunity to explore the beautiful countryside sampling the Burgundian wines and cheeses that makes this part of France so famous. The traditional 'Dutch' barge has 9-cabins, allowing between 18 and 20 guests. All cabins have en-suite bathroom facilities and are simply furnished with twin bunk beds.

Well-maintained multi-gear bicycles with panniers are provided – comfortable, easy to ride and ideal for this route – and a fascinating and varied guided cycling program with free time to explore each day's destination.

**Cost:** AU\$1395 per person (twin share). Single cabin supplement on request

**Departs:** Every Saturday from 28th April to 6th October 2012

**Starts & Ends:** Dijon

**Includes:** Small, simple twin share cabins with bunk beds and compact ensuite bathrooms, full board (which includes breakfast + packed lunch each day + 3-course dinner each night) and an English speaking cycling guide, bicycle hire (with 21-gears and cycle bag – we suggest you bring or buy your own helmet), visits to an abbey, wine tasting and a guided Dijon city walk, transfer by train one way between Tournus and Dijon or v.v.

**Not included:** Airfares to France or transport other than that indicated, excursions, entrance fees (that are not shown in the itinerary), drinks, bike insurance (@ €17.50 per person, paid locally) and personal expenses. We recommend you bring your own bike helmet or buy one locally on this trip.

The program is offered in reverse starting in Tournus - ending in Dijon, on alternate weeks and may be subject to changes due to any unforeseen circumstances. Distances shown are approximate and may change if the cruise schedule so demands.

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

## Suggested itinerary:

**Day 1: Saturday:** Afternoon arrival in Dijon, the capital of Burgundy. Climb aboard the barge and meet the crew and your tour leader. Time to settle into your cabin and to fit / tune your bicycle to your needs before dinner.

**Day 2: Sunday:** In the morning we have a short cycle ride in through northwest Dijon region. And mid-afternoon we have the chance to discover Dijon on a city walk. Cycling distance @ 20km

**Day 3: Monday:** The day starts with a cruise through the first two locks on the Burgundy Canal. Returning to our bicycles we then ride to the beautiful abbey of Citeaux. The day ends in the village of Longecourt en Plaine. Cycling distance @ 45km

**Day 4: Tuesday:** Cycling on small roads and through forests, we cycle through picturesque villages to the pretty town of Auxonne on the River Saône. We follow the Saône to St. Jean de Losne, where it meets the Burgundy Canal. A lovely waterside town with chance to visit the musée de la Batellerie. Cycling distance @ 45km

**Day 5: Wednesday:** Today we visit the beautiful fortified town of Beaune, captital of Burgundy wine reknowned throughout the wotld for its many famous wines such as the Cote d'Or. Our tour guide will lead a stroll through the town with time for shopping, to rake a cafe or to visit the 'Collegiale Notre-Dame' church or the museum of the Burgundy wines. We return to the barge in the small town of Verdun sur les Doubs. Cycling distance @ 55km

**Day 6: Thursday:** In the morning we ride through the Forest of Gergy and follow the Canal du Centre to Chalon sur Saône. In this port town, located at the confluence of the Saône River and the Canal du Centre, there is free time in the afternoon to explore on foot or by bike or to relax at one of the terraces. Cycling distance @ 25km

**Day 7: Friday:** We leave Chalon and follow an old railway track, now a cycle path. In Buxy we visit a winery in an historic tower then follow the River Saône downstream to Tournus. Here is the beautiful church of St. Philibert and the unique abbey - one of the oldest in France dating back to the 10th century – with its beautiful architecture. Cycling distance @ 55km

**Day 8: Saturday:** End of your holiday in the morning and transfer by train to Dijon, arriving around midday.



Please note: We offer this as a guided Bike & Boat cycling cruise however, you can decide each day if you want to join the guided ride or ride independently. Cruises need a minimum number of passengers to operate.

Bike & Barge cycling cruises are available from Outdoor Travel on many of the canals and rivers of Europe including the **River Seine, Loire Valley** or **Provence** in France and on the 2-week route between **Paris and Bruges** through the Somme WW1 battlefield and memorial sites in northern France. We also offer several routes in Holland, Belgium and Germany – along the **Saar, Moselle** and **Rhine** or **Venice & River Po** in Italy.

Outdoor Travel offers Bike & Boat cruises to many areas of Europe including the Dalmatian coast of Croatia, the islands of Greece and Turkey. We also have similar tours in Vietnam and inn-to-inn guided and self-guided cycling tours in most areas of Europe.

**Contact the experienced staff at Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:**

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