

BURGUNDY CRUISING FROM AUXERRE

7-day / 6-night Cruise & sightseeing – includes free transfers from and to central Paris



A journey through history filled with the charm of times past, along a route taken by Romans and pilgrims alike. Starting in Auxerre we cruise the River Yonne past Chablis, Avalon and Vézelay to Clamecy in the heart of Burgundy. On the Yonne and sections of the Nivernais canal, waterways once used for floating timber and wine barrels downstream to Paris, we cruise through 35 locks, past a succession of pretty stone-built villages and lush meadows with grazing Charolais cows. Daily guided excursions by air-conditioned bus to medieval towns, chateaux and the glorious vineyards of Chablis blend culture and shopping opportunities along the way.

Our traditional French hotel barge accommodates up to 12 guests in eight air-conditioned comfortable cabins (three double or twin cabins, three with a twin bed layout and two single cabins), each with its own private bathroom. Bicycles are provided for passengers to use and are popular early in the morning or before dinner. Alongside the canal the old towpaths, free of passing traffic, are perfect for a stroll beside the barge as she makes her way between the locks.

Departs: Every Sunday from 18 April to 23 October 2027

Cost per person twin share from:

Value season from: \$9,765 18 April – 1 May, 25 July - 28 August, 3 – 23 October

Regular season from: \$11,245 2 May – 24 July, 29 August – 2 October

A limited number of single use cabins are available with no supplement – ask for details

Includes: Return transfers from central Paris; 6 nights in double, twin or single cabin with ensuite, daily air-conditioned minibus excursions, support of six crew members, use of bicycles, full board and an 'open bar'. Local wines are served with buffet lunches and 4-course dinners; 1 meal is taken ashore in a local restaurant.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Meals on board are treasured times be it a summer luncheon or candlelit dinner. Our chef is innovative and imaginative, creating French cuisine with a contemporary twist using fresh local ingredients. Breakfast offers freshly baked croissants, pastries and bread. Lunch is a feast of salads and savoury dishes, followed by a selection of fresh fruit and cheeses. The four-course evening meal is the gastronomic highlight of each day, to be concluded, on the starlit nights for which Burgundy is noted, with coffee and liqueurs on deck. The 'open bar' is available at all times and the sun deck or the air-conditioned saloon with its large picture windows is the perfect place to relax and enjoy the scenery of rural Burgundy.

We serve wines from different grape varieties each reflecting the 'terroir' and the great diversity of the vineyards of France. Burgundy is well represented in our wine list, along with vintages from the Loire Valley, Cote d'Or, Bordeaux, Alsace and the Rhone Valley. Juices, soft drinks and water are also readily available. Some suggested menu inclusions served onboard during a typical cruise week:

LUNCH

*Roasted cauliflower velouté
Escargots in garlic butter
Feta, red onion & mint salad
Fresh fruit*

*Smoked salmon with capers & lemon
Goat cheese and caramelised onion quiche
Charcuterie board with green olives
Cheese: Morbier & Petit Billy*

DINNER

*Lobster tortellini
Pea puree & tomato consommé
Fillet of Charolais beef
Tarte citron*

*Orange sugar-smoked duck breast with red wine sauce
Dauphine potatoes & leeks
Cheese: Comté & Valençay
Coffee, chocolates and liqueurs*

Suggested itinerary: Canal du Nivernais - From Auxerre to Clamecy (or return)

Sunday: Meet in central Paris at 1.45pm. There is a private bus transfer to the hotel barge at her mooring on the River Yonne beside the wonderful cathedral of Saint Etienne in Auxerre, Burgundy. The waterfront here is amongst the most picturesque in France. A champagne reception welcomes you on board and, after dinner onboard, there is time for a short walk to the historic centre with its many cafes and bars.

Monday: A cruise upriver leads us into beautiful pastoral countryside, along sweeping reaches of the River Yonne. We pass by the village of Bailly, home to Burgundy's Crémant sparkling wine. The picturesque villages of St Bris and Irancy are nearby. We moor on the river in Vincelles. In the afternoon we visit a wine cellar situated amidst the vineyards of Chablis. One of the greatest names in wine, Chablis is a strictly defined area, with the most prestigious Chablis produced from vineyards in the south of town on 'Grand Cru Hill.'

Tuesday: We cruise this morning on the Vermenton arm of the canal and on to the River Cure and the village of Accolay. In the afternoon there is an excursion to historic Auxerre, allowing time to visit the Cathedral of St Étienne, Abbey of St Germain, with the Romanesque crypt and attractive clock tower in the centre of the town, built in the 15th Century. Auxerre was originally a Roman camp and became a centre of learning and pilgrimage in the Middle Ages. This afternoon is also a good opportunity to visit Auxerre's old shopping centre, taking time to enjoy French provincial life.

Wednesday: From Accolay, we visit delightful Noyers-sur-Serein. With its friendly market stalls, half-timbered houses and turreted ramparts, it is easy to see why Noyers-sur-Serein has been nominated 'one of the most beautiful villages in France'. After lunch we cruise to Mailly-le-Chateau where we stay tonight. From our mooring point at the lower town (*bourg d'en bas*) you can take the steep path to the upper town (*bourg du haut*) where a terrace offers spectacular views of the Yonne valley.



Thursday: A morning drive takes our group to Vézelay, where the spectacular 12th Century Basilica dominates the town. Here, St Bernard preached the second Crusade. Vézelay, a centre of pilgrimage still, is a focal point of the region, with numerous shops and cafes, and we have plenty of time to soak up the atmosphere. In the afternoon we cruise again, past the dramatic cliffs of Rochers du Parc and Les Saussois which are often used by climbers, to an evening mooring at Lucy-sur-Yonne.

Friday: In the morning we head to Clamecy, a medieval town of narrow streets and stairways and a worthy climax to the cruise. The final excursion is to the imposing Chateau of Bazoches. Set on a hillside amidst a rolling landscape, this was the 17th Century home of the Marquis de Vauban, France's great military engineer.

Saturday: After breakfast our bus transfer to Paris is anticipated to arrive in the city by around 1.00pm. For guests wishing to travel elsewhere in France by train or hire car, we can always stop in Auxerre on our way.

This is a sample itinerary: it is 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.

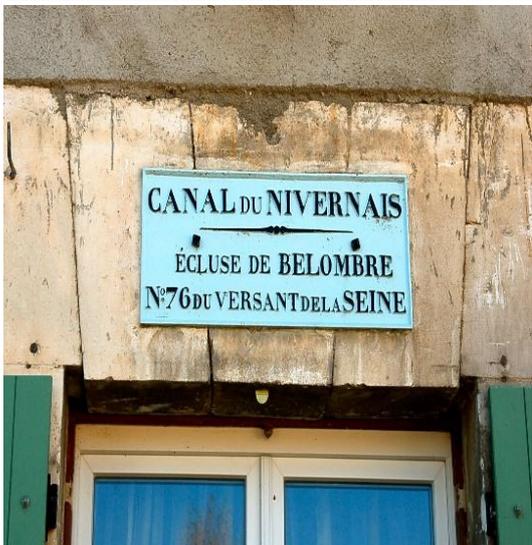
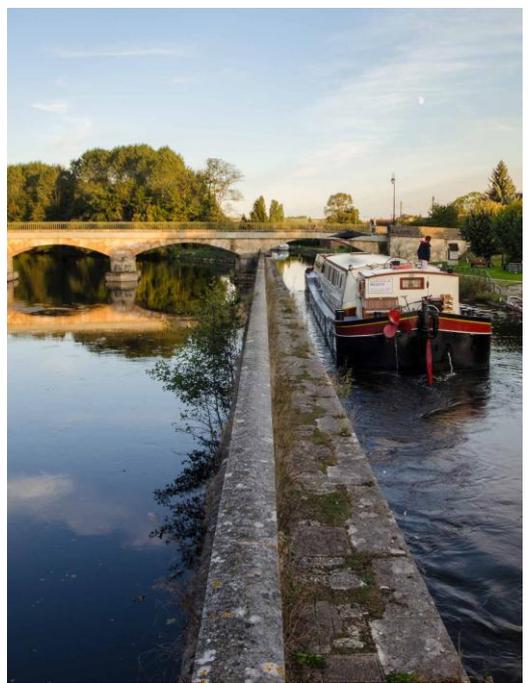
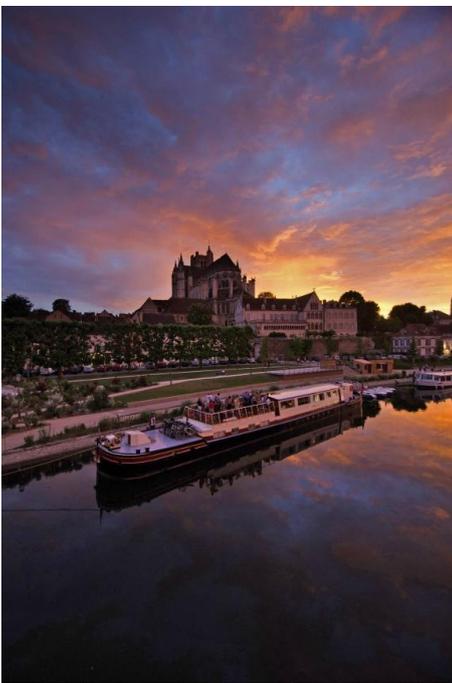
This is the ideal barge to charter for families or a group of friends, offering special charter rates for 8 to 12 guests and giving you exclusive use of the barge and its facilities. There is the opportunity to personalise your charter with a theme suited to your group's interest, be it walking, cycling or family adventure activities, a perfect way to celebrate an anniversary, milestone birthday or other special occasion - ask for more details.



Outdoor Travel offers a wide variety of cruising holidays including hotel barges, narrowboats, self-skipped motor cruisers and Bike & Barge cruises in most regions of France and in many other destinations in Europe.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
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