

FRANCE - PARIS TO CHAMPAGNE or RETURN

8-days/7-nights Moderate guided cycling cruise in a traditional **STANDARD PLUS** barge



Departs **Paris to Reims/Epernay:** 23rd – 30th May, 6th – 13th June, 15th - 22nd August, 2020
Epernay/Reims to Paris: 30th May – 6th June, 13th – 20th June, 22nd – 29th August, 2020

Cost from: **\$2250** per person in a twin-share cabin Single cabin supplement from **\$570** (only two per tour).
 Two Premium cabins are available in 2020 with a supplement from **\$390** per person twin share.

Included: 7 nights' accommodation in twin-share cabin, breakfast, dinner on board most nights, picnic lunches, cycling tour guide and bicycle hire (with pannier, lock & water bottle), Train to Reims.

Highlights: Paris, Lagny, Meaux (Brie), Chateau Thierry, Epernay (Champagne), Reims.

For 2020 we have a very limited number of berths on a delightful small barge to cruise from Paris to Epernay and visit the beautiful city of Reims in the Champagne region of France. Explore this varied and interesting countryside, visit historic and places of cultural interest, sampling the wine and local produce that makes this part of France famous. Each day you choose – join our guided bike tour, venture out independently by bicycle, or stay on the boat to enjoy the cruising. In the evenings the guide may offer a city walk or other activities.

Our barge offers delicious meals and comfortable but simply furnished cabins with twin-share lower beds, small shower/toilet and a window for natural light. Multi-geared bicycles with panniers are provided – comfortable, easy to ride and ideal for this route – a fascinating and varied guided cycling program with free time to explore each day's destination. Two or three **e-bikes are available** for hire at extra cost, please ask when booking.

Bike & Barge cruises combine cycling and canal or 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 back each night to a wonderful welcome from the crew, a cooked meal and a comfortable cabin.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary Paris to Epernay: *

Day 1: Paris

Arrive at the barge, moored in central Paris, between 12noon and 2pm. After which time the barge will cruise along the canal to the River Seine then continue upstream to the confluence of the Seine and Marne Rivers, in the outer suburbs of Paris.

Day 2: Paris – Lagny

cycling @ 35km

After breakfast we cycle mostly on bike trails and quiet roads with relatively low traffic as we head out of Paris near the Bois de Vincennes and chateau. We end our day in Lagny, a small town on the outskirts of Paris. Often there is an art-exhibition in the town centre.

Day 3: Lagny - Meaux - La Ferté sous Jouarre

cycling @ 35 or 50km

We enter the region of Brie today, famous around the world for its soft cheese. We ride into Meaux, with its unfinished Gothic cathedral. We then continue on to our mooring point for the night, not far from the little town of La Fertésous-Jouarre. There is also the option to visit Jouarre, with its Benedictine abbey, Romanesque church and crypt, located high on a hill top.

Day 4: La Ferté sous Jouarre - Chateau Thierry

cycling @ 45km

Today offers a delightful ride through the undulating countryside with some ups and downs. Along the way are the first vineyards of the Champagne-region. Cycling beside the river past the village of St Cyr and the valley of Petit Morin we reach our overnight mooring point at Chateau Thierry, which we also get to visit.

Day 5: Chateau Thierry - Dormans

cycling @ 35km

An easier ride along the river today, with only a few hills until we reach Dormans, with its Chateau and park. There is a free afternoon giving time to visit Dormans memorial chapel to the two WW1 Battles of the Marne.

Day 6: Dormans - Epernay

cycling @ 40km

From our mooring point near Dormans ride through vineyards and encounter some hillier terrain. Cycling to Epernay, the centre of the Champagne industry, there is a visit one of the many Champagne houses for a guided tour in the cellars.



Day 7: Excursion to Reims

We leave the Marne Valley to visit the ancient town of Reims by train. Reims dates back to the Roman Empire with a Forum, Porte de Mars and a monumental triumphal arch. However the highlight of Reims is the spectacular Cathedral de Notre Dame. Up Till 1825 the cathedral was where the coronation of all Kings took place. Destroyed in the Great War the cathedral was carefully restored to its old glory. The other highlight of our day in Reims is a visit of one of the largest Champagne brands: Pommery. The famous Heidsieck champagne originates from this house with hundreds of thousands of bottles stored in the cellar. If you have already seen and tasted enough champagne you can do some sightseeing, shopping, or visit the Musee des Beaux Arts, before returning to Epernay.

Day 8: Tour ends Epernay.

The tour arrangements end after breakfast. There are train connections from Epernay to Paris and most major centres.

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Suggested itinerary Epernay to Paris: *

Day 1: Arrive in Epernay

cycling @ 15km

Make your own way to the mooring point in Epernay between 12pm and 2pm to meet your fellow travellers followed by a short introductory bike ride around Epernay.

Day 2: Excursion to Reims

We leave the Marne Valley to visit the ancient town of Reims by train. Our highlights today are the spectacular Cathedral de Notre Dame and a visit of one of the largest Champagne brands: Pommery. The famous Heidsieck champagne originates from this house with hundreds of thousands of bottles stored in the cellar. There is also time for sightseeing, shopping, or visit the Musee des Beaux Arts before returning to Epernay.

Day 3: Epernay - (near) Chatillon sur Marne

cycling @ 40km

Cycle from Epernay, the centre of the Champagne industry and visit one of the many Champagne houses for a guided tour in the cellars. Then ride the undulating vine-clad hills to our mooring point near Chatillon sur Marne.

Day 4: Chatillon sur Marne/Dormans – Chateau-Thierry

cycling @ 45km

Start the day with an early ride in Dormans, with its Chateau, park and WW1 memorial chapel and monument. Then an easier ride along the river today with a few low hills as we reach our destination at Chateau-Thierry.

Day 5: Chateau-Thierry - La Ferté sous Jouarre

cycling @ 45km

Again we ride beside the river past the valley of Petit Morin and the village of St Cyr. We have time to visit the abbey of La Ferté before arriving at our mooring point at La Ferté sous Jouarre.

Day 6: La Ferté sous Jouarre - Meaux - Lagny

cycling @ 35 or 55km

We enter the region of Brie today, famous around the world for its soft cheese. We ride into Meaux, with its unfinished Gothic cathedral. You can either re-board the barge or cycle a further 25km to Lagny, a small town on the outskirts of Paris. Often there is an art-exhibition in the centre.

Day 7: Lagny - Paris

cycling @ 35km

We have planned our ride mostly on bike trails and quiet roads with relatively low traffic. We arrive into Paris near the Bois de Vincennes and chateau. Here we can board the ship at the confluence of the Marne and Seine rivers, or cycle into central Paris. Free time this afternoon to explore Paris.

Day 8: Tour ends in Paris

Tour ends after breakfast.

** The itineraries shown are an indication only, subject to change depending on wind and weather, nautical or waterway conditions, mooring points and other unforeseen circumstances as determined by the captain. Cycling distances shown are approximate. The daily cycling route is at the discretion of the guide – with different levels of cycling in each direction - please discuss options with them before you start your daily cycling.*

Other **Outdoor Travel** Bike & Barge cruises are available in France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Scotland, Romania, in Austria along the River Danube, to the islands of Croatia, Greece and Turkey or in Vietnam. Inn-to-inn cycling tours or hotel barge cruises are also available in Europe, North America, New Zealand and China.

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

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