

FRANCE – RHÔNE RIVER FROM BURGUNDY TO PROVENCE

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



For 2022 we offer 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.

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-geared bicycles with panniers are provided on a varied cycling route with time to explore. E-bikes are available at extra cost - limited numbers so book early.

Departs:	Selected Saturdays from 26 th March to 15 th October, 2022	
Lyon to Arles:	Low season	26 th March, 9 th April, 16 th , 30 th July, 13 th August
Burgundy to Provence	Regular season	23 rd April, 7 th , 21 st May, 4 th , 18 th June, 2 nd July
	High Season	27 th August, 10 th , 24 th September, 8 th October
Arles to Lyon:	Low season	2 nd April, 9 th , 23 rd July, 6 th August
Provence to Burgundy	Regular season	30 th April, 14 th , 28 th May, 11 th , 25 th June, 15 th October
	High Season	20 th August, 3 rd , 17 th September, 1 st October

SELF-GUIDED cost per person, twin share from:

	Soleil Suite (Lower deck)	Lavender Suite (Lower deck)	Imperial Suite (Upper deck)
Low season	\$2780	\$2870	\$3665
Regular season	\$3480	\$3570	\$4375
High Season	\$3665	\$3755	\$4550

GUIDED cycling add **\$335** per person Single Suite \$3,665- \$4,550 per person – limited availability, book early.

Self-guided cycling tour includes: 7 nights' cabin accommodation with own shower/toilet; 7 breakfasts, 6 packed lunches, 7 dinners; tea and coffee aboard; multi-gear hybrid bicycle hire with water bottle, helmet, pannier and lock; support vehicle; city walks; maps and route information (1 set per cabin); ferry fares.

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

Not included: drinks on board, entrance fees, excursions and wine tastings, bicycle insurance (can be pre-paid, request when you make your booking), personal expenses, gratuities, transfers to/from ship mooring point. Special diets may be available at a supplement – ask for details and request when making your booking.

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



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 Saturday: Arrival in Lyon

Make your own way to board the barge in Lyon by 5.00pm. In the evening, meet your fellow cyclists for dinner and a briefing on the week ahead and about life on board.

Day 2 Sunday: Lyon - Vienne – Andance – Tournon sur Rhône cycling @ 45km

After an early cruise from Lyon, we disembark at Vienne and cycle 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 on-board we start cruising before dinner en-route to Tournon sur Rhône.

Day 3 Monday: Tournon sur Rhône – Valence – Le Pouzin cycling @ 35km, 60km or 75km

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. There are a choice of routes today, depending on how far you wish to ride. We cycle through small villages of the Ardèche, then through meadows and farms to Le Pouzin in the Drôme area. There is the option to cycle on to the city of Crest with its imposing defensive tower which overlooks both the river and city. You can also pre-book an old steam train ride to take you to Lamastre, from where you ride along the Dolce Via cycle trail, a converted railway line. Cycling through tunnels and along ravines in the impressive Ardèche landscape, the route offers a great day out for keen cyclists.

Day 4 Tuesday: Le Pouzin – Viviers cycling @ 45km

Today starts with a ride to the medieval abbey of Cruas. We cross the rope bridge in Rochemaure, built by Marc Seguin in 1858, inspired by castle ramparts and regarded as symbolic of past and future. The day ends with a stroll through the historic village of Viviers.

Day 5 Wednesday: 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 14th 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 6 Thursday: Avignon – Tarascon/Arles cycling @ 50km, 60km or 70km

There are many choices today on the ride from the ancient city of Popes to the home of Van Gogh. The longer and easier route is a relaxed ride along the Via Rhôna. Halfway through the ride arrive in Beaucaire, where the Languedoc and Provence regions meet. There is a shorter and more strenuous route which takes in the Alpilles (Little Alps), past limestone cliffs and olive groves to the spectacular perched villages of Les-Baux-de-Provence and Saint Rémy de Provence. Very keen cyclists have a longer inland ride to visit the Pont du Gard, regarded as the best preserved Roman aqueduct in Europe.

Day 7 Friday: Tarascon/Arles – Arles cycling @ 20km or 50km

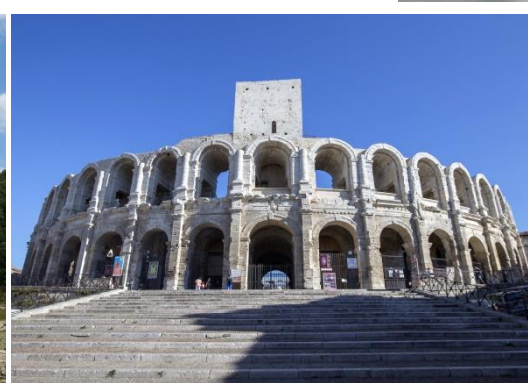
Take a shorter ride today to explore Arles and all the locations that van Gogh painted here. For those wanting a longer ride there is a chance to explore the Camargue, river delta of the Rhône River and home to French cowboys, black bulls and the famous, wild, white horses.

Day 8 Saturday: Depart Arles

Disembark after breakfast, by 10.00am.

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

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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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