

FRANCE – BURGUNDY AUXERRE TO MORET-SUR-LOING or RETURN 8-days / 7-nights easy to Moderate **PREMIUM PLUS** GUIDED cycling cruises



We have secured a limited number of berths on a new Bike & Barge cycling cruise in the heart of Northern Burgundy. Known as “*The Land of Good Living*”, it offers a combination of rolling vineyards, woods and farmlands, ancient medieval villages, meandering rivers, and some of the best wines, cheeses and traditional dishes found in France. There is a laid-back lifestyle, a sense of friendliness and a generally mild climate.

Starting in Auxerre, a riverside town of church spiers and 16th Century architecture, we ride through cities and towns of great cultural, artistic and historic significance and icons such as the magnificent Gothic Saint Etienne cathedral of Sens before ending our week in Moret-sur-Loing, a charming medieval fortified town much favoured by painter Alfred Sisley. The cycling route alternates between easy stretches of free-wheeling alongside the river Yonne and more challenging uphill sections that lead to spectacular views.

Our PREMIUM PLUS barges offer a high standard of meals and comfortable cabin accommodation (all with lower twin beds and ensuite bathrooms). All cabins have air-conditioning and windows and on one barge there are also two double cabins which have larger windows that open. On the main deck there is a comfortable, air-conditioned lounge with panoramic windows, dining area, seating corner and a small bar. There is a very spacious sun deck with chairs and tables, where you can relax and enjoy the scenery, great for photography.

Bike & Barge cycling cruise is an opportunity to explore at a relaxed pace. Each day you can join a guided bike tour, cycle independently and meet up with the group at the boat, or stay onboard to enjoy the canal and river cruising. In the evenings the guide may offer a city walk to a local café or bar. Bike & Barge cruises combine cycling and river cruising and they allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together - trips are just as interesting for leisure cyclists or cycling 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 – 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.

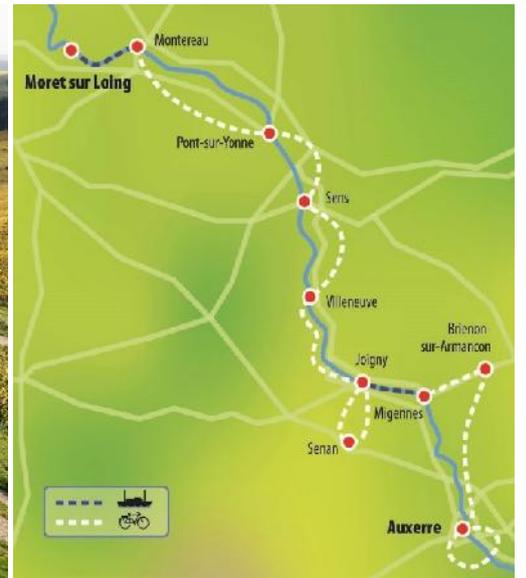
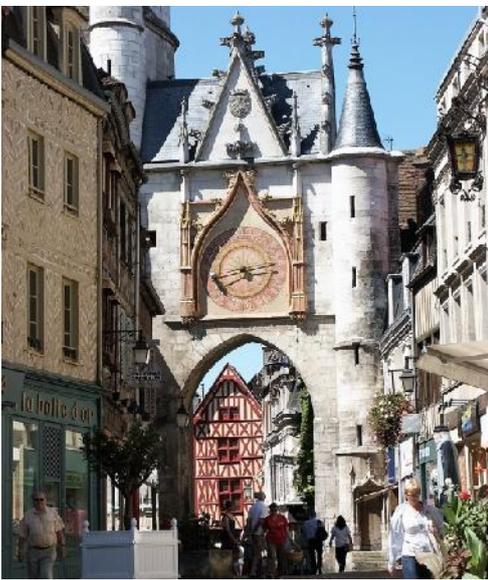
A limited number of **E-Bikes are available** at \$240 per week - request early to avoid disappointment.

Departs: Auxerre to Moret-sur-Loing: 9th, 23rd June, 7th July, 18th August, 1st, 15th September, 2020
Moret-sur-Loing to Auxerre: 2nd, 16th, 30th June, 11th, 25th August, 8th September, 2020

Cost from: \$2450 per person twin share Single cabin supplement \$1140 (early reservation essential)

Included: Breakfast daily, 6 x dinners, picnic lunches, cycling tour guide, bicycle hire with pannier and helmet, wine tasting, Apiculture museum entry, Sens Cathedral visit, ferry fees.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary: From Auxerre to Moret-sur-Loing (operates in reverse direction on alternate weeks)

Day 1 (Tuesday): Arrive Auxerre

Plan to arrive around 2pm at the barge moored in Auxerre. From Paris there are regular services between Gare de Bercy and Auxerre. After a welcome from the barge crew, bike fitting and a delicious dinner aboard, there is ample time for an evening stroll through Auxerre, a beautiful river town of majestic church spires and streets lined with 16th Century timber houses.

Day 2 (Wednesday): Auxerre

cycling @ 30km

The barge stays in Auxerre today, so you have the option to either stay, relax and take in more of the sights of the town, or cycle with your guide along the Yonne river en route to the “Caves de Bailly”. This vineyard is famous for its sparkling Cremant de Bourgogne and limestone caves. The nearby vineyards of St Bris and Irancy are also well worth a visit, as are the paintings of George Hosotte in the Chapelle de Bailly.

Day 3 (Thursday): Auxerre – Joigny

cycling @ 26 - 38km

Today cycle northwards through the Yonne river valley, toward Joigny. There are two routes today and the longer takes in the countryside of Briennon-sur Armençon, before following the beautiful Burgundy canal to Migennes where it crosses the river Yonne. There board the barge for an afternoon cruise to Joigny, a picturesque little town with a long and storied wine history as well as several historical monuments, ancient churches and townhouses with carved renaissance facades from the 16th and 17th Centuries.

Day 4 (Friday): Joigny – Villeneuve-sur-Yonne

cycling @ 21 - 42km

Spend the morning on a loop ride through the local vineyards for a tasting of some of Burgundy’s finest wines. Return to Joigny for lunch, after which you have the option to board the barge for a leisurely cruise to Villeneuve sur Yonne or continue on an afternoon ride to the town of Saint-Julien-du-Sault to visit the 13th Century Saint-Pierre church with its magnificent stained-glass windows. The mooring point tonight is in the lovely, lesser-known town of Villeneuve where sunset is the perfect time to explore its medieval gate towers and strings of gardens.

Day 5 (Saturday): Villeneuve-sur-Yonne – Sens**cycling @ 28 - 52km**

Today there are two cycling options – the short option follows the river Yonne, while the longer option heads into the hills for a taste of the fine cider produced at the museum 'de Pomme et de Cidre'. The next stop is Sens, one of the oldest towns in France with a visit to the first of the great Gothic cathedrals in France, Cathedral Saint-Etienne. There will be time afterward to shop, stroll through the marketplace or acquaint yourself with the many restaurants Sens has to offer, as there is no dinner included tonight.

Day 6 (Sunday): Sens – Pont-sur-Yonne**cycling @ 20 - 42km**

The longer cycle route today heads back into the hills and leads to a local honey producer for a sample of their delicious wild honey. However, the shorter option affords more time to explore Sens at leisure before cycling through to Pont-sur-Yonne, a charming riverside town.

Day 7 (Monday): Pont-sur-Yonne – Montereau – Moret**cycling @ 33 - 40km**

On the final cycling day, visit Montereau-fault-Yonne, a town situated at the confluence of the Yonne and Seine rivers. Here, the thousand-year-old Notre-Dame-et-Saint-Loup collegiate church is well worth a visit. At Montereau board the barge for a dinner cruise to the final destination, the charming medieval fortified town of Moret-sur-Loing where the famous painter, Alfred Sisley, drew inspiration for his work.

Day 8 (Sat): Tour ends in Moret-sur-Loing

Tour ends after breakfast in Moret-sur-Loing. There are several daily direct trains to Paris Gare de Lyon.



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. River and canal hotel barge cruises are available throughout Europe. Outdoor Travel also offer inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling tours or walking holidays in many areas of Europe and in New Zealand, the USA, Canada, China, South Africa, Japan or Australia. Self-skipped boat hire (with bikes) is available in the UK, Europe and Canada.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations – early bookings essential

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