

OUTDOOR TRAVEL

THE ACTIVE HOLIDAY COMPANY

BIKE & BARGE HOLIDAYS IN EUROPE

2020

FRANCE – ALSACE LORRAINE AND THE RHINE-MARNE CANAL

8-days/7-nights easy to moderate guided cycling on a **STANDARD PLUS** barge, Nancy to Strasbourg



For 2020 we are delighted to offer a new Bike & Barge tour exploring the Alsace and Lorraine. This region with its mixed French / German history and culture was much fought over in many wars but today is a centre for European reconciliation and unification with the European Union Parliament and the European Court of Human Rights both in Strasbourg. Starting in the beautiful city of Nancy in the Lorraine, we follow the impressive Rhine-Marne Canal all the way to the Strasbourg. Strasbourg is a Rhine River border town, showcasing the Franco-German heritage of the region and its mix of cultures offers great examples of wine and beer making, as well as a varied cuisine which is unique to the region.

On this tour we pass the monuments of the Great War front line, and then marvel at the engineering feat of the Arzviller inclined plane boat lift. The landscape changes with the dark forests of the Parc Regional de Vosges and its many castles, then on to the Tudor style buildings of Bouxwiller, La Wantzenau and Hoerd. Enjoy a beer in Wingersheim the self-proclaimed capital of hops, before reaching UNESCO listed Strasbourg.

Bike & Barge cruises combine two popular ways of exploring Europe (cycling and 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 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. Well-maintained multi-geared bicycles with panniers are provided – easy to ride and ideal for the route – and the guided cycling program is fascinating and varied, with free time to explore each day's destination.

We offer this as a guided Bike & Boat cycling cruise; however you can decide each day if you want to join the guided tour or ride independently. There may be chance to stay on-board to enjoy the cruising instead of cycling on some days but there is no sightseeing arranged for non-cyclists - talk to us for more details for non-cyclists.

Departs: Nancy to Strasbourg: 30th May; 13th, 27th June; 11th July, 2020
Strasbourg to Nancy: 6th, 20th June; 4th, 18th July, 2020

Cost from: **Low season:** \$2010 per person (twin share). 27th June – 18th July, 2020
High season \$2180 per person (twin share). 30th May – 20th June 2020

Single cabin (only one available per departure): \$2295 - \$2440

E-Bikes are available at extra cost - request one early to avoid disappointment.

Included: Simple share cabins with twin split-level beds or double bed and compact ensuite shower / toilet, full board (which includes breakfast, packed lunch each day and dinner each night), coffee and tea, daily easy to moderate cycling with an English-speaking guide, city walks, route information (1 set per cabin), hybrid bike hire with pannier, lock, water bottle and bike helmet rental; ferry fares en-route.

Not Included: Transfers or transport other than those indicated, excursions, entrance fees, drinks, bike or travel insurance, personal expenses and gratuities, Special diets at extra cost (please advise when booking).

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary: *subject to change at the discretion of the captain and tour guide. Cycling distances shown are all approximate. Tour operates in reverse direction on alternate weeks.*

Day 1: Arrive in Nancy

Board the barge in Nancy by 2.00pm on the left bank of the River Meurthe. Once aboard join a warm-up ride in the surrounding countryside to get familiar with your bike. After dinner the guide may offer walk to explore the town. The oldest part, the Vieille Ville – Léopold quarter, is home to the 14th Century Porte de la Craffe, the Palace of the Dukes of Lorraine, the Porte Désilles and Nancy Cathedral, Opéra National de Lorraine and the UNESCO-listed Place Stanislas, a square built in 1750 by Stanislaus I of Poland linking the old and new towns.

Day 2: Nancy – Hénaménil – Lagarde

cycling @ 50km

This morning ride along the Meurthe River to St-Nicolas-Port where the cathedral is worth a visit before cycling on to the city of Lunéville with its castle. This is also the site of the front line of the Great War. The city was heavily fought over in 1914 and has an impressive French cemetery and necropolis, as well as the local museum on the Battle of Leomont Hill nearby. After a leisurely ride to Hénaménil board the barge and cruise to Lagarde.

Day 3: Lagarde – Gondrexange – Niderviller

cycling @ 40km

Start with a ride on the canal-side bike path to Bataville, home to the well-known Bata brand of shoes. The Bataville industrial complex was built in the Bauhaus style and while the factory closed in 2001, it is now a historical monument for industrial architecture. After Bataville take an easy flat ride through native wetlands, before boarding the barge for an afternoon cruise on the Rhine-Marne Canal from Gondrexange to Niderviller.

Day 4: Niderviller – Saverne

cycling @ 30km

Niderviller was famous for its porcelain pottery and the village still has a porcelain shop. We ride to Arzviller to view the inclined boat lift which lifts ships to the next level avoiding a series of locks. We continue on the bike path along the canal, through the woods and the Vallée des Eclusiers to Saverne. An afternoon visit to the Haut Barr castle near Saverne is a must and you can get there by bike or on foot (about 1.5 hours walk).

Day 5: Saverne – Dettwiller

cycling @ 40km

From the barge mooring place in the middle of Saverne, there is a great view of the Vosges hills. Today's cycle route goes through the hilly area of Parc Regional Vosges du Nord and on the way up passes by Grauffthal with its medieval cave houses. The ride continues along quiet roads towards la-Petite-Pierre, a picture perfect village with a beautiful castle and then descends to Dettwiller. For cyclists who do not want to ride in the hills (with a total altitude gain of about 600 meters), there is always the possibility to ride the shorter flat road along the canal.

Day 6: Dettwiller – Wingersheim

cycling @ 40km

Ride through tranquil countryside to Bouxwiller, one of the prettiest villages in the North Alsace. It boasts a centre with Tudor style buildings, museums churches and a synagogue. Later visit the old Jewish cemetery in Ettendorf and after that, Hochfelden, where a visit to the famous Meteor brewery (in operation since 1640) is a highlight. End the day with a ride along the canal to the village of Wingersheim where the barge is moored.

Day 7: Wingersheim - Strasbourg

cycling @ 35km

We ride to the villages of La Wantzenau and Hoerdt with their Tudor style buildings then a flat ride through the Parc Pourtalés to the barge moored near Strasbourg. In the afternoon there is time to explore the town.

Day 8: Depart from Strasbourg

In the morning after breakfast you are free to depart on your own onward travel arrangements.

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

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