

FRANCE – BORDEAUX & THE WINES OF AQUITAINE

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



For 2020 we have secured berths on a delightful boat to cruise the spectacular Bordeaux region and its vineyards: a jigsaw of the 5 major wine regions, 120,000 hectares of vineyards and approximately 7000 châteaux or wineries. There are excellent bicycle paths, backroads to ride, charming historic villages and many prestigious châteaux to discover. Bordeaux offers a mild to warm climate ideal for cycling.

Bordeaux, near the confluence of the Gironde and Garonne rivers, is the cultural centre for the sunny south-west of France. It is a stunning UNESCO World Heritage-listed city in the heart of one of the most famous wine growing regions with grand architecture, museums, theatres and cafés. Caressed by Atlantic Ocean breezes, the vineyards of Aquitaine have for centuries produced France's most remarkable and well-known red and white wines such as *Saint-Émilion*, *Pomerol*, *Sauternes*, *Médoc* and *Margaux*.

Departs: Weekly every Saturday from 4th April to 31st October, 2020

Cost from: (twin share, lower deck)

GUIDED: **\$2255** per person 4th April – 25th April, 24th October – 31st October 2020
 \$2780 per person 2nd May – 22nd August, 3rd October – 17th October 2020
 \$2955 per person 29th August – 26th September 2020

SELF-GUIDED: **\$1925** per person 4th April – 25th April, 24th October – 31st October 2020
 \$2450 per person 2nd May – 22nd August, 3rd October – 17th October 2020
 \$2625 per person 29th August – 26th September 2020

Supplements: Single cabin supplement from \$790
 Upper deck supplement from \$335 per person, twin share
 Junior Suite upgrade (lower deck) from \$510 per person, twin share

Cost includes: 7 nights' cabin accommodation with own shower/toilet, full board (breakfast, packed lunch, 3-course dinner), multi-gear hybrid bicycle hire with pannier, services of an experienced cycle tour guide (on guided tour option), maps and route information (1 set per cabin). **E-bikes are available** at extra cost

Not included: Personal expenses, gratuities, drinks on board, entrance fees, excursions and wine tastings, bicycle insurance, transfers to/from ship mooring point (coach transfers from/to Bordeaux at set times are available for extra cost of \$110 per person return, please ask when booking). A limited number of bicycle helmets are available onboard but we recommend you bring your own or purchase one locally.

Highlights: Bordeaux wines, historical and cultural UNESCO World Heritage sites, spectacular natural beauty, backroads through the vineyards, quaint villages and many architectural gems in the city of Bordeaux.

Difficulty: Easy to moderate with daily cycling distances from 15 to 50km. The terrain is relatively flat in parts, undulating with short climbs out of the river valleys to surrounding vineyard areas.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Bike & Barge cruises combine cycling and river cruising, allowing partners of different abilities or interests to holiday together. Unpack once and come *home* each night to a wonderful meal and comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. Each day you choose: join the cycle tour, or relax onboard the boat and enjoy the cruise. Well-maintained multi-geared bicycles with panniers are provided (comfortable, easy to ride and ideal for this route) and a fascinating and varied cycling program with free time to explore each day's destination.

Accommodation is aboard a spacious, comfortable 78-metre boat with just 47 twin and 2 single cabins all with their own shower and toilet. The twin cabins all have two lower beds (no bunks). The ship has three decks; the upper deck, main deck and sun deck. Most of the twin cabins are located on the main deck, accessible by stairs. A limited number of upper deck cabins are available at extra cost. There are also two Junior Suites on the main deck, which are a little larger and available at a supplement – please ask for details. Each cabin has air conditioning, TV, a safe and a large viewing window which can be opened. The upper deck area features a separate restaurant / dining area, a salon at the front of the ship with panoramic windows, a well-stocked bar, a small dance floor and a comfortable lounge. There is a sun deck where you can relax and enjoy the scenery.

Suggested itinerary: *

Day 1 Saturday: Libourne

cycling @ 15km

Arrive mid-afternoon at the boat moored in Libourne on the Dordogne River, or join the coach transfer from central Bordeaux at 2.00pm (recommended, at an extra cost - ask when making a booking). We start with a short introductory cycle ride along the Dordogne River. In the evening, enjoy a welcome cocktail and dinner on board.

Day 2 Sunday: Libourne - Saint Émilion - Bourg

cycling @ 20 - 43km

In Libourne, start the day with a stroll through the picturesque city square, lined with buildings dating to the 16th Century and browse the market's many stalls. Afterwards we cycle through the Saint-Émilion and Pomerol regions. Unspoiled Saint-Émilion is UNESCO World Heritage-listed for its cultural and historical value. It has been a centre of viticulture since Roman times. We ride over undulating terrain, with typical countryside views of medieval and Renaissance-era castles and stone cottages surrounded by vines. In the evening the ship cruises to Bourg at the confluence of the Dordogne and the Garonne rivers into the Gironde estuary.

Day 3 Monday: Bourg – Blaye

cycling @ 25 - 50km

From Bourg we cycle to the Côtes de Blaye area where the wine châteaux create some marvellous wines. Here the idea of *douceur de vivre* or the sweet life reigns supreme. We follow a railway-turned-bike path, and the landscape is dotted with quaint villages, elegant manor houses and story-book castles. In Blaye, the remarkable 17th Century fortress, built by Vauban, the Sun King's military engineer and architect, dominates the area. After a visit to the fortress to admire the military masterwork of Vauban, we cycle the 'Corniche', a scenic and quiet road alongside the Gironde estuary. Re-join the barge at Bourg.

Day 4 Tuesday: Bourg – Lamarque – Médoc – Bordeaux

cycling @ 42km

Cruise from Bourg to Lamarque in the Gironde estuary to begin our cycling tour of the Médoc wine region. During the Hundred Years War England held the region of Aquitaine and this strategic location on the left bank of the estuary from 1154, when Eleanor of Aquitaine's husband was crowned King Henry II of England. This is the heart of the Margaux appellation, with 21 wine châteaux which were included in the 1855 Bordeaux wine classification, including premier cru Château Margaux. We can stop at one of these great wine estates for an optional visit / tasting and learn more about classifications, before re-joining the barge.

Day 5 Wednesday: Bordeaux

cycling @ 16km

Bordeaux, there is a guided cycling tour along the promenade and a walking tour of the city's many architectural gems: from the royal entrance of the city (Cailhau door) to the Big Bell of Pey Berlan, the Golden Triangle, the Girondins column, water mirror, and more. The afternoon is free to explore the city further on your own, or shop in the city's markets, boutiques, wine shops or confectioners, or spend some time in the spectacular Cité du Vin wine museum. In the evening we sail to Loupiac.

Day 6 Thursday: Loupiac – Sauternes – Cadillac – Castets-en-Dorthe

cycling @ 35 - 50km

Today visit the Sauternais region, where sweet dessert wines are made. We follow the banks of the Ciron River, whose waters flow into the warmer Garonne River and create the misty micro-climate which helps Europe's best late harvest wines. We cycle along gentle country roads, past picturesque châteaux overlooking vast expanses of vines, and near famous vineyards such as Château d'Yquem, to Cadillac, a small town with a towering castle. We are now in the region of Graves, known as the birthplace of Bordeaux wines. In the evening sail further upstream to the scenic village of Castets-en-Dorthe, the end of the navigable part of the Garonne River.

Day 7 Friday: Castets-en-Dorthe - Entre-Deux-Mers

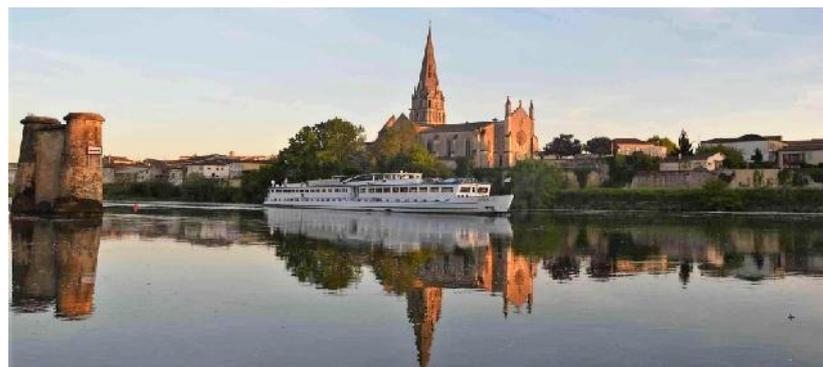
cycling @ 27 - 46km

After breakfast we ride to the Entre-Deux-Mers region between the Garonne and Dordogne Rivers and the "Premieres Côtes de Bordeaux" winegrowing area; Saint-Macaire, with its medieval city gates and cobblestone streets in the old town; the 16th Century Chateau Malromé, once home to painter Toulouse-Lautrec; and the village of La Réole, with its Gustave Eiffel-designed suspension bridge across the Garonne.

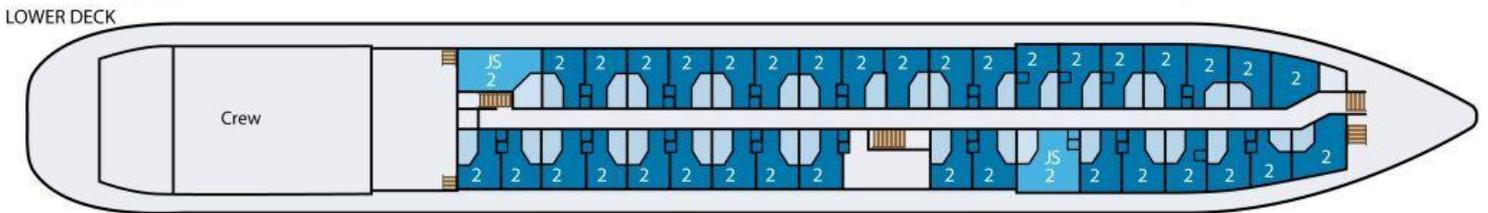
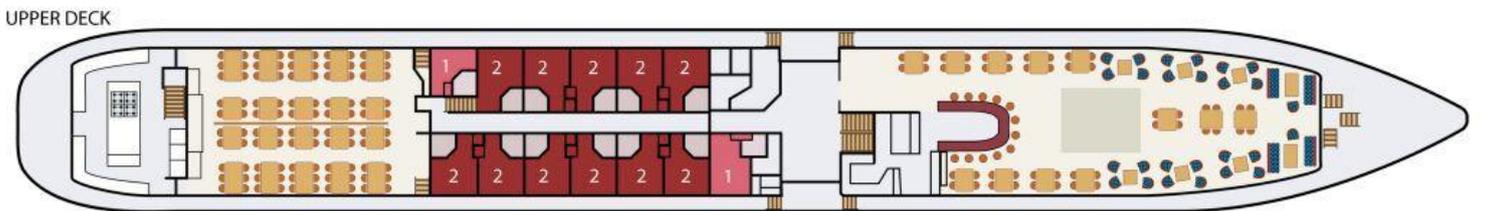
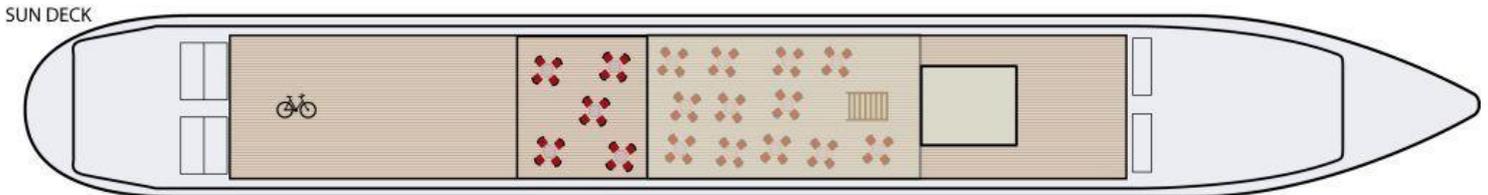
Day 8 Saturday: End of tour

Tour ends after breakfast in Castets-en-Dorthe (a coach transfer to central Bordeaux is available at extra cost).

** Please Note: The Garonne, Gironde and Dordogne Rivers are part of a tidal river system that brings changing tides and water levels which may impact on the day to day itinerary. This cruise is offered in the opposite direction on alternate weeks. Cycling distances are approximate. Non-cycling guests are always welcome on these departures, but note that no sightseeing provisions are made for non-cyclists on cycling days.*



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd offers Bike & Barge cruises in many regions of France, in Belgium, Germany, in Holland, Italy including the Amalfi Coast, Venice & Sicily, in Scotland or in Romania, Hungary or Austria along the River Danube, exploring the islands of Croatia, Greece and Turkey or in Vietnam.

Luxury hotel barge cruises (with bicycles provided for passenger use) are available on many of the canals and rivers of Europe, including the Canal du Midi, Loire River and Burgundy region in France. Inn-to-inn cycle tours are also available in Europe, North America, Australia or New Zealand – ask for details:

Contact Outdoor Travel for details and reservations – early bookings essential

- Call Toll free: 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia