

FRANCE: ENCHANTE – CANAL DU MIDI

7-day / 6-night Hotel Barge cruise & GUIDED sightseeing – from/to Sallèles d'Aude to Trèbes



- Cruise departs:** Narbonne every Sunday from 22nd March to 25th October 2020
- Fully inclusive costs from:** \$8,935 per person twin share (High Season \$10,310)
- Value season departures:** 22nd March to 19th April, 19th July to 23rd August, & 4th to 25th October 2020
- High season departures from:** 26th April to 12th July & 30th August to 27th September 2020
- Single cabin supplement from:** \$3,280 (High Season \$3,770)

The Canal du Midi is a picturesque 330-year-old waterway and a UNESCO World Heritage site, which starts at the sun-drenched shores of the Mediterranean before meandering inland for 240km, under arched bridges, through locks, alongside ancient villages, past Roman fortifications and famed vineyards. The best way to explore this scenic waterway is aboard Enchanté, originally a freighter built in 1958, and now converted to a spacious, double-decker hotel barge that has been re-designed to the highest standard, offering a stylish on-board ambience just perfect for enjoying a cruise through this sun-drenched region.

Enchanté has been tastefully furnished in a contemporary style, creating a bright, art deco atmosphere. She has a large saloon with outstanding attention to detail, including an open-plan demonstration galley where guests can see their skilled chef at work. The luxurious air-conditioned accommodation is in four equally spacious twin or double-bedded suites, the largest of any hotel barge on the Canal du Midi and all with superbly appointed en suite shower rooms. Outside, the large sun deck boasts an alfresco dining area, a gorgeous spa pool and comfortable loungers to relax in while the countryside drifts slowly by.

Cruise highlights included; Private winery tour and tasting of fine Minervois wines, a tour of Narbonne's Archbishop's Palace and experience the colourful market, visit beautiful Lagrasse and its 8th Century abbey, with lunch in a stunning location, tour the medieval city of Carcassonne. While also enjoying an unforgettable repertoire of gastronomic experiences of the local Midi cuisine a combination of Provençale and Mediterranean flavours, of fresh seafood and regional specialities, paired with the excellent local Corbières and Minervois wines.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested cruise itinerary: *Subject to change at the total discretion of the Captain and is canal conditions and weather dependent. On alternate weeks the cruise will be in the reverse direction.*

Sunday, Day 1 Sallèles d'Aude

Guests are met in Narbonne and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Enchanté. A champagne welcome and an introduction to the Captain and crew, followed by dinner on board.

Monday, Day 2 Sallèles d'Aude to Roubia

A morning cruise along the Grand Bief. This technological achievement unique to the Canal du Midi links Narbonne to the Mediterranean, to the charming village of Roubia. An afternoon excursion to "L'Oulibo", a local co-operative olive oil press where we can sample the famous Lucques olives. We continue to Minerve, the ancient capital of the Minervoise, which boasts a 12th Century Cathar fort surrounded by deep limestone gorges. Besieged by Simon de Montfort in 1210, its hilltop location affords spectacular views. Dinner on board.

Tuesday, Day 3 Roubia to Homps

After breakfast, we travel to Narbonne, a Roman Mediterranean capital where the Visigoth monarchs once lived. We visit the Archbishop's Palace, Roman Horreum and indoor market in this bustling canal side town, with time to shop or simply absorb the vibrant atmosphere. In the afternoon we cruise past vineyards and pine trees to Homps. This picturesque mooring in the heart of a French village presents a perfect opportunity to try your hand at a game of boules also known as bowls or bocce, followed by an alfresco dinner on board.

Wednesday, Day 4 Homps to Puichéric

This morning we visit a Benedictine Abbey founded in the 8th Century. Nestled in Lagrasse, a village considered "*Plus beaux villages de France*", home to many artisans with workshops in the medieval centre, the restored Abbey was once prosperous thanks to Charlemagne's charter. We sample local cuisine with lunch ashore in a spectacular setting overlooking the Corbieres vineyards, before returning to the barge to cruise to Puichéric, past "l'Epanchoir", a bridge invented by Pierre Paul Riquet. Dinner is served on board.

Thursday, Day 5 Puichéric to Marseillette

Today we cruise along the 330-year-old canal ascending its trademark locks as the relief becomes steeper. This is a great opportunity to walk or cycle from one lock to the next as Enchanté cruises on, navigating the triple locking system. The afternoon excursion is a wine tour and tasting at Château Saint Jacques d'Albas in Minervoise, one of the few regions to receive the much-envied French mark of approval for wines known as A.O.C. (Appellation d'Origine Controlée). This informative tour offers an opportunity to sample wine in situ and find out more about the Languedoc's long-standing and continuing wine trade. Dinner is served on board.

Friday, Day 6 Marseillette to Trèbes

A morning tour of Carcassonne which dates back to the Gallo-Roman era, this is the most complete medieval fortified city in existence today with its 52 watchtowers, portcullis and extraordinary repertoire of defences, a glorious Camelot setting. In the afternoon we cruise through tight bridges, gliding past picturesque vineyards and hamlets to Trèbes where we moor for a farewell dinner on board with the Captain and crew.

Saturday, Day 7 Trèbes

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to their choice of location in Narbonne.

Similar hotel barge cruises are available from Outdoor Travel in **Ireland** on the River Shannon, Windsor on the **River Thames** near London, Scotland on the **Caledonian Canal**, in **Holland** for the tulips in springtime and in the **Loire Valley**, the **Bordeaux** region, **Provence** in France and **Venice** in Italy.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

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