

FRANCE - PARIS TO CHAMPAGNE or RETURN

8-days/7-nights Moderate guided cycling cruise in a traditional **STANDARD PLUS** barge



Departs **Paris to Reims:** 23rd – 30th May, 6th – 13th June, 15th - 22nd August, 2020
Reims to Paris: 30th May – 6th June, 13th – 20th June, 22nd – 29th August, 2020

Cost from: **\$2250** per person in a twin-share cabin Single cabin supplement from **\$570** (only two per tour).
 Two Premium cabins are available in 2020 with a supplement from **\$390** per person twin share.

Included: 7 nights' accommodation in twin-share cabin, breakfast, dinner on board most nights, picnic lunches, cycling tour guide and bicycle hire (with pannier, lock & water bottle)

Highlights: Paris, Lagny, Meaux (Brie), Chateau Thierry, Epernay (Champagne), Reims.

For 2020 we have secured a very limited number of berths on a delightful small barge to cruise from Paris to the beautiful city of Reims in the Champagne region of France. Explore this varied and interesting countryside, visit historic and places of cultural interest, sampling the wine and local produce that makes this part of France famous. Each day you choose – join our guided bike tour, venture out independently by bicycle, or stay on the boat to enjoy the cruising. In the evenings the guide may offer a city walk or other activities.

Our barge offers delicious meals and comfortable but simply furnished cabins with twin-share lower beds, small shower/toilet and a window for natural light. Multi-geared bicycles with panniers are provided – comfortable, easy to ride and ideal for this route – a fascinating and varied guided cycling program with free time to explore each day's destination. Two or three **e-bikes are available** for hire at extra cost, please ask when booking.

Bike & Barge cruises combine cycling and canal or 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 back each night to a wonderful welcome from the crew, a cooked meal and a comfortable cabin.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary Paris to Reims: *

Day 1: Paris

Arrive at the barge, moored in central Paris, between 12noon and 2pm. After which time the barge will cruise along the canal to the River Seine then continue upstream to the confluence of the Seine and Marne Rivers, in the outer suburbs of Paris.

Day 2: Paris – Lagny

cycling @ 35km

After breakfast we cycle mostly on bike trails and quiet roads with relatively low traffic as we head out of Paris near the Bois de Vincennes and chateau. We end our day in Lagny, a small town on the outskirts of Paris. Often there is an art-exhibition in the town centre.

Day 3: Lagny - Meaux - La Ferté sous Jouarre

cycling @ 35 or 50km

We enter the region of Brie today, famous around the world for its soft cheese. We ride into Meaux, with its unfinished Gothic cathedral. We then continue on to our mooring point for the night, not far from the little town of La Fertésous-Jouarre,. There is also the option to visit Jouarre, with its Benedictine abbey, Romanesque church and crypt, located high on a hill top.

Day 4: La Ferté sous Jouarre - Chateau Thierry

cycling @ 45km

Today offers a delightful ride through the undulating countryside with some ups and downs. Along the way are the first vineyards of the Champagne-region. Cycling beside the river past the village of St Cyr and the valley of Petit Morin we reach our overnight mooring point at Chateau Thierry, which we also get to visit.

Day 5: Chateau Thierry - Dormans

cycling @ 35km

An easier ride along the river today, with only a few hills until we reach Dormans, with its Chateau and park. There is a free afternoon giving time to visit Dormans memorial chapel to the two WW1 Battles of the Marne.

Day 6: Dormans to Isse

cycling @ 50km

From our mooring point near Dormans ride through vineyards and encounter some hillier terrain. Cycling to Epernay, the centre of the Champagne industry, there is a visit one of the many Champagne houses for a guided tour in the cellars. Then follow the canal next to the Marne to Condé where the canal to Reims starts. We moor overnight near Condé or Isse.



Day 7: Isse - Reims

cycling @ 50km

We leave the Marne Valley through undulating terrain with climbs that are rewarded by scenic views. Traversing a wooded valley, ride on to Verzy with its forest of crooked trees, then through Grand Cru vineyards until we reach the plain.

After lunch in Sillery, cycle beside the canal past picturesque villages and sloping hills covered with vines until arriving in Reims in the afternoon with time to explore the town with its spectacular cathedral and do some sightseeing, shopping or champagne tasting (at own expense).

Day 8: Tour ends in Reims.

The tour arrangements end after breakfast. There are fast train connections from Reims to Paris and most major centres.

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Suggested itinerary Reims to Paris: *

Day 1: Arrive in Reims

Make your own way to the mooring point in Reims by mid-afternoon to meet your fellow travellers. Take a short introductory bike ride to Sillery, outside Reims and tonight's mooring point.

Day 2: Sillery – Conde or Tours sur Marne

cycling @ 45km

This morning cycle through the vineyards southeast of Reims. The terrain is undulating and our climbs are rewarded with beautiful views. There is an option to visit a local champagne-house for a tasting (at own expense). You may re-board the barge or continue riding for a few more kilometres to the Marne Valley. We moor near Tours sur Marne and in the evening go for a city walk.

Day 3: Tours sur Marne / Epernay - (near) Chatillon sur Marne

cycling @ 40km

Cycle to Epernay, the centre of the Champagne industry and visit one of the many Champagne houses for a guided tour in the cellars. Then ride the undulating vine-clad hills to our mooring point near Chatillon sur Marne.

Day 4: Chatillon sur Marne/Dormans – Chateau-Thierry

cycling @ 45km

Start the day with an early ride in Dormans, with its Chateau, park and WW1 memorial chapel and monument. Then an easier ride along the river today with a few low hills as we reach our destination at Chateau-Thierry.

Day 5: Chateau-Thierry - La Ferté sous Jouarre

cycling @ 45km

Again we ride beside the river past the valley of Petit Morin and the village of St Cyr. We have time to visit the abbey of La Ferté before arriving at our mooring point at La Ferté sous Jouarre.

Day 6: La Ferté sous Jouarre - Meaux - Lagny

cycling @ 35 or 55km

We enter the region of Brie today, famous around the world for its soft cheese. We ride into Meaux, with its unfinished Gothic cathedral. You can either re-board the barge or cycle a further 25km to Lagny, a small town on the outskirts of Paris. Often there is an art-exhibition in the centre.

Day 7: Lagny - Paris

cycling @ 35km

We have planned our ride mostly on bike trails and quiet roads with relatively low traffic. We arrive into Paris near the Bois de Vincennes and chateau. Here we can board the ship at the confluence of the Marne and Seine rivers, or cycle into central Paris. Free time this afternoon to explore Paris.

Day 8: Tour ends in Paris

Tour ends after breakfast.

** The itineraries shown are an indication only, subject to change depending on wind and weather, nautical or waterway conditions, mooring points and other unforeseen circumstances as determined by the captain. Cycling distances shown are approximate. The daily cycling route is at the discretion of the guide – with different levels of cycling in each direction - please discuss options with them before you start your daily cycling.*

Other **Outdoor Travel** Bike & Barge cruises are available in France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Scotland, Romania, in Austria along the River Danube, to the islands of Croatia, Greece and Turkey or in Vietnam. Inn-to-inn cycling tours or hotel barge cruises are also available in Europe, North America, New Zealand and China.

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

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