

## FRANCE – BURGUNDY AUXERRE/SENS TO MORET-SUR-LOING or vv 8-days / 7-nights easy to Moderate **PREMIUM PLUS** GUIDED cycling cruise with **E-BIKES**



We have secured a limited number of berths on two barges for a 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 16<sup>th</sup> century architecture, or in the historic town of Sens with its magnificent Gothic Saint Etienne cathedral, we ride through cities and towns of great cultural, artistic and historic significance and icons 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 freewheeling 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 cabin accommodation, with lower twin beds, ensuite bathrooms and air-conditioning. 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 spacious sun deck with chairs and tables, where you can relax and enjoy the scenery, great for photography.

A 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. Unpack once and come ‘home’ each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. Well-maintained **E-bikes** with helmets and panniers are provided – enjoyable, easy to ride, and ideal for this route.

**Departs:** Auxerre/Sens\* to Moret-sur-Loing: 3, 17 June, 2\*, 16\* September 2025  
Moret-sur-Loing to Auxerre/Sens\*: 27 May, 10 June, 26\* August, 9\* September 2025

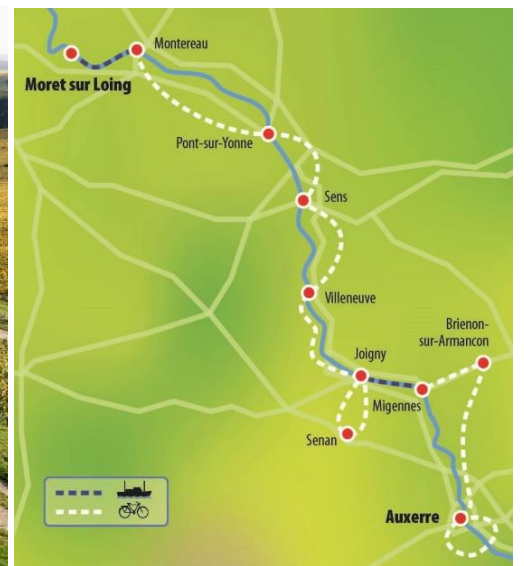
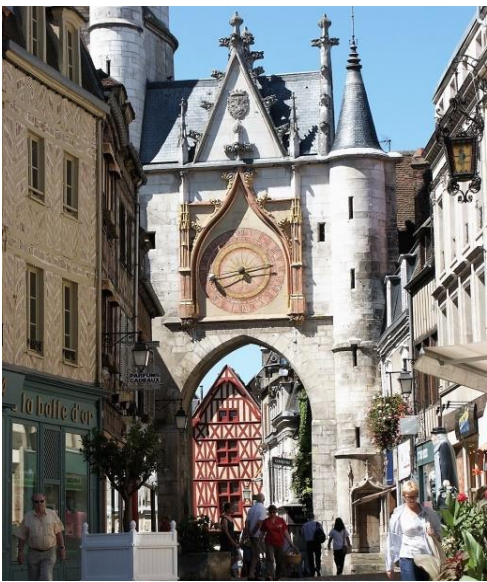
\* On these dates the tour starts/ends in Sens instead of Auxerre, on a different route, see itinerary for details.

**Cost from:** \$4070 per person twin share Single cabin supplement from \$1725, limited availability

**Includes:** 7 nights’ accommodation in twin cabin with ensuite; 7 breakfasts, 6 packed lunches, 6 dinners; cycling tour guide; hire of E-bike with pannier, water bottle and helmet; Bailly wine tasting; entry fees to apiculture museum and Sens Cathedral; ferry fares, SGR insolvency protection.

**Not included:** Drinks and personal expenses, gratuities, transfers to/from the barge, travel insurance. Special diets available at extra cost. Dinner on 1 night at own arrangements.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> century timber houses.

**Day 2 (Wednesday): Auxerre**

**cycling @ 30 - 45km**

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 @ 30 - 45km**

Today cycle northwards through the Yonne River valley, toward Joigny. There are two routes: the longer takes in the countryside of Briennon-sur Armencon, 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 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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

**cycling @ 20 - 45km**

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 enjoy an afternoon ride to the town of Saint-Julien-du-Sault to visit the 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**Day 5 (Saturday): Villeneuve-sur-Yonne – Sens****cycling @ 30 - 55km**

A choice of cycling routes – 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 - 45km**

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 @ 35 - 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 (Tuesday): Departure day**

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



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

**Day 1 (Tuesday): Arrive Sens****cycling @ 10km**

Plan to arrive around 2pm at the barge moored in Sens. From Paris there are regular services between Gare de Lyon or Gare de Bercy and Sens. After a welcome from the barge crew, bike fitting and a delicious dinner aboard, the tour leader will give an overview of the week to come.

**Day 2 (Wednesday): Sens****cycling @ 30 - 35km**

Start your day with a hearty breakfast. Bikers can choose between two routes. The bike tour will take you through beautiful vineyards and include a visit to a local wine producer, Thomas. At the end of the day there is still some time to explore Sens, one of the oldest towns in France. The Cathedral of St. Etienne is the first of the great Gothic cathedrals in France and served as an inspiration for many other buildings (guided tour on the next day). There will be plenty of time to shop, stroll through the marketplace or wander around town. The ship remains docked in Sens.

**Day 3 (Thursday): Sens – Chablis Excursion****no cycling**

Enjoy a relaxing morning with breakfast. Today is a special bus excursion day. You'll depart for Chablis, where you'll experience the renowned wine region up close. Discover Chablis, known for its crisp and elegant white wines. Explore the vineyards and charming villages, and enjoy a wine tasting experience. After you will head back to the ship in Sens for a tasty dinner and a quick tour briefing. We'll be staying docked in Sens overnight.

**Day 4 (Friday): Sens to Pont-sur-Yonne****cycling @ 20 - 45km**

Before we start cycling we will spent a little more time in Sens. Here you'll visit the first of the greater gothic cathedrals in France, Cathedral Saint-Etienne with a local guide. If you decide to brave the longer cycle route, it leads through the beautiful valley of the Oreuse. However, the shorter option affords you more time to explore Sens at your leisure before you cycle through to Pont-sur-Yonne, a charming riverside town.

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**Day 5 (Saturday): Pont-sur-Yonne to Moret-sur-Loing****cycling @ 35 - 40km**

The ship sails to Vinneuf early in the morning. After breakfast, you'll venture away from the river for a ride through a forest. A short visit to an ostrich farm is on the program. The final stretch of today brings us to Moret-sur-Loing, a quaint medieval town known for its simple charm. The famous painter Sisley once found inspiration here. Explore its historic streets and the 12th-century Church of Notre-Dame.

**Day 6 (Sunday): Moret-sur-Loing to Melun****cycling @ 40km**

After breakfast, you'll start the bike ride through the wonderful forests of Fontainebleau. Your first destination is the city of Fontainebleau, with its magnificent palace favoured by French kings for hunting in the surrounding forests. The palace also houses a museum dedicated to Napoleon. Fontainebleau is a pleasant town for walking and shopping. Next, you'll cycle to the artistic village of Barbizon, where many painters have found inspiration since the 19th century. Visit the local museum dedicated to the Barbizon School of landscape painters. The final stop on your bike tour is Melun, known as "le domaine des reines blanches" for being the domain of the widows of French kings. Return to the ship in Melun later in the afternoon for drinks. Tonight, dinner is not provided on board, so you can enjoy one of the local restaurants in town. The ship will be docked in Melun overnight.

**Day 7 (Monday): Melun to Moret-sur-Loing****cycling @ 35 - 50km**

The ship departs early, arriving in Moret-sur-Loing by mid-morning. After breakfast, bikers set off to the picturesque village of Bourron-Marlotte to visit the historic town hall. Enjoy a relaxed lunch in Bourron-Marlotte or nearby Grez. By mid-afternoon, bikers will return to Moret-sur-Loing. In the evening, a farewell dinner will be served on board, with the captain joining you for a toast. Following dinner, there will be a final tour briefing. The ship will remain docked in Moret-sur-Loing overnight.

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

Tour ends after breakfast in Moret-sur-Loing at 9.30am. There are several 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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