

FRANCE: SEINE RIVER, FONTAINEBLEAU & PARIS

E-BIKE TOUR

8-days / 7-nights **PREMIUM PLUS** GUIDED cycling cruise from Paris to Montargis or return



Enjoy the splendour of rural France within easy reach of and with a night in central Paris

This region of Ile-de-France, once famed for its royal hunting grounds, grand country homes and palaces, is an ideal location for an easy and relaxed cycling holiday. There is much to see, and the terrain is cycle friendly with around 35 – 45km of riding each day. The tour starts in Montargis and from there we follow the Seine valley downstream towards Paris. The first couple of days we follow the Canals du Centre, a section of the waterway with a rich shipping history. We cruise from Montargis, with its many charming canals, to Moret-sur-Loing, a medieval fortified town, strategically situated on the banks of the Loing. Here the Impressionist painter Sisley found inspiration for many of his works.

We continue along the Seine valley to an area rich in royal history and visit the castles of Vaux-le-Vicomte and Fontainebleau. At Vaux-le-Vicomte the impressive royal gardens are hugely popular, offering traditional French style and perfect symmetry. We cruise the woods of Fontainebleau, heading for the artists' village of Barbizon. Our destination is central Paris where the barge will be moored overnight at Port d'Arsenal, not far from all the major attractions of the city, transport links, fine restaurants, cafes, shopping, museums and galleries.

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. Well-maintained **E-bikes** with pannier bag and helmet are provided – enjoyable and easy to ride. The cycling is fascinating and varied with free time at each day's destination.

Departs: **Paris to Montargis** 29 July, 13 July, 2025
Montargis to Paris 8 June, 6, 20 July, 2025

Cost from: **\$3890** per person twin share
High season supplement from **\$185 - \$270** per person on selected departures
Single cabin supplement from \$1640 – availability strictly limited

Includes: 7 nights' accommodation in twin-share cabin with ensuite; 7 buffet breakfasts, packed lunch on cycling days, 6 dinners, E-bike hire with pannier, water bottle and helmet; services of English-speaking cycle guide; entrance to Bourdelle garden, Apiculture Museum, Chateau Landon, Bourron-Marlotte town hall; ferry fares, SGR insolvency protection.

Not included: Drinks, 1 dinner, personal expenses, gratuities, transfer to/from the barge, other entrance fees not mentioned, travel insurance

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary Montargis to Paris: (tour operates in reverse direction on alternate weeks)

Day 1: Arrive Montargis

Plan to arrive mid-afternoon at the Rue de Port in Montargis (easily accessed by train from Paris) for a welcome drink and to meet fellow passengers and crew. Get fitted with your bicycle and relax before dinner. After dinner perhaps take a walk around Montargis. The former King's royal residence here was destroyed by fire in the 16th century, but the canals still give the town a unique charm. There is also a museum, named after the famous French painter Louis Girodet, with many of his paintings displayed – an ideal visit if you arrive early.

Day 2: Montargis circuit ride

cycling @ 45km

From Montargis we ride along the Ouanne River to Château-Renard, where we visit the ruins of the 10th century chateau. We can also visit the Apiculture Living Museum, where we can see beekeepers and their bees at work, learn about honey production and perhaps sample some delicious honey.

Day 3: Montargis – Néronville

cycling @ 39 or 46km

We cruise to the lock at Cepoy, then cycle through the magnificent forests of Montargis, northeast of the town. Our next stop is the medieval town of Ferrières with its old and well-preserved town centre (down one of its narrow side streets you will find a splendid monastery). We continue on to visit the sculpture garden, Jardin Bourdelle, then meet the barge in Néronville, where we stay tonight.

Day 4: Néronville – Nemours

cycling @ 29 or 43km

Cycle through an area that has been cultivated since before the Romans and is still home to orchards and berry farms. Stop at the fortified town of Chateau-Landon with its 13th century abbey, then ride on to the rocks of Nemours. Meet the barge in Nemours town, with its castle and prehistoric museum of the Ile-de-France region.

Day 5: Nemours – Moret-sur-Loing

cycling @ 32 or 43km

After breakfast we cycle through woodland with rugged rock formations often on unsealed forest tracks. We follow the picturesque valley of the Loing and visit Grez-sur-Loing, where the town hall has a selection of magnificent Impressionist paintings. We head in the direction of Moret-sur-Loing, a charming medieval fortified town, strategically situated on the banks of the Loing, where the painter Sisley found inspiration for his beautiful Impressionist paintings. If time allows, we can visit the house where he was born.

Day 6: Moret-sur-Loing – Melun

cycling @ 40km

Cycling through the manicured forests of Fontainebleau is a wonderful and inspiring journey and there is also an opportunity to visit Fontainebleau's spectacular chateau. The chateau was much favored by French kings because of the extensive hunting available in the surrounding forests. In the castle itself, among other things of interest, there is a museum dedicated to the Emperor Napoleon. The town of Fontainebleau is also a pleasant place to explore, with time for some souvenir shopping or to relax at one of the many cafes and restaurants.

We continue our ride to the artists' village of Barbizon, where, since the first half of the 19th century, many famous painters have found inspiration and formed the landscape artist's 'school of Barbizon'. We can visit the local museum / gallery here. We finish our ride in Melun, a town which is known as '*le domaine des reines blanches*' (the place of the white queens), because in former years it was popular as a place of residence for the widows of the French kings. Dinner is at your own arrangements this evening.

Day 7: Melun – Paris

cycling @ 35km (sailing time @ 8-hours)

Cycle to Evry along the River Seine and rejoin the barge for the cruise into Paris. The overnight mooring place is usually at the Port d'Arsenal, very central and an easy walk to the Metro. After dinner there is an opportunity for a city walk visiting Montmartre and the Sacré-Coeur.

Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast in central Paris with easy access to Metro stations and trains.

Outdoor Travel offer Bike & Barge or Bike & Boat cruises in many areas of France including the Loire Valley and Burgundy, Bordeaux, the wine region of Champagne, in Provence, on a 2-week route between Paris and Bruges through the Somme WW1 battlefields and memorial sites - significant places in Australian history. On these tours you decide each day if you want to join the bike ride. There are no activities for non-cyclists during the day, but you are free to use the bicycles before and after the cruise and to join in with evening activities.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more 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: www.outdoortravel.com.au
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia

