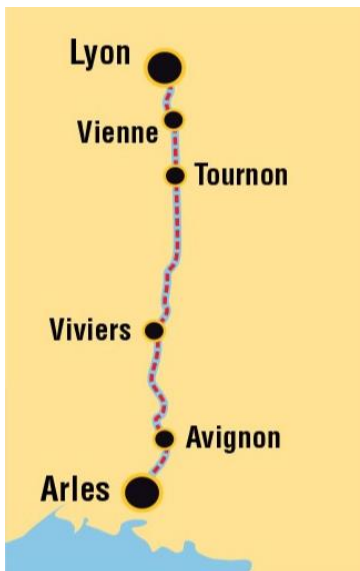


Cycling Europe

FRANCE: ALONG THE RHONE BY BIKE & BOAT BURGUNDY TO PROVENCE

Lyon to Arles or v.v.

Self-Guided Cycling Tour 8 days/7 nights, 2020



Travel by Bike and Boat along the exquisite Rhône River between World Heritage Lyon to the Roman town of Arles at its delta on the French Mediterranean coast. Cycle through the South of France's rolling landscape with its delightful villages, imposing castles, monasteries, vineyards and, depending on the season, colourful fields of lavender and sunflowers. Savour the region's fabulous wine and cuisine on your comfortable floating hotel.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Lyon:** World Heritage Site
- **Vienne & Valance:** towns d'Art et d'Histoire
- **Ampuis:** the vines of Côte-Rôtie
- **Centre d'observation de l' Ile du Beurre:** an island whose changing landscapes bear witness to the Rhône's wild side
- **Tournon-sur-Rhône:** a town surrounded by reputed northern Côtes du Rhône vineyards
- **Les Tourettes:** known for its château and chapel.
- **Cruas:** magnificently restored abbey
- **Rochemaure:** medieval village set dramatically on an old volcanic dike
- **Montélimar:** Provençal town with the medieval Château des Adhémar
- **Viviers:** from Roman times, this little city attracted lords and merchants.
- **Bourg-Saint-Andéol:** Romanesque church and a rare carving of the Persian bull-slaying god Mithra

ITINERARY: LYON TO ARLES

Day 1: Lyon - Welcome aboard! Board your barge from 6.00 pm. If you arrive earlier you can leave your luggage on board from 2.00 pm. 7.00 pm meet your Captain, guide and crew. Enjoy a welcome dinner on board, and learn more about your tour and life on board for the next week.



Day 2: Discover Lyon. Cycle 40km - Boat 18km

Explore Lyon, a World Heritage site with a big Renaissance Old Town, Roman ruins, historic industrial districts and the regal 19th century Presqu'île quarter. The city built its fortune on the silk trade. Later in the day your bike trip takes you to the area between the Saône and Rhône rivers where you can further enjoy the parks and the history of this great city. During dinner cruise towards Vienne.



Day 3: Vienne to Andance to Tournon-sur-Rhône. Cycle 42km – Boat 22km

Today offers you a wide variety of views, tastes and fragrances. Leaving Vienne, cycle into the nature reserve Île au Beurre, a protected site with two observatories and an exhibition on beavers, plus aquariums with fish to be found in the Rhône. Pass through vineyards of the famous Côte Rôtie. You will then enter the green landscape of the Ardèche countryside, where you can find the boat moored in Andance. During dinner cruise to Tournon sur Rhône.

Day 4: Tournon-sur-Rhône – Valence – Pouzin. Cycle 35km – Boat 20km

This morning the captain and his crew start the day early and take you to the city of Valence, where the boat arrives after breakfast. This city, with its colourful markets and its' historic "Quartiers", is the starting point of your ride. Cycle through typical small villages of the Ardèche and its historic sites, through green meadows towards Pouzin in the Drôme region.





Day 5: Pouzin – Viviers. Cycle 42km

Today the tour takes you to the medieval abbey of Cruas. Further along, cross the memorable suspension bridge built in 1858 and restored in 2013. Explore Rochemaure, the medieval village set on an ancient volcanic dyke. At the end of the day park your bike next to the boat and enjoy a stroll through the historic village of Viviers which attracted lords and merchants in Roman times. Visit the cathedral, the 16th century Maison de Chevaliers, the belvedere and the outdoor sports and recreation centre.

Day 6 Viviers – Saint-Etienne-des-Sorts – Avignon. Cycle 40km – Boat 38km

After a morning cruise, start biking from Saint-Etienne-des-Sorts. From here cycle into the village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, home of the legendary red wine. Once you pass through the hilly landscape around Châteauneuf-du-Pape, you are rewarded with an almost complete flat bike path along the river. Soon panoramic views of the walled town of Avignon, the home of the Popes in the 14th century, comes into view. Wander the old streets, enjoy the French way of life on the squares with their terraces and just take in the culture.



Day 7: Avignon – Arles. Cycle 45km

Today cycle from the ancient city of Popes to the home of Van Gogh. Halfway arrive at Beaucaire where the Languedoc region and the Provence region meet. To end the day, we explore Arles with its' incredible Roman arena, still used today, and all the scenes van Gogh used to paint.

Day 8: Arles - 9.00 am Disembark after breakfast in Arles.

ITINERARY: ARLES TO LYON

Day 1: Arles - Welcome aboard! Board your barge from 6.00 pm. If you arrive earlier you can leave your luggage on board from 2.00 pm. 7.00 pm meet your Captain, guide and crew. Enjoy a welcome dinner on board, and learn more about your tour and life on board for the next week.

Day 2: Arles – Avignon. Cycle 45km

Today you bike from the home of Van Gogh to the ancient city of Popes, Avignon. Halfway you will arrive in Beaucaire, where the Languedoc region and the Provence region meet. After lunch you will soon have a first glance of the panoramic view of the walled town of Avignon home of the Popes in the 14th century.

Wander the old streets, enjoy the French way of life on the squares with their terraces and just breath the culture.

Day 3: Avignon – Saint-Etienne-des-Sorts – Viviers. Cycle 40km – Boat 38km

Today's route start with an almost complete flat section of the bike path along the river, while we bike away from the old streets, squares and terraces of Avignon towards the famous wine village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

The closer we come to Châteauneuf -du-Pape, the less flat the route will become. But with a rewarding view over the river and an nice wine, Châteauneuf-du-Pape is more than a treat. Not long after you have passed Châteauneuf-du-Pape, you will arrive in the small village of Saint-Etienne-des-Sorts, where the boat is moored and will start cruising around 6 pm towards Viviers, where we spend the night.

Day 4: Viviers-Pouzin. Cycle 42km

In the morning, before you hit the route, you can take some time to enjoy the scenery of Viviers. Today's bike tour will first bring you to an unusual, but memorable bridge. The rope bridge in Rochemaure can be seen as a symbolic passing from old to new, from history to the future. Continue to the medieval abbey of Cruas then finally to today's destination of Pouzin.

Day 5: Pouzin-Valence-Tournon sur Rhône. Cycle 35km – Boat 20km

This morning leave the Drôme area and ride into the Ardèche, with its' typical small villages and historic sites to wander amongst with your bike.

After a beautiful day of riding through nature, you can enjoy the city of Valence.

This city with its colourful markets and it's historic " Quartiers" is the end of our bike tour today and the beginning of our cruise towards Tournon sur Rhône.

Day 6: Tournon sur Rhône – Andance – Vienne. Cycle 42km – Boat 40km

Today experience a big variety of views, tastes and fragrances. Firstly cruise to Andance, during breakfast. From Andance, peddle through the green landscape of the Ardèche, which soon changes into one big vineyard. These grapes are the main ingredient of the famous Côte Rôtie wines.

Leave the vineyards behind you, and head towards Île au Beurre, a nature reserve, where the peace and quietness of nature reigns, just before reaching the town of Vienne.

During dinner time we will be cruising into Lyon to allow an early start tomorrow to explore this fascinating city.

Day 7: Lyon. Cycle 40km

Start by exploring the green site of Lyon this morning. This city received the title of UNESCO World Heritage in 1998 being a city with a cultural heritage that dates back over 2000 years.

This city that was once the capital of the Roman province Gallia and later the capital of Burgundy. The second part of your bike trip today takes you to the land between the rivers Saône and Rhône. Here you will find a nice balance between enjoying the parks and the history of this great city.

To discover the oldest (cobbled) streets take a stroll into the oldest part of town and park your bike near the riverside. You can choose not to take your bike today and enjoy a day on foot seeing the cultural highlights of this marvellous city.

Day 8: 9.00am Disembark after breakfast in Lyon.



GRADE

Moderate. Each day's cycling is on semi-paved paths and asphalt side roads. There are hilly stages but certainly worth the effort.

BIKES

Standard Bike – 24 Speed with hand brakes, pannier bags and a lock.

E-Bikes – Limited availability - 8 Speed, hand brakes, a pannier bag and lock.

HELMETS Helmets are compulsory on this tour. There are no helmets for rent so bring your own or there are a limited number for sale on board at around €25.

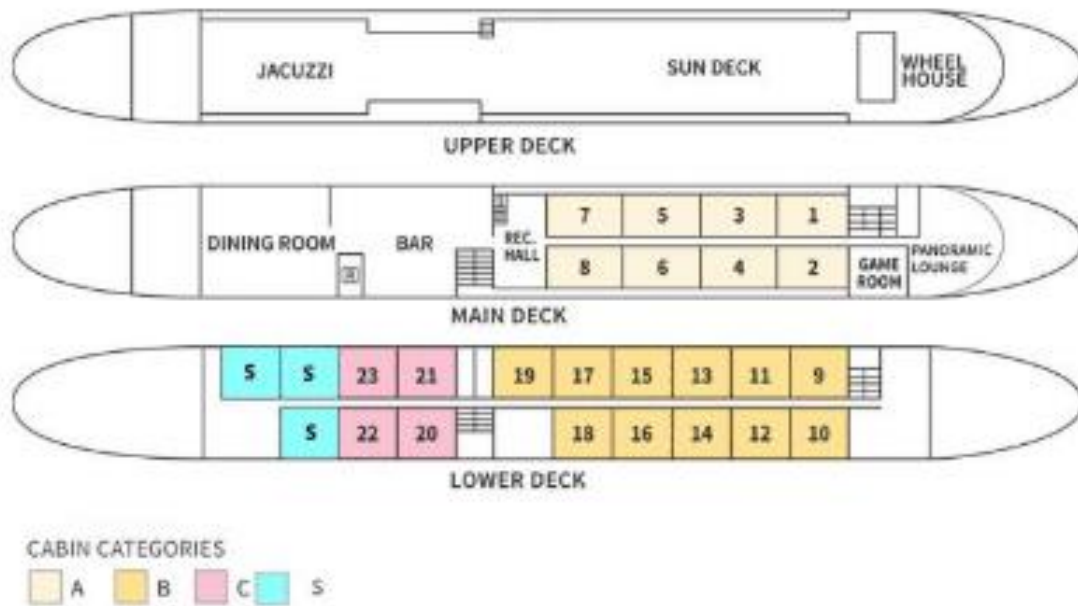
PREMIUM BARGE: MS PROVENCE: Maximum 49 guests (all departures guaranteed for 2020)



Designed specifically for the Rhône River, this custom-built ship has all outside cabins and provides an intimate cruising experience. Take time to relax after your biking day, in the bar and lounge, library or the open sun deck.

All cabins are approximately 19 sq. meters and feature a flat-screen TV with CNN, radio, direct-dial telephone, individual heating and air-conditioning controls, private bathroom with shower and hair dryer, complimentary wireless Internet access, 220 volt outlets and security safe.

The ship features a dining room with single open seating, bar and lounge with panoramic floor to ceiling windows, open sun deck with two jacuzzis, fitness equipment and air-conditioning throughout.



Imperial Suite Main Deck – Category A

Outside cabins with sliding doors to a balcony and full river views. 19.5 sq. m + balcony. Double bed. Sofa and balcony chairs.

Lavender Suite Lower Deck – Category B

Outside cabins with large portholes that do not open. 20 sq. m Twin beds.

Soleil Suite Lower Deck – Category C

Outside cabins with large portholes that do not open. 19.5 sq. m Twin beds.

Single Suite Lower Deck – Category S

Outside cabin with a porthole that does not open. 15.8 sq. m Single bed,



SCHEDULE 2020

****For the first 30 reservations from 13 January 2020 - Discount €500 per cabin 21 March, 28 March, 04 April, 11 April departures.**

Lyon – Arles

Season 1 – 21 March, 4 April, 3 & 17 October

Season 2 – 18 April, 11 & 25 July 8 & 22 August

Season 3 – 2, 16 & 30 May, 13 & 27 June, 5 & 19 September

Arles – Lyon

Season 1 – 28 March, 11 April, 10 & 24 October

Season 2 – 25 April, 4 & 18 July, 1 & 15 August

Season 3 – 9 & 23 May, 6 & 20 June, 29 August, 12 & 26 September

2020 COSTS – PER PERSON IN EURO

	Season 1	Season 2	Season 3
Imperial Suite	€2099	€2199	€2299
Lavender Suite	€1749	€1799	€1849
Soleil Suite	€1699	€1749	€1799
Single Suite	€1899	€1949	€1999
Bike rental	€ 80		
Electric Bike	€ 185		
Gluten free diet	€ 50		
Lactose free diet	€ 50		
Vegetarian diet	€ 50		

Tour can be guided with minimum 16 persons – ADD €150 per person

2020 COST INCLUDES:

- 7 night's accommodation
- Captains greetings and welcome cocktail
- Full board: 7 breakfasts, 6 dinners & food provided for 6 packed lunches. Meals include Regional specialities
- Coffee & tea onboard from 7.00am until dinner
- Complimentary drinkable water (dispensers on board)
- House wine, regular beer and soft drinks with dinner
- Afternoon home-made snack between 4pm and 6 pm
- Daily cabin cleaning with towels and bed linen
- All port and lock fees
- Wi Fi
- City walk in Lyon and Avignon
- City tours on GPS for towns visited during bike tour
- Daily information meeting
- Route book in English with information on sites en route
- Water bottle for the bike
- Cooling bag for your lunch
- Use of GPS device (a warranty will be required)

2020 DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Beverages other than dinner
- Transfers to and from the boat
- Dinner on shore in Avignon
- Entrance to museums
- Items of a personal nature
- Wine tastings, entrance to museums, excursions

PRE OR POST TOUR

If you would like to return to Avignon to spend extra nights, please ask for details on our Taste of Provence package which includes sightseeing, staying close to the Pope's Palace in the old city.

Book through:

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