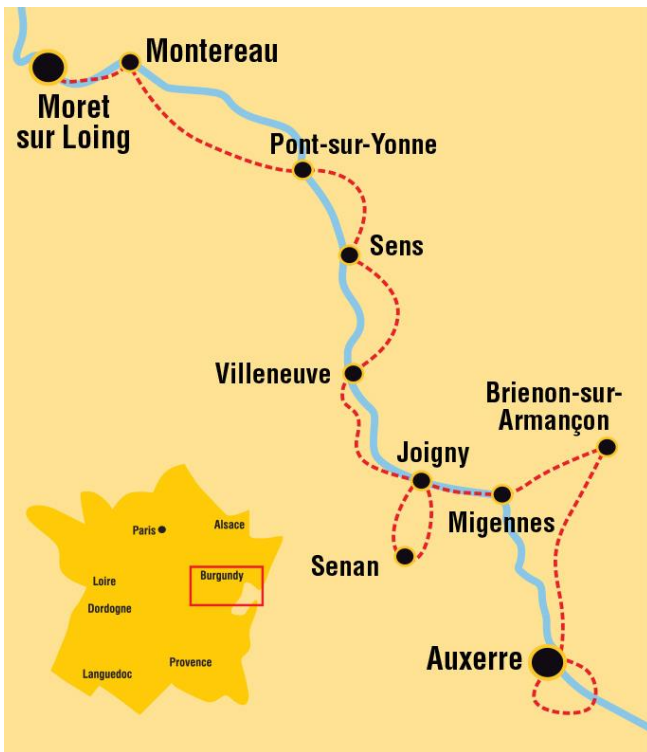


Cycling Europe

NORTHERN BURGUNDY, FRANCE

AUXERRE to MORET sur LOING & *vice versa*

Guided Tour Bike & Barge - 8 Days/7 Nights



Northern Burgundy, known as the land of fine art and living, offers a taste of the Burgundy way of life. This is an area of gently rolling countryside, ancient medieval villages, imposing castles, ancient monasteries, meandering rivers and of course, some of the best wines, cheeses, honey and ciders you will ever taste! Highlights include the Gothic cathedral of Sens, the art and culture cities of Auxerre and Joigny, Apiculture's Living Museum and the Burgundy wines and various tastings!

GRADE: Easy to moderate. Alternate between easy stretches of free-wheeling alongside the River Yonne and more challenging sections that lead to spectacular views.

ITINERARY AUXERRE to MORET-sur-LOING

Day 1 (Tue): Auxerre

Arrival in Auxerre and board your vessel from 2.00pm. After dinner on board you will have ample time to stroll through the beautiful river town of Auxerre with her majestic church spire, streets lined with 16th century timber houses and the Cathedral of Saint-Etienne, a true masterpiece of Gothic art.

Day 2 (Wed): Auxerre, Cycle 30km/42km

Today you have the option to either stay, relax and take in more of the sights of Auxerre, or begin your cycling adventure with your guide leading you along the Yonne River en route to “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 (Thu): Auxerre – Joigny, Cycle 26km/38km

Today strike out north, cycling through the Yonne River valley toward Joigny. If you choose the longer cycling route, you'll get to see the charming countryside of Briennon-sur-Armencon. Follow the beautiful Burgundy canal to Migennes where it crosses the Yonne River. Re-join your barge here for a relaxed afternoon cruise to Joigny, a picturesque little town that has a long and storied wine history as well as several historical monuments, ancient churches and townhouses with carved Renaissance facades from the 16 and 17 centuries.

Day 4 (Fri): Joigny – Villeneuve-sur-Yonne, Cycle 21km/42km

What better way to start the day than with a loop through the local vineyards for a tasting of some of Burgundy's finest wines! You'll return to Joigny for lunch, after which you have the option to either board the ship for a leisurely sail to Villeneuve-sur-Yonne or get back in the saddle for an afternoon ride to the town of Saint-Julien-du-Sault where you can visit the 13th century Saint-Pierre church with its magnificent stained-glass windows. Dock for the night in the lovely, lesser-known French town of Villeneuve where you are free to explore the medieval gate towers and romantic string of gardens as the sun sets over the countryside.



Day 5 (Sat): Villeneuve-sur-Yonne - Sens, Cycle 28km/52km

Today there are two cycling options – the short option follows the Yonne River, while the longer option takes you into the hills for a rewarding taste of the fine cider produced at the museum 'de Pomme et de Cidre'. Next stop is Sens, one of the oldest towns in France where you'll visit the first of the greater Gothic cathedrals in France, Cathedral Saint-Etienne. There will be plenty of time afterward to shop, stroll through the marketplace or wander around town to acquaint yourself with the many restaurants Sens has to offer. There is no dinner onboard tonight.

Day 6 (Sun): Sens – Pont-sur-Yonne, Cycle 20km/42km

If you decide to brave the longer cycle route today, it leads to a local honey producer where you can sample their delicious wild honey. 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.

Day 7 (Mon): Pont-sur-Yonne – Montereau - Moret, Cycle 33km/40km

On today's final 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 hop back on board the ship for a dinner cruise to your final destination, the charming medieval fortified town of Moret-sur-Loing where the famous painter Sisley drew inspiration for his work.

Day 8 (Tue): Moret-sur-Loing

After breakfast disembark until 9.30am



ITINERARY: MORET-sur-LOING - AUXERRE

Day 1 (Tue): Moret-sur-Loing

Embarkation begins at 2 p.m. After a warm welcome by the captain, crew and tour leader, you'll be fitted with your bike for the tour. Dinner will be served onboard, after which you can enjoy a moonlit stroll through Moret-sur-Loing, a charming medieval fortified town, situated on the banks of the Loing, where the painter Sisley found inspiration for his beautiful impressionist paintings.



Day 2 (Wed): Moret – Montereau – Pont sur Yonne, Cycle 33km/40km

Today begins with a leisurely breakfast while cruising to the town of Montereau-fault-Yonne, situated at the confluence of the Yonne and the Seine rivers. In Montereau you'll have an opportunity to visit the Notre-Dame-et-Saint-Loup collegiate church. Built between the 12th and 14th centuries, this church has been officially classified as a Historic Monument. From Montereau you will follow the canals of the Yonne River to Pont-sur-Yonne, a quaint, friendly town where you dock for the night.

Day 3 (Thu): Pont sur Yonne – Sens, Cycle 20km/42km

Today you have the option to follow the river valley to the town of Sens or take a longer ride into the countryside and visit a local honey producer. Sens is one of the oldest towns in France, here you'll visit the first of the greater Gothic cathedrals in France, Cathedral Saint-Etienne. There will be plenty of time afterwards to shop, stroll through the marketplace or wander around town. Near the town you'll find the 10-hectare Parc du Moulin à Tan, through which the Vanne and the Lingue run. It's named after an obscure type of mill that dates back to 1887 and was used to grind oak bark to make tanbark, a powder used in leather tanning. The Parc du Moulin à Tan includes a rose garden, an animal enclosure, an arboretum, and a playground.

Day 4 (Fri): Sens – Villeneuve sur Yonne, Cycle 28km/52km

Once more, there are two cycling options. The shorter one stays closer to the river, where the longer one takes you through the hills to the museum 'de Pomme et de Cidre' where you'll be rewarded with a taste of the fine cider they produce here. Dock for the night in the lovely, lesser-known French town of Villeneuve where you are free to explore the medieval gate towers and charming gardens as the sun sets over the countryside.



Day 5 (Sat): Villeneuve sur Yonne - Joigny, Cycle 21km/42km

Today you'll start the morning with a beautiful bike tour to the town of Saint-Julien-du-Sault where you can visit the 13th century Saint-Pierre church with its magnificent stained-glass windows. You'll then continue to Joigny where you'll follow a lazy loop through the local vineyards in the afternoon sunshine. Then (one of the highlights of the tour for wine-lovers!) the tour leader will show you some places to taste the finest Burgundy wines. Joigny, a picturesque little town with a very long and successful wine history, has several sights worth visiting, including numerous historical monuments, unique townhouses from the 16th-17th centuries with carved Renaissance facades, and ancient churches.



Day 6 (Sun): Joigny - Auxerre, Cycle 25km/38km

Enjoy another leisurely breakfast aboard as you cruise to Migennes at the junction of the Burgundy canal, once the centre of the shipping industry. You'll hop back on your bike at Migennes to follow the beautiful Burgundy canal as you head south to Auxerre with her majestic church spires, streets lined with 16 century timber houses and cathedral of Saint-Etienne, a true masterpiece of Gothic art. You can also stroll along the old port or visit the 15th century clock tower. Today there is no dinner on board, so you are free to choose one of the local restaurants for dinner.

Day 7 (Mon): Auxerre, Cycle 30km/42km

Today you are spoilt for choice when it comes to deciding how to spend your day. If you'd like to spend a lazy day strolling around Auxerre, feel free to enjoy this beautiful city however if you are keen to get back in the saddle, then explore the area of Auxerre together with your guide. Cycle along the Yonne to visit 'Caves de Bailly', a vineyard famous for its sparkling Cremant de Bourgogne and limestone caves. The nearby vineyards of St Bris and Irancy are also worth a visit, as are the paintings of George Hosotte in the Chapelle de Bailly.

Day 8 (Sat): Auxerre

After breakfast disembark until 9.30am

SCHEDULED DEPARTURES 2020:

FLEUR

Moret-sur-Loing - Auxerre: 2, 16 & 30 June

Auxerre – Moret-sur-Loing: 9 & 23 June, 7 July

ZWAANTJE

Moret-sur-Loing - Auxerre: 11 & 25 August, 8 September

Auxerre – Moret-sur-Loing: 18 August, 1 & 15 September



2020 TOUR COST PER PERSON IN EURO

Twin Cabin €1359

Single use of Cabin €2009

Bike Hire € 85

E Bike(limited) € 185 (limited availability)

Helmets: Included - must be requested at time of booking. It is not compulsory to wear a helmet.

BIKE INSURANCE

Limitation of liability (damage) standard bike **€10 per week**

Limitation of liability (damage) electric bike **€25 per week**

WHATS INCLUDED

- Accommodations for 8 days/ 7 nights in cabins with ensembles and air conditioning
- 7 x breakfasts, 6 x picnic lunches on bike tours, 6 x three course dinners
Note: Vegetarian meals are possible with no charge however gluten free or lactose intolerant are possible at a fee
- Bed linen and towels
- Daily cabin clean
- Welcome briefing and complimentary drink
- Tour leader (multilingual) for fully guided cycling tours (18 guests + = 2 guides)
- Some short walking tours
- GPS Tracks
- Fees for ferries
- Entrance Apicultures Living Museum, Cathedral Sens
- Wine tasting Bailly
- Wi Fi
- Complimentary tea and coffee daily
-

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Transfers to and from the Docks in Moret sur Loing and Auxerre
- 1 dinner in Sens or Auxerre
- Drinks on board
- Gratuities
- Excursions not mentioned in itinerary

GETTING THERE

Paris to Moret: There is a continuous train service between Paris (Gare de Lyon) and Moret. Trains depart regularly and the trip takes approx. 45 min and costs approx. €20.

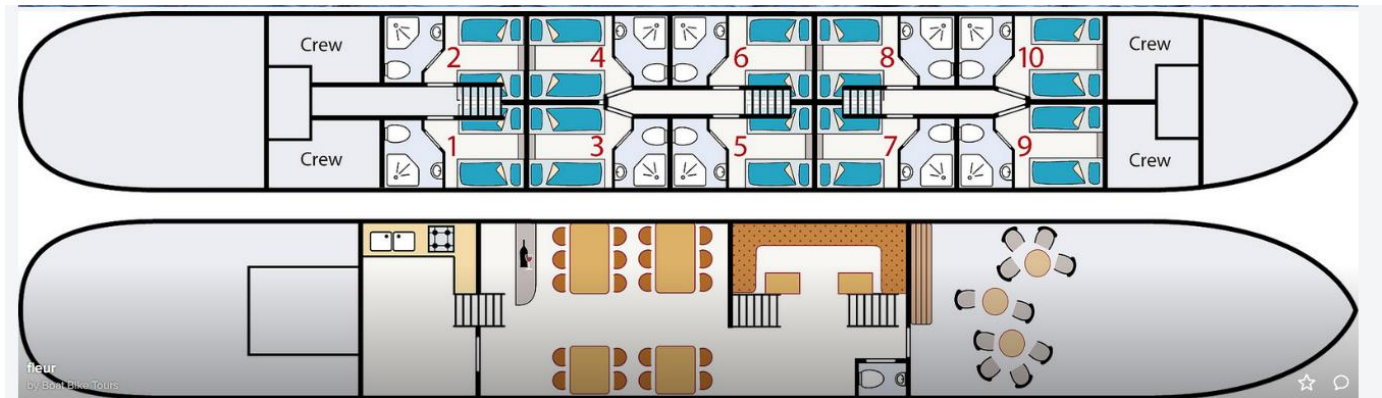
From the Gare de Lyon in Paris, a bus service is available every 30 minutes, Le Bus Direct nr. 4 (shuttle) to the airport Charles de Gaulle, which takes about 50 minutes. Approx.. € 22.

Paris to Auxerre: There is a continuous train service between Paris (Gare de Bercy) and Auxerre. Trains depart regularly and the trip takes approx. 2 hours and costs approx. € 30.

From the Gare de Lyon (close to Bercy) in Paris, a bus service is available every 30 minutes, Le Bus Direct nr. 4 (shuttle) to the airport Charles de Gaulle, which takes about 50 minutes. Approx.€ 22

COMFORT BARGE: MS FLEUR

Fleur started cruising in 2002. This tasteful passenger barge with its sleek lines was built to fit the smaller locks and canals in France and has been cruising the French waters ever since. Fleur can accommodate a maximum of 20 guests. On the top deck there is a lounge, a roomy sitting area, welcoming bar and sun deck. The whole barge has central heating, air conditioning and WiFi. On the lower deck Fleur has 10 comfortable guest cabins for two (no bunk beds) - each cabin has twin beds and a private bathroom.



COMFORT BARGE: MS ZWANNTJE



MS Zwaantje (Little Swan) is a fully converted, 40 metre passenger barge under Dutch flag and management that can accommodate 24 passengers. On the lower deck the barge has 12 sleeping cabins: 10 twin cabins with two single beds each and 2 cabins with a double (French) bed.

All cabins have a small en-suite bathroom with toilet, shower and wash basin, a fixed window (double cabins have larger windows that open) and individual air conditioning.

On the main deck you will find the salon with air conditioning and large panoramic windows, a restaurant area, lounge corner and a small bar. Depending on the quality of the network connection (mobile internet, limited data amount) the salon offers free Wi-Fi. The barge has a very spacious sun deck (90 square metres) with chairs and tables and a beautiful view, where you can relax or join the skipper in the wheel house. Bicycles will be stored in a separate area on the sun deck.

BOOK THROUGH:

A Walker's World

Don't just see the world. Experience it.

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