

# Cycling Europe

## CHATEAUX & VILLAGES OF THE SEINE PARIS TO MONTARGIS 2020

### Guided Tour by Bike & Barge - 8 Days/7 Nights

From the famous landmarks of Paris, follow the Seine south to a region rich in royal history. The palace of Fontainebleau is a magnificent example of this past. Just as impressive are the royal gardens that are perfectly symmetrical, designed by the **royal** architects of the French kings. Continue cruising and biking the forests of Fontainebleau heading for the artists' village of Barbizon. The area has been immortalised by French painters in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Continue along the Seine to Moret-sur-Loing, a cosy village on the banks of the Loing. From there follow the Canal du Centre to the beautiful medieval towns of Ferrieres and Chateau-Landon. Your final destination is Montargis, a picturesque town with pretty flower lined canals.

Experience great royal grandeur and rural rustic charm on this delightful Bike & Barge tour.



**GRADE:** Relaxed. Suitable for anyone in good physical condition and basic cycling skills. There will be two guides so you can decide if you want to join the longer or the shorter bike rides. Distances up to 45 kms per day; short slopes up to 100m, approx. 4 hrs cycling per day

## ITINERARY PARIS TO MONTARGIS

### Day 1 (Sat): Paris

Arrival in Paris and board your vessel Fleur from 2.00pm, moored in the centre of the city, not far from the Notre Dame. Late afternoon enjoy a walking tour through Paris with your guide. After dinner on board you will have a briefing about your barge, bikes and the tour programme.



### Day 2 (Sun): Paris – Evry by barge | Evry – Melun Cycle 30km

Breakfast while cruising. You spend the morning on board to enjoy Paris from the river. After lunch the bike tour starts from the lock of Evry and follows the banks of the river. Final destination of your bike tour is Melun, a town which is known as 'le domaine des reines blanches', because in former years it used to be the domain of the widows of the French kings. After dinner join a walk in the town.



### Day 3 (Mon): Melun – Moret-sur-Loing Cycle 40km

Today bike through the wonderful forests of Fontainebleau. First destination is the artistic village of Barbizon, where during the first half of the 19th century, many artists found inspiration. At the time, a group of landscape painters formed the 'school of Barbizon'. You can visit the local museum. After this continue to the palace of Fontainebleau, highly favoured by the French kings, for the hunting



grounds in the surrounding forests. In the palace there is a Napoleon museum, among other things. Fontainebleau is also a pleasant town to walk around or to shop.

Return to the barge at Moret-sur-Loing, a charming medieval fortified town, strategically situated on the banks of the Loing, where painter Sisley found inspiration for his beautiful impressionist paintings.

### Day 4 (Tue): Moret-sur-Loing – Nemours Cycle 24-51km



Overnight in the valley of the Loing and visit Grez-sur-Loing where many artists lived in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the town hall of Bourron-Marlotte you can admire magnificent impressionist paintings. Meet the barge again in Nemours. You can visit the castle or the prehistoric museum of the Ile-de-France region.

### Day 5 (Wed): Nemours – Néronville, Cycle 35km

Breakfast while the vessel cruises. Today bike through a wooded area with rugged rocks. Before

lunch visit the sculpture garden Jardin Bourdelle. Visit Egreville village, famous for its markets and fairs. Final destination of today is rural Néronville.

**Day 6 (Thu): Néronville –  
Montargis, Cycle 30-45km**

Today start in Chateau-Landon, a beautifully situated town, where we visit the Abbey of St.-Severin which dates from the 13th century. Further on is the medieval town of Ferrieres with its old town centre, which has been well preserved. Amongst the narrow streets find a splendid monastery. Final destination of today is Montargis, with its 15,000 inhabitants, the biggest town of the Loiret after Orléans.

Unfortunately, this former royal residence was destroyed by fire in the 16th century, but the canals are still there. They are decorated with lots of flowers and give the town a lot of charm. Today there is no dinner on board. You can select one of the local restaurants of Montargis.



**Day 7 (Fri): Montargis, Cycle 45km**

From Montargis bike along the l'Ouanne to Château-Renard, where we can visit the ruins of a castle from the 10th century. We will also visit Apiculture's Living Museum where beekeepers and their bees are at work. Sample their delicious honey.



**Day 8 (Sat): Montargis**

After breakfast disembark 9.30am

## ITINERARY: MONTARGIS TO PARIS



### Day 1 (Sat): Montargis

Arrive Montargis at 2 pm to board your vessel. Montargis has 15,000 inhabitants and is the biggest town of the Loiret after Orléans. Unfortunately, this former royal residence was destroyed by fire in the 16th century. But the canals are still there. They are decorated with lots of flowers and give the town a certain charm.

Meet your crew and get fitted with your bike and take a short test-ride. Time free till 6 pm when a welcome drink and dinner will be served. After dinner, join your guide for a walk of the town.

### Day 2 (Sun): Montargis, Cycle 45km

After breakfast bike from Montargis along the l'Ouanne to Château- Renard, where we can visit the ruins of a castle from the 10th century. We will also visit Apiculture's Living Museum where beekeepers and their bees are at work. You can sample their delicious honey. Today there is no dinner on board. You can select one of the local restaurants of Montargis.

### Day 3 (Mon): Montargis – lock of Cepoy by barge/ lock of Cepoy – Néronville Cycle 25-43km



Breakfast as you cruise to the lock of Cepoy. Cycle through the forests of Montargis, north-east of the town. These forests are old and beautiful. Next stop is the mediaeval town of Ferrieres with its old town centre, which has been well preserved. Among the narrow streets is a splendid monastery. Continue by bike to Egréville well renowned for its markets and fairs. Visit the sculpture garden "Jardin Bourdelle". Final destination of today is rural Néronville.

**Day 4 (Tue): Néronville – Nemours, Cycle 24-40km**

The route today is through an old area dating back to the Gallo-Roman era. First stop is the old Gallic stronghold of Château-Landon, a beautifully situated fortified town atop a rock. Its Abbey of St.-Severin dates to the 13th century. Later on find the rocks of Nemours before arriving in Nemours. There visit the castle or the prehistoric museum of the Ile-de France region.

**Day 5 (Wed): Nemours – Moret-sur-Loing, Cycle 24 or 45km**

Today stay in the valley of the Loing and visit Grez-sur-Loing. In the town hall admire a few magnificent impressionist paintings. Continue to Moret-sur-Loing, a charming medieval fortified town, strategically situated on the banks of the Loing, where painter Sisley found inspiration for his beautiful impressionist paintings. Visit the house where he was born.

**Day 6 (Thu): Moret-sur-Loing – Melun, Cycle 40km**



Today cycle through the wonderful forests of Fontainebleau. First destination is the city of Fontainebleau, with its palace, much favoured by the French kings for the surrounding hunting grounds. In the palace there is a museum of Napoleon, among other things. Fontainebleau is also a pleasant town to walk around or to shop. Continue to the artists' village of Barbizon, where during the early 19th century many painters found inspiration. At the time, a group of landscape painters formed the 'school of Barbizon'. Visit the local museum. Final destination today is Melun, a town which is known as 'le domaine des reines blanches', because in former years it used to be the domain of the widows of the French kings.

### Day 7 (Fri): Melun – lock of Evry / lock of Evry – Paris by barge, Cycle 31km



Approaching Paris you will encounter more traffic. In the morning there is a short bike ride, following the river banks of the Seine to the lock of Evry, from where you will join the barge to cruise into Paris. Lunch on board. The mooring place of the Fleur is in the centre of Paris not far from Notre Dame. After dinner you can join your guide for a city walk.

### Day 8 (Sat): Paris

After breakfast disembark at 9.30am

### SCHEDULE 2020:

Paris to Montargis: 18 July, 15 & 29 August

Montargis To Paris: 25 July, 08 & 22 August, 05 September

### 2020 TOUR COST PER PERSON IN EURO

**Twin Cabin** €1349

**Single use of Cabin** €1995

**Bike Hire** € 85

**E Bike (limited)** € 185

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

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

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

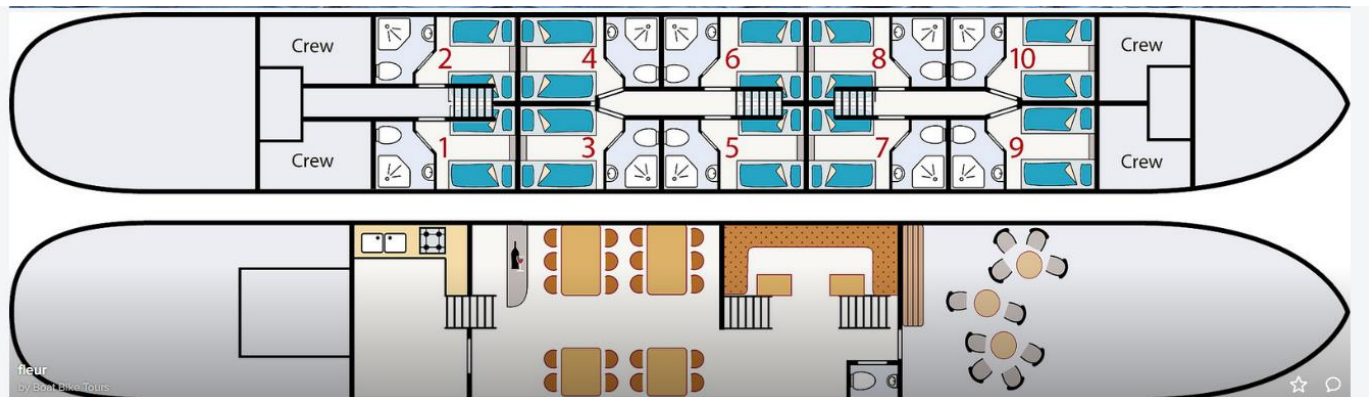
### WHATS INCLUDED

- 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)
- Entrance to Jardin Bourdelle
- Entrance to Apiculture's Living Museum
- Visit Townhall Bourron-Marlotte
- Guided visit Chateau-Landon
- Wi Fi
- Complimentary tea and coffee daily
- GPS Tracks

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Transfers to and from the ports in Paris and Montargis
- 1 dinner in Montargis and 1 lunch
- Drinks on board
- Gratuities
- Excursions not mentioned in itinerary
- Bicycle protection and trip insurance

## PREMIUM 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.***

## GETTING THERE

There is a continuous train service between Paris (Gare de Lyon) and Montargis. The trip takes approx. 1 hour 30 minutes and the fare is around €20. It is possible to arrange a taxi to take you from the station in Montargis to the barge (and vice versa).

A shuttle bus service (Le Bus Direct # 4) operates between Gare de Lyon in Paris and Charles de Gaulle Airport. It takes around 50 minutes and the fare is €18.00.



**BOOK THROUGH:**

# **A Walker's World**

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