

Cycling Europe

FRANCE 2019

PARIS & THE SEINE BIKE & BARGE CRUISE MORET-SUR-LOING to COMPIÈGNE VV Guided cycling 7 nights / 8 days



This Bike & Barge cruise takes you through beautiful scenery, iconic locations and fascinating villages PLUS it spends 2 nights in Paris, providing a unique view of one of the world's most romantic and loved cities. You'll visit one of France's largest royal châteaux, the Palace of Fontainebleau - its surrounding forest was once a royal hunting park but is now home to many of Europe's endangered species. You'll pedal scenic bike paths crisscrossing the winding rivers of Seine and Oise. You'll cycle through the symbolic forest of Compiègne where both the 1918 Armistice and the 1940 Armistice were signed with Germany. You'll see why the painters Van Gogh and Sisley were so inspired by the picturesque villages of Auvers-sur-Oise and Moret-sur-Loing. And on an evening cruise in France's capital, you'll discover 19th century Paris. You'll also have a day free in Paris to enjoy the city's stylish shopping, artistic treasures and quintessential architecture.

ITINERARY: MORET - COMPIÈGNE

DAY 1: SATURDAY Moret-sur-Loing/ Saint Mammès

Approx. 2pm, a bus transfer from Paris Gare du Nord (train station) will take you to your barge in Moret-sur-Loing. Moret is a picturesque medieval village on the edge of the forest of Fontainebleau. From 1889 to 1899 it was home to the artist Alfred Sisley, one of the great names in the Impressionist movement.

This evening take a short cycle ride to Saint Mammès, a traditional barge village at the confluence of the Seine and Loing rivers.

Overnight: Moret-sur-Loing

Cycling approx. 7 km





DAY 2: SUNDAY: Moret-sur-Loing → Melun

This morning you cycle to the 'true home of kings' - the magnificent 1900-room palace and beautiful gardens of Château de Fontainebleau (visit included). You'll then follow cycle paths along the River Seine through the quaint villages of Héricy and Samois-sur-Seine to the lovely little town of Melun. This evening your tour leader may take you for a city walk to show you the bridges, historical buildings and churches of Melun.

Overnight: Melun

Cycling: approx. 45kms



DAY 3: MONDAY: Melun → Vigneux-sur-Seine → Paris

After breakfast you will cycle along the Seine and through the forest of Domaine de Sénart, one of the oldest forests in Ile-de-France. When you reach the town of Vigneux-sur-Seine, then it's back on the barge for a cruise on the River Seine into Paris. The barge will moor for the night in the historic Bassin de Bastille in downtown Paris.

Overnight: Paris - Bassin de Bastille

Cycling: approx. 50kms

DAY 4: TUESDAY: Free day in Paris

Today is yours to enjoy the highlights of Paris of which there are many! In the morning there's a cruise by barge from Bassin de l'Arsenal to Bassin la Villette. This impressive sailing trip on the Canal St. Martin (appr. 2 1/2 hrs) takes you through a tunnel, along romantic bridges and through historic locks. From 10.30 am you are free to explore Paris and its highlights such as the Eiffel tower, museums (Louvre, Centre Pompidou), do some window shopping, etc. **Overnight: Paris - Bassin de La Villette**
Lunch and Dinner are not included onboard today.



DAY 5: WEDNESDAY: Paris → Bougival

Starting from downtown Paris on an easy cycling tour, mainly on cycle lanes following the River Seine, partly across the famous Bois de Boulogne to the village of Bougival, your peaceful mooring-place for the night. **Overnight: Bougival / Cycling: approx. 40kms**

DAY 6: THURSDAY:

Bougival → Auvers s/Oise → L'Isle Adam

Today your cycling trip passes the Château St. Germain-en-Laye, leads through Conflans Ste Honorine, the French barging capital, to the village of Auvers s/Oise. Here Vincent Van Gogh used to live and work. In the late afternoon rejoin the barge to cruise to L'Isle Adam, a charming village situated on the banks of the River Oise.

Overnight: L'Isle Adam

Cycling: approx. 40kms



DAY 7: FRIDAY: L'Isle-Adam → Creil → Compiègne

In the early morning you travel by boat to the town of Creil. Here you start a scenic cycling trip alongside the river Oise that leads to the imperial city of Compiègne. There are several options for a visit: the beautiful parc, the Napoleon IIIrd palace, the St. Jacques church (13th century). In the evening your tour leader may take you for a walk in the town centre.

Overnight: Compiègne

Cycling approx. 40kms

DAY 8: SATURDAY: Tour ends in Compiègne

Arrangements end after breakfast. It is possible to walk to Compiègne train station to catch a train back to Paris gare du Nord. (direct trains take only 40 – 60 minutes – ticket not included)

N.B. Itinerary is subject to change. Every alternate week the tour operates in the opposite direction i.e. from Compiègne to Moret-sur-Loing. Included in the tour is a one way bus transfer between Paris Gare du Nord (train station) and Moret-sur-Loing or vice versa.

GRADE

Easy cycling.

Helmets: Wearing helmets is not mandatory in France, however for this trip it is highly recommended you bring your own well fitted cycle helmet

BARGE ACCOMMODATION: CLAIR DE LUNE

Passengers: Maximum 17

During the winter of 2014 the waterways barge Clair de Lune was completely renovated. Five cabins are equipped with 2 split-level beds, 3 cabins have a double bed and one cabin is for single use. All cabins have own shower & toilet.

LUGGAGE & STOWAGE

We would advise you not to bring large suitcases. It is better to take soft bags which can be put under the beds. We therefore advise you to bring only what you will actually need, such as comfortable clothing, sportshoes or similar comfortable shoes with rubber soles (you can not wear shoes with high heels and/or with leather soles aboard the boat). Sunglasses, suncream and a cap, water- and windproof jacket; pocket torch, camera, passport and money.



2019 DEPARTURES

MORET-SUR-LOING to COMPIÈGNE

May: 25
June: 8, 22
August: 31*
September: *14, *28
Denotes * High season

COMPIÈGNE to MORET-SUR-LOING

May: 18
June: 1, 15
August: 24
September: *7, *2

2019 TOUR COST (PER PERSON IN EUROS)

Double/ Twin Share	€1041
High Season surcharge	€84 (Aug 31; Sep 7, 14, 21 & 28)
Single Supplement	€224
Bike insurance	€28 (optional, can be prepaid or paid on the boat)
Electric Bikes	€145 – limited number

TOUR COST INCLUDES

- 7 nights accommodation in a cabin with own shower & toilet.
- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 6 dinners. One lunch and one dinner not included in Paris. On tours starting in Compiègne no dinner on Wednesday and if starting in Moret sur Loing no dinner on Tuesday.
- Travel guidance during cycling and city walks
- Bike with 24 gears and pannier
- Information booklet and map
- Wine/cheese tasting
- Several city walks
- Visit to Chateau Fontainebleau
- One way transfer by bus between Paris Gare du Nord and Moret-sur Loing (or vice versa)

COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Train ticket from to/from Compiègne (to /from Paris Gare du Nord)
- Travel or bike Insurance
- Excursions not in the programme
- Drinks on board
- Lunch and dinner on the rest day in Paris
- **Bike helmet - we highly recommend taking your own helmet for this trip**

Special diet catering has a surcharge of €50 (eg gluten free, dairy free, vegan, etc). If you are a "lacto-ovo" vegetarian (eats dairy & eggs) or require a diabetic or low sodium diet there is no extra charge.

Arrival /departure Information:

- **Tour starting in Moret:** The meeting time is approx. 2 pm at Paris Gare du Nord station. You will get to Moret around 4 pm. At the end of the tour you can catch the train from Compiègne back to Paris Gare du Nord, the direct train take from 39 min to 1 hour (ticket not included)
- **Tour starting in Compiègne: Boarding is from 3 pm.** Trains from Paris Gare du Nord take from from 39 min to 1 hour (train ticket not included). The dock in Compiègne is near the train station, so it is possible to walk to the boat (10-15 min, we will supply a map). If you arrive early you can leave your bags on the boat from 9.30 am, and do some sightseeing in Compiègne (your cabin will not be ready). The boat will stay the first night in Compiègne, so if you arriving late, that's OK, but you may miss dinner.
At end of tour the bus transfer from Moret to Paris Gare du Nord will be around 9.30am arrive Paris approx. 11.30am. Do not book onward travel before 12:30 pm.



Barge Clair de Lune



ALL CABINS HAVE OWN SHOWER & TOILET



Double



Single

Reverse Itinerary: Compiègne to Moret-sur-Loing

SATURDAY: Boarding in Compiègne, Cycling appr. 12 km

(Take the train from Paris Gare du Nord to Compiègne, ticket not included). The barge is moored in the vicinity of the train station. The crew and the tour leader welcome you aboard and you'll settle in. There's a trial cycling tour around Compiègne and you pass the beautiful parc, the Napoleon IIIrd palace, the St. Jacques church (13th century)

SUNDAY: Compiègne - Creil - l'Île Adam, Cycling appr. 40 km

First you make a scenic cycling trip from the imperial city of Compiègne alongside the river Oise to Creil. You embark and sail with the barge to l'Île Adam, one of the most charming villages of Île de France, your stay for the night

MONDAY: l'Île Adam- Auvers s/Oise – Bougival, Cycling appr. 45 km

A relaxed sailing trip takes you to Auvers sur Oise, where Vincent Van Gogh used to live and work. You have some time to look around and experience this nice village. Your cycling trip passes the château St. Germain-en-Laye and leads through Conflans Ste. Honorine, the French Barging capital, to Bougival, your peaceful mooring-place for the night.

TUESDAY: Bougival - PARIS/Bassin La Vilette, Cycling appr. 40 km

An easy-going cycling tour heading for Paris, mainly on cycle lanes along the river Seine, partly across the St. Germain forestry and the pretty Bois de Boulogne to the mooring-place 'Bassin La Vilette' in down-town Paris.

WEDNESDAY: Bassin La Vilette - Bassin de l'Arsenal, Free time in Paris

In the early morning your barge cruises from Bassin La Vilette to Bassin de l'Arsenal. This impressive sailing trip on the Canal St. Martin (appr. 2,5 hours) takes you through a tunnel, along romantic

bridges and through historic locks. You leave the barge to explore Paris and its highlights such as the Eiffel tower, museums (Louvre, Centre Pompidou), do some window shopping, etcetera.

Dinner is not included onboard tonight

THURSDAY: Paris - Ablon sur Seine – Melun, Cycling appr. 45 km

The barge leaves Paris and sails the Seine river till Ablon-sur-Seine. Here you disembark and start the cycling trip. Following the river Seine and crossing the forestry of Domaine de Senart your trip ends in Melun, an attractive provincial town. Your tour leader will take you on an easy-going city walk and will show you several nice bridges, attractive historical buildings and churches.

FRIDAY: Melun to Moret-sur-Loing, ! Cycling appr. 45 km

Today you cycle to the impressive castle and the beautiful gardens of Château de Fontainebleau (for a visit entrance included). The tour continues to St. Mammés and ends in Moret-sur-Loing, a picturesque mediaeval village famous for its impressionists painting souvenirs and artists like Alfred Sisley.

SATURDAY: Tour ends At Paris Gare du Nord station

After breakfast, say good-bye to the crew and your tour leader. Around 9.30 am you will be transferred by bus to the train station Paris-Gare-du-Nord. Arrive Paris approx. 11.30am. Do not book onward travel before 12:30 pm.

(Itinerary subject to change)

Book through:

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