

Cycling
Self-guided

Premium Boat

France



Tour description

Day 1	
Meet Barge in Paris	
Day 2	35 km
To Lagny-sur-Marne	
Day 3	22 or 42 km
To Meaux	
Day 4	30 or 52 km
To La Ferté-sous-Jouarre	
Day 5	42 km
To Château -Thierry	
Day 6	35 or 50 km
To Dormans - Epernay	
Day 7	17 or 25 km
Epernay circular ride	
Day 8	
End of Services	

Floating Adventure: Champagne

Champagne arouses all of your senses; your eyes feast on vines flourishing up hillsides, you hear the tiny bubbles as you clink your glasses and enjoy the heavenly bouquet of each glass. Visit the distinguished Champagne cellars, learn from the master as they reveal the magical process – governed by the strictest of rules - that transform the world’s most pampered Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay grapes into this region’s most fabled wines. Our cycling tour takes in the best of this fascinating region, now a Unesco World Heritage site.



Tour Details 2020

From Paris: May 16, 30 June 13
From Epernay: May 23 June 6, 20
Cost: \$2095 per person
Single Cabin Upgrade: + 50%

Bike Rental: \$175
Length: 8 days / 7 nights
Grade: Moderate with some hills
Starts / Ends: Paris / Epernay

Fast Facts

Includes:

- 7 nights accommodation, with all meals included (breakfast, 6 packed lunches and 6 dinners on board)
- Tour manager
- Route notes daily (1 per cabin)
- GPS tracks available
- Champagne and Brie tastings

E-Bike Info:

- E-bike rental: \$375
- Limited supplies on boat, reservations recommended upon booking



Day 1 Paris

Embarkation starting at 14:00 at the Quai d'Austerlitz on the Seine in Paris. Dinner on board. First briefing about the barge, bicycles and program.

Day 2 To Lagny-sur-Marne 35 km

Leave Paris by bike via the canal de l'Ourcq. A bike path leads from the place de la Bastille to the basin of la Vilette to the banks of the l'Ourcq. This canal was built by order of Napoleon Bonaparte. The canal provided the city with water and played an important role in the transportation of goods to and from the city. Destination of today is Lagny-sur-Marne, a charming little town along the Marne.

Day 3 To Meaux 22 or 42 km

During breakfast the barge will sail on the Marne river through the outskirts of Paris to Lagny-sur-Marne, passing through the tunnel near Saint-Maurice. Upon arrival guests begin cycling along the river canal and their first climbing challenge on the hill near Chalifert. Today's destination is the city of Meaux, famous for its "Brie de Meaux" cheeses and the magnificent Cathedral St.-Etienne.

Day 4 To La Ferté-sous-Jouarre 30 or 52 km

After breakfast start cycling through the centre of Meaux, before heading off to the hills and slopes of the Marne valley and through forests and small villages on the southern and northern banks of the river. The longer option stays in the valley of the river in the morning with a ride through Trilport and Lizy-sur-Ourcq. There will be time to enjoy a tasting of the famous Brie de Meaux and Brie noir cheeses.

Day 5 To Château-Thierry 42 km

Today will be a bit more challenging riding from La-Ferté-sous-Jouarre to Château-Thierry, riding through forests, villages and valleys. There's an opportunity to stop at the WW1 American War Cemetery and Monument near Belleau, before starting your descent and reaching Château-Thierry.

Day 6 To Dormans-Epernay 35 or 50 km

Choose between a longer or a shorter bike ride today while entering the official Champagne area. Cycle along the Marne river or cruise to the quiet village of Dormans. Visit Château de Boursault, a large castle built in 1848 by the widow of Mr. Cliquot, who gave her name (Veuve Cliquot) to a famous Champagne wine. A ride up the northern valley slope to the village of Châtillon-sur-Marne offers stunning panoramic views over the Marne valley and the Champagne vineyards.

Day 7 Epernay round tour 17 or 25 km

The last half day's bike ride is along the quiet canal parallel to the Marne river to Ay and Mareuil-sur-Ay, with a return via Dizy to visit Hautvillers, a picturesque village of Champagne wine growers on the southern slopes of the Montagne de Reims. Highlight is a visit of the chapel with the tomb of the infamous monk Dom Pérignon. Return cycling to Epernay for lunch and a tour. Together with Reims, Epernay is the major wine centre of the Champagne region, where three extensive wine regions meet - the Montagne de Reims, the Côte des Blancs and the Vallée de la Marne. Epernay has many town houses depicting neo-renaissance and classical styles dating from the 19th C, especially around the beautiful Avenue de Champagne, where prestigious champagne houses such as Moët & Chandon are situated. Champagne tasting and tour in one of the major Champagne houses.

Day 8 Epernay

Disembark after breakfast at 09:30 near the train station.



What to Expect

What will the weather be like?

The weather is nice and cool especially in the mornings and evenings. A sweater or fleece would be useful. It may rain so rain gear for cycling is highly recommended.

How many hours of cycling a day?

You can cycle from 4 to 6 hours a day depending on your fitness level. There are several breaks during the day to get off the bicycle and walk around. The route is a bit hilly, moderate fitness required. Pedal on your own or with the group—your choice.

How fit do I need to be?

The fitter the better, but even a fit beginner will enjoy this trip. The biggest issue may just be getting accustomed to sitting on a bike for hours a day, so get used to riding on a bike before coming out.

What is the barge like?

The 24-passenger boat is cruising in France. It has a spacious lounge and bar area with comfortable sofas and arm chairs and separate dining room, all with large picture windows. The lounge opens to the sundeck at the bow with a fixed awning and tables and chairs. On the lower deck are 10 comfortable cabins, with twin beds, and 2 with French beds (small doubles) in an L-shape configuration, averaging 72 sq ft, with an ensuite bathroom with shower, sink and toilet.

What are the bikes like?

We have a large selection of unisex bikes with 21 gears with upright handlebars, handbrakes, equipped with 1 pannier bag, 1 water bottle and lock.

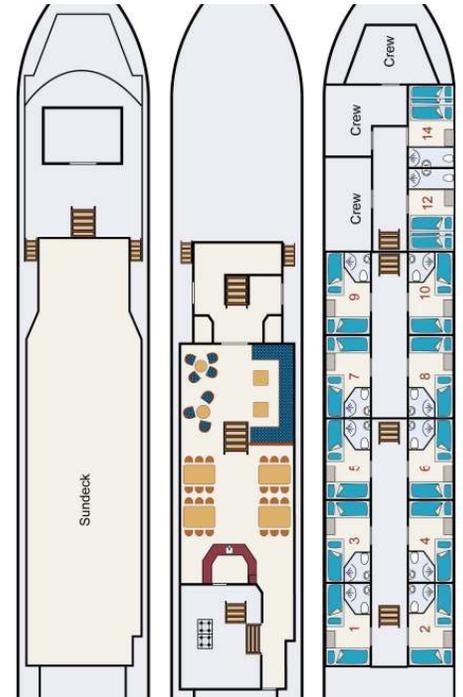


Not Included:

- ◆ Transfers to/from barge
- ◆ Beverages on board
- ◆ Gratuities (at your discretion)
- ◆ Entrance fees and excursions (not mentioned in itinerary)
- ◆ Lactose/Gluten-free diets add \$100, vegan diets not available

Getting There

To Paris Charles de Gaulle by plane. Take the Metro or a taxi to the barge at the Quai de Bercy on the Seine. Arrive Paris Gare-de-l'Est train station and connect to Epernay (cost approx. 22€, journey approx. 1h 15min). Quai de l'Île de Bélon is a short taxi ride from SNCF train station.



How to book your holiday

- Contact our office to make sure there is space available. One of our travel planners will walk you through the entire process.
- Download the reservation form from our site and send in completed form by fax or email. Once this is done, your space is confirmed and a pre-departure packet will be sent.
- A deposit is required immediately, and final payment is due 60 days prior to the trip departure. Terms & conditions are outlined in our Reservation Form.
- Plan your air travel as soon as possible.
- We encourage you to purchase travel insurance, either through us or a travel insurance provider directly.
- Ensure you are in proper health for the trip chosen. Contact us, for more information on vaccinations, inoculations, and fitness requirements.