

2007
Season

The Barge Company

Relax, Unwind and Let the World Float by...™



Itinerary

Pictures

Client Quotes

Food + Wine

Deck Plan

'Merganser'

Cruising in Central and Northern France

France and Belgium (Champagne, the Ardennes, River Meuse, River Seine and Paris, Burgundy, Upper Loire, Southern Burgundy)

- 80 FEET LONG
- 8 GUESTS
- 3-4 CREW
- 5 CABINS—3 TWINS AND 2 SINGLES - EACH WITH PRIVATE EN SUITE BATHROOM
- CENTRAL HEATING
- LIBRARY



The Merganser is a traditional conversion of an old Dutch barge designed specifically for cruising on the waterways of Europe. There are eight berths in total - three twin cabins and two single cabins, all with en suite facilities. The dining, lounge areas and cabins are all on one level, and there is a large sun deck with comfortable seating up above. The wheelhouse is spacious and passengers can sit there and enjoy the views even when the weather is less favourable. Guests enjoy very good food and wine, with all dishes freshly prepared on board by your personal barge chef using local produce. As with all barges, special diets can be catered for with advance notice.

2007 PRICES (USD)

Charter for up to 8 Guests

Concessions on price and alternative arrangements for transfers may be made for whole boat charters (5 persons or more). Please enquire for details.

Individual Cabin Bookings (per guest sharing a twin or in a single cabin)

\$1,750

Cruise Highlights, depending on your itinerary, may include:

Reims Cathedral
Cruising through Paris on the River Seine
Moret sur Loing—home of Alfred Sisley (famous Impressioniste painter)
The pretty town of Montargis
The Briare Aqueduct over the River Loire (designed by Gustave Eiffel)
Chateau Vaux le Vicomte
Château at St Aubin-sur-Loire
Beaune and its historic hospice
The Marne Valley
Champagne-tasting in private caves
Vitry-le-Francois

PICK-UP: Arrangements will be in place to transfer passengers from and to the nearest Eurostar terminal (Paris, Lille or Brussels, depending on the cruise area) at the start and finish of their cruise. Eurostar bookings from London Waterloo may be arranged on request. Passengers may instead elect to be transferred from locations in Paris, Lille or Brussels or the major airports serving these cities, again depending on cruise area.

DROP-OFF: After breakfast at 10am on the last day, by arrangement with the barge.

CRUISES START ON A SATURDAY AND END ON THE FOLLOWING FRIDAY

TO CONTACT US...

Phone: 0033 563 02 87 04, Fax: 0033 563 02 24 11
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Cruise Schedule and Sample Itinerary

Below is the interesting and varied list of Merganser cruise itineraries for the 2006 season. Make sure you book yours with us in good time so that you don't miss out! 2007 schedule coming shortly—please e-mail us if you need this information urgently.

2006 Schedule (2007 details to follow shortly)

May 27-June 2	Vitry-le-Francois to Reims	Champagne vineyards, Reims Cathedral, Chalons-en-Champagne
June 3-June 9	Reims to Rethel	Canal de l'Aisne a la Marne, River Aisne, Canal des Ardennes
June 10-June 16	Rethel to Charleville-Mezieres	Canal des Ardennes, River Meuse
June 17-June 23	Charleville-Mezieres to Namur	River Meuse, Dinant
June 24-June 30	Namur to Charleville-Mezieres	River Meuse, Dinant
July 1-July 7	Charleville-Mezieres to Rethel	River Meuse, Canal des Ardennes
July 8-July 14	Rethel to Reims	Canal des Ardennes, River Aisne, Canal de l'Aisne a la Marne
July 15-July 21	Reims to Epernay	Champagne vineyards, Reims Cathedral, Chalons-en-Champagne
July 22-July 28	Epernay to Paris	Champagne vineyards, River Marne, River Seine
July 29-Aug 4	Paris to Montereau	River Seine, Fontainebleau, Vaux-le-Vicomte
Aug 5-Aug 11	Montereau to Briare	Canal du Loing, Moret sur Loing
Aug 12-Aug 18	Briare to Nevers	Canal de Briare, Loire valley, Sancerre, Briare Aqueduct
Aug 19-Aug 25	Nevers to Briare	Canal de Briare, Loire valley, Sancerre, Briare Aqueduct
Aug 26-Sept 1	Briare to Montereau	Canal du Loing, Moret sur Loing
Sept 2-Sept 8	Montereau to Paris	River Seine, Fontainebleau, Vaux-le-Vicomte
Sept 9-Sept 15	Paris to Epernay	Champagne vineyards, River Marne, River Seine
Sept 16-Sept 22	Epernay to Vitry-le-Francois	Marne valley, Champagne Vineyards

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More Pictures...

(Click on an image to enlarge)

[Cruising in Paris...](#)



[...and the Upper Loire.](#)



[Her curvacious stern...](#)



[...and pretty bow.](#)



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Here are just a few of the things that past clients have had to say about their cruises on the MERGANSER...

The cruise was truly delightful in every aspect, and way beyond our expectations.

(W.P. Seattle USA)

This must be the friendliest barge ever to cruise in France. The crew were so attentive and knowledgeable of the area, and the food was great.

(D.D. London)

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Food and Wine

Sheila Purdue—owner and operator of the pretty Merganser barge—gives us an insight into the food and wine served on board their barge...

"The cuisine on board is designed to meet all tastes and with much emphasis laid on the use of fresh local foods, in particular the excellent vegetables, salads and fruits. France excels in its great variety of breads and patisseries, as well as wonderful *charcuterie* (cold meats), and these are always enjoyed by our passengers. To accompany the meals we choose our wines with great care - once again using local products wherever appropriate.

Any type of dietary requirements can be supplied, as long as the chef knows details in advance."

Sheila Purdue, Merganser

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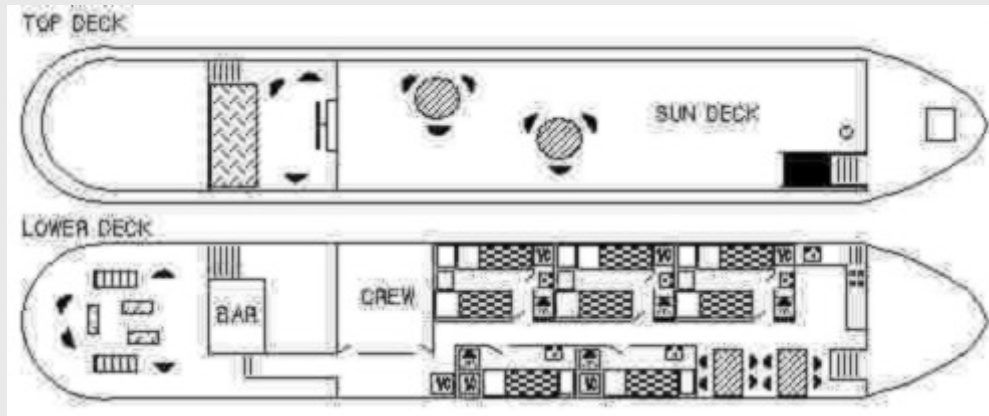
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