

All Inclusive River Cruise

Hotel Barge

NYMPHEA



Barge Cruise and Tours in
the Loire Valley, France

www.LoireBargeCruise.com

NYMPHEA

The Only Hotel Barge in the Real Loire Valley



All Inclusive River Cruise

What's Included

Six nights aboard Nymphéa

Local transfers to and from the hotel barge.

All meals on board for the duration of the voyage.

An open bar, plus all wines.

The use of barge facilities.

Entrance fees for all excursions.

Enjoy a relaxing week long cruise aboard Nymphéa, a converted Dutch barge travelling through France's château country. The cruise is equipped to accommodate groups of up to six guests.

Discover the Loire Valley

The Valley of the Kings is as rich in history and legend as it is in beauty, and over the centuries, fortunately, little has changed.

The River Loire and its main tributary the River Cher have transported passengers and cargo for more than 2000 years.

There is much to discover in the Loire Valley, from the fabulous châteaux to the centuries old villages dotted along the river.

Wind your way through the narrow streets perhaps discovering hidden shops with hand-painted pottery or stumble across an open market. Meet a winemaker or a cheese maker and learn why his goats cheese is the most famous in France.

Themed Cruises

As well as the popular classic cruise, various themed cruises are available.

These include, a golf cruise, a cycling cruise, a family cruise and a special occasion or honeymoon cruise.

Highlights

- Visit Leonardo da Vinci's home
- Experience the colourful street markets
- Private wine tastings at Montrichard and Civray
- Cruise under the famed Château de Chenonceau
- Château visits to Villandry, Amboise and Valençay
- All-inclusive open bar, free wines, gourmet cuisine
- Visit to a Troglodyte cave dwelling, and a silkworm nursery



Please visit our website for available weeks and prices
www.LoireBargeCruise.com

The Classic Cruise Itinerary

Day 1 · A Champagne Welcome

Moulin de Nitray – Your first evening on board is spent unwinding from your day of travelling. Simply unpack, settle in and enjoy a 'Champagne Welcome' followed by a delicious evening meal.

Day 2 · Château de Villandry and its Famous Renaissance Gardens

Moulin de Nitray to Larçay – Your day starts with a sumptuous breakfast spread. After cruising through two locks we arrive at the quaint town of Larçay where we moor for lunch under the weeping willows.

In the afternoon you will be driven by minibus to the Château de Villandry, with its world-renowned renaissance gardens. Return to the barge for refreshments and evening dinner served aboard.

Day 3 · Château d'Amboise and Leonardo da Vinci's home

Larçay to Vallet – Enjoy the scenery on our leisurely morning cruise as we pass several private chateaux scattered along the riverside. We moor opposite the hamlet of Vallet, a cluster of classic Tourangeau architecture grouped around its 18th century mill.

After lunch we leave for our excursion by minibus to the town of Amboise on the banks of the Loire River, where we visit the Royal Château d'Amboise and the Clos Luce, Leonardo da Vinci's home. Dinner is served aboard.

Day 4 · Wine Tasting and Visit the Château de Chenonceau

Vallet to Chisseaux – While cruising in the morning we may pull in to the tiny landing stage next to Domaine de Fontenay. A two minute walk brings us to their courtyard where we can taste their range of Touraine wines as an aperitif before lunch moored at Bléré.

In the afternoon we cruise under the 5 arch bridge of the impressive Château de Chenonceau and moor at Chisseaux. From there we depart by minibus to visit the Château. You will be taken out tonight in one of the local restaurants specializing in regional cooking.

Day 5 · Château de Valençay and a Troglodyte Home

Chisseaux to Montrichard – A cruise in the morning takes us towards the troglodyte village of Bourré. After lunch we drive to Valençay, and visit one of the most splendid chateaux of the Loire and the home of Talleyrand, Napoleon's foreign minister.

Once back on board we cruise to the next lock from where we take a short walk to visit one of the more unusual dwellings in the Loire Valley, La Magnaneraie. The Coquillat family have grown up in this hillside troglodyte habitation and over the years it has been, a wine cellar, a quarry for the tuffeau stone, and lastly a silkworm nursery.

Day 6 · Busy Street Market and Wine Tasting

Montrichard to Nitray – After breakfast, we take a short stroll to explore one of the largest weekly street markets in Touraine, held in the historic town of Montrichard. Wander around the 12th Century Château of Foulques Nerra and its dungeon which overlooks the medieval town square. Before lunch we can visit the local vineyard of the Meriau family, to taste the regional Touraine vintages. After an early lunch, Nymphaea sets off downstream, for another passage under Chenonceau and arrives at the hamlet of Nitray in time to visit the Château and 'English rose garden' of Nitray. Enjoy a pre-Captain's dinner aperitif from their vineyards. Captain's Farewell Dinner is served aboard.

Day 7 · Nitray to Tours

Nitray to Tours – After breakfast, disembark, and return by minibus to St Pierre des Corps Station arriving there at 9.30am

This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change



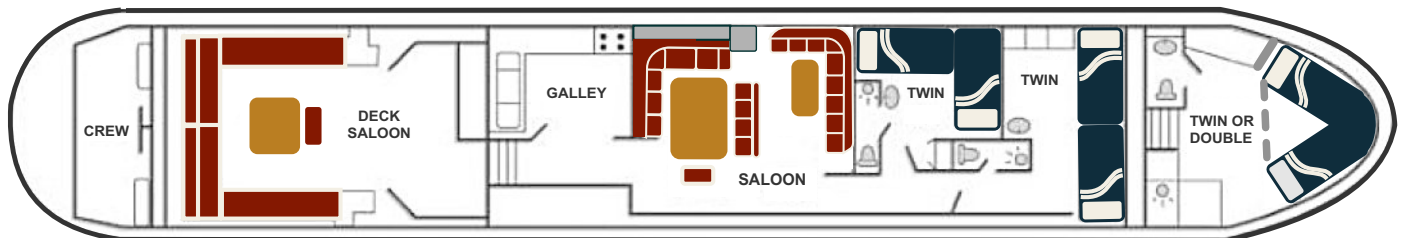


Accommodation

Nymphea has three comfortable cabins providing two twin bedded staterooms and one twin or double stateroom all with en-suite facilities.

Nymphea is 81ft long by 14ft wide. The dining saloon is decorated in a warm classic decor of rich varnished hard woods, stained glass and brass light fittings which provides a welcoming country house atmosphere. There are six bikes aboard for independent exploring, and an air conditioned minibus for daily excursions.

Below Deck Plan



Interior





Optional Cruise Themes

For charter groups a selection of cruise themes are available.

Family Cruise with Children

Children will love this barging adventure. To keep them entertained there is a trip to the Aquarium and model village. There is also a visit to Leonardo daVinci's home to discover his fabulous inventions, an afternoon at the Zoo Park, and a trip on a gabarre on the river Loire. They will also enjoy discovering life in a troglodyte habitation and seeing the silk worm nursery. (Excursions included in the price).

The minimum age of children accepted on board is 12 years except for private charters for which children under 12 years are welcome. All children under the age of 18 years accepted on board, qualify for a discount.

Honeymoon or Special Occasion Cruise

Enjoy Champagne and candle-lit dinners, an optional hot air balloon flight and dine out in a Michelin star restaurant. Included are visits to the famous Loire Valley castles and wine tastings.

Golf Cruise

The Loire valley offers a variety of golf courses. The golf themed cruise provides not only great golf, scenery, food and wine, but a truly unique experience in this idyllic region of France. Enjoy four different 18 hole golf courses, including Les Bordes Golf Course, which is considered world class. (Supplement per golfer).

Cycling Cruise

Combine a river cruise with cycling in the picturesque Loire Valley. All of our cruises include the use of six bicycles. This package is for the more serious cyclists. Included with the barge cruise is an upgrade of the bicycles for the duration of the cruise and the services of a cycling guide with a vehicle and trailer for the bikes. (Supplement per cruise).

Ballooning

An optional hot air balloon ride is available all cruises.





More Information

Cuisine

The six night cruise includes all meals which are freshly prepared by the onboard chef and one evening dining out at one of the local restaurants specializing in regional cooking.

The cuisine on board Nymphaea is French. A selection of regional cheeses and French wines are featured with lunch and evening meals. The dishes are prepared using fresh ingredients and the evening meal is typically a four course menu.

A large range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks are also available from the open bar at all times.

If there are any special dietary requirements such as vegetarian, food intolerances, allergies etc. these can be catered for on request at the time of booking.

Getting there

Cruises begin on Sunday afternoons. The nearest city is Tours. If travelling by train from Paris, there is a TGV high speed train from Montparnasse which arrives at St.Pierre de Corps station, 55 minutes later. From there, you will be met by the ships minibus for a 25 minute transfer.

There is also a direct TGV high speed train from Charles de Gaulle International Airport.

Upon departure, we have an early train to Paris for those who would like a complete day in the capital leaving from St.Pierre early on Saturday morning. Alternatively take a leisurely breakfast, and the next direct Paris train leaves just after 10 a.m, arriving in Paris an hour later.

There are good connections from Tours to Bordeaux and Avignon for those travelling to the South.

Ballooning

An optional hot air balloon ride is available on the cruise. The balloon company charge approximately €200 per person which is to be paid to the balloon owners on the day of the flight. Simply let us know at the time of booking if you are interested.

Operating Dates

Nymphaea operates between June and October. The six night cruise is from Sunday afternoon until Saturday morning. Please check our website for available weeks and prices. www.LoireBargeCruise.com

Regional Specialities

Filet Mignon de Veau
à la Bière et Moutarde

Selle d'Agneau au Romarin

Saumon et Friture

Wines

St Nicolas de Bourgueil

Sancerre

Vouvray

Cheeses

Valençay

St Maure de Touraine

Selles sur Cher



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