



Burgundy Barging With Lyon and Paris

Once reserved only for royalty, the scenic canals of France now welcome travelers seeking intimate encounters with rural life. Aboard a privately chartered barge, we savor fine French food and wine, and new friends as we leisurely ply the waterways of the Rhone-Rhine and Burgundy canals. Combined with stays in Lyon and Paris, this tour embraces the good life, French style.

With an Post-Tour Extension: Paris – On Your Own

Itinerary

Created on Feb 14, 2024

Burgundy Barging Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY 1: Depart U.S. for Lyon, France

DAY 2: Arrive Lyon

After arriving in Lyon today, we meet our Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and fellow travelers at a briefing about the journey ahead, followed by a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodations: Hôtel Carlton Lyon

Meals: Dinner

DAY 3: Lyon

Today's tour of France's second largest city features the beloved Fourvière Basilica and the ruins of the Gallo-Roman theater. We also see Lyon's mind-boggling *tromp d'oeil* murals and Renaissance-era Vieux Lyon. Then we're free for independent exploration in this city rich in history, culture, and gastronomy. With lunch and dinner on our own, we can indulge in some noted local fare – perhaps at a *bouchon*, a traditional tavern serving Lyonnais specialties.

Accommodations: Hôtel Carlton Lyon

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4: Lyon/Beaune/Besançon/Board MS *Jeanine*

This morning we set out by coach for Beaune, gateway to the Burgundy wine region. On our walking tour of this walled town, we visit the renowned Hôtel Dieu Museum, with its colorful tiled roof, vineyard, and paintings of "The Last Judgment" by Flemish master Van der Weyden. Then we continue on to Besançon, where we board the privately chartered barge MS *Jeanine* and enjoy a welcome reception and the first of our meals on board.

Accommodations: MS *Jeanine*

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5: Barging – Besançon/Ranchot

We depart by coach this morning for Arc-et-Senans, where we tour the Saline-Royale, the former royal saltworks built in 1775. A UNESCO site, the decommissioned saltworks are known especially as a rare example of industrial architecture. Following our tour of the museum and grounds, we return to MS *Jeanine* and get our first taste of barging as we ply the waters of the Rhone-Rhine Canal, passing through rolling countryside dotted with ancient villages, farms, and vineyards. We're bound for Ranchot, where we spend the night.

Accommodations: MS *Jeanine*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6: Barging – Ranchot/Dole

This morning we continue on our leisurely course towards the small town of Dole in France's Jura region. Our barge carries bicycles on board, so we have the opportunity to ride along the towpath that follows our route on the canal. Early this afternoon we reach Dole, a charming and refreshingly untouristed town with a well-preserved historic center lined with 17th-century stone buildings. Here we set out on a unique tour visiting Dole's highlights following the cobblestoned "Trail of the Perched Cat," a reference to the popular French tales of the "Perched Cat," whose author lived here as a young boy. We also visit the home of scientist Louis Pasteur. Then we return to our barge for dinner and an overnight on board.

Accommodations: MS Jeanine

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7: Barging – Dole/Saint-Jean-de-Losne

We spend the morning cruising towards Saint-Jean-de-Losne, the region's traditional barging hub at the confluence of the Saône River and the Burgundy Canal. After lunch on board, we explore the town and tour the Musée de la Batellerie, where we learn about the history of boating on the canals of France.

Accommodations: MS Jeanine

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8: Barging – Saint-Jean-de-Losne/Petit-Ouges

Built between 1775 and 1832 to allow cargo to move between the Atlantic and Mediterranean, the Burgundy Canal is one of historic import – and contemporary allure. We travel a portion of this celebrated waterway today as we barge to Petit-Ouges. Again, we may choose to bicycle along the canalside path, or simply relax on deck sipping French wine as we watch the gentle rural scenery unfold. This afternoon we dock in tiny Petit-Ouges, where we embark on an excursion along the Grand Crus wine route that comprises some of the area's finest and most prestigious wineries. And naturally, we stop along the way for a wine-tasting session.

Accommodations: MS Jeanine

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9: Barging – Petit-Ouges/Dijon

We spend our last morning on the canal en route to Dijon, traveling through the lush green landscapes of the Saône Valley. This afternoon we embark on a guided tour of Dijon, capital of the Burgundy region known for its restored medieval center, its rich architecture ranging from Gothic to art deco, the beautiful covered market of Les Halles, and of course, its mustard. Back on board MS *Jeanine*, tonight we raise our glasses to our barge adventure at a gala dinner.

Accommodations: MS Jeanine

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10: Disembark/Dijon/Paris

We bid *adieu* to Burgundy today as we board the TGV high-speed train for the 1½-hour journey to Paris. After arriving in the French capital this afternoon, we embark on a panoramic tour that passes all the highlights: Notre Dame Cathedral, Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Champs-Élysées, the Seine. Then we're free for dinner on our own in this city celebrated for its cuisine.

Accommodations: Hôtel Edouard 7

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 11: Paris

The City of Light, a moveable feast, all things artful and cultural – and that's just a taste of this most celebrated of all capital cities. This morning we visit the Opéra Garnier, the opulent opera house now used for ballet performances and setting for Gaston Leroux's *The Phantom of the Opera*. If the Opéra Garnier is unavailable, we will visit the Musée Rodin, set in the sculptor's former workshop and gardens. This afternoon is free for independent exploration – perhaps to remain at the museum; explore the historic Marais district or relax in elegant Place des Vosges; enjoy a *bateau mouche* ride on the Seine; see the dazzling stained glass at medieval Ste-Chapelle; or get a bird's-eye view of the city from atop the Eiffel Tower ... the options are truly endless. Tonight, we celebrate our Gallic sojourn over a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodations: Hôtel Edouard 7

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 12: Depart for U.S.

We transfer to the airport this morning for our return flight to the U.S.

Meals: Breakfast

This tour itinerary was generated for Burgundy Barging on Feb 14, 2024. Please visit the Burgundy Barging page at <https://www.odysseys-unlimited.com/tours/europe/burgundy-barging/> for the latest and most accurate information.