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The Program and Frequently Asked Questions

Come Barging With Us on Luciole Nivernais Canal, Burgundy, France October 17-23, 2010

Jack and Beth, owners of CanalBargeCruises.com, have reserved a six-night barge cruise which takes 14 passengers. We invite you to join us as fellow passengers to enjoy an idyllic vacation in the countryside of France.

What is included in the price?

Six nights' accommodation with private ensuite bath in a double, twin or single cabin
All meals, regional wines and bar drinks served on board
Excursions to local sights on the barge's bus with an entertaining tour guide
Transfers between Paris and the barge at the beginning and end of the cruise
Bicycles, music system, library and all barge facilities
Plenty of opportunity for walking and biking

What is not included?

Items of a personal nature
Trip Cancellation Insurance which is highly recommended and available through CanalBargeCruises.com
Crew gratuity (usually 5-7% if fully satisfied)
Airfare or any pre or post cruise activities

What is the Price?

The price is \$2,900 per person compared to the regular price of \$3,450-\$3,850 per person.

When do I have to come up with the money?

A deposit of 33% and Booking Form is required now to confirm the booking.

Can I pay by credit card?

Yes, however, payment by check entitles you to a 3% discount, bringing your price to \$2813 per person.

Why do we have to book so quickly?

This is the last week available this year on Luciole, and they have just offered us a very special price. If we don't take their offer, they would like to offer it to other passengers.

What if I sign up now but have to cancel later?

You can transfer or sell your cruise to someone else with no penalty.
As all payments are non-refundable, we highly recommend trip cancellation insurance, and will provide you with a brochure and more information.

What if you don't have 12 people sign up?

The barge owner has guaranteed the price of \$2900 per person regardless of the number of people we bring. The cruise departure is guaranteed as the minimum number of people required has been reached.

When is the final payment due?

Final payment is due July 17, 2010

What other expenses will I have?

Roundtrip airfare, economy class Estimated from San Francisco to Paris	\$1,000-\$1,200 per person
Paris hotel	\$75-\$200 per person per day depending on quality and location
Voluntary barge crew gratuity normally 5-7% of cost if pleased with service.	\$150-\$200 per person
Paris meals, entrance fees, transportation to and from airport, etc.	\$100 per person per day
Any other pre or post cruise activities you choose to do.	

What about trip planning?

You will be provided with a Trip Preparation Kit including Paris hotels, restaurants, airport shuttle, travel tips etc. Beth is available to discuss your plans, make recommendations and help with reservations - with pleasure.

What are the accommodations on the barge?

The barge sleeps 14 guests in 8 cabins, all with private ensuite bathrooms.
3 double or twin cabins
3 twin cabins
2 single cabins

What is a typical day on a barge?

A crew member picks us up in Paris at 2:30 on our first day. About two hours away by minibus, we're greeted by the crew with a champagne welcome. Dinner is the first meal on board.
A typical day includes about a half day of cruising, lunch on board then off in the minibus to see the local sights. We return in time for relaxation, aperitifs and a gourmet dinner. It's idyllic.
After breakfast on the last day, we depart for Paris by minibus arriving about 12:30 pm. It is important not to schedule flights out of Paris before 5:00 pm on the last day.

What is the weather like in October?

Fall has arrived with changing colors and the possibility of cool days with scattered rain showers. Weather in Europe is always unpredictable, so it could be sunny and beautiful or chilly and rainy. We suggest dressing in layers and bringing a raincoat or umbrella.

Is a barge cruise active enough?

We think so. You can walk or bike as the barge is cruising only 4 miles an hour and stops frequently at locks so you can get off and on easily. It's very relaxing, and each guest chooses how active they want to be.

Why did you choose the Luciole?

Luciole is the original hotel barge cruising the waterways of France. Owned by John and Penny Liley, it is the model for the barge cruising industry. Though not as "deluxe" as some of the newer and much more expensive barges, it is very comfortable for 14 passengers and is nicely decorated in light, airy colors.

But the main reason is the Nivernais Canal which is one of the oldest canals in France. It is beautiful as it winds through sleepy villages, lush countryside and peaceful pastures. It's one of our favorite canals. If that's not enough, the crew is friendly and fun, the food is great, and it's a super value especially in October. Lastly, as a booking agent for many barges, all the clients I've booked on Luciole have loved it. Now it's our turn to enjoy this very special vacation with friends. We will be fellow passengers on Luciole with no official capacity.

We're ready, how do we book?

Just let me know at 1-888-264-3983 or email me at bargecruises@yahoo.com, and I'll send you a Booking Form and instructions. Note that all bookings are subject to the acceptance of the Luciole's Terms and Conditions and CanalBargeCruises.com LLC's Acceptance of Booking.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for considering this trip with us. What memories we will make,

Beth & Jack