

Alouette

CRUISING CANAL DU MIDI IN FRANCE

The Barge Connection
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07/14/08



T H E B A R G E

C O N N E C T I O N

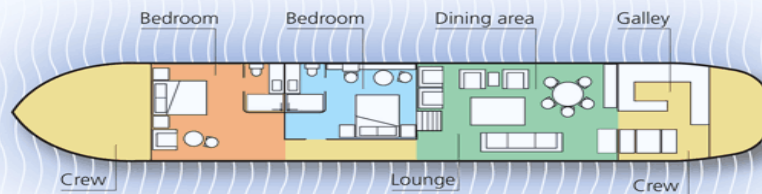
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Alouette

SPECIFICATIONS

Size:	98" X 17"
Capacity:	6
Crew:	4 Can accommodate 5 with a the use of a fold out couch (suitable for children only)
Cabins:	2
Accommodations:	2 Queen-Bedded Cabins (convertible to twins) State Rm 1 Bedroom 25m ² Bathroom (shower) 6'3" x 2'5" State Rm 2 Bedroom (Twin Bed) 19m ² Bathroom (shower) 6' x 3"
Cabin Size:	Approximately 130 sq ft
Heat & Air:	Central Heating & Air Conditioning
Cruising Region:	Canal du Midi
Length of Cruise:	6 Nights 3 Nights (short cruises available)
Departure Day:	Sunday
Meals:	All Included
Beverages:	All Included
Entrance Fees:	All Included
Laundry Facilities:	Small Loads Acceptable
Hairdryers:	Supplied
Transportation:	Transfers to and from Alouette & Private Motorcoach for excursions
Pick-Up Location:	To be advised
Pick-Up Time:	To be advised
Recreational Items:	Internet, Satellite Television, Hi-Fi Stereo, DVD player, Library, games and bicycles
Cruising Season:	April until November
Special Note:	Converted from six passenger to four in 2008

BOAT DIAGRAM



Technical specifications Length 98ft Width 17ft Decks 1 Crew 4

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2009 CRUISE SCHEDULE

Alouette

CANAL DU MIDI

5-Apr	Béziers - Carcassonne
12-Apr	Carcassonne - Béziers
19-Apr	Béziers - Carcassonne
26-Apr	Carcassonne - Béziers
3-May	Béziers - Carcassonne
13-May	Carcassonne - Béziers
10-May	Béziers - Carcassonne
17-May	Carcassonne - Béziers
24-May	Béziers - Carcassonne
31-May	Carcassonne - Béziers
7-Jun	Béziers - Carcassonne
14-Jun	Carcassonne - Béziers
21-Jun	Béziers - Carcassonne
28-Jun	Carcassonne - Béziers
5-Jul	Béziers - Carcassonne
12-Jul	Carcassonne - Béziers
19-Jul	Béziers - Carcassonne
26-Jul	Carcassonne - Béziers
29-Jul	Béziers - Carcassonne
2-Aug	Carcassonne - Béziers
09-Aug	Béziers - Carcassonne
16-Aug	Carcassonne - Béziers
23-Aug	Béziers - Carcassonne
30-Aug	Carcassonne - Béziers
06-Sep	Béziers - Carcassonne
13-Sep	Carcassonne - Béziers
20-Sep	Béziers - Carcassonne
27-Sep	Carcassonne - Béziers
04-Oct	Béziers - Carcassonne
11-Oct	Carcassonne - Béziers
18-Oct	Béziers - Carcassonne
25-Oct	Carcassonne - Béziers

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2009 PRICES

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Charter Only

Charter for 4 guests	\$29,300
Charter for 3 guests	\$26,100
Charter for 2 guests	\$22,900

What's Included

- 6 nights accommodation on board your péniche-hôtel
- Breakfast, lunch and candlelit dinner each day
- Refreshments on board after excursions
- Wine with meals, liqueurs and bar drinks on board
- Sightseeing excursions, including entrance fees
- Use of bicycles
- Air-conditioned mini-van with driver for sightseeing
- All transfers for your visits and excursions
- TGV rail connections are available for supplement on request.

Gratuities and Insurance are not included.

History of Alouette

Alouette was built in 1908 at Ouderkeek in the Netherlands. Whilst used as a cargo barge, she was first named 'Cura' and, later, 'Mars'. In 1986 - 1987, she was converted into a luxurious passenger-carrying barge and was re-named Alouette. Alouette is a Luxemotor type of barge and is 30,48 metres in length and 4,85 metres beam, the only boat in the Afloat in France fleet that can navigate the Canal du Midi. This is a well-appointed boat with all cabins well above the water line.

In 2008, the Alouette was converted from a six to a four passenger luxury hotel barge. The interior of the barge was also refurbished to the highest standard.

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SAMPLE ITINERARY

Alouette

CANAL DU MIDI
CARCASSONNE TO BEZIERS

Sunday - Carcassonne - Béziers

Your guide meets you in the lounge of Hotel de la Cité at 2.00 pm and escorts you on your transfer to the barge at Béziers. A champagne reception welcomes you on board and gives you a chance to meet the crew. Later that evening, enjoy your first dining experience on board.

Monday – Visit Pezenas. Cruise to Capestang. Tour Oppidum d’Enserune.

Enjoy a morning visit to Pezenas, a beautiful town where Louis 15th held court in the summertime and famous for its antique shopping. Back to the barge begin the cruise to Capestang where we spend the night. In the afternoon your guide takes you to Oppidum d’Enserune, one of the most important archaeological sites in the region, followed by a wine tasting at Chateau Auris.

Tuesday - Visit Narbonne. Cruise to Le Somail.

This morning experience the wonderful covered market in Narbonne; a lively Mediterranean city playing an important role as a wine-producing centre. The municipal, military and religious architecture; the treasures in its museums; the river banks of the Robine and its shaded boulevards, all contribute to its charm. Back to the barge for another delicious lunch and cruise, making a stop along the way at a charming Roman museum and pottery before arriving at Le Somail. There’s a chance to taste some awarding-winning olive oil at the local olive press at l’Oulibo.

Wednesday - Cruise to Homps. Visit Minerve

Take in the grandeur and beauty of the Canal du Midi, with its impressively fine locks, buildings and aqueducts, scarcely changed from their completion over 300 years ago. After lunch, visit Minerve, an old village on a limestone cliff which dominates the vineyards below. Its now ruined castle was once a Cathar stronghold besieged and captured by Simon de Montfort. On your way back to the boat stop at Peyriac-Minervo for wine tasting and discover the Chateau de Violet.

Thursday - Visit Abbaye de Fontfroide. Cruise to Trebes.

After breakfast your guide takes you to visit l’Abbaye de Fontfroide a Cistercian monastery founded in the 11th century. Now privately owned, the abbey has been sympathetically restored with well-kept gardens and peaceful cloisters. Return to the barge for lunch and an afternoon cruise to Trebes.

Friday - Cruise to Carcassonne. Visit Carcassonne.

Finish the week with a tour of Europe’s largest medieval fortress – La Cité of Carcassonne. Explore the intricate fortifications of the two castellated walls, one inside the other, about a mile in circumference. The views from the battlements towards the Pyrenées are stunning. Visit the Cathedral remarkable for its stained glass rose windows, fine statues, elegant Romanesque nave and Gothic transepts. Back on board the chef is preparing a memorable feast for your farewell dinner.

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CARCASSONNE TO BEZIERS

Saturday - Carcassonne

After breakfast disembark and transfer to Hotel de la Cite, Carcassonne. (If you wish to make alternative transfer arrangements, please discuss your requirements at the time of booking.)

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MENU TYPES

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Bisque de Tomates a la creme d'avocat
(Tomato bisque with avocado cream)

Cordon de truite, farci d'epinard et d'aneth, Mousse de Carottes a l'estragon, Haricots verts
aux amandes
(Trout stuffed with spinach, carrot mousse with basil, green beans with almonds)

Salades and fromages (st. Agur, Chabichon, Epoisses)
Salad and Regional Cheeses

Melon et sorbet au citron vert et framboise

Wines: Chateauneuf de Pape, Gigondas

Coffee/Tea & Chocolates

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