

Emma

CRUISING THE CANAL DU MIDI IN SOUTHERN FRANCE

The Barge Connection
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08/25/08



T H E B A R G E

C O N N E C T I O N

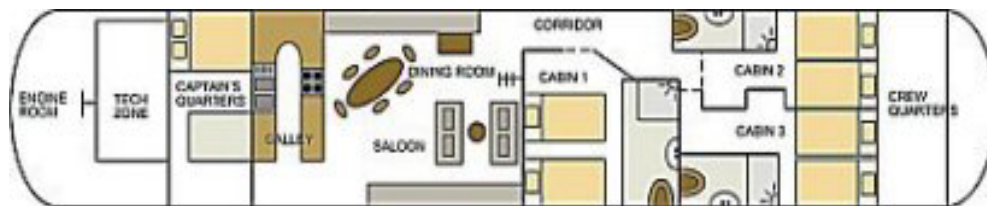
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Emma

SPECIFICATIONS

Size:	94 X 16
Capacity:	6
Crew:	4
Cabins:	3
Accommodations:	1 Double & 2 Twins (convertible to double)
Heat & Air:	Heating and Air-Conditioning
Cruising Region:	Canal du Midi - Provence
Length of Cruise:	6 Nights
Departure Day:	Saturday
Meals:	All Included
Beverages:	All Included
Entrance Fees:	All Included
Hairdryers:	Supplied
Laundry Facilities:	Not available
Transportation:	Transfer to and from pre-determined destination and motorcoach for excursions
Pick-Up Location:	Hotel, Rail Station or Airport in Montpellier, Nimes, Carcassonne or Beziers
Pick-Up Time:	5:00 PM
Recreational Items:	6 Bicycles, fully stocked bar, soundsystem with CD, library of books and games
Cruising Season:	April until October

BOAT DIAGRAM



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SAMPLE ITINERARY

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CARCASSONNE TO BEZIERS

SATURDAY

After your pick up on Saturday about 5 pm you will be taken to where Emma is moored to meet the rest of your crew and to enjoy a champagne reception. We shall let you get settled in and unpacked which is the most strenuous task of the week, and then sit back and relax whilst we take a short cruise so that you feel you really are on a boat. During this time the first of your gourmet dinners will be prepared.

SUNDAY

After a leisurely breakfast of fresh fruit, croissants home made jams cereal and coffee you will be taken off in the mini bus to explore the wonderful medieval city of Carcassonne. A stroll through the cobbled streets with its array of boutiques, a visit to the Feudal Castle, a foray into the Inquisition museum or a walk along the ramparts. Carcassonne has something for everyone to enjoy. Back to the boat for a lunch of tasty home made patés, quiches and salads followed by a selection of the 365 cheeses which France has to offer and washed down with some of the finest wines of the Languedoc Roussillon. After lunch we shall cruise off to our next mooring spot along the canal going down several locks some double some triple as we start our descent towards the Mediterranean. Emma will stop at another lovely setting where your evening dinner will be served.

MONDAY

After breakfast today you will be whisked off again to discover another delight of the region. We could go to Lagrasse, a little village in the heart of the Corbières with a magnificent Benedictine Abbey perched on the banks of the river Orb and where the little cobbled streets house a multitude of potters, artists, wood carvers etc. Or we could go and visit the giant underground cave at Cabrespine, or again visit the ruins of the old Cathar stronghold Chateau Lastours. Steeped in history. Every visit is organised around the things which interest you most. Another delicious lunch will be ready for you when you get back and you will be able to relax while we cruise on to our next stop.

TUESDAY

France is famous for its open air markets and today you will have the chance to experience this for yourself when we visit the market at Olonzac. The smells of the olives and herbs and the roasting chickens will make your mouth water and the arrays of fresh fruit and vegetables are a picture. We will then go up into the heart of the Minervois region to Minerve a spectacular village set on a rocky outcrop in the gorges formed by the rivers Cesse and Brian.

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CARCASSONNE TO BEZIERS

There are lovely walks here, just the thing to build up your appetite for lunch. If you have plenty of energy after lunch while Emma is cruising to her next stop maybe you would like to take a bicycle ride or a stroll. The towpath follows the canal all the way so any time you want to this option is available.

WEDNESDAY

Narbonne is our tour for today. The ancient capital of Roman Gaul still retains a lot of its history. You will see the Via Domitia, a road 2000 years old with its chariot ruts still visible, visit the old Roman storehouses, the Archbishop's palace, the Cathedral St Just with its cloister its high altar and splendid organ. For those of you who enjoy food the indoor market at Narbonne is one of the best. You will see the finest display of fish shellfish fruit, vegetables meats herbs spices olives cheese and the list goes on. Perhaps you would like to dip your feet in the blue water of the Mediterranean, or visit the little fishing port of Gruissan. Such wonderful choices.

THURSDAY

Today we continue our lazy cruise which takes us under the smallest bridge in France, if you can get under this you can go anywhere on the canal system. A choice of visits awaits you. A wine tasting at Guery or at St Chinian, a visit to the Abbey at Fontcaud, a trip up to the prehistoric site of Enserune with its panoramic views, there is so much to see you will be spoilt for choice. Your final Gala dinner awaits you tonight.

FRIDAY

All too soon your week is over, but we will still manage a short cruise before we say our good-byes and after your breakfast you will be taken to your next destination to continue your onward journey, taking with you lasting memories of this most beautiful countryside.

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BEZIERS TO SETE

Saturday afternoon

5pm. Join Emma at Regismont le Haut. A champagne reception awaits you and then we cruise off through the Malpas Tunnel to Colombiers where we moor for the night. Colombiers is a beautiful village with its mediaeval church and little chateau, that makes it an ideal place for a stroll after the first of your gourmet dinners.

Sunday morning:

Cruise to Beziers the birthplace of Paul Riquet, and after lunch we have the descent of the celebrated flight of locks at Fonserrannes and across the biggest canal bridge on the Midi which takes us over the river Orb and down into the port of Beziers. .

Sunday afternoon:

Visit to the Oppidum d'Enserune the pre-roman settlement overlooking the Via Domitia. and the Etang de Montady. Dinner in Beziers

Monday morning

Lazy morning cruise to Villeneuve –les Beziers **Monday afternoon.** Visit to Valras Plage. A beautiful sandy beach. reached by driving through the vineyards of le Biterrois. Opportunities for wine tasting galore.

Tuesday morning

Visit to Pezenas. Adopted home of Molière which inspired some of his plays.. A paradise for those interested in architecture, quaint boutiques, arts and crafts and antiques

Tuesday afternoon Cruise to Port Cassafières and moor up for the evening under the pine trees at Le Libron a feat of engineering skill which allows the river to pass under the canal.

Wednesday morning

Cruise to the ancient Greek town of Agde built on the river Herault out of volcanic stone.

Wednesday afternoon Visit the old Agde, the Cap d'Agde and le Grau d'Agde with its beautiful beaches. Agde is a lively town famous for its water jousting and spectacular firework displays. The old Agde has lots of boutiques selling local produce and arts and crafts all to be found in “la rue de L'Amour” the street of love. After crossing the round lock of Agde, one of only 2 round locks in Europe, we take our evening cocktails while cruising

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BEZIERS TO SETE

Thursday morning

We cruise to Les Onglous, the very start of Le Canal du Midi which gives into L'Etang de Thau an inland salt water lake 22kms long and 7kms wide. All around the etang there are little ports and fishing villages famous for the mussels and oyster beds and the lovely white wine Picpoul de pinet.

Thursday afternoon

Visit to Sète, birthplace of Georges Brassins singer/songwriter known for his acerbic wit, and also your captain René, born on Le Mont Saint Clair the hill dominating the port. René will be thrilled to show you all the delights of this charming town known as the little Venice of the midi because of it's canals which criss cross the town. Colourful, noisy, bright animated, Setè has all the attributes of a Mediterranean port, which makes it a regular stop for the trans Atlantic Liners

Friday morning

Sadly we say our farewells after breakfast when you will be taken to your departure point for continuing your onward journey.

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2009 PRICES

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6 Night Cruises:

Saturday Departures

FULL BOARD:

Cabin 1 Pass: \$6,000

Cabin 2 Pass: \$9,000

4 Pass Charter: \$22,000

5 Pass Charter: \$23,000

6 Pass Charter: \$24,000

HALF BOARD:

4 Pass Charter: \$19,000

5 Pass Charter: \$20,000

6 Pass Charter: \$21,000

FULL BOARD INCLUDES:

6 night accommodation, services of 4 crew members (Captain, Chef, Hostess and Tour Guide), local pick-up and drop-off from train station or airport, all meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) with regional wines, open bar, guided tours each day in the minibus and all entrance fees.

HALF BOARD CRUISE INCLUDES:

6 night accommodation, full continental breakfast and four course evening meal and wines, services of 3 crew members (Captain, Chef and Hostess), liaisons between barges ariport/ railway and guided torus in mini bus.**NOT INCLUDED:** Lunch with wines, entrance fees and open bar.

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MENU TYPES

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Typical Lunch Menu

Pissaladière Niçoise (savoury onion and anchovie tart)

Terrine of chicken and dried fruits

Mixed salad with tangy lime and garlic vinaigrette

Cheeses: Brie de Meaux, Crottin de Chavignol, Bleu de Bresse

Fresh fruit and nuts

Wines: Domaine la Colombette -white, Chateau Ventenac - rosé Abbaye Sylva Plana - red

Typical Dinner Menu

Tartar of smoked salmon & crab

Glazed breast of duck with grapefruit & ginger marmelade served on a mash of sweet potato with sugar snap peas

Cheese: Langres

Dessert: Summer fruits brioche served with cognac marscapone

Wines:

Chateau la Voulte- Gasparets white

Domaine Rimbart -red

Chateau St Eualalie -rosè

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TERMS & CONDITIONS

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PAYMENT

A deposit of 25% of the cruise rate (per passenger or per charter) is required on confirmation of booking. The balance is due 90 days prior to embarkation.

CANCELLATIONS

In the event of cancellation then the following rules apply:

More than 120 days prior to embarkation 10% is forfeited

Between 120 days and 90 days prior to embarkation the deposit is forfeited.

Within 90 days prior to embarkation the entire cost is forfeited

If a cancelled charter is resold, deposits will be refunded in full.

If for any reason Emma is suddenly unavailable, Emma reserves the right to make the refunds it considered appropriate.

Should Emma cancel a reservation, any deposits received will be refunded.

To protect yourselves in the event that you must cancel your trip, we suggest you take out suitable Travel Insurance.

Once your booking has been confirmed you will receive an information pack including joining instructions.

The nearest airports are at Montpelliers, Nimes, and Carcassonne and the area is well serviced by an efficient rail network. We are on the main line for travellers arriving from Spain and also coming from Paris.

We will pick you up with the Emma mini bus from a convenient airport or railway station and at the end of your cruise accompany you to a convenient transfer point for your on-ward journey.

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