

# *Nymphéa*

CRUISING THE LOIRE VALLEY

The Barge Connection  
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THE BARGE CONNECTION

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

## Nymphea

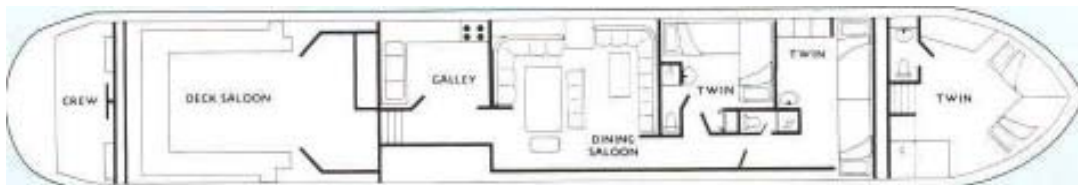
### SPECIFICATIONS

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Size:	80"X14"
Capacity:	6
Crew:	3
Cabins:	3
Accommodations:	2 Twins & 1 Double (convertible to twins)
Heat & Air:	Central Heating & Air Conditioning
Cruising Region:	Loire Valley
Length of Cruise:	6 Nights
Departure Day:	Sunday
Electricity:	1 X 220 volt generators (silent night running)
Engine:	125 HP, DAS, maximum speed 13 knots
Water:	4 tons of water and 3 tons of fuel
Meals:	All Included
Beverages:	All Included
Entrance Fees:	All Included
Hairdryers:	Supplied
Laundry Facilities:	Not available
Transportation:	Transfers to and from St Pierre des Corps TGV Station outside of Tours & Private Motorcoach for excursions (train tickets to tours and back not included in price)
Pick-Up Location:	St Pierre des Corps TGV Station outside of Tours
Pick-Up Time:	4:30 PM
Recreational Items:	6 Mountain Bikes, Soundsystem with CD, Library of books & games
Cruising Season:	April until November

### BOAT DIAGRAM

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## SAMPLE ITINERARY

# Nymphea

MOULIN DE NITRAY TO TOURS

### Sunday

You are met at 4.30 pm at the TGV railway station at St Pierre des Corps and transferred to Nymphea where a Champagne Welcome awaits you. Cruise upstream to our mooring opposite the 17th century Moulin de Nitray. Dinner aboard.

### Monday

A morning cruise through two locks takes us to the quaint town of Bléré where we moor for lunch. Afternoon excursion to Chateau D'Amboise and the Clos Lucé, Leonardo Da Vinci's home. Dinner aboard.

### Tuesday

A short stroll over the bridge to admire the colorful street market in Bléré. Morning cruise to Civray de Touraine where an optional short cycle ride takes us to Les Caves de Père Auguste for a wine tasting. After lunch we cruise under the 5 arch bridge of the impressive Chateau de Chenonceau and moor at Chisseaux. From there we depart by minibus to visit the Chateau. Early evening cruise to the village of Chissay en Touraine. Dinner aboard.

### Wednesday

An early start sees the Nymphea tackling the upper reaches of the navigable Cher, arriving at St Aignan, the head of navigation where we moor in the shadow of the castle. An afternoon excursion is made either to Blois with its chateau, Musée de la Résistance and cosmopolitan shopping streets, or the Chateau de ValenVay, with its renowned gardens. Dinner ashore in a local hostelry.

### Thursday

After a chance to stroll the old centre of St Aignan, we cruise downstream to the hamlet of Bourré. A short walk from the lock takes us to one of the more unusual dwellings in the Loire Valley, La Magnaneraie. The Coquillat family has grown up in this hillside troglodyte habitation, which has been in turn wine cellar, quarry for the tuffeau stone, and lastly a silkworm nursery. Returning to the barge we cruise to Montrichard where we moor for the night. Before supper we visit the local vineyard of the Meriau family, to taste the regional Touraine vintages. Dinner aboard.

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## SAMPLE ITINERARY

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MOULIN DE NITRAY TO TOURS

### Friday

Following breakfast, a short stroll takes us to the heart of Montrichard, into the midst of one of the largest weekly street markets in Touraine. There is much to explore at the 12th century Chateau of Foulques Nerra overlooking the mediaeval town square. After an early lunch, Nymphea sets off downstream again, for another passage under Chenonceau and arrives at the hamlet of Nitray in time to visit the Chateau and rose garden of Nitray. Enjoy a pre-Captains dinner aperitif from their vineyards. Captains Dinner aboard.

### Saturday

After breakfast disembark and transfer by minibus to St Pierre des Corps Station in time for the 09.30 TGV to Paris.

**This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change. On alternate weeks, cruise will be in reverse.**

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## SAMPLE ITINERARY

# Nymphea

CYCLING CRUISE

### Sunday - TOURS TO LARCAY

You are met at 4.30 pm at the TGV railway station at St Pierre des Corps and transferred to Nymphea where a Champagne Welcome awaits you in the park of the village of Larcay. Champagne welcome and Dinner aboard

### Monday - LARCAY TO BLÉRE

After a continental breakfast we follow the Cher river by bike , downstream twenty kilometres, to visit the chateau and amazing gardens of Villandry. Cycling back is optional as the car and trailer meet us there after the visit. After lunch on board we cruise past the hamlets of Azay and Vallet. After a couple of little private chateaux on the left bank the small town of Blere appears ahead, and careful navigation is the order of the day under the many arched bridge, pilings of a 10thC mill left underwater pose a considerable obstacle and its always comforting to arrive for supper in the lock to the cheery welcome from the lockkeeper. Dinner aboard. (20-40 km)

### Tuesday - BLÉRE TO CHISSAY EN TOURAINE

After breakfast and a stroll across the bridge to Blere streetmarket, we cross over to the River Loire by bike to tour the Chateau d'Amboise and then le Clos Luce, Leonardo da Vinci's home and its basement stuffed with models of his inventions. (10kms) We start up the Cher again, after a late lunch and after a tricky bit of navigation under Civray bridge, we are safely into the lock . Shortly after, around the corner , we see Chenonceau castle hove into site, its one of the most visited private chateaux in France, and belongs to Mr.Meunier of chocolate making fame, and we aim under the second arch from the right while being recorded for posterity in about 400 tourists holiday albums, being the only barge on the Cher has its privileges. We moor at the little village of Chisseaux and pedal back to the castle when the crowds start to die down, and see the amazingly decorated rooms, no expense spared by Thomas Bohier, Diane de Poitiers and Catherine de Medicis since its conception in 1515. Chateau visiting can be thirsty work so a sip and a swirl of the regional vintages can be had in the Chateau's winery or around the corner at the Caves de Pere Auguste in Civray. Dinner aboard. (15km)

### Wednesday - CHISSAY EN TOURAINE TO BOURRÉ

After breakfast we cruise to the village of Bourré, where we moor under its imposing tuffeau cliffs. In the afternoon we drive to the Chateau of Valencay, once home of Talleyrand and after our tour, take to the bikes again for a return cross country (24KM) via the myriad lanes to Seigy where we taste a plethora of regional wines at Domaine Max Meunier. An optional cycle ride afterwards or trip in the sag wagon returns us to Nymphea. Dinner onshore in a regional hostelry. (24km)

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T H E B A R G E

C O N N E C T I O N

## SAMPLE ITINERARY

# Nymphea

CYCLING CRUISE

### Thursday - BOURRÉ TO MONTRICHARD

A morning ride to the regional capital, Blois, to see the impressive 15th C. Chateau Royale, then we pick up the bikes and cycle along the banks of the Loire to a picnic spot (15kms) where we enjoy an al fresco lunch. Those that wish can continue back by cycle, (15kms) to the barge moored at Bourré. A short walk from the next lock takes us to one of the more unusual dwellings in the Loire Valley, La Magnaneraie. The Coquillat family have grown up in this hillside troglodyte habitation, which has been in turn wine cellar, quarry for the tuffeau stone, and lastly a silkworm nursery. Returning to the barge we cruise to Montrichard where we moor for the night. Dinner aboard. (15-30km)

### Friday - MONTRICHARD TO NITRAY

Following breakfast, a short stroll takes us to the heart of Montrichard, into the midst of one of the largest weekly street markets in Touraine. There is much to explore at the 12th century Chateau of Foulques Nerra overlooking the mediaeval town square. After an early lunch, there is a choice of transport ; - bikes or our floating home as Nymphea sets off downstream again, for another passage under Chenonceau and arrives at the hamlet of Nitray in time to visit the Chateau and rose garden of Nitray. Meet up with the cycle party there and enjoy a pre-Captains dinner aperitif from Nitrays vineyards. Captains Dinner aboard. (10km)

### Saturday - NITRAY TO TOURS

After breakfast guests are transferred to the TGV railway station at St Pierre des Corps for the 9.30 train returning to Paris

Itineraries are subject to change.

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## 2008 PRICES

# Nymphea

Stateroom Per Person	\$3,500
Single Supplement	\$1,500
Charter for 4 guests	\$17,700
Charter for 5 guests	\$18,900
Charter for 6 guests	\$20,100

A child reduction of \$300 is applicable for all children aged 0-17 years

### DEPARTURE DATES

May 11, 18, 25; June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; July 6, 13, 20, 27; August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; September 7, 14, 21, 28; October 5, 12, 19

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## MENU TYPES

# Nymphea

### Buffet style lunch

Local white asparagus with crispy parmesan tuiles

Jambon de Parme and melon de Cavaillon

Ripe tomatoes stuffed with basil and roasted pine nuts

Corn fed chicken breast coated with a duo of Dijon mustard and Meaux full grain

Potato salad with lemon, red onion and capers

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Green salad and cheese platter of Chèvre de Valencay and Tomme de Savoie

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Strawberries and crème fraîche

coffee or tea

### Dinner

Cheese soufflé with curly chickory salad and red currants

Roasted saddle of lamb, gratin dauphinois and French beans with Shitake mushrooms

Cheese platter of Epoisses and Beaufort

Dark chocolate molleux with white chocolate ice cream and crème anglaise

Coffee or herbal tea

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## MENU TYPES

# Nymphea

### Buffet style lunch

Roasted artichokes with a garlic persillade

Smoked salmon quiche with wholewheat pastry

Cucumber salad with dill and Meaux mustard

Seared quail's breasts with seasonal greens and cep mushroom vinaigrette

Carrot ribbons with preserved lemon and sesame seeds

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Cheese platter of Roquefort and Colommiers

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Fresh vine peaches

coffee or tea

### Dinner

Onion tart with potato base, seared scallops and balsamic vinaigre

Confit of duck leg, roasted celeriac purée, red wine jus

Cheese platter of Brie de Melun and Affiné au Chablis served with a green herb salad

Apple tatin with crème Normande au Calvados

Coffe or herbal tea

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## TERMS & CONDITIONS

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### INDIVIDUAL BOOKINGS:

- ☐ \$750 per person upon booking
- ☐ Balance due 60 days prior to departure

### CHARTER BOOKINGS

- ☐ A deposit of \$4,000 due upon booking
- ☐ 25% second deposit due 180 days prior to departure
- ☐ Balance due 120 days prior to departure

### CANCELLATIONS PER PERSON:

- ☐ More than 4 months prior to departure and when you have paid your deposit we will deduct \$350 per person administrative fee
- ☐ From 4-2 months prior to departure – full deposit retained
- ☐ When you have paid the full fare – from 2-1 months prior to departure – 80% of total fare is forfeited
- ☐ 1 month prior to departure to day of departure, or failure to embark - 100% of total fare is retained

Cancellation refunds will only be made upon return of cruise tickets and written cancellation. Allow 3-4 weeks after this for delivery of refunds. Credit for any deposit or other sums received will be given against the above and any balance refunded. No refunds will be made in the event of interruption of cancellation by the passenger after the start of travel

### CANCELLATIONS FOR CHARTERS:

- ☐ Deposits are non-refundable
- ☐ Up to 120 days prior to departure, deposits may be applied towards individual bookings on the same barge
- ☐ Less than 120 days prior to departure, no refund
- ☐ Changes of any kind will be subject to a \$150 surcharge per person. No refund for unused portions of packages or cruise

All cancellations must be made in writing and sent to the Barge Connection  
Travel cancellation insurance is highly recommended

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