

La Tortue

CRUISING THE SOUTHERN REGIONS OF FRANCE

The Barge Connection
2036 Nevada City Highway #311
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone 888.550.8580
Phone 530.274.0764
Fax 530.274.0825
www.bargeconnection.com
Email info@bargeconnection.com



THE BARGE CONNECTION

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

La Tortue

SPECIFICATIONS

Size:	104"X16
Capacity:	6
Crew:	4
Cabins:	3
Accommodations:	1 Double & 2 Twins (convertible to double)
Heat & Air:	Individual Heating and Air-Conditioning in Each Cabin
Cruising Region:	Canal du Midi
Length of Cruise:	6 Nights
Departure Day:	Sunday
Meals:	All Included
Beverages:	All Included
Entrance Fees:	All Included
Hairdryers:	Supplied
Laundry Facilities:	Not available
Transportation:	Transfers to and from Beziers or Carcassonne & Private Motorcoach for excursions
Pick-Up Location:	Hotel, Rail Station or Airport in Beziers or Carcassonne
Pick-Up Time:	4:30-5:00 PM
Recreational Items:	6 Bicycles, fully stocked bar, soundsystem with CD, library of books and games
Cruising Season:	April until October

BOAT DIAGRAM



Phone: 888.550.8580
Phone: 530.274.0764



Email: info@bargeconnection.com
Website: www.bargeconnection.com

THE BARGE CONNECTION

SAMPLE ITINERARY

La Tortue

BEZIERS TO CARCASSONNE

Saturday

At 5:00pm, Sally Shaw will be waiting to greet you at a pre-arranged pickup point which may be either the Béziers train station, car rental agency, or a hotel in Béziers or immediate environs. She will then transfer you directly to *La Tortue* in our air conditioned minibus. Dinner is your first on board meal. We start our cruise at Colombiers, a pretty village just outside Béziers. After a champagne reception, we cruise off through the Malpas Tunnel, the oldest canal tunnel in the world, to the tranquil mooring of Regismont Haut with pretty bridge, historic buildings and an array of British warship cannons. Take a stroll before aperitifs and your first gastronomic delights.

Sunday

An early morning cruise to Capestang, the largest village on the canal, in time to visit the colourful street market, with stalls selling a wide variety of local produce, clothes and flowers. Then off in the minibus to visit the Oppidum d'Ensérune a pre-Roman hillside site occupied from 600 BC to 100 AD, only discovered by archaeologists at the beginning of this century. There is a fascinating museum containing many artifacts found on the site. Back to *La Tortue* for a colourful lunch of salads, tartes, wines and cheeses, then a cruise along the canal, which meanders through the vineyards to the village of Argeliers.

Monday

Our morning starts with a short cruise to the quaint village of Le Somail. Visit the fascinating antique bookshop and the local potters and artists. Before or after lunch we can visit the Amphoralis, the largest excavation of Roman pottery in Europe. Another short cruise brings us to Ventenac where we moor outside the Chateau and have the opportunity to visit the wine cellar and sample some of the excellent Minervois wines. And then on to Paraza, a picturesque hillside village overlooking the canal, commanded by a magnificent chateau.

Tuesday

Peter, your chef and Captain, takes you to Narbonne, the ancient capital of Roman Gaul and will guide you through the outstanding covered food market. Choose your lunch from a variety of homemade pâtés and charcuterie, and freshly caught fish for dinner. Afterwards, visit the amazing gothic Cathedral with one of the highest naves in France; walk along the Via Domitia (the recently uncovered Roman road), or just do some shopping in the chic boutiques on the charming pedestrianised streets. Return to *La Tortue* for a short cruise to Roubia for lunch. Your afternoon cruise takes us through four locks, two doubles and two singles, to Homps where you can visit the church, a replica of the Basilica of Lourdes. Tonight you will be es-

Phone: 888.550.8580
Phone: 530.274.0764



Email: info@bargeconnection.com
Website: www.bargeconnection.com

T H E B A R G E C O N N E C T I O N

SAMPLE ITINERARY

La Tortue

BEZIERS TO CARCASSONNE

corted to the wonderful 'Auberge de l'Arbousier' for your evening meal.

Wednesday

A morning visit to Minerve, an ancient village that stands on a rocky outcrop formed by the valleys of two rivers: the Cesse and the Brian. It was once a Cathar stronghold, overthrown by Simon de Montfort and the Crusaders. The local museums do a fine job of explaining the history of the region and its geological features. Also visit the church where the altar dates back to 456AD.

Back to the boat for lunch, and an afternoon cruise through 3 locks. The distance between locks is two to three miles - ideal for a bike ride or a walk if you feel so inclined. We moor for the night at the top of the third lock, Aguille, the home of an enthusiastic and friendly lock-keeper who makes amusing sculptures from tree branches and trunks. Watch out for the crocodile!

Thursday

A morning visit by minibus to Carcassonne, the finest example of a mediaeval walled city in the whole of Europe. For those who have already visited this magnificent city or who are staying there after the barge trip, we suggest instead, a visit to Lastours, spectacular site of four ruined Cathar Castles - with, for the energetic, a climb up a steep rocky path to the remains, to get a feel of what life was like in those ancient times. In the afternoon, a peaceful cruise through one of the most magnificent tree-lined stretches of the canal, where linked overhanging branches form a superb green canopy, known as the 'green cathedral'. Our last mooring is at the peaceful setting of Millepetit, where you can relax and enjoy your last evening of the cruise under the stars with *La Tortue*.

Friday

After breakfast we cruise to the triple lock at Trèbes with its beautiful views over the Alaric Mountains. From here we say our goodbyes between 9:00am and 10:00am and you will then be taken to Narbonne, Carcassonne or Béziers for your onward journey.

Please note: This is a sample only, stops and visits may be altered to suit guests' individual requirements.

Phone: 888.550.8580
Phone: 530.274.0764



Email: info@bargeconnection.com
Website: www.bargeconnection.com

THE BARGE CONNECTION

2008 PRICES

La Tortue

BEZIERS TO CARCASSONNE

6 Night Cruises:

Saturday Departures

CABIN TWO PEOPLE

\$7,700 (\$3,850 PER PERSON)

CABIN ONE PERSON

\$4,900

TRADITIONAL CRUISE:

CHARTER FOR UP TO 4PASS:

\$16,800

CHARTER FOR 5-6 PASS:

\$21,000

CONNOISSEUR WINE CRUISE:

CHARTER FOR UP TO 4PASS:

\$19,500

CHARTER FOR 5-6 PASS:

\$25,000

Phone: 888.550.8580
Phone: 530.274.0764



Email: info@bargeconnection.com
Website: www.bargeconnection.com

THE BARGE CONNECTION

MENU TYPES

La Tortue

LUNCH

Spinnach and Roquefort Tart

Caramelised Red Onions with Bacon and Pine Nuts
Roast Tomatoes with Basil and Balsamic Dressing
Mixed Salad Leaves with Croutons and Tapenade Dressing

Cheeses:

- *St Maure de Torraine*
 - *Ardi Gasna*
 - *Cantal Salers*

Fresh Fruit and Nuts

Wines:

- *Chateau Helène 1997 - White*
- *Domaine Ollier Caillefer 1997 - Rosé*
- *Chateau St Eulalie 1996 - Red*

DINNER

Zucchini and Parmesan Terrine with a Red Pepper Coulis

Fillet of Silver Sea Bream on Saffron Mash with Champagne Sabayon

Brie de Meaux

Brioche Pudding with Dried Fruits marinated in Banyuls

Wines:

- *Chateau La Coupes - Roses 1996 - White*
 - *Chateau Belot 1995 - Red*
- *Muscat de St Jeanne de Minervois - Sweet White*

Phone: 888.550.8580
Phone: 530.274.0764



Email: info@bargeconnection.com
Website: www.bargeconnection.com

THE BARGE CONNECTION