



Beautiful Burgundy

Bike and Boat Tour from Moret-sur-Loing to Auxerre, France

8 days / 7 nights

Dates: August 23-30, 2022 (Tuesday-Tuesday)

Prepare to be enchanted as you journey by bike and barge through the picturesque countryside of northern Burgundy! Pedal along meandering rivers on your way to welcoming medieval villages and idyllic vineyards that produce world renowned wines. Discover for yourself why Burgundy is known throughout the world for its laid-back pace, charming people, and mild climate.

Throughout the tour, you'll enjoy guided bike rides, cities of art and culture, visits to gothic cathedrals, botanical gardens, wineries, and more. Cycling routes will alternate between easy stretches alongside the river Yonne and more challenging uphill sections that reward you with spectacular views. Along the way, you'll have the chance to sip and savor some of the best wines, cheeses, honey and ciders you will ever taste!

Day 1 (Tue): Moret-sur-Loing

Your captain, crew and tour leader will welcome you aboard your ship and floating hotel, the Zwaantje ("zvant-yuh"). Unpack, settle in, and gather with the crew for a safety briefing, followed by a bike fitting session to get you comfortable in the saddle. Enjoy a delicious dinner onboard, after which there will be ample time to take a moonlit stroll through Moret-sur-Loing, a charming medieval fortified village on the banks of the river Loing. The Impressionist painter Sisley found much here to inspire his beautiful paintings.

Day 2 (Wed): Moret-sur-Loing – Montereau – Pont-sur-Yonne (24 mi)

Your day begins with a leisurely breakfast onboard as the ship sails to the town of Montereau-fault-Yonne, situated at the confluence of the Yonne and the Seine rivers. In Montereau you'll have an opportunity to visit the Notre-Dame-et-Saint-Loup collegiate church which was built between the 12th and 14th centuries. From Montereau you will pedal along the canals of the river Yonne to Pont-sur-Yonne, a quaint, friendly town where we will dock for the night.



Day 3 (Thu): Pont-sur-Yonne – Sens (26 mi)

Today you will ride out into the countryside to visit a local honey producer. As we head toward Sens you will enter the lovely Parc du moulin a Tan, a 15-hectare park featuring botanical gardens, tropical greenhouses, and babbling streams. The park takes its name from its windmill built in 1887 which made a powder used in leather tanning. We'll continue our ride to Sens, one of the oldest towns in France, where you'll visit the first gothic cathedral built in France, Cathedral Saint-Etienne.

Day 4 (Fri): Sens - Villeneuve-sur-Yonne (33 mi)

One of the longer rides of the tour will take you through the hills to the museum de Pomme et de cidre where you'll be rewarded with a taste of

the fine cider they produce there. We dock for the night in the lovely town of Villeneuve where you will be free to explore the medieval gate towers and romantic string of gardens as the sun sets over the countryside.

Day 5 (Sat): Villeneuve-sur-Yonne – Joigny (26 mi)

Today you'll start the morning with a beautiful bike ride to Saint-Julien-du-Sault where you can visit the 13th century Saint-Pierre church with its magnificent stained-glass windows. You'll then continue to Joigny where you'll follow a lazy loop through the local vineyards in the afternoon. Your tour guide will show you where to taste fine Burgundy wines – a highlight of this tour! Joigny, a picturesque little town with a very long winemaking tradition, features several sites worth visiting, including many historical monuments, ancient churches, and unique townhouses from the 16th-17th centuries with carved renaissance facades.



Day 6 (Sun): Joigny – Auxerre (23 mi)

Another leisurely breakfast aboard as we sail to Migennes at the junction of the remarkable Burgundy canal, which when completed, linked the English Channel and the Mediterranean. You'll hop back on your bike at Migennes to follow the beautiful Burgundy canal south to Auxerre with her majestic church spires, streets lined with 16th century timber houses and the Auxerre Cathedral of Saint-Etienne, a true masterpiece of Gothic art. You can also stroll along the old port or visit the 15th century clock tower. You can explore on your own this evening in one of the fine local restaurants in town for dinner.

Day 7 (Mon): Auxerre Loop (26 mi)

On day seven of your tour, you get to choose between two great options on how to spend your day. If you'd like to spend it strolling around Auxerre, feel free to enjoy this beautiful city however you choose! If you're game for one more spin, you can explore the area of Auxerre by bike with your guide. Ride along the Yonne to visit Caves de Bailly, a vineyard famous for its sparkling Cremant de Bourgogne and limestone caves. The nearby vineyards of St Bris and Irancy are also well worth a visit, as are the paintings of George Hosotte in the Chapelle de Bailly.

Day 8 (Tue): Auxerre

You bid your crew and fellow passengers a fond farewell after we enjoy one last breakfast together before you disembark the ship.



Our floating hotel for this tour, the spacious and cozy Zwaantje



Accommodations on board the ZWAANTJE



On the lower deck, the Zwaantje has twelve comfortable guest cabins. **Ten twins** (75 sq.ft.) with two separate twin beds and **two doubles** (65 sq.ft.) each with one double bed.

Each cabin has a private shower, toilet and basin. All cabins have central heating, air-conditioning and a window; the windows in the doubles can be opened, the windows in the twins are fixed for safety reasons. Also, in each cabin you will find a mini safe and hair dryer.

When it's time to lounge around



There are several areas on the ship where guests can relax. The cozy indoor lounge and bar is adjacent to the dining room and is furnished with benches with comfy cushions. A wonderful feature of this ship is the spacious sundeck above, which offers panoramic views.



FOR PRICING AND AVAILABILITY, Please contact us at StephanieVentures@Gmail.com

Included in the cost of the tour

- 8 days / 7 nights lodging on a Comfort Plus class hotel barge with air-conditioned cabins
- 7 x breakfast, packed lunches, 6 dinners on board
- Service of one Bicycle Guide and one Tour Director
- Entrance fees for sites listed in the itinerary
- Use of bed linen and towels, daily cleaning of the cabin
- Use of 8 speed hybrid touring bike, helmet rental, pannier rental, souvenir water bottle

On request

- E-bike rental - \$175 per bike
- Special diets, pricing varies, please inquire

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Arrival in Moret-sur-Loing: We will provide you with directions to the barge mooring as your tour departure date approaches. The closest international airport is Paris Charles de Gaulle airport.

Internet: There is WIFI onboard the barge. The speed may not be what you are accustomed to at home but you can check e-mails and browse the internet.

Bicycles: The barge carries a fleet of well-maintained touring bikes, ideal for the terrain featured in this itinerary. Due to the limited storage space on the ship, guests will not be able to bring their own bikes.

Bicycle Helmet: We require all guests to wear a proper helmet at all times while riding on the tour. Helmets are available on the barge for guests to borrow but you may want to bring your own.

Bicycle Locks: All bicycles are fitted with locks. Please use them whenever you plan to leave your bicycle unattended for any length of time. You will be liable for damage or theft of the bicycle if it is stolen during an excursion because it was not locked properly. Bicycle insurance is available at check in for a nominal fee.

Itinerary Program: The above itinerary is subject to change. Alterations are sometimes necessary due to nautical or technical conditions. This tour will cover daily bike rides between 40 and 60 km. It is often possible to do only part of the day's tour. And, of course, you can always opt out of riding and stay on board for the day. The guides will join you for the daily rides and point out interesting sights along the route. Guides can make repairs to your bike as necessary. While you are biking, the barge will cruise to the town where we will spend the night.

Physical Fitness: To participate in and enjoy the biking part of the tour, it is important that you are in good physical condition and that you are in control of your bike. This tour is rated difficulty level 2 so novice cyclists may find the hills challenging. On this tour, we will often need to share the road with car traffic, and we will have to cross busy intersections. The weather is variable in France, it may not always be sunny, and the winds may not always be calm. Even under poor weather conditions, you should feel safe and able to cover the day's distance on your bike as it may not always be possible to join the ship in mid-ride.

About Stephanie Ventures, LLC

Our expertise is active, affordable, small group travel and we pride ourselves on putting a unique spin on our itineraries to ensure you will not find another tour experience out there quite like ours. Founder Stephanie Scott started the company with 35 years of experience in specialty food and wine, during which she designed plenty of fun, memorable events and travel adventures. Certified as a Tour Director by the International Tour Management Institute, Stephanie also worked as a tour guide in San Francisco. In her former day job, she worked with one of the most popular men's pro-cycling teams in the US for 15 years, but is content to ride her bike, at home and on tour, at a more leisurely pace. She believes that one of the best ways to see the world and meet its people is by traveling around it on two wheels, and she logged many kilometers on the bike paths of Germany, Switzerland, and Austria before launching her tour company in 2015. Since then, she's hosted amazing bike & barge tours in the Netherlands, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, and Italy. Join her in 2022 when we return to Europe for a new itinerary through the picturesque French countryside of Burgundy. Be sure to bring your spirit of adventure, hearty appetite, and a good sense of humor!

