



FRANCE

ALOUETTE - CANAL DU MIDI CRUISE FROM BÉZIERS TO CARCASSONNE

(TOUR CODE: 14920)

STARTS AND ENDS

Béziers to
Carcassonne

TRAVEL PERIODS

05 Apr 26 - 28 Jun 26

EXPERIENCE

Cruising
Food & Wine
Luxury

TRAVEL STYLE

Barge Cruising

Discover Europe's largest fortress, vibrant local markets, and enchanting historic abbeys.

Highlights

- Visit Medieval Carcassonne and explore Europe's largest fortress with double ramparts, panoramic battlements and captivating medieval charm
- Discover Fontfroide Abbey and tour a serene 11th-century Cistercian monastery with peaceful cloisters and a stunning rose garden
- Wander through Narbonne's celebrated covered market, savouring the vibrant colours, aromas and flavours, then enjoy a tasting of fine local wines or artisanal olive oils

Embark on a personalised and intimate voyage through the picturesque landscapes of southern France. Aboard Alouette, soak up the relaxed charm of the Canal du Midi while enjoying gourmet delights and effortless comfort. Along the way, delve into lively local markets, atmospheric abbeys, and timeless villages, all steeped in history and Mediterranean character. Your journey culminates at the awe-inspiring fortress city of Carcassonne, Europe's largest of its kind. This elegant cruise blends cultural discovery with laid-back luxury, offering a unique way to experience the beauty and heritage of the French countryside.

Kindly note: The Alouette is exclusively available for private charter for up to 4 guests & available in the reverse direction.

INCLUSIONS

- 6 nights onboard the Alouette in your own private sanctuary - with a capacity to welcome up to four guests
- Table d'hôte meals and complimentary beverages, daily breakfast and French fine dining experience served onboard
- All excursions including exclusive use of the onboard bicycles alongside the river
- Dedicated Host service
- A dedicated tour guide and an itinerary tailored to your preferences
- Roundtrip transfers to/from the luxury barge within France & Geneva

ITINERARY

Facilities onboard Alouette

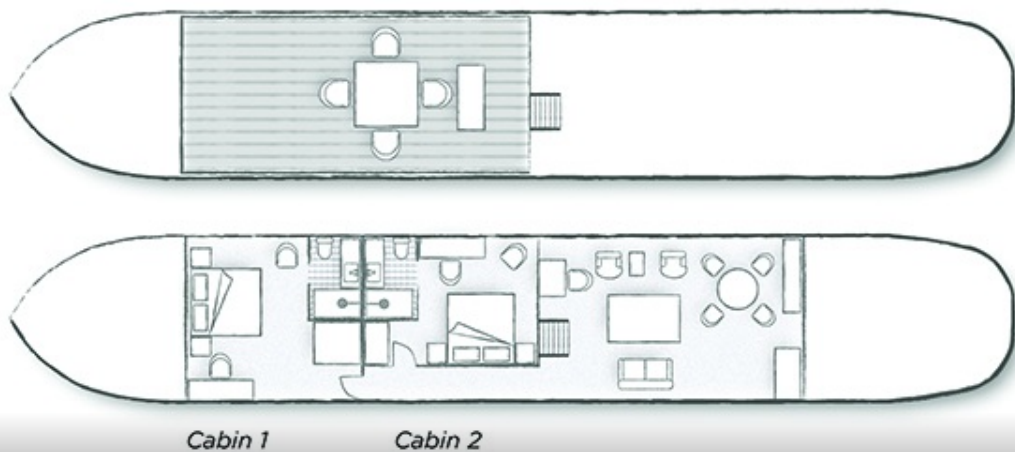
Welcome onboard!

Enjoy the finest of river cruises and lounge in understated luxury aboard Alouette. Perfect for a tranquil South of France summer or a romantic holiday, Alouette has just two cabins, one twin and one double — each boasting an ensuite shower room featuring L'Occitane toiletries.

Relax in intimate accommodations, where soft lighting, warm pastel tones and airy marble bathrooms set the scene for a restful stay. Cool off with an afternoon siesta or stretch out with a classic cocktail as you watch the sun set through your picture windows.

Each meal is tailored to your own taste. Consult personally with your chef, picking from regional specialities and fine ingredients. Pair the region's finest fish dishes with delightful wines nurtured to maturity by local vineyards.

DECK PLANS



DECK PLANS

Day 1

Béziers

Board Alouette at approximately 5:00pm and prepare to be exquisitely cocooned on a relaxing, intimate adventure. Champagne is served as you meet your personal crew and guide. Take in the 360-degree views on deck and the picturesque tree-lined Canal du Midi. Your chef is busy preparing your first feast of the cruise, a spread of vibrant dishes crafted from intensely flavourful ingredients, tailored to your tastes. As delicious wines are uncorked, raise a toast to the start of a sublime vacation.

Day 2

Cruise to Capestang - visit Fontfroide Abbey

Awake to a beautiful day on the water and a breakfast of freshly baked pastries, local juices and artisan produce. Spend your first morning relaxing as you cruise along the Canal du Midi, one of the most stunning waterways in France. Lined with willows, irises and plane trees that tower over the water, its banks abound in wildlife. After a lunch that's both rustic and refined, disembark from the barge to visit Fontfroide Abbey with your guide. This 11th -century Cistercian monastery, now privately owned, delights with its tranquil chapter hall, refectory, cloister and beautifully maintained rose garden. Back on board, enjoy a sumptuous dinner.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4

Visit Narbonne

This morning, visit the wonderful covered market in Narbonne, which was previously voted the most beautiful in France. Choose ingredients for your dinner and let the colours and fragrances transport you to true foodie heaven. Narbonne is a lively Mediterranean city and an important wine-producing centre. The historic architecture, shady boulevards and location on the banks of the Canal de la Robine all contribute to its charm. Enjoy a traditional lunch at a bistro near the market. En route back to the Alouette in Le Somail, stop at local olive mill, where you can uncover the secrets of the nutritious oil with a private demonstration and tasting. Alternatively, visit a local winery and sample its delectable wines. Dinner is served on board.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 3

Cruise to Le Somail and visit Minerve

This morning's cruise brings you to Le Somail, where we will spend the next two nights. This scenic mooring is in an achingly pretty canal-side port, where ivy-covered walls, humpback bridges and umbrella pines create a feast for the eyes. After lunch, your guide takes you to visit Minerve, a medieval village perched on a limestone cliff, overlooking the gorges below. Its now-ruined castle was once a Cathar stronghold, besieged and captured by the infamous Earl of Leicester, Simon de Montfort. Return to the barge for aperitifs, dinner and captivating conversations.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 5

Cruise to Homps & visit Lagrasse

After breakfast, relax and soak up the ever-changing views from the comfort of the deck, or perhaps walk or cycle along the towpath. During lunch on board, arrive on the outskirts of the picturesque town of Homps. This afternoon, your guide takes you to Lagrasse, considered one of the prettiest villages in France. Nestled in the foothills of the Corbières mountains with the Orbieu River snaking through it, Lagrasse has managed to preserve the treasures of its past. A magnificent Benedictine abbey, founded in the 8th century, lies beyond a 12th -century humpbacked bridge. Inside the city walls, a maze of quaint alleyways leads past artists' galleries and gems of medieval architecture. Returning from your tour, dinner is served at a charming local restaurant.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6

Cruise to Trèbes & visit Carcassonne

Relax on board as you navigate your final stretch of canal this week. Admire the beautiful scenery along the Canal du Midi from the deck. After lunch, alight to tour one of Europe's largest medieval fortresses, Carcassonne. Explore the intricate fortifications of the two castellated walls, one inside the other, stretching about a mile in circumference. The views from the battlements towards the Pyrenees are stunning. Visit the cathedral, remarkable for its stained-glass rose windows, elegant Romanesque nave and Gothic transepts. Back on board, your chef is preparing your farewell gala dinner. Sit out on the balmy deck and share stories as you savour seasonal delicacies.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **7**

Disembark in Carcassonne

Check out this morning is by 09:00am.

After breakfast, your crew bids you farewell as you disembark for your onward travel arrangements. We look forward to welcoming you back on board soon.

Please note, in exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to alter the route without prior notice.

Breakfast

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	LOCAL CURRENCY
French	EUR

- This itinerary may be subject to change. On alternate weeks, the cruise will be in the reverse direction.

Supplier Booking Conditions Apply

Due to the boutique nature and limited capacity of this travel experience, under our Bookings Conditions this package classifies as “Booking Type 2 – Travel Experience where we act as agent only”. Your contract for the delivery of travel arrangements will be with the principal supplier and will be subject to their Booking Conditions. We will advise you prior to confirming your booking the full details and Booking Conditions of the principal supplier. Our responsibility to you where we sell travel arrangements as agent for the supplier is specified in the ‘Responsibility’ section of our Booking Conditions.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Drinks from the premium list, or drinks ordered during excursions
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.)
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package