



📍 Cruising across the Orb Aqueduct, a bridge which carries the Canal du Midi over the Orb River



FRANCE

ATHOS – CANAL DU MIDI CRUISE (TOUR CODE: 11145)

STARTS AND ENDS

Argeliers to
Marseillan

TRAVEL PERIODS

05 Apr 26 - 25 Oct 26

EXPERIENCE

Cruising
Food & Wine
Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Barge Cruising

Treat yourself to a wonderful experience on board Athos, a first-class hotel barge cruising through the Canal du Midi.

Highlights

- Tour of the medieval city of **Carcassonne**
- Private tour and **tasting at a Minervois winery**
- Organic **Olive Tasting** at L'Oulibo
- **Cruise** through the natural haven that is the "**Petit Camargue**"
- Tour and tasting at the **Noilly Prat vermouth distillery**
- Excellent towpath for walking and cycling

Cruise the scenic Canal du Midi, through the Languedoc-Roussillon region of France. Originally a sand, grain, and wine barge, Athos is now a charming hotel barge with a cosy saloon and spacious sundeck, perfect for relaxing with a book or cocktail. Stay in a stylish stateroom with a modern ensuite shower and enjoy gourmet meals with fine wines. Cycle along the towpath, visit medieval towns, tour wineries and sample regional delicacies like L'Oulibo's organic olive oil.



INCLUSIONS

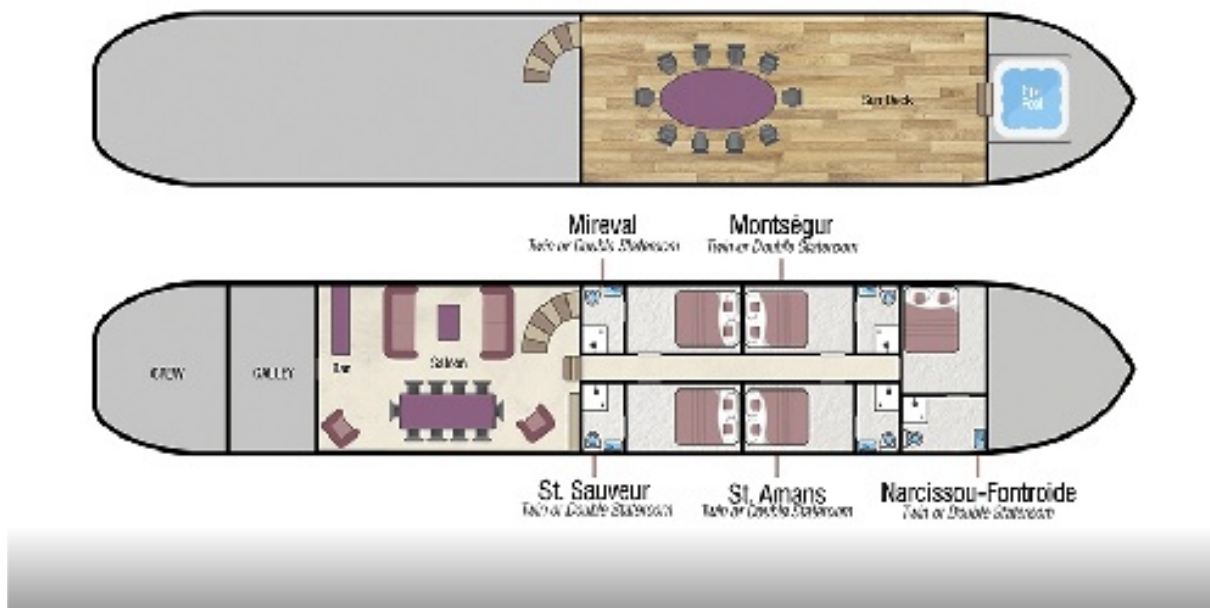
- 6 nights onboard the Hotel Barge Athos in a Stateroom
- Crew of 5 (Captain, tour guide, chef and 2 hostesses)
- Transfers by an air-conditioned minivan
- All meals and drinks on board
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily prepared by your chef
- Captains farewell dinner on your last night
- Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- Excursions as per itinerary
- Use of barge facilities

ITINERARY

Deck Hotel Barge Athos

First Class | 10 Passengers | 5 Crew

- 99 Feet Long
- 5 Twin/Double Staterooms (93 - 102sq ft incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned / Centrally Heated



Day 1 Bezier Argeliers

Guests are met in Béziers* and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Athos where a warm **welcome with champagne and Mediterranean canapés** awaits. Once you are settled into your cabin, you will be invited to your first 4-course dinner on board, prepared by the highly skilled chef.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge Athos** in a Stateroom.

Dinner



DINNER ON ATHOS

Day 2 Argeliers La Croisade

Enjoy breakfast in a comfortable chair on the upper deck of the hotel barge, before a drive to the famous medieval double-walled City of **Carcassonne**. Your knowledgeable guide will provide a full tour of this historical place and ensure that you also have time to explore at your leisure.

Return to the barge for a gourmet lunch (perhaps including the famous duck confit stew, cassoulet) and an afternoon's cruise to **La Croisade**, with plenty of opportunity to walk or bicycle along the towpath. Dinner on board.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge Athos** in a Stateroom.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **3**

La Croisade Capestang

After breakfast, enjoy a tasting at **L'Oulibo**, a cooperative olive oil press. After tasting those organic and wholesome olives accompanied by a glass of rosé, take a short drive up the **Gorge de la Cesse** and into the hilltop village of Minerve. Your guide will regale you with the harrowing tale of the Cathar siege launched at Minerve during the 13th century. Relax after lunch on board, whilst cruise to Capestang, or you can enjoy a wine tasting at a local château, such as Château Cabezac. Return to the hotel barge for dinner on board and admire the floodlit **Collegiale St. Etienne**.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge Athos** in a Stateroom.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 4 Capestang Fonserannes

After breakfast, take a trip to the weekly morning market in **Narbonne**. Even for non-shoppers, Narbonne offers much entertainment. Explore an excavated portion of the original Roman road, the Via Domitia, browse through the Roman Museum, discover the beauty of St. Juste Cathedral, tour the Archbishop's Palace, or simply relax at one of the many cafés. After lunch in the atmospheric market, return to Athos and cruise to **Fonserannes** via the famed Malpas Tunnel. From the mooring location tonight - you will have a glorious view of the town of Béziers and the **Cathedral St. Nazaire**. Dinner on board.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge Athos** in a Stateroom.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 5 Fonserannes Portiragnes

The day begins with a drive to the historic market town of **Pézenas**, once the first seat of the Languedoc court. Its distinctive architecture features 'Hôtels Particuliers', elegant mansions built by noble families who accompanied the Court. The town is filled with artisanal shops, including painters, hat makers and costume designers, with time to explore as well as discover its fascinating history. After lunch on board, the journey continues through the 17th-century engineering marvel of the **Fonserannes Staircase Locks** before crossing the 19th-century aqueduct over the River Orb. The paved towpath and numerous locks enroute to the mooring make it an ideal afternoon for walking or cycling alongside the barge. Dinner on board.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge Athos** in a Stateroom.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



RELAXING ON THE SUNDECK

Day **6**

Portiragnes Marseillan

This morning cruise through the Petite **Camargue**, passing pink flamingos, bee-eaters and Europe's largest mussel and oyster beds, as well as the unique 'round lock' at Agde. After lunch in Marseillan you will end a perfect day with a fascinating tour of the **Noilly Prat distillery** and, if you choose, a tasting before the **Captain's Farewell Dinner** on board.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge Athos** in a Stateroom.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



FLAMINGOS IN THE NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE OF LA PETITE CAMARGUE

Day **7**

Marseillan Beziers

After breakfast, transfer by a private chauffeured minibus to your choice of location in Beziers*.

Breakfast

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	LOCAL CURRENCY
French	EUR

Departure Dates and Pricing:

2025 Cruise Rates		
Rates are for 6 nights either: per person based on double occupancy per cabin or on a whole barge charter basis. Prices below are in Euros.		
Accommodation	Value	Regular
Stateroom	€5,250	€6,050
Single Supplement	€1,900	€2,200
Charter (Whole Barge)		
Charter 6 passengers	€43,900	€50,100
Charter 8 passengers	€46,700	€53,300
Charter 10 passengers	€49,500	€56,500
Departure Dates (Sunday)	Rates	Cruise Region
Mar 30; Apr 6, 13, 20	Value	France - Canal du Midi
Apr 27; May 4, 11, 18, 25; Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Jul 6, 13, 20, 27; Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Sep 7, 14, 21, 28; Oct 5, 12	Regular	France - Canal du Midi
Oct 19 & 26	Value	France - Canal du Midi

2026 Cruise Rates		
Rates are for 6 nights either: per person based on double occupancy per cabin or on a whole barge charter basis. Prices below are in Euros.		
Accommodation	Value	Regular
Stateroom	€5,350	€6,190
Single Supplement	€2,000	€2,300
Charter (Whole Barge)		
Charter 6 passengers	€44,700	€51,400
Charter 8 passengers	€47,600	€54,700
Charter 10 passengers	€50,500	€58,000
Departure Dates (Sunday)	Rates	Cruise Region
Apr 5, 12, 19	Value	France - Canal du Midi
Apr 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Jun 7, 14, 21, 28; Jul 5	Regular	France - Canal du Midi
Jul 12, 19, 26; Aug 2, 9, 16	Value	France - Canal du Midi
Aug 23, 30; Sep 6, 13, 20, 27; Oct 4, 11, 18	Regular	France - Canal du Midi
Oct 25th	Value	France - Canal du Midi

- This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change. On alternate weeks, the cruise will be in the reverse direction.
- Approximate transfer duration between Beziers & Athos is 30 minutes
- This barge is available for charter bookings and theme cruises. Contact us for more details.

Pick-up Point

- Cabin bookings - Guests choice of location in Beziers between 4:00 pm and 4:30 pm
- Charter bookings - On a request basis to be agreed prior to booking: One location of the group's choice in Beziers, Carcassonne, Narbonne or Montpellier starting from 4:00 pm.

Drop-off Point

- Cabin bookings - Guests choice of location in Beziers by 10:00 am or guests who wish to take the 8:30 am train from Beziers can be dropped at the station at 8:00 am
- Charter bookings - On a request basis to be agreed prior to booking: One location of the group's choice in Beziers, Carcassonne, Narbonne or Montpellier by 10:00 am.

Booking / Payment Process

- On our website the Barge Cruise prices are show in Euros
- All payments will be made to us in Australian Dollars
- The current exchange rate will be used at the time of deposit and balance
- Our invoice will make this clear and our team is here to assist you

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.

Special Offer Terms & Conditions Apply:

Offer will only apply to new bookings confirmed and deposited by 11 August 2025 and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

*This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change - Blackout dates may apply.

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
- 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