



FRANCE

NYMPHEA - LOIRE VALLEY CRUISE (TOUR CODE: 11841)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Tours

TRAVEL PERIODS

25 Jun 23 - 07 Oct 24

EXPERIENCE

Food & Wine
Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Cruise

Nymphae with its shallow draft makes her the ideal vessel for navigating the beautiful sandy reaches of the River Cher in the Loire Valley

Highlights

- Private wine tastings at Montrichard and the Domaine de Fontenay
- Excursions to the Château d'Amboise and Château du Clos Lucé
- Visit to Château de Villandry and its magnificent gardens
- Tour of Château de Chenonceau and gardens

Hotel Barge Nymphae traditional interior, reminiscent of a classic yacht, features a warm decor of rich varnished hardwoods, stained glass and shining brass. The traditionally furnished saloon and dining area have a warm and welcoming country house atmosphere and there is an additional upper saloon area with more comfortable seating to relax in. Nymphae has three compact, but comfortable cabins, two twin staterooms and one twin or double stateroom, all with air conditioning and en-suite facilities.

Outside, the sun deck with its comfortable seating offers the perfect vantage point from which to admire the next picturesque waterside village, elegant chateau, or stunning stretch of scenery as it slowly comes into view. You will even get to cruise through the arches of probably the most-photographed chateau in the Loire Valley, Château de Chenonceau – not once, but twice – a rare privilege afforded to very few boats! And if you wish to explore the River Cher's towpath and surrounding countryside, there are 6 bicycles available for your use.

Nymphae's crew of Captain/Tour Leader and Master Chef are most knowledgeable about the history, wine and cuisine of the region and they will be there to help make your journey through the 'Valley of the Kings of France' truly unforgettable.

INCLUSIONS

- 6 nights onboard the Hotel Barge Nyphea in a Stateroom
- Crew of 4 (Captain, tour guide, chef and hostesses)
- Transfers by an air-conditioned minivan
- 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

Day **1**

Tours Moulin de Nitray

You are met near Tours** and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to hotel barge Nyphea where the crew and a **Champagne Welcome** await you at our mooring opposite the 17th century Moulin de Nitray. Dinner on board.

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

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Dinner



Day **2**

Moulin de Nitray Larcay

A morning cruise through two locks takes you to the quaint town of **Larcay** where we moor under the weeping willows for lunch. In the afternoon, enjoy an **excursion to Château de Villandry**, the last of the great Renaissance châteaux to be built on the banks of the Loire. The château is world-renowned for its amazing array of ornamental, water, vegetable and herb gardens. Dinner on board.

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

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **3**

Larcay Vallet

After a morning cruise past no less than six private châteaux, tie up opposite the hamlet of Vallet, a cluster of classic Tourangeau architecture grouped around its 18th century mill. From there we drive to Amboise on the banks of the Loire, where we **visit the Royal Château d'Amboise**, a royal residence of the Kings of France for 200 years. You will also **visit Château du Clos Lucé** nearby, Leonardo Da Vinci's home for the last 3 years of his life. Dinner on board.

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

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **4**

Vallet Chissay-en-Touraine

Whilst cruising in the morning you may pull in to the tiny landing stage next to Domaine de Fontenay. A two-minute walk brings you to the courtyard where you can taste their range of Touraine wines as an aperitif before lunch. In the afternoon we cruise under the 5-arch bridge of the impressive **Château de Chenonceau** and moor at **Chisseaux**. From there you will take a short drive in the air-conditioned minibus to visit Chenonceau, often called 'the ladies château', after those such as Henry II's mistress, Diane de Poitiers, who added the bridge over the River Cher and the beautiful gardens. Upon our return we cruise upstream to **Chissay-en-Touraine** and have dinner tonight in one of the local restaurants specializing in Loire regional cooking.

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

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **5**

Chissy-en-Touraine Montrichard

A morning cruise takes you towards the troglodyte village of **Bourré** and we moor near one of the more unusual dwellings, La Magnaneraie. The Coquillat family have grown up in this hillside troglodyte habitation, which has been in turn a wine cellar, a quarry for the tuffeau stone, and lastly, a silkworm nursery. After lunch you will drive to **Valencay**, one of the most splendid châteaux of the Loire. We then cruise to Montrichard where we moor for the night. Dinner on board.

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

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



NYPHEASUNDECK

Day **6**

Montrichard Moulin de Nitray

Following breakfast, a short stroll takes you to the heart of Montrichard and into one of the largest street markets in Touraine. You will also explore the 11th **century château** overlooking the medieval town square. Before lunch you can visit the local vineyard of the Meriau family, to taste the regional Touraine vintages. In the afternoon, enjoy another passage under Chenonceau and arrive at the hamlet of Nitray in time to **visit the château and rose garden**. Enjoy an aperitif from their vineyards before the **Captain's Farewell Dinner** on board.

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

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



CHATEAU OF CHENONCEAU

Day **7**

Moulin de Nitray Tours

After breakfast, you are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to the drop-off point near Tours.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE
French

LOCAL CURRENCY
EUR

Departure Date and Pricing:

2023 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		Regular	
Stateroom		€4,650	
Single Supplement		€1,800	
Charter (Whole Barge)			
Charter 2 passengers		€22,500	
Charter 4 passengers		€23,600	
Charter 5 passengers		€24,800	
Charter 6 passengers		€26,000	
Departure Dates (Sunday)		Rates	Cruise Region
Jun 25; Jul 16, 23, 30; Aug 6, 13, 20, 27; Sep 3, 10, 17, 24; Oct 1, 8		Regular	France - Loire Valley

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Departure Dates (Sunday)	Rates	Cruise Region
Jul 7, 14, 21, 28; Aug 4, 11, 18, 25; Sep 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Oct 6	Regular	France - Loire Valley

- This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change. On alternate weeks, the cruise will be in the reverse direction.
- This barge is available for charter bookings and theme cruises. Contact us for more details.

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.

Blackout dates may apply during festive season.

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