



France: Aix-en-Provence Timeless Beauty and South of France by Barge

DURATION | 10 Days

TRIP LEVEL | Moderate

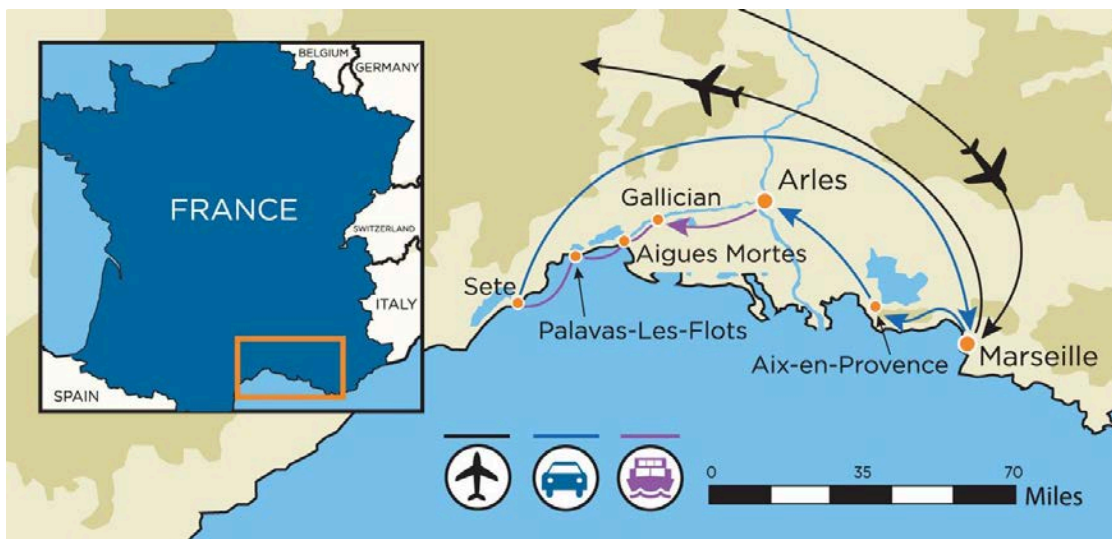
Trip Overview

Embark with AdventureWomen on a delightful journey through the heart of Provence and the enchanting Rhone River Canals! Start in Aix-en-Provence with a private city tour and a welcome dinner. Explore Gordes, a 12th-century abbey, and savor local gastronomy. Enjoy a cooking class and vineyard visit in Avignon. Wander through Arles, discover olive oil production, and cruise to Gallician. Visit a Camargue manade, relax in Sainte-Marie-de-la-Mer, and cruise to Aigues-Mortes. Tour salt marshes, cruise to Palavas-les-Flots, and experience bull-sorting. Conclude with a shellfish excursion and a farewell dinner in Saint-Guilhem-le-Desert. Join us for an unforgettable adventure!

Trip Highlights

- Immerse yourself in the beauty of Aix-en-Provence and its picturesque villages, renowned for their stunning landscapes and rich cultural heritage.
- Sail on a privately chartered barge, enjoying gourmet cuisine and exceptional service as you drift along the serene Rhone River and its breathtaking surroundings.
- Uncover the history of Arles, learn about olive oil production, and explore the medieval town of Aigues-Mortes, all while experiencing authentic Provençal traditions.

Map View



adventurewomen

Trip Itinerary



Day 1

Welcome to Aix-en-Provence

Arrive at Marseille Airport (MRS) before 2:00 PM. Your driver will meet you and ensure a smooth ride in a premium vehicle. Once you arrive in Aix-en-Provence, you'll enjoy a 3-hour private walking tour. Explore stunning 17th- and 18th-century architecture, vibrant squares, and elegant fountains. End the day with a specially prepared, three-course welcome dinner with your fellow travelers. Share stories and discover the unique reasons each woman in your group is excited to explore this region of France.

Meals: dinner | Overnight: Negrecoste Hotel & Spa



Negrecoste Hotel & Spa

Overlooking the iconic Cours Mirabeau, this 4-star hotel is located in the heart of Aix-en-Provence. Wander under the shade of century-old trees, discover charming fountains, and explore historic facades and local shops. For ultimate relaxation, indulge in the luxurious spa.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, minibar, flatscreen TV, safe, Wi-Fi, air conditioning



Trip Itinerary



Day 2

Discover Gordes

Following breakfast, visit Gordes, one of the “Most Beautiful Villages of France.” This hilltop village, known for inspiring artists like Victor Vasarély and Marc Chagall, offers captivating views and a 16th-century château. Next, you’ll explore the 12th-century Cistercian Abbaye de Sénanque, a serene monastery nestled in a valley. Discover its abbey church, cloister, and ancient dormitory. Modest attire and silence are required. Finally, visit Lourmarin, another beautiful village with charming streets, art galleries, and a 15th-century Renaissance castle. Learn about Albert Camus and enjoy the town’s historic churches and inviting squares.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: Negrecoste Hotel & Spa



Trip Itinerary



Day 3

Private Cooking Class and Wine Tasting

Begin your day with a brief introduction to Avignon's rich culinary traditions. Under the guidance of French chef Pascal Barnouin at the Maison de la Tour, learn to prepare a seasonal three-course meal featuring Provençal recipes with a modern twist. Then take a scenic 2-3-hour walk through the organic vineyards of Domaine de la Mordorée. Learn about their sustainable farming practices, visit the Plateau de Vallongue for panoramic views, and end with a tasting of their wines, especially the renowned Tavel rosés.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: Negrecoste Hotel & Spa



Trip Itinerary



Day 4

Off to Arles

Enjoy a leisurely morning exploring the vibrant markets of Aix-en-Provence. Discover fresh produce, flowers, and crafts in the town's picturesque squares. Visit Place Richelme for daily produce, and explore the grand market at Place des Prêcheurs and Place de Verdun for food, antiques, and vintage items. A private driver will transport you to Arles in a premium vehicle. Walk around Arles in the afternoon and board your private barge at 6:00 PM. After comfortably settling into your cabins, get introduced to your crew at a welcome cocktail. Enjoy dinner and remain in port overnight.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: MS Anne-Marie



MS Anne-Marie

The MS Anne Marie Barge, has everything you need. The comfortable cabins have twin beds and en suite bathrooms with electricity and air conditioning. Spend your days on the sun deck, enjoying a panoramic view of the landscapes as you cruise by, on the terrace at the front of the barge, or in the lounge with a glass of wine. Please note that there is no laundry service on board the ship.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, TV, Wi-Fi, air conditioning



Trip Itinerary



Day 5

Roman Ruins and A Cruise on The Rhone River

Explore the cultural heart of Arles and its remarkable Roman ruins, then head inland to discover the art of olive oil production in Provence. Conclude your tour with a tasting of local specialties before returning to the ship for an afternoon cruise along the Rhône River to Gallician. Relax, have a glass of wine, and enjoy the scenery or take a dip in the on-board hot tub.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: MS Anne-Marie



Trip Itinerary



Day 6

Visit a Camargue Manade

Visit a traditional Camargue manade, a French ranch led by a manadière—a skilled female rancher who specializes in breeding Camargue bulls and horses. The manadière will give you a tour of the ranch and let you witness cattle sorting and a thrilling cow race! Afterward, enjoy free time in the picturesque town of Sainte-Maries-de-la-Mer, where you can explore the historic church. Then back to the barge to cruise to Aigues-Mortes, arriving in the early evening.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: MS Anne-Marie

Trip Itinerary



Day 7

Tour Aigues-Mortes

Join your group for a tour of Aigues-Mortes, a historic fortified city nestled in the heart of the marshlands and one of Provence's most stunning sites. Ride a scenic tourist train through the salt marshes and visit the salt museum to learn about the area's rich heritage. After the tour, you'll return to the ship for a relaxing evening.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: MS Anne-Marie



Trip Itinerary



Day 8

Cruise to Palavas-Les-Flots

In the morning, cruise to Palavas-Les-Flots, where you'll have free time to explore. Later, visit a manade to experience the daily life of its herders with a wagon tour and participate in a bull sorting activity. Before returning to the boat, enjoy a delicious farm-fresh snack. Spend the evening cruising onward to Sète.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: MS Anne-Marie



Trip Itinerary



Day 9

Excursion to the Étang de Thau

Enjoy an excursion to the Étang de Thau, renowned for its shellfish. At the Étang de Thau Museum, learn about the lives of local shellfish farmers and fishermen and enjoy a tasting on the terrace with beautiful views of the basin. In the afternoon, you'll visit Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert, one of France's most picturesque villages. Later, return on board for a farewell dinner with your new AdventureWomen friends. Reminisce over all the memories you have made and celebrate the end of an amazing journey through this truly spectacular country.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: MS Anne-Marie



Trip Itinerary



Day 10

Airport Transfer

Enjoy a delicious buffet breakfast on board before disembarking at 9:00 AM. Say goodbye to your new AdventureWomen friends as you transfer to the airport for your flights home.



What's Included

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- Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- All meals as listed in the itinerary
- Guided sightseeing and activities as indicated in the itinerary
- Services of cruise director and boat crew
- English-speaking guide on day 1 (half day) and days 2 and 3
- All transportation as listed in the itinerary
- One group transfer on arrival and departure
- House wine, beer, spirits, soft drinks, water, coffee, and tea on the barge

Not Included

- International airfare to and from France
- Optional activities
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- Items of a personal nature
- Hotel's tourist tax (to be paid on-site by the guest)
- Gratuities

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

