



📍 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

02 Apr 23 - 20 Oct 24

EXPERIENCE

Food & Wine
Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Cruise

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

Highlights

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

Cruise along Canal du Midi and venture to the spectacular towns and villages of Carcassonne, Minerve, Capetang, Narbonne and Portiragnes.

Originally built as a commercial sand, grain and wine barge, Athos is one of the most traditional hotel barges cruising the Canal du Midi. It features a cosy saloon and spacious sundeck where you can relax with a good book or enjoy a refreshing cocktail whilst admiring the slowly passing countryside. Stay in a chic stateroom with modern ensuite shower room and enjoy gourmet meals accompanied with fine wines at an elegant dining table.

For the more energetic, bicycles are available. You can cycle along the towpath to the next lock or two. Take part in exciting excursions to explore some of the medieval towns along the way. Visit famous wineries, shop for souvenirs in local markets, and discover regional delicacies, including the organic olive oil of L'Oulibo.

This tour departs on Sunday from Beziers. Cruise starts from Argeliers and ends in Marseillan.

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

Day 1

Beziers Argeliers

Guests are met in Beziers** and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Athos. A full-crew Welcome Aboard follows, with champagne and Mediterranean canapés. 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.

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Dinner



DINNER ON ATHOS

Day 2

Argeliers La Croisade

Enjoy breakfast in a comfortable chair on the upper deck of the hotel barge, before we 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 browse the shops. 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.

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **3**

La Croisade Capestang

After breakfast, we enjoy a tasting at “**L’Oulibo**”, the local olive oil press. After tasting those organic and wholesome olives accompanied by a glass of rosé, we 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 we 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.

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



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**, or simply relax at one of the many cafés. After lunch in the atmospheric market, return to Athos and cruise to **Fonserannes**. From your mooring tonight, you will have a glorious view of the **town of Beziers** and the **Cathedral St. Nazaire**. Dinner on board.

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

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



MARKET IN NARBONNE

This morning we drive to the **old market town of Pezenas**, which was the first seat of the Languedoc court. The architecture is unique within this region because of the “Hotels Particuliers” or mansions belonging to the noble families who followed the Court. It is filled with artisans’ shops, including painters, hat makers, and costume designers. Once again, your guide makes sure that there is time to browse, as well as learning about the history. After lunch we begin our negotiation of a 17th century feat of engineering, **the Fonserannes Staircase Locks**. Then we traverse the 18th century aqueduct over the **River Orb**. The paved towpath and the many locks leading to our mooring make it an ideal afternoon for walking or bicycling alongside the barge. Dinner on board.

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

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



RELAXING ON THE SUNDECK

Day **6**

Portiragnes Marseillan

This morning, we get underway earlier than usual, cruising through the area known as the “**Petit Camargue**”. Bird watchers should look out for the local species such as pink flamingos, African Rollers and Bee Eaters. After crossing through the exceptional “round lock” at **Agde**, a spectacular and appropriate seafood lunch awaits you, as you enter the open-waters of the **Etang de Thau**, which boasts Europe’s largest mussel and oyster beds. As we moor in the **port at Marseillan**, you will notice the enclosure of the **Noilly Prat vermouth distillery**. End a perfect day with a fascinating tour of the distillery and if you choose, a tasting of **Noilly Prat** before the Captain’s Farewell Dinner on board.

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

Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



FLAMINGOS IN THE NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE OF LAPETITE 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:

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	Value	Regular
Stateroom	€ 5,250	€ 6,090
Single Supplement	€ 1,900	€ 2,200
Charter (Whole Barge)		
Charter 6 passengers	€ 42,900	€ 48,600
Charter 8 passengers	€ 45,700	€ 51,800
Charter 10 passengers	€ 48,500	€ 55,000
Departure Dates (Sunday)	Rates	Cruise Region
Apr 2, 9, 16, 23	Value	France - Canal du Midi
Apr 30; May 7, 14, 21, 28; Jun 4, 11, 18, 25; Jul 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Aug 6, 13, 20, 27; Sep 3, 10, 17, 24; Oct 1	Regular	France - Canal du Midi
Oct 8, 15, 22	Value	France - Canal du Midi

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Charter 10 passengers	€ 48,500	€ 55,000
Departure Dates (Sunday)	Rates	Cruise Region
Mar 31; Apr 7, 14, 21	Value	France - Canal du Midi
Apr 28; May 5, 12, 19, 26; Jun 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Jul 7, 14, 21, 28; Aug 4, 11, 18, 25; Sep 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Oct 6	Regular	France - Canal du Midi
Oct 13 & 20	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.

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