

ATHOS - CLASSIC CANAL DU MIDI CRUISE

Argeliers to Marseillan

Sunday, Day 1 Argeliers

Guests are met in Béziers** 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.



Monday, Day 2 Argeliers to 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.



Tuesday, Day 3 La Croisade to 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.



Wednesday, Day 4 Capestang to Fonserannes

After breakfast, we 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, we return to Athos and cruise to Fonserannes. From our mooring tonight you will have a glorious view of the town of Béziers and the Cathedral St. Nazaire. Dinner on board.



Thursday, Day 5 Fonserannes to Portiragnes

This morning we drive to the old market town of Pézenas, 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 on board, 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.



Friday, Day 6 Portiragnes to Marseillan

Portiragnes to Marseillan This morning we 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 at Marseillan we 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.



Saturday, Day 7 Marseillan

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to their choice of location in Béziers**.

This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change.

On alternate weeks the cruise will be in the reverse direction.

***Other locations available for private Charter bookings.*



ATHOS - CLASSIC CANAL DU MIDI CRUISE

Marseillan to Argeliers

Sunday, Day 1 Marseillan

Guests are met in Beziers** and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Athos. A champagne welcome with canapés awaits you and you meet the Captain and crew. 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.



Monday, Day 2 Marseillan to Portiragnes

Enjoy breakfast in a comfortable chair on the upper deck of the barge, before we take a guided walk through the quaint fishing village of Marseillan. There is also a fascinating tour of the Noilly Prat vermouth distillery and, if you choose, a tasting of Noilly Prat. Return to the hotel barge for a seafood lunch, before we cruise across the open waters of the Etang de Thau - Europe's largest mussel and oyster park - and make our way onto the Canal du Midi. This area of conservation land, known as the "Petit Camargue", is home to bird species such as pink flamingos, African Rollers and Bee Eaters. After mooring in Portiragnes, if you wish, it is a short bicycle ride to the sandy Mediterranean beach. Dinner on board.



Tuesday, Day 3 Portiragnes to Fonserannes

This morning we drive to the old market town of Pezenas, which was the first seat of the Languedoc court. The architecture is particular to the town 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 traverse the 18th century aqueduct over the River Orb to begin our negotiation of a 17th century feat of engineering, the Fonserannes Staircase Locks. We arrive early evening above the staircase where you have a glorious view of the town of Beziers and the Cathedral St. Nazaire. The crew invite you for a quick game of Pétanque and a glass of Pastis before dinner on board.



Wednesday, Day 4 Fonserannes to Regismont-le-Haut

After breakfast, we 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, we return to Athos and cruise to Regismont-le-Haut, where we will moor with a beautiful view of the Enserune plains. There is time for a stroll along the towpath before dinner on board.



Thursday, Day 5 Regismont-le-Haut to Capestang

This morning, 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 enjoy a wine tasting at a local château, such as Château Cabezac. Return to Athos for dinner on board.



Friday, Day 6 Capestang to Argeliers

Today 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 on board (perhaps including the famous duck confit stew, cassoulet) and an afternoon's cruise to our final mooring at Argeliers. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.



Saturday, Day 7 Argeliers

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to their choice of location in Beziers**.

This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change.

On alternate weeks the cruise is in the reverse direction.

***Other locations available for Private Charter bookings.*

