



ADVENTURE BARGE CRUISES WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS

Our Adventure barge cruises on the Luciole are a unique cruising vacation

Tree walking, horse riding, cave wall climbing, kayaking and scrambling over the ruins of a Medieval castle, make exciting activities. Families and friends wanting a summer adventure that is fun for all and of any age, do read on.....and oh yes, should there be those wanting less of the adventure and a little more history and culture, we are often able to offer a daily visit....

Over the past three seasons, family groups have greatly enjoyed their Adventure Cruises on board the Luciole. We have worked with each group to tailor-build their bespoke week, based on the activities they most want to do. The Luciole crew are adaptable and always willing to alter the daily itinerary to suit. Below is an example, but we can always supplement with alternative proposals....perhaps a spot of go-karting to make the pulses race!

Sunday

The rendezvous in Paris with the Luciole's tour guide is at 2.30pm, at a location of your choice. You are escorted in our private air-conditioned bus to the Luciole, moored in Auxerre. The impressive river frontage of the city has recently undergone a major renovation and is fabulous. The Luciole has her own private mooring beneath the dramatic Cathedral. A Champagne reception welcomes our guests on board.

Monday

The barge cruise up river takes us along the River Yonne to Bailly. Our evening mooring provides the opportunity to swim and dive straight from the barge. Always a summer favourite for our crew!

Your activity of tree walking in the trees at Bois de la Folie will be fun under the French forests tree canopy. The Adventure Centre is run by a previous crew member of the Luciole. Frédéric Sire, who was our tour guide on the barge way back in 1989 and knows the Luciole charters well. The activity is suitable for all ages and levels of confidence. Harnesses are used with carabiners, providing safety on the rope walks and zip wires for all.

An alternative to tree walking is paint balling. Fun in the forest with a healthy amount of competition between teams required.....

An alternative visit is to the Medieval town in the making at Guedelon. Fascinating old skills are used in the building of the impressive new chateau and one can watch the craftsmen creating products of yesteryear in our modern age. If the charter group would like to make the visit and pursue the activity, we are able to arrange both.

Tuesday

The barge cruise in the morning along the Nivernais Canal takes you towards the River Cure on the 'Vermenton Arm' and the village of Accolay. There are lots of opportunities to bike along the tow path and explore the villages. A smooth tarmac path runs the length of our cruise route, which is safe and easy to walk or bike ride along. The canal locks provide the perfect opportunity to step on or off the barge.

Your activity this afternoon is cave climbing in Dissangis. A vast old stone quarry cave has been adapted to allow climbers to traverse along ledges and wires. Different routes of easy for the timid to difficult for the fittest are secured round the cave walls. Even being a spectator is exciting. The reward of an afternoons play is returning to the barge for cocktails or strong cups of tea. It is terrific fun!

Wednesday

Your activity is to Noyers-sur-Serein, the delightful town with its Wednesday market. Time to walk the ramparts or take a coffee before going up to the rambling ruins of the Medieval castle. The old castle is now under reconstruction, with the help of volunteers, led by the enthusiastic Dutchman, Willem Adriaan de Bruyn.

The barge cruise after lunch continues southwards to a night-time mooring beneath the walls of Mailly-le-Château. Here you can take the steep path from our mooring at Bourg d'en Bas up to Mailly-le-Château where the town's terrace offers spectacular views of the Yonne Valley.

Thursday

The barge cruise to Lucy-sur-Yonne takes you through a region where dramatic cliffs stand by the water's edge. Footpaths up to the top offer panoramic views over the countryside. For more of a challenge, you can wind your way up the road on one of the Luciole's bikes.

Your activity of horse riding is in the hills of Montillot. There is a horse for any standard and age from beginners to accomplished. Hard hats are provided.

An alternative visit to the local town of Avallon can be made for those not wanting to take to the saddle!

Friday

The barge cruise to our final mooring in Clamecy, provides further opportunities to swim or explore the quaint Medieval streets.

Your activity is canoeing at Saint Père sous Vézelay. Suitable for swimmers of any age, with adaptable seats for the littlies! Paddling down the River Cure and under the Roman bridge is delightful and timeless. Life jackets are provided by the canoe centre.

An alternative visit is to the Chateau of Bazoches. The 17th Century home of the Marquis de Vauban, France's great military engineer. As an extra, we can always make a quick call-by to Vézelay on the way back to the barge for visiting the shops or buying an ice cream!

Saturday

After breakfast, the Luciole's bus departs to a location of your choice in Paris. For guests wishing to travel elsewhere in France by train or hire car, a stop can always be made in Auxerre en-route to Paris

Hot air ballooning in as optional extra that we can organise for you when you arrive on board. France Montgolfier (founded by ex barge crew 25 years ago) have base close to our cruise route.

Please note: The cruising itinerary will be in the reverse direction, if the Luciole is moored in Clamecy at the start of the week. Our bus can make a small detour to collect passengers from Auxerre should they not wish to rendezvous with us in Paris.