



EUROPEAN CANAL BARGE CRUISES

'Hirondelle' - Marne River & Marne Canal 2020

7 days

Limited to 8 guests

Live graciously on 'Hirondelle' as you discover the essence of the Champagne region. Explore the sobering sites of World War I. Visit historic Reims, the centuries-old place of French coronations. And — of course! — tour Épernay with exclusive tastings of its most famous effervescent wines. Return to your cozy barge each evening for a gourmet dinner and perhaps a nightcap under the stars.

Vessel Information

128 feet long and 16.5 feet wide with air conditioning throughout

Capacity for 8 guests in 2 double/twin cabins, 1 double cabin and 1 twin cabin, each outward facing with en suite bathroom

Salon with stereo system and assortment of CDs

Sun deck, partially shaded for al fresco dining

Bicycles provided

Internet access (limited in some areas)

All meals and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) included



Included With Every European Canal Barge Cruise

- Canal Barges Hand-Selected by A&K
- Choice of Independent Bookings or Private Charters Available
- Transfers to/from Barges
- All Meals and Drinks on Board
- All Sightseeing Excursions During the Cruise
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support

Itinerary

DAY 1 SUNDAY

Meet in Paris for a Private Driver Transfer to 'Hirondelle,' moored in Châlons-en-Champagne. Enjoy a reception as your crew welcomes you. Later that evening, enjoy a sumptuous gourmet dinner on board.

'Hirondelle' | Meals: Dinner

DAY 2 MONDAY

Tour Châlons-en-Champagne, visiting its gothic cathedral and the Cloister Museum at Notre-Dame-en-Vaux with its remarkable statuary. Then visit a local family-run Champagne house for a tasting.

'Hirondelle' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3 TUESDAY

Enjoy a relaxing cruise this morning, followed by an excursion to the historic city of Reims, an important center of Champagne production. Visit the Cathedral, where some 34 French kings were crowned, and the Musée des Beaux Arts. Return to the barge for a late afternoon cruise with cocktails on deck, followed by another gourmet dinner.

'Hirondelle' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4 WEDNESDAY

Visit Épernay to wander its Avenue de Champagne, an elegant street lined with prestigious houses and charming courtyards. Stop at Moët & Chandon for an exclusive tasting. Back on board 'Hirondelle,' unwind during the afternoon cruise to Courcelles, with dinner ashore at the celebrated La Briquette restaurant.

'Hirondelle' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5 THURSDAY

Relax this morning as your barge cruises in style through scenic landscapes with opportunities to walk or cycle along the towpath lining the canal. After lunch on board, drive to the picturesque abbey in Hautvillers with its spectacular views over the local vineyards. It is here where Dom Pérignon, the Benedictine monk credited with inventing Champagne, is buried. Continue to the house of Champagne J. De Telmont for a unique and fascinating oenological workshop.

'Hirondelle' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 FRIDAY

Cruise at leisure to Château-Thierry for a picturesque drive to Belleau Wood, site of a famous World War I battle where American troops halted the German army's progression. Also visit Aisne-Marne Cemetery to view the graves of 2,288 American soldiers buried there. Back on board the barge, your chef has prepared your gala farewell dinner, a fitting close to your wonderful week of cruising.

'Hirondelle' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 SATURDAY

After breakfast, a Private Driver Transfer to Paris marks the end of your journey.

Enhance Your Journey

Elevate your experience with a host of options available for an additional cost.

Dates & Prices

Priced from \$37,550 to \$59,000 per charter

Prices are for an eight guest Private Charter, with reduced pricing available for Private Charters of six or seven guests. Departures operate weekly from Sunday to Saturday between March 22 and October 18, and pricing varies by departure date and time of booking. Price includes TGV high-speed train from Paris to barge embarkation and return. Route runs in reverse on alternate weeks and may differ on selected cruise dates.

NOTE: This barge is also sold on a cabin basis at one price of \$6,795 per person

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Internal and international air not included. See complete terms and conditions [here](#).

