

# France's Impressions Voyages

*The ultimate travel experience in France*

## ALSACE LORRAINE



Cruise into the heart of **Alsace-Lorraine!**

### **LORRAINE**

**First Class, 22 passengers**

**Sunday to Saturday**

The 22-passenger barge, **LORRAINE is an elegant new with great comfort.** Cruise into the heart of **Alsace-Lorraine.** Part French and part German, this mix of cultures is a delight to the eyes and senses. Colmar and Strasbourg are two of Europe's most fascinating small cities. Enjoy wine tasting, see one of Chagall's best works, and have a look up close at crystal-making from beginning to end. You will spend time in picturesque villages and cruise the most interesting canal in France with its long tunnel and famous inclined plane. During this week you will sample a variety of wines, cheeses, and eat some truly gourmet foods.

### **Highlights**

- Strasbourg, the stupendous cathedral and the picturesque "Petite France" district
- Colmar, fairy-tale wine town with its Little "Venice" quarter
- Sarrebourg: Chapel of the Cordeliers with Chagall's famous stained-glass window
- Sample some of the best Alsatian wines right at the vineyards
- Visit to the beautiful town of Lutzelbourg nestled in the Vosges mountains
- Welcome the beauty, color and splendor of this magical region during the change of seasons



**Itinerary: Canal de la Marne au Rhin and Canal du Rhône au Rhin**

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## **Saturday**

Meeting place is the Strasbourg train station at 2:45 pm. From there you will be transferred to the Lorraine, moored in the village of Krafft, 25 kilometers to south of Strasbourg. You will be welcomed aboard and meet the crew while your bags are put in your cabin. Following the welcome drink and orientation you will have a short time before your first gourmet dinner aboard Lorraine.

## **Sunday**

After breakfast we begin cruising toward Strasbourg on the Canal du Rhone au Rhin, a peaceful waterway. Before lunch we will board our air conditioned coach to Colmar, renowned for its magnificent medieval and Renaissance buildings, 13th-century collegiate church, and the waterside Little Venice district. This is an all day program. You will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in Colmar feasting on one of the specialties of the region. In addition to your guided tour you will have some free time to explore. Stop at the Unterlinden Museum, famous for its Renaissance art and home to the "Issenheim Altarpiece." We will return to the barge, now moored in Strasbourg, through the famous "Route Des Vins" a small road running at the base of the foothills of the Vosges Mountains, parallel to the Rhine, and through the famous vineyards of Alsace. We pause in picturesque medieval Riquewihr for a wine tasting of local vintages and souvenir shopping before returning to Lorraine.



## **Monday**

We cast off early and cruise over breakfast toward Strasbourg center. We enter the heart of Strasbourg and pass through the commercial docks before leaving the city to the north. We pass the ultra modern buildings of the European Parliament. Here we will disembark for a guided walking tour of the principal sights of Strasbourg with its cobbled streets and timbered houses. The unique beauty of picturesque "petite France" riverside district is magnificent. The remarkable cathedral of Notre Dame, whose construction spread over five centuries from the Romanesque choir to the flamboyant gothic spire, is a highlight. Afterwards we continue cruising to Hochfelden and our mooring for tonight. There is ample opportunity to walk between locks on the tow path or to bicycle into nearby villages. Overnight in the picturesque village of Hochfelden.

## **Tuesday**

This morning we begin cruising after breakfast passing several typical Alsatian villages where ancient documents prove there was a brewery as early as 870 A.D. All French beer is brewed in Alsace. We will visit a small local brewery and sample some delicious Alsatian Beer. This day provides us with excellent opportunities for walking and cycling (perhaps diverting to a bierstub to appreciate the product of a local brewery). Later, a delightful afternoon cruise brings us to the picturesque small town of Saverne.

## **Wednesday**

After breakfast we make a short drive to visit a unique crystal factory to see the most famous products of this area. Alsace has long been the crystal center of Europe. You will visit a crystal factory where you can watch the glass as it comes out of the furnace and is turned into wonderful works of art. But the real skill is in the cutting. Professional crystal cutters go to school for 4 years and do a 3 year apprenticeship. Beautiful pieces of crystal are still individually blown and fashioned by hand. Each of you will have an opportunity to try your hand at the cutting wheel. Back on board, cruise into Lorraine to the beautiful town of Lutzelbourg nestled in the Vosges Mountains. In Lutzelbourg there are the ruins of an old fortress, and dozens of beautiful walking trails through the nearby hills. Bring some walking shoes. There will be time to explore this canal side city before dinner.

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## Thursday

We begin a morning cruise by entering the steep-sided valley of the River Zorn to the famous inclined plane of Arzwiller. Here, a counterbalanced barge lift hauls us up nearly 150 feet to the Marne to Rhine Canal. We then cruise through a cutting and two tunnels under the peak of the Vosges Mountains. We continue along the summit pound, the highest section, of the Marne to Rhine canal. This section of some thirty kilometers with no locks passes through the regional park of Lorraine, a nature reserve with numerous lakes and vast areas of woodland. The canal then begins its descent towards the plain of Lorraine through a series of locks, the first of which was built in the nineteen-fifties to replace a flight of seven of the original early nineteenth century locks and has a drop of nearly fifty feet. This afternoon we will take the coach for a drive to Sarrebourg and visit the chapel of the Cordeliers where we can see the stained glass window created by Marc Chagall. This day full of art has some pleasant surprises. We arrive at the peaceful village of Xouaxange. This sleepy little village is great for exploring. We return to Lorraine for our farewell gala dinner.

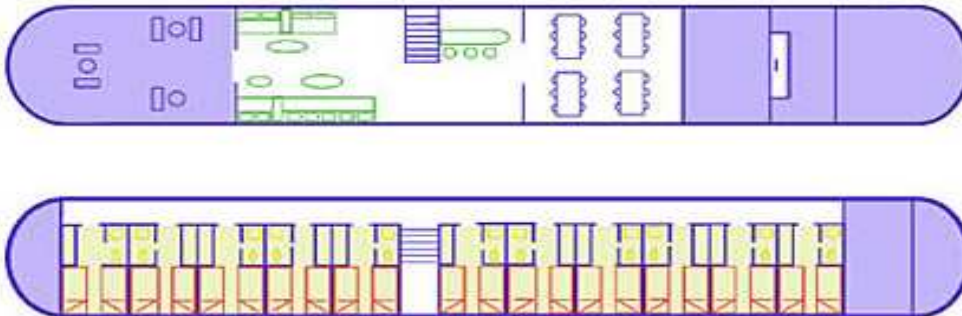
## Friday

Leave the Lorraine after breakfast and coach transfer to the train station in Strasbourg arriving just before noon.

Note: This route is run in reverse on alternate weeks and is subject to change without notice.

## Floor Plan

Lorraine has 11 identical twin cabins, a sundeck with canopy and spacious living areas



## Barge Feature

**Passengers:** 22

**Crew:** 7

**Barge Size:** 128 ft x 17 ft

**Cabins:** 11 twins

**Cabin Size:** approx. 110 sq. ft.

**Accommodations:** 11 twin cabins all with ensuite bathrooms, all outside facing with large windows

**Heat & Air:** Central Heat & Air

**Laundry:** Not available

**Amenities:** Hairdryers, library, bicycles, sundeck, sound system, 2 cell phones available for rent

**Email Access:** Yes with user fee

**TV/DVD/CD:** CD

**Electricity:** 220V

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## LORRAINE 2010 SEASON PRICES in US \$

Value Season is April 3 thru April 23, July 17 thru August 27, October 16 thru November 5

Regular Season is April 24 thru July 16, August 28 thru October 15

Cabin (per person, double occupancy)	VS	\$ 2,790	/	RS	\$2,990
Single Occupancy Supplement	VS	\$ 990	/	RS	\$ 990

For further information, please contact us.

### Included in Cruise Price

- Six nights accommodation in private cabin with ensuite bath + all meals (wine with lunch and dinner )
- Fully guided sightseeing excursions including entrance fees
- All barge amenities including bicycles
- Bar drinks are NOT included
- Cruise price does NOT include transportation to and from the Dijon train station where the barge van will meet passengers. Train tickets are available through France's Impressions Voyages