

# France's Impressions Voyages

*The ultimate travel experience in France*

## CANAL DU MIDI



### ALOUETTE

Ultra Deluxe, 4 passengers

Sunday to Saturday

**Alouette is a 4-passengers deluxe hotel barge, completely renovated to the highest standards with elegant Provencal decor throughout.** It is now configured with two large staterooms -- beautifully appointed with its own private bathroom with shower, large windows that open well above the waterline. The spacious living/dining salon with large picture windows has a library area, writing desk, stereo, games, satellite TV and internet access. The sun-deck with lounge chairs and sheltering umbrellas is perfect place to relax and enjoy the scenery with a glass of wine from the Corbieres.

### Highlights

- A visit to Abbaye de Fontfroide, a Cistercian monastery
- A walking tour of Europe's largest medieval fortress – Carcassonne
- Enserune, a prehistoric fortified hill-top settlement( Oppidum )
- Narbonne the first Romans city in France, today the capital of the Languedoc Roussillon,
- Picturesque village of Minerve,
- The world famous and breath taking city of Carcassonne



### Itinerary Along the Canal du Midi ...

#### Sunday - Béziers

Meet your friendly crew in the afternoon and enjoy a Champagne reception on the deck. Your first cruise experience will be to the pretty village of Colombieres. Later that evening, enjoy your first dining experience on board.

#### Monday - Visit Abbaye de Fontfroide. Cruise to Capestang.

This morning visit l'Abbaye de Fontfroide, a Cistercian monastery founded in the 11th century. Now privately owned, the abbey has been lovingly restored with a well-kept garden and peaceful cloister. Return to the barge for lunch and then an afternoon cruise along the beautiful Canal du Midi to Capestang.

#### Tuesday - Tour Oppidum d'Enserune. Cruise to Le Somail.

After breakfast visit one of the most important archaeological settlements in Europe so called Oppidum d'Enserune, a pre-Roman site. Be struggled by the panoramic view of the pond of Montady, drained in 1247 and transformed into a curious pattern of cultivation. On the way back to the boat we stop off at local wine estate for a tasting. Return to the barge for lunch followed by a relaxing afternoon taking in the grandeur and beauty of the Canal du Midi, with its fine locks, buildings and aqueducts, scarcely changed from their completion over 300 years ago.



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## **Wednesday - Visit Narbonne and the market. Cruise to Homps.**

Experience the colorful covered market in Narbonne with the chef and help choose what is on the menu for dinner! Narbonne is a lively Mediterranean city with a military and religious architecture, the river banks of the Robine and its shaded boulevards, all contribute to its charm. Enjoy lunch at a bistro and then return to the barge for an afternoon's cruise to the port at Homps.



## **Thursday - Visit Minerve. Cruise to Trebes.**

After breakfast, visit the village of Minerve perched on a limestone cliff, dominating the vineyards below. Discover the ruins of the castle, a Cathar stronghold besieged and captured by Simon de Montfort. Have a stop at Peyriac-Minervo for a wine tasting. Back to the barge for lunch and then enjoy the ever changing views from the comfort of the deck, or perhaps walk or cycle along the tow path. In the evening, we will moor in the pretty town of Trebes.

## **Friday - Cruise to Carcassonne. Visit Carcassonne.**

Spend the day exploring the largest European medieval fortress – Carcassonne, a mind boggling Unesco WHS. Walk through the double walls of the medieval city and discover the XI C. Cathedral with its remarkable stained glass rose windows, elegant Romanesque nave and Gothic transepts. A farewell gala dinner on board we end this wonderful day.

## **Saturday - Carcassonne.**

After breakfast disembark from Alouette for your onward travel arrangements. Au revoir and hope to see you again !

*This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change. On alternate weeks this itinerary runs in reverse.*

## **Floor Plan**



## **Barge Features**

- **Size of barge:** 98 ft by 15.9 ft
- **Number of Passengers:** 4
- **Number of Cabins (all with private bath):** 2
- **Crew:** 4
- **Air Conditioning and Central Heating:** Yes
- **Salon:** Comfortable sofas, writing desk, internet, DVD, satellite TV, sofa bed, and dining area with picture windows

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- **Bar:** Open bar
- **Deck:** Sundeck with lounge chairs and umbrellas
- **Spa Tub:** No
- **Cabin Features:** Two twin or queen bed cabins, 270 sq ft and 205 sq ft each, with satellite TV, DVD player, phone intercom and bathroom
- **Vehicle for Transfers/Excursions:** Air-conditioned 8 seater mini-bus
- **Accessibility:** Steps to salon/cabins
- **Bicycles:** Yes

## ALOUETTE 2011 SEASON PRICES in Euros €

April 3rd thru October 29 :

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Charter of 2 | € 15,100 |
| Charter of 3 | € 16,650 |
| Charter of 4 | € 18,200 |

Theme cruises: Wine

For further information please contact us.

### Included in Cruise Price

- 7 days and 6 nights on the barge in a cabin with private bath
- Transfers from Carcassonne or Beziers train station, depending on cruise direction, to the barge and return
- All meals beginning with dinner on Sunday through breakfast on Saturday
- All wines with lunches and dinner
- All escorted side-excursion
- Use of bicycles