

METRONOME GROUP TOURS PRESENTS

**Discover the Loire Canal In the heart of
France, charming cities reveal their secrets**

October 01 – 07, 2020

From Nevers to Briare, this cruise will take you to the heart of authentic terroirs and cities full of character and heritage. Cruise along the Loire Canal, the royal river with a legendary beauty. You will explore unique places such as Nevers located in the heart of Burgundy, but also the Fontmorigny Abbey, recounting 8 centuries of monastic history. Discover wine and gastronomic cities such as Pouilly-sur-Loire and Sancerre.



Paris - NEVERS - MARSEILLES-LES-AUBIGNY - HERRY - MENETREOL-SOUS-SANCERRE - LERE - BRIARE - Paris



CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

- **EXCURSIONS INCLUDED**
 - **Nevers**, famous pilgrimage site with exceptional history
 - **Apremont-sur-Allier**, listed as one of the most beautiful villages in France
 - Rustic authenticity in a farm
 - **La Tour du Pouilly-Fumé**, a sensory travel in the middle of the vineyards
- **Briare Aqueduct**, one of the most prestigious waterways in France
- Stroll through history, authentic and well-preserved sites, and traditional regions during this exceptional cruise

Paris - NEVERS - MARSEILLES-LES-AUBIGNY - HERRY - MENETREOL-SOUS-SANCERRE - LERE - BRIARE - Paris



Oct 1: Paris - NEVERS

Transfer by coach from Paris to join our ship in Nevers (duration ~2:45.) Passengers are welcome to board our ship at 6:00 p.m. After comfortably settling into your cabins, we'll introduce our crew at a welcome cocktail before dinner. At nightfall, we'll leave on a **romantic tour** of Nevers with lanterns.



Oct 2: NEVERS - MARSEILLES-LES-AUBIGNY

This morning, join us for a **visit** of Nevers. Our visit will begin with the Espace Bernadette Soubirous, the final resting place of the simple country girl from Lourdes who claimed to have seen the Virgin 18 times. We'll then continue to the city center where we'll be able to see Ducal Palace, considered the first of the Loire's castles. Built on the hill, the palace overlooks the center of the old town, the Republic Square and a large park. We'll stroll through the remarkably preserved old quarter, with its half-timbered houses and picturesque streets, before reaching the Nevers Cathedral, dedicated to Saints Quriaqos and Julietta, a national monument of France. We'll have a brief **visit** to the pottery quarter before ending our tour with a **tasting of local products**. We'll spend the afternoon cruising towards Marseilles-lès-Aubigny. Take advantage of this moment to ride along a portion of the EuroVélo 6, the bike route traveling from the Atlantic Ocean to the Black Sea. The evening is free to do as you please.



Oct 3: MARSEILLES-LES-AUBIGNY - HERRY

We'll leave by coach for the **visit** to the Fontmorigny Abbey, a privately-owned French historical monument. Now one of the main cultural sites in the area, it is testimony to over 8 centuries of French religious heritage. The contemporary stain-glass windows are not to be missed. We'll continue on to visit Apremont-sur-Allier and its floral garden. Classified as one of the most beautiful villages in France, this small medieval jewel on the bank of the Allier is an absolute must-see. The village offers a stunning point of view of the castle that overlooks it, also a nice stroll along the Allier river. Afterwards, we'll return on board and continue towards Herry. The evening is free to do as you please.



Oct 4: HERRY - MENETREOL-SOUS-SANCERRE

We'll leave by coach for a **tour** of La Charité-sur-Loire and an authentic farm. We'll begin our visit with the priory, one of the most important restoration sites in Burgundy for the past 15 years. We'll then **visit** a farm deep in the countryside, where we'll experience the rustic calm and authenticity that can be found only in France. A nice stop-over and a perfect way to get to know the animals typically local or coming from other areas: sheep, pigs, goats, donkeys, African or Highland cattle, llamas, ostriches, and of course, ducks! After we return on board, we'll cruise towards Ménétréol-sous-Sancerre. Take advantage of this time to ride one of our onboard bikes or walk along the canal (1km-long). The evening is free to do as you please.



Oct 5: MENETREOL-SOUS-SANCERRE - LERE

We'll leave by coach for a **visit** of Pouilly-sur-Loire, where we'll visit the Tour de Pouilly-Fumé: a wine-tourism center located in a beautiful setting. We'll **visit** the vineyards, the wine cellar and enjoy a tasting*. Once we return on board, we'll continue towards Léré. The evening is free to do as you please.



Oct 6: LERE - BRIARE

We'll set off for an **excursion** to Sancerre and a goat farm. Set in the historic Berry region, Sancerre overlooks the gorgeous Loire Valley. We'll discover this beautiful medieval city by following the Fil d'Ariane: a red line painted on the streets taking you past the old wine-making neighborhoods, bakeries, fascinating buildings, and lovely art galleries.

The Fief Tower (significant stairs to climb) is the only remaining tower of the 14th-century medieval castle. Afterwards, we'll **visit** a goat farm and have a **tasting** of its trademark cheeses and the local Sancerre wine. The family on the farm is raising approximately 200 goats and 60 cows and will be happy to share their cheese-making secrets with you. We'll spend the afternoon cruising to Briare, cruising through the Briare

Aqueduct, whose 14 masonry supports were built by the Eiffel Company. Until recently, it was the longest navigable aqueduct in the world. Tonight is our festive gala evening.



Oct 7: BRIARE - Paris

Enjoy one last buffet breakfast on board before disembarking at 9:00 a.m. Transfer by coach from Briare to Paris (duration ~2:15.).

THE CROISIEUROPE DIFFERENCE

- **All meals included - DRINKS INCLUDED** with meals and at the bar
- Refined French cuisine - **Gala dinner and evening** - Welcome cocktail
- **Free Wi-Fi** in lounge and bar
- Official welcome from the captain and crew
- Travel assistance and repatriation insurance
- All port fees included

This offer includes :

Your cruise with all meals from dinner the first evening to breakfast on the final day - onboard drinks included (except for drinks from the special lists) - double-occupancy cabin with shower in bathroom - the transfer by coach from Paris to Nevers - the transfer by coach from Briare to Paris - the excursions mentioned in the program - assistance from the onboard multi-lingual host/hostess - welcome cocktail gala dinner - travel assistance and repatriation insurance- all port fees.

This offer does not include :

Drinks from the special lists, or drinks ordered during excursions or transfers - cancellation and baggage insurance - personal expenses.

Transfers:

Transfers Day 1 and Day 7 included.

Requirements:

Valid passport required for Canadian citizens.

PRICE:

Cruise Fare: \$3,559.00USD (based on double occupancy)

Single Supplement: \$ 1,323.00USD

Non-refundable Deposit: \$200 USD per cabin

Final Payment: July 1, 2020.

Metronome Group Tours (a division of Uniglobe Enterprise Travel). TICO 181380

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