



FRANCE CRUISES



MARIA

4 Passengers /Upper Loire & Western Burgundy

Constructed in 1924 as a small commercial barge

Converted into a hotel barge in 2002

Measures 83 ft. long by 15 ft. wide

Two (2) onboard cabin accommodations

Onboard climate control

Maria is arguably the most comfortable and well-equipped barge in her class, and certainly the only barge with a two-cabin layout available for skippered, self-catering charters in France. She has been continuously upgraded to the luxury private cruiser she is today, accommodating a maximum of four guests in two cabins with private bathrooms, a

comfortable salon, and a large, open plan galley. **Unique among all other barge cruises, Maria offers travelers an exclusive 7-night cruise on a Monday to Monday schedule.**

PERSONNEL

One (1) English-speaking crew member, Pilot, who comes to the barge each day to pilot the barge during the daily cruise. There are no crew living on board, but assistance is available via 24-hr. helpline. The barge is professionally cleaned and prepared before each charter.

PUBLIC ROOMS

- **Salon**
- **Galley**
- **Wheelhouse**
- **Terrace**

ONBOARD LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

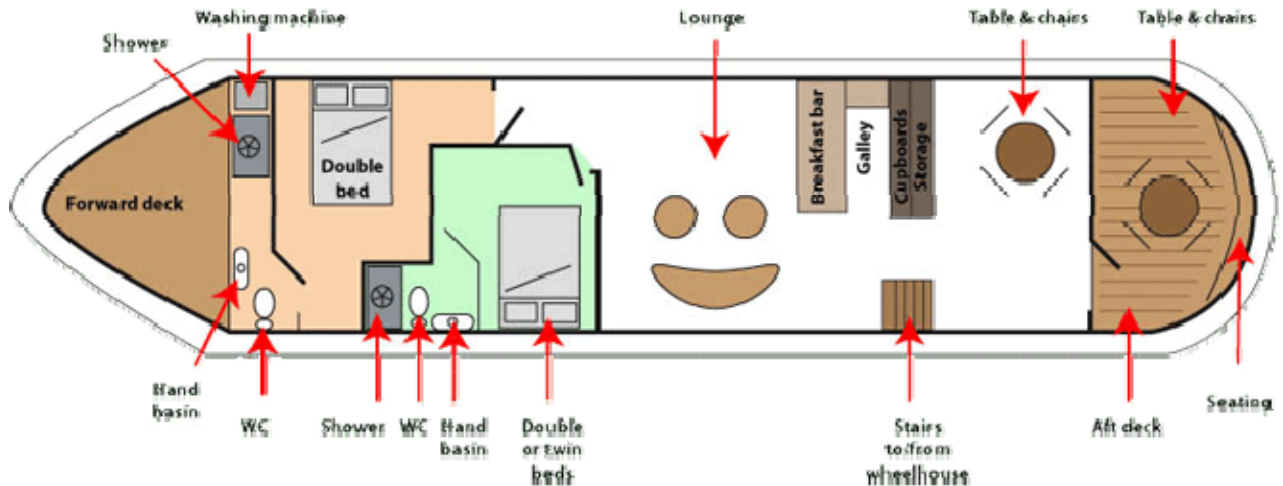
HI FI system with CD player • Four (4) identical touring bikes • Board games • Small library of books

MOBILITY RESTRICTIONS

Maria has **no wheelchair access**. There are four (4) steps between the levels on board which may be difficult to navigate for those with extremely limited mobility. The walkway is generally not too steep and has a handrail along one side.

DECK PLAN

Maria features air-conditioned staterooms and salon, a large open-plan wheelhouse for upper deck dining and a wonderful aft "Cocktail Deck" terrace with a permanent sun canopy overhead.



CABINS

There are two (2) cabins on board **Maria** located toward the bow of the Main Deck. The cabins, as well as the rest of the boat, feature plenty of head room (over 6 ft.) and have private en suite bath facilities. The cabins both have large, opening windows, skylights, and beautiful furnishings with white finishes and gorgeous dark hardwood.

CABIN SIZE

Both cabins are very similar in size and are equally comfortable. There is really no distinction between the two other than 10 sq. ft. of living space. The sizes below include adjoining bathroom area:

- **Cabin 1** - Approx. 95 sq. ft.
- **Cabin 2** - Approx. 85 sq. ft.

BEDDING CONFIGURATION & SIZE

Bedding configuration is dependent on the cabin. **Cabin 1** features a fixed double bed set-up while **Cabin 2** can be fitted with either two (2) twin beds or one (1) double bed. When **Cabin 2** is in twin configuration, the beds will be parallel to each other with a space in between them.



BATHROOMS

Each cabin has a private bathroom with shower, wash basin, and toilet. They are well-stocked with plenty of towels, hand soap, shower gel, and shampoo.

AMENITIES

Climate Control • Hairdryer • Wardrobe • Washer & Dryer • Electricity (220V, French two pin plugs)

SALON

The **Salon** provides a comfortable 180 sq. ft. and features:

- 1 Sofa
- 2 Easy chairs

The breathtaking, spacious **Salon** is dressed with varnished hardwood and has large opening picture windows throughout.

GALLEY

Attached to the **Salon** is a spacious 100 sq. ft. open-plan **Galley** with all the necessary utilities to facilitate enjoyable meals on board. The utilities include:

- Oven
- Halogen Hob
- Extractor Canopy
- Fridge & Freezer
- Dishwasher
- Double-Bowl Sink
- Electric Kettle
- Toaster
- Coffee Percolator

Additionally, the **Galley** is equipped with all utensils and glassware required catering the perfect meal.



WHEELHOUSE

The pilot station, or **Wheelhouse**, on board **Maria** offers 100 sq. ft. and features indoor dining with seating for four (4) guests.

TERRACE

Just beyond the **Wheelhouse** sits the aft-deck **Terrace**. This area is perfect for watching unadulterated views of the scenic countryside drift past. This outdoor gathering area is furnished with an elegant teak deck table, deck chairs with upholstered cushions for maximum comfort, non-slip wooden deck flooring, and a fixed sun canopy.

OFF BOAT

Passengers are welcome to walk or cycle using the onboard bicycles as often as they like. Most People choose to disembark the barge at a lock to visit local villages, then return to the canal and meet the barge further along (the barge travels slowly; therefore, this is not a problem). Keen cyclists can travel further afield and discover more experiences visiting different chateaux, tasting regional wines, or kayaking on the River Loire. Excursions by taxi or private car are also a possibility.

ITINERARY

The ancient Canal de Briare, the first in France specifically created to connect two major rivers, provides the perfect route to explore by barge. The charming, typically French towns and villages which grew up alongside the canal each have a character of their own, and cry out to be explored and enjoyed at a leisurely pace. This cruise itinerary has overnight halts in the most charming spots along the canal which guests can explore on foot or by bike and visit local attractions. Most halts have restaurant options close by, ranging in style from local auberges to Michelin accredited gastronomic delights. Shopping for supplies is made easy too since every village has a Boulangerie for the all-important fresh daily bread and croissants. Most have a small general store and the larger towns have major supermarkets within easy reach of the canal. There is also at least one opportunity to shop for supplies at the colourful local markets during each cruise.

Itinerary Highlights:

Experience the famed seven "stair-case" locks of **Rogny Les Sept Ecluses**

Leisurely day in **Chatillon Coligny**

Hear the renowned tolling of the church bells at the 11th century church in **Montbouy**

Discover the blend of bustling commerce and traditional French style at the historic city of **Montargis**

FOOD & WINE

As a self-catering barge, **Maria's** cuisine is left entirely to her passengers. This unique format is perfect for travelers who have previously taken a trip on a hotel barge and loved it, but longed to sample the local restaurants or yearned for the simple pleasures of buying fresh, local ingredients and preparing their own meals. **Maria** gives these guests the power to explore France more freely and at their own pace without the omnipresence of a dotting crew. Visits to local markets will now be a joy to passengers who longed to actually purchase the fares instead of simply viewing them.

2010 SCHEDULE & PRICING

| Date | Direction | Season | Date | Direction | Season |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| April 19, 2010 | Chatillon - Montargis | Low | July 26, 2010 | Chatillon - Montargis | Low |
| April 26, 2010 | Montargis - Chatillon | Low | August 2, 2010 | Montargis - Chatillon | Low |
| May 3, 2010 | Chatillon - Montargis | Low | August 9, 2010 | Chatillon - Montargis | Low |
| May 10, 2010 | Montargis - Chatillon | Low | August 16, 2010 | Montargis - Chatillon | Low |
| May 17, 2010 | Chatillon - Montargis | Low | August 23, 2010 | Chatillon - Montargis | Low |
| May 24, 2010 | Montargis - Chatillon | Low | August 30, 2010 | Montargis - Chatillon | Low |
| May 31, 2010 | Chatillon - Montargis | High | September 6, 2010 | Chatillon - Montargis | High |
| June 7, 2010 | Montargis - Chatillon | High | September 13, 2010 | Montargis - Chatillon | High |
| June 14, 2010 | Chatillon - Montargis | High | September 20, 2010 | Chatillon - Montargis | High |
| June 21, 2010 | Montargis - Chatillon | High | September 27, 2010 | Montargis - Chatillon | High |
| June 28, 2010 | Chatillon - Montargis | High | October 4, 2010 | Chatillon - Montargis | High |
| July 5, 2010 | Montargis - Chatillon | High | October 11, 2010 | Montargis - Chatillon | High |
| July 12, 2010 | Chatillon - Montargis | High | October 18, 2010 | Chatillon - Montargis | Low |
| July 19, 2010 | Montargis - Chatillon | Low | | | |

| Full Boat Private Charter | Low Season 7 Days / 6 Nights | High Season 7 Days / 6 Nights |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| For 4 guests | \$6,795 | \$7,350 |
| For 3 guests | \$6,395 | \$6,950 |
| For 2 guests | \$5,995 | \$6,550 |

Additionally, guests are required to give a \$1,500 damage deposit payable by cheque or credit card 2 weeks prior to cruise departure, or by cash in person to the captain. The damage deposit covers all negligent damage any guest might do to the barge while cruising. Of course, any damage caused to the barge as a result of navigating the cruise route is covered by the barge's insurance.