

ESPERANCE CRUISING ROUTE



Canal du Midi Cruise sample itinerary Béziers - Carcassonne

Sunday – Arrival in Béziers

A very special journey is about to begin! A member of the crew will welcome you at Narbonne's railway station around 4 PM and transfer you to your beautiful barge 'Esperance' moored in Béziers along the famous Canal du Midi! After a first tour of the boat, a champagne reception will be served on deck as a nice premise to your week. You will then have plenty of time to discover your new environment and to settle in your bedroom before your gourmet dinner. And what about a little stroll along the canal at sunset to conclude your first day?

Monday – Cruise to Capestang



Malpas Tunnel

Today is all about relaxing and soaking up the quiet atmosphere of your surroundings while gliding through this beautiful 17th century canal. You could go for a bicycle ride or even hike along the canal with your analog camera. We will stop in Colombiers where you could go for a walk before lunch. In the afternoon you could either grab a sun lounger and chill with a book or chat in the jacuzzi, but make sure

you are on the deck as we cross the exciting Malpas tunnel, famous for its unique structure! Slowly but surely, the boat will reach the pretty village of Capestang. Whatever you will do today, the journey will bring a sense of peace and harmony that you will never forget.

Tuesday – Cruise to La Croisade



Night mooring in La Croisade

After a morning cruise with many turns and loops we will find a romantic mooring in the middle of the vines and arched trees. Just a perfect spot to enjoy a delicious lunch. Your guide will then pick you up to go visit Pézenas, a magical city full of art and history. The entire old town is filled with period mansions with wonderful wrought iron balconies, stone sculptures, and ornate doorways. Molière is reputed to have created some of his famous characters right here in Pézenas in the barber's shop.

Wednesday – Cruise to Le Somail



Le Somail

Let the world float by as the barge is moving slowly on this elegant tree lined canal. Today we will cruise to Le Somail, a famous local village with a fascinating antique bookshop, local potters, and artists. We will then drive to Narbonne, a lively city dating back from the Roman time. The choice is yours, you could either go shopping around the old town center, visit the Archbishop's Palace or the archaeological

museum. You could also choose to spend your afternoon at the Mediterranean Sea and visit L'Oulibo's olive factory, a prize-winning olive oil mill and a great place for tasting and buying olive-based products.

Thursday – Cruise to Argens



A peaceful morning cruise will take us through a couple of villages where we may stop to get some wine for your lunch: it's probably the best way to discover local wines. A very scenic drive into the Minervois hills and the Cesse's gorges will get us to Minerve. This amazing medieval village is perched on a spectacular rocky outcrop formed by the Cesse and Brian rivers. Famous for its Cathar history and its wine countryside, this village is full of charm and history. On the way back, how about a little wine tasting to discover more about the excellent wines this region has to offer? A nice dinner will then await you on board.

Friday - Cruise to Homps



Carcassonne

After going through a couple of traditional locks and some double ones the barge will cruise to our last mooring for the week. A short drive will give you plenty of time to discover the world's famous fortified town the 'Cité de Carcassonne'. This extraordinary place has been restored in the 19th century later became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. If you have already seen the 'Cité' we will visit Lagrasse, listed among the country's prettiest villages. Known for its remarkable buildings and arts and crafts, Lagrasse

is now home to numerous pottery workers and artists attracted by the renowned natural light of the region. Meanwhile, your chef will be busy preparing a very special gastronomic dinner and the entire crew will do everything to make your last evening onboard unforgettable!

Saturday – Departure from Homps

After your last breakfast it will sadly be time to say ‘au revoir’ in French (see you again). Your guide will take you to the railway station or to your hotel. You will be excited for your next destination or happy to bring home so many nice memories.

Canal du Midi Cruise sample itinerary Carcassonne – Béziers

Sunday – Arrival in Homps



A very special journey is about to begin! A member of the crew will welcome you at Narbonne’s railway station around 4 PM and transfer you to your beautiful barge ‘Esperance’ moored in the port of Homps along the famous Canal du Midi! After a first tour of the boat, a champagne reception will be served on deck as a nice premise to your week. You will then have plenty of time to discover your new environment and to settle in your bedroom before your gourmet dinner. And what about a little stroll along the canal at sunset to conclude your first day?

Monday – Cruise to Argens



This morning a short drive will give you plenty of time to discover the world's famous fortified town the 'Cité de Carcassonne'. This extraordinary place has been restored in the 19th century and later became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. If you have already seen the 'Cité' we will visit Lagrasse, listed among the country's prettiest villages. Known for its bridges and remarkable buildings like the abbey, Lagrasse is now home to numerous pottery workers and artists. The narrow medieval streets of the village are also very attractive, and remains of the town walls can still be observed. After lunch our peaceful cruise will start and we will go through a couple of traditional locks.

Tuesday – Cruise to Le Somaill



Le Somaill

A morning cruise will take us to Le Somail a famous local village with a fascinating antique bookshop and local potters and artists. We will go through a couple of villages where we may stop to get some wine for your lunch: it's probably the best way to discover local wines. A very scenic drive into the Minervois hills and the Cesse's gorges will get us to Minerve. This amazing medieval village is perched on a spectacular rocky outcrop formed by the Cesse and Brian rivers. Famous for its Cathar history and its wine countryside, this village is full of charm and history. On the way back, how about a little wine tasting to discover more about the excellent wines this region has to offer? A nice dinner will then await you on board.

Wednesday – Cruise to La Croisade



Narbonne

After a morning cruise with many turns and loops we will find a romantic mooring in the middle of the vines and arched trees. Just a perfect spot in the nature to enjoy a gourmet lunch. We will then drive to Narbonne, a lively city dating back from the Roman time. The choice is yours, you could either go shopping around the old town center, visit the Archbishop's Palace or the archaeological museum. You could also choose to spend your afternoon at the Mediterranean Sea and visit L'Oulibo's olive factory, a prize-winning olive oil mill and a great place for tasting and buying olive-based products.

Thursday – Cruise to Capestang

This is a special day: the barge is going to "fit" under the smallest bridge of the entire canal system in France. Capestang our home harbor for the day is a pretty village with nice cafés and an important British community. Your guide will then pick you up to go visit Pézenas, a magical city full of art and history. The entire old town is filled with period mansions with wonderful wrought iron balconies, stone sculptures, and ornate doorways. Molière is reputed to have created some of his famous characters right here in Pézenas in the barber's shop.

Friday – Cruise to Béziers



Today is all about relaxing and soaking up the quiet atmosphere of your surroundings while gliding through this beautiful 17th century canal. You could go for a bicycle ride or even hike along the canal with your analog camera but make sure you are on the deck as we cross the exciting Malpas tunnel, famous for its unique structure! We will stop shortly after in Colombiers where you could go for a walk before lunch. In the afternoon you could either grab a sun lounger and chill with a book or chat in the jacuzzi. Whatever you choose, this journey will bring a sense of peace and harmony that you will never forget. Slowly but surely, the boat will reach Béziers. You will be able to discover the impressive 9 locks of Fonseranes close to our final mooring. Meanwhile, your chef will be busy preparing a very special gastronomic dinner and the entire crew will do everything to make your last evening onboard unforgettable!

Saturday – Departure from Béziers

After your last breakfast it will sadly be time to say 'au revoir' in French (see you again). Your guide will take you to the railway station or to your hotel. You will be excited for your next destination or happy to bring home so many nice memories.