



# Barge with Frontiers

A Selection of Quality Barges for Exclusive Cruising in Europe



*Frontiers.*

We Share Your Passion.



[www.bargewithfrontiers.com](http://www.bargewithfrontiers.com)



**CANAL BARGING IN EUROPE** has morphed over the last 30 years from a cozy, relaxing, wine-soaked holiday to a sleek and dynamic travel concept that WOWS even the most discerning client! You want to be more active; you want authentic experiences with local people; you want enrichment; attentive yet discreet service; you want delicious cuisine but are mindful of the calories; and most of all, you want to be pampered! While the wine still flows and there is plenty of time to relax, barge owners have listened and responded to the interests, demands and preferences of today's traveler. Interiors have been redesigned to enhance cabin sizes and storage; excursions and sightseeing venues have been over-hauled and infused with innovation; menus have been revamped with an eye to the trend of eating lighter. What follows are a few examples of this thoroughly modern and ingenious approach to barging:

- One of our favorite barges, *Meanderer*, is ideal for **cyclists** — the owner is a cyclist himself and can design your day to include a 20-mile ride, if desired, but have you back onboard so you don't miss a scenic stretch of canal.
- The owner of *Elisabeth* is the only non-guide to privately accompany her barge guests into the Grottes d'Arcy — a series of captivating **pre-historic caves** where 20,000-year-old paintings are still being discovered.
- *Savoir Vivre's* young barge owner realizes that guests to Burgundy want to try the off-the-beaten-path auberges and atmospheric restaurants where the locals visit, so included in his price is dinner at **a different restaurant each evening** (including wine) and this is one of the most modestly priced 8-passenger barges in France.
- Afraid of the longer commitment? Several barges (such as *Fandango* and *Papillon*) are now offering **4-night cruises** in a variety of regions for a perfect Barge Cruise Sampler. Ask for the 4-night Food & Wine cruise.

This "every-day-is-different" journey appeals to all ages, and we continue to receive rave reviews on our tandem charters for larger multi-generation groups. Let the **grandchildren learn how to play petanque** while the grown-ups have a wine tasting.



Our well traveled and award-winning staff regularly visits and inspects all barges we represent (and others that we choose not to) so that we can provide detailed descriptions and comparisons of life aboard each one for you. This year alone Jill Jergel has been to France 3 times meeting the barge owners, tasting their food, taking their showers (Good water pressure? Enough shoulder room?) and looking at the hotels and country roads our guests can explore while touring before or after the barge.

2012 marks our 29<sup>th</sup> year of selling the European Canal barges and we are the most qualified company representing Deluxe Barges in Europe. WE HAVE NO OWNERSHIP IN OR FEE-BASED BIAS TOWARD ANY BARGE as some brokers do — who want you to book only "their" barges. Our recommendations are 100 percent objective and based solely on *your* expressed interests and preferences. The Frontiers Selection of Quality Barges represents a superb cross section of routes, levels of luxury and budgets.

If the word **CRUISE** makes your eyes glaze over and a voice in your head screams "I'm too young!" . . .

And if the words **CANAL BARGE CRUISE** sound like the weakest week in Europe, or monotony for the multitudes . . .

Then take a deep breath, dear reader, and clear your mind . . .

We're here to set the record straight; on a **privately chartered barge** for as few as 2 persons but no more than 12 — have your own floating house party through uncrowded and untouristed corners of Europe. Envision your own chef, bicycles to explore villages beyond, and a savvy local host with private air conditioned vehicle, ready to take you and your friends on reconnaissance missions for the best local libation. Larger groups often take two barges cruising in tandem for twice the fun.

Follow us now as we dispel the myths of barging.

**MYTH: Barging is boring.**

**REALITY:** Daily excursions are made in the barge's own vehicle with local host: walking tours of historic villages and castles, scouting out regional taste treats at local markets, vineyard visits and wine tastings. Of course special interests (gardening, hiking, golf, or antiques just to name a few) are accommodated, plus cycling is available on nearly all barges.

**MYTH: Cruise = 10 extra pounds!**

**REALITY:** Today's barge cuisine features an abundance of vegetables, fruits and whole grains creatively prepared and presented with pizzazz. Oh, and if you're diet-be-damned on the holiday, don't worry — Crème brulee, foie gras and the famous French fromage are still alive and well.

**MYTH: Barging means cramped accommodations.**

**REALITY:** Several of our barges offer more spacious cabins than some Paris hotel rooms. We can steer you to the barges with the longest beds, highest ceilings, most spacious bathrooms, most storage and largest shower stalls — some even have soaking tubs. Does 270 sq. feet sound cramped?

**Our clients say it best . . .**

*"I was well pleased with my wing shooting trip to Argentina. Your advertising on barge trips spiked my interest. When I contacted Frontiers about such a trip it all went like clockwork. (Jill's) assistance to select a barge was great and the wealth of information provided was impressive. The handling of accommodations was great and from that point the personal escort provided by the barge captain and the super efficient and friendly staff guaranteed a great time for us all. Just a super wonderful experience." Mr. & Mrs. K. S., Ohio*

# Barge Alouette on the Canal du Midi

By Beryl Jupiter



*You're invited to enjoy – as we did – this clever and entertaining “Ode to the Crew of the Alouette Barge” as written by Frontiers’ client and avid world traveler, Mrs. Beryl Jupiter from Massachusetts, who celebrated a special anniversary onboard in June 2011. The Alouette (one of the Orient Express fleet of five barges) is the perfect barge for two couples or small family to charter privately, cruising on the historical Canal du Midi between the medieval walled fortress town of Carcassonne and Beziers on the Mediterranean.*

*This enriching and exclusive experience, boasting an all-inclusive cost, provides exceptional value for a foursome to spend a week in France hosted by a bright and dedicated crew.*

How to celebrate our anniversary of impressive year forty  
We wanted a significant trip both relaxing & sporty  
The south of France seemed a perfect location  
Barging sur le Canal du Midi was recommended for the occasion

Stacy cheerfully agreed to join Jesse & me  
Coming to France all the way from Fiji  
We could parler francais and drink beaucoup de vin  
Et manger fromage avec baguette du pain

But what made our trip most special on the Alouette  
Is the staff of a barge we will never forget  
Chef Ian created meals most amazing  
With beautiful presentations that left us just gazing

At colorful salads of local produce  
And main courses of seafood, lamb or a goose  
Every meal was an oeuvre of delicious delight  
Our bellies were full as we ended each night

Tour guide Sarah supplied histoire with perfect panache  
Whether teaching us about Cathars, eglises or grenache  
As sommelier she presented regional French vin  
Explaining which to accompany poisson ou fromage avec pain

Our barge hostess Moira anticipated our every desire  
Knowing before us if we'd be thirsty or tired  
She keeps Alouette sparkling with her care and her smile  
She chooses flowers and music with ultimate style

With Captain Luke at the helm we felt very secure  
His strong silent steerage comes with his allure  
A man of the sea, he caresses his boat  
And does all that is needed to keep her proudly afloat

As our Alouette barge cruise draws to a close  
We loved the barging experience, the ebbs and the flows  
Mais bien sur we must give a grand merci beaucoup  
To an absolutely fantastic Alouette crew!

# Frontiers

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