

PROVENCE AND THE CAMARGUE bike cruise Aigues-Mortes - Avignon

Your cruise itinerary day by day...

Sunday

Transfer from a defined pickup point to Le Phénicien moored close to the ramparts of the walled city of Aigues-Mortes.

It is time to settle in and explore the old fortress once a departure point for the holy crusades of the king St Louis, and now famous for its ambiance and shopping opportunities. Our first dinner on board gives an indication of the high standard of cuisine that will be served during the cruise with the accompanying wines specially chosen from local wineries.



Monday

This morning you will meet your cycling assistant and get fitted to your bikes during an information meeting to go over the week ahead. You are now ready to take your first bike ride and explore the surroundings on small roads and trails along the salt fields bordered by canals, lakes and marshes where bulls, horses and pink flamingoes give an uncommon touch to the scenery. We will pull to the village of Le Grau du Roi and the beaches nearby where you will have your first picnic in a marine atmosphere. (30km). Back to the barge we start a peaceful short navigation to the village of Gallician where we will stop and stay overnight.



Tuesday

The highlight of our ride this morning will be the Chateau d'Espeyran an unknown jewel of the French patrimony. During the guided visit we will discover a full set of original furniture on a site occupied since the VI century before J.C. On the way you will certainly enjoy the wildlife and particularly the great variety of birds found everywhere in this area. The Camargue never fails to surprise! (35 km).

Back on board after a lovely picnic lunch we cruise the canal, the petit Rhône and the Rhône river to reach the Roman city of Arles, the open-air museum of Provence where Van Gogh painted 300 canvasses during his stay here in 1888.



Wednesday

Enjoy the city of Arles this morning and its open Provencal market before we start a great ride towards one of the most beautiful villages of France, Les Baux de Provence where you will have a free visit and time for shopping. On the way we will make a stop at an olive oil mill in Mausanne and enjoy a lovely picnic. The ride back through the famous landscapes of Provence dotted with cypresses and olive trees will stay in your memories. We set sail this afternoon to our next stop, the charming village of Vallabrègues the capital of Basketry in Europe famous for its local craftsmanship. (50 km).



Thursday

Right after breakfast we head off on our ride to the Abbey of Saint Michel de Frigolet. Enjoy here a picnic lunch surrounded by the nice smells of our Provencal thyme, the best in Europe. Riding back to the barge the local charming villages along the way such as Boulbon or Barbentane offer a good spot for a little rest in the shade. And so on up the Rhône river towards the papal village of Villeneuve lez Avignon where we will stay for the night. (35 km).



Friday

Our last bike ride this week will take us to the famous village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape once chosen by the Popes to grow the sacred vineyards. After a free visit of the village - and maybe a cautious wine tasting - we all get back on the saddles for a short ride to the barge awaiting on the Rhône river. You have lunch on board as the barge cruises gently down the river to Avignon where we will end up our journey. You still have plenty of time to discover the town where the Popes lived in the XIV century and take your last chance for shopping while the crew is getting everything ready for your farewell dinner! (35 km).



Saturday

After breakfast, you will be transferred to a defined meeting point.

