



CROWN BLUE LINE

THE FIRST NAME FOR CRUISING IN FRANCE



THE CRUISING SPECIALISTS

bienvenue à bord



Welcome to CROWN BLUE LINE

and to all that's best in holidays afloat

Our 1992 brochure offers the widest range of boats and waterways in France - unrivalled for choice and value. Crown Blue Line has the distinction of being the first hire cruiser company to be established in France, and twenty-two years later we are still the Number One, a testimony to our success and reliability. Our name stands for care, quality, service - a wholehearted commitment to making sure your holiday will be the best ever. We are proud of the fact that many people come with us year after year, and a high proportion of our new customers are personal recommendations by those who have been with us before. Not content to rest on our laurels we will be building at our own boatyards a series of the new and exclusive Crown "Classiques" and "Challengers" for 1992, and as always, making improvements to our existing popular classes. There is no better way to explore the hidden corners of picturesque France than from your own Crown Blue Line cruiser. We are confident that within this brochure you will find just the right boat and cruising area for you. Simply make your choice, give us a call and leave the rest to us.

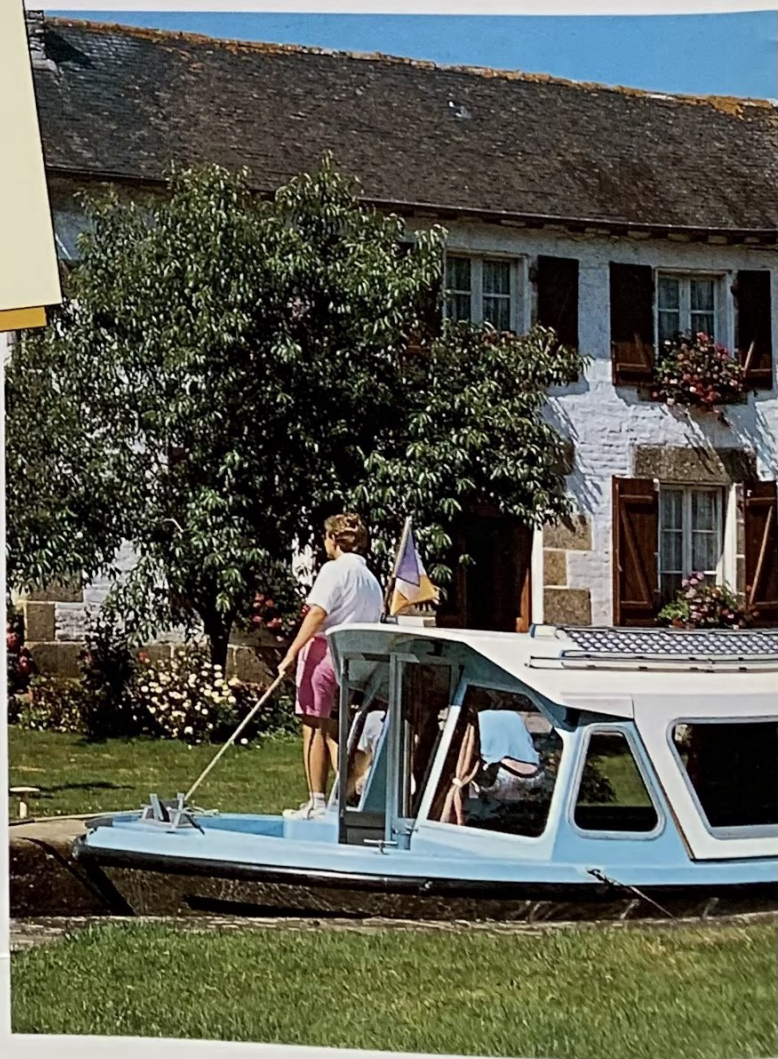
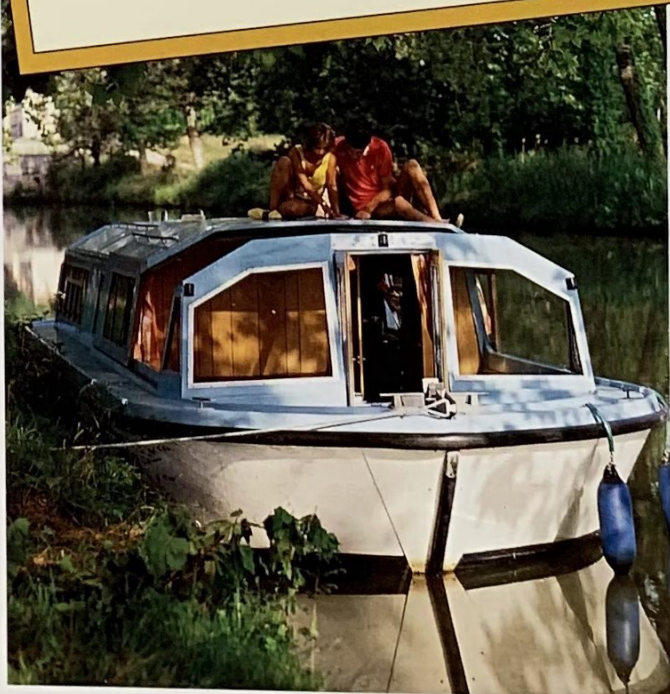
France is covered by a vast network of navigable waterways, 8,000 kilometers of canals, rivers and lakes. For the last 22 years, Crown Blue Line has established cruising bases on the finest of these waterways, from the heart of Burgundy to the foothills of the Vosges, from the winefields of the South West to the Camargue marshes, from the Loire Valley to the wooded hills of the Morvan or from the busy town of Strasbourg to a little village in Lorraine.

8,000 km of Beautiful Waterways

In all these regions and many others, we operate our own boats with our own bi-lingual staff to ensure you the best possible service. Go on board, cast off and enjoy the leisurely pace of the French waterways at the helm of "your own" cruiser.

All you need to ask is "When... Where... and which boat to choose". This brochure will help you make the choice.

Once you have confirmed your booking, we will send you our specially prepared waterways guide, together with the Captain's Manual and other information. Then prepare yourself for the delights to come the excellent food and wines to be found in the waterside restaurants... the fine scenery and the beautiful countryside... the historic towns and villages... and above all the timelessness of a holiday afloat.



CAST OFF AND YOU'RE AWAY

- 13 bases in 9 regions
- 350 comfortable and fully equipped cruisers
- 22 years experience in holiday boating
- One-way cruises available from 12 of our bases

No need to worry about handling your boat. They are specially designed with simple controls and powerful motors to make boating safe and easy. Our staff will be on hand when you go aboard to show you over the boat and teach you to drive.

Once aboard you will feel at home. The cabins have comfortable beds and there is plenty of room to relax in the saloon or outside on the deck.

You can buy some local ingredients and prepare a meal for the captain's table or try one of the many waterside restaurants mentioned in your guide.



Cruising in France

The Crown Blue Line Guide will help you plan your day... where to stop to explore local places of interest... on foot or by bicycle... where to do the shopping and find some freshly baked "baguettes" or where to tie up for lunch with a good bottle of wine. The Captain's Manual will show you how to handle the locks whether manual or automatic. Locking is one of the enjoyable parts of your cruise... a chance to meet the lockkeeper and buy some provisions or chat to the other boatmen.

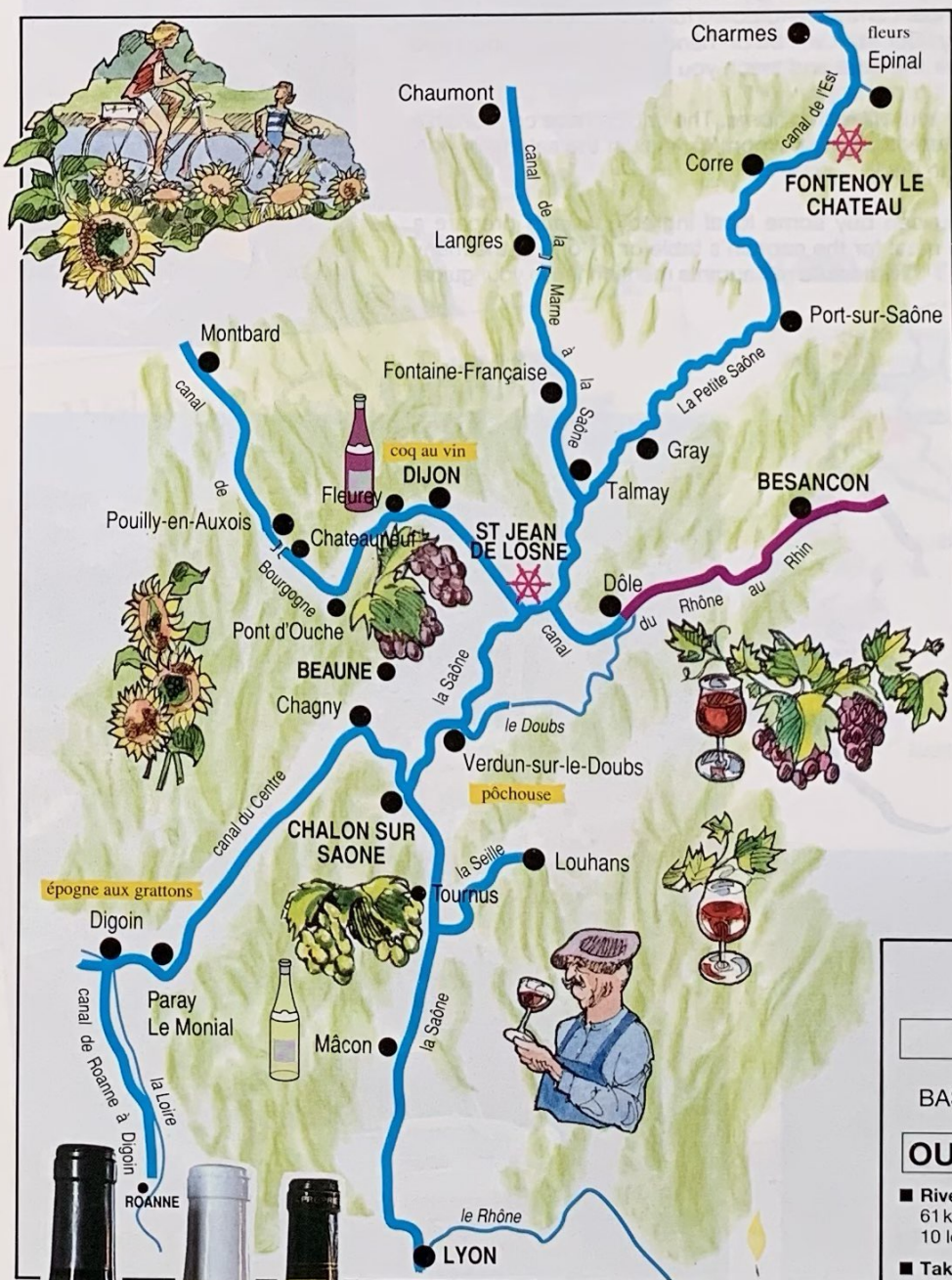
A Crown Blue Line holiday has something for everyone: busy moments and quiet ones, a chance to meet people of different nationalities enjoying life afloat or just being alone with the family. You have complete freedom to do as you wish but with the assurance that our help is at hand if needed.

Happy cruising with Crown Blue Line.



LA BOURGOGNE

C. de Bourgogne; C. du Rhône au Rhin; C. de la Marne à la Saône; la Saône



A CRUISE INTO THE BURGUNDY WINE REGIONS



USEFUL INFORMATION

BASE: Saint-Jean-de-Losne, 35 km from Dijon

OUT-AND-BACK

Suggested itineraries for one week.

- **River Cruise:** on the River Saône northwards beyond Gray, 61 km, 5 locks, on the Canal du Rhône au Rhin to Dôle, 24 km, 10 locks (24 h navigation out-and-back).
- **Take it easy Cruise:** on the River Saône and the Canal de la Marne à la Saône to Fontaine Française, 110 km, 17 locks (40 navigation out-and-back).
- **Burgundy Wine Cruise:** on the River Saône southwards and the Canal du Centre to Chagny, 96 km, 15 locks (40h navigation out-and-back).
- **Croisière Bourguignonne:** on the Canal de Bourgogne to Pont d'Ouche, 68 km, 58 locks (30 h navigation out-and-back).
- **Fisherman's cruise:** on the River Saône southwards and la Seille to Louhans, 147 km, 8 locks (44 h navigation out-and-back).

OUT-AND-BACK

Suggested itineraries for two weeks

- **Bargemen cruise:** On the River Saône to Chalon and on the Canal du Centre to Digoin, 174 km, 64 locks (75 h navigation out-and-back).
- **Wild Life cruise:** On the River Saône northwards to Heully and the Canal de la Marne à la Saône to Langres, 115 km, 48 locks (55 h navigation out-and-back).

ONE-WAY

- **Vosges discovery:** St-Jean-de-Losne to Fontenoy-le-Château, 150 km, 23 locks (30 h navigation).





Paray-le-Monial

For centuries the Dukes of Burgundy have entertained their guests with the finest wines and the most elegant tables in Europe. To this day the tradition continues and the good citizens of Burgundy offer a royal welcome to any travellers. Crown Blue Line also likes to offer a special welcome to its customers, so come aboard the royal barge "Tempête", and let us brief you on the many cruising choices available from our base at St-Jean-de-Losne. Then, duly armed with wine maps, restaurant guides and charts, cast off and set out to conquer Burgundy.

Canal de Bourgogne

After crossing the Saône River flats this historic canal passes through the centre of the majestic city of Dijon before climbing steeply towards the rolling Burgundy hills where magnificent châteaux occasionally dominate the sky-line. Those taking a two or three week cruise will be rewarded by a visit to the canal side town of Montbard and the village of Ancy-le-Franc with its ornate, opulent renaissance château.

Canal de Bourgogne



Canal du Centre

The famous old Canal du Centre, built in the very early 19th century, offers an interesting addition to the cruising waterways of Burgundy. After leaving Chalon the canal passes through the southern limits of the Burgundy wine growing area and the rolling vine-covered hills provide a spectacular backdrop as you approach Chagny. After the dividing pound, the canal veers south and winds its way toward the canal bridge at Digoïn and the beautiful Loire Valley.

Canal du Rhône au Rhin

This canal, which is really the Doubs River canalised, is navigable as far as Dôle. Dôle is worth a visit with a beautifully restored ancient quarter and majestic cathedral overlooking the river.

Canal de la Marne à la Saône

The Marne and Saône valley are linked by a canal which leaves the Saône near Pontallier just north of our base. Places to visit on this carefully tended, tree-lined canal include Dalmay with its Louis XV castle and the village of Fontaine Française.

L'Hospice de Beaune



River Saône

The wide majestic Saône which flows past our base at St-Jean-de-Losne has been used for centuries for the transport of men and goods. Even Caesar remarked on the tranquillity of its waters. Upstream from our base, the steep red tiled roofs of Corre, Auxonne and Gray cluster round the river's edge and beckon you to tie up and taste a delicious local fish stew, the "pôchouse", or a rich "boeuf bourguignon".

Downstream, the bustling city of Chalon-sur-Saône, birthplace of photography, guards the entrance to the Canal du Centre and further south again a diversion can be taken on the little River Seille as far as Louhans.

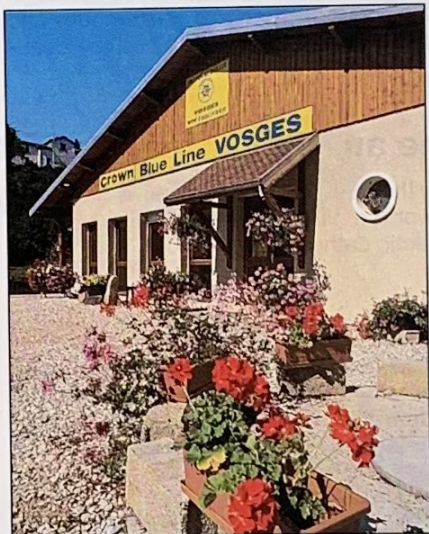
La Saône





LES VOSGES

C. de Bourgogne; C. du Rhône au Rhin; C. de la Marne à la Saône; la Saône; C. de l'Est



Fontenoy-le-Château

USEFUL INFORMATION

BASE : Fontenoy-le-Château 36 km from Epinal.

OUT-AND-BACK

Suggested itineraries for one week.

- **Three Valleys Cruise:** north, on the Canal de l'Est towards Epinal as far as Charmeres, 65 km, 66 locks (30 h navigation out-and-back).

OUT-AND-BACK

Suggested itineraries for two weeks

- **Nancy cruise:** north, on the Canal de l'Est to Nancy, 11km, 160 locks (80 h navigation out-and-back).

ONE-WAY

- **Vosges discovery:** Fontenoy-le-Château/St-Jean-de-Losne, 150 km, 23 locks (30 h navigation).





Canal de l'Est

Canal de l'Est

From our base at Fontenoy-le-Château you can cruise North through the wooded hills of the Vosges mountains or South along the Petite Saône.

Fontenoy is itself a wonderful start to your cruise. Take time to walk through the cobbled streets, visit the town's embroidery museum and small traditional shops run by friendly, helpful people, or purchase some cakes from the local "Pâtisserie" famous throughout the region. Before leaving, you should dine at the little restaurant beside our base, run by two ladies, daughters of bargemen, who will tell you about "their" canal.

Cruising northwards, after passing through some locks built from the pink Vosges sand-stone and crossing vast pine forests, you can follow the branch canal up to Epinal on the banks of the Moselle. This is the capital of the Vosges, adorned with flowers and also a European champion best-kept town. The pellerin Gallery is a must with its workshop, where the famous "Images d'Epinal" were made, and adjoining exhibition. An aqueduct astride the Moselle leads to Thaon-les-Vosges, then Châtel-sur-Moselle, a village perched on a rock spur.

Travelling south from Fontenoy, you will be accompanied by the Coney, a charming little stream which is never far from the canal, down to Corre, where you leave the Canal de l'Est and the wooded hills of the Vosges to enter the very different world of the upper river Saône, in the Franche-Comté region.

Fontenoy-le-Château



Petite Saône

From the junction with the Canal de l'Est at Corre, this cruise will delight by the variety of the landscapes, and the frequent stops at welcoming little towns and villages. Among them, Scey-sur-Saône, built like an amphitheatre on the slopes of a hill is of special interest for its numerous monuments : castle, ruins, houses.



Canal de l'Est

After passing through the tunnel of St-Albin, you will see the keep of the ruined castle of Rupt-sur-Saône, and later the 18th century fortified castle of Ray-sur-Saône. Another day's cruising brings you to Gray, with its museums, the basilica of Notre-Dame, and all the facilities of a bustling country town. Not forgetting the gastronomy.

Manatoche with its attractive moorings, Pontallier and Auxonne, will all leave you with excellent memories.

Our base at St-Jean-de-Losne is at the end of this cruise. Here the already majestic river ceases to be called the "Petite Saône" and continues, as the "Grande Saône", its tranquil course south towards Lyon and Mediterranean.

Dôle. Canal du Rhône au Rhin





LA LOIRE/LE NIVERNAIS

C. Lateral à la Loire; C. de Briare; L'Yonne; C. de Bourgogne; C. du Nivernais.



Canal du Nivernais

USEFUL INFORMATION

BASES: Marseilles-lès-Aubigny, 20 km from Nevers. ■ Decize, 30 km from Nevers. ■ Chitry-les-Mines (relay base), 32 km from Clamecy.

OUT-AND-BACK

Suggested itineraries for one week.

Leaving from Marseilles-lès-Aubigny:

Note: all these cruises may also be started from Decize. Between Decize and Marseilles-Lès-Aubigny it is 55 km with 11 locks, (10h navigation).

- **Gourmet Cruise:** on the Canal Latéral à la Loire northwards to Briare, 75 km, 12 locks (32 h navigation out-and-back).
- **Loire Valley Cruise:** on the Canal Latéral à la Loire southwards to Digoin, 125 km, 23 locks (54 h navigation out-and-back).
- **Pastoral Cruise:** on the Canal du Nivernais to Baye, 135 km, 42 locks, (60 h navigation out-and-back).

For one week, leaving from Decize:

- **Gourmet Cruise:** on the Canal Latéral à la Loire and le Canal de Digoin à Roanne, down to Roanne, 124 km, 28 locks (50 h navigation out-and-back).

OUT-AND-BACK

Suggested itineraries for two weeks

- **Cruise in the Heart of France:** on the Canal Latéral à la Loire, le Canal de Briare, the Canal du Loing, the Seine, the Yonne and the Canal du Nivernais, 408 km, 136 locks (95h navigation).
- **Canal du Centre Cruise:** To Paray and the Burgundy vineyards around Chalon-sur-Saône: 231 km, 88 locks, (105 h navigation out-and-back).

OUT-AND-BACK

Suggested itineraries for three weeks

- **The loop:** departing on the Canal Latéral à la Loire, then the Canal du Nivernais, l'Yonne, the Seine, and returning by the Canal du Loing and the Canal de Briare, 560km, 210locks (140h navigation).

ONE-WAY

- **Cruise through the Morvan forest 1 week:** Marseilles-lès-Aubigny to Chitry-les-Mines or vice versa: on the Canal Latéral à la Loire and the Canal du Nivernais, 150 km, 72 locks (45h navigation).



DISCOVER THE HEART OF FRANCE.

Our bases at Marseilles-lès-Aubigny, Chitry-les-Mines and Decize are situated in the very centre of France. A Loire or Nivernais cruise will enable you to explore a region with its customs, architecture and cooking all so distinctively French. Cruise out and back following either the majestic Loire River valley or up the beautiful and peaceful Nivernais Canal. Or take a one-way trip via Decize towards Chitry-les-Mines, in the hills of Morvan. In either case you will discover a tranquil country far from the usual tourist haunts.

Canal du Nivernais





Canal du Nivernais

Canal Latéral à la Loire



This Canal starts at the pottery town of Digoin in the south and follows the Loire River as far as Briare. The gentle slope of the Loire Valley means that locks are few and far between and cruising is easy. Those interested in canal architecture will be able to admire the magnificent stone canal bridges at Digoin and Le Guétin as well as the spectacular Pont Canal at Briare built by Eiffel at the end of 19th century to avoid the hazardous crossing over the river itself.

The first section of the canal between Digoin and Decize

crosses rich agricultural plains and villages are infrequent.

At Decize our attractive base is conveniently situated at the junction of canal, the river Loire, and the Canal du Nivernais. You can cruise for a short distance on the Loire before tying up at the pleasant moorings of St Léger des Vignes. Further north a branch canal leads to the city of Nevers with its historic old quarters, magnificent cathedral and elegant Palais Ducal.

Then there is our base town of Marseilles-lès-Aubigny lying between the Canal and the River Loire. This village is situated at the junction of the old Canal de Berry and was once a thriving barge centre. The little Canal de Berry has disappeared, but the village now extends its welcome to Crown Blue Line customers.



Further north you will pass beside the vineyards of Sancerre before arriving at Briare and its famous canal bridge.

Canal du Nivernais

From its southern starting point at Decize this beautiful canal climbs the valley of the Aron into the foothills of the Morvan. The spectacular wooded countryside once provided timber for the city of Paris. Towns along the way include Cercy-la-Tour on the River Aron, the village of Baye, situated beside a beautiful

lake and finally Chitry-les-Mines in the very heart of the Morvan, where you will find our relay base.

From Chitry-les-Mines the canal descends towards the Yonne valley passing through the lovely old timber town of Clamecy where you may be lucky enough to see boat jousting on the river. Further downstream you will cruise alternately on the canal and river in some of



the most spectacular countryside of Central France.

Canal de Briare

The oldest canal in France and one of the prettiest, the Canal de Briare was commenced under the reign of Henry IV and finished in 1640. After leaving Briare the canal climbs towards the dividing pound at Rogny then descends towards Montargis, capital of the Gatinais region. Canal enthusiasts should not miss the spectacular staircase of 7 locks at Rogny.



Canal latéral à la Loire



Canal de Digoin à Roanne

A tranquil stretch of 55 km between the junction with the Canal Latéral à la Loire near Digoin and the basin in the centre of Roanne, a city with a reputation for fine food.



LA BRETAGNE

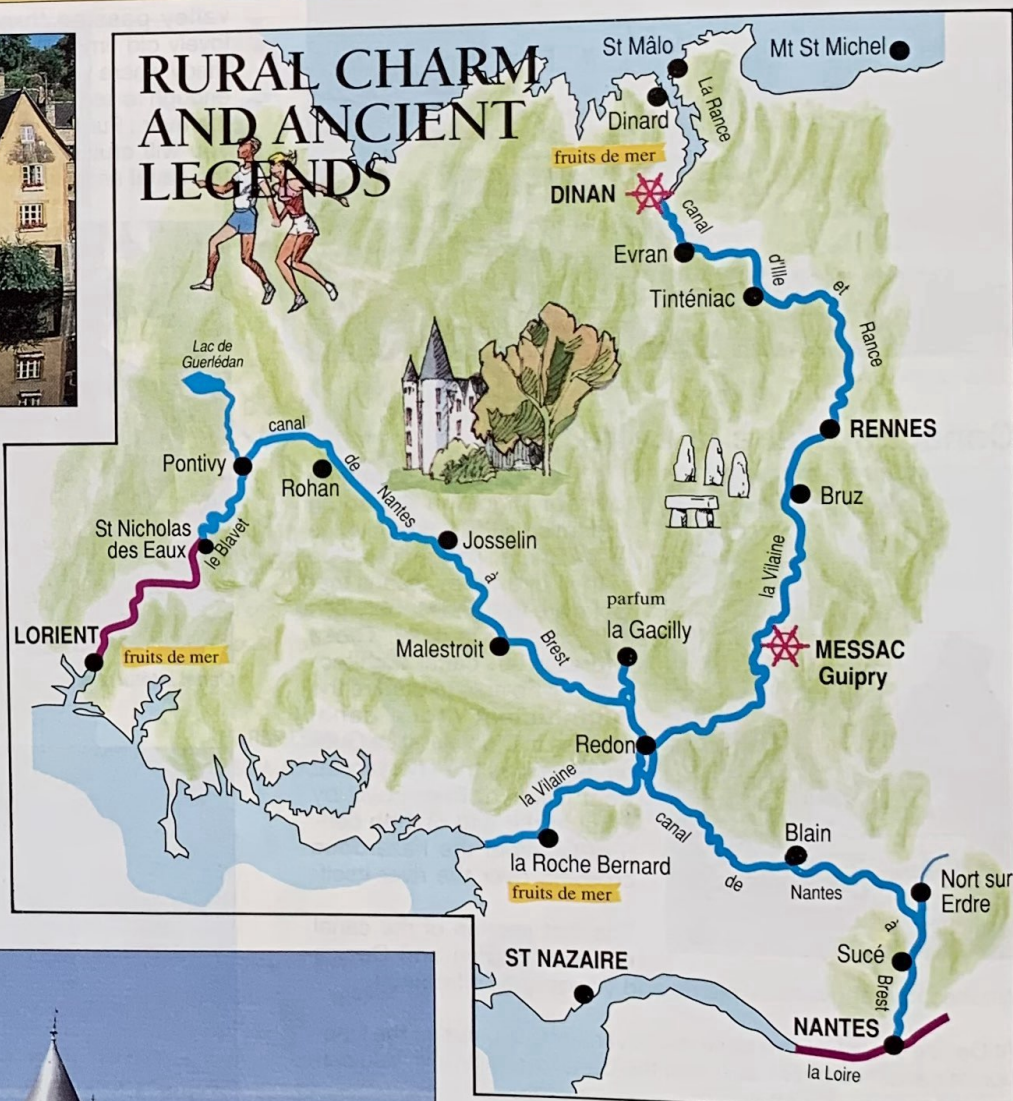
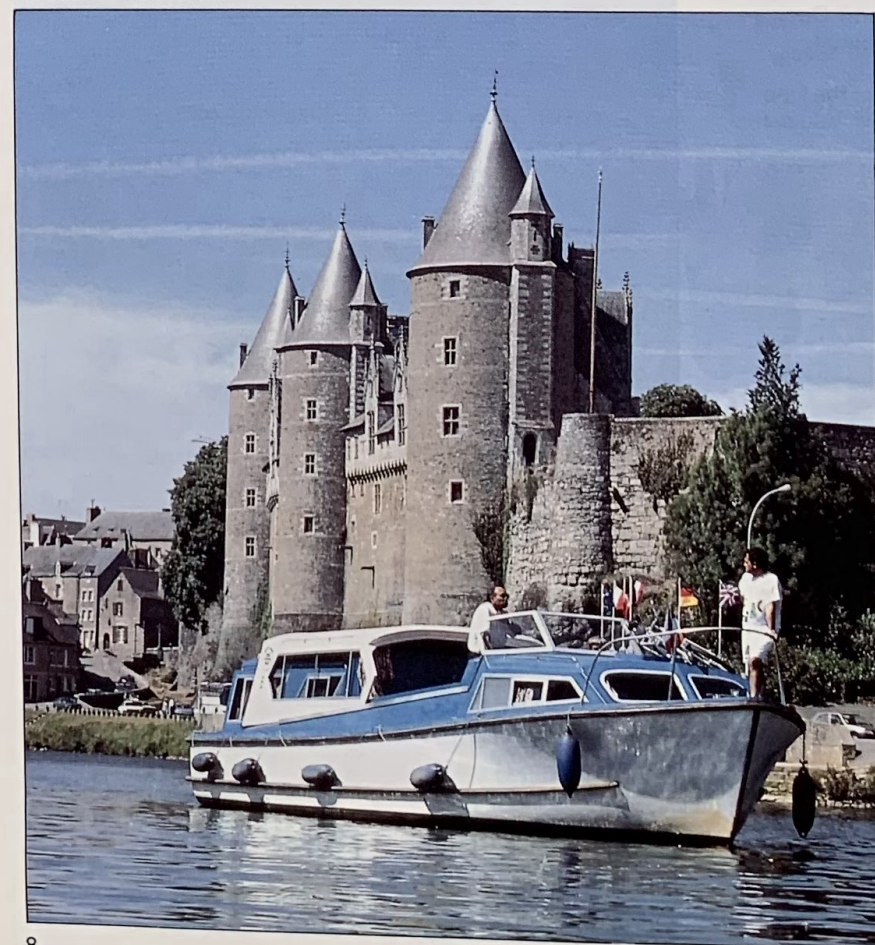
Canal de Nantes à Brest; La Vilaine; Canal d'Ille et Rance; le Blavet.



Dinan



Le Château de Josselin



USEFUL INFORMATION

BASES: Messac, 45 km from Rennes, 34 km from Redon. ■ Dinan (relay base), 60 km from Rennes.

OUT-AND-BACK

Suggested itineraries for one week.

Leaving from Messac.

- **Cruise of the Dukes of Brittany:** on the Canal de Nantes à Brest westwards to Josselin, 104 km, 20 locks, diversion on the River Aff to La Gacilly, 15 km, no locks (35 h navigation out-and-back).
- **Nantes Cruise:** on the Canal de Nantes à Brest eastwards to Nantes, 136 km, 18 locks (42 h navigation out-and-back).
- **Cruise of Legends:** on the River Vilaine through Rennes to Tintignac, 95 km, 43 locks (40 h navigation out-and-back).

OUT-AND-BACK

Suggested itineraries for two weeks

- **Brittany cruise:** on the River Vilaine and on the Canal de Nantes à Brest to Pontivy, 151 km, 92 locks (90 h navigation out-and-back).

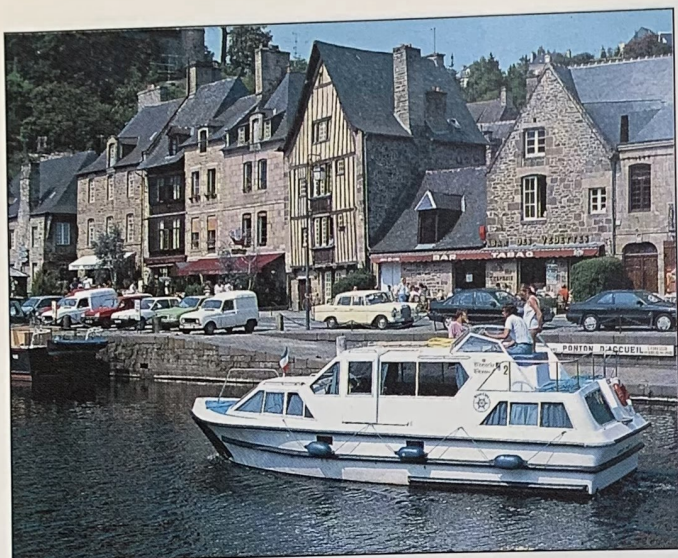
OUT-AND-BACK

Suggested itineraries for three weeks

- **Discover the Blavet:** down the Vilaine to Redon, then the Canal de Nantes à Brest west to Pontivy, then south on the Blavet to St Nicolas-des-Eaux and return, 169 km, 99 locks (115 h navigation out-and-back).

ONE-WAY

- **Croisière Manche-Océan:** Messac/Dinan or vice versa, 125 km, 50 locks (30 h navigation).



The peaceful waterways of Brittany provide some of the most beautiful cruising in France and our two bases at Messac and Dinan have been carefully situated to give an excellent choice of route.

So whether you wish to holiday beside the sea or visit the hills and river valleys of inland Brittany, choose one of the comfortable cruisers from our Crown Blue Line Brittany fleet and cast off. Admire the sturdy stone farm cottages and beautiful churches with their grey slate roofs glistening in the sun. Wonder at the ancient Dolmen standing like sentinels on the lonely hills. Brittany is famous for its seafood and crêpes - what finer way could there be of rounding off a day's cruising than a meal at one of the delightful local restaurants.

NEW FOR 1992: River Blavet

The Canal between Pontivy and Rohan has been re-opened for navigation, so those cruising for two weeks or more will be able to reach the beautiful river Blavet. This cruise must be carefully planned as there are many locks at the canal's high point but those who make the effort will be rewarded by a whole new region of Brittany including the attractive towns of Pontivy and St Nicolas-des-Eaux.

Canal d'Ille et Rance/River Vilaine

Our relay base is situated in the port of Dinan at the very foot of

La Vilaine.



the ancient city. This is a popular holiday town and meeting place for yachtsmen from England and the Channel Islands, with cafés and restaurants along the quayside busy day and night. Built during the Napoleonic Wars the Canal d'Ille et Rance climbs up through a series of locks from medieval Dinan towards the pretty town of Rennes where it joins the River Vilaine to run down past our base Messac to the sea beyond La Roche Bernard. At Redon the Vilaine links with the Canal de Nantes à Brest allowing cruising westwards towards Rohan or east to Nantes. The waterways were used commercially until the 1960's but are now almost exclusively for pleasure navigation, including yachts taking a quiet passage from the Channel to the south Brittany coast. The marvellous scenery varies from lush pasture to dramatic gorges and is punctuated with peaceful villages and bustling towns. Take advantage of the Crown Blue Line bicycles to cycle off down the towpath and explore the surrounding countryside and nearby villages.

The numerous flower covered locks encountered on these waterways provide added interest and are an opportunity for the crew to practice their boat handling skills. The lock-keepers are friendly and helpful and often have fresh produce for sale.



Canal de Nantes à Brest

This Canal once crossed Brittany from East to West, linking the city of Nantes to the seaport of Brest. With the creation of the Guerlédan lake, the Canal was cut west of this point. Main points of interest include the town of La Gacilly, capital of Brittany's perfume industry, and other beautiful canalside towns such as Malestroit and Josselin. On this canal you will see some of the prettiest locks in France.

Ecluse de Beaumont. Canal de Nantes à Brest.





L'ALSACE

Le Canal des Houillères de la Sarre; Le Canal de la Marne au Rhin; Canal de l'Est.



Lutzelbourg



USEFUL INFORMATION

BASES: Hesse, 68 km from Strasbourg,
■ Boofzheim, 30 km from Strasbourg

OUT-AND-BACK

Suggested itineraries
for one week.

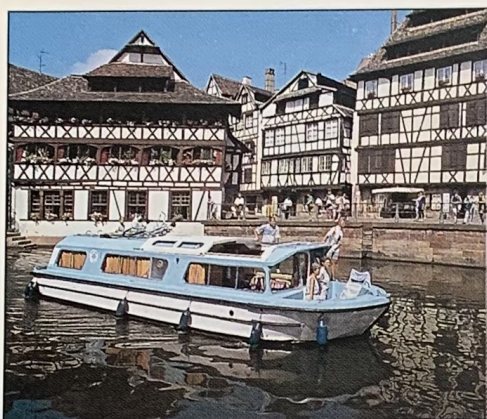
Leaving from Hesse:

- **Cruising in Alsace:** on the canal de la Marne au Rhin eastwards to Strasbourg, 76 km, 33 locks, (32 h navigation out-and-back).
- **Cruising in Lorraine:** on the Canal de la Marne au Rhin westwards to Nancy, 78 km, 25 locks, (30 h navigation out-and-back).
- **Lakes and Forest cruise:** on the Canal des Houillères de la Sarre to Sarreguemines, 78 km, 28 locks, (25 h navigation out-and-back).

ONE-WAY

- **The Wine Route:** Hesse/Boofzheim or vice versa. On the Canal de la Marne au Rhin and on the Canal du Rhône au Rhin (northern). 101 km, 42 locks, (23 h navigation).





La Petite France, Strasbourg.



Canal de la Marne au Rhin.

A LAND OF LAKES AND FORESTS

Our main base is well situated at the little town of Hesse, in Lorraine, mid-way between the cities of Strasbourg and Nancy. Steep hills clad with imposing pines, rolling plains and quiet lakes offer a unique countryside. In Alsace-Lorraine, a healthy continental climate provides bracing Springtimes, warm flowerclad Summers and splendid multi-coloured Autumns. Whatever the season the spectacular countryside, and that special warm welcome offered by the people of this region, will ensure an unforgettable holiday. Don't forget to sample some of the generous local cuisine such as a mountainous Choucroute or a delicious Quiche Lorraine. You may wish to visit a local glass factory and purchase one of their delicate little handmade wine jugs, which make the refreshing light white Alsatian wines taste even better.

Canal de la Marne au Rhin.

The Canal de la Marne au Rhin begins at the city of Strasbourg, home of the European Parliament. The Germanic half-timbered houses and the extravagant Gothic cathedral identify this striking city. After leaving Strasbourg the Canal crosses the plain of Alsace before passing through the town of Savern with its impressive pink stone château; then threads between pine covered hills before reaching the colourful flower-clad town of Lutzelbourg. The boat lift at Arzviller then provides an exciting climb up the foothills of the Vosges and panoramic views across the valley. The Canal then passes through two tunnels before reaching the quiet Crown Blue Line base at Hesse. Canalside towns such as Niderviller and Heming provide excellent facilities and good quality restaurants.

Arzviller



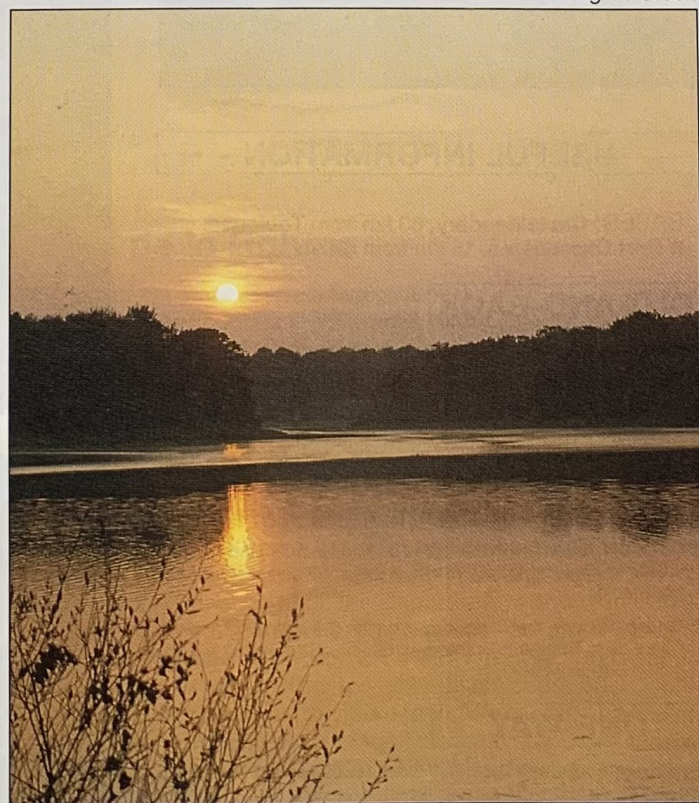
Our New base at Boofzeim.

This base is now completed and we can offer a one-way cruise from this charming Alsatian village with its 17th century half timbered houses, through magnificent Strasbourg to Hesse. There are many places to moor. Typical is Obenheim, a small village with flowers on every corner and where you can go horse riding or visit its fish farm. Plobsheim has a remarkable lake where you may practice the water sport of your choice. En route you will enjoy numerous restaurants offering game, fish, and above all the regional speciality "matelote aux trois poissons". Take time to taste the famous local wines, such as Riesling, Gewurtztraminer, Sylvaner, Pinot Noir, and many others.

Canal des Houillères à la Sarre

Despite its unromantic name this canal, running north towards the German border, offers spectacular cruising through beautiful lakes and magnificent forests. This protected national park harbours deer and wild boar which can often be seen on the Canal side. Points of interest include Mittersheim with its attractive lake, lonely Sarralbe with its unique rural Lorraine atmosphere and Sarreguemines at the junction of the River Sarre.

Etang de Stock





LE MIDI

Canal du Midi; Canal du Rhône à Sète; Canal de la Robine; Etang de Thau.



Canal du Midi. Portiragnes.



Canal du Midi, Castelnaudary.



USEFUL INFORMATION

BASES: Castelnaudary, 60 km from Toulouse.

■ Port Cassafières, 15 km from Béziers.

OUT-AND-BACK

Suggested itineraries for one week.

Leaving from Castelnaudary:

- **Paul Riquet Cruise:** on the Canal du Midi northwards to Montauban, 74 km, 48 locks (37 h navigation out-and-back).
- **Medieval Crusade:** on the Canal du Midi to Argens going through the City of Carcassonne, 87 km, 50 locks (36 h navigation out-and-back).

Leaving from Port Cassafières.

- **Coastal Cruise:** along the Canal du Midi and Canal du Rhône à Sète to Aigues-Mortes, 78 km, 3 locks (32 h navigation out-and-back).
- **Cruise through the Languedoc:** on the Canal du Midi and the Canal de la Robine to Narbonne, 80 km, 21 locks (30 h navigation out-and-back).

ONE-WAY

- **Sun and Fun:** Castelnaudary/Port Cassafières and vice versa, 167 km, 72 locks (34 h navigation).



Le Somail.



Carcassonne

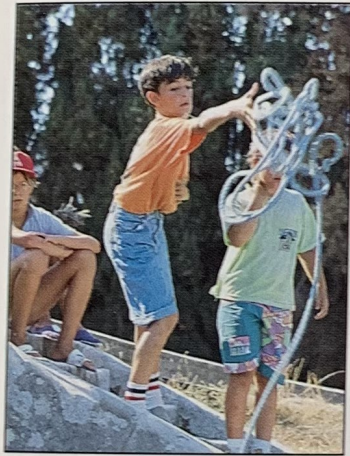
The Canal du Midi

From Toulouse to Sète, the Canal du Midi awaits you for a sunshine cruise. A holiday in Southern France will leave you with a kaleidoscope of images, sunshine filtering through the plane trees...fields of bright yellow sunflowers ... geometric patch-works of vineyard and dusty little houses with their red-tiled roofs baking in the sun.

Pierre Paul Riquet, Baron of Bonrepos and collector of taxes set

out in 1667 to build a canal which was to become an unrivalled feat of engineering as well as magnificent botanical garden. Three hundred years after its construction the canal remains virtually untouched and the evidence of Riquet's genius is available at every turn.

So for a boating enthusiast one of the great attractions of cruising in Southern France is the Canal du Midi itself. Take time to admire the unusual oval locks hand-operated as they were in the 17th century, the humpbacked bridges and little lock-houses.



Cruising eastwards from our base at Castelnaudary one soon arrives at the breathtaking medieval city of Carcassonne, carefully restored in the 19th century by Viollet-Le-Duc. La Cité is now an exciting tourist attraction animated day and night by jugglers and street singers.

After leaving Carcassonne the tree shaded canal winds its way through sleepy villages of the Minervois region, one of the most ancient wine areas of France. Along the way you pass through the world's oldest canal tunnel at Malpas and you can visit the ruins of the pre-Roman fortified hilltop town at Enserune with its

Canal latéral à la Garonne, Mas d'Agenais.



spectacular view of the dried up lake of Montady. The city of Béziers is set high above the canal, and an aqueduct takes you over the river Orb giving a memorable view of the Cathedral. Béziers is the wine capital of the area with its own wine museum. Some 15 kms east of Béziers is our base at Port-Cassafières which has full marina facilities, a bar/restaurant and an enviable Mediterranean position. Port-Cassafières is ideally situated for sea and beach lovers to take advantage of the countless activities at Portiragnes Plage.

Continuing eastwards from Port-Cassafières the canal runs through Agde, an ancient town of Greek origin, to the Etang de Thau with its pretty fishing ports - Marseillan, Mèze, Bouzigues, Sète and Balaruc-les-Bains where there is a well known spa. All around the Etang you can enjoy the abundance of fish dishes served in every harbour restaurant.

Canal du Midi



Portiragnes-Plage

Canal de la Robine

At Mirepesset near Capetang a striking row of dark green Cyprus pines announces the entrance to the Canal de la Robine. This branch canal will lead you to the ancient Roman seaport of Narbonne and finally to Port-la-Nouvelle, your limit of cruising.

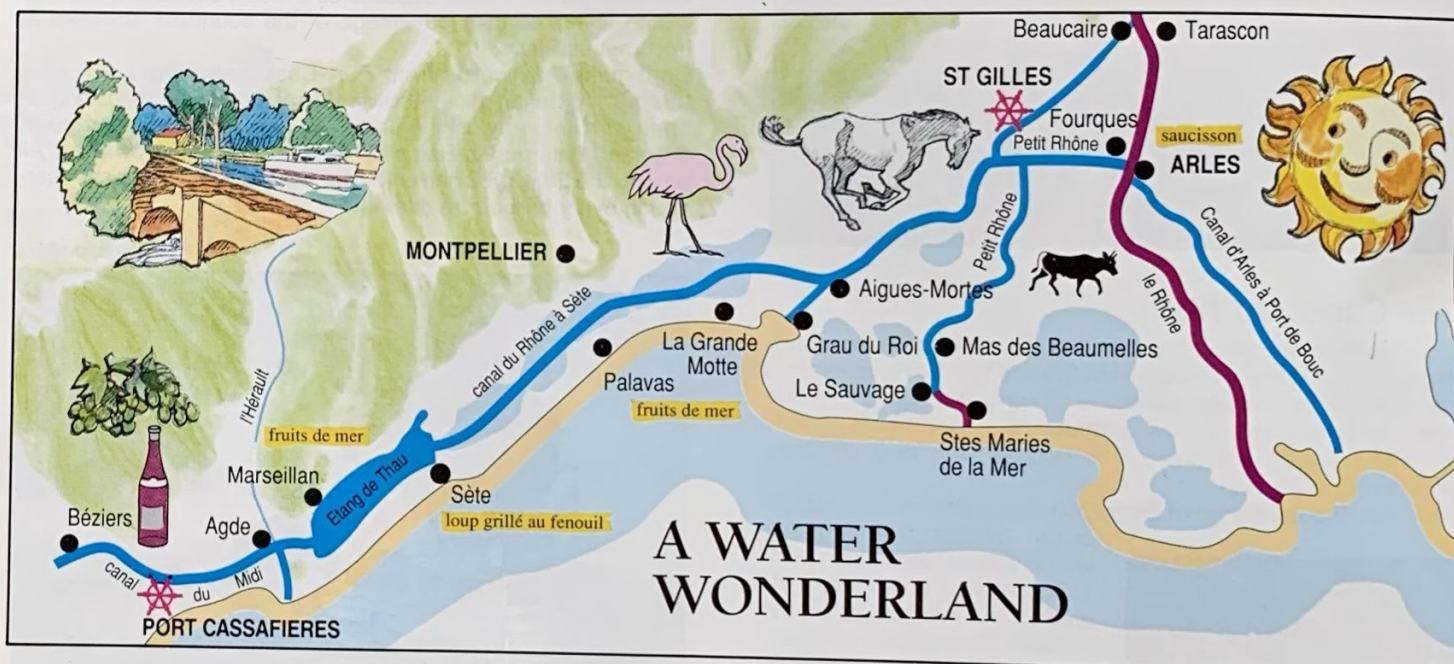
Canal Latéral à la Garonne

A cruise north west of Castelnaudary will take you through the busy, cheerful city of Toulouse, and then on the Canal Latéral à la Garonne which follows the Garonne Valley. Its fertile river plains are covered with fruit trees of all types and vineyards. Not as busy as the Canal du Midi, the Canal Latéral offers quiet cruising and easy automatic locks. You may wish to take the branch canal to Montauban or turn off on the Baïse river and go as far as the village of Vianne. Other towns to discover are Agen, noted for its delicious prunes usually served in Armagnac, and the red brick town of Moissac with its magnificent cloister. Here it is also possible to cruise on the lake of St Nicolas de la Grave where leisure activities such as windsurfing and tennis are available.



LA CAMARGUE

Canal du Rhône à Sète; Petit Rhône



Canal du Rhône à Sète



La Grande Motte



USEFUL INFORMATION

BASES: Saint-Gilles, 19 km from Nîmes, 18 km from Arles. ■ Port Cassafières 15km from Béziers.

OUT-AND-BACK

Suggested itineraries for one week.

Leaving from St-Gilles:

- **Coastal Cruise:** on the Canal du Rhône à Sète to the Etang de Thau, 71 km, no locks (30 h navigation out-and-back).
- **Croisière des Etangs:** on the Canal du Rhône à Sète and the Canal du Midi to Béziers, 115 km, 9 locks (46 navigation out-and-back).
- **Roman Cruise:** on the Petit Rhône northwards and the River Rhône to Arles (with a pilot), 24 km, 1 lock (8 h navigation out-and-back).
- **Gypsy Cruise:** on the Petit Rhône southwards to the Mas des Baumelles, 30 km, 1 lock (10 h navigation out-and-back).

Leaving from Port-Cassafières

- **Camargue Cruise:** on the Canal du Rhône à Sète to Aigues-Mortes, 78 km, 3 locks, (32 h navigation out-and-back).

ONE-WAY

- **Coastal Cruise:** St Gilles/Port Cassafières or vice versa, on the Canal du Rhône à Sète and the Canal du Midi, 92 km, 2 locks (32 h navigation).



Our base town of St Gilles is situated at the very gates of the Camargue, a very distinctive region like no other in France. A flat country bathed in sunshine and glistening with lakes and rivers... a land of marshes where wild bulls stare at you from behind tall reeds, white Camargue horses shy away at your approach, and flocks of elegant flamingos strut through the water on their stilt-like legs or take to the air in a blaze of pink feathers. Bring your binoculars and marvel at the varied wildlife which thrives in this protected natural wonderland.

Le Petit Rhône

At St Gilles it is possible to join the Petit Rhône for a spectacular river cruise along the Western boundary of the Camargue regional wildlife park.

Surrounded by dense undergrowth in its upper reaches, the river widens as it approaches the delightful fishing port, Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer on the coast.

Tie up at Le Mas and take an excursion into the heart of the Camargue where you can view the numerous species of wildlife or take rides on the gentle white Camargue horses.



Canal du Rhône à Sète

The Canal du Rhône à Sète, which flows past our base at St Gilles is a lazy lock-free waterway which meanders from one sea-side town to another along the Mediterranean coast. The most spectacular is the old walled town of Aigues Mortes from where the earnest crusaders set out in times gone by to spread the great Christian faith. From there a branch canal leads to the seaport of Le Grau du Roi, humming with summer holidaymakers and cluttered with small brightly painted fishing



Aigues-Mortes

boats. Stop here for a meal of oysters or mussels or go on towards the other seaside towns of La Grande Motte, Carnon and Palavas. At each of these towns you will find sandy beaches, bustling marinas and modern shopping centres. North east of our St Gilles base the canal leads to the town of Beaucaire on the banks of the river Rhône, famous for its centuries old trading fair.

One-Way cruises between StGilles and Port Cassafières

Starting at St Gilles, this cruise will give you time to explore the inviting little streets and shops of Aigues Mortes, enjoy some fabulous sandy beaches at times only a kilometre or so from the canal,

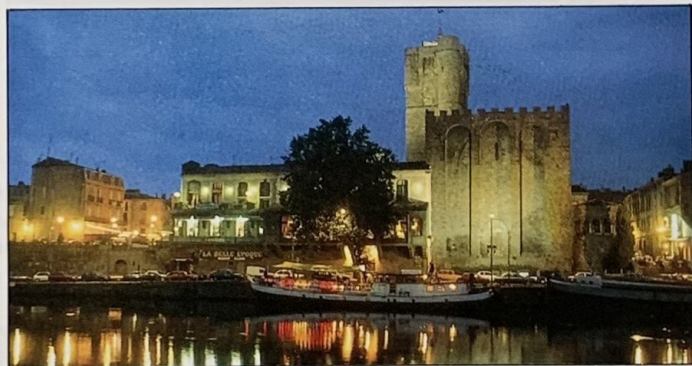
Mèze, l'étang de Thau.



as well as being able to visit pretty fishing ports such as bustling Sète, or Bouzigues, Mèze and Marseillan.

You will join the Canal du Midi at Les Onglous and pass through the unique round lock at Agde before the short lock free section to our base at Port Cassafières.

Agde



The Rhône

Taking the "Petit Rhône" north from St Gilles, with the help of a pilot, you can cross the mighty River Rhône and visit the historic Roman city of Arles.



Canal du Rhône à Sète.

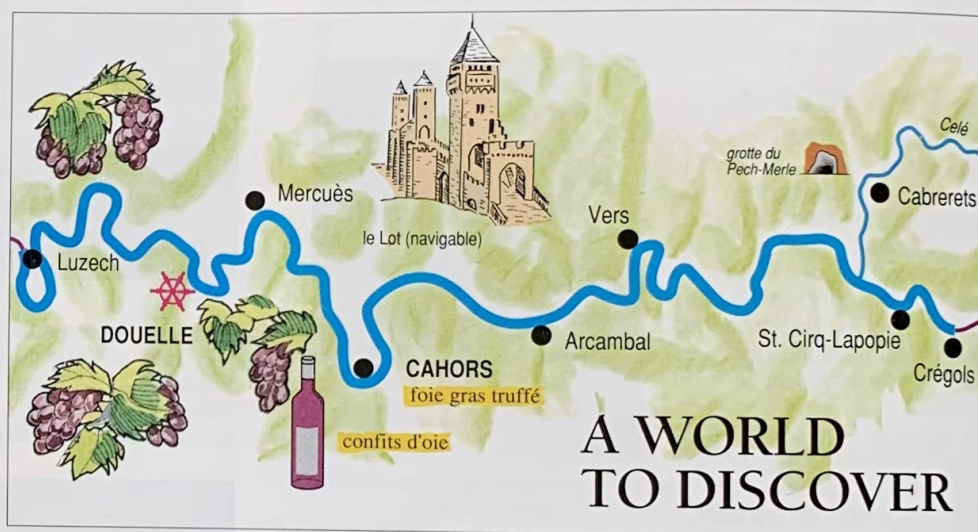
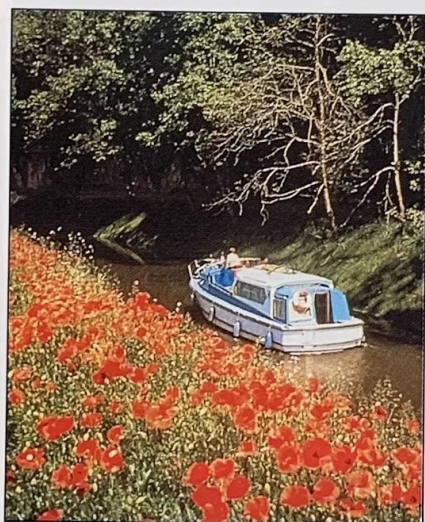




LE LOT

Cruise the ancient wine route through Cahors.

Special note: in Spring, the Lot river occasionally floods. For this reason, we will not take bookings for cruising holidays starting before the 1st May.

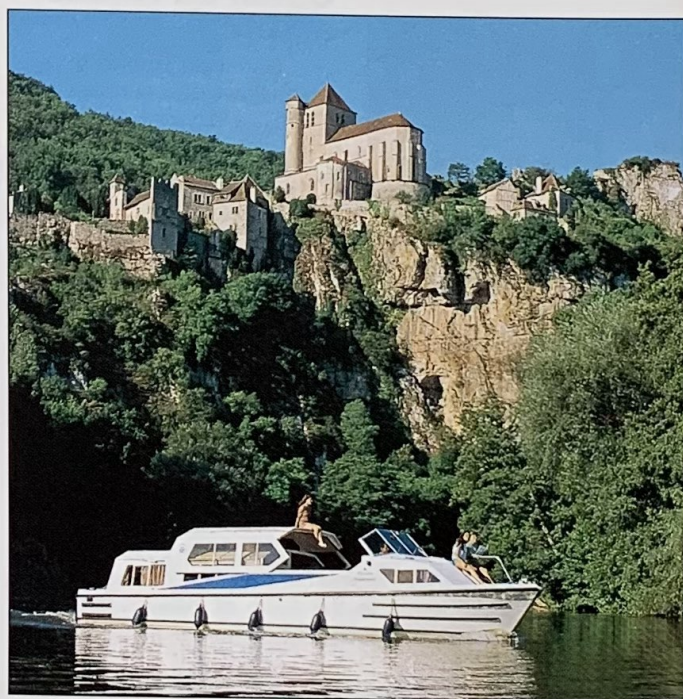


The River Lot

Cruising on the river Lot has been an outstanding success for Crown Blue Line since it was re-opened for navigation two years ago between Luzech and Crégols. Here is an opportunity to discover one of the most spectacular rivers of France. Although the distance is short, only 64 kms, a week will not be sufficient to experience all that the Lot has to offer.

Setting off upstream from our new base at the ancient barge town of Douelle, you will thread your way between rugged limestone cliffs. Tie up at Cahors and discover the narrow streets of the old town, rest a while under the arches of the beautiful Pont Valentré. Cast off again to visit the lovely riverside towns of Vers and Bouziès before arriving at St-Cirq-la-Popie dramatically perched on a cliff overlooking the river. Officially one of the most attractive villages in France, St-Cirq is brought alive in Summer by craftsmen, sculptors and flower decorated cafés. Its steep narrow cobble-stone streets will take you back to the time of the Troubadours.

When you tie up in the evening, our river Guide will show you where to find a nice local restaurant. Here you will be able to taste delicacies unique to the region, such as foie gras with truffles, the famous "confit", and a local crisp pastry called Pastis. Of course, we know you will take aboard a generous supply of the splendid Cahors wine!



Star, Laroque-des-Arcs.

Jamaica, Saint-Cirq-Lapopie.

Cahors



USEFUL INFORMATION

BASE: Douelle, 15 km from Cahors.

OUT-AND-BACK Suggested itinerary for one week.

■ **Wonderland Cruise:** From Douelle towards the West to Luzech, 14 km, 1 lock. Towards the East to Crégols, 50 km, 13 locks (23h navigation).

CROWN BLUE LINE SERVICE



RESERVATIONS AND ADVICE

Our staff are well-informed and have first-hand knowledge of the cruisers, holiday areas and travel arrangements. We are always pleased to hear from you and to answer any questions you may have concerning your Crown Blue Line holiday. Our bases will provide information of local interest and events, to help you get the most from your cruise.



FREE GUIDES MAPS, AND CAPTAIN'S MANUAL

Part of the fun of any holiday is the preparation ; and planning your cruising itinerary can mean hours of extra enjoyment.

When your booking is confirmed, we will send you our specially prepared Guide, containing waterway maps showing the location of towns and villages, locks, water points, shopping facilities, places of interest and historic notes - plus lots of other practical tips on holidays afloat. You will also receive a Captain's Manual and any other information needed to prepare for your cruise .

INSTRUCTIONS ON OPERATING YOUR BOAT



Your Crown Blue Line cruiser is easy to handle with very simple controls. It has been designed for practical, comfortable life aboard. Before you start your cruise a complete instruction lesson is given, showing you the controls and equipment on board. This will be followed by a short trial run to enable you to get a feel of the cruiser. Your captain's Manual is a reminder and reference guide - just in case you forget anything.



FUTURE PLANS IN AQUITAINE

An exciting and imaginative reconstruction is planned during the 1992/93 seasons to open the River Baïse between Damazan and the attractive old river port of Nérac. This will provide an outstandingly beautiful extension to our cruising area. Crown Blue Line are temporarily closing their base at Damazan until this work is completed, but the Canal Latéral à la Garonne may still be cruised west in 1992 from our Castelnau base.

FULL DETAILS OF BOATS ON PAGE 20-25

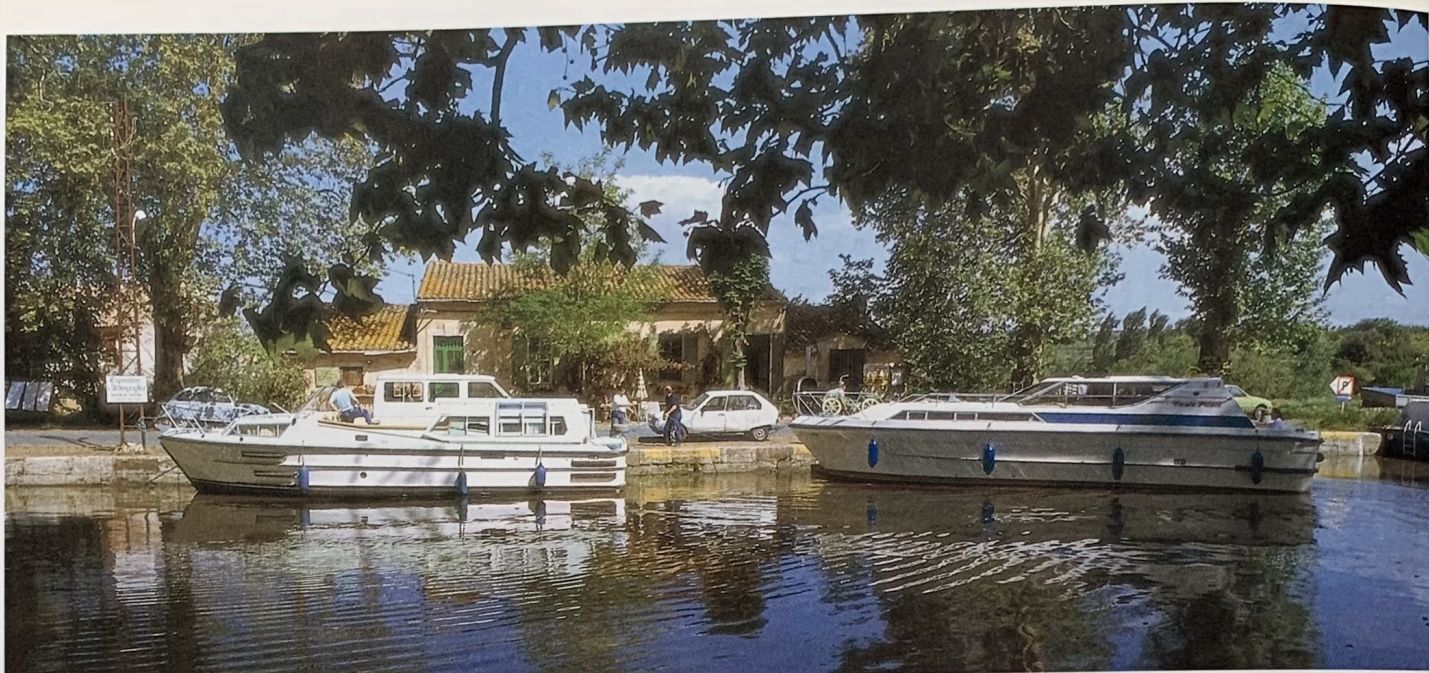
LOCKING AN ESSENTIAL PART OF BOATING HOLIDAYS...

Passing through locks is all part of the holiday and a very enjoyable part too, just as much as the picturesque cuttings tunnels, and aqueducts along the way. Some locks are full of colour with beautifully tended, flower filled gardens as in Brittany. Others, like the oval locks on the Canal du Midi, are steeped in history.

Our "Livre Bleu" Captain's Handbook and Guides give all the information you need to know about locks and their operation.

Locks are friendly meeting places where crews come together and chat, maybe buying some home grown vegetables, honey, eggs and local wine from the lock keeper - who is often a lady. Have the camera ready. You'll get great shots in and around the locks.





ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS...



EXPERIENCE NOT NECESSARY - Crown Blue Line boats are easy to control. If you have not tried a boating holiday before, don't let that put you off. Beginners are welcomed and will be ably assisted at the boatyard where you begin your cruise. There are bi-lingual speaking staff at all our bases.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL - You will be welcomed and shown to your boat. A staff member will demonstrate how the boat works and take you on a trial run. Our boats are simple to handle and you will soon get the feel of them.



PROVISIONS - STARTING AND EN ROUTE

All our cruising locations have shopping facilities nearby. The Cruising Guides indicate local shops and markets along the waterways.

MOORING - Like parking a car, it is fairly simple with a little practice. You can stop virtually anywhere you like, especially in the countryside, as long as you are not hindering navigation. Except in some of the main tourist centres, there are normally no charges for mooring.

SAFETY - Follow a few common sense rules and you should have no problems. The Livre Bleu Captain's Handbook and boatyard staff will give you the general guidelines. Buoyancy aids are supplied free of charge on the boat and are essential for non-swimmers and younger members of the family.



BICYCLES - Bicycles are a popular way to visit towns and villages a little way from the canals, and useful to reach and prepare locks in advance. Bicycles can be hired from all bases.

EATING OUT - One of the great pleasures of a boating holiday is to enjoy the excellent local cuisine in the small restaurants along the way. Restaurants are marked in our Guide and you will find that you can eat at very reasonable prices. There is normally no shortage of choice.



LOCKS - At most locks, you will find a lock keeper but you are expected to help him open and close the gates where these are manually operated. It takes 10 to 15 minutes to pass through a lock. Allow for the locks being shut for approximately.

1½ hrs at lunchtime. Locks in France are toll-free.

SECURITY DEPOSIT - Before you take over your boat, we ask for a security deposit of FF 2000, payable in cash, by Credit Card or cheque in French Francs. At the end of your holidays, your boat and its equipment will be checked and payment for any losses or damage will be charged to you. You will only be liable up to the amount of your security deposit.



CLOTHING - Don't take too much clothing: it's unnecessary (particularly in the Midi and Camargue regions) and hanging space is limited aboard. Non-slip or yachting shoes are recommended for safety and comfort on board.



REMEMBER !
Crown Blue Line are No 1 for holiday boating in France.
BOOK EARLY to avoid disappointment !

WATER & GAS - Water tanks on board hold between 200-500 litres of water, depending on the type of boat. You will need to top this up regularly as you go along - water points are shown in the Guide. Gas for cooking and heating is included in the price.



FUEL - Your boat will be filled with diesel before you take it over which will be more than sufficient for 2 week's cruising. On your return, the tank will be filled up and you will be charged for what you have used.

The amount will vary according to your speed and distance travelled. The average charge per week in 1991 was 600 FF.

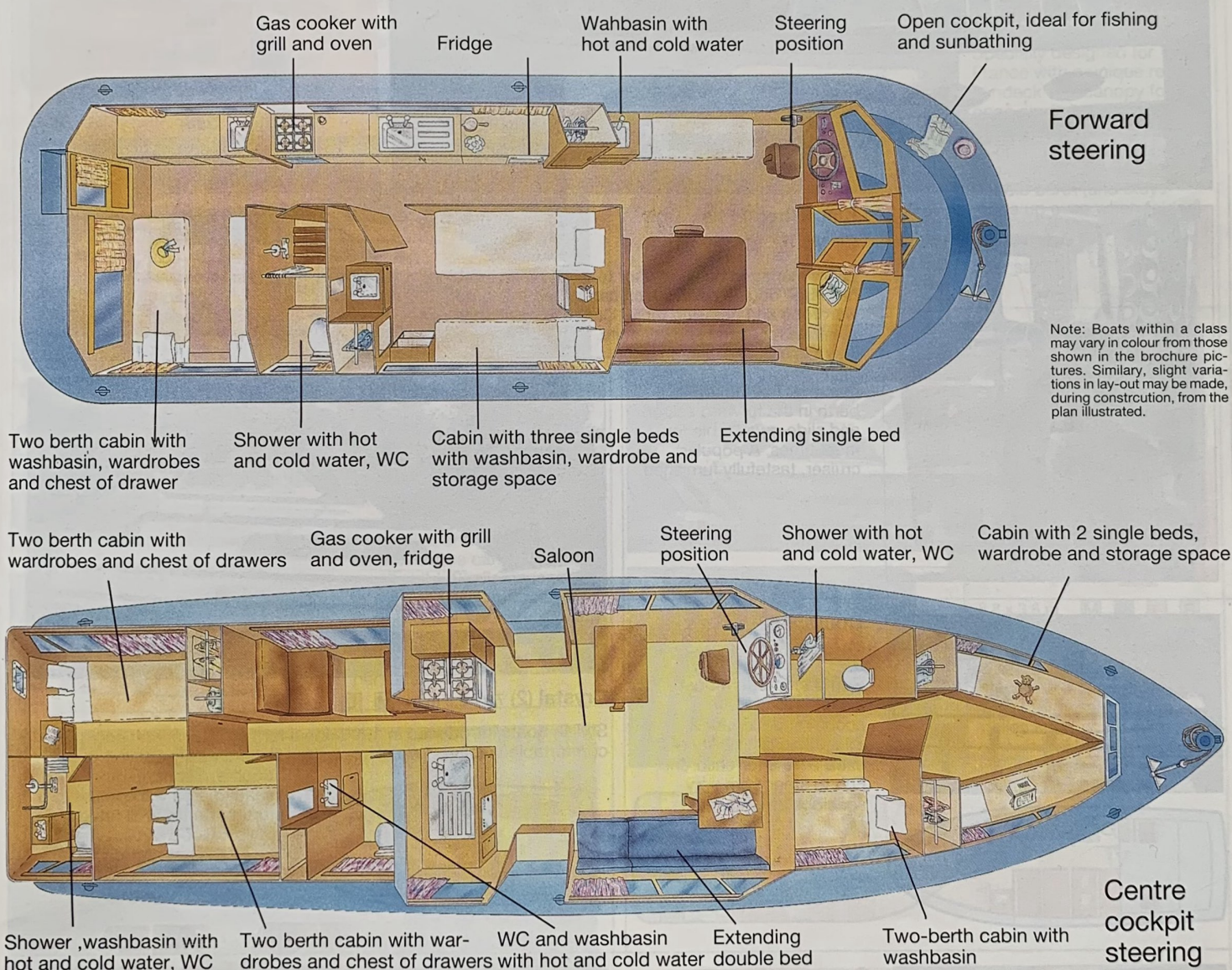
EMERGENCY SERVICE - In the event of breakdown or serious problem, we provide an emergency service designed to get you back under way with the minimum delay. This service operates every day, during normal working hours, and full instructions and telephone numbers are given in your Captain's Manual.



PARKING - There is parking at each base, often locked. A charge is made for secured parking where this is available.



INSURANCE - Take advantage of our new cancellation and accident insurance package. For an additional 3% of your hire fees, you will be fully covered for cancellation up to date of departure, in the event of sickness or accident affecting you or a member of your crew (see the Booking form for further details).



Note: Boats within a class may vary in colour from those shown in the brochure pictures. Similarly, slight variations in lay-out may be made, during construction, from the plan illustrated.

EVERY COMFORT ON BOARD

■ Water

Your cruiser is equipped with a fresh water tank which is full when you take over the boat.

■ Gas

Each cruiser has 2 bottles of gas, each lasting about 2 to 3 weeks, so no risk of running out.

■ Fuel

Your cruiser will have a full tank of diesel when you take over, which will be sufficient for 1 week's normal cruising.

■ Heating

Full or partial heating.

■ Storage

Wardrobes and ample storage provided for personal belongings

■ Marine equipment

Each cruiser has a full inventory of marine equipment: life jackets, lifebuoys, floating cushions. All necessary deckgear, mooring lines, stakes and safety material.

■ Galley

Equipped with sink, work surfaces, storage space. Also includes a full inventory of kitchen utensils, crockery, glassware and cutlery. Complete fittings with gas cooker, grill, refrigerator, electric lighting.

■ Conveniences

Hot and cold running water. Shower and WC (2 or 3 WC and 2 or 3 showers on many cruisers).

■ Bedlinen

All bedding including sheets, blankets (or duvets), pillow-cases, towels.

LA FLOTTE

Bases **M** Midi **C** Camargue **T** Lot **L** Loire Nivernais **S** Burgundy Vosges **B** Brittany **A** Alsace

Sleeping accommodation

The figure appearing after the boat name indicates its capacity. Where there are two figures e.g (4+2) the first indicates comfortable capacity with no more than two people per cabin. The second shows extra person(s).



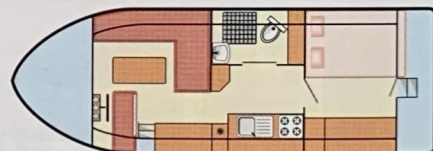
- * Refrigerator
- ☼ Cooker
- Single berth
- Double berth
- Double bunk
- WC
- ☒ Shower
- ☒ Washbasin
- ☒ Sink
- Sundeck



Kingfisher (2) 7,8 x 2,9 m

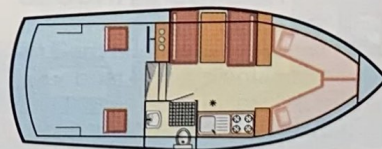
M C L S B A

Easily managed boat ideal for two. Aft master cabin has large double berth which can be left made up, wardrobe and dressing table. Centrally positioned separate toilet and shower suite. There is a door to the aft deck for easy access and mooring. Pull-out double berth in the forward saloon and slide-away table for meal-times. A popular cruiser, tastefully furnished.



Crystal (2) 7,3 x 2,5 m **M L** 

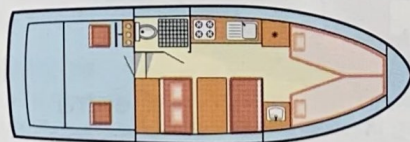
Stylish boats introduced in 1990. Ideal for two. Roomy aft cockpit with comfortable seating. Two single berths forward easily convert to a double. Separate dinette seating area will convert to a further berth. Well fitted galley. Good size toilet/shower compartment.



Couralin (2) 8,2 x 2,9 m

M C

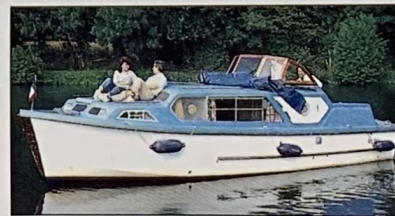
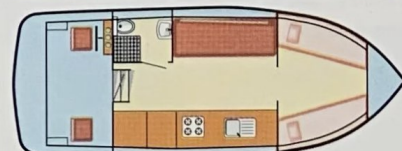
Compact modern boat. Comfortable accommodation for 2 adults and possibility of 2 extra berths for children. Fun to steer from very spacious aft sun deck.



Carousel (2) 8,2 x 3,0 m

M S

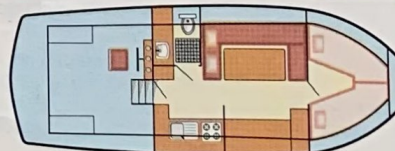
Spacious cruiser for 2. Saloon has curved settee, drop down table and fitted galley. Cockpit has outside sundeck with seats. The cabin forward is beautifully appointed, and bed can be made into double or two singles.



Viviane (2+2) 9,1 x 3,1 m

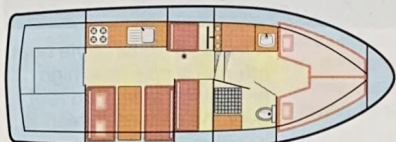
B

Well suited to smaller party. Enthusiasts will appreciate the raised stern steering position and neat interior lay-out. Two single berths and one convertible double berth.





Sirocco (2+2) 8,2 x 2,9 m **M T S**



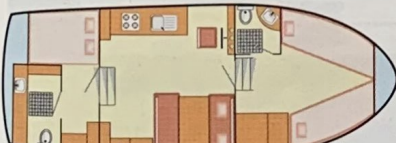
An attractive boat with accommodation for 2 adults and 2 children. Raised saloon with direct access to rear deck. Sun hatch. Easy to steer.



Tamaris (4 ou 4+2) 9,7 x 3,6 m **M L S** 



Style A



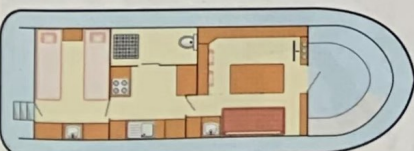
Style B

Well fitted and tastefully furnished cruisers. Alternative interior or flying bridge steering positions, latter with space and seating. Cabins both have en suite toilet and shower. Saloon settee can sleep a small child. Similar in looks to the style A, the Tamaris S style B has a saloon with convertible double and galley opposite and will take 2 extra persons.



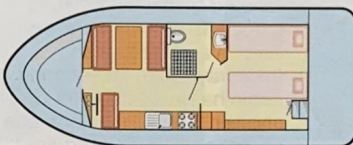
Bermuda (4) 10,4 x 3,7 m **M C L S**

One of our most popular craft, a spacious boat for 4 people. Two separate cabins divided by kitchen and toilet compartment. Sun hatch over the front saloon and forward steering. Large front cockpit for sunbathing and aft access for easy mooring. Single floor level throughout.



Calypso (2+2) 8,6 x 3,3 m

M L S A



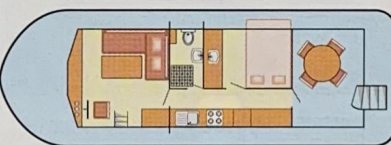
A roomy 4 berth boat. One of our well established boat styles and very popular. Independent access fore and aft to two separate cabins. Sun roof and roomy forward cockpit. Easy to steer.



Musketeer (2+2)

11,3 x 3,6 m **M L**

Specially designed for France with a unique rear sundeck and canopy for open air dining. Double cabin amidships. Forward saloon has comfortable settee which converts to a double berth (and stays made up even when folded) and pull out single for a child. Full slide-back roof over saloon.



Comet (4) 

8,8 x 3,6 m **M T L B**

Brand new, a class cruiser with interior or flying bridge steering. Luxury interior with roomy saloon cum galley and two en suite sleeping cabins. A superb cruiser, ideal for the smaller family. Easy to handle.



“CROWN” CLASS

For that “something extra,” cruisers showing the red “Crown” symbol are the newest, unsurpassed for style, quality and comfort.



Viscount (4+1) 10,6 x 3,6 m

M L S A



Spacious interior and specially designed elevated steering and viewing position. Double forward cabin has en suite toilet, sitz bath and shower. Saloon at the rear has foldaway table. The second cabin has en suite toilet and shower. Settee in saloon can be optional berth if required.



Prince (4+2) 11,5 x 3,6 m

M T L S



A super cruiser with raised steering and viewing positions. Forward cabin with rounded double bed, and wash basin. The midship cabin is cosy with two single beds and wash basin. Pull-out double divan in saloon. Pleasant galley and toilet and shower suites.



Concorde (6+1) 12,8 x 3,6 m

C S A L

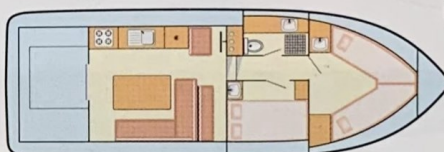


Very recent design, offering exceptional comfort. Super large upper sun deck. Cruiser with dual steering: inside saloon or flying bridge; interior with dralon upholstery and fitted carpets; spacious raised saloon cum dining area with sliding door to outside. Adjoining, well planned galley.



Riviera (6) 10,5 x 3,79 m

M C T S B A



A modern sedan style boat offering a spacious high level living area. Sun roof over the elevated steering position. Sliding door gives access to large aft sundeck. Central shower compartment with WC and wash basin.



Tasman (6) 11,5 x 3,7 m

M C L B A



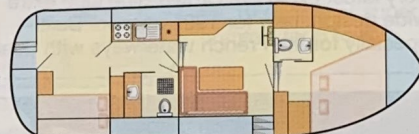
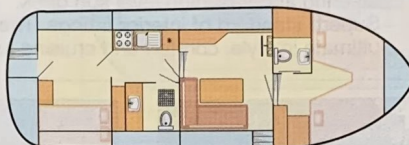
One of our recent designs, ideally suited for the waterways of France. Full sliding wheelhouse over central cockpit. Double cabins fore and aft, each with shower and toilet compartment adjacent. Saloon has dinette double berth. Well fitted galley.





Star (6) 10,7 x 3,7 m **M C T L S B A**

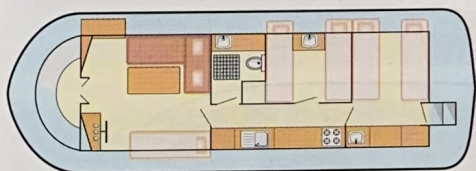
A classic centre-cockpit boat with attractive lines. The saloon roof slides back for open air sunshine cruising. Exceptionally easy to handle. Three separate cabins and 2 WC's. Loire cruisers: double berth forward cabin instead of two single.



Buccaneer (6+1) 11,3 x 3,7 m

M C B A

A traditional style boat good value for 6 to 7 people and spacious accommodation. The Buccaneer in Camargue has a raised forward deck and no front access. The galley aboard the Buccaneer is very similar to the Corsair pictured below.

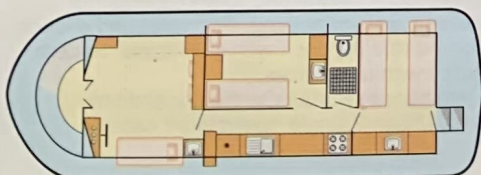


Corsair (6+2)

11,3 x 3,7m

M C L S B A

Another of our recent designs. Single-level comfort and sliding wheelhouse over forward saloon. 3 separate cabins each with wash and basin. Central shower and toilet compartment. Well fitted galley. Comfortable airy cruisers, ideal for family parties. Large forward well.





Classique (6+2) 12,8 x 4,1 m 

M C T L S B A

Very latest exclusive Crown Blue Line extra wide design, new for 1991 season. Built specially for the French waterways with dual

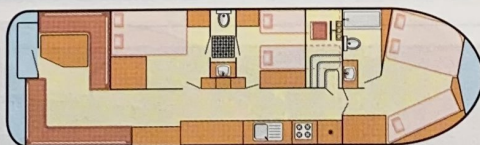
steering and vast high level sun deck. Superb standard of interior fittings. The ultimate in style, comfort and cruising luxury.



Commander (6+1) 12,8 x 3,6 m 

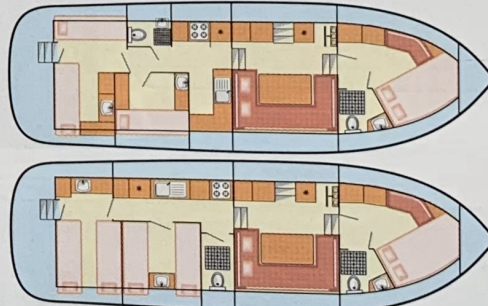
M C L

Recent design offering real spaciousness and quality interior finish. Master cabin forward has a large double and optional single bed, en suite toilet, sitz bath and shower. Centre toilet with shower gives en suite to the two cabins amidships. High level upholstered seating in cockpit. Sliding canopy.



Jamaica (6+2) 12,2 x 3,8 m **M T L S B A** 

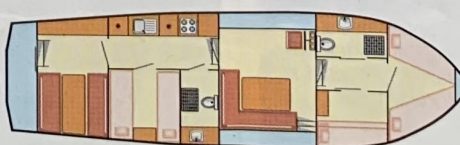
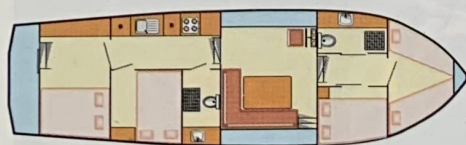
Special Crown Blue Line design. Very spacious for 6 people. Low rear deck for easy access. Sliding wheelhouse over centre cockpit. Easy access from galley to adjoining saloon. 3 separate cabins. 2 toilet/shower compartments. Very large front cabin.



Flamingo (8) 12,8 x 3,7 m

M C T L B

Popular family cruiser with large raised central wheelhouse saloon and sliding canopy for viewing and sunbathing. Two toilet and shower compartments, each with washbasin. Superb galley with all services. Flamingos in Burgundy, the Lot and Loire bases have 2 single berths in aft cabin.

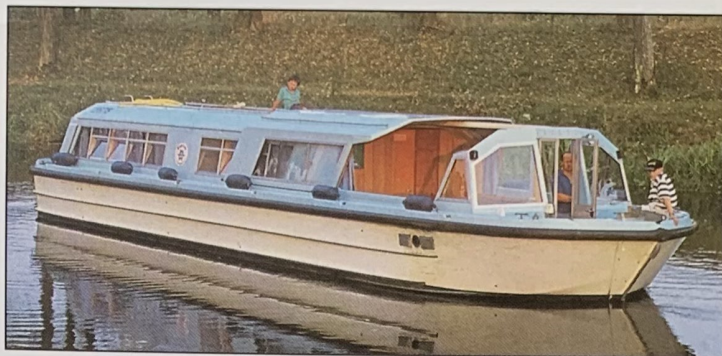
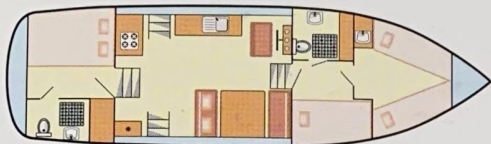


Loire - Bourgogne - Lot



Conqueror (6+2) 12,2 x 3,6 m **L S**

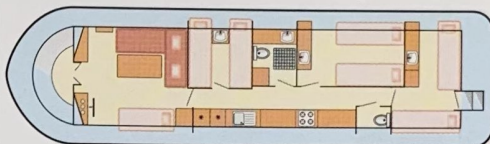
Stylish lines and easy handling add to the "big boat" feel of this cruiser. The raised central cockpit has a sliding sun roof. Interior is planned for maximum area. There are two separate toilet and shower suites toward and aft.



Atlantic (8+2) 13,4 x 3,7 m

M C L S B

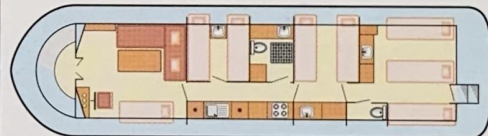
Similar to Mediterranean with sliding wheelhouse over front saloon. 2 refrigerators, 2 toilet compartments, one with shower. 3 cabins fitted with washbasin. Good accommodation for 10 people or super comfort for 6 to 8.



Méditerranéen (8+2) 13,4 x 3,7 m

M C L S A

Méditerranéen, completely refitted with a sliding roof. A big boat for 10 people (8 single berths, 1 double) in 4 separate cabins. Perfect for large families or groups. 2 toilet compartments, one with shower. 3 cabins with washbasin fitted. Large galley, 2 fridges. Large forward well. Boats in Alsace have double berth fitted in aft cabin.



Challenger (8+4) 13,8 x 3,9 m



M C L S B A

A magnificent cruiser with graceful lines. Comfortable furnishings are combined with practical layout and plenty of space. The stateroom is huge, and has large windows for full viewing, plus a clever galley. Sliding sunroof over. There is a high level, spacious sundeck aft, where your party can relax.



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