

FRANCE BY BARGE
THE LUCIOLE



BURGUNDY EXPLORED - CRUISING ON THE LUCIOLE

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“The perfect great escape, to relax and watch the ever-changing vista slip quietly by while sipping Chablis on deck and laughing with new-found friends. We never dreamed it would be so wonderful – truly the experience of a lifetime”

CRUISING ON THE LUCIOLE

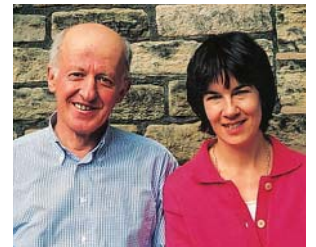
Reaching deep into Burgundy, our barge the Luciole explores a magical region in the very heart of France. Characterful and entrancing, the Nivernais Canal that we cruise is the most varied and, in our firm opinion, the most attractive of them all.

Within comfortable reach of Paris – where we meet our guests at a centrally-based hotel before traveling to the barge – the Luciole provides a means of visiting the countryside of France at its most splendid. On our weekly cruises we are able to accommodate up to 14 guests on board, with a substantial saloon and eight comfortable cabins, air-conditioned throughout. Managing the vessel is our friendly and expert crew of six, who know our operating area well.

We have a reputation – stretching over 30 years of operation – for excellent cuisine, based on the renowned gastronomy of France, while the Luciole’s crew is steeped in our own tradition: of thoughtful, personal service. Year after year guests have commented on the warm-spirited yet professional nature of all who work on board, and the pleasure this has brought.

Daily excursions are made in our bus – to medieval towns, chateaux and the glorious vineyards of Chablis – blending culture and shopping opportunities along the way! Beside the canal the old towing-paths, free of passing traffic, are perfect for a stroll beside the barge as she makes her way between the locks.

Bicycles are also provided for further exploration into a region where the possibilities are boundless.



Above: John and Penny Liley, co-owners of the Luciole. The photos below show the medieval town of Noyers-sur-Serein and the Luciole cruising a river section by the rocks at Le Saussois.





ABOUT OURSELVES



Neil Gorrie,
Captain of the Luciole

As co-owners of the Luciole, John and Penny Liley have over 50 years combined experience of barging. Previously John was editor of a leading British yachting magazine, taking time out in the early 1970's to explore the entire French river and canal system and writing his much-acclaimed guide-book 'France - the Quiet Way'. As a result of these journeys, he selected the Nivernais Canal – then little-known and under the threat of closure – establishing our present hotel-barge business in 1976.

Penny first worked on the Luciole as a chef in 1986 and has since played a major role in creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere, where a feeling of calm and attention to detail is apparent as soon as one steps aboard.

Neil Gorrie, Captain of the Luciole, has many years of hotel barge experience; his flair as a guide and historian is greatly appreciated by our passengers. Working with Neil are five further crew members - Francisco our pilot, along with our highly skilled chef, who produces the finest cuisine, and is also able to provide for special

dietary requirements. Two housekeepers attend to the Luciole's inside needs, while a 'matelot', or deckhand, supports the pilot. Together they form a close-knit and capable team, ensuring the warm-spirited ambiance for which the Luciole is well-known.

WHAT OUR GUESTS SAY

"Many thanks for a wonderful vacation that was total relaxation. The food, ambiance and biking were the best ever. It was truly a delight we shall never forget".

"Thank you for the amazing experience! I will treasure this trip for the rest of my life".

"Luciole = the good life! We totally loved our French barge experience – thanks to the efforts of a first rate crew. Every minute was precious".

"More than we ever imagined – scenery wise, food wise and most of all, people wise. Thank you for a fabulous holiday".



THE LAYOUT OF THE LUCIOLE

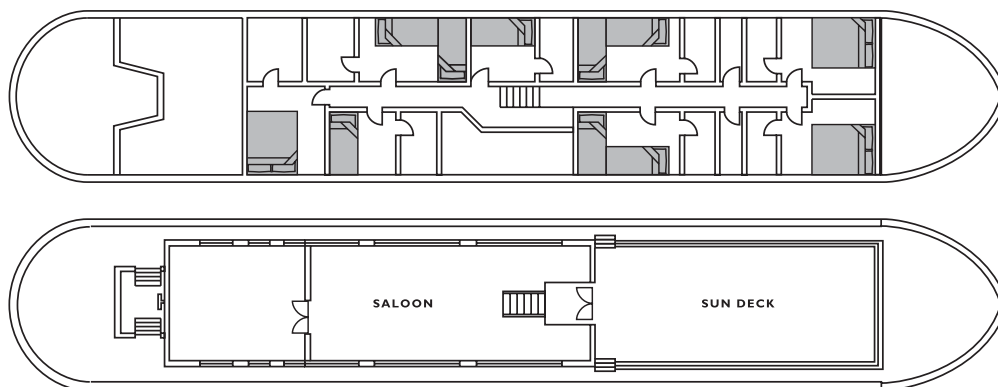
The Luciole accommodates up to 14 passengers. Our eight cabins are individually air-conditioned. Three have double beds (which can be converted into twins), three have a twin-bedded layout, and there are two single cabins. Each has its own private bathroom.

From the air-conditioned saloon large picture windows allow uninterrupted views. The 'open bar' is freely available at all times. The easily accessible sun deck, with seating, tables and umbrellas, offers the perfect place to enjoy the unfolding scenery of rural Burgundy. For passengers with mobility difficulties the joy of a barge cruise lies in the constantly changing

scene – our sundeck providing the perfect viewpoint at which to sit, unwind and watch Burgundy unfold!

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Under her previous name of Palinurus, the Luciole was the first hotel-barge to cruise the waterways of France. Palinurus entered service in 1966, going on to feature in 'Floating Island', Emily Kimbrough's affectionate account of a voyage into Burgundy. Rebuilt and refurbished under her new name, and continually updated, Luciole is a respected vessel throughout the French canals.



Deck plan

Saloon and sundeck
 3 Double-bedded cabins,
 (can be converted to twins)
 3 Twin-bedded cabins,
 2 Single-bedded cabins,
 Each cabin with own
 shower, basin and WC

Facilities

Air-conditioning throughout,
 (with individual cabin control)
 Central heating
 220 volt supply in each cabin
 Hair-driers
 Molton Brown toiletries
 Catering for dietary needs
 Open bar
 Library in saloon
 Games
 Music system (saloon)
 Touring bicycles

We maintain an on-board
 no-smoking policy

ROUTE AND ITINERARY

Our Route

Varied and dramatic, the Nivernais Canal offers all the attractions of a rural waterway, the River Yonne interweaving with sections of man-made canal. Work began in 1784, reaching completion in 1842. On our cruise we pass through 35 locks, each with its keeper's house alongside, a succession of stone-built villages marking the way as Charolais cattle graze in the meadows alongside. Once used for floating timber and wine down to Paris, this enchanting waterway preserves the character of 200 years ago.

The Nivernais, from Auxerre to Clamecy – a typical itinerary

Sunday: The rendezvous in Paris at 2.30 pm is followed by the journey in our private bus to the Luciole at her mooring beneath the cathedral of Saint Etienne in Auxerre. The waterfront here is amongst the most picturesque in France. A Champagne reception welcomes our guests on board.

Monday: A cruise upriver leads us into beautiful pastoral countryside, along sweeping reaches of the River Yonne. Hand-wound locks lie along our course, providing opportunities to step ashore as we work the barge through. We moor at the village of Bailly, home to Burgundy's Crémant sparkling wine. An afternoon visit is made to Chablis, to a private wine cellar, then on into the famous vineyards of the area

Tuesday: The morning's voyage takes us up an attractive arm of the canal and on to the River Cure at Vermenton. In the afternoon we return by bus to tour historic Auxerre and its old shopping centre, taking time to enjoy French provincial life.

Wednesday: From Vermenton, we visit delightful Noyers-sur-Serein. With its friendly market stalls, half-timbered houses and turreted ramparts, it is easy to see why Noyers-sur-Serein has been nominated 'one of the most beautiful villages in France'. After lunch we return down the Vermenton Arm, turning southwards at its end to a night-time mooring at Mailly-la-Ville.



Top: our bus arrives in Paris for the transfer to the Luciole. Above: the church of St Martin in Clamecy Below: Noyers-sur-Serein; barrels of Chablis; the Chateau of Bazoches. Opposite Page: vineyards at Irancy; ramparts at Vézelay; mooring in Auxerre.



Thursday: A morning drive takes our group to Vézelay, where the spectacular 12th Century Basilica dominates the town. Here St Bernard preached the 2nd Crusade. Vézelay, a centre of pilgrimage still, is a focal point for the region, with numerous shops and cafes. In the afternoon we cruise again, past the dramatic cliffs of Le Saussois to an evening mooring at Châtel-Censoir.

Friday: Our cruise in the morning is to Clamecy, a medieval town of narrow streets and stairways and a worthy climax to the cruise. The final visit is to the imposing Chateau of Bazoches. Set on a hillside amidst a rolling landscape, this was the 17th Century home of the Marquis de Vauban, France's great military engineer.

Saturday: An after-breakfast departure for Paris anticipates arrival there around 1 pm. For guests wishing to travel elsewhere in France by hire car, we can always stop in Auxerre while passing through on our way.



FOOD AND WINE ON THE LUCIOLE



It is our great delight that meals on board the Luciole are treasured times: opportunities to share with friends, old or new, a summer luncheon or candlelit dinner. The warm ambiance for which the Luciole is renowned is no better experienced than when gathered round a table with the anticipation of unfolding culinary delights.

Our chef is encouraged to be innovative and imaginative, marrying French cuisine with a contemporary twist while using fresh local ingredients. Breakfast commences with the arrival of freshly-baked croissants, pastries and bread. Lunch is a feast of salads and savoury dishes, followed by a selection of fresh fruit and cheeses. The four-course evening meal is the gastronomic highlight of each day, to be concluded, on starry nights for which Burgundy is noted, with coffee and liqueurs on deck.

We take you on a wine tour of the country, choosing wines to compliment our menus – all are recommended by wine expert Marc Ragaine, voted 'the world's best independent wine

merchant' in 2003. We serve 18 wines from 12 different grape varieties each with its own specific character, reflecting the 'terroir' and the great diversity of the vineyards of France.

SOME SAMPLE MENUS

Lunch

Mushroom and pancetta-stuffed peppers
Burgundian cheese gougère
Mediterranean couscous with roasted vegetables
Tomato and pesto salad with pine nuts
Mixed bean salad with lemon and thyme
Green salad with Dijon mustard dressing

Fresh fruit

Cheese: Petit Billy and Cantal

Dinner

Pan-seared scallops with ribboned courgettes
Maigret of duck with cassis and Burgundy jus
Gratin Dauphinoise
French green beans
Crispy leeks

Cheese: Brie de Meaux, Epoisses and Roquefort

Mango and lime tart with raspberry coulis

Coffee, chocolates and liqueurs



CRUISING AS A CHARTER GROUP

Over the years groups of friends and family parties have frequently chartered the Luciole for their own exclusive use. For special interest groups individual cruise itineraries can be designed. Business gatherings are also welcomed, with our cruising timetable adjusted to suit a specialised schedule.

FAMILY CHARTER GROUPS

We often carry family charter groups, extending over the generations. These are wonderful weeks and we can easily arrange alternative meal times and excursions. Swimming and canoeing are always popular!

BIKING, WALKING & BALLOONING

On board the Luciole your holiday can provide as much – or as little – activity as you choose. Bicycles are kept on board for riding on the path beside the waterway or the country lanes around. Exploring the charming villages and rural surroundings can be a magical part of each cruise. A stroll between the locks affords the opportunity to meet the resident keepers, and admire their vegetable and flower gardens as the barge calls by.

Hot air balloon flights may also be arranged. We are in touch with reliable independent operators who undertake all arrangements, visiting the barge upon request to agree final details.



The variety of barging life... Activities can include biking, ballooning, or – as illustrated by a youthful member of a family charter group at a mooring in the river – swimming!



CLOTHES TO BRING

The climate is generally warm and sunny and informal summer clothes are preferred by our guests. For evenings and early mornings a sweater is advisable, together with protection against the occasional shower of rain. Light rubber-soled shoes are the most suitable on board, while you may need walking shoes for local exploration.

ALL-INCLUSIVE CRUISE RATES

Our weekly all-inclusive fares cover six nights accommodation, all meals and wine served on board, together with drinks from our open bar. Use of the barge's bus for local excursions is also provided, under the direction of the Captain and our tour guide. Rates also include our scheduled bus transfer to the Luciole from Paris and the return journey.

The Luciole, 'Le Tricolore' of France, Pousseaux and dawn at Châtel-Censoir. Opposite: Life on board and in the picturesque centre of Auxerre.



LUCIOLE BOOKING CONDITIONS

The chartering contract is between Luciole passengers and our company, Inland Voyages (Bookings) Limited.

Reservations are confirmed upon the receipt of a deposit of one quarter of the total fare. In the event of cancellation 90% of this deposit is refundable if the space is resold at the printed rate.

Final payment is due 90 days before departure, and again 90% of the payment is refunded if the space is resold at the printed rate.

We strongly advise that cancellation insurance is taken out at the time of the deposit payment.

We reserve the right to increase fares in the event of substantial fluctuations in currency exchange rates (although, in practice, we have never yet had to do this in all our years of operating).

We must also reserve the right to cancel a cruise, if – through circumstances beyond our control – it is impossible to provide the holiday. In such a case sums received will be returned in full, but passengers shall have no claim against us as operators or any travel agents involved.

Nor can responsibility be accepted for delays caused by waterway repairs, flood, drought or untoward events, and we must reserve the right to vary a cruise. In such an event we will endeavour to re-route the barge. If a holiday is curtailed, payments received – of amounts proportional to the unexpired portion of a holiday – will be refunded, but no further claim can be made. All agreements entered into between the client and Inland Voyages (Bookings) Limited, on behalf of our sister company Inland Voyages Limited, proprietor of the Luciole, shall be governed by English Law.



www.inlandvoyages.com



Photos in this brochure are by Ant Palmer, Tony Duncan-Smith and Penny Liley
Brochure designed by Tony Duncan-Smith