

Abercrombie & Kent



ENCHANTÉ RIVER CRUISE

Board the vessel Enchanté - A state of the art, double-decker hotel barge that has been built to the highest standard.

European Canal Barge Cruises, Cruises



Europe, France



7 days from AU\$11,225 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Enchanté is a hotel barge that offers an alluring blend of luxury and modernity. She is a vessel that will charm any discerning traveller on her sedate journey through the Midi countryside.

The hotel barge is tastefully furnished in a contemporary style, creating a bright, art deco atmosphere. She has a large saloon with outstanding attention to detail, including an open-plan demonstration galley where guests can see their skilled chef at work. On the lower deck, there is also a computer with internet connection for guests' use, as well as the requisite Wi-Fi onboard.

Cruise Highlights

- Private winery tour and tasting of fine Minervois wines
- Tour Narbonne's Archbishop's Palace and experience the colourful market
- Visit an olive oil press to sample the famous Lucques olives
- Visit beautiful Lagrasse and its 8th century abbey, with lunch in a stunning location
- See the Cathar hilltop village of Minerve with its spectacular setting
- Tour of the medieval city of Carcassonne
- Excellent towpath for walking and cycling
- "Biking Plus" option available



Itinerary

Day 1: Sallèles d'Aude

Guests are met in Narbonne and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Enchanté. A champagne welcome and an introduction to the Captain and crew, followed by dinner on board.

Enchante | Meals: D

Day 2: Sallèles d'Aude to Roubia

Morning cruise along the Grand Bief, a technological achievement unique to the Canal du Midi to link Narbonne to the Mediterranean, to the charming historical village of Roubia. Afternoon excursion to "L'Oulibo", a local co-operative olive oil press where we will sample the famous Lucques olives. We continue on to Minerve, the ancient capital of the Minervois, which boasts a 12th century Cathar fort surrounded by deep limestone gorges. Besieged by Simon de Montfort in 1210, its hilltop location affords spectacular views.

Enchante | Meals: BLD

Day 3: Roubia to Homps

After breakfast, our excursion is to Narbonne, a Roman Mediterranean capital where the Visigoth monarchs once lived. Enjoy a visit to the Archbishop's Palace, Roman Horreum and the indoor market at the hub of this bustling canalside town, where you will have time to shop or simply absorb the vibrant atmosphere. Afternoon cruise past vineyards and pine trees to Homps. This picturesque mooring in the heart of a French village presents a perfect opportunity to try your hand at a game of boules, followed by an alfresco dinner on board.

Enchante | Meals: BLD

Day 4: Homps to Puichéric

This morning we visit a Benedictine Abbey founded in the 8th century. Nestled in Lagrasse, a village awarded the title of "Plus beaux villages de France" and home to many artisans who have set up workshops in the medieval centre, the restored Abbey was once one of the most prosperous thanks to Charlemagne's charter. Then we sample some local cuisine with lunch ashore in a spectacular setting overlooking the Corbieres vineyards, before returning to the barge to cruise to Puicheric, past "l'Epanchoir", one of the bridges invented by Pierre Paul Riquet for the Canal du Midi.

Enchante | Meals: BLD

Day 5: Puichéric to Marseillette

Today we cruise along the 330-year-old canal ascending its trademark locks as the relief becomes steeper. This is a great opportunity to walk or cycle from one lock to the next as Enchanté cruises on, navigating the triple locking system. The afternoon excursion is a wine tour and tasting at Château Saint Jacques d'Albas in Minervois, one of the few regions to receive the much-envied French mark of approval for wines known as A.O.C. (Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée). This informative tour offers an opportunity to sample wine *in situ* and find out more about the Languedoc's long-standing and continuing wine trade. Dinner on board.

Enchante | Meals: BLD

Day 6: Marseillette to Trèbes

Fascinating morning tour of Carcassonne. Dating back to the Gallo-Roman era, this is the most complete medieval fortified city in existence today with its 52 watchtowers, portcullis and extraordinary repertoire of defences, which resisted the many armies that tried to storm this glorious Camelot setting. This afternoon we squeeze through tight bridges and glide past picturesque vineyards and hamlets to Trèbes. Once a major ally to Carcassonne, this medieval town still retains unique paintings within its 13th century church. Farewell Dinner on board.

Enchante | Meals: BLD

Day 7: Trèbes

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to their choice of location in Narbonne.

Enchante | Meals: B

Inclusions

- Comfortable accommodation in air-conditioned, en suite staterooms or suites
- Gourmet meals prepared by the on-board chef, fine wines and an open bar
- Daily escorted excursions to places of interest and private wine tastings
- Local transfers, for example to and from Narbonne
- Bicycles and on most hotel barges, an on-deck spa pool
- Attentive service from an experienced crew – Captain, chef, tour guide and hosts/hostesses

Map



Accommodation

Enchanté



This state of the art barge offers four suites each with superbly appointed bathrooms and individual mobile phones. Tasteful and contemporary furnishings give the vessel a light and airy feel and there's a spacious sundeck with alfresco dining area, hot tub and sun loungers. Bikes are available for use during the cruise.

Cruise highlights: medieval Carcassonne; the reed covered marshes of the Camargue, home of wild horses, black bull and pink flamingos; the 12th century hill-top fort of Minerve; private tastings of Corbières wine; the Pyrenees mountains; Cathar history; Narbonne's colourful indoor market; Béziers; ancient hill town.

Category: Ultra Deluxe

Cruise region: Southwest France, the Midi

Cruise Route: Canal du Midi

Nationality of crew: English

Pickup location: Narbonne

Departures: March - October

Length of vessel: 100 ft

Crew: 5

Max Passenger Capacity: 8

Approx Cabin Size: Suites 165 ft²

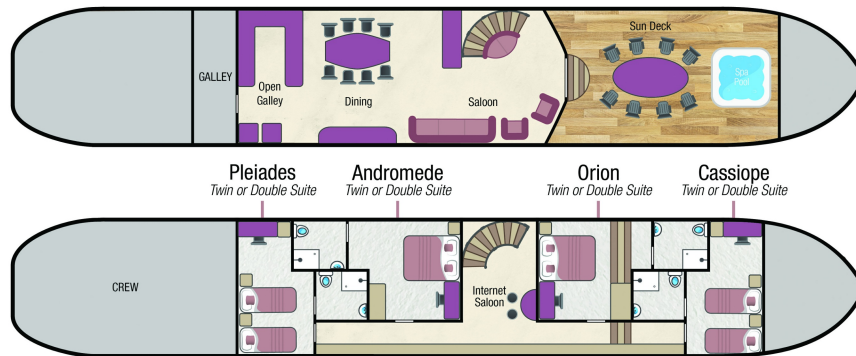
Interior Decks: 2

TV/DVD Play in Cabin Saloon: -

Demo Gallery: Yes

Spa Pool: Yes

Themed Cruises: Culinary, Family, Golf, Wine Appreciation



Dates & Pricing

Enchante is also available for whole barge charter for 6-8 passengers, from \$77,617.

Please call A&K on 1300 851 800, send us a **booking enquiry** to book this journey or contact your travel advisor.

Abercrombie & Kent

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