

Abercrombie & Kent



RENAISSANCE RIVER CRUISE

A Classic Cruise in Burgundy & the Upper Loire

European Canal Barge Cruises, Cruises



Europe, France



7 days from AU\$13,035 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Renaissance has been designed to carry her guests in ultimate luxury along the Canal de Briare, France's oldest canal and steeped in history on a cruise route that features elegant chateaux, small countryside villages and the famed wine-growing region of Sancerre.

With her refined onboard ambience, Renaissance is the perfect vessel on which to cruise a historic canal and experience the splendour of landmarks en route, including Gustav's Eiffels's aqueduct across the mighty River Loire.

Cruise Highlights

- Visit to Château de Fontainebleau
- Visit to the privately-owned Château de la Bussière
- 7-lock flight at Rogny-Les-Sept-Ecluses
- Visit to Château de Sully-sur-Loire, a moated fortress and 'monument historique'
- Cruise across the aqueduct at Briare, built by Gustave Eiffel over the River Loire
- Wine tasting in Sancerre
- Visit Gien, home of the Faïence pottery
- Excellent towpath for walking and bicycling
- "Biking Plus" option available



Itinerary

Day 1: Montargis

Guests are met at our meeting point in Paris and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to the spacious Renaissance where a Champagne welcome with canapés awaits you and you meet the Captain and crew. Time enough for a walking tour of the pretty village of Montargis before dinner on board.

Renaissance / Meals: D

Day 2: Montargis to Montbouy

This morning, we embark on our first cruise through the Loire countryside, with great towpath walking and cycling opportunities, to moor at Montbouy. After lunch on board, we visit the Château de Fontainebleau, a national museum and UNESCO World Heritage Site where we enjoy a behind the scenes tour of the French Military School of Horse-riding, accompanied by a passionate French Colonel. We continue our tour through the magnificent château itself; the only royal and imperial residence to have been continuously inhabited for seven centuries, to walk the halls of Fontainebleau is to stroll through the history of France.

Renaissance / Meals: BLD

Day 3: Montbouy to Rogny-les-Sept-Ecluses

This morning we visit the privately-owned Château de La Bussière, known as the 'fishermen's castle', with its wonderful ornamental and vegetable gardens. Following lunch back on board, we enjoy an afternoon cruise to our mooring at the pretty village of Rogny-les-Sept-Ecluses, near its 350-year-old 7 lock-flight, which is well worth visiting on foot.

Renaissance / Meals: BLD

Day 4: Rogny-les-Sept-Ecluses to La Gazonne

After a leisurely breakfast of fresh croissants, baguettes and assorted pastries we visit Gien, home of the Faience pottery, renowned for its beautifully decorated and vibrant dinnerware, and also explore the town's bustling market. After lunch, we enjoy an afternoon cruise to La Gazonne, a beautiful mooring surrounded by lakes and ponds that provide water for the workings of the Canal de Briare. Dinner ashore at the Michelin-starred Auberge des Templiers in Les Bezards.

Renaissance / Meals: BLD

Day 5: La Gazonne to Briare

A morning cruise to our mooring at the little town of Briare, site of Gustave Eiffel's magical aqueduct across the River Loire, again with excellent walking and bicycling opportunities. We preview Friday's crossing of this amazing 10,000 ton, 662 metre Pont Canal which was completed in September 1896. Our afternoon visit is to a renowned winery in Sancerre, such as Domaine Henri Bourgeois in Chavignol, for a tour and private tasting. This medieval hilltop village overlooks a vibrant region which has known viticulture since Roman times.

Renaissance / Meals: BLD

Day 6: Briare to Châtillon-sur-Loire

This morning we wander around fruit and vegetable, seafood, cheese and French fashion stalls in the market in Briare before returning to the hotel barge for a short cruise across the aqueduct and lunch on board. This afternoon, we visit the delightful Château de Ratilly and its rather spectacular selection of turreted towers, construction of which began in 1270! Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

Renaissance / Meals: BLD

Day 7: Châtillon-sur-Loire

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Paris.

Renaissance / 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 Paris
- 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

Renaissance



Renaissance is a very spacious hotel barge that accommodates up to 8 passengers in ultimate luxury. Her cruise route takes her across the mighty River Loire on the Canal de Briare, France's oldest canal and steeped in history, past beautiful scenery and small country villages towards Sancerre, a region famed for its wonderful white wines.

Her interior includes a delightful dining area and a beautifully appointed saloon, while the extremely generous accommodation features four suites, each averaging 250 sq ft including a large en suite bathroom. Renaissance's other features include a forward deck with a roof extension for alfresco dining and an on-deck heated spa pool.

Category: Ultra Deluxe

Cruise region: Western Burgundy / Upper Loire

Cruise Route: Canal de Briare

Pickup location: Paris

Departures: April - October

Length of vessel: 127 ft

Crew: 5

Max Passenger Capacity: 8

Approx Cabin Size: Average suites 250 ft²

Interior Decks: 2

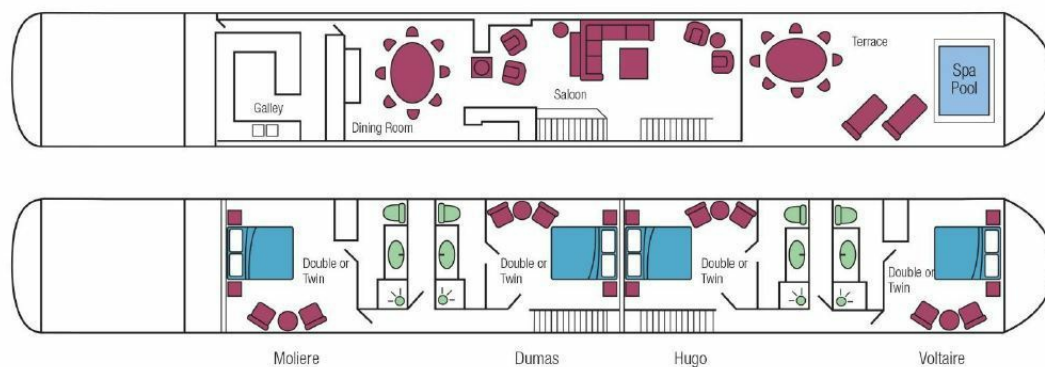
TV/DVD Play in Cabin Saloon: TV/DVD Player in suites

Demo Gallery: No

Air Conditioned & Centrally Heated: Yes

Spa Pool: Yes

Themed Cruises: Family, Golf, Wine Appreciation



Dates & Pricing

Renaissance is also available for whole barge charter for 6-8 passengers, from \$87,884.

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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