

## HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club Champagne Bike & Barge 2022

- Dates:** Embark barge at Epernay, France June 18, 2022, 2pm.  
Biking June 18-June 24.  
Depart barge in Paris, June 25 at 9:30 am.
- Leader:** Laura Davis (Coordinator) Barge will supply 2 ride guides
- Rating:** Intermediate. Miles: 110 (shorter routes) -170 (longer routes) miles 20-35 miles per day with some hills.
- Riders:** 24 (includes tour coordinator -Laura) 18 minimum for this tour, HC tour coordinator will keep you informed of registration numbers.
- Cost:** \$1950. Deposit \$500. Balance due by March 1, 2022.  
Extra \$140 for E-Bike rental \*\*only 5 available.
- Cancellation:** Cancel before 1/31/2022, \$75.00 fee; Cancel between 2/1/2022-3/1/2022: 50% of deposit; after 3/1/2022 no refund. *Trip insurance is strongly advised.*

### OVERVIEW

The Champagne tour is a bike and barge touring classic that not only allows guests to explore the world famous city of Paris, but also the Champagne region, famous of course, for producing Champagne wines. From the time the Benedictine monk Dom Pierre Pérignon invented the bubbly drink in 1670 at the Abbey of Hautvillers, the Champagne name has been synonymous worldwide with the very best of sparkling wines.



Every day you will cycle small country roads (including a few un- or semi-paved roads and tracks) that go slightly up and down the beautiful slopes of the wide river valley, through the hills and the Champagne vineyards.

On a daily basis you will have the opportunity to cycle to boutique wineries, sample a variety of champagnes, taste delicious cheeses of the Brie region and generally discover all gems that the Champagne region, UNESCO world heritage, has to offer. But more than just visiting the Champagne region, you will also have the opportunity to explore Paris, one of Europe's most beautiful and beloved cities. Other highlights of the tour include a visit to the city of Meaux, well known for its Brie cheeses and a stopover in Château-Thierry, scene of major battles in World War I. Along the way you will cycle through almost endless vineyards on the rolling banks of the Marne river and visit a local wine farmer. The tour starts in the city of Epernay, the real capital of the Champagne region, where you will have the opportunity to visit one of the town's imposing champagne cellars.

**The ship – Your sailing hotel** In between cycling excursions, you cruise along with the ship, which travels to a new destination every day. You dine, sleep and eat breakfast on board. You'll receive a packed lunch every day, and you can usually choose between a longer or shorter bike ride. It's also possible to spend a day on board if you like. Our ship will be the Zwaantje, The barge does have A/C. For more information about the ship and it's operators, see <https://www.eurosailtravel.com/boats-barges/zwaantje/>.



## **ITINERARY**

### **Saturday June 18th:**

Luggage can be brought onto the barge after 11 am. Embark on barge at 2 pm, welcome by crew & captain. We will have bike fitting and a short test ride. After dinner your guide will take you for a guided walk through Epernay, the major wine center of the Champagne region.

**Sunday June 19:** Epernay - we will be biking in the small city of Epernay (pop. 22,000) on our first day. Choice of 11 mi. or 16 miles

### **Monday June 20th:**

Epernay to Dormant to Chateau to Thierry Choice of 19 or 35 miles

### **Tuesday, June 21:**

Chateau to Thierry to La-Ferte-sous-Jouarre  
Choice of 24 or 26 miles

### **Wednesday June 22:**

La Ferte-sous-Jouarre to Meaux  
Choice of 18 or 32 miles

### **Thursday June 23:**

Meaux to Lagny-sur-Marne  
Choice of 15 or 30 miles

### **Friday June 24:**

Langny-sur-Marne to Paris  
Choice of 23 or 32 miles

### **Saturday June 25:**

Disembark barge at 9:30 am in Paris, France.

Included in price: Use of a barge bike, 7 breakfasts, 6 packed lunches, 6 -three course dinners, coffee & tea on board, welcome drink, daily briefings, fully guided cycling tours and some short walking tours, visit to a champagne cellar, maps, GPS tracks, use of a helmet, waterproof pannier bag for lunch and extra clothes, water bottle, fees for ferries, brie cheese tasting in Jouarre and Champagne tasting at local producer.

Exclusions: 1 dinner, drinks, gratuities, entrance fees and transfer to/from the docking place, any tours-not mentioned in inclusions are excluded.



Each day we will be guided by a competent, professional and multilingual tour leader, you will visit interesting sights and places on the daily cycling tours. During the bike tour, they will explain the local history and culture behind the things you encounter along the way. Detailed cycling maps, route tips and a GPS app are available for guests who wish to cycle individually and at their own pace. The tour guide is always available via cell phone in case of questions, breakdowns or emergencies. You must have good bicycle handling skills, be comfortable riding in a group and be able to maintain a speed of at least 10 mph on a flat pedal, hybrid bike. Bicycles: are included in the price. The bicycles on board are modern unisex bicycles with normal mount (ladies model) of the mark Oxford Clipper, easy-to-handle Shimano 21 gears, 2 handbrakes, gel-saddle (height adjustable), a lock on the frame. All bikes have 28-inch wheels. Some smaller frames are available on board for smaller persons. For each bike we have a detachable pannier bag, a pump and a repair kit available on board; use of these items is included in the price. \*\*E-bike rental is optional but limited to 5 available e-bikes at an extra \$140. Please indicate at your booking that you would like to make a reservation for such a bike. It is important that you are a good cyclist and that you know how an electric bike works, before you start your cycling tour. The e-bike is a Batavus (type: Mont Blanc Easy or comparable) with 10-speed chain gear and handbrakes. The rear wheel engine with ION-technology offers five levels of support. The E-bikes have a comfortable gel saddle. (or a comparable brand/model).

Ground transportation: Epernay is about 90 minutes by train from Paris, either from Charles de Gaulle airport or from Gare de l'Est in Paris. From Charles de Gaulle airport there is an excellent TGV-train connection to TGV Station Champagne-Ardennes. Further with SNCF to the train station in Epernay. Plan your route at [www.omio.com](http://www.omio.com) or [www.trainline.eu](http://www.trainline.eu). By train Travel to train station Epernay. From here it is about 970 meters to the docking place: Quai de la Mare. You can walk or grab a taxi outside the station.

Pre/Post Lodging: There are many hotels and other lodging choices in both Paris and Epernay. Our European partner recommends using Bookings.com.

## **TOUR COORDINATOR**

For questions contact:

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