



Canal du Midi route : Béziers – Carcassonne



As you drift along the magnificent Canal du Midi you will step back into the time of Louis XIV- the "Sun King" or "Roi Soleil" - who commissioned this prodigious engineering feat; thus finally achieving the dream of linking the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean. Deservedly, the Canal du Midi is now classed on the World Heritage List of Conservation.

The Languedoc region, interlaced with the Canal du Midi, unravels a rich history from prehistoric time, through the Roman occupation and then succeeded by the turbulent Middle Ages. The landscape and exceptional architecture captures the atmosphere of time revisited. The Canal du Midi meanders through the vast diversity of scenic landscapes that change dramatically from the rugged, rural Languedoc regions to the sun-drenched, azure blues of the Mediterranean. Within this vast region also lays a land of poetry and of proud people devoted to the soil and of course the wine ... a passion they will share with you in private tastings of the local Minervois and Corbières wines.

Whether your passion is for history, arts and crafts, adventure, village atmosphere, wine discovery or shopping ... your cruise onboard "Roi Soleil" will be personally tailored to your specific interests. Be prepared for new sights, tastes and aromas that will take you on a voyage of aesthetic discovery.

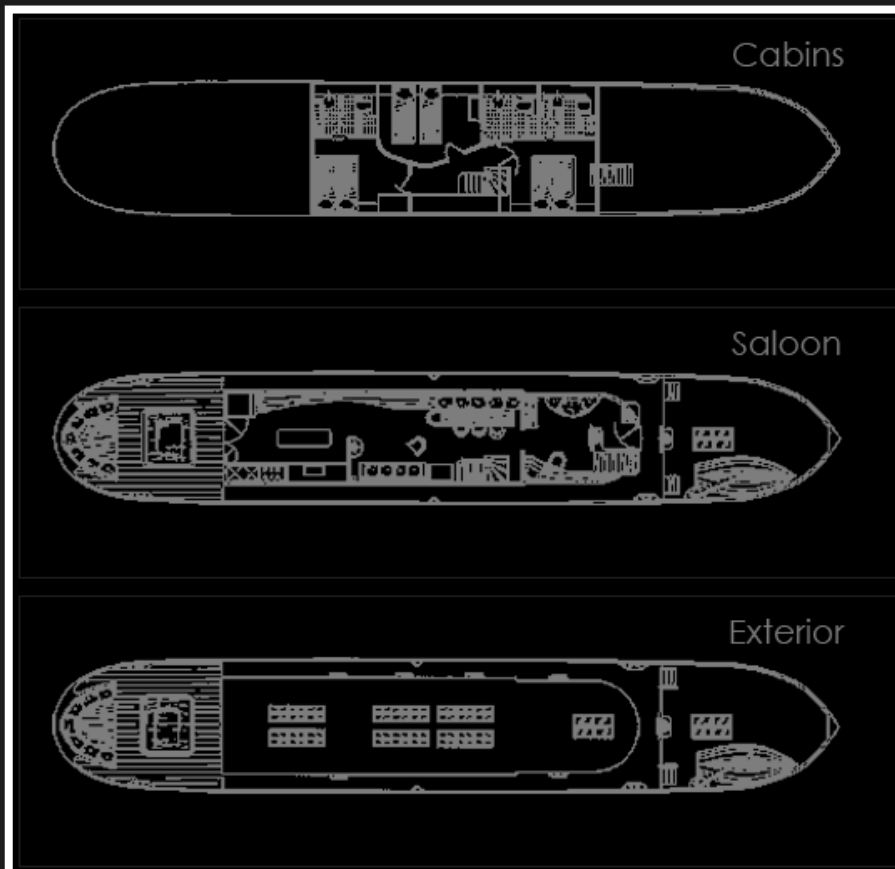


The Barge – Features

*Please note, the Roi Soleil is only available for private charter, and not sold as individual cabins.

- Length: 98 feet; width: 16.5 feet
- Highest rated and largest boat on the Canal du Midi
- 5 star comfort and style of a luxury motor yacht
- Full boat charter for up to 6 passengers
- Bilingual French/Anglo-Saxon crew of 4 – captain, chef, guide and hostess.
- Accommodation on two levels for optimal area and panoramic views from saloon, bar and dining
- Innovative gourmet cuisine, with cooking demonstrations in open plan bar/ kitchen
- 3 spacious, bright and airy staterooms with opening skylights (each 15m2, about 160sq feet)
- Queen-sized or single beds and en-suite bathrooms
- Fully air conditioned, spa pool, Bose sound system, Ipod dock, 3G internet, DVD library, bicycles, even a fireplace . . .
- Shaded aft teak deck with inbuilt seating, dining and spa.
- Forward sun deck with mattresses and deck chairs
- VW Euro Van for excursions

Floor Plan



Cabins



3 spacious, air conditioned staterooms (each 15m², about 160sq feet, so you can actually walk around your bed) and en-suite bathrooms in provençal style, equipped with thermostatically controlled showers with glass doors and heated towel racks, hand-made Provençale tiles, lava in the bathrooms, and the rich hues of stylish Pierre Frey fabrics decorate the entire interior.



Salon

'Roi Soleil' has more to do with luxury yachting than barging - hence the term 'River Yacht'. Her lines and mahogany and brass trim are inspired by the classic motor yachts of the 1920's while her interior brings you the best of contemporary design and comfort.



The stylish salon with its fireplace, bar and Panoramic views through no less than 20 windows, and the elegant dining area offer you a level of comfort equivalent to that of luxury motor yachts.

Exterior

Roi Soleil is more a Yacht than a Canal Barge

The separate forward sun deck, the aft teak deck with Spa Pool, the outside dining area under the retractable canopy, are all pure luxury yachting.

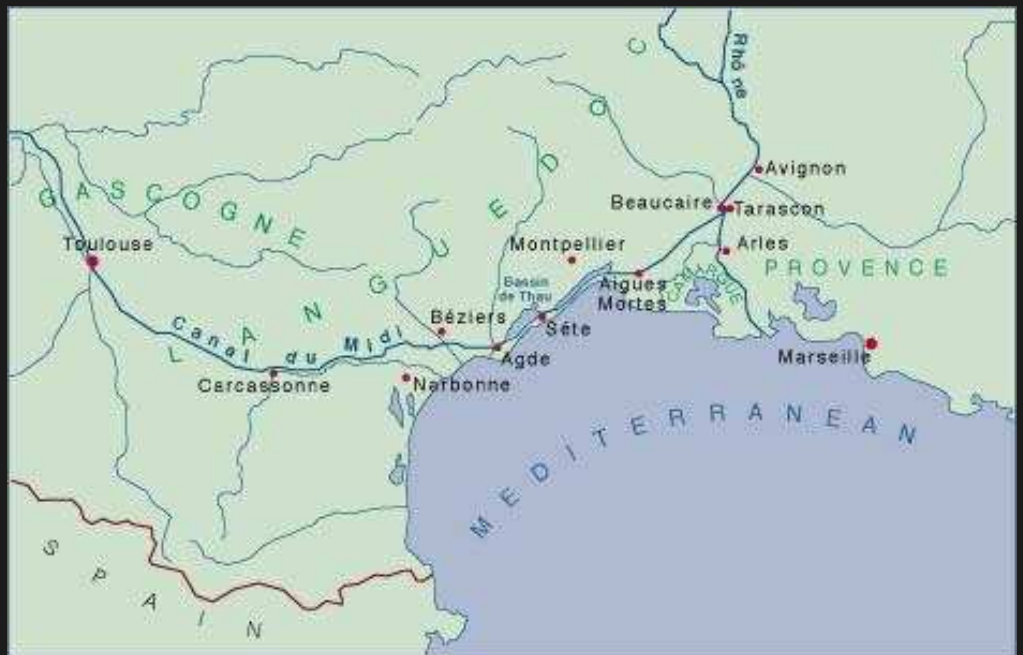


Sample Itinéraire - Roi Soleil

Béziers – Carcassonne – Canal du Midi

A charter on ROI SOLEIL is all about CHOICE. Here's the route - and suggestions on what is available each day to customize your cruise. Depending on the week, the itinerary may be reversed.

Throughout the entire voyage, you are more than welcome to cycle, run or walk along the tow paths with many opportunities to hop off at the numerous locks along the canal.



For early risers, why not explore the moorings on foot and visit the quaint French villages that align the canal. Daily, you will return to the boat for your gourmet meals prepared by your chef, accompanied by delicious local wines, and sort after cheeses.

Sunday, Day 1 - Béziers East- Cassafiere to Villeneuve

- Transfer to Roi Soleil, crew welcome you on-board, cocktails/champagne
- Navigation along the canal through a rural area and wetlands.

Monday - Villeneuve to Fonseranne

- Sail through the great locks of Fonseranne
- Excursion to historical city of Pézenas (famous for its architecture, many artisans & antiques)
- Or, why not embark on excursion to the impressive hill village of Roquebrun by the river Orb? (Possibility to swim)
- And / or - visit to the pre-Roman Oppidum of Ensérune, a major archaeological site with spectacular panoramic views of the surrounding valleys
- And / or - visit Béziers historical centre and shops
- And / or Wine tasting in the cellar of top French Sommelier and supplier who also has two Michelin Starred Chefs



Tuesday - Fonseranne to Capestang

- Sail into the heart of the historic village of Capestang
- Private visit to the Cistercian Abbey of Fontroide, one of the finest examples in France
- And private wine tasting at Corbieres Château
- And / or visit the Camargue bull and horse ranch with the opportunity to round up the bulls on horseback



Wednesday - Capestang to La Croisade or Smail



- Morning excursion to the charming City of Narbonne that was the Roman Capital of the early Gauls - its vibrant food market - the famed art and roman archaeology museums within the Bishop's Palace and many boutique shops - a highlight of the week



- Afternoon sailing to the peaceful country village of Smail with an impressive antique bookstore that is sought after by rare book collectors from far and wide
- Sail beneath the smallest canal bridge in France

Thursday - Smail to Roubia

- Morning visit to the village of Minerve, a beautiful natural hilltop site that has had a dramatic history dating back to the time of the Crusades.
- Visit the prized olive oil mill called 'L'Oulibo', and explore the historic Languedoc village that surrounds
- An afternoon cruise to Roubia from where we have the option to take a short flight over the Cathar Castles in the Pyrenees- the famous fortresses of Vertigo



Friday - Roubia to Homps

- Visit the fortified city of Carcassonne - Europe's largest Medieval Fortress - a great place to go back in time to the medieval ages and a good shopping opportunity.
- Or, visit the medieval village of Lagrasse and splendor it the array of talented artisans that reside here.
- Afternoon sail to Homps, passing many locks on the way.



Saturday 10am –

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast onboard then our private transfer will bid you farewell at your desired departure point.



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