



**cYcLe**  
**TōūrS** HOLIDAYS

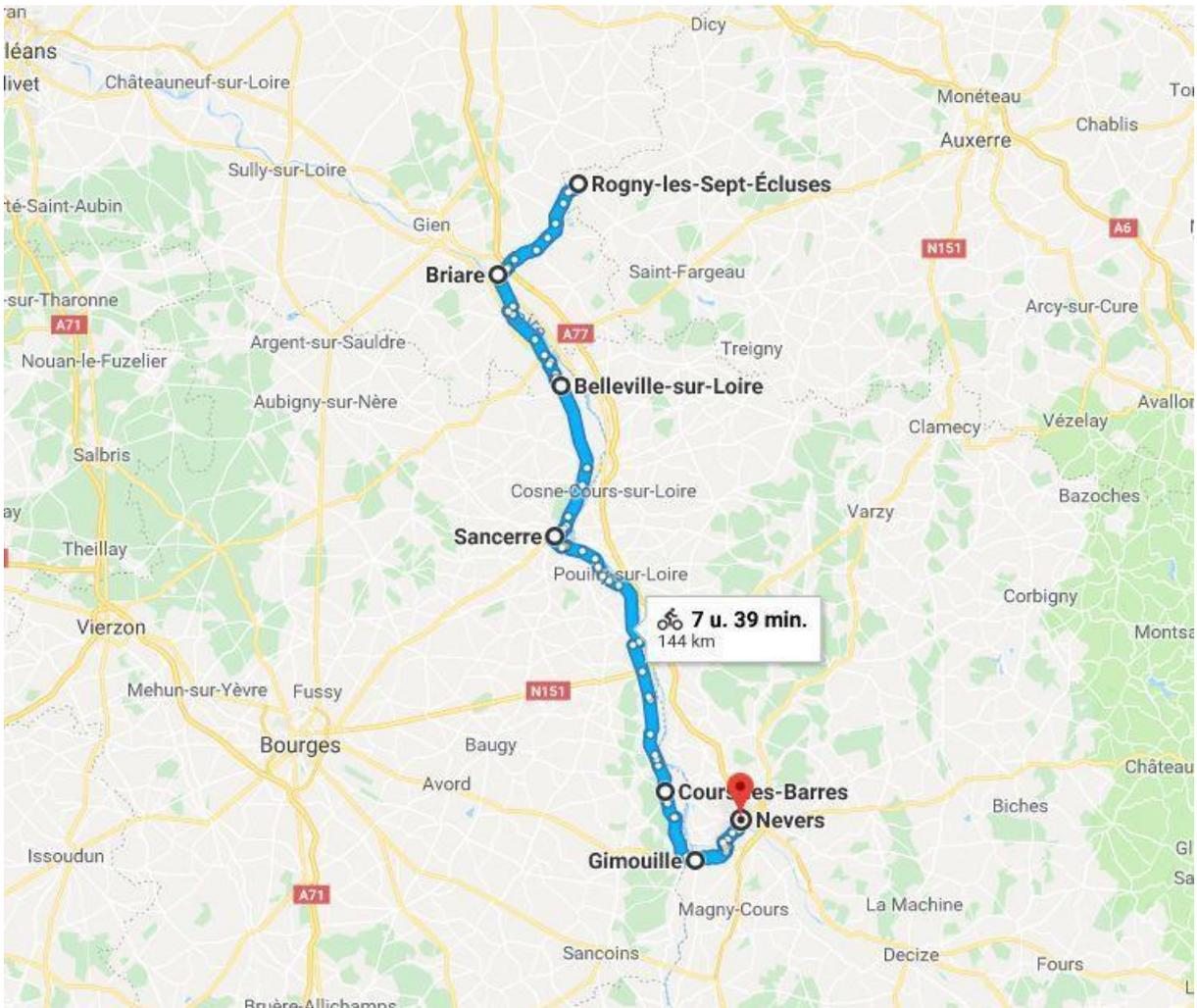
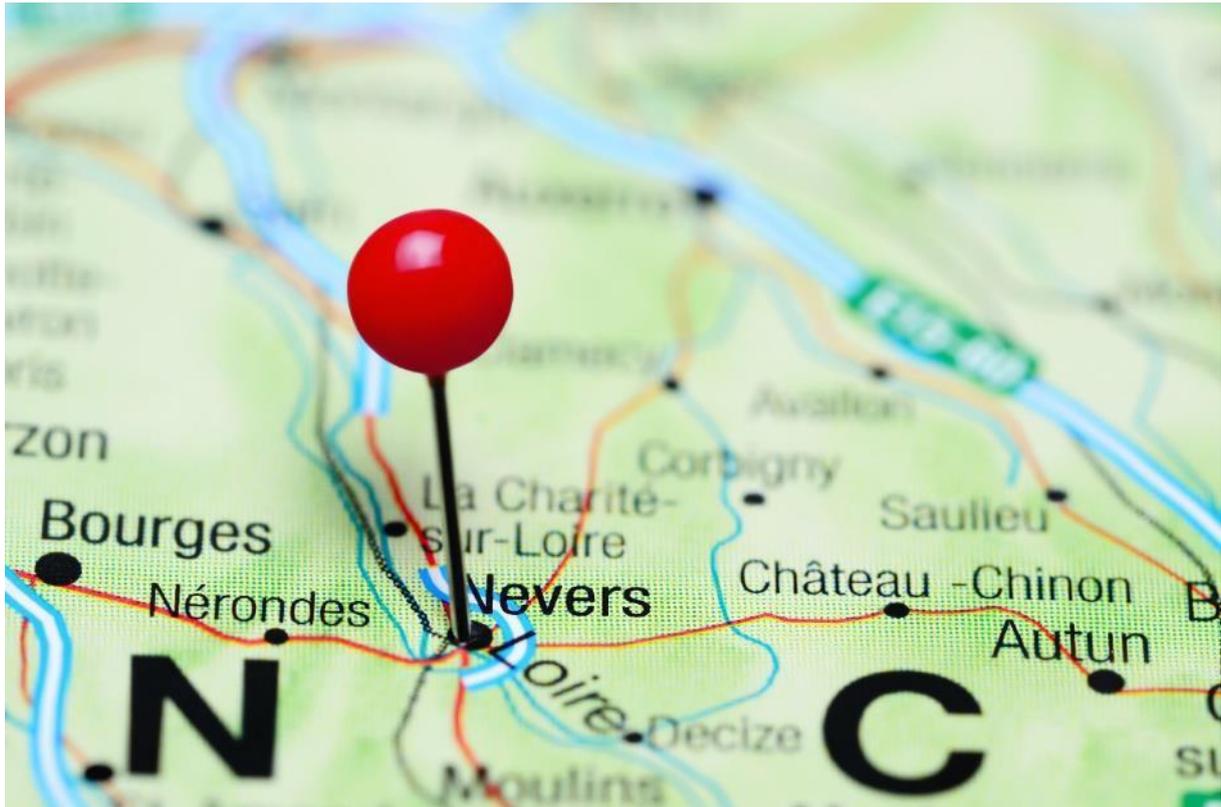
## **Loire, Nevers – Briare** **August 22-29, 2020**



**Tour information 2020**



**Cycling in the vineyards of the Sancerrel**



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**The Loire Valley between the cities of Nevers and Briare in the heart of France is a very well suited region for a relaxing bike and barge holiday. Following the flow of the Loire River you gently ride through the green countryside with charming little villages and old castles and palaces. The rich landscape boasts many fruitful vineyards. Especially well known are the Sancerre and Pouilly Fumé wines. Both wines are reckoned to be among the most prestigious in the world. You will also see impressive examples of canal building engineering along the Canal lateral du Loire.**

The old city of Nevers with its winding streets, castle and churches is our starting point. On the way to the wine city of Sancerre you will visit the Château of Apremont, dating back to the 12th century and lavishly surrounded by gardens as well as the ancient Roman town of La Charité-sur-Loire with a 16th century stone bridge and Notre Dame cathedral. Wine-tasting in the region of Sancerre and the Pouilly Fumé wines can not be missed. In between you will ride to St. Brisson Forest and through seemingly endless vineyards. Through a beautiful region of lakes and past more castles you will cycle along the Loire and visit Chatillon-sur-Loire with its impressive locks. The small city of Briare with its picturesque locks and aqueduct is the final destination of this week. On the last day you will visit Rogy-les-Sept-Écluses via the Pont Chevron castle.

### **The route from day to day Nevers to Briare**

<b>Saturday</b>	Nevers, embarkation at 3 pm. Short cycle route
Sunday	Nevers – Gimouille, 25 km
Monday	Gimouille – Cours-les-Barres, 40 km
Tuesday	Cours-les-Barres – Sancerre, 45 km
Wednesday	Sancerre – Belleville-sur-Loire, 50 km
Thursday	Belleville-sur-Loire – Briare, 45 km
Friday	Briare – Rogy-les-sept-Écluses – Briare, 50 km
<b>Saturday:</b>	Briare, debarkation before 10 AM

*1 km = 0.62 miles / All distances are approximate. The above planned itinerary is subject to change due to changing wind and weather conditions and other unforeseen circumstances having to do with mooring requirements, etc.*

### **Day 1 Saturday: Nevers embarkation around 2 pm, short ride**

Arrival and welcome at the barge on the mooring place. Tryout bike ride in the surrounding countryside. After diner there will be an evening walk through the old town of Nevers. The city is famous for its ceramics and it is also one of the major pilgrimage centres of France because the city has kept the body of Bernadette Soubirous (1844-1879). The Old Town, with its narrow winding streets, is full of many buildings and palaces dating from the 17th century.



### **Day 2 Sunday: Nevers – Gimouille, 25 km**

We start this week in the heart of France with a short ride to the sleepy village of Gimouille on the Canal lateral du Loire. But first you can take some time to visit the town of Nevers where there are many sites to see including the winding streets filled with houses dating back from the 14th to 17th century. The origins of Nevers date back to Roman times. Nevers is since the 5<sup>th</sup> century the seat of the bishop and has among others a castle and a few interesting churches.

### **Day 3 Monday: Gimouille – Cours-les-Barres, 40 km**

First thing you will do today is pay a visit to the aqueduct over the Allier River. With its two impressive locks both measuring about 9 meters high this is a must do! With some luck and good planning you might see the Clair de Lune pass through here, high above the river. Later this morning you will end up in the small town of Apremont, where you will have the opportunity to visit the 12th-century castle and surrounding fabulous gardens. Riding north from Apremont you pass wooded areas with nice villages, castles and country estates.

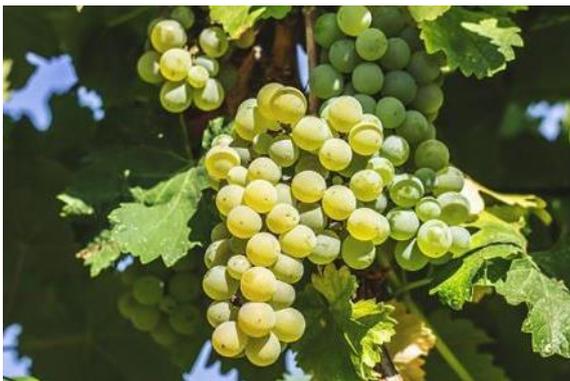


#### **Day 4 Tuesday: Cours-les-Barres – Sancerre, 45 km**

Right after breakfast you will hop on your bikes and begin this days cycling tour through the region of the Pouilly Fumé wines to La Charité-sur-Loire, an ancient Roman town. Crossing the 16th century stone bridge to the center, there is a splendid view overlooking the town and its Notre Dame church. Continue towards the final destination of today, the wine town of Sancerre. In Ménétréol, situated under the Sancerre vineyards, there will be an opportunity to try some wine before returning to the ship.

#### **Day 5 Wednesday: Sancerre – Belleville-sur-Loire, 50 km**

Sancerre wines, and especially the white wines, are famous all over the world. The first mentioning of winegrowing in this region dates back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Until the 19th century the region mostly grew Pinot grapes, but after a disease that devastated the grapes Sauvignon is now mostly grown. And with success! The ride today takes you on a picturesque route right across the Sancerre vineyards and through the surrounding villages to the charming village of Belleville-sur-Loire.



#### **Day 6 Thursday: Belleville-sur-Loire – Briare 45, km**

Today's bike ride to Briare leads you through typical French countryside with rolling hills, country estates and small villages. On the way you will pass the historical locks of Châtillon-sur-Loire and ride on to St. Brisson, where you will see the impressive medieval castle. We end the day with a visit to the magnificent aqueduct over the Loire River in Briare. We spend the last two nights moored in the typical French small-town of Briare



### **Day 7 Friday: Briare – Rogy-les-sept-Écluses- Briare, 50 km**

Your last bike ride this week will lead you to the castle of 'Pont Chevron,' situated on a small, picturesque lake. Around lunchtime you will be in the village Rogny-les-Sept-Écluses, known for its historical seven locks. Via the 16th-century castle near Bléneau you will cycle through a region of lakes to Ouzouer-sur-Trézée and eventually back to Briare. A worthy ending of your bike adventure in the heart of France.

### **Day 8 Saturday: Briare, departure**

After breakfast: debarkation before 10 AM.

## Clair de Lune – Category ComfortPlus

Capacity: 17 persons

Length/width: 35 x 5 m

Electricity: 220 V

Wifi on board (free up to 100Mb) limited available in lounge and on deck



### Cabins

Nine cabins with private shower, wash basin, toilet and central heating.  
The beds can not be placed together

- 3x double cabin for 2 passengers (1 double bed)
  - 5x double cabin for 2 passengers (1 split level bed)
  - 1x single cabin for 1 passenger (1 single bed)
- Hairdryers are available on board.



The chef prepares nice meals, which are served in the dining saloon.

Our motorised passenger vessels, about 35 - 45 metres in length, are former river vessels especially converted for this kind of holiday. The barges all comply with the strict safety regulations laid down by the Dutch Shipping Inspection Authorities. On board you find a cosy dining room, a sun deck/a deck for the bicycles. All cabins are provided with running water (hot and cold), private shower and toilet, 220 voltage and central heating. There is limited storage space in the cabin. We recommend 1 suitcase per person. You can slide the suitcase under the bed.

Do not expect a cruise ship with its passive luxury. The Bike & Barge Holidays are for people who really enjoy the physical activity of cycling and who value sociability more than wholesale luxury.

## Bicycle

After arrival on board you will be allocated a cycle suitable to your height. This cycle (a so-called Hybrid), is at your disposal during your trip until Friday at 4 PM. Your bike has 24 speeds, hand brakes, pannier bags, bike helmet, a good lock, water bottle and you can get a repair-kit. Before you make your first tour, the guide will give you instructions about the bike. We draw your attention to the fact that you will be held responsible for damage to or theft of the bike, as long as the bike is not on board. (the bike has a value of more than € 600,-). Never leave it unattended. Always lock it and fasten it to a fixed object.

You can insure this bike with Cycletours for € 20,- per bicycle! If you didn't arrange cycle insurance when booking you can do this on board (the first day). Payment in cash is required. Should you use your own bike, please bring a good lock with you!



## Electric bike

It is also possible to book an electric bike. Your bike has 24 gears, a detachable lithium-Ion battery, hand brakes, pannier bags, bike helmet, a good lock, water bottle and you can get a repair kit. We draw your attention to the fact that you will be held responsible for damage to or theft of the bike, as long as the bike is not on board. (the E-bike has a value of more than € 2000,-). Never leave it unattended. Always lock it and fasten it to a

fixed object, and don't forget to remove the information panel from your steering wheel. You can insure this bike with Cycletours for € 40,- per bicycle! If you didn't arrange cycle insurance when booking you can do this on board (the first day). Payment in cash is required.

### **Arrival**

You are expected at the barge on Saturday afternoon, between 12 noon and 2 PM. You can bring your luggage earlier to the barge, but not before 11 AM. We are busy cleaning the barge, but we can provide you with suggestions to have a nice walk into town.

The **mooring place** of the barge in Nevers: Embranchment de Nevers, Chemin de Halage.

### **Airport**

The nearest airport to the embarkation point of the barge is Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG). By train it is about 3 hours to the railway station in Nevers. A taxi from the airport in Paris to the mooring place will take about 3 hours.

### **Train**

The nearest train station to the embarkation point of the barge is the Nevers railway station. Walking distance to the barge is about 30 minutes. A taxi will take about 10 minutes and will cost around 30 euro.

### **Car**

Should you arrive by car, we strongly advise to arrive earlier to unload your luggage.

### **End of the tour**

The tour ends one week later in Briare on Saturday morning after breakfast at 10 AM. You will spend the night from Friday to Saturday on board in Briare. The mooring place of the barge in Briare: in the Canal Lateral á la Loire, at the Rue du Pont Canal.

## **Travel dates August 22-29, 2020**

### **Prices per person in 2020\_**

**\$1395 Double Occupancy**

**Single Supplement \$595 (Only 2)**

**Barge Clair de Lune (ComfortPlus)**

### **Included**

- All nights on board (incl. bedding, towels, soap)
- Breakfast and dinner on board
- Lunch packages when on the road
- Coffee and tea on board
- Tour guide, cycles with the group
- Min. 3 city walks with tour guide
- Free WiFi (limited available in lounge and on deck)
- Route information, 1x per cabin
- Ferry fares on the route
- GPS tracks (on request)

### **Not included**

- Bicycle rent (see below)
- Bicycle insurance Hybrid bike (optional) € 20,- per bicycle
- Bicycle insurance E-bike (optional) € 40,- per bicycle
- Entrance fees to museums; approx. € 15,- per tour
- Personal insurance

### **Extra**

- Rental bike incl. bike helmet: € 92,50  
(Hybrid bike with 24 gears, pannier bags, lock, water bottle)
- Rental E-bike incl. bike helmet: € 175,- (with 21 gears)
- Child's bike: € 60,- (incl. helmet; with 21 gears; for children from approx. 9 years and older)
- Bike seat: € 15,- (incl. helmet; suitable for children from approx. 11 months until 5 years; max. weight 25 kg)
- Trailer bike: € 55,- (incl. helmet; bike attached to adult's bike; suitable for children from approx. 5 until 9 years; max. weight 35 kg)
- Bike trailer: € 90,- (suitable for babies who can not sit by themselves; a car seat/baby seat not included)

### **Special details**

Please take good notice of our [Terms & Conditions](#) on our web site.

If you have special meal requirements (vegetarian meals, or if you are on a diet), we ask you to mention this when booking.

In case of **gluten free/Celiac/vegan diet** there is an additional charge of **€ 50,-** per week.

Cycletours Holidays reserves the right to cancel tours with fewer than 12 participants up to 21 days prior to the date of departure.