

Paris and Champagne by Bike and Boat

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. 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.

1. Day Embarkation Paris

Embarkation and check-in at 2 p.m. at the Quai d'Austerlitz on the Seine river in Paris. After a welcome by the captain, crew and tour leader there is time for a walking tour through **Paris**. After dinner on board there is a first briefing about the barge, bicycles and tour program.

2. Day Paris – Lagny-sur-Marne (35 Km)

You leave Paris by bike via the **canal de l'Ourcq**. A bike path leads from the place de la Bastille, via the basin of la **Vilette** to the banks of the **l'Ourcq**. Destination of today is **Lagny**, a nice little town along the **Marne**.

3. Day Lagny-sur-Marne – Meaux (20 or 37 Km)

In **Lagny-sur-Marne**, you can take your bicycle for a first ride, mainly along the Marne river and its parallel canal. After some hills you will follow the small **Canal de l'Ourcq** that was built by Napoleon to transport wood, grain and fresh water to Paris. Today's destination is the city of Meaux, famous for its "**Brie de Meaux**" cheeses and the magnificent Cathedral St.-Etienne. Night in **Meaux**.

4. Day Meaux – La Ferté-sous-Jouarre (30 or 52 Km)

You have a few cycling options today. Either the hills and slopes of the **Marne** valley on the south bank of the river through forests and small villages. Or a ride through **Trilport** and **Lizy-sur-Ourcq**. Later you will have to climb a few hills, leaving the valley in the direction of **Jouarre**. In Jouarre, all cyclists can enjoy a very nice presentation and tasting of the famous **Brie de Meaux** and **Brie noir** cheeses at the family-run Fromagerie **Ganot**. Dinner on board and night in **La-Ferté-sous-Jouarre** or a village nearby.



5. Day La-Ferté-sous-Jouarre – Château-Thierry (42 Km)

The first part of the cycling track leads you along the **Marne** river. After a few miles you will take a side valley and follow country roads through various small villages and hamlets. Continue riding uphill until you finally reach the plateau above the northern part of the **Marne** valley. The side valleys are mainly covered with forest, on the plateau agriculture is predominant. Follow the valley of the small river **Clignon**. Start your descent to reach **Château-Thierry**. Dinner on board and night in Château-Thierry.

6. Day Château-Thierry – Dormans – Epernay (35 or 50 Km)

During breakfast the ship will take us to the lock of **Mont St. Pierre** or even a bit further upstream to **Dormans**. Today we will enter the official Champagne area. Dormans is a quiet village on the Marne with a castle and chapel in memory of the battle of the Marne. A ride up the northern valley slope to the village of **Châtillon-sur-Marne** rewards the cyclist with a stunning panoramic view over the Marne valley and the Champagne vineyards. During the cycling tour you will see the **Château de Boursault**. Dinner on board and night in Epernay.



7. Day Epernay, Round Tour (17 or 25 Km)

The last half day's **cycling** tour takes you along the quiet canal parallel to the **Marne** river to **Ay** and Mareuil-sur-Ay. Return via Dizy to visit Hautvillers. Return cycling to Epernay. After lunch, visit the center of **Epernay**.

8. Day Epernay

It is time to say goodbye, your **cycling** holiday is over. A bientôt !

Self-Guided Cycling Trip 8 Days/7 Nights

Grade: ●●●

Slightly put to steep terrain, next to rivers and canal it is flat.

**Arrival : 10.08. Paris to Epernay
17.08. Epernay to Paris**

| Price per Person | Euro |
|------------------------|---------|
| Twin Cabine | 1129,00 |
| Single Cabine | 1469,00 |
| Bike Rental | |
| 21-Gear -Tourbike | 80,00 |
| E-Bike (250 € Deposit) | 175,00 |

Service Included:

- ✓ 7 Nights on Board of MS Zwaantje
- ✓ Daily Breakfast
- ✓ Daily 3-Course Dinner
- ✓ Coffee and Tea on Board
- ✓ Welcome Drink
- ✓ Climate-controlled cabin
- ✓ Daily cleaning of the cabin
- ✓ Fully guided cycling tours
- ✓ Some short walking tours
- ✓ Maps for cycling tours
- ✓ GPS tracks
- ✓ Fees for ferries
- ✓ Brie cheese tasting in Jouarre
- ✓ Champagne tasting at local producer
- ✓ Visit champagne cellar in Epernay
- ✓ Wi-Fi

Not included Service:

- ✓ Drinks
- ✓ Entrance fees and excursions (not mentioned under included)
- ✓ Transfers to/from the docking place

