

‘Roi Soleil’

CANAL DU MIDI, PROVENCE, THE CAMARGUE & LANGUEDOC AND BURGUNDY

6 nights | Sunday departures | Charter sailings only | When cruising in the south of France, departs from the Avignon or Béziers hotel or train station chosen by the charter group: Sunday, 4:00 pm



‘Roi Soleil’ offers some of the best style, cuisine, wines and service on the canals of France. This luxurious barge is the largest (and only two-story) vessel on the Canal du Midi. Her French captain has the local knowledge to reveal the heart and soul of this intriguing Mediterranean region. The area’s rich history, picturesque scenery and outstanding gastronomy offer a pleasing mélange for the palates of even the most discriminating travellers.

CANAL DU MIDI Béziers to Carcassonne May 31 – Sep 27

Cruise on the magnificent Canal du Midi, the “marvel of Europe” and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A prodigious

engineering feat, it was commissioned by Louis XIV to link France’s Mediterranean and Atlantic Coasts. With its spectacular locks, aqueducts, bridges and tunnels, its tree-lined route is one of the most beautiful in France.

Graceful ‘Roi Soleil’ glides through the remarkably diverse landscape of the Canal



— from the rugged, rural Languedoc to the sun-drenched blue of the Mediterranean — on a thoroughly captivating journey.

From Beziers, the center of the wine trade in southern France, visit the Roman colony of Narbonne with its unfinished 13th-century Cathédrale St-Just and the fortified medieval villages of the Minervois. Look out over the Languedoc plain from the ancient hilltop settlement of l’Oppidum d’Ensérune and experience the quiet spirituality of l’Abbaye de Fontfroide, lovingly restored in the early 20th century. The imposing walled city of Carcassonne, a highlight of any Canal du Midi cruise, is one of Europe’s most evocative medieval cities.

All along the way, step off the barge to cycle or walk along tree-lined towpaths and into romantic canal-side villages.

PROVENCE, THE CAMARGUE & LANGUEDOC

Avignon to Béziers

May 03 – 24 and Oct 04 – 25

Avignon, home to the spectacular 14th-century Palace of the Popes, is the starting point for this glorious exploration of the culture, history and “good life” for which Provence is famous. Weaving your way into the Luberon Valley and the Gard, there are wonderful treasures waiting to be found in the shops of St. Quentin de la Potterie, Uzés and St-Rémy. Visit les Baux-de-Provence, spectacularly set on a rocky outcrop, and marvel at the Roman aqueduct known as the Pont du Gard — or simply relax in the tranquil landscapes.

‘Roi Soleil’ then calls at Arles with its Roman ruins and Van Gogh landscapes, before entering the Camargue, a region populated by flamingo, wild white horse and black bull. Not to be missed are Aigues-Mortes, a walled medieval town, and Sète, where traditional fishermen spread their nets. Continue to Agde, hailed by Marco Polo as “the black pearl of the Mediterranean.”

Note: Routes are run in reverse on alternate weeks.

Excursions are tailor-made to suit the chartering party’s interests.

A&K RECOMMENDS ...

Extend your stay with pre- and post-cruise hotel nights. Contact A&K for details and pricing

‘ROI SOLEIL’ IN BURGUNDY

In 2009, ‘Roi Soleil’ ventures into Burgundy on a wonderful itinerary between Dijon and Vandenesse-en-Auxois. Contact A&K for details on this exciting new cruise route, with departures from Mar 29 – Apr 26.



The luxurious lounge aboard ‘Roi Soleil’



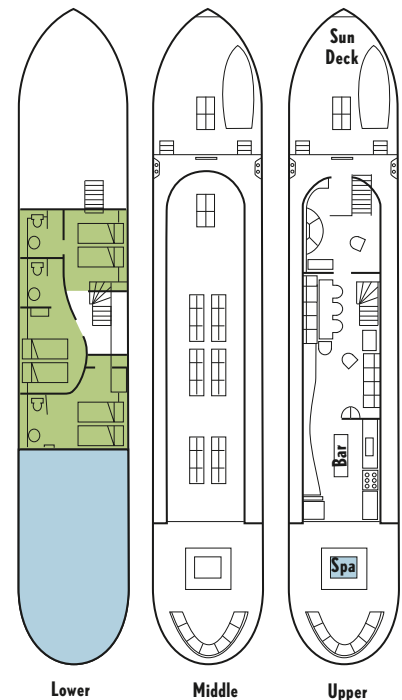
Cabin with en suite bathroom



A scenic walk on the ‘Roi Soleil’ route

‘ROI SOLEIL’
Length: 98 feet | Width: 16.5 feet
Passengers: 6 | Crew: 4

CABINS
3 queen/twin cabins, each with en suite bathroom | All outside facing



PRICE PER CHARTER

Cruise arrangements

Mar 29 - May 09; Jul 12 - Aug 29

May 10 - Jul 11; Aug 30 - Oct 31

Six-night charter

\$37,900

Six-night charter

\$39,900

Family, wine and other theme charters are available. Contact A&K for details.

Please check with A&K for our special international airfares.