



**Marin Yacht Club
Commodore's Cruise 2024**

Canal de Midi, France

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Marin Yacht Club is planning a Commodores Cruise in 2024.

The plan is an eight-night cruise on the Canal de Midi in France departing June 7. The average Temperature in this region in the month of June is 78 degrees.

The itinerary:

Top highlights:

- Sample the regionally famous cassoulet in **Castelnaudary**
- Historic and famous fortress at **Carcassonne**
- Stop for a wonderful cooking school in **Millepetit**
- Winetasting at the historic Paraza Chateau
- Ascend the **The Fonserannes Locks** – a marvel of the Midi

Example itinerary:

The following is only an example, you can explore this area in whichever order you want, so long as your boat is back at the end base at the end of your vacation

- **Depart Castelnaudary:** The capital of the Cassoulet (a local specialty) try some before you leave. A stroll to the Cugarel windmill for stunning views across the Black Mountains is also worthwhile.

- **Pexiora:** A delightful 2km walk or cycle from the canal, this quiet village has a bakery and small grocery store.
- **Villepinte:** You will find all you need in town to replenish your provisions. Upstream of Villepinte Lock, look out for the Mézèran Aqueduct.
- **Bram:** A pretty and quiet village built on a circular plan with a 13th century church at the heart. Check out the Archaeology Museum to discover more than 4,000 artefacts found onsite or nearby.
- **Villesèquelande:** Seek out the pretty church and clock the Sully Elm, planted in the square outside; it is one of the oldest elms still alive in France!
- **Carcassonne:** Breath-taking, UNESCO-listed, fortified citadel with 3km of ramparts, a castle, cathedral and shops and restaurants within the city walls.
- **Trèbes:** Stock up on excellent local produce including wine, olives, jams and confits. Then visit the family friendly Cavayère Lake.
- **Millepetit:** Stop for a wonderful cooking school – learn how to create classic French cuisine with a modern twist!
- **Marseillette:** Famed for growing rice, a clock tower in the centre of Marseillette served as a relay for the first telecommunications network
- **Puichéric:** A village full of medieval character with a lovely church and worth a stop if you love watersports – you can hire canoes, kayaks or standup paddle boards and ‘mess about’ on the adjacent River Aude.
- **La Redorte:** A pretty and leafy town built around a grand Chateau, now a luxury hotel with an excellent restaurant..
- **Homps:** The small village of Homps, where Le Boat has a base, was for a long time an active trading port where barrels of Minervois and Corbières wine were loaded for their journey to Bordeaux.
- **Argens-Minervois:** Home to a 14th century château and cobbled streets, this is a lovely place to stop and enjoy the ample cafés and restaurants.
- **Roubia:** Roubia is very pretty with an old stone church and tower, there’s also a grocery store and restaurant in the village.
- **Paraza:** Small village famed for its Chateau which produces excellent wine. Stop for a wine tour and tasting.
- **Ventenac-en-Minervois:** This village is noted for its waterside wine cellar in the canal-side Château de Ventenac-en-Minervois. Visit, and sample local wines for free.
- **Le Somail:** Enjoy al-fresco dining in one of the fabulous canal-side restaurant in this popular and very pretty village. Check out the books and the antique bookshop
- **Argeliers:** A 700m stroll along a tree-lined avenue and into town will take you to a handful of restaurants, a grocery store, a butcher, two bakeries and a café-bar.
- **Capestang:** A small market town to stock up on provisions. Enjoy passing under the stone bridge, which is one of the lowest on the canal!
- **Poilhes:** Poilhes is a charming canal-side village with a small shop and a handful of lovely restaurants
- **Colombiers:** A lively place, just to the west of the town you'll come across the Malpas Tunnel, the first canal tunnel in Europe.
- **The Fonserannes Locks:** Delight in ascending or descending the seven chambered Fonserannes Locks – one of the marvels of the Midi.
- **Béziers:** The birthplace of Pierre-Paul Riquet, the engineer behind the Canal du Midi. Wander Béziers’s medieval streets, bright squares and leafy parks.

- **Villeneuve-lès-Béziers:** The large and lively village of Villeneuve-lès-Béziers has great restaurants and bars. It is also an excellent spot to stock up on supplies.
- **Cers:** A busy little town, but there's not much to stop for besides the very large Intermarché.
- **Portiragnes:** A cheery town, stop here for the Monday morning and Tuesday morning markets.
- **Arrive Port Cassafières:** Port Cassafières is a small marina where Le Boat has a base with fresh water and electricity points.

The cost

Each of the boats has 4 cabins but I recommend that each boat have no more than three couples allowing extra room for storage. Each private cabin has ensuite head and showers and the boats all are air conditioned.

Each boat is \$7100 per for 8 nights or \$10,000 for 10 nights + fuel.

Deposits:

25% due 10.1.23

25% due 1.1.24

Balance due 4.1.24

