

# Arnild Barging SAS, Barge ASLAUG

## Cruising Itinerary 2020

June to September :  
Champagne and the Somme region

### CHAMPAGNE :

Château-Thierry – Aÿ – Reims,  
or in the opposite direction  
(7 days, 6 nights)

### SOMME :

Amiens to Péronne or  
Amiens to St-Valery,  
or in the opposite directions  
(7 days, 6 nights)

Roundtrip Amiens – Corbie –  
Froissy – Amiens  
(5 days, 4 nights)

Below you will find typical cruise programmes, but we are flexible and can stay for a longer time at a given mooring depending on our guests' interests and wishes. You can take the bicycles and explore the nature and the many sights along the river and the canal, at your leisure. Enjoy going from sight to sight on the boat without having to pack and unpack your luggage. Your cabin and private en-suite bathroom come along.



## **CHAMPAGNE**

We will be cruising on the beautiful river Marne, east of Paris, and discover the interesting production of the wonderful Champagne wines. – And of course do some serious tasting !

The Marne is a broad, winding river which still has a good deal of commercial traffic. We will meet barges transporting gravel, grain and scrap metal, but at the same time be treated to picturesque villages and towns with spectacular old churches and manor houses. Along the river you will see the vineyards high on the hills and enjoy the beautiful scenery. The battles of the Marne in WW1 are still commemorated and you will have the possibility of visiting some of the memorials.

We will go upstream through 17 locks, pass under Mont de Billy in a 2.3 km long tunnel in the water shed and then go down through 7 locks before reaching Reims, the biggest town in Champagne, with its amazing gothic cathedral. (Or of course in the opposite direction, from Reims to Château-Thierry, first upstream, then downstream).



## **One Week Cruise**

### **Monday, Day 1, Château-Thierry**

You will arrive in the afternoon by train from Paris. Settle down, have a drink, and go for a walk in the old part of the town with its beautiful houses and ruins of a medieval castle. You may also wish to hike up to the American memorial for World War I. As it is Monday, French restaurants are normally closed, and we therefore serve the “Captain’s Dinner” aboard.

### **Tuesday, Day 2, Château-Thierry to Dormans**

We will have lunch aboard upon arrival in Dormans. You can walk or bike to the winegrowing villages around the town. Admire the beautiful old castle and the Chapel of Reconnaissance which was built in 1920 in commemoration of the two battles of the Marne in WW1. Have dinner at a local restaurant.

### **Wednesday, Day 3, Dormans to Aÿ**

We will have lunch aboard in a lock-cut in Damery. Then we leave the Marne to enter the Canal Latéral à la Marne and in the afternoon we moor in Aÿ. You can visit the “Cité du Champagne” (a UNESCO world heritage site) with its kilometers of underground caves and its viticulture and tools museum, or some of the approx. 40 producers in the town.

Dinner in a restaurant of your choice.

## **Thursday, Day 4, Aÿ to Tours-sur-Marne**

A)

Unfortunately, the pleasure port of Epernay is very small and does not offer a mooring for larger ships, therefore we stay in Aÿ. You can walk, bike or take a taxi to Epernay (3 km) and visit the famous Avenue du Champagne with its many renowned champagne houses. Have lunch in a local restaurant and come back for the cruise to Tours.

Dinner-buffet on board.

B)

Alternatively, we go straight to Tours in the morning, and you can hike or use our bicycles to go to Bouzy, 4 km away. Bouzy is a “Grand Cru” village which grows not only champagne but the famous red wine that was used for coronation banquets in Reims in the old days. Have lunch in the very special Brasserie in Bouzy.

Dinner-buffet on board in the evening.

## **Friday, Day 5, Tours-sur-Marne to Sept-Saulx**

We will go up through a “staircase” of 8 locks and have lunch aboard at the waiting quay in front of the Mont de Billy tunnel. It is always an adventure to navigate underground, and this tunnel is one of the best. In Sept-Saulx we moor at a silo quay, another experience. You can visit the French war cemetery nearby or bike to Verzy, a village renowned for its old dwarf beeches.

Dinner at the “Cheval Blanc” restaurant.

### **Saturday, Day 6, Sept-Saulx to Reims**

Lunch aboard in Sillery where you can visit another WW1 cemetery close to the harbour. We continue to the city of Reims, passing through an industrial area, and moor to a bank not far from the center where it is less noisy than in the harbour which is located below a highway bridge. Visit the beautiful Gothic cathedral which has witnessed the coronation of 25 kings of France. There is an amazing outdoor laser show on the cathedral in the evening, not to be missed.

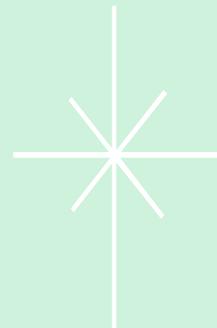
Dinner in a restaurant of your choice.

### **Sunday, Day 7, Reims**

You will have time to go and visit the old Saint-Rémi basilica and some of the champagne houses which offer guided tours and sampling. Lunch in town.

Departure by TGV to Paris in the afternoon.

The above travel plan can be modified in case you wish to have more time in any of the towns.



## **SOMME**

We have two cruising themes :

- Remembrance of the First World War
- Wonderful unspoilt nature and unique cultural sights

We will cruise the beautiful Canal de la Somme and arrange visits to the battlefields, war cemeteries and memorials closely connected to the river and canal.

As an antidote to the war scenario, the wonderful nature on the Canal de la Somme will bring peace of mind, as will the true relaxation on board the boat while we go at leisurely 6 km/h on the winding canal. It is not boring, however, as the river Somme is joining the canal very often bringing excitement and sudden additional current.

Saint-Valery with the vast tidal area and the seal and bird reserves in the bay, as well as the beautiful cathedrals and manor houses along the waterway, will be sure to make you disconnect from everyday stress.



## **One Week Cruise : Amiens to Péronne**

### **Sunday, Day 1, Amiens.**

Arrival in the afternoon by train to Amiens. We will meet you at the station and accompany you to the mooring, a nice stroll along the pedestrian street. Settle down and have a welcome drink, then go sightseeing in this interesting university town : Notre-Dame Cathedral (the largest Gothic church in France, a UNESCO World Heritage site, - the Notre-Dame of Paris can be contained in there twice), the beautiful botanical garden, Jules Verne's house with its observatory, various art museums, the old part of town Saint-Leu etc.

Have dinner in one of the many restaurants in this pulsating town and enjoy the amazing laser show at the cathedral in the evening (mid-June to mid-September).

### **Monday, Day 2, Amiens – Lamotte-Brebière.**

(2 h. cruising)

Same sightseeing programme as Day 1, lunch aboard. In the afternoon we leave Amiens and on the way we pass by the "hortillonnages" (vegetable gardens in an old moor area) and admire the quaint entrances to the small lots. We stop at the renovated lock-keeper house in Lamotte-Brebière. You can walk or bike on the tow-path in the beautiful nature.

As it is Monday, most French restaurants are closed, and we have "Captain's Dinner" aboard.

You will enjoy the silence of the night (apart from the rushing river Somme close by, and the occasional frog, coot or duck).

**Tuesday, Day 3, Lamotte-Brebière – Corbie.** (2 h. cruising)

After breakfast we continue on the winding canal (we go upstream). Lunch aboard upon arrival. From Corbie, a visit to the Australian memorial and cemetery close to Villers-Bretonneux, site of the ANZAC Day commemoration, is an emotional experience, and you can admire the newly inaugurated Sir John Monash Center which gives a comprehensive explanation of the circumstances of the war. A subsequent visit to the Australian museum in the Victoria School in Villers-Bretonneux gives additional information on the Battle of the Somme. You can walk up to the memorial (2.5 km), - another possibility is to put our folding bikes in a taxi. You can bike back downhill on a path among the fields. Dinner at the “La Caroline”, a local restaurant serving traditional French food.

**Wednesday, Day 4, Corbie – Froissy.** (5 h. cruising)

From Corbie, we continue to Froissy passing the beautiful little Château de Méricourt. Lunch aboard in Sailly-Laurette. The comprehensive narrow-gauge train museum in Froissy is open July and August and offers the possibility of a short train-ride in the old wagons that were used to carry ammunition and soldiers to the front (and wounded soldiers back). Take a short taxi-ride to visit the town of Albert and the impressive underground WW1 museum.

Have dinner in a restaurant in Albert and come back to your peaceful floating cabin.

**Thursday, Day 5, Froissy – Eclusier-Vaux. (2 h. cruising)**

We continue to Eclusier-Vaux and you walk or bike to the village of Suzanne where you have lunch at the “Auberge de Suzanne”. Afterwards you can walk up to the Belvédère from where you have a breathtaking view of the entire Somme Valley with all its lakes. On the way back to the boat you can visit the eel ponds close to the mooring.

Dinner-buffet aboard.

**Friday, Day 6, Eclusier-Vaux – Péronne. (3 h. cruising)**

We leave the winding Canal de la Somme and enter the large Canal du Nord with its busy commercial traffic. We moor at the commercial quay and have lunch aboard. You walk to Péronne center, where you can admire the old fortifications and visit the “Historial”, the amazing WW1 museum located in the old medieval castle in the center of town.

You have dinner in one of the many restaurants.

**Saturday, Day 7, Péronne.**

Departure before noon by taxi to the TGV station Haute-Picardie.



## **One Week Cruise : Amiens to Saint-Valery-sur-Somme**

### **Sunday, Day 1, Amiens.**

Arrival in the afternoon. We will meet you at the train station and accompany you to the mooring, a nice stroll along the pedestrian street. Settle down and have a welcome drink, then go sightseeing in this interesting university town : Notre-Dame Cathedral (the largest Gothic church in France, a UNESCO World Heritage site, - the Notre-Dame of Paris can be contained in there twice), the beautiful botanical garden, Jules Verne's house with its observatory, various art museums, the old part of town, Saint-Leu etc.

Have dinner in one of the many restaurants in this pulsating town and enjoy the amazing laser show at the cathedral in the evening (mid-June to mid-September).

### **Monday, Day 2, Amiens.**

Same sightseeing programme as Day 1, lunch aboard, dinner in a restaurant of your choice.

### **Tuesday, Day 3, Amiens – Picquigny. (2.5 h. cruising)**

We leave Amiens and stop at Samara and have lunch aboard, after which you can visit this pre-historic theme park. We will continue to Picquigny where you can admire the medieval castle ruins and the church.

We will have "Captain's Dinner aboard.

**Wednesday, Day 4, Picquigny – Long. (3 h. cruising)**

We continue on the winding canal and have lunch aboard in Long. In the afternoon you can visit the huge, well-kept park of the beautiful Château de Long. Another unique sight not to miss is the museum of the old Hydroelectric Power Plant. The village of Long got rich from the extraction of peat and became one of the first towns in France to install electricity and drinking water in each house, - an unheard-of luxury at the time.

Dinner at the “Le Comptoir Bleu” restaurant.

**Thursday, Day 5, Long – Abbeville. (3 h. cruising)**

On our way to Abbeville, you will observe that the Canal de la Somme is an angler paradise. We pass many quaint small angler huts and several beautiful manor houses. Lunch aboard upon arrival. In Abbeville, a medium-sized town, you can visit the old Belfry containing the archeological Boucher de Perthes museum. Also interesting are the Saint-Vulfran Collegiate and the Saint-Sepulcre church with its beautiful stained-glass windows by Alfred Manessier, inspired by the light of the Bay of Somme.

Dinner at the “Etoile du Jour”, a restaurant in a beautiful old half-timbered house, or in another restaurant of your choice.



## **Friday, Day 6, Abbeville – Saint-Valery-sur-Somme.**

(2.5 h. cruising)

The canal from Abbeville to Saint-Valery is a long straight line, but we will be going through four mobile bridges and through the big sea-lock out into the tidal sea-port. Lunch aboard upon arrival. The Baie de Somme is one of the most beautiful bays in the world, with vast tidal waters, dunes, a rich bird life, a seal reserve and the famous “prés-salés” (salty marshes). It was from Saint-Valery that William the Conqueror sailed to conquer England in 1066, and Jeanne d’Arc has been kept prisoner in the castle in 1431.

Dinner at one of the many restaurants in this seaside resort.

## **Saturday, Day 7, Saint-Valery-sur-Somme**

You will leave the boat before noon and go by the narrow-gauge steam-train to Noyelles-sur-Mer from where you can take the ordinary train back to Amiens.

In case you wish to have more time to explore the bay, we can skip the Day 2 in Amiens and go directly on with the itinerary, giving you an extra day in Saint-Valery.



## **Roundtrip (WW1 related)**

### **Sunday, Day 1, Amiens.**

We will meet you at the train station in the afternoon and accompany you to the mooring, a nice stroll along the pedestrian street. After settling down and a welcome drink, you can go sightseeing in this interesting university town : Notre-Dame Cathedral (the largest Gothic church in France, a UNESCO World Heritage site, - the Notre-Dame of Paris can be contained in there twice), the "hortillonnages", the beautiful botanical garden, Jules Verne's house with its observatory, various art museums, the old part of town, Saint-Leu etc.

Have dinner in one of the many restaurants in this pulsating town and enjoy the amazing laser show at the cathedral in the evening (mid-June to mid-September).

### **Monday, Day 2, Guided Tour on the Remembrance Trail (separate booking, lunch at a restaurant underway).**

The boat goes from Amiens to Corbie where the guests join it after the Tour and have "Captain's Dinner" aboard.



**Tuesday, Day 3, Corbie - Froissy (4.5 h. cruising)**

From Corbie, we continue to Froissy and have lunch aboard underway. We will be passing the beautiful little Château de Méricourt and go through a lifting bridge.

The comprehensive narrow-gauge train museum in Froissy is open July and August and offers the possibility of a short train-ride in the old wagons that were used to carry ammunition and soldiers to the front (and wounded soldiers back). Take a short taxi-ride to visit the town of Albert and the impressive underground WW1 museum.

Have dinner in a restaurant in Albert and come back to your peaceful floating cabin.

**Wednesday, Day 4, Froissy – Corbie (4.5 h. cruising)**

After lunch aboard in Corbie, you can visit the memorial of Le Hamel with its very comprehensive explanatory tablets.

There is a good view across the Somme river valley and the hills the soldiers had to climb. You can put our folding bikes in a taxi and bike back downhill to the canal.

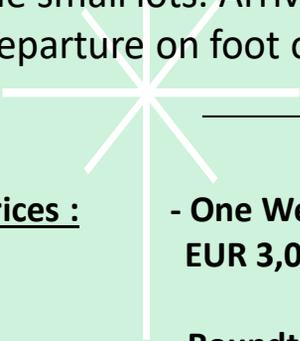
Dinner at the “La Caroline” or the “Abbatiale”, local restaurants serving traditional French food.



**Thursday, Day 5, Corbie – Amiens. (4 h. cruising)**

We have lunch on the way in Lamotte-Brebière and afterwards pass the “hortillonnages” (vegetable gardens in an old moor area) and admire the quaint entrances to the small lots. Arrival in Amiens late afternoon.

Departure on foot or by taxi to the station.

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- Prices :**
- One Week Charter (7 days/6 nights),  
EUR 3,000 per cabin (1-2 persons)
  - Roundtrip Charter (5 days/4 nights),  
EUR 2,000 per cabin (1-2 persons)

**Included in the price:**

- Breakfast buffets
- Lunch buffets reflecting local gastronomy
- A « Captain’s Dinner »
- All beverages underway
- Use of the boat’s WI-FI and the 4 folding bikes
- Navigation costs

**Not included:**

- Transport to and from the boat
- Sightseeing fees

See “General Conditions” on [www.arnild-barging.com](http://www.arnild-barging.com).

Capacity : 2 cabins, 4 passengers.

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