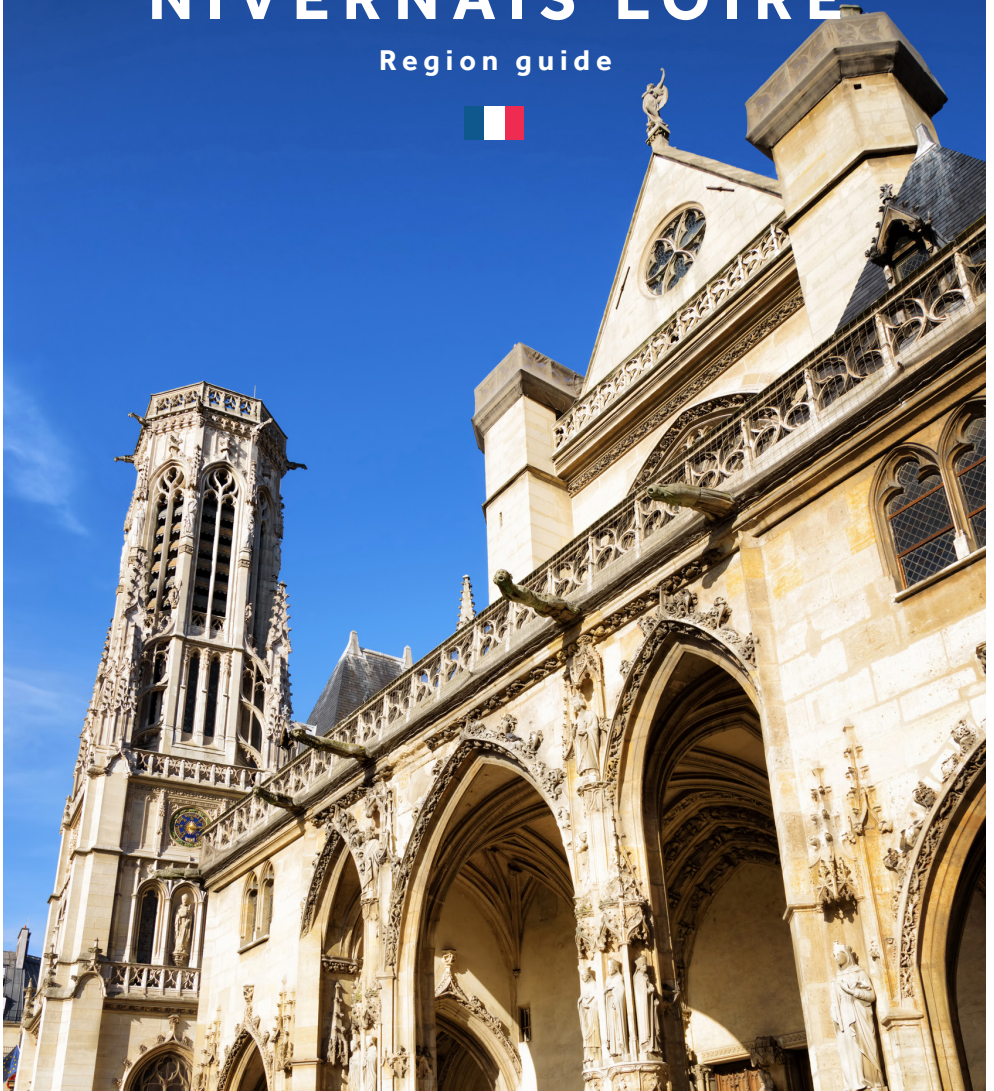


le boat

Who's on board?

BURGUNDY NIVERNAIS LOIRE

Region guide



	Approx time		No. of locks	
Migennes	3 hr 30 min		5	
Gurgy	45 min	6 hr 15 min	1	10
Monéteau	2 hr		4	
Auxerre	2 hr 45 min	6 hr	5	11
Champs-sur-Yonne	1 hr 30 min		3	
Vincelles	1 hr 15 min		2	
Cravant	30 min		1	
Embranchement de Vermenton (for Vermenton)	1 hr		2	
Prégilbert	2 hr 45 min	16 hr	5	28
Mailly-le-Château	45 min		1	
Merry-sur-Yonne	1 hr 30 min		3	
Châtel-Censoir	5 hr		8	
Clamecy	5 hr		9	
Tannay	1 hr 30 min	15 hr	3	37
Monceaux-le-Comte	3 hr		6	
Chitry-les-Mines	4 hr 45 min		12	
Sardy-les-Epiry (bottom of Sardy flight of locks)	5 hr 45 min		16	
Baye	5 hr 30 min		12	
Chatillon-en-Bazois	9 hr 15 min		15	
Cercy-la-Tour	4 hr	6		

Start of Embranchement de Vermenton	1 hr 15 min	1 hr 15 min	2	2
Vermenton				

Montbard	6 hr	28 hr 15 min	11	48	
Ravières	2 hr 45 min		5		
Ancy-le-Franc	5 hr 30 min		9		
Tanlay	3 hr		6		
Tonnerre	3 hr		4		
Flogny-la-Chapelle	3 hr 45 min	7			
St-Florentin	4 hr 15 min	6			
Migennes	2 hr 15 min	9 hr 15 min	3	10	
Joigny	1 hr		1		
Cézy	2 hr 30 min		2		
Villeneuve-sur-Yonne	3 hr 30 min		4		
Sens	2 hr		2		
Pont-sur-Yonne	6 hr 30 min	10 hr 30 min	6	9	
Montereau-fault-Yonne	2 hr		1		
St-Mammès	15 min	13 hr 15 min	0	20	
Moret-sur-Loing	4 hr 15 min		6		
Nemours	2 hr 45 min		4		
Souppes-sur-Loing	6 hr		10		
Montargis	7 hr		11		
Châtillon-Coligny	2 hr 45 min	17 hr 15 min	14	30	
Rogny-les-Sept-Écluses	6 hr 45 min		5		
Briare	45 min		0		
Châtillon-sur-Loire	2 hr		1		
Belleville-sur-Loire	4 hr 30 min		5		
Ménétréol-sous-Sancerre	4 hr	18 hr	4	18	
La Charité-sur-Loire	3 hr 15 min		5		
Marseilles-lès-Aubigny	4 hr 15 min		3		
Start of Embranchement de Nevers (for Nevers)	1 hr		0		
Chevenon	2 hr 30 min		6 hr		3
Fleury-sur-Loire	2 hr 30 min	3			
Decize	3 hr 15 min	14 hr	4	16	
Gannay-sur-Loire	2 hr 30 min		3		
Garnat-sur-Engièvre	2 hr 45 min		3		
Start of Embranchement de Dompierre (for Dompierre-sur-Besbre)	5 hr 30 min		6		
Digoin	2 hr 30 min		2 hr 30 min		3

Digoin	4 hr 45 min	10 hr 45 min	5	11
Chambilly	3 hr 15 min		3	
Briennon	2 hr 45 min		3	

Start of Embranchement de Nevers	1 hr	1 hr	2	2
Nevers				

Times are an approximation only and are calculated on the basis of an average speed of 7.5km/h and an average time of 18 minutes to pass through a lock. Your speed, the flow of the water and the time it takes to go through locks will all affect your progress.

8 Maximum speed allowed on canals in km/h. Please refer to your waterways map as the speed limit on some sections can be less.

10 Maximum speed allowed on rivers in km/h

3 Maximum speed allowed in ports/ marinas in km/h

↑ ↓ Pass oncoming boats on the right-hand side



Canal
Canal non navigable
Rivier navigable

MIGENNES

Migennes' numerous parks and ponds make it a nature haven, perfect for a relaxing break. Stroll in town and discover its two churches, one from the 13th century and a modern example from the 20th century. Stop by the Tourist Office to pick up some information and also to admire a splendid fragment of mosaic, dating from the 4th century. If you fancy a day trip, you're only two hours away from Paris.

Recommended restaurant: Rives de l'Yonne - 900m from the base.

Amenities: All the necessary shops, and a supermarket are located 80m from the base.

Market: Thu (am).

AUXERRE

Auxerre, city of Art and History, has preserved its exceptional architectural heritage. Let yourself be charmed by its narrow streets, lined with beautiful half-timbered houses and mansions. You can hire an audio guide (€5) from the Tourist Office and tour the city at your own pace. Close to the Town Hall stands the Clock Tower, undoubtedly the highlight of the town. The clock, added to the tower in the 17th century, has two dials displaying both the time and the lunar month. North of the city, visit the ancient Benedictine abbey of St-Germain and admire its Carolingian frescoes. Round off the day with a locally-produced Chablis.

Recommended restaurant: La Pause Gourmande - Rue Fourier, in the city centre, 500m from the closest mooring.

Amenities: All the necessary shops.

Market: Tue and Fri (am) - Place de l'Arquebuse. Wed (am) - Rue de la Draperie. Sun (am) - Place Degas.

MONÉTEAU

Monéteau is a pretty town, of which the highlight is a 1913 bridge designed by Gustave Eiffel. You can also see the 12th century church and you can hear the chimes of Colbert Castle from the river.



Recommended restaurant: La Terrasse Gourmande, 200m downstream from the bridge.

Amenities: Supermarkets, restaurants and a bowling alley - 2.5km from the moorings, at the entrance to the A6 motorway.

Market: Sat (am).

GURGY

This little village is great for your first overnight stop if heading south from Migennes - pleasant and secure, with a well-tended path you can easily cycle along to stretch your legs.

Recommended restaurant: Restaurant de la rivière - 100m from the marina

Amenities: a brand new marina with water and electric hook-up, grocery shop and bakery.



The Clock Tower, Auxerre

CAVES DE BAILLY

The caves at PK163, once an underground limestone quarry, are now used to ferment the much loved Crémant de Bourgogne or the cherry liqueur made from local cherries. The natural constant cool temperature of 12°C is an ideal temperature to ensure an optimal fermentation quality. Red, White and Rose wines are also made here. You can take a very interesting guided tour (+33 3 86 53 77 77), sample the produce and buy a bottle (or more) at the store.



VINCELLES & VINCELOTES

Vincelles & Vincelottes are a charming pair of villages, on either side of the river. Call Vititours for a guided tour of the vineyards (+33 6 11 47 82 98). From Vincelottes, it is an easy cycle (3.6km) to explore the flower-adorned streets of Irancy, notable for the production of excellent reds.

Recommended restaurant: Les Tilleuls, in Vincellottes, 400m from the mooring, just across the bridge.

Amenities: Supermarket and few shops in Vincelles.

Market: Wed (am), in Vincelles.

Vineyards of Irancy, Vincelottes



Cravant

CRAVANT

This picturesque medieval village has preserved its old streets, its wash house and wood framed houses. A remarkable church stands aside a walkway not far from the dungeon where, in the summer, exhibitions and visits are organised.

Recommended restaurant: Les Lilas des deux Ponts - 100m from the moorings between the two bridges.

Amenities: Bakery and butcher.

Market: Sat (am).

VERMENTON

South of the fortified village of Cravant, you have the opportunity to cruise on the 4km-long Vermenton junction. It leads to the small village of Vermenton with its charming church, beautiful wash house and the remains of an old fortress.

Recommended restaurant: Auberge de l'Espérance - 500m from the mooring, on the corner of Rue René Martin and Rue du Général de Gaulle.

Amenities: All the necessary shops.

Market: Fri (am).



Parcabout Tree Park

PRÉGILBERT

Prégilbert was once the site of the magnificent Abbey of Crisenon, an abbey so large it installed its own fish farm during the 17th century. While the abbey was destroyed in the French Revolution, the fish farm remains to this day. Here, you'll be able to buy fresh fish, or hire fishing rods and have a go at catching your own dinner. Another option is to stop at the Écluse des Dames bistro (lock no:67), located in an old lock house, where you can eat and also buy local products. Next door, you'll also be able to have fun in the Parcabout Tree Park, a canopy adventure zone with a unique concept. You'll move in complete freedom and safety (without a harness!) in a net suspended in the trees, a great option for wearing out kids.

Recommended restaurant: Écluse des Dames bistro - lock no:67.

Amenities: Grocery store, bakery.



Saussois Rocks

SAUSSOIS ROCKS

The Saussois Rocks tower majestically over the canal in Merry-sur-Yonne and are a popular spot for rock climbers. If you're not feeling quite this adventurous, there are walking trails that wind their way to the top for impressive views of the Yonne Valley.



Vézelay

VÉZELAY

16km southeast of Châtel-Censoir is the hill town of Vézelay. While it is necessary to get a short taxi journey to get there, it is well worth the trip. Vézelay has been crowned one of France's most beautiful villages, and is home to the Basilica of Sainte-Marie-Madeleine. The basilica is listed a UNESCO World Heritage Site and considered one of the great masterpieces of Burgundian art and architecture.

Recommended restaurant: Le Bourgainville - Rue St. Étienne, a short walk from the Tourism Office.



Châtel-Censoir

MAILLY-LE-CHÂTEAU

Built in the 16th century, the bridge in Mailly-le-Château is one of the oldest in the region. You can also visit a small chapel dedicated to St. Nicolas, the patron saint of bargemen and timber floaters. Above the village is a rocky outcrop, on which you'll discover a shaded terrace near the château, which offers a superb panoramic view of the loops of the Yonne and the Canal du Nivernais.

Recommended restaurant: Le Castel - 1km from the mooring opposite the church.
Amenities: Grocery store, bar, bakery.

CHÂTEL-CENSOIR

In Châtel-Censoir, scale the steps that lead to the town with its village square, bustling with life when the market is on, and peacefully at rest in the afternoon. Continue uphill until you reach St. Potentien collegiate church, with its Romanesque architecture and certainly worth a look around. There are ancient stone walls and steps to explore up here and some spectacular views to be had from various vantage points.

Recommended restaurant: L'Étape Des Gourmets, 300m from the mooring, 12 Avenue de la Gare
Amenities: Grocery store, bakery.
Market: Thu (am).

CLAMECY

Wander through Clamecy's picturesque streets and admire its old, half-timbered houses, including the medieval Maison du Tisserand and St. Martin's Church, whose bell tower overlooks the city. Admire the elegant facade of this Gothic church, the stonework of its central rose window and its 16th century gargoyles. In contrast, the Notre-Dame de Bethléem church, built in 1926, was one of the first buildings in France to be built in concrete. To complete your tour of the city, go to the Romain Rolland Museum of Art and History, which contains many surprises: Gallo-Roman relics, fine arts and glazed pottery collections.

Recommended restaurant: L'Angélus, 500m from the mooring - Place Saint-Jean.

Amenities: All the necessary shops.
Market: Sat (am).

TANNAY

2.5km uphill from the moorings, Tannay dominates the Yonne Valley, with an array of towers that protrude above the rooftops. Once a fortified village, only the village gates remain these days. In the heart of the village you'll find Les Caves Tannaysiennes (+33 3 86 29 31 59), where you can pick up a bottle (or two!) of the region's delicious wine.

Amenities: Supermarket, grocery store, bakery, butcher, and two cafés - a 2.5km walk up a steep path.
Market: Sun (am).

MONCEAUX-LE-COMTE

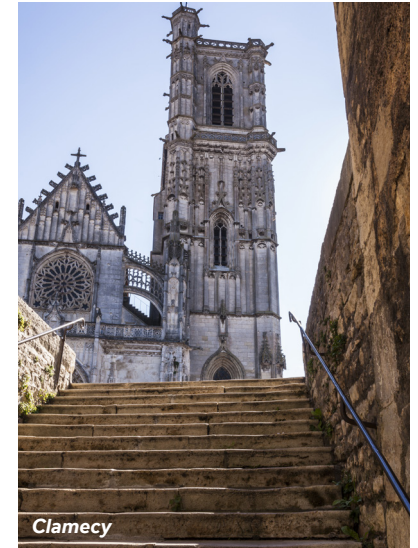
A pleasant town, but it's worth heading 2km north to see the ancient Réconfort Abbey, which has been converted into a château. However, you must stop in Monceaux-le-Comte, if for nothing else but its restaurant: Auberge du Centre. Hidden behind the church, this restaurant is a hidden gem with a sumptuous menu of pâté, snails, kidneys, filet mignon, sorbet with apples soaked in Crémant de Bourgogne wine. Bon appetit!

Recommended restaurant: Auberge du Centre - 600m from the mooring, on the corner of Rue Carnot and Rue de la République.

Amenities: grocery store, bakery.

SARDY LOCK STAIRCASE

A flight of 16 lock chambers, made less tedious by the exceptionally pleasant surroundings. Several of the lock cottages have been adopted by artists and craftsmen - a potter, a sculptor - and a mobile bakery and grocer often visits the site.



Clamecy

CHÂTILLON-EN-BAZOIS

Whether you arrive from the north or the south, the navigation towards the port of Châtillon-en-Bazois is spectacular. The town's castle stands on a rocky outcrop overlooking the canal, giving a glimpse into its historical past. Erected in the 10th century, the fortress belonged to the Count of Nevers and while it is now a hotel, tours are available in July and August. The manicured "water gardens" are a beautiful spot for a stroll past sculptures and statues.

Recommended restaurant: Auberge de France - 500m from the mooring, 28 Rue Dr Duret.
Amenities: All the necessary shops.

CERCY-LA-TOUR

In Cercy-La-Tour, visit the old settlement situated on a rocky outcrop 201 meters above the valley. It offers good views over the valleys of the Aron, the Alène, Canne and the Nivernais Canal. Also check out the towers of the castle, dating from the 13th century. Downtown, the St. Roman church is one of the oldest in the region.

Amenities: A butchers, bakery and a café.

DECIZE

The town of Decize is at the crossroads of waterways. Decize can be visited on foot from the marina by following the "Greffier Barbichot", a series of signs highlighting the main monuments of the city. You'll discover the ruins of the castle which, along with its underground galleries, can be visited on guided tours in July and August. There's also the historic Minimes Convent, the Romanesque church of St. Aré, and the Town Hall square and its clock tower.

Recommended restaurant:

Le Petit Agité - 600m from the closest moorings, 33B Route de Moulins.

Amenities: All the necessary shops.

Market: Fri (am) in the town centre & covered market: Fri (pm) - next to the marina.

There are many locks southeast of Montbard on the Canal de Bourgogne, so you may want to turn back after visiting the town.



Montbard

MONTBARD

Stroll through the pleasant Buffon Park, built around the remnants of Montbard Castle. In the park, the orangerie is today a museum dedicated to the famous naturalist, Buffon. The town is quiet, with a shopping street, two churches and a Fine Art Museum featuring local artists. 6km northeast of the city, don't miss Fontenay Abbey, listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Founded in 1118, the beautiful abbey is one of the oldest Cistercian monasteries in Europe and is one of Burgundy's key attractions. Its peaceful atmosphere makes for a memorable day out. End your visit with a stroll in the landscaped park of the abbey, classified a "remarkable garden" by the French Ministry of Culture.

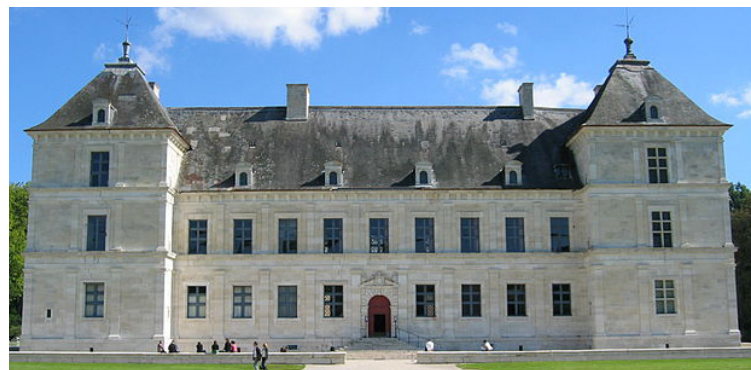
Recommended restaurant: Bistrot Anatole & Arthémis - next to Buffon park.

Amenities: All the necessary shops.

Market: Fri (am).

ANCY-LE-FRANC

Stop in Ancy-le-Franc to discover its astonishing Renaissance palace, built in the 16th century by the architect of François I. Admire its courtyard, the rich decoration of the apartments, the remarkable series of murals and stroll through the galleries. At the Tourist Office, you'll find an exhibition about ancient porcelain. For a



Ancy-le-Franc

spectacular view of the surrounding landscape, climb the staircase that starts from behind the church and leads to the village heights.

Recommended restaurant: Restaurant de l'écluse 79 - at lock no.79.

Amenities: All the necessary shops.

Market: Thu (am).

TANLAY

Tanlay is a pleasant stopover along the Canal de Bourgogne. Stop here to admire the elegant 16th century castle, surrounded by a moat, and is one of the most spectacular Renaissance residences of Burgundy. Inside, you can admire the trompe-l'œil room and the surprising frescoes in the Ligue Tower, as well as its rich interior design (open every day except Tuesday). Tanlay Golf, located in the park of the castle, offers a 9-hole course if you're feeling active. Cycle 4km to the northeast to visit the Cistercian abbey, Notre-Dame de Quincy. Its park caters perfectly for children, offering both a maze built from yew trees and a treasure hunt, which will take them on a journey of discovery through the Middle Ages.

Recommended restaurant: La crêperie du Port - 50m from the closest moorings.



Tanlay Castle



TONNERRE

Visit the Hôtel-Dieu, which was founded in 1292 by Marguerite de Bourgogne. This imposing building is one of the oldest hospitals in Europe and you can delve into its history at the Hospital Museum. Admire the Notre-Dame and St. Pierre churches, as well as Uzès town house, a fine example of Renaissance style architecture. In the town centre you'll find the Fosse Dionne, a roman basin, filled with crystal clear water that is fed by a natural spring - it is a tranquil and evocative sight.

On the shore opposite Tonnerre, a 2km walk from the moorings in the small village of Épineuil, you will find the Domaine de l'Abbaye du Petit Quincy. The property produces Burgundy, Chablis and Crémant de Bourgogne and you can enjoy wine tasting in its magnificent vaulted cellar. The domain also offers cooking classes, art classes and a tour where you can take the chance to become a wine grower for the day (+33 3 86 55 32 51).

Recommended restaurant: Le Saint Père - 1.5km from the closest moorings, 2 Rue Georges Pompidou.

Amenities: All the necessary shops. You'll find a supermarket 1km downstream from lock no.96.

Market: Wed & Sat (am).

SAINT-FLORENTIN

A great opportunity for a stopover, Saint-Florentin is a small fortress town dominated by its Gothic and Renaissance church. It is a peaceful place, filled with history, and visitors can stroll through its picturesque streets dating from the 16th century. Climb the gently sloping hill, stopping on the way to savour the delights of its markets, shops, restaurants and a charming garden. You can also walk to the priory, which offers a superb view of the old town. Above the roofs you'll notice the 16th century church with its bell tower. Finally, at the end of a long day you can refresh yourself with a dip in the river at the Armançon campsite.

Recommended restaurant:

Les Tilleuls - 1.1km from the moorings, 3 Rue Descourties.

Amenities: You'll find all necessary shops and two supermarkets in the upper town.

Market: Mon and Sat (am).



Joigny

VILLENEUVE-SUR-YONNE



Villeneuve-sur-Yonne

A characterful medieval town, rich with 850 years of history and flanked by two towers at the north and south entrance. Much of the old city walls can still be seen and you can discover the remains of the royal dungeon.

- Recommended restaurant:** La lucarne aux chouettes - close to the town side quay
- Amenities:** All the necessary shops.
- Market:** Tue and Fri

JOIGNY

From the moorings, cross the bridge and explore the city centre. Expanded in the 10th century, the medieval ramparts of the town can still be seen in places. Stroll through the picturesque streets, punctuated by half-timbered and red brick houses. Around the castle, explore the St. Jean district, built around the old surrounding wall of the castle, and admire the exceptional vault of its church. The St. Thibault district welcomes artisans, traders and wine merchants. The winemaking district of the St. André area has traditional houses and narrow cobbled streets. If you're full of energy, you can enjoy a go-kart race or a paintball game (Made in Kart, +33 3 86 19 32 32), 2km south of Joigny.

- Recommended restaurant:** Le rive gauche - just under the boatyard
- Amenities:** You'll find all the necessary shops here, plus there's a supermarket 1km away from the marina by following the road.
- Covered market:** Wed and Sat (am).

SENS

The small town of Sens houses one of the first Gothic cathedrals in France, St. Étienne, dating from the 12th century. Go inside to admire its architecture, tapestries, goldsmith's works and beautiful stained-glass windows. Near the cathedral, the food market held twice weekly is a great spot to pick up some fresh produce. If that doesn't satisfy your shopping urges, then you can head to the main pedestrian street in the old town centre for some more retail therapy. South of the city, treat yourself to a break in the Moulin à Tan Park, which houses tropical greenhouses and a rose garden. There are also animal enclosures and playgrounds for children.

- Recommended restaurant:** Au Crieur de Vin - 1.2km from the closest moorings, 1 Rue d'Alsace Lorraine.
- Amenities:** You'll find all the necessary shops here, plus many restaurants.
- Market:** Mon and Fri (am).



St. Étienne Cathedral, Sens

SAINT-MAMMÈS

Saint-Mammès has one of the biggest inland ports of the French waterways and wandering in and out of its alleyways or onto the quays, you'll discover anchors, boat lamps, weather vanes and barges that all attest to the central role the waterways play in this town's daily life. In the summer, you might be lucky enough to watch the locals engage in river jousting where participants, standing on the stern of opposing boats, try to knock each other into the water.

- Recommended restaurant:** Le Saint Mam - 50m from the moorings, just before the bridge.



Saint-Mammès



Moret-sur-Loing

MORET SUR LOING

This small medieval town was once heavily fortified and much remains today, including two gates that still stand strong at the two ends of the main street. Impressionist, Alfred Sisley, found this place ideal for changing colours and variations of light and many painters have since been attracted here. The "Point Sisley" allows you to discover some of the artist's works. Then go to the Sucre d'Orge Museum, inside the Provencher Mill (1km from the mooring), which produces France's oldest sweets, barley sugars, using the same secret recipe used for generations. Nearby, 'Mille et une Glaces', serves delicious ice-cream! From Moret-sur-Loing, you're only one hour from Paris. Take the high-speed train RER R to "POMA Gare de Lyon" from Moret Veneux les Sablons station (1.5km from the mooring).

- Recommended restaurant:** Le Refuge - next to the church, 750m from the moorings.
- Amenities:** All the necessary shops.

NEMOURS

Nemours Castle stands proudly on the left bank of the Loing River, with its turrets and imposing square tower. It now houses a museum and hosts many exhibitions. You can also walk along the "Petits Fossés" - artificial channels of water which flow from the Loing River and surround the historic heart of Nemours. They were once part of the defence system of this medieval city.

- Recommended restaurant:** O Forum - 250m from the nearest moorings, Place de la République.
- Amenities:** All the necessary shops.
- Market:** Wed (am) - Place de la République & Sat (am) - Champ de Mars.



Castle and Church of Nemours



Praslines de Montargis

MONTARGIS

Keep the kids happy with a booklet from the Tourist Office (€3), allowing them to be an investigator in search of a mystery guest, lost somewhere in the city. In July and August, jump aboard a horse-drawn carriage (book at the Tourist Office) and discover the unmissable sites of Montargis: the castle, the Tanner islet, the Pêcherie district, Ste. Marie-Madeleine church, the Eiffel bridge or the Durzy Garden. Try the local specialty: 'Praslines de Montargis', toasted almonds coated with caramel. South of Montargis (1.5km from the mooring at the PK48), the Écuries des Couleurs offer horse rides from one to two hours for all riders, from novice to experienced (+33 6 13 57 82 75 - ecuriesdescouleurs@hotmail.fr).

Recommended restaurant: La Gloire - 2.5km from the moorings, 74 Avenue du Général de Gaulle

Amenities: All the necessary shops.

ROGNY-LES-SEPT-ÉCLUSES

Climb the 102 steps leading to the top of the disused staircase of locks for a breath-taking view over the village. You'll find a Romanesque church and washhouse in the village.

Recommended restaurant: Auberge des 7 écluses - 200m from the moorings.

Amenities: All the necessary shops.

BRIARE

The Canal Latéral à la Loire ends at the Briare Aqueduct, a remarkable structure spanning 662m over the river, designed by Gustave Eiffel. In town, the Marine Museum invites you to discover the history of the inland river navy, while the Mosaic and Enamels Museum bears witness to the town's strong industrial past. Jump aboard the small tourist train (every day in July & August, and Sundays only outside these months) for a guided tour of the town.

Recommended restaurant: Le Petit St. Trop - at the marina.

Amenities: All the necessary shops.

Market: Fri (am), next to St. Étienne church.



Briare Aqueduct

CHÂTILLON-SUR-LOIRE

Walk the medieval cobbles to the castle ruins and admire the old winemakers' houses, as well as private mansions. Be sure to visit the Protestant cemetery and church, witnesses of a turbulent era when Châtillon-sur-Loire was a Protestant fortification, regularly besieged by Catholic forces.

Recommended restaurant: Le Relais de Mantelot, 900m from the base.

Amenities: All the necessary shops.

Market: Thu (am).



Sancerre

MÉNÉTRÉOL-SOUS-SANCERRE & ST-SATUR

Stroll through Ménétréol's streets, among half-timbered houses, and you'll be able to spot the houses of winemakers, with their semi-buried cellars and typical external staircases. At Thauvenay Lock, stop at the Le Guenetin goat farm to stock up on delicious 'Crottins de Chavignol' cheese, perfect with a glass of Sancerre red wine.

2km north of Ménétréol, St. Satur village has a beautiful church. If you fancy a round of golf, moor at St. Thibaut marina for the Golf de Sancerre course, just 1km away along the Godibolles path. Between the golf course and the marina, there's a municipal swimming pool (open in July-August) and mini-golf.

Be sure to go to the neighbouring village of Sancerre (3km from Ménétréol or 2km from St. Satur along a steep path). Perched on a rocky peak, Sancerre is surrounded by sunny hills where the grapes of this famous appellation ripen. Wander around this medieval city, stroll through the many art galleries and taste its famous wine in one of the many winegrowers' cellars in the village.

Recommended restaurant: L'Auberge de St. Thibault - 1km from the mooring, 37 Rue Capitaine Jacques Combes.

Amenities: You'll find a bakery and a grocery store in Ménétréol and all the necessary shops in St. Satur.

Market: Thu (am), in St. Satur.

BELLEVILLE-SUR-LOIRE

While Belleville-sur-Loire is not the most beautiful stop of your cruise, its nuclear power station attracts many visitors for a guided tour. You can also visit the Maison de Loire du Cher, dedicated to the discovery of the river and its heritage. 700m from the mooring, Presles Aquatic Centre is the perfect place to while away an afternoon, with multiple pools, waterslides and relaxation therapies on offer.

Recommended restaurant: Terre de Loire - 200m from the moorings, just past the bridge.

Amenities: All the necessary shops.



SANCERRE VINEYARD TOURS

If you want to broaden your wine knowledge, contact Laure from the Vinitour Centre-Loire (+33 6 11 67 30 03 - contact@vinitour-centreloire.com). If you're moored between St-Satur and Marseilles-lès-Aubigny, she'll pick you up from your boat and drive you around the Sancerre vineyards. She speaks good English and offers several tours, from cellar visits and wine tasting, to visiting a goat farm and a tour of Sancerre. For more information, visit www.vinitour-centreloire.fr.

LA CHARITÉ-SUR-LOIRE

Moor at La Chapelle-Montlinard and walk or cycle the 2.5km that separates you from La Charité-sur-Loire - City of Books and Words. Take a walk around the centre, and you'll discover a host of booksellers. Its church, classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, is a pure jewel of Romanesque art that surprises visitors with its size and magnificence. This is a major stop on the roads to Santiago de Compostela, and the city continues to attract pilgrims to this day.

Recommended restaurant: La Pomme d'Or, à la Charité-sur-Loire, 2.5km from the moorings, on the junction of Rue Charles Chevalier and Avenue Gambetta. Try the snail cassoulet!

Amenities: All the necessary shops.

Market: Sat (am) in La Charité-sur-Loire.



Palais Ducal, Nevers

NEVERS

To reach the historic city centre of Nevers, cross the bridge spanning the Loire River and make your way towards the cathedral. Next to the cathedral, you'll also find the Palais Ducal, the historic residence of the Dukes of Nevers, with its spectacular Renaissance facade. Follow the 'Le Fil Bleu', the blue line painted on the pavement from the Palais Ducal down Rue du 14 Juillet, and you will find yourself in the old pottery quarter of town. Several workshops remain, and the Frédéric Blandin Museum houses a beautiful collection of enamelled glasses and earthenware. St. Cyr et St. Juliette Cathedral is a combination of two buildings, defined by its Romanesque and gothic domes. You can also fly over the Nivernais countryside in a hot air balloon (Air Escargot, +33 3 85 87 12 30, departure and return at the Tourist Office).

Recommended restaurant: Restaurant Jean-Michel Couron - in the city centre, 21 rue St. Étienne, 2km from the closest moorings.

Amenities: All the necessary shops.

Market: Fri and Sat (am) - Place Carnot and Parc Salengro, 4km from the mooring.

GANNAY-SUR-LOIRE

Near the mooring, you can visit a pottery workshop and admire some of the artist's creations. Alternatively, stop at the PK49 to visit a goat farm. The owner will let you taste his cheeses, which are also for sale.

Recommended restaurant: La Vacancière - 50m from the moorings.

Amenities: Bakery and grocery store.

DOMPIERRE-SUR-BESBRE

We recommend you take the Dompierre junction and moor at the marina. From there, cycle less than 5km to discover Notre-Dame de Sept-Fons Abbey. You can't go in, but a film projected in one of the abbey rooms recounts the history of this abbey. Religious services are accessible to the public. At the entrance of the monastery, you can buy honey, jams, cheese, eau de Cologne, etc. made on site. 7km east of Dompierre-sur-Besbre, spend a day with the family at the amusement and animal park Le PAL. Watch the spectacles of sea lions and parrots. And 1km south of the mooring, there's a nice park and a rose garden, ideal for a walk or picnic. There's also a playground for children.

Recommended restaurant: La Roseaie - 500m from the moorings, next to the Tourism office, 167 Grande Rue.

Amenities: All the necessary shops.

Market: Sat (am).



Sacré Cœur basilica, Paray-le-Monial

PARAY-LE-MONIAL

Wander through the historic cobbled streets to discover the Town Hall with its magnificent sculpted facade; the St. Nicolas tower; and keep your eyes peeled for five chapels scattered through the town. As well as the many museums on offer, be sure to visit the Sacré Cœur basilica, a masterpiece of Romanesque architecture. Built in the 11th century, it remains an important place of pilgrimage. In July and August, the Tourist Office organises guided tours of the basilica, the cloister and the city (every day at 2:30pm). The brave can even hop on board a plane, a microlight or a glider and admire the landscape from above (aeroclubcharolais@sfr.fr).

Recommended restaurant: Restaurant de la Basilique - 1km from the moorings, opposite the Chapelle de la Visitation, 18 Rue de la Visitation.

Amenities: All the necessary shops.

Market: Fri (am) - Boulevard du Collège & Sat (am) - Cours Jean Jaurès.



Digoin Aqueduct

DIGOIN

Digoin is all about ceramics - many stores exhibit and sell products manufactured in the last three factories still in operation. The Ceramics Museum, located in the former Hostellerie de l'Écu de France, traces the history of ceramics from the Gallo-Roman period to the present day.

Recommended restaurant: Le Relais du Canalous - 200m from the mooring, avenue du Général de Gaulle. Try the frogs' legs.

Market: Fri and Sun (am) - in the city centre

ROANNE

If you book a two-week cruise from Decize, you will have time to take your boat to Roanne. There is an abundance of religious monuments here and the most beautiful of them is St. Étienne church, clad in gold and pink stones. Not far from the port, the St. Nicolas-du-Port chapel was built in 1630 by sailors anxious at the idea of seeing the plague in their city. A walk along the busy shopping streets of the city centre will

take you to the covered market, the Italian-style theatre and the castle. You can also discover collections of archaeology, paintings, sculptures and ceramics at the Joseph Déchelette Museum. And look for the different walls painted in trompe-l'oeil (an art technique that uses optical illusions to make objects appear three-dimensional) scattered across the city.

Recommended restaurant: Le Bonheur des Princes - near Hotel de Ville.

Amenities: All the necessary shops.

Covered market: Tue to Sat 8(am)-12:30(pm) & 3:30(pm)-7:30(pm) and Sun 9(am)-12(pm) - Place Diderot.

Notre Dame Church, La Charité-sur-Loire



APREMONT-SUR-ALLIER

4.5km south of the moorings at PK111, you'll find one of "the most beautiful villages" in France and well worth getting to by bike or taxi to explore its pretty streets. The château's immense Flower Park, with its wooded paths, waterfall and follies will enchant you and have your camera in overdrive!



CHEVENON

A magnificent medieval fortress is the pride of this small village, though you can only admire it from the outside. If you feel the need for a contrast to the relaxing pace of the canals, from Chevenon, you can book a taxi and go to the Magny-Cours Race Circuit (12km from the mooring). This race track hosted the French F1 Grand Prix in 2008, and motor sports aficionados will love the museum with its exceptional collection of Formula 1 cars, a Formula 1 simulator and an outdoor go-kart track.

Recommended restaurant: Absolue Renaissance - located in Magny-Cours, 2 Rue de Paris.

Amenities: Bakery, 1.5 km from the mooring.

LOCKS

A few locks in the region are electronic and will operate automatically, however most of the locks are manual (i.e. the sluices and gates are opened and closed by a crank wheel) and are manned by a lock keeper. Occasionally, a lock keeper will look after a number of locks in succession, so you may have to wait for them to arrive. It is a good idea to set a crew member ashore before the lock so they can walk to the lock to receive your lines and most lock keepers appreciate assistance with the gates, under their guidance and direction. Please refer to the onboard Boat and Navigation Manual for more information about how to operate and pass through locks.

OPENING TIMES

Locks are open and passable seven days a week at the following times:

Canal du Loing <i>(except the lock at Moret-sur-Loing)</i>	The lock at Moret-sur-Loing	All other canals	Yonne River*
7am - 7pm	7am - 1pm 2pm - 5pm	9am - 12pm 1am - 7pm	9am - 12:30pm 1:30pm - 7pm

All locks are closed on 1st May.

* Locks on the Yonne are also closed on 14th July. From lock no:5 (Arneau) to the lock no:14 (Port-Renard) the locks are open 8am - 12:30pm & 1:30pm - 6pm and you must call the lock keepers (+33 6 63 39 16 60) on Saturdays and Sundays to advise you wish to go through the lock.

MOORING

Moorings are plentiful and you are free to moor anywhere where you can safely access the bank, using mooring pins provided on board. Exceptions are: if there is a sign indicating to the contrary, if you are on a bend or if you are less than 50m from a structure such as a lock or a bridge. Do not moor at waiting pontoons on either side of a lock (unless you are waiting for the lock). For overnight moorings, we would recommend you moor in a town or village, most of which have mooring bollards or rings to tie up to, although please refer to your waterways map for exact locations. Such moorings are usually free. You also have the option of mooring in a private marina for a charge of between €5-€20. Usually they'll have water refill points and electric hook-up facilities (not available on all boats).

WATER

You will need to fill up your water tank once or twice during the course of a week. Water points are available at all Le Boat bases en-route, for free. Otherwise, there are several ports/marinas that will allow you to fill your tank for a charge of €5 - €10. In some marinas, you'll need to purchase tokens from the port office.



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Disclaimer: We have endeavoured to ensure that all the information in this Guide is correct at time of printing. However, opening times and prices are subject to change. Attractions, restaurants, locks and even stretches of the river or canal can close without notice. Le Boat is happy to recommend all of the attractions and eating establishments featured within this Guide. However, they are not owned or managed by Le Boat and, as such, we cannot guarantee the quality of your experience at any particular time. If anything in this guide is not correct, we'd love to hear from you at guides@leboat.com so that we can revise future editions.

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