



HILL-STEAD MUSEUM

BARGING FRANCE: THE SCHOOL OF BARBIZON, FRENCH IMPRESSIONISM AND PARIS

OCTOBER 7 - 15, 2011



Become inspired by two significant periods of art in France.

Your group will travel by private barge along the Seine and Loing Rivers discovering picturesque villages, historic chateaux and magnificent formal gardens. Study the School of Barbizon and Impressionism, absorb the landscape that inspired the artists, and immerse yourself in the French way of life. Spend the last night of the tour in the City of Light.

Departure from U.S.: October 7, 2011

Arrival in Paris: October 8, 2011

Return to U.S.: October 15, 2011

Land Cost per person: \$2600 based on sharing a cabin

Program Includes:

- ◆ Group transfers from/to the Charles de Gaulle airport
- ◆ Seven nights on a deluxe passenger barge
- ◆ Daily breakfast and dinner
- ◆ All entrance fees to museums
- ◆ All ground transportation
- ◆ Expert lectures by art historians
- ◆ English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour

Please note: Airfare is not included; Travelers have the option of purchasing airline tickets through International Barging Tours or independently.



Please join us to learn more!

An information session will be held
Tuesday, June 7 at 6:30 pm in the Makeshift Theater
at Hill-Stead Museum -- RSVP to Cindy Stanley
stanleyc@hillstead.org or 860.677.4787 x150

Daily Itinerary

October 7 OVERNIGHT FLIGHT TO PARIS

October 8 ARRIVAL / WELCOME DINNER / MONTARGIS

Upon arrival at the Charles de Gaulle Airport, you will be met by your group leader and coach to the barge, the *Fleur*, waiting south of Paris in Montargis. In the evening, gather with your fellow travelers for the welcome dinner.

October 9 CANAL BRIDGE / MONTARGIS

After breakfast, you will coach to the Maritime museum in Briare for a guided visit featuring the design of the nearby canal-bridge by celebrated architect and engineer, Gustave Eiffel. The visit is followed by a field trip to the canal bridge, one of the longest and most impressive of its kind. Afterwards, return to Montargis and take the rest of the day to explore this lively town, known as the “Venice of the Gâtinais” because of its numerous bridges and canals.



October 10 BOURRON MARLOTTE / GREZ-SUR-LOING / NERONVILLE

On today's schedule is a wonderful excursion to two smaller artist communities with strong ties to the Barbizon School of painting. The day begins in the town of Grez-sur-Loing, where we meet our local guide and attend a lecture on the artists who lived and worked nearby. We then visit the town hall's collection of fine art. After lunch, we continue our exploration in Bourron Marlotte, where we visit the beautiful studio of a local artist for a coffee break. We then take a coach ride to the scenic *pleine verte* where many famous Frenchmen, including Cezanne, had homes and many others came to enjoy “Bohemian weekends.” The day is capped off by a visit to the town hall's unique painting collection.



October 11 MUSÉE BOURDELLE / CHATEAU-LANDON / NEMOURS

Today's journey takes you to Egreville to the museum-garden of Antoine Bourdelle, a sculptor known for his larger-than-life-size figures full of intricate details and who was also once an assistant to the great Auguste Rodin. After a guided visit of this unique garden, you continue to the medieval hilltop town of Chateau-Landon for a walking tour. In the afternoon we enjoy a guided visit to a contemporary artist's studio before returning to the barge in Nemours.



October 12 CHATEAU FONTAINEBLEAU/ROSA BONHEUR / MORET-SUR-LOING

After breakfast, you will coach to Fontainebleau where you will have a guided visit of the famous Chateau Fontainebleau, which was redesigned, modified and furnished for Napoleon I. After lunch, travel to nearby Thomery where you will attend a presentation at the atelier of Rosa Bonheur, a Barbizon painter and sculptor who, in addition to painting animals, found much of her inspiration at Chateau Fontainebleau. Your barge is waiting in Moret-sur-Loing.

October 13 ALFRED SISLEY / CHATEAU VAUX-LE-VICOMTE / MELUN

Before leaving the barge this morning, a local guide will come aboard to give a brief introduction to the charming and historic town of Moret-sur-Loing. Afterwards you will enjoy a walking tour “in the footsteps” of British Impressionist Alfred Sisley, who lived and worked in the village. Along the way discover where and how he got his inspiration. Later, you will coach to Chateau Vaux-le-Vicomte for a guided visit. In addition to the beautiful furnishings, the gardens are worth a look. You will see an exciting exhibition about the garden designer, André le Nôtre, best known for his work at Versailles. The *Fleur* is moored in Melun.

Itinerary continues on next page.



October 14 BARBIZON / BARGE TO PARIS / FAREWELL DINNER

This morning take an excursion to the village of Barbizon, where you will visit Auberge Ganne for a fascinating lecture about the Barbizon School of painting. Your guided visit continues next door at the atelier of Jean-Francois Millet, a founder of the Barbizon School of Painting. Afterwards we board the barge and motor along the Seine to our mooring in Paris. Tonight we gather for our farewell dinner.

October 15 GROUP DEPARTURE TO CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT

**CONTACT US TODAY TO RESERVE!
SPACE IS LIMITED TO 20 PEOPLE**

International Barging Tours
P.O. Box 754 • Essex, CT 06426 U.S.A. • Tel (860) 767-7005
Fax (860) 767-3090 • E-mail: ibt@sbcglobal.net

Enrollment Policy: We require a deposit of \$500 per person to secure place on the tour. Once you have decided to enroll, please contact us and we will hold your space(s) for one week, pending receipt of your deposit. Checks should be made payable to International Barging Tours. Sorry for any inconvenience, but we do not accept credit cards.

Cancellation Policy: If cancellation notice is received more than 90 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$200 per person cancellation fee. If cancellation notice is received 90 to 30 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$500 per person cancellation fee. If cancellation notice is received less than 30 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$1000 per person cancellation fee.

In case of a no-show, or departure from a trip already in progress, no refund for any unused portion of the trip will be issued. IBT cannot make exceptions to these cancellation policies for any reason, including personal emergencies and/or weather.

In the event that IBT cancels a tour, IBT will refund full payment; however, IBT is not responsible for expenses incurred by registrants, including but not limited to, non-refundable tickets, pre-tour/post-tour hotel reservations and other transportation. As such, IBT encourages all tour participants to purchase a travel protection plan. Information on travel insurance will be included in your enrollment confirmation.



ABOARD THE FLEUR

The barge we charter in France, the *Fleur*, is a classic river barge that has been cruising the French waterways since 2002. She can carry 20 passengers in 10 cabins and has an upper deck with a spacious sitting area, dining salon, a bar and a sun deck.

Passengers are accommodated in a climate-controlled cabin with twin lower beds and a private bath, and can unpack without packing again until the last day of the barging. Breakfasts and dinners are taken aboard. The barge moves only during the day, never at night. Now and again she is underway during meals, producing a changing vista from the dining table.