

# FRANCE - Charente



## Photos

- 1: Café culture in historic Angoulême, home to the comic industry, where Hergé, creator of Tintin, is honoured
- 2: The Arc de Germanicus at Saintes - the former Roman Capital of SW France
- 3: Visit the Hennessy, Martell and Remy Martin distilleries at the elegant town of Cognac
- 4: The 17th century maritime centre of Rochefort – visit the Royal Rope Factory (La Corderie-Royale)
- 5: The Renaissance Château St Brice – a perfect spot for picnics or a round of golf
- 6: Jarnac on the Charente - the loveliest river in France
- 7: Views from the ramparts of Angoulême



# The loveliest river in France

Cruising on the Charente is as gentle and relaxed as the countryside around you. Its crystal clear waters are perfect for fishing and swimming and its pretty riverbanks are home to an abundance of flora and fauna. Meadows of grazing cattle, pine forests, vineyards and fields of vibrant sunflowers typify this peaceful land famed for its ancient Roman sites, beautiful Renaissance châteaux and of course, its magnificent after-dinner digestif - Cognac.

From our base at Jarnac you can take a leisurely and gastronomic cruise through the Poitou-Charentes and Charentes-Maritime regions of France. Jarnac – birthplace of Francois Mitterrand – is a charming town with an excellent open-air swimming pool and museum displaying many gifts Mitterrand received as Head of State. Highlights of your holiday could include dining at fabulous restaurants, playing golf, visiting Roman ruins and sightseeing and tastings at one of the wealthiest medieval towns of France – Cognac.

At the mouth of the Charente, the 17th century naval town of Rochefort offers a host of maritime activities for all to enjoy. Upstream from Jarnac lies the thriving hilltop cathedral city of Angoulême. Enjoy spectacular views over the Charente valley from its ramparts and relax in the café-culture sunshine at one of its many restaurants and brasseries, or visit France's only museum dedicated to the likes of TinTin and Asterix – Le Centre National de la Bande Dessinée et de L'Image which sits alongside paper mills that still use 18th century techniques today.

## One Week Return Cruises

### The Fluviale Cruise Jarnac – Angoulême - Jarnac

Visit: Jarnac; Bassac; St. Simon, Châteauneuf-sur-Charente; St. Simeux; Nersac; Trois Palis; Angoulême  
Waterways: Charente

88kms \* 30 locks \* 22hrs

### The Cognac Cruise Jarnac – Rochefort - Jarnac

Visit: Bourg Charente; St Brice, Cognac; Saintes; Port d'Envaux; St. Savinien; Rochefort  
Waterways: Charente

186kms \* 12 locks \* 33hrs

### The Beautiful Charente Cruise Jarnac – Cognac - St. Simeux - Jarnac

Visit: Jarnac; Bourg Charente; St Brice, Cognac; Saintes; St. Simon; St Simeux  
Waterways: Charente

140kms \* 24 locks \* 25hrs

## Short Breaks

### The Charente Short Break Jarnac - Cognac – Saintes - Jarnac

Days: 3-4  
Visit: Jarnac; Cognac; Saintes  
Waterways: Charente

90kms \* 10 locks \* 16hrs

You can book 3 or 4 day short breaks from any of our bases. Shorter versions of all return-to-base cruises are perfect for short breaks.

## Longer Breaks

All our cruises can be extended to 10/11 days, 2 weeks or longer. Just ask the sales team for details or check online!



# Key Facts

## Charente Base

Start or finish your holiday at any of our bases:

- Jarnac

## Flavours of the region

Cognac; Pineau des Charentes; Tourteau fromagé - goats cheese cake; Eclairé butter; Marennes Oléron Oysters; Mouclade – mussels in a creamy wine sauce

## Cruising Notes

- The Charente runs a regular course and is easy to navigate. There are few locks which are easy to operate, but no lock keepers. From St. Savinien to Rochefort the river becomes tidal – affected by Atlantic tides, strong currents and fast changes in river levels. The current can run as fast as 4 knots and the difference between high and low tide as much as 5m. Therefore only those with some previous boating and/or sailing experience should set out to visit Rochefort by boat. Alternatively, you can easily moor at St. Savinien and take the train to Rochefort.

## The Charente Fleet

Match a boat to your choice of cruise:

The Fluviale Cruise  
 The Cognac Cruise  
 The Beautiful Charente Cruise  
 The Charente Short Break

Comfortably sleeping 8+						
Le Boat 15-04	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 52	•	•	•	•
Grand Classique	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 52	•	•	•	•
Salsa	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 53	•	•	•	•
Nautilia	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 54	•	•	•	•
Comfortably sleeping 6+						
Le Boat 15-03	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 55	•	•	•	•
Calypso	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 57	•	•	•	•
Elegance	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 56	•	•	•	•
Crusader	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 57	•	•	•	•
Orion	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 58	•	•	•	•
Comfortably sleeping 4+						
Royal Mystique	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 59	•	•	•	•
Caprice	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 60	•	•	•	•
Clipper	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 60	•	•	•	•
Tamaris/LS	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 63	•	•	•	•
Comfortably sleeping 2+						
Cirrus	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 64	•	•	•	•
Sheba	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 64	•	•	•	•
Capri/TS	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	See Page 64	•	•	•	•

Fleet information correct at time of going to print but subject to change without notice. For operational reasons not all boats are able to cruise all routes or are available in all regions.

## Travel Connections

- Bordeaux  (Jarnac 122kms)