

# LE BOAT



#### **LE BOAT**

Self-drive canal cruising is extremely popular in Europe and this summer 2018 it is coming to Canada thanks to Le Boat - Europe's #1 boating company. Le Boat is launching a fleet of brand new, comfortable cruisers from their base at Smiths Falls Ontario on the Rideau Canal. These luxury cruisers are going to be a fabulous addition to the Rideau Canal, and a great way to explore the beautiful lakes and waterways of this gorgeous part of Ontario. Boating is a very different kind of vacation! It's fun, relaxing and suitable for couples, families and groups of friends alike.

It's exciting to be the Captain of your very own boat—setting your own agenda and stopping off at a whim. Slow down, set your own pace, and explore scenic waterways as you call in at at unique villages, wineries, local breweries and restaurants along the way. The beauty of life aboard a boat is that you're not on a set vacation itinerary, and there's no rushing to the next destination. Plus Le Boat takes care of every little detail for you — from the quality of your well-equipped boat to the background support they supply.

Enjoy your own private cruiser with no packing and unpacking, and a gentle pace that gives you lots of quality time with family and friends. You can even bring the family pet - dogs love boating too! Le Boat cruisers sleep 2-12 people and there is a wide choice of types of cruiser and configurations. Rental costs are charge per boat — so boating can be very affordable when the costs are split across a larger group. On Premier Class cruisers expect a fully equipped kitchen, cabins with en suite bathrooms, air cooling inside plus a sundeck with BBQ hotplate and comfortable seating outside.

This is a carefree vacation because you are travelling at less than 10kms per hour and you really can't get lost on a canal or a river! Le Boat provides helpful suggested itineraries and a waterways map on board tells you where to go with approximate timings. If you are new to boating – don't worry. No experience is necessary, and a boating license is not required for most of Le Boat's suggested itineraries, including all vacations on the Rideau Canal.

Driving you private cruiser is like driving a car, and it is easy with a steering wheel with controls for forward and reverse. If you cruiser has bow and stern thrusters then there are simple joy stick controls. And Le Boat ensures that you are well prepared with an in-depth demonstration on how to navigate and how to drive - they even take you through your first locks.



## Special Deal Le Boat has a special offer for listeners who can save up to 20% on Le Boat Cruises on the Rideau Canal this summer. This very special offer applies to new bookings for 7 nights or more made before January 31, 2018 for travel in 2018. You can save 20% on May and October departures, 15% in July, and 10% on June and September departures. The low season months of May and October can be the best time to go - and that's when the savings are at the greatest. You can also save 5% on Le Boat European holidays, on top of any other offer in the market. Just remember to quote "RADIO promotion" when you book. Call 1-844-568-0159, go the website at www.leboat.ca or speak to your Travel Agent for more details. **How to Choose** Le Boat has over 40 years of experience, so no wonder it everything is seamless as you plan your boating vacation. It's as easy as 1,2,3. First choose the boat that best fits your budget, size of group and travel style - Le Boat own and operate the largest and most stylish fleet of self-drive cruisers on Europe's waterways and have over 900 cruisers across Europe. Second - choose a destination. Le Boat offers boating vacations in 17 unique destinations in 8 countries around Europe, as well as their brand new destination of the Rideau Canal in Canada! European destinations include France, England, Italy, Germany, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium and Holland. Choose Travel Dates. You can rent your private cruiser for 3 to 21 days or even longer. In Canada rentals are round trips from Le Boat's base in Smiths Falls, Ontario. In Europe you can often plan a one-way rental from one Le Boat base to another. Le Boat has 17,000 departures every year with 35 bases across Europe. For more information visit their website at www.leboat.ca or call 1-844-568-0159 to speak directly to representatives who can explain everything about boating vacations on the Rideau and in Europe. You can also speak with your travel agent. **Destinations** Le Boat, Europe's top canal cruising company, offers boat rental in 8 countries in Europe - and this summer they are launching their new program in Canada on the Rideau Canal. You can rent boats in Europe between March and December. In Canada the Rideau Canal is open for boating traffic between May and October. A Le Boat vacation is truly a different way to explore European. Enjoy



	visiting ancient castles, playing golf, cooling off in an outdoor swimming pool, or biking to pick up your morning baguette. These vacations are perfect for families, wine connoisseurs and foodies, outdoor enthusiasts, couples or groups of friends.  There are 207 suggested itineraries from Le Boat this summer spanning 17 unique destinations in France, England, Italy, Germany, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, Holland and Canada. Here are just three suggested destinations for 2018.
Canada	Imagine the best cottage country that Canada has to offer, without being tied to one spot! Instead, enjoy it from your own personal cruiser. Le Boat is a great alternative to a cottage rental. You have a prime lake front view and you can even rent cottage toys like bikes, kayaks and stand up paddle boards! You'll never get bored – your experience is ever-changing as you tour the waterways, locks and villages along the way.
	The Rideau Canal is Ontario's only UNESCO World Heritage site. Opened in 1832, it is the oldest continuously operated canal system in North America. The plan to construct the Rideau Canal between Lake Ontario and the Ottawa River was conceived after the War of 1812. It was designed to provide a secure supply route from Montréal to Kingston, avoiding the vulnerable St. Lawrence River route.
	The canal was an amazing achievement and owes much to the determination and engineering prowess of its creator, Colonel By. 19th century working conditions were grueling and the work was done by hand. An estimated 1,000 men died during the six years of construction. Today, the Rideau Canal is one of North America's most beautiful navigable waterways, with exquisite stone-masonry admired to this day.
	The hand operated locks are still in use, pretty much as they were in Colonel By's time. There are 24 Lock stations and 47 Locks on the Rideau, managed and maintained by Parks Canada.  There are 8 different itineraries available in the Rideau Canal with Le
France	Boat, all using brand new, Premier category, Horizon cruisers.  Canal Midi in the South of France is one of Le Boat's top cruising destinations and, like the Rideau Canal, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This 360-km network of navigable waterways links the Mediterranean and the Atlantic through 328 structures (locks, aqueducts, bridges, tunnels, etc.). It is one of the most remarkable feats of civil engineering in modern times. Built between 1667 and 1694, it paved the way for the Industrial Revolution.



# Passing through historic water locks you will discover charming medieval villages and ancient fortress cities. Sightseeing, wine tasting, and sun-kissed cycle rides await, all the way from bustling Toulouse to the golden sands of the Mediterranean Sea. There are 37 sample itineraries to choose from with Le Boat, and every one of those itineraries promises the most wonderful food and wine! The best-known specialties of the region are liver pâtés and goose or duck confits, respounjous (a kind of asparagus), cassoulet, beef filet with sauce périgueux, piperade, poule au pot, braised goose, and Toulouse sausages. You will also travel past lush vineyards in the heart of the Languedoc wine region. The Thames River is perhaps one of the world's most historic **Britain** waterways. That becomes obvious as you travel to Kensington Palace, Windsor Castle, Hampton Court Palace and Cliveden House. But history and heritage is everywhere - often you'll dine in a pub that was built over 500 years ago and the historic University City of Oxford is rich in culture. You cannot navigate your cruiser into central London, but it is easily accessible by train. The Royal Wedding between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle will take place on May 19, 2018. What a great idea for Royal Wedding Watchers to join the celebrations from their own private Le Boat cruiser! You can be away from the crowds outside Windsor Castle and maybe even catch a glimpse of the happy couple or other royalty! What a great year to travel to the Royal sites as well as to enjoy the quaint English villages along the River Thames. A Thames Cruise is also a great adventure for kids or grandkids. You can cruise up to LEGOLAND Windsor Resort with its fun rides and live shows! Families also enjoy visiting Hampton Court Palace near Kingston-upon-Thames, and Chessington World of Adventures is perfect for kids under age 12. There are 9 suggested itineraries from Le Boat on the River Thames in England. **First Timers** What is Canal Boating?

You see something new at every turn! You're going slowly, so you get time to savour the countryside. The next château rises from the shore, a medieval village invites you to stop and at the day's end you watch the sun go down from your sundeck!



The beauty of life aboard a boat is you're not on a set vacation itinerary. There's no rushing to the next destination, unless you want to. If you're new to boating, it's similar to traveling in a cozy floating villa, with all the comforts of home and each day you wake up in a beautiful new destination!

It's really easy and fun! Once you go through a lock for the first time, it's old hat in no time! Sometimes you open the lock, it's automatic or there's a friendly lock keeper. Some locks have shops or museums, making them mini destinations where you can exchange stories with other travellers.

If you've never driven a boat before, you may be surprised at how easy it is. You will be given a full briefing and demonstration when you pick up you boat and, if you would like, Le Boat staff will also go out for a short round trip with you. They make sure everyone is happy and confident with the controls before they set off.

There is no need for any prior knowledge or experience before setting off on your boating vacation. However, if you would like to get a head start, there are resources to show you everything you need to know about handling a boat and staying safe on the waterways.

#### Captain's Handbook

Le Boat's Captain's Handbook gives boat handling advice and rules of the waterways. Taking time to familiarize yourself with the signals and signs you'll see on the waterways, as well as procedures for going through locks, will ensure you have a safe and happy vacation.

You can download the Captain's Handbook here: <a href="https://www.leboat.com/sites/default/files/captains-handbook-2016-en.p">https://www.leboat.com/sites/default/files/captains-handbook-2016-en.p</a>

#### Why Le Boat?

#### Welcome aboard

As Europe's No. 1 Boating Vacation company, their 40+ years of know-how ensures that you're in good hands with Le Boat. They know that continued success depends on giving you the best service, boats and cruising destinations, and they do. Le Boat offer the world's largest fleet of canal boats and the widest choice of beautiful Boating Vacations in Europe.

#### Advice and service

Le Boat staff are friendly and knowledgeable, and they're dedicated to help you to have a perfect vacation. You'll enjoy getting to know the base manager and crew at whichever destination you choose.



	High standard boats  Le Boat owns and operates the largest and most stylish fleet of self-drive cruisers on Europe's waterways. They are the only operator to be heavily investing in the development and modernization of the fleet and network of bases for the enjoyment of current and future generations.
Le Boat Cruisers	Choice Le Boat offer an incredibly wide selection of cruisers, so you can find just the right one for your party. Browse their boats to choose the layout, features or style that you like best.
	No Experience Necessary  Be the captain of your own boat and stop whenever & wherever you like. It's that easy! No licenses or prior experience required. Just watch the video to get a feel of what canal cruising is all about.
	A cruiser to suit your budget Their Boat Rating system helps you to match a boat to your budget and expectations in terms of overall age, style, and comfort. The higher the rating, the more the boat has to offer. Excellent standards of customer service, support and cleanliness come with all of Le Boat's canal cruisers.
	Boats for every size party Boats have a variety of different cabin layouts and configurations. Plus, some boats have convertible sofas in the saloon that can convert into a bed allowing even more flexibility.
	Various features and amenities  Their extensive range of boats offers you the largest choice of design and features. Select your boat based on your required features: Boats with alfresco dining Boats with air-conditioning Boats with ensuite bathrooms Boats with Shore Power Boats with bow thrusters
Onboard Facilities	All boats are fully equipped for a maximum level of comfort. Le Boat's range of boats can accommodate small groups of 2 right up to parties of 12. All of the creature comforts you would expect of a vacation home are provided: Fully equipped galleys kitchens, hot and cold running water, lounges, ensuite showers and bathrooms – there's even air conditioning and TV's on some more modern boats.
	You are also provided with all of the tools you need to be a good



captain, from navigational charts to mooring tools to life jackets.

Experience self-sufficiency

As you cruise, your engine will automatically charge your batteries, heat your water and cool your fridge, keeping you totally self-sufficient. That's one of the pleasures of a Boating Vacation.

You will find:

Cruising maps, Boat User Manual, and tourist information Safety equipment - life ring, life jackets, boat hook, fenders Basic first aid kit

Deck equipment - mooring pegs, mallet, mop, bucket, ropes Comfortable beds, pillows, and bed linen

Fully equipped kitchen with fridge(s), gas oven, stove top, dishes, and utensils

Bath towels and tea towels

CD/Radio Player – Some models also have DVD/Flat Screen player(s), with TV reception in some areas .

Some TVs & DVD players available for rent from some bases. Outside table, chairs and parasol - depending on the model Bathroom facilities with hot showers

Pump-flush toilets (electric flush toilets on some models) Warm air heating, fans or air-cooling, or air-conditioning varies according to each model

#### Choose Your Duration

From 3 to 21 nights, these vacations are completely flexible, so you can choose from week, short or long breaks. Le Boat have created a large selection of suggested routes for every durations to offer you the best of your cruising area, whatever your vacation duration choice. Here are some examples:

### Short Break Vacations (3-5nts) - The Auxerre Short Break

From the vantage point of your sundeck, it feels like you're in the midst of a French Impressionist painting. You're tied up in pretty Gurgy, sipping Vouvray wine and savouring Crottin de Chavignol goat cheese with friends. Part of Nivernais boating in France entails doing practically nothing at all, but later you'll take the bikes out for exploring.

Activities and attractions along the way -

Explore a grand château: The Château de Régennes in Appoigny is beautifully furnished and well worth visiting.

Amble in historic Auxerre: The old quarter in Auxerre is filled with intriguing shops, galleries, and museums. Check out the cafés.



Mammoths, eagles and snails: Kids will love the more than 1,500 exhibits in Auxerre's wonderful Natural History Museum!

Tour the Chablis vineyards: Take a taxi from Auxerre or Vincelles to the nearby world-famous vineyards of Chablis for tours and wine tastings.

#### Week Long Vacations - The Lough Derg Cruise

You've locked wits with wily pike, brown trout and course fish on beautiful Loug Derg, enjoyed all kinds of watersports in Dromineer, and gone cycling to villages, castles and cathedrals. Ireland Angler's Cruise boat rents delivered exactly what you were looking for — a mix of varied vacation pleasures to long remember. Ancient Celtic ruins definitely caught your imagination!

Activities and attractions along the way -

Explore Portumna Castle - Visiting the castle and walled gardens takes you back to a time of aristocratic wealth.

Visit Beal Boru - When in Killaloe, check out the Iron Age earthen fortress of Beal Boru, named for High King Brian Boru.

Visit Holy Island - Explore Mountshannon's Holy Island with its five churches dating back to 1,000 A.D.

Unwind in quaint villages - When river cruising on the Shannon, kick back in villages like Terryglass, with its good food and Celtic music.

# Extended Vacations (7nts+) - The Medieval Markets Cruise

The call of vendors in the weekly market every Monday in Louhans reminds you that the ritual has gone on since medieval times. You bargain with merchants, and buy a baguette, some cheese and a bottle of wine. Then you head out on the River Seille. France barge vacations in Burgundy combine rural charm with watersports, shopping and fine dining!

Activities and attractions along the way -

Visit a Romanesque abbey -The tapestries and murals in the St. Philibert Abbey in picturesque Tournus date back to the eleventh century.

Explore the historic Châlon- A city of food and history with historic half-timbered houses, churches and towers. The town comes alive at the end of July with "Châlon dans la Rue", an arts and entertainment festival!



	Burgundy wine lover's - Taste the world-famous wine names such
0 1 7 11	Pommard, Chasagne Montrachet, Rully and Mercurey
Solo Travellers	Traveling solo? Although it takes more than one person to safely handle one of these boats, single travellers can still enjoy the charms of a boating vacation by booking a boat by the berth and sharing an adventure on the water with other like-minded travellers.  Made possible through their partners at Intrepid, you and your new travel companions will can enjoy the benefits of having your very own Guide/Host who will show you the ropes, navigate you to the best sights and ensure you get the most out of your time afloat. Booking options are restricted to selected boats and dates and are only available on the Canal du Midi at present.
Navigation	How easy is it to navigate?
	The quiet waterways are extremely calm and easy to navigate with only small sections affected by tidal changes. The currents and water level are regulated by sluices which are either operated automatically or by the lockkeepers. Cruises are rated by pace level. The "Easy cruises" are on peaceful waterways and only have few locks and relatively few cruising hours per day.
	How many hours should I cruise each day?
	Generally cruising 4-5 hours a day will ensure you see a lot of the region as well as keep the boat's batteries well charged. However, there's no need to set yourself rigid targets – cruise as the mood takes you and explore the countryside and see the sights at your leisure.
	What speed should I cruise at?
	A cruising vacation is meant to be a relaxing one, with 6-7 km/hr being the recommended maximum speed. This means you can enjoy your surroundings at a leisurely pace and, more importantly, not cause any damage to the natural habitats at the water's edge.
	When can I navigate?
	Boating Vacations period depends on waterways opening. Most of waterways are generally opened from Mid/End March to End-October / Early November.  Generally locks are opened from 9am to 6pm local time, which is also the cruising period of the day. Cruising during the night is not allowed.
	Where can I cruise?  Le Boat have compiled a list of suggested cruises in both their brochure and on their website, but as long as you return your boat to your chosen base on time, you are free to explore wherever you like. So if you find a



	town you like then you are free to stay there for a night and explore it further the next day. The boats are designed for inland waterways only and therefore aren't allowed to venture into the open sea.
Safety	While not mandatory, all passengers are advised to wear life jackets while on deck, particularly when inside locks and when mooring, where the risk of accidents is greater. Life jackets are provided on all boats and, if not already onboard, children's lifejackets will be available at reception. Children should be supervised at all times. Care should be taken when stepping off the boat onto the river bank or towpath as rocks, roots and other trip hazards may be not be visible. It is advisable to nominate a 'captain' who is responsible for the rest of the crew, ensuring they stay safe and follow these guidelines.
Le Boat App	Maps, points of interest and detailed information about cruising regions are now available at your fingertips with the brand new Le Boat App.It has everything you need to help you prepare & plan your boating vacation and assist you while you're cruising!  You can download it from the website here: <a href="https://www.leboat.ca/en/my-app">https://www.leboat.ca/en/my-app</a>
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