

CANAL DU MIDI

Holidays on the water





WELCOME TO SOUTHERN FRANCE

Moor up wherever you fancy. Explore villages and towns, then relax on the water until you next choose to go ashore: a houseboat holiday is a truly special experience. Once on board, you will quickly leave the stresses of everyday life behind.

The Canal du Midi is perfect for beginners, because you do not need a boating licence to steer a houseboat here.

Glide serenely under the dappled shade of trees through a landscape that was once popular with the Romans, and famous for its vineyards and charming wine-making villages, all framed by the impressive backdrop of the Pyrenees.

Along the canal, historic towns like Narbonne, Béziers and Carcassonne await, with a striking medieval fortress and more to explore. In the summer, you can even cycle to the beach in Agde for a swim in the Mediterranean.

We look forward to welcoming you to Argens-Minervois and wish you an unforgettable houseboat holiday.

Your Hapimag Houseboat Team

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MIDI – HOLIDAYS ON THE WATER

The Canal du Midi is 240 km long and connects Toulouse with the Mediterranean Sea at Sète. The Canal Latéral de la Garonne even runs all the way from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean.

The starting point is Argens-Minervois, a historic wine-growing village. It is located at the last lock before the "Grand Bief", a 54-kilometre-long waterway that meanders through the Languedoc countryside without any locks.

At PK 168, the Canal de Jonction turns off south and later becomes the Canal de la Robine, which leads all the way to Narbonne. Heading east, you can reach Béziers and then the town of Agde. The canal ends when it joins the Étang de Thau. Crossing this lagoon to enter the town of Sète, the gateway to the Camargue region on the Mediterranean.

"Le point kilométrique" (PK) is the distance marker on the French waterways and accompanying maps. These markers are very useful for calculating travel time.



HISTORY AND CULTURE

The Canal du Midi was built as the Canal Royal under the rule of Louis XIV, the Sun King. It is the oldest artificial waterway in Europe.

The Canal du Midi is a true masterpiece of French engineering at the time. Its construction made a dream many thought impossible come true, by linking the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. For a long time it seemed, a dream is all this would remain: the costs were too high, the technical challenges too great. However, Pierre-Paul Riquet, a royal tax collector, was finally able to win over Louis XIV with his proposal.

Around 12,000 workers helped build the canal, which was eventually finished after 14 years of construction and inaugurated on 24 May 1681. Unfortunately, Pierre-Paul Riquet did not live to see his dream become a reality.

As one of the most exceptional public works of civil engineering in modern times, the Canal du Midi was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

How can we help? Hapimag employees at the houseboat base will be available to provide assistance on the arrival days.

To answer questions, offer tips on routes, restaurants and attractions – we will be happy to help. You don't have a boating licence? Not a problem. Before you take to the water, you will be given an induction on the theory and practice.

Afterwards, you will be issued a licence by your instructor.

Services

- Technical emergency service open every weekday
- Bedding and towels on board
- Bicycles, parking spaces and internet modems available for hire



Tip

Participating in the induction and a trial run are crucial for any successful boat holiday. We recommend that you prepare in advance by reading the waterway guide. Feel free to ask questions on the day of your arrival, too. Have the instructor explain the technical equipment on board to you in detail. Even if you have driven a houseboat before, it does no harm to brush up your knowledge.

EVERYTHING BEGINS WITH A PLAN

To prepare for your houseboat holiday, we will send you a free waterway guide five weeks before your arrival, containing maps and information on moorings.

Are you in the mood for nature and tranquillity? Do you want culture? Or perhaps you are in search of a little adventure? You are the captain and decide where the journey goes and how you want your houseboat holiday to be. If you have any questions or require further information, we will be on hand to help on your day of arrival or you can also reach us in advance by telephone for some tips on excursions, restaurants and activities on offer along the canal. Incidentally: There is a grocery store in Argens-Minervois for purchases on the day of your arrival or someone who would like to deliver your purchases to your boat in advance.



Book recommendation

A good read while on holiday or to get you in the mood before you leave:
Andrea Hoffmann, Hans Zaglitsch: Hausbooturlaub Canal du Midi,
ISBN: 978-3-89225-713-4



ROUTE 1: ARGENS-MINERVOIS – CARCASSONNE

The typical stone bridges, wines from the Languedoc region, chic restaurants and the impressive citadel in Carcassonne all await you on this route.

Your houseboat holiday starts with a typical French wine tasting session in Argens-Minervois. Continue your journey the next day: the scenic route leads to Homps, where chic restaurants flank the waterfront promenade. On the second day of your journey, Trèbes is waiting for you. Enjoy the hustle and bustle of the small town with a café au lait in a coffeehouse. From here, you can take the houseboat or bus to Carcassonne, where you can visit the magnificent medieval fortress. On the way back, you will head for Le Somail, a charming place dating back to the heyday of the canal with picturesque stone bridges. One of the old buildings houses an antiquarian bookshop featuring 50,000 books.

Suitable for 1 week (return)

Distance: Argens-Minervois – Carcassonne – Le Somail, and back
Locks: 36
Distance: 120 km Journey time: around 24 hours



ROUTE 2: ARGENS-MINERVOIS – CAPESTANG – ÎLE SAINTE-LUCIE

Culture meets nature: this route offers an exciting contrast of vibrant towns and a unique experience of nature.

On the way to Béziers, you will cross numerous aqueducts to the east of Argens-Minervoies. While taking this route, you will pass Capestang, which is worth a stop. This village boasts typical French restaurants, shops and on Sundays and Wednesdays also a weekly market. On the way back the Canal de Jonction will take you to the impressive Canal de la Robine, which is 30m wide and 3m deep, connecting the town of Narbonne with the Mediterranean. The canal transformed Narbonne into a rich coastal town and it still offers a wide range of cultural activities today. After Narbonne, you will enter a delightful lagoon landscape until you reach the Île Sainte-Lucie, whose great pride is rare flora and the many rare species of wild birds – you will be keen to explore.

Suitable for 1 week (return)

Distance: Argens-Minervoies – Capestang – Narbonne – Île Sainte-Lucie – Le Somail, and back
Locks: 24
Distance: 110 km
Journey time: around 28 hours

ROUTE 3: ARGENS-MINERVOIS – SÈTE

To the Mediterranean: The peninsular of Sète is your destination. Before you arrive there, amazing views and the impressive Fonserannes staircase lock await.

From the houseboat base in Argens-Minervoies, you will head out in an easterly direction. The first destination is Poilhes, six hours six hours away by boat, where you can find a few interesting restaurants. You will then pass through the 160m tunnel of Malpas. Once you have come out the other side, moor up and take a short walk to the lookout point at the top of the hill, which affords you a truly magical view over the Étang de Montady, a former freshwater wetland that has been drained in a way that creates a curious geometric pattern. Further highlights on the journey are the staircase lock at Fonserannes and the town of Béziers. The beach is also not far: from Vias, it is just a short bike ride to sea of around 3 km. Onwards to Agde, the gateway to the Camargue. In perfectly calm conditions, enjoy the journey across the salt water lagoon to the quaint fishing port of Sète.



Suitable for 1 week (return)

Distance: Argens-Minervoies – Poilhes – Béziers – Agde – Sète, and back
Locks: 32
Distance: 212 km
Journey time: around 33 hours
Please note: the Étang de Thau cannot be crossed if wind force is 4 or higher.

ROUTE 4: ARGENS-MINERVOIS – CASTELNAUDARY

Back to the Middle Ages! Set off from Argens-Minervois and continue to Carcassonne and Castelnaudary.

There are 17 locks from Argens-Minervois to Carcassonne. Here, you will find moorings, water, electricity and showers. It is the perfect place for an overnight stay. Enjoy an evening walk over the bridge to the cité and savour the unique atmosphere of the medieval alleyways. A further four hours on the water will take you to Bram. This beautiful hilltop village is built in concentric circles around the church. By bicycle, you can go to Mirepoix, where the medieval festival of Les Médiévales is celebrated in July.

At Castelnaudary, you will pass through many locks to climb the 40 m up in altitude. After negotiating the last of the four locks at Saint Roch, you will glide into the Grand Bassin in Castelnaudary, the self-proclaimed “World Capital of Cassoulet”.



Suitable for 2 weeks (return)

Distance: Argens-Minervois –
Carcassonne – Bram –
Castelnaudary, and back
Locks: 68
Distance: 170 km
Journey time:
around 40 hours



PUT ON YOUR CAPTAIN'S HAT

A taster of the houseboat life: short breaks from three nights are available on request in the low and off-season periods.

Spend a long weekend on the water with friends or family. Much can be achieved in three days. Take the houseboat from Argens to the picturesque Le Somail and continue until you reach the masterpiece that is the flight of locks at Fonserannes.

Or perhaps you fancy a varied time full of enriching experiences in the medieval town of Narbonne? Visit museums, shop in the bright market halls and enjoy French cuisine in one of the many restaurants – Narbonne has much to offer for an unforgettable weekend.

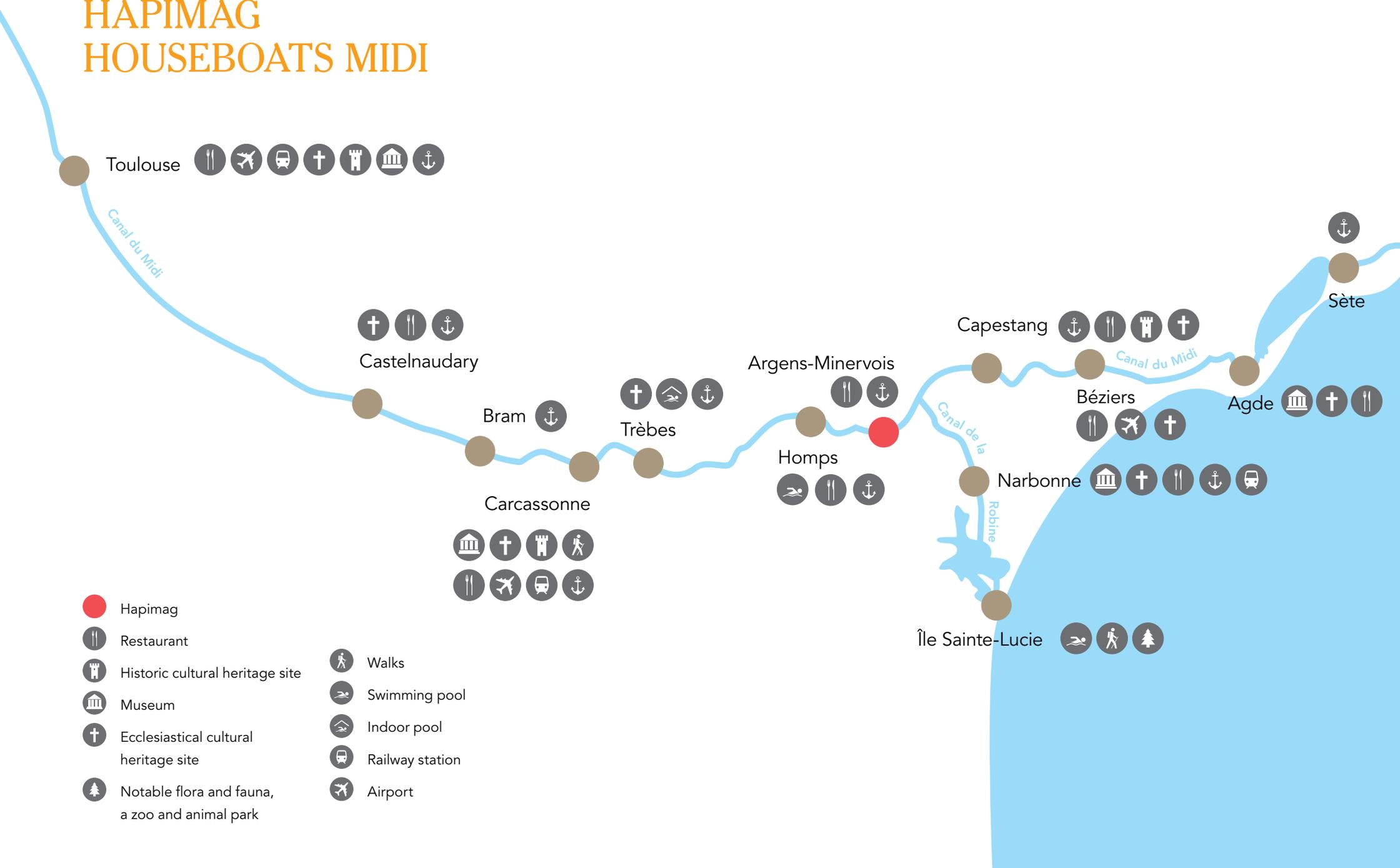
To organise your short break, please contact our Hapimag Service Line on 00800 3030 8080.

Suitable for 3 days (return)

Distance: Argens-Minervois –
Narbonne, and back
Locks: 18
Distance: 114 km
Journey time:
around 19 hours

Distance: Argens-Minervois –
Le Somail – Fonserannes,
and back
Locks: 2
Distance: 100 km
Journey time:
around 13 hours

AREA PLAN HAPIMAG HOUSEBOATS MIDI



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Restaurant

Historic cultural heritage site

Museum

Ecclesiastical cultural heritage site

Notable flora and fauna, a zoo and animal park

Walks

Swimming pool

Indoor pool

Railway station

Airport



YOUR HOME ON THE WATER

Galley kitchen, living area, sundeck:
Hapimag houseboats are designed for
holidays in comfort.

In the galley kitchen, you will find a sink with hot and cold running water, a fridge, a gas stove with three hobs, a gas oven and a grill. The living area has an interior navigation station, a dining table and comfortable furnishings.

Hapimag houseboats have either two or three sleeping cabins. Each cabin has its own en-suite bathroom with toilet, shower and towel dryer.

Do not worry about getting cold on board, as the boats come equipped with a warm-air heating system. The 230 V on-shore power supply means that you need not go without your Nespresso coffee while travelling.

On the sundeck, there is an outdoor control station, a direction indicator, a corner seating area and a bimini (sun canopy). The houseboats also have a stern platform with outdoor shower (hot and cold water), a landing stage that can be folded out and a ladder for climbing aboard.

Household accessories:

Crockery, cutlery, glasses,
pots and pans, kitchen
utensils

Linens:

bedding, pillows, towels,
bed linen

Deck equipment:

ropes, boat hooks, fenders,
bimini

Rescue equipment:

life jackets, fire extinguisher

HOUSEBOAT “VENUS 38”

Comfortable and easy to control, this cruiser is ideal for three couples, three to four friends or families of six to eight people.

Technical details

- Manufacturer: Haines Marine, Norfolk, UK
- Length (total): 11.90 m
- Width (total): 4.00 m
- Boat depth below the waterline: 1.07 m
- Interior height: 1.90 m
- Engine: Nanni Diesel, 50 HP
- Drinking water tank capacity: 480 l
- Diesel tank capacity: 360 l
- On-board power supply: 3 × 125 Ah, 12 V
- 230 V with shore connection or running motor (inverter)
- Gas: 1 × 12 kg



HOUSEBOAT “VENUS 34”

Two pairs or families of between four and six will find the two cabins of the “Venus 34” perfectly spacious.

Technical details

- Manufacturer: Haines Marine, Norfolk, UK
- Length (total): 10.55 m
- Width (total): 3.81 m
- Clear height: 2.69 m
- Interior height: 1.90 m
- Maximum draught: 0.97 m
- Engine: Nanni Diesel, 50 HP
- Drinking water tank capacity: 400 l
- Diesel tank capacity: 360 l
- 230 V with shore connection or running motor (inverter)



“Venus 34” and “Venus 38” are comfortable and easy to steer.



HOUSEBOAT IN THE LAND OF A THOUSAND LAKES

Another paradise for houseboat captains is the Mecklenburg Lakeland. Eight Hapimag houseboats are available for hire here as well.

The extensive waterways in the north-east of Germany take you through breathtaking natural landscapes featuring tranquil forest paths, secluded bays for swimming and unique flora and fauna.

The charming towns and peaceful villages are as characteristic of this natural paradise as the majestic castles and splendid estates and manor houses.

From Rechlin, moor your Hapimag houseboat in a new port every day. Waren, Mirow, Röbel or Plau am See – these all make an ideal base from which to explore the surrounding countryside.

Inland waterway boating licence

Have you always wanted to get an inland waterway boating licence so that you can enjoy two weeks journeying by houseboat from Müritz to Berlin on the Upper-Havel-Waterway?

For further information, contact us at mueritz@hapimag.com

WELCOME ABOARD IN ALSACE

The third Hapimag houseboat base is in the heart of Europe, in Alsace.

In a small Lorraine village there are seven Hapimag boats in a well-developed harbour. From here, you can travel through the charming forests, lakes and fields of the region.

The waterways of Alsace, where there is no need for a licence, are as diverse as the region itself. Along the Marne-Rhine Canal, you can expect to find beautiful towns and cultural treasures. To the west, the city of Nancy and its majestic Stanislas Square await.

Or head east, pass the famous inclined plane of Arzviller and tie up at the port of the romantic town of Saverne, with uninterrupted views of Rohan Castle.



Hapimag Resort
Amsterdam,
Nederland

Hapimag Resort
Pentolina, Italia



Hapimag Resort Marrakech, Maroc



DISCOVER THE HOLIDAY WORLD OF HAPIMAG.

More Hapimag to suit your needs.

Whether shopping and sightseeing in Europe's cities, swimming in the sea or hiking and skiing in the mountains – Hapimag Houseboats Midi is just one of some 58 Hapimag resorts offering holidays tailored entirely to your needs.

Did you enjoy your stay at the Hapimag Houseboats Midi and would you like to have more unforgettable experiences?

Ask at reception for more information.

Discover all that Hapimag has to offer.

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We will be happy to help you and advise you individually.

You can reach us by telephone at 00800 3030 8080.

or by e-mail to info@hapimag.com

THE HAPIMAG APP

Download our free Hapimag app for iPhone and Android to your mobile phone. The app contains the latest information and recommendations on activities and opportunities at and around our Hapimag resorts.



KEEP IN TOUCH

Share your experiences with us and other guests on our Facebook page. Post photos of your stay on the Canal du Midi and find out what's new.

www.facebook.com/hapimagmidi

We hope you have an unforgettable stay and enjoy special moments on the Canal du Midi.

Your Hapimag Team Canal du Midi





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