

ALSACE

Holidays on the water




HAPIMAG



WELCOME TO ALSACE

Get ready for your houseboat holiday in Alsace, a charming region in the heart of Europe, characterised by forests, lakes and picturesque villages between the Vosges and the Rhine. There's plenty on offer here for nature lovers and culture enthusiasts alike. It's the ideal way to leave the hustle and bustle of everyday life behind and take things at a more leisurely pace on your very own houseboat.

The waterways of Alsace are as diverse as the region itself: Along the Marne-Rhine Canal, you can expect to find interesting towns and cultural highlights. Travel west to discover the city of Nancy with its magnificent Place Stanislas – a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1983. Or head east and tie up at the port of the romantic city of Saverne, with uninterrupted views of Rohan Castle. Take a stroll through the streets lined with half-timbered houses and drop by a traditional Alsatian restaurant.

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

Your Hapimag Houseboat Team

CONTENTS

Location 5

History 6

Reception 7

Suggested routes 8

Area map 14

Facilities 16

Midi houseboat area 19

Müritz houseboat area 20

The variety of Hapimag 21

Online 23



ALSACE – HOLIDAYS ON THE WATER

Nestled in the heart of the Lorraine Natural Park is the Alsace-Lorraine houseboat area with its canalways stretching over several hundred kilometres.

France's most important and longest canal, not to mention its most attractive canal for boating, is the Marne-Rhine Canal, which also passes through our Hapimag houseboat base. It cuts through Lorraine from the west to the east and connects the Moselle river in Nancy with the Rhine in Strasbourg.

From the Rhein-Marne Canal, the Saar Canal branches off to the north. It passes through a national park and dense woodland until it reaches the border city of Sarreguemines.

The historically significant city of Nancy is also nearby and easily reached by houseboat. An ideal variety-packed week-long route takes you to Nancy, Toul and Liverdun.

Do you have a boating licence and fancy treating yourself to some time away? Then embark on a three-week round-trip to Germany – cruising along the Moselle river on the way there and the Saar Canal on the way back.



HISTORY AND CULTURE

Spanning 293 kilometres, the Marne-Rhine Canal is one of France's longest canals. Today, it is home to the impressive Saint-Louis-Arzviller inclined plane, whose construction replaced some 17 locks.

The Marne-Rhine Canal was constructed between 1844 and 1863 – with Vitry-le-François on the Marne as its western terminus and Strasbourg on the Rhine as its eastern terminus. The 36-kilometre narrow stretch between Gondrexange and Arzviller, which is connected by the steepest descent from Lorraine's elevated plain down to Alsace at the same level as the Rhine, posed a particularly difficult problem, since it was necessary to traverse many consecutive locks. The idea of navigating the descent at Arzviller using an inclined plane was already around in the early 1920s, but it wasn't until 1969 that the Saint-Louis-Arzviller inclined plane, separating the two regions, was opened.

As part of the Marne-Rhine Canal, the boat lift in the Zorn Valley replaced some 17 locks and allows boats to descend 45 metres in one go. The boats are carried into the valley by a large caisson, measuring 41.5 metres in length and 5.5 metres in width.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

How can we help?
Our reception staff are always happy to help.

If you have any questions or need information or help with requests of any kind, reception is just the place. You can always find someone there to help you out during opening hours. You can also obtain your licence here, as well as all key information on operating and navigating the boat. An engineer will accompany you on a trial run, then you can set off on your adventure.

Services

- Groceries delivered to your houseboat (ordered online)
- Bicycle and indoor parking space rental
- Internet modem hire for access on the go
- Technical emergency service open every day
- Restaurant PK 209
- Small boutique at the port



Tip

Lagarde is very rural. On your first two days on board, there will be no opportunities to do any major shopping from your houseboat. We therefore recommend taking advantage of the online shopping service "Navig'market" or even getting shopping in for the first few days on your way there. By the way, the boats come equipped with Nespresso coffee machines. Nespresso capsules can be purchased from the reception.

TIPS FOR YOUR ROUTE

Drifting leisurely along the water and occasionally exploring on land – organise your route however you like.

Looking for relaxation in the heart of nature, a cultural experience or some exciting adventure? You're the captain here – so you decide for yourself which direction to take. But if you'd like a little inspiration, here are a few suggested routes.

If you have any questions or require further information, we will be on hand to help when you arrive, but you can also reach us in advance by telephone – we will be happy to give you some excursion tips, addresses of restaurants and activities on offer along the canal. Information about the ports and river maps can be found in the river guide.

And now there's just one thing left to say: Ship ahoy! Make your houseboat holiday an unforgettable experience!



Do you know how to use a lock correctly? Detailed instructions can be found in the river guide, which you will receive 5 weeks before your arrival.

On board your houseboat, you're extremely close to nature. This can come at a price, however: Locks may be temporarily out of order or you may be unable to pass through due to drought or flooding. If this happens, we will inform you on your arrival and offer you an alternative route.



ROUTE 1: TOWARDS SAVERNE

Do you want to experience Alsatian flair and still enjoy a varied route? Cast off and head east along the Marne-Rhine Canal.

On the way to Saverne, one experience after another awaits you. First, you'll pass through the largest lock in France, with a wall height of 16.3 metres: Réchicourt. Then you'll pass through two tunnels – Niderviller (475 m) and Arzviller (2306 m) – before reaching the unique Saint-Louis- Arzviller inclined plane boat lift.

A little while later, stop off in the picturesque village of Lutzeldorf and drop by the Hotel des Vosges, where you can try delicious variations of tarte flambée.

Your final destination of Saverne is another spectacular sight: The journey into the historic Alsatian city is a real highlight; the canal encircles Rohan Castle and offers a fantastic backdrop.

Suitable for 1 week
Round trip
Locks: 2 x 20
Distance: 120 km
Journey time:
around 26 hours



ROUTE 2: NANCY AND THE MOSELLE LOOP

This route alternates between rural and urban backdrops, and between canals and rivers.

Make a stop in Saint-Nicolas-du-Port, well worth a visit for the Basilica with its impressive late Gothic flamboyant style and 28-metre-high columns – the highest in France.

A little further on is the main destination for this route, the city of Nancy – a must-see for all culture enthusiasts. The port is right in the heart of the city centre, making it the ideal base from which to visit the world-famous Place Stanislas. It was constructed between 1752 and 1755 and is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

From Nancy, journey along the Moselle and step back in time in the medieval town of Liverdun with its narrow streets, drawbridge and ancient fortifications.

The route continues on to Toul. This Gothic town is known for its wines and crystal manufacturers. You can also explore the Vauban fortifications and the St. Etienne Cathedral.

Continue your journey through the idyllic Cayenne valley until you join the Rhein-Marne-Kanal, which you can follow to make your way back.

Suitable for 1 week
Round trip
Locks: 56
Distance: 170 km
Journey time:
around 30 hours

ROUTE 3: TOWARDS SARREGUEMINES

Plenty of water and reservoirs full of fish make this an attractive route for house-boaters who enjoy being close to nature.

On your journey to Sarreguemines, you'll be treated to magnificent views of various lakes on both sides of the canal. At times, the canal even passes through the pools.

The natural pool of Gondrexange is a popular swimming destination in summer. It can be found right where the Marne-Rhine Canal branches off into the Saar Canal. Head towards Mittersheim along the Stock pool and Mittersheim pool – both feed into the Saar Canal.

On land, you can take the towpath – a well-kept cycle path, most of which is asphalted – to reach the lakeside swimming areas in no time at all. Here, you can enjoy relaxing bicycle rides through natural landscapes dotted with meadows, forests and small pools.

Suitable for 1 week
Locks: 2 x 34
Distance: 170 km
Journey time:
around 32 hours



ROUTE 4: NANCY, METZ AND TOUL

Ideal for all those who love being on the river: The journey heading north takes you along the Moselle to Nancy, Metz and Toul.

Set course for Nancy. North of Nancy, once you reach Pompey, the canal will branch off into the Moselle river. This route takes you past towns and cities such as Pont-à-Mousson, Metz and Thionville. The excellent mooring spots means you can easily take a stroll through the beautiful old towns.

Plan to stay a little longer when you tie up at Metz. The former Bishopric and Kaiser city is well-known for its cathedral with its famous stained-glass windows, covering an area of 6500 square metres and featuring works by artists such as Marc Chagall. The picturesque old town is also worth a visit. With its Centre Pompidou-Metz, the city is the perfect destination for fans of contemporary art.



Metz offers a wide range of festivals, such as the Fête de la Mirabelle (Mirabelle Festival) held in August. Mirabelle plums can be found in many culinary specialties here all year round, such as jams, sweets and drinks. You've just got to try the "Boulet de Metz" – macarons with Mirabelle plum ice cream.



ONCE A CAPTAIN, ALWAYS A CAPTAIN

Short breaks on the water: It doesn't always have to be one or two weeks – discover the charm of a relaxing weekend away in your very own houseboat.

Three days is all you need to journey to Nancy in your houseboat. Once there, you can stay at the port in the city centre. The next morning, visit the market and pick up some fresh culinary specialties before stopping off at one of the city's superb restaurants. Go for a leisurely stroll through the famous Place Stanislas and marvel at the buildings constructed in a playful art nouveau style that line the streets.

Or would you rather enjoy a weekend full of nature and relaxation, and finally take some time out and unwind? In that case, head to Gondrexange, tie up in natural surroundings and go swimming in the lakes.

When the weather is good, the streets and squares of Nancy come to life. Trendy restaurants and cafés can be found close to Place Stanislas. The shopping district and market hall are on and around Rue St. Jean and Rue St. George. The pace here is a leisurely.

If it's raining, you'll be well looked after in one of the city's museums, such as the art nouveau museum "Musée de l'École de Nancy", set in the former house of artist and art collector Eugène Corbin, purchased by the city in 1951/1952.

ALSACE AREA PLAN

- Hapimag
-  Restaurant
-  Winegrowing area
-  Historic cultural heritage site
-  Museum
-  Ecclesiastical cultural heritage site
-  Viewpoint, panorama
-  Notable flora and fauna, zoo, animal park
-  Walks
-  Bicycle tours
-  Golf
-  Nautical activities
-  Boat lift, boat ramp, flight of locks
-  Swimming pool
-  Indoor pool
-  Railway station
-  Airport





YOUR HOME ON THE WATER

The holiday apartment with a difference: The Hapimag houseboat is a means of transport and a comfortable home in one.

The Hapimag houseboats are extremely comfortable and ideally equipped. In the pantry, you'll 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.

The boats have two (Venus 34) or three (Venus 38) sleeping cabins. The beds in the cabins are intended to be used as double or single beds. Each cabin has its own en-suite bathroom with WC, shower and towel dryer.

You don't need to worry about freezing on board since the boats also come equipped with a warm-air heating system. The current converter on board ensures that you won't miss out on your Nespresso coffee while on the move either.

On the sundeck there is an outdoor control station, a rudder indicator, a bench 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:
Blankets, pillows, hand towels, bed linen

Deck equipment:
Lines, anchors, boat hooks, fenders

Rescue equipment:
Life jackets, fire extinguishers

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

Length (overall): 11.9m

Width (overall): 4m

Maximum draught: 1.07m

Engine: Nanni 36.8kW (50 HP)

Drinking water tank capacity: 400l

Diesel tank capacity: 360l

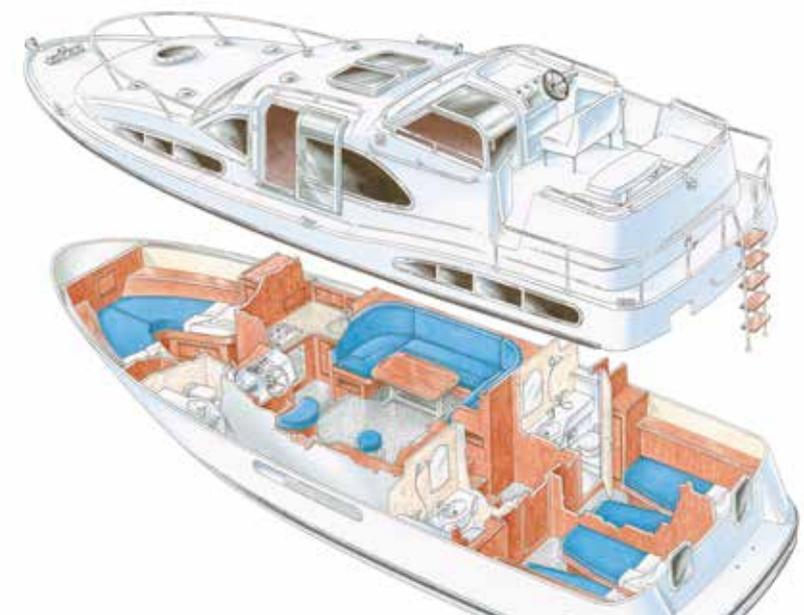
On-board power supply: 3 x 125Ah, 12V

Starter battery: 1 x 120Ah, 12V

230V with shore power or running

motor (inverter)

Gas: 1 x 12kg



HOUSEBOAT VENUS 34

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

Technical details:

Manufacturer: Haines Marine, Norfolk

Length (overall): 10.55 m

Width (overall): 3.81 m

Maximum draught: 0.97 m

Engine: Nanni 36.8kW (50 HP)

Drinking water tank capacity: 400l

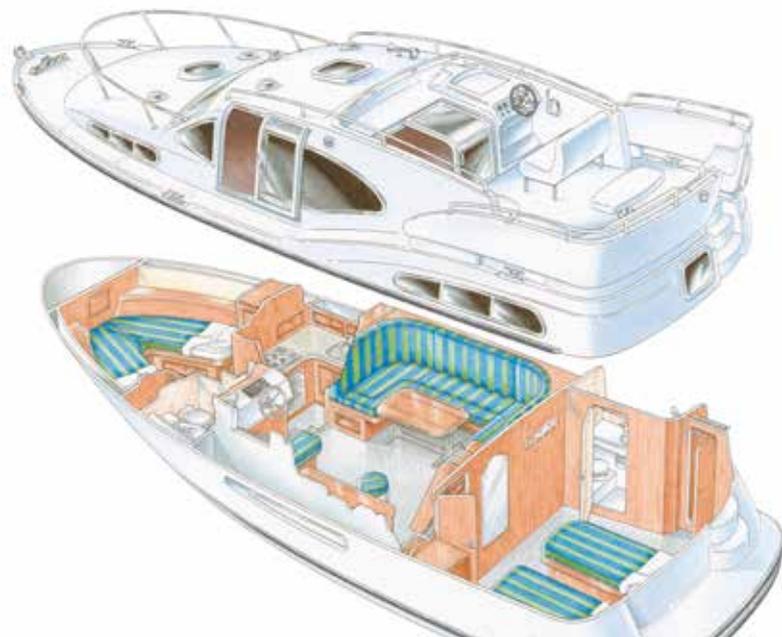
Diesel tank capacity: 350l

On-board power supply: 3 x 125Ah, 12V

Starter battery: 1 x 120Ah, 12V

230V with shore power or running motor (inverter)

Gas: 1 x 12 kg



SHIP AHOY IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

Discover the sunniest parts of France on your next houseboat holiday – on the historic Canal du Midi.

The most popular route for houseboats worldwide is the Canal du Midi, which connects the city of Toulouse with the Mediterranean town of Sète over a stretch of over 240 kilometres. Europe's oldest artificial waterway is considered an engineering marvel of its time.

The Hapimag fleet awaits you in the Argens-Minervois port. Argens-Minervois is a historic winegrowing area on the "Grand Bief", a 52-kilometre-long stretch of canal that winds its way around the extensive landscape of the Languedoc region and is entirely absent of locks.

Countless highlights are just waiting to be discovered on your journey, both on land and on the water. Drop by a French bistro and try cassoulet, the regional specialty; enjoy the party atmosphere at a local festival or stroll through the historic narrow streets of Narbonne, Carcassonne and Béziers. In summer, you can even cycle to the Mediterranean beach at Vias and enjoy a refreshing dip.

Did you know that the winegrowing area of Languedoc-Roussillon is one of the oldest in the world and produces wines belonging to some of the greatest vintages? We will be happy to recommend well-known vineyards along the canal that are well-worth a visit for their full-bodied wines.

HOUSEBOAT IN THE LAND OF A THOUSAND LAKES

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

The extensive waterways in the northeast of Germany take you through breathtaking natural landscapes featuring tranquil forest paths, secluded bays for swimming and unique flora and fauna; the Müritz National Park is home to rare bird species, for example.

The charming towns and peaceful villages dotted against the landscape are as characteristic of this natural paradise as the majestic castles and splendid estates and manor houses that bear witness to the region's flourishing past.

From Rechlin, moor your Hapimag houseboat in a new port every day. Whether it's Waren, Mirow, Röbel or Plau am See, these all make an ideal base from which to explore the surrounding countryside – there is certainly plenty to discover in the Mecklenburg Lakeland.

Did you know that you can combine your houseboat holiday at the Müritz with sport boat driving licence course & exam? Are you interested? Then send us an email to mueritz@hapimag.com



Hapimag Resort
Bodrum, Turkey

Hapimag Resort
Hörnüm, Deutschland



Hapimag Resort Dresden, Deutschland



DISCOVER THE HOLIDAY WORLD OF HAPIMAG.

More Hapimag to suit your needs.

Unforgettable days with your loved ones, shopping and sightseeing in the metropolises of Europe or hiking and skiing in the mountains – Hapimag Houseboats Alsace is just one of around 58 resorts where you can enjoy a holiday that's tailored entirely to your needs.

Did you enjoy your stay at Hapimag Houseboats Alsace and would you like to experience another unforgettable holiday?

Ask at reception for more information.

Discover all that Hapimag has to offer.

HAPIMAG

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 to your iPhone or Android mobile device. The app contains the latest information and recommendations on activities and opportunities in 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 in Alsace and find out what's new.

www.facebook.com/hapimagalsace

We hope you have an unforgettable stay and enjoy some special moments in the Alsace.

Your Hapimag Team Alsace





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