

Points to remember

Start & finish days

Locaboat Holidays offers flexibility over days and durations. **Several departure days are possible: Saturday, Monday and Friday. In Ireland: Wednesday and Saturday. Take over between 2pm and 6pm.** Paperwork and instruction are done during this period. **Return is also on Saturdays, Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays between 8am and 9am** (example: 1 week = 7 nights from Monday 2pm to Monday 9am). Hire duration is usually for one week or for two weeks but you can also go for periods of 10/11 days, 4 days mini weeks, or week-ends.

Navigation

The cruises suggested have been calculated on the basis of a speed of 8 kph on canals, 10 kph on rivers. Above this speed you may damage the banks. Times allow for going through locks (15-20 minutes) and bridges, but not any waiting time, whether foreseeable or not. You may stop where and when you like, when it's not prohibited. The mooring spikes on board (except in Germany) give you total freedom. You can also stop at developed marinas or public wharves. In Germany, you can

also drop the anchor in a quiet bay for a night within splendid nature. In all countries, it is officially forbidden to moor on trees.

You should follow any special instructions given to you by the staff at the base concerning local peculiarities. (see also our information on the destination pages in the brochure

Insurance

The hire price includes insurance of the boat in case of accident and of the hirer's liability to a third party arising out of the use of the boat. Insurance of the hirer, his personal effects and any other liability to a third party is not included. (See general conditions, §§ Insurance and Damage Deposit)

Going through locks

Going through locks is a highlight of any cruise. Have a chat with the lockkeeper, buy local products, make use of the time to drink in the local atmosphere, or perhaps meet up with other boaters and pick up useful snippets of information. Generally, the locks are open from 9am to 7pm with a one hour lunch break. More information in the Captain's Handbook and your navigation map.

Opening & Closing times of locks

In France, there is no charge for locks.

They are closed on some public holidays, such as 1st May, 14th July and 1st November.

There are some exceptions;

- **No lock closures:** Anjou, Brittany, Somme, Camargue, Lot, Baise, Canal de Roanne à Digoïn.

- **open on 14th July:** Canal du Midi, Alsace, Lorraine, Vosges, Ardennes and the Saône.

Locks are generally worked by a lockkeeper. On the Lot and the Baise, locks must be operated by the boat's crew. As a result you can cruise all the daylight hours with no worry over opening hours or public holidays. For these locks you will need a crew of at least two active members. On other waterways, there are occasional locks to be operated by the boat's crew, whilst others are automatic, with easy-to-follow instructions. You will receive full details at the base on departure.

In Ireland, in Germany and in Poland, the locks are open every day. **In Holland**, the locks and bridges are in full service between 15/4 and 15/10. **In Italy**, navigation is possible every day on the lagoons; On the Sile and the Brenta there are certain closures. They are shown in the Captain's Handbook.