

Panache Information Sheet



Barge Specifics

Former purpose: Commercial freight barge

Year of construction: 1959

Dimensions 129ft (39.3m) x 16ft (4.85m)

Year converted into a Hotel Barge: 1958

Generators: 1 x 30 kva and 1 x 40 kva

Main Engine: 1 x 350 CUMMINS

Maximum speed: 12 knots

Water capacity: 12,000 litres

Fuel capacity: 4,000 litres

Your Crew on board

Crew of 6: Captain, Tour Guide, Chef, Housekeeper, Hostess and Deckhand

Nationality of Crew: European English speaking and other languages

Accommodation on board

Maximum 12 passengers / 6 Cabins

All Cabins can be configured with twin beds or a double bed.

All Cabins have fitted wardrobes, 2 bedside tables with reading lamps, a writing desk and chair and a TV screen for playing DVD's mounted on the wall.

All Cabins have an ensuite bathroom which runs the length of the cabin and is accessed through a sliding door. Each has an extractor fan, WC, and the showers have massage jets and glass sliding doors. There are 2 wash basins with mirrors and cupboard storage below each sink with 6 shelves. All are supplied with washing gel, hand soap, shampoo, towels, hair dryer, bathrobes and slippers.

Cabin Sizes

Each cabin is similar in size measuring 12ft 6" (3.8m) x 11ft 6" (3.5m) equating to 150ft² (13.9m²)

All bathrooms are 11ft 6" (3.5m) x 3ft 2" (1m) and are included in the cabin sizes detailed above.

The height in all cabins is 6ft 8" (2.03m)

Each cabin has 1 large window measuring 3ft 8" (1.1m x 1ft 6" (45cm))

All sizes are approximate

Climate Control

Each cabin has individually controlled heating/cooling units

Computer and Telephone

Complimentary Wi-Fi is available on board for use with your own appliances. Connectivity can be limited in remote locations.

There is no passenger phone on Panache

Currency

The local currency in Holland, Belgium and France is the Euro

Credit or debit cards are not accepted on board.

Dining Room & Saloon

The comfortable and spacious saloon is approximately 600ft² (55.7m²) and is entered from the outside deck through double wooden doors and 4 steps with hand-rails.

The room is bright and airy and has 6 large panoramic windows on each side. It is divided by a glass partition, giving separate lounge and dining areas.

The lounge is furnished with a large "U" shaped leather Chesterfield which seats 10 guests. There are also 2 armchairs and a large glass coffee table. There is a library of books, CDs and DVDs and an open bar area. There is also an electronic piano.

The dining area has a large table seating up to 12 guests at a single sitting.

From the saloon there are 6 steps to the cabin area where Ravel and Debussy (Cabins) are located. There are 4 additional steps down to the level of the 4 other Cabins.

Electricity

The barge is wired for 220 and 240 volts (not 110 volts). We suggest you bring an adapter for your particular appliance, which corresponds to the standard French 2 pin plugs. If you wish to use an electrical appliance on board, please speak to a crew member on arrival to ensure it is suitable for the barge's electrical system.

Responsibility cannot be held for unforeseen voltage fluctuations which sometimes occur when swapping from one voltage system to another.

Excursions

Panache has 2 vehicles for excursions and transfers. A 9 seater long wheelbase Mercedes Sprinter and a 7 seater Mercedes Vito. Both vehicles are air-conditioned and the seating capacity detailed includes the driver in each.

Facilities on board

- Hot tub for 6 passengers on the sundeck
- Hi-fi Stereo system with integrated CD player, radio and iPod dock
- 12 Bicycles
- A small library of books and maps
- A collection of board games
- Electronic Piano
- TV with built in DVD in each Cabin

Food and Drink

All meals on board are prepared fresh by your chef and most meals are a set menu (there is no choice available). International and regional cuisine is featured.

We are able to arrange special meals, e.g. vegetarian / no fish / vegan etc and we are able to cater for any preferences or allergies. However, it is important that we are notified of any specific requirements at least 8 weeks prior to your departure date. Failure to notify us in advance of your cruise may result in disappointment on board.

There is no assigned seating for meals and the dining table on Anjodi seats all guests at single sittings.

Breakfast: Your day on Panache starts with a Continental breakfast with fresh breads and pastries, cereals, freshly squeezed orange juice and hot beverages.

Lunch is usually buffet style with colourful salads, pates and cold meats accompanied by hot soup or entrée, delicious deserts and a selection of regional cheeses accompanied by quality wines selected by the chef.

Dinner is a candlelit four course gourmet experience where our chef showcases his repertoire of dining delights. Harmonising food and wine is essential to the dining experience and locally produced wines are served to compliment the chef's cuisine.

Captain's Farewell Dinner is held on the last night of your cruise. Guests may choose to dress slightly formal.

Drinks included in the cruise price: Non-alcoholic beverages and regular or decaffeinated tea and coffee, whole or low fat milk, are offered with all meals. The well-stocked bar is open 24 hours, which includes wines, spirits, beers and soft drinks. All wines are provided with meals and there is a Champagne welcome on arrival.

Drinks not included in the cruise price: Some brands of Champagne and special vintage wines, however these can be purchased in advance of your cruise at cost price – please let us know if you would wish to purchase any of these items.

Laundry

We recommend you bring sufficient clean clothing for your cruise. There are no laundry facilities on board and we generally cruise through rural areas where launderettes are few and far between.

Luggage/What to pack

Please try and fit everything for your cruise into one reasonably sized suitcase per person. Soft bags are preferable. There is only enough space on the barge and minibuses for up to 12 suitcases and 12 pieces of hand luggage.

Practical comfort and relaxed is the norm aboard Panache and for most excursions. The dress code for dinner is relaxed and informal, however, for the Captain's Dinner on the last evening, guests tend to dress up a little.

The weather is hottest in June, July and August when temperatures often reach the mid 30's°C /top 80's°F.

Suggested things to pack:

- Light clothing including shorts and T-Shirts. A sweater or lightweight jacket is recommended for evenings and the air-conditioned interiors
- During spring and autumn, you may need medium weight clothing. A lightweight raincoat for showery times would be advisable
- In summer, a sun hat can be useful
- Comfortable walking shoes with textured non-slip soles are recommended
- Anjodi has a hot tub so don't forget your swim wear. Towels are provided

Medical

Please let us know in advance of your cruise if you require frequent or ongoing medical attention.

The crew are unable to administer medicines but can accompany you to a chemist for you to purchase any necessary medicines. Due to your cruise often being in a rural location, we recommend you bring all necessary medication with you.

Doctors are usually not far away for an urgent consultation and the Emergency Services can be called if required.

Problem during your Cruise

If you have a problem during your holiday, please give us the immediate opportunity to make things right. Please bring any concern to the private attention of your Captain who will often be able to solve any issue immediately.

Restricted Mobility

Please let us know in advance of your cruise if you have a physical disability and require any assistance.

Panache has a gangplank with handrail to access the barge and there are 4 steps between the deck and the Saloon.

From the Saloon to the cabin area (Ravel and Debussy) there are 6 steps. We recommend these 2 cabins for passengers with any mobility issues, however, they are not wheelchair friendly.

There are 4 additional steps down to the level of the remaining 4 Cabins. (A total of 10 steps between the Saloon and Cabins).

Wheelchairs cannot be used on-board and can only be used to assist on excursions where there are often cobbled streets. Sometimes rough ground may hinder a wheelchair.

If you would like us to provide a wheelchair for your arrival, please notify us at least 8 weeks before arrival. There is a small hire charge of

approximately €120 which should be paid directly to the barge Captain on arrival.

Safety and Security

Once on board your Captain will talk you through the Cruise Safety Procedures. Safety instructions are detailed on the last page of this document.

Please note that we cannot be responsible for any valuables that you bring on board. We strongly recommend that you do not bring valuables with you unless required and that you ensure that all valuables are covered by your travel insurance.

Safes are provided in each cabin. The cabin doors are not usually locked, for safety reasons.

Smoking

We have a strict non-smoking policy for safety reasons and for the comfort of your fellow passengers.

If you would like to smoke we request that you smoke outside or on the deck away from other guests.

Sundeck

The sundeck on Panache is 375ft² (34.8m²) and for alfresco dining and relaxing there is a large table and 12 chairs. There are large parasols providing shade. The heated hot tub seats 4 guests and measures 5ft x 7ft (1.5m x 2.1m)

Tipping

Gratuities are not included in the cruise fare. Tipping is entirely discretionary but is greatly appreciated by the crew.

All tips should be given to the Captain and are shared between the whole crew on board.

Please note gratuities can only be made on board by cash payment.

Transfers

For details of the Panache vehicles, please see “Excursions”. The transfer duration on Panache cruises is approximately 1 hour.

Water

The tap water on board Panache is potable and bottled water is available.

Safety Instructions on Panache

On arrival the Captain will talk you through the Cruise Safety Procedures on board. In addition, it is important that all passengers are familiar with the safety instructions detailed below.

- Please follow the instructions of the Captain and crew at all times
- Remember that decks can be slippery. Please wear non-slip shoes and do not run or jump whilst on board
- Do not walk on the side or rear decks or outside the guard rails
- Passengers are not permitted in the engine rooms, technical areas or crew accommodation at any time, or in the galley or wheelhouse unless accompanied by a crew member
- Do not embark or disembark the barge unless the gangplank and handrail are in place or the crew have advised that it is safe to do so. Never do so when the barge is moving
- Be careful when the vessel is being moored up with the barge ropes. In particular do not step into a loop in the rope or try to release the mooring rope from a bollard
- Keep clear of any overhead obstructions and remain seated if on deck whilst the barge passes under bridges with restricted headroom
- Do not attempt to touch the sides of any lock or bridge
- Do not open lower deck portholes whilst the barge is moving
- Life jacket preservers are located in designated lockers in your cabin or in designated deck lockers. Once on board, please take the time to identify their location and read the instructions
- For fire safety reasons, smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the barge
- The barge's equipment such as the hot-tub and bicycles must only be used following preparation by the crew. Use of the bicycles and the hot tub is at your own risk. Breakable glasses are not permitted in the hot tub and alcohol consumption is not advised
- There is an open bar policy on board. However, excessive alcohol consumption can be dangerous, particularly in a warm climate and in proximity to deep water and the Captain has the discretion to withhold alcohol if safety to passengers or crew is at risk

In an emergency

- Keep calm. Do not return to your cabin to recover your possessions
- If you discover a fire on board, sound the fire alarm and notify a crew member immediately. If possible, close doors behind you to confine the fire. Please take the time to identify the location of fire alarms and fire extinguishers
- If the alarm sounds or you hear repeated continuous blasts on the barge horn, you must, if possible, assemble on the sundeck for further instructions
- If you discover water below deck, notify a crew member immediately and go to the sundeck to await further instructions
- If you are in your cabin and the way to the sundeck is obstructed, follow the signs to the alternative fire exit. Please take the time to identify all fire exits
- There is a defibrillator in case of cardiac arrest, instructions are in English and located by the machine
- The emergency number for fire, police or medical assistance on all public phone networks is 112

Please ask a member of the crew on board if you require any further safety advice