## 99th Tour de France 14th July – 22nd July



#### 2012

If cycling is your Passion, then come and Experience the Tour de France with Kathy Watt Cycling. See Cadel defend his Yellow Jersey &Australia's first Pro Tour Team- Green Edge in action.

#### **LAST 10 DAYS**

#### Tour with Kathy Watt Cycling

#### From Friday July 14 to Monday, July 22nd 2012

10 days, 9 nights in 3\* and 4\* hotels on half-board basis
(7 nights in 3\* hotel and 2 nights in 4\* hotels)

Tour de France viewings: 6

Staff: 5

Start: Toulouse airport, <u>Finish</u>: Paris Trip Category: Cycling

This 10 day package enables you to fully enjoy the excitement and the spectacle that is the Tour de France. We take you into the heart of the Tour –riding part of the stages and ensuring that you are getting the best experience up close to the racing. Extra care has been taken to ensure that your 3\* and 4\* hotels are as close to the action as possible. With VIP Grandstand seating on the final day on the Champs Elysees, Paris where you can see the racing & podium presentations.

Kathy Watt has raced the Tour de France feminin 6 times. In 1988 the Tour de France feminine was held in conjunction with the Mens Tour-organised by ASO (with the women starting 5mins behind the Men). Kathy finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the General Classification. Kathy has raced up most of the famous mountain passes you will experience on the Tour de France and will be on hand as a Tour guide.

Carey Hall-Head Trainer & Managing Director at Kathy

Watt Cycling will help to organize the Tour group and act as a cycling Tour guide. The riders will be split into two or more groups when necessary to cater for varying fitness levels (especially on the mountain climbs). We will have a support van for food, drinks & your spare clothing/jackets, etc with a qualified mechanic to help you with any problems you may experience with your bike.

Your tour will be spectacular and richly rewarding experience as you will not only challenge yourself, but you will actually be in the heat of the Tour action. During this tour you will see all the crucial Pyrenean stages, where you will experience the atmosphere of enthusiastic crowds, waving the flags and cheering you on while you climb some of the most prestigious climbs in France.

This year, the Pyrenean stages will include 11 mountain climbs including the mythical Col de l'Aubisque, Col du Tourmalet, and Peyrsourde. Up there, you will not only see the pros battle on these climbs, but you will climb the same famous peaks before the pros arrive. This last week is always a challenge for the Tour riders, and it is where we give you the chance to face the same challenges. After the mountain stages, you will see the second and last Time Trial with the opportunity to cheer on your favourite riders as they leave the start house. Then on the final day you will see the finish on the cobblestones of the Champs Elysees with VIP Grandstand seating.

This tour package, assembled by Kathy Watt Cycling, will provide you with an unbeatable experience.

Come see and experience the real Tour for yourself.

## Highlights:

- Be part of the crucial Pyrenean stages.
- · Ride the last 80km (50miles) of Stage 14 and watch the spectacle of the Publicity Caravan.
- · Climb the mythical Col du Tourmalet and experience the crowd's enthusiast cheering.
- · Stay in the same hotel as the pro Tour teams.
- · Be in the heart of a feeding station.
- · Included: Grand Palais grandstand tickets on the Champs Elysées, facing the finish line.

## The Tour de France stages you will see:

Sunday, July 15th: Stage 14, (mountain stage)

Limoux / Foix: 192km

Monday, July 16th: Stage 15, Samatan / Pau: 160km

Tuesday, July 17th: Rest Day in Pau.

Wednesday, July 18th: Stage 16, (mountain stage) Pau / Bagnères-de-Luchon: 197km

Thurs, July 19th: Stage 17, (mountain stage) Bagnères-de-Luchon / Peyragudes: 144km

Saturday, July 21st: Stage 19, (time trial) Bonneval / Chartres: 52km

Sunday, July 22nd: Stage 20, Rambouillet / Paris Champs-Elysées: 130km

#### **YOUR TRAVEL:**

Kathy Watt Cycling is currently organising Group packages for those who require flights as well as the Tour Trip into the following airport:

Toulouse-Blagnac (<u>www.toulouse.aeroport.fr</u>) and departing Paris, Charles de Gaulle airport. Details of the group booking flight packages and excess bike luggage allowance will be available soon.

If possible, we recommend that you arrive the day before to get acclimatised (and help to get over any jetlag),



organized, and give time to recover any delayed luggage.

Flights are going to be on very high demand and there will be limited space for bikes on each flight.

We will meet you at the airport and a luxury airconditioned coach will take you to your first hotel in Toulouse.

## Saturday, July 14 - day 1:

Tour de France: Stage 13, Saint Paul-Trois-Châteaux / Le Cap d'Agde.

Group: Arrival at Toulouse airport and transfer to your hotel.

Hotel: 3\* Hotel in Toulouse.

Bienvenue en France!

Your guides will meet you at the Toulouse airport between 11:00am and 12.00pm and a private coach will take you to a 3\* hotel where you will spend your first night on a half-board basis (bed, breakfast and dinner with wine and water included).

Your hotel is well placed to give you a good start in the morning. Your hotel is located on the South side of Toulouse, a city with a wealth of cultural heritage, globally renowned for aeronautics and space, as well as for its gastronomy. You will enjoy the warm atmosphere of this hotel, which offers spacious rooms, a swimming pool and wifi access. Your hotel is well placed to give you a good start in the morning.

This afternoon may we suggest an easy ride to test your bike and stretch your legs. In the evening you will gather over a welcoming cocktail and meet your travelling companions, and enjoy your first dinner in a wonderful setting while enjoying the atmosphere of southern France.

#### Sunday, July 15 - day 2:

Tour de France: Stage 14, Limoux / Foix



Group: Ride to Foix and attend the Finish of the stage. Hotel: 3\* Hotel in Toulouse After 15 days of racing, this stage will mark the

beginning of the Pyrenean Mountains' stages. The riders will go through Limoux to enter the Pyreneans. This stage's finish promises to be amazing as the last two climbs, Port de Lers and Mur de Péguère, are the hardest ones of the day and encourage attacks. The massive sprint will certainly be avoided.

Col du Portel: 2.4 km (1.5 miles), 6.3%, 30 km (18 miles) from the Start line.

Port de Lers: 11,4km (7 miles), 7%, 65km (40 miles) from the Finish line.

Mur de Péguère: 9.4km (6 miles), 7.9%, 39km (24 miles) from the Finish line.

**Cyclists**: After breakfast, you will leave the hotel as a group to get to the day's route. You will ride the 80 last kilometres (50 miles) of the stage to the finish in Foix.

If necessary, we will separate into two groups of different ability levels for each day. Each group will be accompanied by a Kathy Watt Cycling staff rider and a back-up vehicle with a professionally trained mechanic with supplies (food and drink).

If you prefer not to ride up the climbs, an alternative circuit will be available through the valley. Once in Foix, you will stand on the "Route du Tour" to watch the publicity caravan pass by as well as the riders, who will be finishing the first Pyrenean stage.

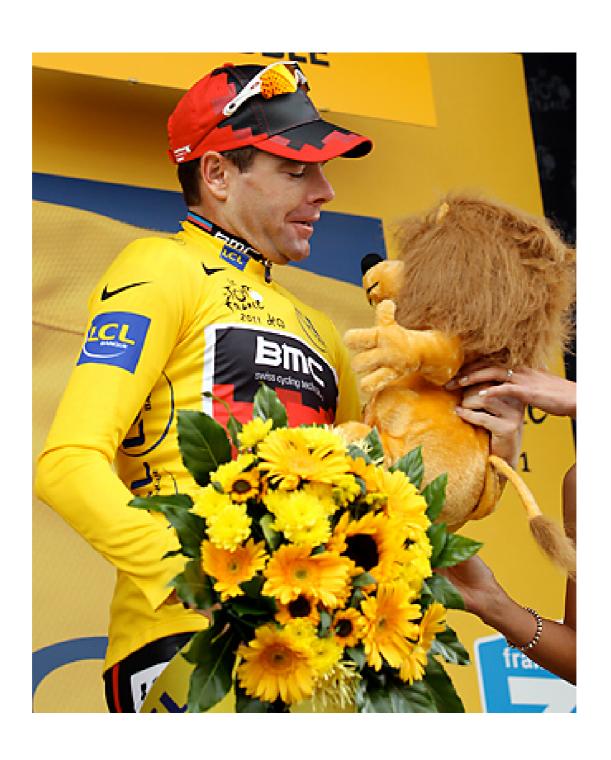
Non Cyclists: You will take the coach to Foix. Along the way, you will be able to admire the beauty of the countryside. When you arrive in





Foix, you will soon discover a small city with a big personality. Surrounded by mountains and sliced with rivers, it is a true gateway to the Pyrenees. The village's striking medieval castle ("chateau") is its most imposing monument, and it can be seen from all directions. Foix is also capital of the picturesque Ariège department. Geographically, it is similarly

positioned as a stop between various worlds: the valley and the mountains, France and Andorra or Spain, eastern Pyrenees versus west. It has a diversity of rivers, streams, hills, mountains, caves and hiking trails.











Shortly after the finish, your coach will drive you back to your hotel in Toulouse, where you will spend your second night. On that night, some professional teams will be staying in the same hotel as you! It may be a once-in a life-time event, as you will be able to spend the evening close to this microcosm: Motor home, mechanics performing maintenance,

logistics and riders, who will be more relaxed than on the Tour. You will have the lucky opportunity to take pictures and ask for autographs.



Foix / Toulouse Hotel: 81 km (50 miles) – 45 min



## Monday, July 16 - day 3:

Tour de France: Stage 15, Samatan / Pau Group: Ride on the stage circuit and discover a feeding station. Hotel: Charming 3\* Hotel at the foot of the Tourmalet Pass for 4 nights.

Today the race will leave from Samatan and head for Pau without presenting any major difficulties, but the teams of sprinters will be impatient to fight it out to win the stage. Indeed, this stage will be their opportunity to break away before the tough stages start. There's no doubt that we will attend a massive sprint. The green jersey will do his best to earn a few points while the favourites will stay quietly in the peloton, in preparation for the upcoming big day. In 1930, Alfredo Binda led the way for the winners in Pau. He won the first of his only two stages on the Tour, although he was considered as being the greatest rider in the interwar period. He only took part in the 1930 tour and stayed away from the race for the rest of his career.

Cyclists: After yesterday's strenuous ride, you will enjoy a relaxed day as the stage is totally flat

and free of any major difficulty. As soon as breakfast is finished, you will leave the hotel as a group to reach the day's route.

**Group:** The riders will cycle to the feeding station while the non-riders will go there directly by coach. You will see the Tour de France staff handing out the "musettes" (bags with the food) to the speeding riders and if you





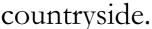


wish, you
will take
part in the
crowd
picking up
the riders'
empty
bottles.
You will
also see
the

"publicity caravan" passing by and you will be part of this great carnival, at the best spot to live the magic of the Tour de France. After watching the riders going through the feeding station, you will go back to your hotel. This evening you will relax at the hotel's restaurant over a well-deserved meal before sleeping in a cosy bed for the night.

#### Your hotel:

At the foot of the Pic du Midi de Bigorre and the resort of Tourmalet, the hotel is located at a height of 800m in a picturesque Pyrenean valley beside the Adour river. An authentic restored and renovated mountain farm, it has become in a few years a charming hotel complex offering the features of a traditional mountain hamlet in the depths of the

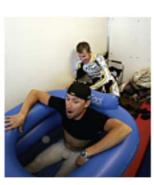




#### Tuesday, July 17th - day 4:

Tour de France: Rest Day Group: Climb the Tourmalet Pass through Lourdes & Argelès. Hotel: Charming 3\* Hotel at the foot of the







Tourmalet Pass.

As the Tour de France riders spend their well-deserved second rest day, after 16 days of tough racing, you will have time to explore the area ahead of their arrival on the Col de Tourmalet tomorrow.

Cyclists: Today you will leave the hotel at 10am for an 82 km circuit that will include the legendary Col de Tourmalet. You will join the route of the tour by going through the village of Argèles Gazost, up to the summit of Tourmalet. After stopping at the summit to take photos and enjoy the view, you will

descend. This will be a long but achievable day. Ride at your own pace. Remember to keep hydrated and eat regularly like the pros.

#### Col de Tourmalet: 18.3 km (11.5 miles) 7.7%

Take the time to enjoy this day, thousands of cyclists dream about doing these kinds of rides, only the lucky ones are able to. Tonight, you will appreciate your hotel's hospitality and attention to your comfort as you relax and celebrate your achievement with others over tonight's dinner.

Non cyclists: Today, you will have the opportunity to go on a hike in the mountains and visit the UNESCO heritage site on the Pic du Midi. At 2877m high, it is easily reached by cable car as it takes only 15 minutes. One can see over 300km ahead. This is a magnificent environment, which dominates the valley, and offers extraordinary panoramic views over the whole of the Pyrenees from its terraces. Do not forget to bring your camera.







#### Wednesday, July 18th - day 5:

Tour de France: Stage 16, Pau / Bagnères de Luchon Group: Experience the crowd of supporters at the Tourmalet. Hotel: Charming 3\* Hotel at the foot of the Tourmalet Pass. Many people identify this stage as the most decisive for the favorites. It is a day that may well determine the overall winner, but it is not just the battle for overall that will take place. There will be riders looking for the honor of a mountain top win on Tourmalet. There will be a best climber, and there will be the sprinters struggling to finish before the time cut. This is the stage you do not want to miss; a stage to remember and that will keep you saying: "I was there". Our hotel's location is excellent for accessing today's stage, which means that we will be able to spend the day without any coach. This will be another great day on the bike.

Col du Tourmalet: 17,1km (11 miles), 7.3%

Cyclists: After breakfast, you will leave the hotel to ride to the top of the Tourmalet. It will be a great spot to watch the race and this will be a wonderful experience for you. Once the last rider will have passed by, followed by the broom wagon, you will descend the Tourmalet. Be very careful on the descent as there are thousands of people also going down the hill



on foot, bikes and cars. We will gather over a much deserved dinner, you'll sleep well tonight. The distance from the hotel to the Top of Tourmalet is 45km (28 miles).

Non cyclists: We will take the coach and get to the Aspin climb, (which is the third climb of the day), in order to catch a glimpse of the race atmosphere and to see the riders pass by. Watching the tour riders is always interesting as the complexity of the race changes. There are races within the race, and strategies develop between groups of riders with their personal goals always balanced by the needs of the team, as the race develops. Then it will be time to get back to the hotel, in order to enjoy the rest of the day.







# Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup> - day 6:

Tour de France: Stage 17,

Bagnères-de-Luchon / Peyragudes

Group: Ride the Climb of

Peyresourde and reach the finish

area.

Hotel: Charming 3\* Hotel at the foot of the Tourmalet Pass.

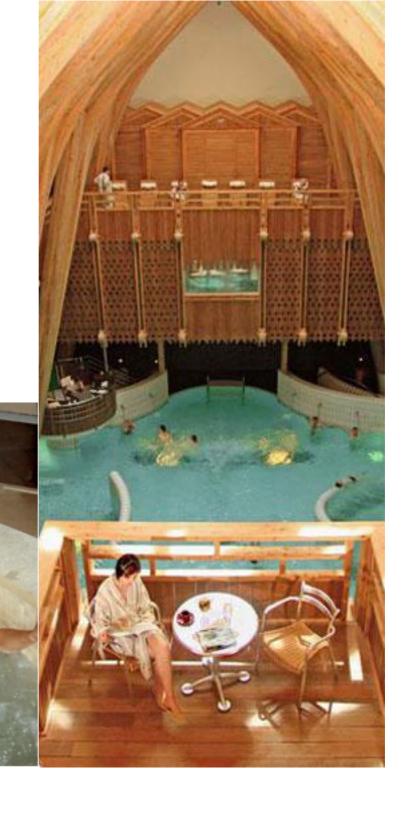
This will be a day of drama as it will be the most threatening stage for the favourites of the Tour, a decisive Stage for the win. There are likely to be many attacks in the mountains.

Cyclists: After an early breakfast, today's stage will take you to the summit of Peyresourde. Your coach will first drive you to the village of Arreau, located in the valley right before the Peyresourde Pass. From there, you will climb up to Peyresourde and Peyragudes. Riding this mountain stage ahead of time will give you the opportunity to experience the same "Tour de France" atmosphere as the pros do. You will enjoy the fanfare and good-natured encouragement of the crowd, some who have been parked there for days in advance. You will see flags from nations in Europe, and of course from Australia, the US, South Africa and more. Tonight, for those who have rented a bike, time will have come to return them.

Non cyclists: Today, you will have the opportunity to visit Bagnères de Bigorre or spend the day in Aquensis Thermal SPA, indulging in the naturally warm, generous hot springs of its thermal waters. Bagnères de Bigorre has 3 sources and is a thermal town known since the Roman Age. You might want to discover its particular architecture as well as the surrounding mountain villages where ancient farming traditions survive.

## Aquensis thermal SPA:

In an exceptional decor, it offers a beautiful place of relaxation where the hot and beneficial thermal waters and its personalized care shall give you a sense of wellbeing and pleasure. Welcome into a magnificent architectural and ecologically designed space, a harmonious blend of wood, glass and light. The 3000m spa is divided into 3 areas devoted to the body and well-being.



Relaxation area: Here you will find a large recreational thermal pool with therapeutic jets, water curtain, counter-currents, a relaxation pool with 14 massaging jets and underwater music, an

oriental relaxation area with an exceptional hammam, an oriental tea area, Finnish saunas and a panoramic roof terrace with jacuzzis and solarium. Well-being area: Water therapies, beauty treatments, massages and body sculpture, slimming treatments and highly original treatments using asses' milk, not to mention the thermal water baths. Fitness area: gym and aerobic sessions, stretching, body building.



After today's race Finish, you'll all get back on the coach to return to the hotel. Dinner will be served at the hotel's restaurant.

#### Friday, July 20th - day 7:

Tour de France: Stage 18, Blagnac / Brive-la-Gaillarde Group: Rest day and transfer to





Orléans.
Hotel: 3\*
Hotel in
Orléans

Cyclists/Non cyclists: Today will be a rest day for you and an opportunity to relax after the tiring climbs of previous days. You will leave the Pyrenees in the morning, shortly after breakfast and your coach will take you to our next city stop: Orléans. Lunch will be served on the way.

Your hotel is particularly well-positioned for tomorrow's last Time Trial that will start from Bonneval.





It is located in the Val de Loire area and nestled in green surroundings, on the banks of the Loire river. In the evening, dinner will be served at the hotel.



#### Saturday, July 21st - day 8:

Tour de France: Stage 19,

Bonneval/Chartres

Group: Start of the Time

Trial and way to Paris

Hotel: 4\* Hotel near the

Champs Elysées.



Today you will head for the start of the second individual time-trial in this Tour de France. This will be the moment of truth as this 52-km long time-trial is the last opportunity for Tour riders to improve their position over their rivals.

We could easily see a sorting of the top riders as those who are good time triallers will be able to make up time that they may have lost in the mountains. Seconds will count. This is the last

battle, and you can bet, even with tired legs after 19 hard stages, the riders will give it their all. Here you will be able to see the team buses, the riders warming up, and will of course be able to see the riders leave the start house, one after the other.









Once the yellow jersey is finished, we will head for Paris by coach. Within 1 hour and a half, you will be in Paris where your guides will take you to your 4\* hotel near the Champs Elysées. In the morning, our van will have picked up your luggage and your bikes and will have reached Paris. You will stay in a 4\* hotel on a B&B basis, it is located in what is known as the "Golden Triangle". We have chosen this hotel near the finish line near the Champs Elysées as an ideal point from which to make the most of your stay in Paris. You will be in the perfect location to watch the final stage and from there, you will have easy access to all major interests in Paris. Although the hotel is located in a quiet neighbourhood, you will be in the heart of the action.

Tonight you will have the opportunity to explore the town and find a restaurant of your choice, before enjoying a well deserved night's rest. What an experience you will have had, and the icing on the cake is tomorrow! *Bonneval / Paris Hotel: 123 km (76 miles) – 1H30* 





#### Sunday, July 22nd - day 9:

Tour de France: Stage 20, Rambouillet / Paris Champs-Elysées Group: Attend the finish of the Tour Hotel: 4\* Hotel near the Champs Elysées.

Today you will be able to sleep in, or enjoy a morning in Paris on your own, before you head to the Champs-Elysees to see the final stage and watch the riders complete their 8 laps. Afterwards, it you wish, you can watch the awards as the riders climb the podium.

Since the beginning of this 99th Tour de France, the riders have dreamt of reaching Paris to ride on the cobblestones of the Champs Elysees in front of cheering crowds of supporters. For some of them, it is enough to say, "I finished a Tour."

Riders arrive with pride on what some call the world's most beautiful Avenue. They have completed what is arguably the world's toughest professional bike race. The overall ranking is usually settled before the final stage so the racing is more for glory and to settle the

Sprinter's competition if it is close. Yet even with the celebrations, the race is for real, and in the heart of Paris, surrounded by historic monuments and buildings, this is a wonderful show and a spectacle worth seeing.







Our status as a **Cycling Operator** enables us to offer you grandstand seats on the Champs Elysees right in front of the finish line, from where you will be able to watch the race, and the podium where the awards ceremony will take place. From there you will watch the riders pass by 8 times before crossing the finish line of the 99th Tour de France for the last time.

#### **Grand Palais Grandstand**

- Controlled access
- A personal welcome by Tour de France hostesses Grandstand seats in the official tribune « Grand Palais » located at the lower end of the Champs Elysees on the opposite side to the finishing straight. The Elysées Grandstand is opposite the finish line and the podium where the prizes are awarded.

If you like to finish off the Tour de France with a special evening, we offer as an option a Dinner Cruise or champagne dinner-show at the LIDO.

# Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> - day 11:

## Group: Departure

This last morning you will enjoy breakfast with a multitude of images in your mind. Not only will you have your own accomplishments to be proud of, but you will have the memories of remarkable athletes, the spectacle of the Tour, and a taste of France.

Afterwards it will be time to say goodbye to this year's Tour de France. Kathy Watt Cycling will be available to help you, should you have any question or request, and to wish you a nice trip back home. Alternatively, if you like to enjoy Paris just a little longer, we will be happy to make arrangements for you.









#### **PRICE:**

LAST 10 DAYS, Classic Package (Room sharing in twin or double): 4470 AUD (all taxes and fees included)

LAST 10 DAYS, Classic Package (Single room): 5310 AUD (all taxes and fees included)

Deposit to secure this tour: 1500AUD; balance between March 15th and March 31<sup>st</sup>,2012

## The price includes:

- Accommodation for 9 nights: 7 nights in 3-star hotels and 2 nights in 4-star hotels (rooms with private bathroom including toilets, and a tub and/or a shower).
- 10 breakfasts and 7 dinners (drinks wine and water included at each dinner).
- Grandstand VIP on the Champs Elysées.
- 2 certified support riders who will accompany the group for the whole trip.
- 2 Support vehicles with KWPT professionally trained mechanic and your bus driver.
- Travel in luxury private coach.
- Daily luggage transportation.

- Special bikes' trailer for the safe transport of your bikes.
- Accident and Repatriation insurance in case of injury
- The TDF Travel Road Book with detailed maps and daily stage routes.
- Musette Gift bag with
- Discounts at the Tour de France Official store.
- Local taxes.
- Tour Cycling Jersey
- Tour T-Shirt

## The price does not include:

- Airfare.
- Cancellation, theft of material and luggage insurances.
- Lunches
- Dinner day 8 and day 9.
- Personal expenses, aperitifs.

## **Options**:

#### Bike rental: 550 AUD

If you prefer not bring your own bike, we offer the rent of new carbon and aluminium LOOK bikes. Carbon Scott CR1 OR Trek Madone serie 4,5; Triple crank (50, 39, 30 in front and 12x27 in the back), Shimano 10S. Bikes will be delivered and picked up at the hotel.

Contact us at: <u>info@kathywatt.com</u> for more information.

#### Extra Nights Accomodation-Toulouse & Paris

Contact us at: Kathy Watt Cycling

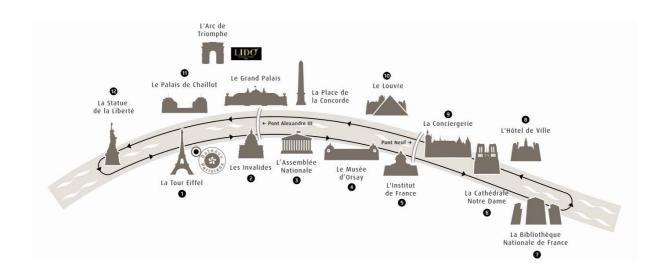
03 95894544 or 0412 267066

info@kathywatt.com for more information.

#### **Dinner-cruise: 150 AUD**

As an option we also offer a dinner-cruise on the Seine river, offering you a spectacular view of Paris as you pass under the romantic bridges, by historic monuments and buildings, and of course the Eiffel Tower an night. We invite you to join us for a truly memorable cruise.

Refined decor and tableware, the intimacy of small tables by the windows form the ingredients for a wonderful evening. The boat glides gently by the monuments for 2.5 hours of magic with entertainment by a female singer and three musicians. The menu combines tradition and creativeness and the dishes are prepared on board under the supervision of the Chef and his team.



#### LIDO - Dinner-Champagne & Show: 240 AUD

You will enjoy a champagne dinner-show (formal attire preferred) at the Lido, the world-famous Parisian cabaret (www.lido.fr). Located



on the prestigious Avenue des Champs Elysées, the Lido has been a venue for the finest shows since 1946.

We offer you to attend an unforgettable 3 hours long champagne

dinner show with 42 dancers, 23 sets, hundreds of sumptuous costumes and breathtaking scenes. After the show, around 11:30 PM, the night will be yours!