



Trip description

Cycling the Canal de Garonne from Bordeaux to Toulouse

This self guided bike tour along the Canal de Garonne takes you from Bordeaux to Toulouse. Bike through the authentic countryside of southwest France.



Destination	France
Location	Canal de Garonne
Duration	8 days
Difficulty Level	Moderate
Validity	From Mar 30 to Oct 27, 2019
Minimum age	From 14 years old
Reference	CG0801

Type of stay
itinerant trip



Itinerary



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This biking vacation lets you explore the southwest of France as you ride along the Canal de Garonne from Bordeaux to Toulouse. After visiting

Bordeaux, you'll have a pleasant ride on the Roger Lapedie Bike Path until you reach Sauveterre-de-Guyenne. Next, you'll ride a hillier stretch for a few kilometers, passing through vast vineyards and orchards. Upon reaching La Reole, you'll be on the Canal de Garonne bike path again. This route goes along the water and past tidy, traditional villages such as Le Mas d'Agenais and Damazan. Enter the city of Agen by crossing a historic canal bridge. Follow the cycle route, seeing several lock houses, decorated with flowers. At the village of Moissac, take time to explore the distinctive abbey and cloister. Leaving the Canal de Garonne path, you'll ride to Montauban. Get back on the canal trail, which leads you to your destination, Toulouse.

Day 1

Bordeaux

You might want to enter the old city section by riding along the quays of the Garonne. The Bordeaux quayside is one of the most magnificent waterfronts in the world. Bordeaux was awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 2007 because of the beautiful 18th century facades and outstanding buildings. Discover the banks of the Garonne River and check out the buildings made with white chiseled stone.

Day 2

Bordeaux – Saint-Martin-de-Lerm

Bike
68km

This morning you'll leave Bordeaux and take a pleasant, designated bike path out of town. Upon reaching Latresne, the path meanders away from the river and you'll be riding on a converted railroad track. Don't worry. No trains will come! The old train stations along the route offer friendly services for cyclists such as food, coffee and information. We suggest you leave the cycle path and explore the bastide of Creon (Bastides are newly built towns in the 13th and 14th century). Check out the remains of the La Sauve Abbey or the Church of Sauveterre-de-Guyenne. The final leg of your route is a bit hilly until you reach your destination, Saint-Martin-de-Lerm.

Day 3

Saint-Martin-de-Lerm – Le Mas d'Agenais

Bike
42km

Get warmed up this morning by biking on a few hills before reaching the medieval town of La Reole on the Garonne River. From there, the path flattens out as you ride along the dikes and reach the Canal de Garonne. The pleasant cycle path runs alongside the canal. If you like, make a detour to the village of Couthures-sur-Garonne, where you can learn about ancient and present river life. The day ends when you reach the charming village of Le Mas d'Agenais and its outstanding church.

Day 4

Le Mas d'Agenais – Agen

Bike
49km

Start the day by biking along the path next to the canal. The route is dotted with quaint villages, containing locks where you can watch boaters navigate each lock. Just a stone's throw from the canal, admire the bastide of Damazan with its colorful facades or the bastide of Serignac-sur-Garonne with its bell tower made of slate. Towards the end of the route, the bike path crosses the magnificent canal bridge over the Garonne River on the outskirts of Agen. You'll soon be very close to the city center where you can absorb the sights, sounds and smells of southwest France's way of life.

Day 5

Agen – Moissac

Bike
46 / 54km

Leave Agen on the canal bike path and wind amongst the hills. If you're looking for a pleasant rest stop, check out the bastide of Valence d'Agen, built by the English. Continue biking past cute lock keepers' houses, many decorated with abundant flowers. Up to a challenge? Leave the canal path and head slightly uphill towards the fortified village of Auvillar, listed as one of the most beautiful villages in France. Your shorter choice is to follow the Canal path until you reach Moissac. The town is known for its medieval buildings, including the abbey church, which has famous and important Romanesque sculpture around the entrance.

Day 6

Moissac – Montauban

Bike
44km

Today's ride takes you along the canal bike path across the plain to Castelsarrasin. The route leaves the canal path for a short time and transfers over to quiet, backroads to the Abbey of Belleperches on the riverside of Garonne. From there, get on the canal path again until you reach the Montech Marina. Now the route follows another canal path all the way to Montauban, an old city built with pink bricks.

Day 7

Montauban – Toulouse

Bike
60km

The day starts with an easy ride back to the Canal de Garonne where you enter the suburbs of Toulouse. Soon you'll see the junctions of the Garonne and Midi Canals. Cycle a bit further and you'll be in the city center of Toulouse. Stroll around and explore the Roman Cathedral of Saint-Sernon, the Jacobins Church or the Renaissance mansion of Assezat.

Day 8

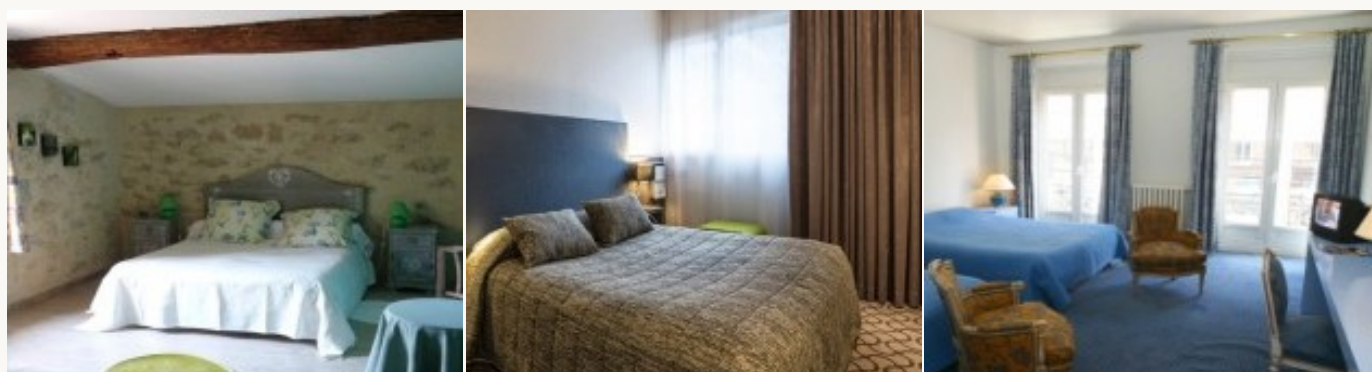
Departure from Toulouse

You can extend your stay to give you more time to explore this delightful area. Otherwise, check out of your hotel after breakfast.

Accommodation

Category A

You'll enjoy staying in these clean and cozy 2-Star hotels and Bed and Breakfasts that give you a pleasant rest after your day of biking. Breakfast is included when you spend the night in these friendly and family-run hotels.



** Example of the type of accommodation*

Category B

You'll get a good night's sleep when you stay in these 2-3-Star hotels or Bed and Breakfasts. All properties have been selected for their cleanliness, style and friendliness of the staff. A hearty breakfast is included!



* Example of the type of accommodation

Practical information

To get to departure point:

By plane: fly to Bordeaux Mérignac. A bus shuttle takes you to the city center in about 30mn depending on traffic.

By train: go to Bordeaux Saint-Jean train station. To plan your trip www.trainline.eu

Parking

If you drive to Bordeaux, you can park your car in a secured car park located next to Bordeaux Saint-Jean train station. On an indicative basis, the week rate (7 days) is € 50 subject to availability.

All details will be given in your travel documents.

To get back to starting point:

You take the train back to your departure point. You can take a direct speed train (TGV) or regional trains with a connection in Agen. Regional trains are without reservation and take bikes without extra charge. TGV train take bikes on reservation only with an extra charge of € 10/bike. You buy your ticket yourself. You will find the timetable of the day in your travel documents.

Meeting time:

The first day is an arrival day without cycling. You arrive whenever you want depending on from where you come. Please note that rooms are usually available in the middle of the afternoon depending on your accommodation. We thank you to advise us if you plan to arrive late.

Price description

Prices valid between June 2 and September 17

From March 30 to June 1st and from September 18 to October 27, there is a supplement due to higher rates of luggage transport.

Category A

Double room fare

€ 798 /pers

7 nights in ** hotels or B&Bs

7 breakfasts

6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike

the luggage transport

a road book with maps and descriptions of the routes

the return of the bikes

local visitors' taxes

sending charge of the travel documents in France

7/7 hotline

Half-board

€ 31 /dinner

Extra for a single room

€ 30 /night

Extra night in Bordeaux € 50 /pers

Extra night in Toulouse € 60 /pers

Category B € 949 /pers

Double room fare

7 nights in 2*, 3* hotels or deluxe B&Bs

7 breakfasts

6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike

the luggage transport

a road book with maps and descriptions of the routes

a touristic leaflet

the return of the bikes

local visitors' taxes

sending charge of the travel documents in France

7/7 hotline

Half-board € 33 /dinner

Extra for a single room € 39 /night

Extra night in Bordeaux € 70 /pers

Extra night in Toulouse € 80 /pers

Departures in low season

Supplement for luggage transport from March 30 to June 1st and from September 18 to October 27 € 150 /pers

Options

Discount if you ride your own bicycle € -115 /pers

Extra for an electric bike € 70 /pers

Children discount (in the same room as 2 full rate participants):

0-4 years: -70%

5-11 years: -50%

12-17 years: -30%

The package doesn't include:

the journey to the tour location

the drinks

the meals which are not included

the entrance fee to sites

insurances (optional)

For more information or booking : www.levelovoyageur.com
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