



Trip description

Cycling holidays from Bordeaux vineyards to the Atlantic

Attention : en raison de la Coupe du Monde de Rugby, les dates de départ sont limitées en septembre 2023. Départs uniquement possibles sur ces dates : du 1 au 7; du 12 au 14 et du 19 au 28 septembre.

Selfguided cycling tours from Bordeaux to Arcachon on the Atlantic coast, cycling through the Medoc vineyards (Pauillac), the sandy beaches of the Landes, the Dune du Pilat, Cap Ferret and oyster villages.



Destination	France
Location	Landes / Bordeaux
Duration	8 days
Difficulty Level	Very easy
Validity	March to November
Minimum age	9 years
Reference	A0702

Type of stay
itinerant trip



Itinerary



This cycle trip leads you to discover all aspects of the Bordeaux region: from the wine tradition handed down for generations to the sandy coastline of the Atlantic with its fragrant pine forest. You start your cycling holidays in Bordeaux, where you observe the beautiful architecture as you stroll through the historic city center and cycle along the banks of the Garonne.

You ride through the Medoc vineyards passing along the most prestigious wine houses such as Haut Marbuzet, Mouton-Rothschild and Lafitte-Rothschild. Then you ride through the pine forest to the coast and Cap-Ferret. You cross by boat the basin where you can enjoy the most beautiful view on the dune of Pilat, the highest sand dune in Europe.

You finish your cycling trip at Arcachon where you can relax and stroll at your own pace, towards the dune du Pyla or the oyster ports.

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 - Margaux

Bike
34km

You leave the dynamic city of Bordeaux along the banks of the Garonne and then calmly riding through Bordeaux residential areas. Gradually, nature overrides and soon you reach the first vineyards of the Medoc. You stop in the prestigious village of Margaux, land of "grands crus".

Day 3

Margaux - Pauillac

Bike
29km

You discover the natural diversity of Médoc starting with cycling in the heart of a wetland, along the banks of the Gironde, before continuing your journey through the most famous vineyards of Médoc.

Day 4

Pauillac – Hourtin

Bike
34km

Today you will cross the Medoc from East to West. You leave Pauillac on a country lane through the vineyards, cross the cutest villages where the time stopped a long time ago. You ride straight and see in the distance the edge of the pine forest. Just behind it is Hourtin, quiet village with its little harbor on the gigantic Hourtin lake, the largest natural lake in France.

Day 5

Hourtin – Lacanau

Bike
55km

You are on the bike trail called Vélodyssée. On this leg, between ocean, forests and lakes, you will cross the pine forest to reach Lacanau. This part is hilly because you follow the dunes but you can take an easier route along the largest natural lake in France, Hourtin's lake. If you're in the mood for some seaspray, ride to Carcans Ocean. Then ride on the Vélodyssée to reach the sea resort Maubuisson where you will find all kind of restaurants. The way to Lacanau is a wonderful green path, but take the time to stop at the nature reserve at Cousseau Lake. You'll finish your trip using on the cycle path joining Bordeaux to Lacanau.

Day 6

Lacanau-Arcachon

Bike
44km

Ride alons the coastline on the designated bicycle path. Here's your chance for a unique ride as you get up close to the tallest sand dune in France, the Dne of Pyla. At the end of the ride, Cap-Ferret gives you amazing views of the Great Dune of Pyla. This giant dune is sometimes called "The Sahara of France" because of its four different sand formations. There's time to sun bathe or swim while experiencing the fresh salt air. Take the boat to Arcachon and enjoy the view of the coastline from a different perspective. Boat trip from Cap Ferret to Arcachon. Approximately 1 hour, included in tour

Day 7

Suggested day trip : oyster-farming villages and the Leyre delta

Bike
41km

Learn about oyster farming from dedicated oyster farmers in Gujan Mestras and sample the freshest oysters you'll ever taste! The Leyre Delta is where fresh waters of the river and the salty waters of the ocean meet. You can go bird watching or rent a canoe or kayak and explore the area or water.

Oyster museum (Maison de l'huître) Approximately 1 hour, included in tour. The museum visit is partly guided.

Day 8

To the Great Dune of Pilat and the ocean

On this route, you'll ride along the coastline and dunes towards the Dune of Pilat. Take time to sunbath on the beach or enjoy a dip in the ocean water.

Accommodation

Category B

You'll be very comfortable staying in these mostly 3-Star hotels with clean and cozy accommodations. Enjoy the swimming pool before sleeping in your comfortable bed. A tasty breakfast is waiting for you each morning.



** Example of the type of accommodation*

Practical information

To get to departure point:

By plane: flight to Bordeaux and then shuttle to the city-center.

By train: From Paris-Montparnasse rail station, take a TGV train to Bordeaux. The duration of the trip is about 3h20. To plan your trip, www.raileurope.com

Parking

If you drive to Bordeaux, we advise you to park on the first day at your hotel in Arcachon where parking is free (not bookable places) or in the surrounding streets near the Place de Verdun, very safe because the police station is located around the corner.

The first day of your stay is an arrival day without biking so you have plenty of time to drop off your luggage in Bordeaux and drive to Arcachon to park for your vehicle.

You take the train to get back to Bordeaux, where you get your bikes in a shop near the train station.

To get back to starting point:

Regional trains take you back to your starting point if you wish. They are accessible without booking in advance and bicycles are free. You have to buy your ticket on spot (full rate 11.20€/adult). The duration of the commute is about 50 minutes. 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

Category B

Double room fare

7 nights in 3* and 4* hotels, 1 night in a 2* hotel 7 breakfasts 6 -day rental of a fully-equipped bike (saddled bags, locks, toolkit) the luggage transport from one lodging to the other the boat ride from Cap-Ferret to Arcachon with bikes the access to our mobile app including the roadbook and the practical and tourist information a guided visit of the Oyster Museum the return of the bikes 7/7 hotline	1289 €/pers
Middle season extra (*)	80 €/pers
High season extra (*)	140 €/pers
Extra for a single room	100 €/night
Half board (4 dinners)	169 €/pers
Extra night in Bordeaux (not possible during the World Cup Rugby in September 2023)	79 €/pers
Extra night in Arcachon low & middle season	75 €/pers
Extra night in Arcachon high season	110 €/pers

Options

Extra for the rental of an electric bike (8 days)	69 €/pers
Discount if you bring your own bicycle	-110 €/pers
Extra solo traveler (*) Middle season : from 01.04 to 30.06 from 01.09 to 30.09 (*) High season : from 01.07 to 31.08	260 €/pers

The package doesn't include:
the journey to the tour location
local visitor taxes
drinks
meals which are not included
entrance fee to sites
insurances (optional)

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