



Trip description

Cycle tour from Poitevin Marshes to Ile de Ré

From the Poitevin Marshes to Ile de Ré, discover the many treasures of Poitou-Charentes.



Destination	France
Location	Charente-Maritime
Duration	8 days
Difficulty Level	Moderate
Validity	From April to October
Minimum age	9 year
Reference	PC0801

Type of stay
itinerant trip



Itinerary



You start your bike trip in Niort and discover the small roads and narrow canals of the Poitevin marshes. You cross the small villages, discover the fauna and flora of the marshes with a guide on a boat and visit the magnificent abbey of Maillezais.

Stop in the city of art and history of Fontenay-le-Comte before leaving the wild Marais Poitevin to reach the beautiful port city of La Rochelle. The next day you ride to the island Ile de Ré where you will discover the long fine-sand beaches, the salt evaporation ponds of Loix and Ars-en-Ré, the fortified city of Saint-Martin-de-Ré or the producers of Pineau wine. Your bike trip ends in La Rochelle.

Day 1

Niort

You arrive at your own pace in the small town of Niort. You can stroll through the old town, admire the dungeon and the old district.

Day 2

Niort - Coulon

Bike
46km

You ride along on the bike path along the river to leave Niort and reach the small country roads in the marshes. Through the quiet and lovely small villages, you reach Arçais also called the "Green Venice of the Marais Poitevin". After a lunch on the harbor, you can board small boats and navigate through the narrow canals to discover the rich flora and fauna (coypus, the "angélique" a local plant, etc.).

In the afternoon, your bike tour take you to the picturesque charm of the wild marshes through Saint-Georges-de-Rex before reaching Coulon, a small village with white stone houses. You can visit the interesting museum of the marshes to complete your knowledge of the region.

Day 3

Coulon - Fontenay-le-Comte

Bike
54km

You leave Coulon through the marshes of the Marais Poitevin by riding on the dams. You cross a large part of the wet marshes. Your bike ride leads you to Maillezais where you visit an abbey of the 11th century, one of the starting point of the history of the Marais Poitevin. The bike route takes you then to the city of Fontenay-le-Comte, where you can enjoy a leisurely stroll, visit the many churches and the Renaissance castle of Terre-Neuve.

Day 4

Fontenay-le-Comte - La Rochelle

Bike
58km

You follow the Vendée river to Marans and enjoy the charm of the marsh Marais Poitevin. In the afternoon, you ride through La Rochelle countryside following a canal before reaching the old port of La Rochelle. The city prosperous past can be easily noticed thanks to its nice architecture from which the old fortified harbor is remarkable.

La Rochelle offers a wide range of cultural and touristic activities. Do not miss La Rochelle aquarium. The city is very well equipped with cycling paths, which makes it perfect for discovering it on a bicycle.

Day 5

La Rochelle – Le Bois-Plage

Bike
27km

Facing La Rochelle, Ile de Ré is just a few pedal strokes away. You ride on the cycling paths along the coast to the bridge of Ile de Ré. You continue along the coast to La Flotte then through the vineyards to Le Bois-Plage-en-Ré.

Day 6

**Suggested day trip :
through the swamps of
Loix or Ars-en-Ré**

Bike
28/38km

You start by riding through Saint-Martin-de-Ré where you can admire the Vauban citadel. Then, you continue along the coast to the delightful fishing village of Loix before riding back to Bois-Plage-en-Ré.

You can extend the day trip to Ars-en-Ré, listed among the most beautiful villages of France.

**Suggested day trip : the
big tour of Ile de Ré**

Bike
60km

This day trip for the most courageous leads first to Saint-Martin-de-Ré and then to the end of the island: the Portes-en-Ré. Then, you ride through the pine forest to the famous lighthouse of Ile de Ré: the lighthouse of whales before riding back to Le Bois-Plage.

Day 7

**Le Bois-Plage – La
Rochelle**

Bike
29km

You discover the coast with the fine-sand beaches and the delightful village of Sainte-Marie-de-Ré before taking back the bridge to La Rochelle.

Day 8

**Departure from La
Rochelle**

After breakfast, you leave for your next destination or extend your stay as you wish.

Accommodation

 **Category B**

You stay in **/** hotels. Breakfast is included.



** Example of the type of accommodation*

Practical information

To get to departure point:

By plane: flight to La Rochelle, then take a train to Niort.

By train: from Paris Montparnasse station, you can take a direct TGV (fast trains) to Niort. The duration of the trip is about 2h30. To plan your trip, www.raileurope.com.

Parking

If you drive to Niort, you can park your car in a secured car park located in the city center: parking St Jean (Place Saint Jean) or parking Espace Nortiais (Rue du Mûrier).

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. You will find the timetable of the day in your travel documents.

We can also organise a transfer in a private vehicle on demand.

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 1119 €/pers
Double room fare

7 nights in ** or *** hotels
7 breakfasts
6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (saddle bags, locks, toolkit)
Luggage transport
a road book with maps and descriptions of the routes
the return of the bikes
sending charge of the travel documents in France
7d/7 hotline

Middle season extra (*) 80 €/pers

High season extra (*) 90 €/pers

Half-board (except in Niort - 6 dinners) 235 €/pers

Extra for a single room 80 €/night

Extra night in Niort 79 €/pers

Extra night in La Rochelle 65 €/pers

Extra night in La Rochelle - High season
(From 01/07 to 31/08) 68 €/pers

Options

Extra for solo traveller 55 €/pers

Extra for the rental of an electric bike (6 days) 90 €/pers

Discount if you ride your own bicycle -95 €/pers

(*) Middle season :

- from 01.05 to 30.06.2023
- from 01.09 to 30.09.2023

High season :

from 01.08 to 31.08.2023

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

0-4 year : -70%

5-11 year : -50%

12-17 year : -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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