



Trip description

Atlantic coast cycle tour from La Rochelle to Bordeaux

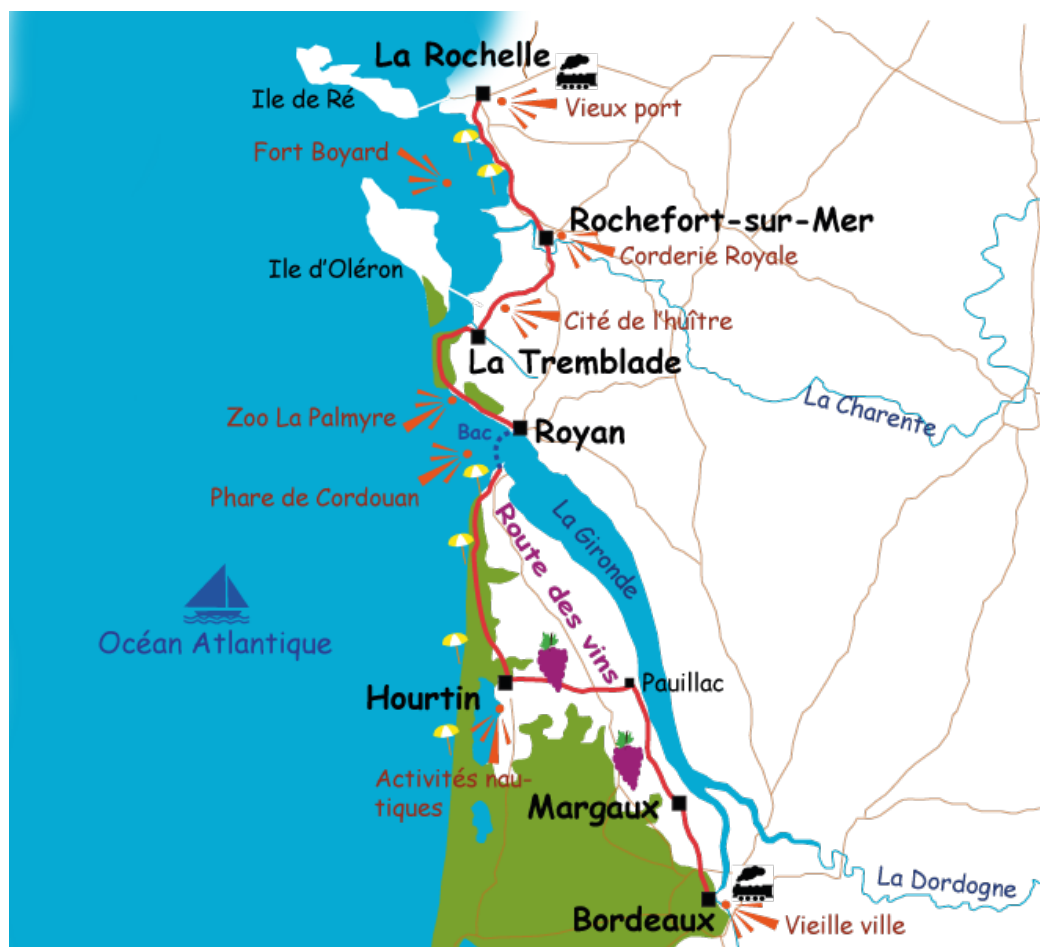


Destination	France
Location	Charente-Maritime
Duration	8 days
Difficulty Level	Easy
Validity	From April 1st to Sept 23, 2021
Minimum age	9 years
Reference	VO0802

Type of stay
itinerant trip



Itinerary



This cycling holiday will take you from the Atlantic coast to Médoc vineyards through a great diversity of landscapes.

From La Rochelle, ancient fortified harbor, you ride on the Atlantic cycle route "Velodyssée" alternatively along beaches, through marshes or pine forests. You discover the city of Rochefort and its "Corderie Royale", Brouage citadel built by the French engineer Vauban, the marshes of Marennnes, the oyster-farming port of La Tremblade and the coastal town of Royan.

You cross the Gironde Estuary by ferry to Le Verdon and continue your bike trip across Médoc peninsula. You cycle along the seashore then through the vineyards where they grow numerous "Grands Crus" such as Mouton-Rothschild. You reach Pauillac before getting to Bordeaux by train with your bikes to discover this historic and lively city. All in all, a great cycling holiday !

DAY 1

La Rochelle

La Rochelle prosperous past can be easily noticed thanks to its nice architecture from which the old fortified harbor is remarkable.

The city 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 2

La Rochelle – Rochefort-sur-mer

Bike
42km

Begin by riding on the seaside cycling path through small villages such as Les Boucholeurs or Chatellaillon-Plage. As you pedal along the marshes, try and spy the birds, herons and storks in the area.

When you reach Rochefort, notice the distinct naval architecture. The city was an active naval base from the time of Louis XIV until 1926. You might want to tour the Corderie Royal, an interesting rope factory where all the ropes for military sailboats were made. Enjoy flowers? The Conservatoire du Begonia houses the world's largest collection of begonias!

DAY 3

Rochefort - La Tremblade

Bike
40km

Admire France's last transporter bridge, classified as Historic Monument and dedicated to pedestrians and bicycles. It is currently under construction, so you will take a ferry boat to cross.

Continue biking along the canals then through the marshes populated by storks. Discover Brouage citadel built by the French engineer Vauban and bike along the oyster farms until the coast of Marennes beaches.

You cross over the Seudre River and end your day in La Tremblade.

DAY 4

La Tremblade - Royan

Bike
39km

You bike through La Tremblade forest till the lighthouse "Phare de la Coubre". You ride on along the superb bay "Baie des Anses" and reach La Palmyre. You keep along the seaside which gradually becomes rockier and offers beautiful little coves before getting to Royan and the Gironde Estuary.

DAY 5

Royan - Hourtin

Bike
64km

You take the ferry to cross the estuary of the Gironde to reach the wine region Medoc. Cycle through the pin forest along the until Hourtin, stopping at leisure in one of the natural lakes or on a long sand beach.

For logistical reasons, you take the ferry with your bikes and your

luggage, you drop them off at the exit of the boat.

DAY 6

Hourtin - Margaux

Bike
64km

You discover the natural diversity of the region Medoc, by starting to cycle through the pine forest to reach the vineyards. Cross the vineyards, ride past the worldwide known wine estates and through the most beautiful villages of France where time seems to have stopped. You cycle along the banks of the Gironde and admire the traditional fishing houses. You finish your day by crossing a wet marsh before arriving in the village of Margaux.

DAY 7

Margaux - Bordeaux

Bike
34km

You leave the prestigious village of Margaux and cross the vineyards until you reach the beautiful city of Bordeaux. Enter the old city center by riding along the quays of the Garonne.

DAY 8

Departure from Bordeaux

You can extend your stay or leave after breakfast.

Regional trains take you back from Bordeaux to La Rochelle if you wish. They are without reservation and take bicycles without extra charge. The duration of the trip is about 2h20.

Accommodation

Category A

You stay in ** hotels where you will be hosted with a warm welcome. Breakfast is included.



* Example of the type of accommodation

Category B

You stay in superior ***hotels and 2 nights in **hotels where you will be hosted with a warm welcome. Breakfast is included.



* Example of the type of accommodation

Practical information

To get to departure point:

By plane: flight to Paris or Nantes or La Rochelle.

By train: TGV (fast trains) from Paris Montparnasse (direct or with a connection in Poitiers). The duration of the trip is estimated between 3h15 and 3h45. **Inter-regional trains from Bordeaux and Nantes.** To plan your trip, www.raileurope.com.

Parking

If you drive to La Rochelle, you can park your car in a secure car park located in the city center, near your accommodation. The weekly rate is 50€. You can also park for free in the streets in the neighborhood of the university. All details will be given in your travel documents.

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 ~40€/adult). There are several trains per day. You will find the timetable 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

Catégorie A

Double room fare

Basis 2-3 persons

899 €/pers

Basis 4-5 persons

859 €/pers

Basis +6 persons

819 €/pers

7 nights in ** hotels

7 breakfasts

6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (saddle bags, locks, toolkit)

the luggage transport

the ferry crossing from Royan to Le Verdon with bike

a road book with maps and descriptions of the routes
the delivery and the return of the bikes
local visitors' taxes
sending charge of the travel documents in France
7/7 hotline

High season (*)	80 €/pers
Single occupancy extra (**)	57 €/nuit
Half-board (7 dinners)	200 €/pers
Extra night in La Rochelle	60 €/pers
Extra night in Bordeaux	65 €/pers

Catégorie B

Double room fare

Basis 2-3 persons	1049 €/pers
Basis 4-5 persons	1009 €/pers
Basis +6 persons	969 €/pers

5 nights in superior ***hotels and 2 nights in **hotels
7 breakfasts
6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (saddle bags, locks, toolkit)
the luggage transport
the ferry crossing from Royan to Le Verdon with bike
a road book with maps and descriptions of the routes
the delivery and the return of the bikes
local visitors' taxes
sending charge of the travel documents in France
7/7 hotline

High season (*)	90 €/pers
Single occupancy extra (**)	70 €/nuit
Half-board (7 dinners)	210 €/pers
Extra night in La Rochelle	85 €/pers
Extra night in Bordeaux	75 €/pers

Options

Entrance ticket to the towers of the Old Harbour in La Rochelle	9 €/adulte
Extra for the rental of an electric bike (6 days)	80 €/pers
Discount if you ride your own bicycle	-150 €/pers

(*) **High season** :

du 01.07 au 01.09.2021

(**) These prices are guaranteed for 2 participants minimum.

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)