

FRANCE – BRITTANY HIGHLIGHTS

8-day / 7-nights **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn cycling including St Malo and UNESCO listed Mont St Michel



The highlight of this tour of France's Emerald Coast is the awe-inspiring 8th Century abbey of Mont St Michel. Cycle from the medieval port town of Saint Malo through the historic towns of Dinan and Fougères to Mont St Michel. Then continue along the coastline, with fine sandy beaches interspersed with ragged rocks, reefs, granite headlands and steep cliffs dappled pink and grey in the sun. The area is famous for a rich cultural heritage and its architecture. There are castles, feudal fortresses and abbeys to see and a variety of flora and fauna in protected wildlife zones. This moderate cycling tour is a delightful way to explore this fascinating region.

Inn-to-inn self-guided cycling holidays are perfect for exploring France's iconic landscapes. Travelling by bike gives you the freedom and flexibility to see more of the countryside and move at your own pace. You can stop and relax or explore, secure in the knowledge that your room is waiting for you and your bags have gone ahead.

Departs: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, mid-March to late October, 2024

Cost from: \$2085 per person, twin-share Single room supplement from \$805

Includes: 7 nights' accommodation in comfortable 3-star hotels or guesthouses in ensuite rooms; breakfast daily; hire of multi-gear hybrid bike with pannier, lock & repair kit; luggage transfers; phone briefing; detailed route notes with stage-by-stage route descriptions, maps and travel information; emergency telephone support.

Not included: Other meals, drinks, personal expenses, optional visits or entry fees, local city taxes (paid locally) travel to the start/end of the tour. Bike helmets not included – take your own or hire one for @ \$25 when booking.

Extras: **E-bike hire and GPS hire** are available at extra cost - ask for details when you make a booking.

Grading: Easy to moderate cycling, 30 - 50km per day mostly on flat to gently undulating terrain, some hills



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details and reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive St Malo

Arrive early to allow time to explore this busy harbour town, with its cobbled streets in the old quarter and protective walls. The town has a fascinating history and was once a stronghold for many privateers, not-quite-pirates who had received the *marque* of the king. Le Demeure de Corsaire is an interesting 18th Century privateer's house and museum in St Malo. Evening route briefing and bike fitting.

Day 2: St Malo – Dinan

cycling @ 35km

Allow time to see the citadelle and ramparts, then begin cycling inland along the gently undulating valley of the Rance River. Ride mostly on forest backroads past small villages to the steep hill that leads you into Dinan, Brittany's best preserved medieval town. A wonderful place to explore and swim so allow time here.

Day 3: Dinan – Combourg

cycling @ 35km

Meander further inland to see more of the quiet Bretonne countryside and discover ancient monolithic stone structures known as *dolmen*. The 11th Century granite castle in medieval Combourg, with its four turrets, is well worth a visit and the castle grounds are open all day. Lac Tranquille is ideal for an evening stroll.

Day 4: Combourg – Fougères

cycling @ 55km

Sens de Bretagne, Rimou and other villages are on your route today. After cycling through the valley of the River Cousenon and Tremblay, you ride through wooded landscapes and past ancient castles to reach Fougères. Take time to explore the castle here with its many different levels that make it seemingly impregnable.

Day 5: Fougères – Pontorson

cycling @ 50km

Discover the typical countryside of Brittany with its lovely stone farmhouses and small villages bedecked with flowers. Perhaps take some time to stop in the village of St Brice-en-Coglès before continuing on small country roads along the banks of the Cousenon River and into Pontorson across the border in Normandy.

Day 6: Pontorson – Cancale

cycling @ 45km

From Moidrey, the finest views of one of the most visited sites in France begin to appear. Whether it's your first or fifth visit, whether the weather is sunny or misty, the sun rising or setting, the view of Mont Saint Michel on its rugged rock outcrop and the spectacular bay is always awe-inspiring. Make time to climb the ancient ramparts, visit the Abbey and its cloisters, and enjoy views of the bay and the many shops and café/restaurants on the road that winds up to the monastery. Then make your way across the newly constructed bridge, glancing back occasionally at the magnificent view, to Le Vivier-sur-Mer on the edge of the bay. End the day in Cancale, a picturesque fishing harbour lined with restaurants that offer local oysters and fish fresh from the sea nearby, and from which you can see one last time the Mont Saint Michel standing on the horizon.

Day 7: Cancale – Saint Malo

cycling @ 25km

Cycle alongside sandy beaches and the rugged granite coastline to Pointe de Grouin and Anse du Guesclin, where, tides permitting, you can walk to Fort Duguesclin on its tiny rocky island. Return to the historic walled ferry-port town of St Malo.

Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast at your hotel in St Malo. There are train connections from here to Paris or other areas of Europe and regular ferry services to Jersey and the Channel Islands or across to the English South Coast.

This is just one of the many small group guided or self-guided inn-to-inn cycling tours **Outdoor Travel** offer in Europe. We offer famous cycling trails such as the river rides from **Passau to Vienna** along the Danube or along the **Inn Bike Trail** from Switzerland to Austria. Travel too from **Vienna to Budapest** through Austria, Slovakia and Hungary, from the mountains near **Bolzano to Venice** in Italy, or across **Tuscany** or **Umbria**. If you prefer a leisurely cycle, ride around **Lake Constance** in Germany, Switzerland and Austria, or if you are up for a challenge, take on the **Camino de Santiago** in Spain or the **Coast-to-Coast** crossing in England. Other **Outdoor Travel** cycling destinations include Spain, France, Holland, Ireland, England and Scotland, Poland, in the Czech Republic, Romania, China, Japan, Vietnam, North America, New Zealand and South Africa.

We also offer group guided **Bike and Barge** cycling cruises in many destinations including along the canals & rivers of **France, Belgium, Holland and Germany**, the **Amalfi Coast** or **Venetian Lagoon** in Italy or the **Dalmatian Coast** of Croatia, the many beautiful **islands of Greece**, or **Vietnam**.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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