

FRANCE – BORDEAUX FROM THE VINEYARDS TO THE SEA

8-days/ 7-nights **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn cycling from Cadillac to Sauternes, Arcachon & Cap Ferret



Bordeaux is world-renowned as a centre for great wine and food. This leisurely self-guided cycling holiday offers the opportunity to sample many of the treasures of Bordeaux: the villages of Cadillac and Saint-Macaire, world-famous wines both red and white grown in the Entre-Deux-Mers region, the historic buildings and monuments of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed city of Bordeaux, and of course the food. *Confit du canard* (confit duck leg), foie gras, steak *bordelaise*, local oysters and mussels, and the signature pastry of Bordeaux city, the *cannelé*, a caramelised cake surrounding a filling of custard flavoured with rum and vanilla.

Spend the week exploring the Gironde region, starting from the vineyards surrounding the wine villages of Cadillac and Saint-Macaire, rolling gently through shady forests, past chateaux and alongside rivers to the Atlantic Ocean. You have a full day to explore the Bay of Arcachon, with time to try the cycle track that leads around the bay visiting the quiet sandy beaches and villages in this nature reserve. Take your bike on the ferry to Cap Ferret where the wealthy Bordelaise play and to visit the famous oyster village of L'Herbe.

Your cycling route through the vineyards includes some rolling hills, but otherwise the ride is generally flattish and covers modest daily distances, so there is plenty of time to linger over breakfast or take a long relaxing lunch. Inn-to-inn self-guided cycling holidays are a perfect way to explore France, with the freedom to see more of the countryside, following mostly quiet backroads and pathways. Travel at your own pace, stop and relax or explore, secure in the knowledge that your room is waiting for you, your bags have gone ahead.

Departs: Daily (except Thursdays) from April to October.

Cost from: \$2085 per person twin share Single room supplement from \$885

Starts & Ends: Bordeaux

Included: 7 nights' accommodation in carefully chosen 2-3-star guesthouses or hotels with private (mostly en-suite) bathroom facilities; 7 breakfasts, 4 dinners; inn-to-inn luggage transfers as per itinerary (one bag per person, up to 20kg); hire of multi-gear hybrid bike with lock, repair kit, pannier, handlebar bag, and helmet; full route notes and map package (one set per room); emergency hotline; arrival taxi from Bordeaux airport or train station to the first hotel; return ferry ticket across the bay on Day 6.

Not Included: 3 dinners, all lunches and beverages, entry fees, unscheduled transfers needed during the tour, train from Arcachon to Bordeaux on Day 7, personal expenses.

E-bikes can be hired for an additional surcharge – availability strictly limited, please request when booking.

Grading: Easy to moderate cycling - the terrain is almost flat with just a little rolling countryside through some of the vineyards making the cycling very enjoyable.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details and reservations

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival in Bordeaux and transfer to Cadillac or Rions

Make your way to Bordeaux, where you will be collected from either the train station or airport and transferred to the first night's accommodation in Cadillac or Rions. Collect your route book and bike here. The area is in the middle of the wine growing area and dinner will be served in the guesthouse or a nearby restaurant.

Day 2: Cadillac or Rions to Saint Macaire

cycling distance: @ 30 - 40km

Ride through the peaceful bastide town of Cadillac to Chateau Malromé (where Henri Toulouse-Lautrec lived) and into the 'Entre-Deux-Mer' area. You pass through vineyards of *Premieres Cotes de Bordeaux* and *Cotes de Bordeaux* wines to Saint Macaire or nearby Caudrot (7km). Saint Macaire is a medieval city with wine 'caves' to explore and superb views of the Garonne. Dinner is included tonight.

Day 3: Saint Macaire to Origne

cycling distance: @ 53km

From the village you cross to the left bank of the Garonne River and follow the twisting roads through the world famous vines of the Sauternes area, including the jewel in its crown, **Chateau Yquem**. You pedal on to Budos through valleys carved out by the River Ciron to Leogats and Nouaillan, then on to Balizac where you enter the 'Landes de Gascogne regional Nature Park,' before reaching Origne. Dinner is included tonight.

Day 4: Origne to Le Barp

cycling distance: @ 32km

Today's ride takes you through the Regional Nature Park following a lovely forest road westwards towards Louchats. The pine forest becomes denser and the scent of pine resin richer. Leave your bike at the site of the lagoons of Gat-Mort. Hosten Lake offers plenty of shade by the shore, perfect for an afternoon nap! Afterwards cycle along a track through pine trees and heather to the small road leading to Le Barp.

Day 5: Le Barp to the Bay of Arcachon and the ocean

cycling distance: @ 45km

A gentle ride along the cycle track to Mios and Le Teich where the nature park meets the sea. Perhaps visit the bird sanctuary, with over 300 species of nesting and migratory birds. Then cycle the coastal path to Gujan-Mestras and on to Arcachon, where you spend two nights with dinner provided on one night.

Day 6: Around Cap Ferret

cycling distance: @ 20km or 40km

Today explore one of the most beautiful regions of France. With your bike take the boat across the Bay of Arcachon to Cap Ferret. Ride on the other side of the bay and walk up to the lighthouse. Ride to the pretty village of L'Herbe past reservoirs and 'Tapper's Shack' then return by boat across the bay to the hotel. To extend your ride, cycle along the coastal track to the Dune du Pyla, the highest dune in Europe (20 km return).

Day 7: To Bordeaux

no cycling

After breakfast leave your bikes in Arcachon and take the train to Bordeaux (@ 50 minutes - costs @ €12 paid locally). Leave your luggage at tonight's hotel and explore Bordeaux's many historic buildings and museums.

Day 8: Tour ends.

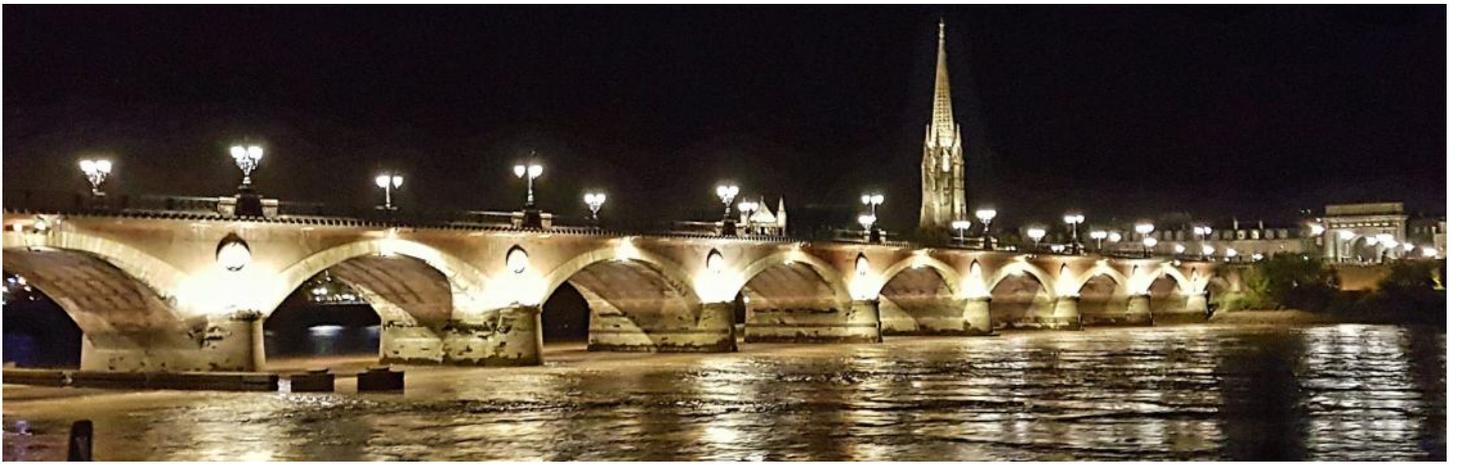
Depart Bordeaux after breakfast.



Outdoor Travel offer small group guided or self-guided inn-to-inn cycling tours in Europe - including rides from Passau to Vienna along the Danube, from Vienna to Budapest, in Tuscany and Umbria in Italy, in Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Ireland, England, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. We also offer group guided **Bike & Barge** or **Bike & Boat** cruises in destinations such as France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Italy, Scotland, the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia, the islands of Greece, and Vietnam.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations:

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