

FRANCE - SOUTHERN BURGUNDY

8-days / 7-nights **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn cycling from Dijon to Cluny, Chalon-sur-Saône & Beaune



Burgundy is famous for its warm hospitality and a knack for enjoying life. This is a region rich in tradition, gastronomy and wine. For many centuries people have been lured to this beautiful land of gently rolling landscapes, sleepy villages, rivers and canals. Burgundy is the old France, a land of culture, countryside, fine food and wine. Stately historic castles, miles of straight Roman roads and magnificent Romanesque churches give constant reminders of Burgundy's heritage. Be delightfully surprised by the beauty of its traditional architecture, and unsurprised but delighted by its exquisite wines and delicious food.

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 from mid-March to late October, 2019

Cost from: **\$1850** per person twin-share Single room supplement from **\$670**
Half Board supplement **\$545** per person (includes seven 4-course dinners)

Includes: 7 nights' accommodation in comfortable 2, 3 and 4-star hotels and guesthouses in ensuite rooms; breakfast daily; hire of multi-gear hybrid bike with panniers; luggage transfers; welcome briefing; detailed route notes with stage-by-stage route descriptions, maps and travel information; emergency telephone support; wine-tasting in Nuits-St-Georges; train ticket Beaune to Dijon. If you opt to pay the Half Board supplement then a 4-course dinner is included each night.

Not included: Other meals, drinks, personal expenses, entry fees, travel to the start/end of the tour. Bike helmet not included – we recommend you take your own helmet or hire one for @ \$20 when making your booking.

E-bike hire: From \$195 per E-bike – availability strictly limited, please request when making your booking.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details and reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive in Dijon

Arrive in the early afternoon, allowing time to discover the city – the Church of Notre Dame and the Tomb of the Dukes of Burgundy (who in medieval Burgundy were more important than the King of France as they were closely aligned to the English throne) are both well worth visiting. At Notre-Dame, look for 'La Chouette', the little owl which is reputed to bring good luck and has been adopted by Dijon as a symbol of the city.

Day 2: Dijon – Beaune

cycling distance @ 43km

Begin your Burgundy cycle with a ride through rolling countryside and vineyards, in the very heart of Burgundy. Stop to view the wine château of Aloxe Corton, with its ornate roof, or the 12th Century Clos de Vougeot Château, which was the property of the Citeaux Abbey for several centuries. En route to Beaune you pass through Nuits-Saint-Georges, which has produced world famous wine for a thousand years. A wine-tasting has been organized here for you. The area is known for its reds, particularly pinot noir.

Day 3: Beaune – Chasse-le-Camp

cycling distance @ 28km

Beaune is the wine capital of Burgundy with its famous Hôtel Dieu, an ancient hospital and a 15th Century masterpiece of Gothic art that was built after the Hundred Years War against the English. Cycling on you come to one of the most famous wine appellations in the world, home to such names as Pommard and Mercurey.

Day 4: Chasse-le-Camp – Cluny

cycling distance @ 66km

Today explore the Côte Chalonnaise, which lies between the foothills of the Morvan Mountains and the River Saône plains. The Côte Chalonnaise is a perfect geographical bridge between the famous winegrowing areas of the Côte de Beaune to the north and the Mâconnais to the south; this area has its own distinguished array of famous appellations. At Cormatin you can visit the magnificent château before cycling to Cluny.

Day 5: Cluny – Tournus

cycling distance @ 37km

Cluny is important in French history as its Abbey was one of the largest in Europe till the 16th Century. Founded by the Benedictine order in 910AD, it was largely destroyed during the French Revolution but it has now been wonderfully restored. The National Stud Farm at Cluny breeds racehorses and traditional French draught horses (Percherons). From Cluny the cycle route crosses the Chalonnais to Tournus on the banks of the Saône.

Day 6: Tournus – Chalon-sur-Saône

cycling distance @ 34km

The Saône River is never far from your cycle route today. Chalon is a busy river port and the birthplace of Nicéphore Niepce, the inventor of photography. The collection at the *Musée Nicéphore Niepce* includes antique cameras and equipment, well-preserved daguerreotypes and early photographs, exhibits on the history and development of photography, and work by modern photographers. The Gothic cathedral in the heart of the city, and the chapel and the pharmacy of the former hospital are also worth a visit.

Day 7: Chalon-sur-Saône – Beaune – Dijon

cycling distance @ 52km

Cycle along the Canal du Centre, through a rural landscape with row after row of manicured grapevines, until you reach Beaune. En route you cycle across the beautiful Côte Chalonnaise, rolling hills cloaked in vineyards. From Beaune we recommend you take the short journey by train back to Dijon to avoid busier roads – a train ticket has been included in the cost of your tour.

Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast in Dijon. There are frequent TGV services to Paris (about 1½ hours), or from Dijon connect to the south of France or destinations in Switzerland.

Outdoor Travel offers guided or self-guided inn-to-inn holidays in Europe. 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, 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 and 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**, the **Lycian coast of Turkey**, or **Vietnam**.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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