

## FRANCE & ENGLAND: RIDE THE **GREENWAY** FROM PARIS TO LONDON

8-days / 7-nights easy to moderate inn-to-inn **SELF-GUIDED** or GUIDED cycling tour



Two of Europe's greatest cities are now linked by a designated cycle trail. The **Greenway** or **Avenue Verte** will take you from central Paris and the majestic Eiffel Tower along river valleys and through typically French scenic countryside to the ferry port at Dieppe. As you cross the English Channel by ferry there are spectacular views of the iconic chalk cliffs of Beachy Head. From the port of Newhaven we cycle across the rolling Sussex Downs towards iconic Brighton, along the River Thames and on designated cycle paths into the heart of London.

The **Avenue Verte** follows clearly marked dedicated cycle paths, road shoulder cycle lanes and quiet country roads. Parts of the route are still being constructed so the route, cycling surfaces and traffic situation may vary as time progresses with both countries cooperating to see its completion. The route is mostly level when it follows the Seine, Marne and Epte rivers. It becomes slightly more undulating in some rural areas, especially in England.

**SELF-GUIDED Tour Cost from: \$1695** per person twin share      Single room supplement – add \$860

**Departs:** 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> May; 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> June; 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> July; 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> August; 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 (with a minimum of two people travelling together)

**GUIDED Tour Cost from: \$2110** per person twin share      Single room supplement – add \$860

**Departs:** 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 (guided tours subject to minimum numbers)  
Additional departure dates for private groups of 8 or more clients, on request.

**Includes:** 7 nights' comfortable accommodation with ensuite in 3 and 4-star hotels (one night in 2-star), daily breakfast, luggage transport between hotels (one piece - maximum 20kg), bike insurance, welcome briefing, route book & maps, ferry from Dieppe - Newhaven, hire of multi-geared touring bike with pannier and repair kit, support van in the area.

**Guided tour also includes:** 5 dinners (dinner in Paris and London not included), English-speaking tour guide.

**Not included:** Meals not mentioned; personal expenses; transfers to/from the starting/end points; drinks; entry fees; train tickets (except as mentioned) or any extras; gratuities; local tourist taxes; travel insurance. Bike helmets can be hired for @ \$35 please ask when booking.

**E-bikes are available** at extra cost (limited availability, so booked early).

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details and reservations**

From Paris our route is about 200km to the French coast. We ride along the banks of the River Seine and through woodland in the historic region of Vexin Française, and then in the Epte River valley into the rural countryside of Normandy. This is a landscape that inspired many Impressionist painters including Monet, Daumier, Pissarro, Cézanne and Van Gogh.

We reach Dieppe on the French coast and take a four hour ferry ride across the English Channel to Newhaven and the nearby spectacular tall white cliffs at Beachy Head. Following the Sussex Downs to Brighton we ride through verdant green English countryside with market towns and quaint villages. The last stage to the heart of cosmopolitan London is through parks and along cycle paths to Westminster Abbey and the iconic London Eye.

### **Suggested itinerary:**

#### **Day 1: Arrive Paris**

Plan to arrive at your hotel in central Paris well before 6.00pm for a route briefing and delivery of the bikes. You may like to have a short warm-up ride in Paris this evening. Ask about extra nights in Paris at additional cost.

#### **Day 2: Paris – Cergy**

**cycling @ 55km**

After breakfast, start from Notre Dame Cathedral and follow the Axe Historique from the Louvre via the Champs Elysées through the Arc de Triomphe to the new Défense district. Continue on past Nanterre, to the islands and parks so loved by the impressionists, and once a destination for Sunday trips or to spend the afternoon "en plein air" on a boat between the Seine and the Marne. The route today includes cycling on the scenic Promenade Bleue riverside bike path. End your day in Cergy where you spend the night.

#### **Day 3: Cergy – Gisors**

**cycling @ 60km**

Today continue across the Vexin Français regional park, with its many villages, castles and churches, to the confluence of the River Seine and the Epte, where we formally enter Normandy. After Théméricourt and its spectacular Maison du Parc, continue to Villardeaux and its 18<sup>th</sup> Century castle bearing the same name. After the small town of Bray-et-Lû ride alongside the river Epte to Gisors and the fortress marking the historical Franco-Norman border.

#### **Day 4: Gisors – Forges-les-Eaux**

**cycling @ 65km**

After breakfast, leave Gisors, with its legend of the Knights Templar (the castle there was once their prison) and continue through the rural landscapes of the departments of Eure, Seine-Maritime and Pays de Bray to Forges-les-Eaux, a spa resort built in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and regarded as one of the most beautiful destinations in France.

#### **Day 5: Forges-les-Eaux – Dieppe**

**cycling @ 60km**

The cycling today is an easy, flat ride along the brand new cycle path, to the outskirts of Dieppe. The landscape is dotted with farms which produce fresh vegetables, fruit, rich cream, milk and cheeses for the vibrant markets of Normandy and Paris. Pass the chateau at Mesnières-en-Bray, a jewel of the French Renaissance style. Spend tonight in Dieppe, France's first seaside resort and a favourite place for impressionist painters.

#### **Day 6: Dieppe - Brighton**

**cycling @ 40km + ferry to Newhaven**

Start today with a short loop around Dieppe, arrive back by 12.30pm in time for the pre-booked ferry crossing of the English Channel arriving in Newhaven. Once in England, continue your ride along the Undercliff Walk, a stunning path along the sea towards the popular seaside resort town of Brighton with its iconic pier, cafes and hotels often packed during the brief British summer. Spend tonight in Brighton, taking the time to visit the Royal Pavillion or an evening walk on the Brighton Pier.

#### **Day 7: Brighton – London**

**cycling @ 45km**

Take a morning train transfer to Redhill where you start cycling today through parks and along a new-cycle paths reaching the outer suburban landscape of the City of London. The ride into the city itself is gradual, following the River Wandle to the River Thames through the North Downs and several manicured English parks. Your cycling route finishes at Westminster Abbey. You can shorten the distance and avoid London traffic by taking the train from Redhill or Coulsdon to Victoria Station (cost paid locally).

**Day 8: London.** Tour ends after breakfast – ask about extra nights of accommodation if required (at extra cost)

### **Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and to make reservations:**

- Toll free on 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: [info@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:info@outdoortravel.com.au)
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741