

Self-Guided Velodyssee Cycling: Arcachon to Biarritz

Trip Code: SGAB

Version:



CYCLE



SELF-GUIDED



LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Cycle along peaceful woodland paths, through open farmlands and to welcoming seaside towns
- Soak up the atmosphere of vibrant Hossegor, a mecca for surfers around the world
- Discover Biscarrosse and Chateau de Montbron, once home to English Royalty

- Finish your daily rides with a relaxing swim from the sandy beaches of the Atlantic Coast

AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- 4 days cycling & sightseeing
- Bike hire included
- Daily departures available
- GPS Travel App
- Join at Arcachon / End in Biarritz

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

World class wines, inviting beaches, endless sunshine and smooth cycle paths. What more could you want from a self-guided cycling holiday in southwest France? This fantastic 5 night cycling adventure follows the EuroVelo 1 long distance cycle route, the Velodysee, along the Cote d'Atlantique from Arcachon (just south of France's wine capital Bordeaux) into Basque country to the seaside town of Biarritz. Cycling an average of 50km per day you can look forward to well-marked cycle routes taking you through open farmlands and vineyards; to beautiful lakes and to the historic coastal towns. Along the way you will discover the largest sand dune in Europe, France's surfing hotspots, photogenic lighthouses, and of course chateaux. Each evening you will stay in welcoming 2* or 3* hotels close to the inviting beaches where you can enjoy a relaxing swim after a day on your bike and dine on the fantastic cuisine this region is known for. If you love good food, great wines and exploring on two wheels, you will love the Velodysee.

Is this holiday for you?

If you love exploring on two wheels, cycling to the sound of crashing waves and having plenty of time to discover new cultures and cuisine then you will love the Velodysee. Cycling an average of 50 km a day on well-marked cycle paths and quiet lanes you will have plenty of time to soak up the atmosphere of life in southwest France and enjoy the many sights along the route. Plus you will have time to enjoy a boat trip from Arcachon, join a surf lesson on the famous Hossegor beach and climb Europe's highest sand dune, Pilat. At the end of each day you can look forward to warm hospitality in hotels close to the beach and feast on delicious French cuisine.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Bike hire
- City taxes
- Self-Guided Travel App
- Self-guided information pack containing your tour booklet and travel documents
- Luggage transfers

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to Arcachon
- Travel from Biarritz
- Visas (if applicable)
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Personal equipment
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

GPS Travel App

This holiday is led by a self-guided app, which contains the personalised details of your complete holiday itinerary. This includes the GPS-led routes for you to follow on your self-guided cycling and walking tours, as well as attractions, coffee stops and points of interest in the towns and cities along the way. The app does not need to have Wi-Fi connection to work, you simply follow the instructions we provide you to download the app to your phone before you leave home and you are ready to go.

Each mobile comes with a different expected battery life so we suggest you pack a spare battery pack with you just in case you require it.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your tour booklet and all your relevant holiday documents no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start date. We will send your documents using signed for courier so that you can track your package and know that they are safely on their way to you. Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start date, please do inform our sales team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking holiday for your family, a centre based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a days walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our sales team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

This trip starts at your accommodation in Arcachon. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a land only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The nearest airport for this trip is Bordeaux Airport with options from regional UK airports.

If you are flying into Bordeaux Airport you can travel via train to Arcachon. You must take the airport shuttle to Bordeaux from where you can take the train direct to Arcachon. The journey takes less than 1 hour in total with both shuttles and trains running hourly. For more information please visit www.rome2rio.com

Your trip ends in Biarritz from where you can take the bus direct to Bordeaux Airport.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the most flexibility during your holiday.

Food & Water

Water is drinkable from the taps on this holiday. Please fill your personal bottles for your day in the morning. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

French cuisine is ingrained in French culture and is one of the country's greatest contributions to the world. It is filled with passion; a celebration of the rich natural flavours of basic ingredients, to be enjoyed with one of the country's fine wines. Meal times are leisurely, a time to be enjoyed with good company and are an experience to be savoured.

This region of France is known for its rich foods made with local ingredients such as duck, prunes, and truffles. Here you can feast on dishes such as la saute d'oie (sautéed goose), coq au vin, and confit duck. And of course all these rich foods require a good wine to wash them down such as the Bordeaux which is produced in this region of France.

Given that your route follows the coastline, it is no surprise that fish and seafood also feature heavily on menus with popular dishes including fresh Marennes- Oleron oysters.

You will find many appealing cafes along your route for lunch or you may be swayed by the delicious scents of the local 'boulangerie' to enjoy a picnic of fresh bread and delicious local cheeses- yummy. Cycling in the France is not just a journey but a treat for your taste buds!

Accommodation

This trip has been designed with the coastal towns in mind. You will stay in a selection of small 2 and 3 star hotels each chosen for their warm hospitality and fantastic locations along your route. All of the hotels offer something different such as lovely beachfront locations, or cosy communal areas, ideal for relaxing after a day on your bike.

All of the hotels offer a typically French continental breakfast of delicious fresh breads and pastries served with your morning coffee. Some hotels also offer additional hot items.

It is possible to arrange additional nights accommodation if you would like to extend your time in Arcachon or Biarritz. Please speak to one of our sales team for further information.

Bike Hire

Bikes come with 21 gears and come equipped with 2 panniers for your daily essentials plus a milometer, a bike lock, pump and repair kit. We strongly recommend you bring your own helmet with you.

We also recommend packing a gel seat for extra comfort or a pair of padded cycling shorts, whilst the cycling is leisurely and there are plenty of opportunities to stop and explore it is always nice to have some padding for a comfortable ride.

E-bikes are also available at an additional supplement of £ 175. We are also able to arrange children's bikes, children's follow-me tandems, trailers and child seats. Please ask our sales team for details.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out on your bike. We ask that you please ensure your luggage is limited to one piece under 20KG and that your luggage is ready for collection each morning.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

Severe Allergies

Please inform our KE Sales and support team of any severe allergies you may have before travel. We will always do our best to help but we are unable to guarantee an allergy free environment on our KE trips. We advise that you always carry your own treatment for the allergy with you such as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' if required. We also recommend that you discuss this with your accommodation on arrival so that they can better assist you.

Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided cycling holiday is that you decide the pace. This trip is designed for leisure cyclists and does not require you to be in peak fitness. Having said this it is always sensible to get some additional exercise before going on an active holiday. After all, the fitter you are the more enjoyable your cycling will be. You should be comfortable with cycling an average of 50 km a day on easy cycle paths or quiet roads and we advise you to dust off your bike and head out on a few rides before your holiday.

Climate

The climate in south west France is favourable most of the year round with the breeze from the Atlantic helping to keep the summers cool and the winters mild, ideal for cycling.

Summer temperatures reach highs of around 23 degrees with July being the hottest month. Summers can be hot although winds coming over from the Atlantic Ocean help keep hot temperatures tempered by moderate, cool breezes. This temperate summer climate provides a fantastic week of cycling in the sun. Spring and autumn offer cooler temperatures of 10-19 degrees with some rainfall, ideal for those to cycle in slightly cooler conditions.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that prior to travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates direct from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

Lonely Planet – South West France
DK Eyewitness Guide – Dordogne, Bordeaux and the Southwest Coast

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Please note that a paper copy of your travel insurance is required if you are travelling to Huaraz and the Huayhuash region.

Equipment Information

SelfGuided Cycling Equipment List

- Cycling shorts
- Cycle helmet
- Functional base layer
- T-shirts
- Scarf
- Hat
- Windproof jacket
- Fleece / extra layer
- Rain protection

- Rucksack (approx. 20 l)
- Small first aid kit for your rucksack
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Camera (batteries/memory card)
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Handlebar mount that is compatible with your smartphone
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Sun glasses
- Personal wash kit
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Tupperware for picnics

Cotswold Outdoor



Many of the Equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive 12.5% discount voucher from Cotswold Outdoor and other retailers. [>> Find out more](#)

Land Only Information

Please note our 'from price' listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers, including solo travellers, contact our sales team for a quote.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, ask our sales team to find out more about this.

Our sales team will be happy to provide you a quote for scheduled flights or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

We offer some transfers to your hotel from the nearest airports, please refer to the 'joining arrangements and transfers' for further details for this trip.

Why Choose KE

why KE?

We have created this fantastic cycling trip to showcase the traditions of the Cote d'Atlantique, fantastic French cuisine and the historic character of Arcachon and Biarritz. Plus we have included your hire bike in the cost of this trip and e-bikes are available too.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 03/07/2024 and the trip is subject to change