

Cycle Breaks

gentle adventures, expertly organised



Cycling holidays in
England & Europe

Walking holidays
in England

WELCOME



Self-guided adventures with real peace of mind

Whether you fancy days by the Danube, pedalling in Provence, wheeling around Tuscany or Venice's watery wonders, coasting along in Norfolk or putting your best foot forward in Suffolk's Constable Country, let us invite you to stretch your independent legs in the gentlest of ways and set off on your cycling or walking break with real peace of mind.

We've selected a great range of destinations, tours and very comfortable accommodation in England and Europe, designed to interest and excite as well as help you unwind and claim space as your own.





Our focus is on your time

It's your activity holiday and we want you to feel better for it. Be sure to relax before you even arrive: we'll take care of everything from accommodation bookings to luggage transfers, always with the expert knowledge and real personal attention which comes from over twenty years' experience in organising cycling and walking tours.

Our complete service to you

- Arranging the best accommodation
- Transporting your luggage for you
- Preparing the most attractive and inspiring routes
- Providing expert advice on route details, distances and ease of terrain
- Supplying good mapping and a personal itinerary for every party.

Also, for cycling holidays

- Providing comfortable, reliable, quality bikes
- Electric bikes now available on selected tours
- Offering on-road help should you need it.

Our additional tours, short breaks and latest deals

Why not visit our websites for even more great tours and offers?



cyclebreaks.com



walkingbreaks.com



To find out more or make a booking – call us on 01449 721555 or email us at
bookings@cyclebreaks.com bookings@walkingbreaks.com

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For all tour prices, our booking form and information about travelling to our tour destinations, please refer to our separate price insert.

The information provided in this brochure is provided in good faith and is correct to the best of the publisher's knowledge at the time of going to press, but is subject to alteration.

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'Breathe-in' space



Real exploration

There's something amazing and immediate about experiencing a culture, a country, a landscape or coastline through the personal power of your own two legs. The breeze seems more exhilarating, the people more accessible, the sunshine more welcome and the local flavours even more special and refreshing.

Don't forget to look up

It's great to be so close to nature, leaving your car behind you and being a 'responsible' visitor or 'sustainable' tourist. The exercise is welcome also, though so too are the pools and massages available at some of our hotels perhaps. But don't forget to look up, be it at Bolzano's intricate façades, the jagged points of the Dolomites, the Mediterranean haze shimmering over the Camargue or the wrap-around skies of Suffolk and Norfolk. There's something positively uplifting about the views we've selected on all our tours.

Going that extra mile (or not)

We like to think that once you're in the saddle or have your walking boots firmly laced up, the rest is up to you. That doesn't mean you're on your own with our extensive maps and meticulously planned routes; support is always at hand. Part of the appeal is that the pace of your break and the distances you cover are up to you, so you can be as active or relaxed as you wish, visit the sights you want to see and enjoy every minute of your holiday.

More pedal power if you need it

We've introduced electric bikes as an option on a selection of our tours overseas, so should you have any concerns about your pedalling ability, you can still feel the wind in your hair and really rest assured all route long!



"I could just see the stress lift from my man's shoulders, even on the first day!"

Mrs R. & party, Orsett, Essex



Flexibility and freedom

Rec:	22
Min:	21
Max:	38

Most of our routes feature a range of detours or short cuts and all our descriptions detail **minimum, maximum** and, in the UK, **recommended mileages**. Some longer trips may offer rest days.

All our cycling and walking tours are **graded** as some routes offer more challenges than others. Please remember though that gentle holidays are what we do, so there are no 'extreme' days in any of our programmes.

Very easy

GRADE
1

Cycling: Very short/short rides. Mainly flat terrain. Some small hills.

Walking: Short day walks. Generally flat terrain. May include some small hills.

Easy

GRADE
2

Cycling: Slightly longer rides. Mainly flat terrain. Some small hills.

Walking: Slightly longer walks. May include gently rolling hills or stretches of beach.

Moderate

GRADE
3

Cycling: Longer rides - generally same itineraries as 'Easy' tours, but with the longer route options selected. May include slightly more or bigger hills.

Walking: Moderately long walks. May include some hills or stretches of beach.

More challenging

GRADE
4

Cycling: Longer rides with more frequent climbs and descents and occasional (although possibly avoidable!) challenging climbs.

Walking: Longer walks with frequent ascents or descents.

EB GRADE
⚡

Cycling: Electric bikes an option.

Exercise your independence

We can organise **extra nights** at the beginning and end of your stay, and usually along your route too. At some of our period or coastal hotels in particular you might wish to **upgrade** to enjoy special views or a spot of four-poster luxury. Upgrades are also available on some of our French tours.

With only a few exceptions, (see tour facts for details), you can **start your break on any day of the week**.

Look out for our **English and French single centre holidays** too - great for first timers or those who might just want to spend more time relaxing at the hotel than in the saddle.

Key to maps

All our maps are to scale

- Routes
- Extension
- Highlight
- +++++ Railways
- 🏠 Overnights
- Towns/villages
- ▲ Châteaux

Gentle adventures – expertly organised



About us

At our base under huge Suffolk skies, we've been listening to and learning from our walking and cycling break customers since 1991. Over this time, we have refined and added to our tours portfolio, but have never lost our very personal touch.

In this internet age, we appreciate that choice is at your fingertips. Again and again though, we see proof that our high level of service, valuable knowledge and attention to detail is very much appreciated and considered good value for money.

How our holidays work

Transporting luggage from place to place

Travel light with just the bare essentials – camera, book, picnic etc. In the morning, we pick up your bags and ensure they are waiting for you by late afternoon at your next overnight stop.

Characterful accommodation that's comfortable and well chosen

It's an essential ingredient, so we get it right. Well-positioned and relaxing accommodation with en-suite facilities and breakfast provided. Evening meals are either available on the premises or close by. Our route notes give additional tips for the best places to eat and identify any fine dining opportunities. More information is provided in this brochure's section introductions.

Maps, guides and detailed route notes

We believe in well-planned, meticulous itineraries with plenty of information and options, and we really pride ourselves on the personal service behind our tours. Details of the maps/guides provided are included in this brochure's section introductions.

*"We've been holidaying with
Cycle/Walking Breaks for nearly
20 years & you've never let us down."*

Mr & Mrs D., Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire





Sensible distances and bespoke itineraries

As a guide, 'occasional' cyclists should expect to cover between 6 – 10 miles an hour at a gentle pace, allowing for short stops on the way. For walkers, our daily distances are between a gentle stroll and a healthy hike depending on the tour you choose. Dedicated cyclists and walkers ourselves, we're very much hands-on and can usually tailor our holidays to the requirements of each party. We can add extra nights, cut rest days, arrange taxis – just ask and we'll do our very best to help.

Children's discounts

Cycling and walking can make an ideal family holiday provided the right distances are chosen for the younger members of the party. Do give us a call to discuss your requirements. Discounts and facilities are included in our price insert.

Your payment protected

We value your peace of mind, so we've also ensured that your holiday payment is safe with us, through our secure online payment system and payment protection insurance arranged through **IPP (International Passenger Protection)** on your behalf (included in the holiday price).

A note on our European holidays

Many years ago specialist cycle tour operators from Europe approached us to look after their clients when holidaying in Suffolk. Our relationships developed and, in 2002, we decided to reciprocate. The tours we offer in Europe blend our experience and understanding with the expert knowledge of our local partners who share our commitment to quality, service and great cycling.

We have developed our European programme slowly, choosing tours carefully. We visit the hotels personally, refining the suggested selections where we feel it is appropriate. Although not always able to guarantee the same organisational flexibility on offer through our UK tour programme, we work with our expert partners to accommodate special requests wherever possible.

Specific to cycling holidays

Great bikes provided...

We supply hybrid tourers, a comfortable bike, more rugged than a road bike, but lighter and faster than a mountain bike. The bikes have easy to use gears, flat or 'quarter-rise' handle bars and are available with a ladies' or gents' frame. Panniers, handlebar bags, map holders and support equipment are supplied. We now also offer the option of electric bikes on selected routes.

... or bring your own

We're happy to give you a discount if you'd prefer to bring your own bike on your holiday. If you have a problem with it whilst on the tour, we'll bring you a replacement for the rest of your holiday and charge back the discount you were given.

On the road support

We ensure that your bike is a 'good fit' before you depart and you will receive a briefing about the route, how to fix a puncture and how to make contact in case help is needed.

cycling in France



Avenues of twisted plane trees. Bikes, berets and crispy baguettes. Ripe cheeses straight from farmhouse to market place. Foie gras and big hanging bunches of 'Herbes de Provence'. Cobbled alleys and half-timbered, honey-coloured houses. Loire châteaux by the score, each magnificent and masterful. The rich flavours of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The clang of the local 'patois' dialect and the clink of 'pétanque' balls. Freewheeling fun down rolling vineyard slopes. Climbing the craggy peaks like pilgrims-past to gaze down on the Dordogne river. Caves covered in prehistoric paintings or brimful of bottles. Fresh-tasting Côtes du Rhône and Mediterranean magic of a fishy 'Bouillabaisse'.



"Well organised trip, bikes & instructions very good."

Mr & Mrs T., Bromley, Kent



Accommodation

Family-run 'auberges' and inns, comfortable city centre hotels or places with plenty of modern flair – the properties we've selected for our tours around three very special regions of France are simply very French in flavour. Good hospitality and great restaurants either at the hotels or nearby mean that on some of these tours, we include dinner for you to enjoy every evening. With pleasant terraces, inviting courtyards, river views or practically brushing shoulders with a château, all the hotels are well-located and rated 2 or 3 star according to local classifications. On many of our standard itineraries in the Loire region, we now also offer an upgrade to 3 star accommodation throughout, just to allow that extra little indulgence.

What's included in the price

- En-suite hotel accommodation as described with continental breakfast and a three or four course dinner each evening at the hotel or in a nearby restaurant (on Loire and Dordogne tours only)
- Information pack with detailed joining instructions and daily route overviews sent out approx. two weeks before departure
- Detailed route notes and maps with marked routes (IGN extract maps 1:100,000; 1:75,000 map book for Provence) will be provided on arrival
- Luggage transfer
- Hire of bicycle and ancillary equipment - cycles generally available for collection on day two of your tour
- Local assistance on call, although puncture repair is excluded
- Electric bikes available on selected tours where indicated, bookable in advance and **at a supplement**
- The tour price **does not** include the costs of getting to and from the tour area

We want to be up front...

As much as we might like to, we can't cut ourselves into pieces and welcome you personally all around Europe. We work in partnership with local experts who share our commitment to quality, service and great cycling. Together, we ensure that the route notes provided are fully up-to-date and that accommodation continues to meet our high standards. We are proud of our partners and delighted that you will be welcomed by friends.

How to get there

We are pleased to share knowledge on all travel arrangements, including transfers from stations and parking for your vehicle.

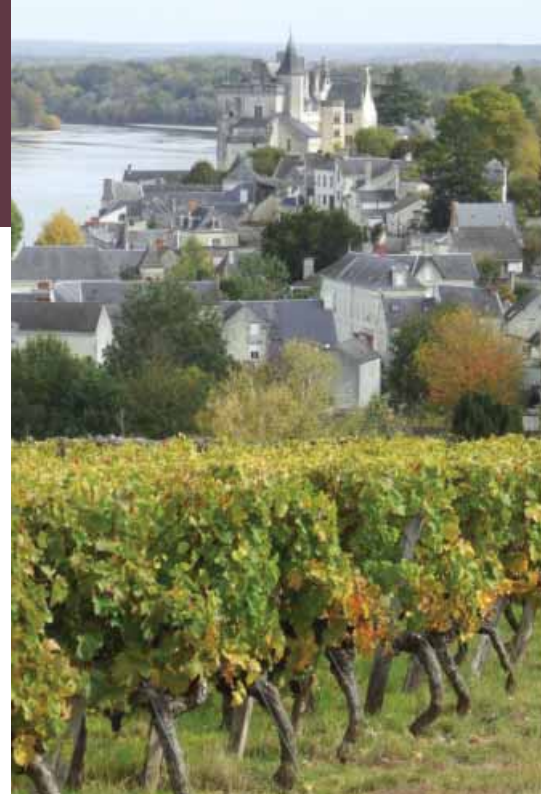
On the following pages, we include brief information about how to reach our selected regions of France by rail, ferry or tunnel and air.

For contact details of relevant transportation operators and information regarding which airlines serve the different airports, please visit cyclebreaks.com or give us a call.

cycling in the Loire

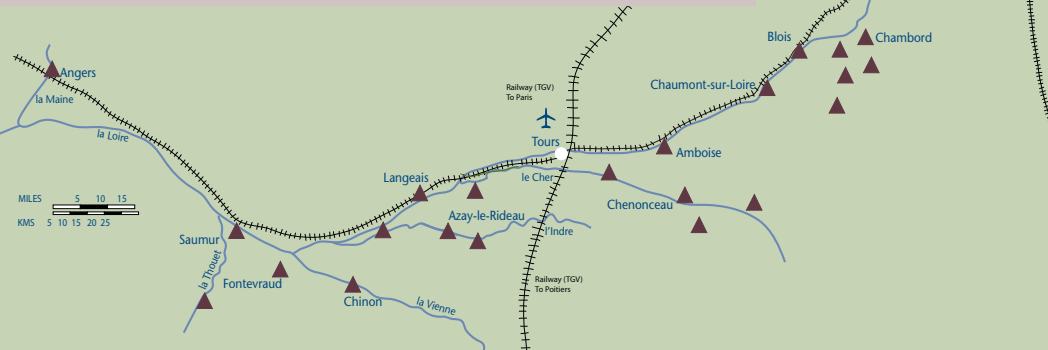


A flamboyant palace of a hunting lodge. A tiny island of a château. Opulence stretching arch after arch across the lazy water. Cool classical façades and the firmest medieval fortifications. 16th century gardens dripping roses. Rolling hillsides regimented with vines. Stories of salamanders, meaningful monograms and the great Joan of Arc. Medieval masterpieces and Leonardo's legacies. Romantic brushes with the past at the 'Son et Lumière'. Childhood revisited at Sleeping Beauty's castle. The heady taste of sparkling Saumur or the effervescence of a Vouvray. Cellars and caves carved out of soft limestone. Delicious mushrooms, freshly harvested from their troglodyte home and hearty game from the Sologne forests.



“ Wonderfully organised from start to finish, leaving us to enjoy all the best bits that France has to offer...”

Mr & Mrs M., London



Accommodation

Inviting family-run ‘auberges’, cosy corner hotels, modern city centre rooms and even a beamed beauty from the 15th century – our hotels in the Loire Valley are comfortable, often full of character and well-located maybe close to the château, river or bustling city centre. To help you make the most of the delicious regional cuisine, we’ve included a three or four course dinner at the hotel or nearby restaurant in the tour price.

Our Loire hotels are rated at least 2 star according to local classifications. Many of our standard itineraries here blend 2 and 3 star accommodation to create what we believe to be a great balance between comfort, location, character, quality and value for money. If you would like to treat yourself just that little bit more, we now offer an optional upgrade to 3 star hotels throughout... well, it is a holiday, isn't it?

How to get there

- Rail to:** Tours, Blois, Saumur, Orléans
- Ferry or tunnel:** Long term parking can usually be arranged
- Fly to:** Tours, Poitiers, Paris

For information regarding airlines serving these airports and contact details of relevant transportation operators, please visit cyclebreaks.com or give us a call.



From Orléans to Tours

Heroines and hunting lodges

TOUR FLOT6 6 days (5 nights)



Saints, bishops, kings, dukes, even a mighty musketeer or three – you'd be hard pushed to be in greater company on this château-rich, river-hugging tour of some of the Loire's best bits. But rest assured, there's no need for too much pressure on the pedals: the riverside tracks and quiet lanes lead you gently through the green fields of the Beauce area near Orléans to the pastures, ponds and rich forest of the Sologne. Chambord, Amboise and Blois are just some of the château turrets and towers which grace this rather majestic linear tour.

TOUR

Before you take to the saddle and set about conquering any kilometres, spend some time in **Orléans**, home of France's greatest heroine, Joan of Arc. There's plenty of bustle beneath the Neo-gothic towers of the Cathédrale de Ste Croix, but the Saint's statue takes pride of 'Place' on the main square.

Just as it was for Joan after liberating Orléans, **Meung-sur-Loire** is the next stop. The sprawling château suggests its rather chequered history with the pink stucco walls of the 18th century Bishop's Palace nestling in the protection of sterner towered fortifications. Alexander Dumas had fictional d'Artagnan flourishing his sword at the Comte de Rochefort here; meanwhile further downstream floral flourishes are today's hallmark of historic **Beaugency**. Another constant battleground in the 100 Years' War, it's a miracle that all 26 arches of the massive medieval bridge survived.

Leaving the riverside, the call of perhaps the greatest royal hunting lodge of all time leads to the forest and the exuberance of the Renaissance Château de **Chambord**. Little can prepare for the overwhelming scale of both château and grounds. When you eventually

TOUR FACTS

Arrival day Any day
Accommodation upgrade is an option



Day 1	Arrive & explore Overnight <i>Orléans</i>	
Day 2	From saints to scents Orléans - Meung-sur-Loire Overnight <i>Beaugency</i>	Miles: 17 Kms: 28
Day 3	The folly of François I Beaugency – Chambord Overnight <i>Blois</i>	Miles: 29 Kms: 46
Day 4	Loire & Leonardo Blois – Chaumont Overnight <i>Amboise</i>	Miles: 27 Kms: 44
Day 5	From vineyards to 'Vieille Ville' Amboise – Montlouis-sur-Loire Overnight <i>Tours</i>	Miles: 16-19 Kms: 25-31
Day 6	Depart after breakfast <i>Please note that the train fare to Orléans (if required) is not included in the price of the tour (single fare = approx. 19 euros)</i>	

TOP TIPS

The Château de Chambord contains over 400 rooms, 365 fireplaces and 84 staircases!

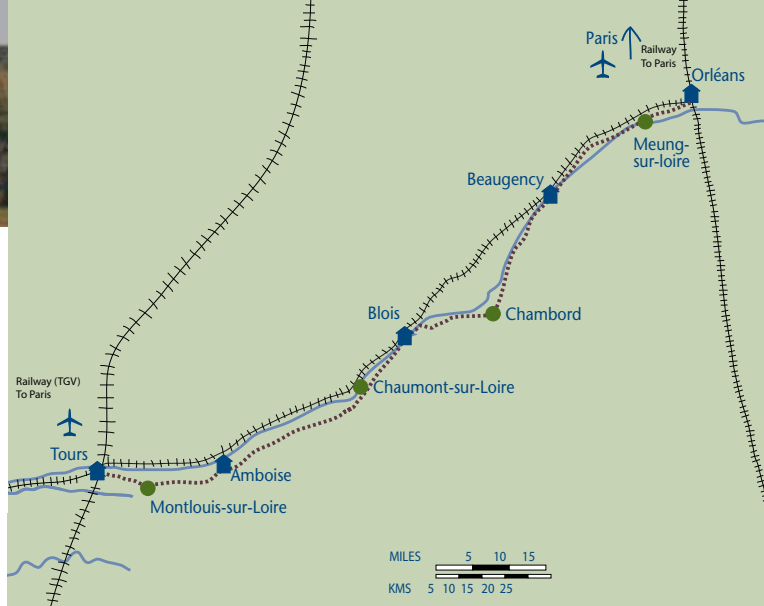
Don't miss Joan of Arc's reconstructed 15th century house in Orléans and her place of prayer in the chapel of Notre-Dame-des-Miracles in St Paul's church.





TOUR escape, there's the Houdini Museum as well as further chateau treats in store back on the river at historic **Blois**.

The delightful country route leads onwards to **Chaumont-sur-Loire** with its squat, fortified chateau sitting up above the town and river. Further on, lively **Amboise** has fascinating connections with Leonardo de Vinci, but it's hard to imagine that the huge royal chateau is only a fifth of its original size. Chateau de la Bordelaisière, the Duchess' place by the vineyards of **Montlouis-sur-Loire**, is petite in contrast, a pleasant find en route to the busy city of **Tours** with its charming half-timbered historic centre and imposing cathedral.



Can't get enough of the lazy Loire and its châteaux?

Our Orléans to Angers Tour FLOA10 (10 days/9 nights - Grade 3) joins our two linear Loire routes together to make one great Loire Valley experience. Accommodation upgrade is also an option.



From Tours to Angers

A tale of five rivers along the Loire

TOUR FLTA6
6 days (5 nights)



Countless wonderful wines, eight inspiring châteaux, five winding rivers, two outstanding cities - one winning formula. Cycle from Tours to cross the Cher and skirt the Indre's watery meadows. Migrate from the castle-clad banks of the Vienne to the richest vineyards and love the Loire all the way to Angers. Flat riverside tracks and quiet lanes are combined with undulating countryside on this linear tour which reveals the Loire Valley's sparkle through its waters and its wines.

TOUR FACTS

Arrival day Any day

Accommodation upgrade is an option

EB **GRADE**
2 - 3

Day 1 Arrive & explore
Overnight Tours

Day 2 Loire, Cher and Indre
Tours – Château de Villandry –
Saché

Miles: 27
Kms: 43

Overnight Azay-le-Rideau

Day 3 Fairytales and film sets
Azay-le-Rideau – Langeais –
Château d'Ussé

Miles: 26
Kms: 41

Overnight Chinon

Day 4 Vienne & vineyards
Chinon – Fontevraud

Miles: 28
Kms: 45

Overnight Saumur

Day 5 Along the Loire & Maine
Saumur – St Hilaire les Grottes –
Gennes – St Mathurin-sur-Loire

Miles: 38
Kms: 62

Overnight Angers

Day 6 Depart after breakfast
Please note that the train fare to Tours is not included in the price of the tour (single fare = approx 17 euros)

TOUR

Before you take to your bike, sip and savour the very special atmosphere of historic **Tours** in 'Place Plumereau', where half-timbered buildings squeeze past courtyards and crooked towers to peer into the bustling square. Take a look at the magnificent Cathédrale St-Gatien too and the medieval trappings of 'Vieux Tours'.

Once in the saddle, your attentions turn to châteaux: **Villandry** with its spectacular Renaissance gardens near the Cher, **Saché** (fine retreat of novelist, Balzac) on the Indre and the exquisite boat-of-a-castle at **Azay-le-Rideau**. The fortress at **Langeais** is fiercely feudal yet, only a few kilometres further on, **Château d'Ussé** somehow seems a million miles away in some fairytale world. Its white turrets inspired Charles Perrault's 'Sleeping Beauty', and even next stop, **Chinon**, feels film set-like with medieval streets and castle stretching out along the river bank.

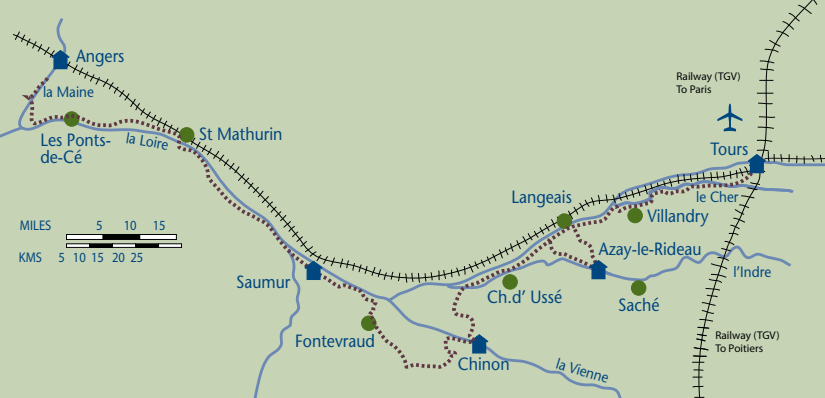
Cross the river Vienne and the route to Saumur seems just one great vineyard. The 12th century Abbey at **Fontevraud**, the largest in France, is worth a stop before you head for **Saumur** and lessons in the local 'methode champenoise' which produces delightful

TOP TIPS

Saumur's rock caverns are not just the home to fine wines, but mushroom production and many of the locals too! The château here is superb.

There's every reason to stay a while longer in Angers... explore the stunning château, visit one of France's finest medieval tapestries, 'the Apocalypse', or even do a spot of shopping at Galeries Lafayette.





TOUR sparkling wines. St Hilaire des Grottes, as its name suggests, has many a cave and cellar in the hillside overlooking the Loire. Pedal on via Cunault with its Romanesque church to charming little Gennes, before crossing the river at **St Mathurin-sur-Loire** and following the picturesque cycle route along the river Maine into the heart of **Angers**. Here, you can get a glimpse of one last château, before jumping on the train if you are returning to Tours.



Like to spend a little more time along the Loire?

Our Orléans to Angers Tour FLOA10 (10 days/9 nights - Grade 3) joins our two linear Loire routes together to make one great Loire Valley experience. Accommodation upgrade is also an option.



The Royal Châteaux of the Loire



TOUR FLB8 8 days (7 nights)

TOUR FACTS

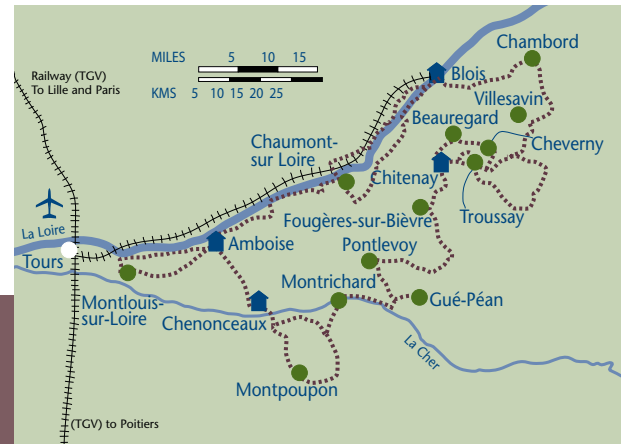
Arrival Day Any day
Accommodation upgrade is an option

EB
⚡ **GRADE**
2

Day 1 Arrive & explore	
Overnight <i>Blois</i>	
Day 2 A day for royal intrigue Blois – Chaumont-sur-Loire	Miles: 27 Kms: 44
Overnight <i>Amboise</i>	
Day 3 Get a taste for Amboise Circular ride option – Montlouis Vineyards	Miles: 20 Kms: 32
Overnight <i>Amboise</i>	
Day 4 On the river Amboise – Château de Chenonceau – (Château de Montpoupon)	Miles: 12-30 Kms: 19-48
Overnight <i>Chenonceaux</i>	
Day 5 Abbeys & fortresses Chenonceaux – Pontlevoy – Fougères-sur-Bièvre	Miles: 25 Kms: 40
Overnight <i>Chitenay</i>	
Day 6 Little gems - circular rides Choice of Châteaux (Troussay / Cheverny / Beaugard)	Miles: 16-29 Kms: 26-46
Overnight <i>Chitenay</i>	
Day 7 The grand finale Chitenay – Troussay – Cheverny – Château de Villesain – Château de Chambord	Miles: 31 Kms: 50
Overnight <i>Blois</i>	
Day 8 Depart after breakfast	

It's the sheer magnificence of the châteaux, not the pedalling which will take your breath away on this most enjoyable circular tour of the Loire Valley. Staying two nights in Blois, Amboise and Chitenay, there's plenty of time to get acquainted with the Loire's firm favourites and discover a whole valley full of lesser known castle gems. Our relaxing route gives both direction and detours, so you can pick and choose, making the rest truly up to you.

TOUR Overflowing with steep, twisting medieval streets, the ancient royal domain of **Blois** on the Loire's north bank sets the perfect scene for your grand tour. Its château has a famous twist too: an open spiral staircase with three floors of opulent balconies. Heading south-west through the forest, castle number two across the Loire overlooks town and river at **Chaumont-sur-Loire**. Did Catherine de Medici really force Diane de Poitiers into exchanging it for the Château de Chenonceau? Muse on as you pedal at **Amboise**. Here the château home to Louis XI and Charles VIII sits majestically on the rocky spur, its gardens offering great views of the river. Leonardo da Vinci finished his life at the Clos Lucé manor in the



TOP TIPS

François I's 1518 'hunting lodge', Chambord, has to be the Versailles of the Loire. Don't miss the amazing double helix staircase.



TOUR

town's centre. Take time to visit models of his fabulous machines, or drink in Amboise atmosphere at a terrace café. Alternatively, a circular ride through the vineyards of **Montlouis** will give you a taste for the fruity Pineau de la Loire.

Cross the Forêt d'Amboise and the **Château de Chenonceau** stretches out over the Cher "floating on air and water" (Flaubert). Dream on with a riverside ride to **Montrichard** and castle number six, or if you're energetic and inspired, glimpse Gothic gables at **Château de Montpoupon** first.

More vineyards lead past **Pontlevoy's** early Benedictine Abbey to the fortress at **Fougères-sur-Bièvre**. Sleepy **Chitenay** is a great base for clocking up more châteaux on circular routes – **Troussay** (small and classic), **Cheverny** (more imposing), **Beaugard** (fantastic portrait gallery) – or wheel your way through the game-rich Sologne woodlands. Before heading back to Blois, **Château de Villesavin**, complete with a three thousand bird dovecote, builds the crescendo to a fitting finale: the awe-inspiring **Château de Chambord**.

Go on, why not treat yourself?

We now offer an upgrade to 3 star accommodation throughout this tour, just to make that extra little indulgence a real option.

Like the idea, but fancy a shorter tour? Our 6 day / 5 night option (**FLB6**) omits the circular route days (day 3 and day 6) and still clocks up 11 châteaux!

TOUR FACTS FLB6

The Royal Châteaux of the Loire
Arrival Day Any day
Accommodation upgrade is an option

EB **GRADE**
⚡ **2**

Day 1 Arrive & explore
Overnight *Blois*

Day 2 A day for royal intrigue
Blois – Chaumont-sur-Loire
Overnight *Amboise*

Miles: 27
Kms: 44

Day 3 On the river
Amboise – Château de
Chenonceau –
(Château de Montpoupon)
Overnight *Chenonceaux*

Miles: 12-30
Kms: 19-48

Day 4 Abbeys & fortresses
Chenonceaux – Pontlevoy –
Fougères-sur-Bièvre
Overnight *Chitenay*

Miles: 25
Kms: 40

Day 5 The grand finale
Chitenay – Troussay – Cheverny –
Château de Villesain – Château
de Chambord
Overnight *Blois*

Miles: 31
Kms: 50

Day 6 Depart after breakfast





The Loire Star

Single Centre Break

TOUR FLC5
5 days (4 nights)



TOUR FACTS



Arrival Day Any day

Day 1 Arrive & explore

Dinner Menu du jour

Day 2 Take delivery of bikes
Choice of circular rides

Miles: 9-31
Kms: 14-50

Dinner Menu Supérieure

Day 3 Choice of circular rides
Dinner Menu du Terroir

Miles: 9-31
Kms: 14-50

Day 4 Choice of circular rides
Dinner Menu Gastronomique

Miles: 9-31
Kms: 14-50

Day 5 Depart after breakfast

Overnights *Chitenay*



Make the delightful village of Chitenay the centre of your universe for a few days. Pedal out on circular day routes to different points and discover châteaux treasures, gardens, vineyards and the verdant scenery of the Sologne Forest: it's a really relaxing way to sample the great variety of this famous region. Our special programme of delicious dinners means that the tasty treats just get better and better to reward your days in the saddle or to complement a day at your leisure.

TOUR Arrive in Chitenay at your leisure and relax into a gentler pace of life with a pre-dinner pastis on the terrace perhaps, or glass of something so very local from one of the Loire's many vineyards. Get a taste for mulling over the menu: there are more choices in the morning when you take to the saddle and head out in search of châteaux.

With seven different routes to choose from you can go with the flow of your energy levels down to the Loire maybe, to Chaumont or Blois; head into the Sologne Forest and stop at a vineyard or two to tickle the palate with Cheverny blanc, or track down Chambord, the most amazing royal hunting lodge imaginable.

Don't miss the Château de Beauregard - it's a real picture: a French castle with English-inspired grounds and a world-renowned portrait gallery. A day out exploring the refined Renaissance château at Troussay along with Cheverny's sumptuous château apartments is hard to beat too, then there's always the thought of weaving out through the vineyards to the feudal solidity of Fougères-sur-Bièvre with its charmingly rustic village and medieval château.

Whether you're new to the saddle, just want to take things gently or fancy the challenge and flexibility of heading out for a morning and conquering another point of the 'Loire Star' after lunch, this a real break with wow factor: wonderful châteaux to visit, great gentle cycling and, to top it all, really delicious and well-deserved dinners.



Your hotel

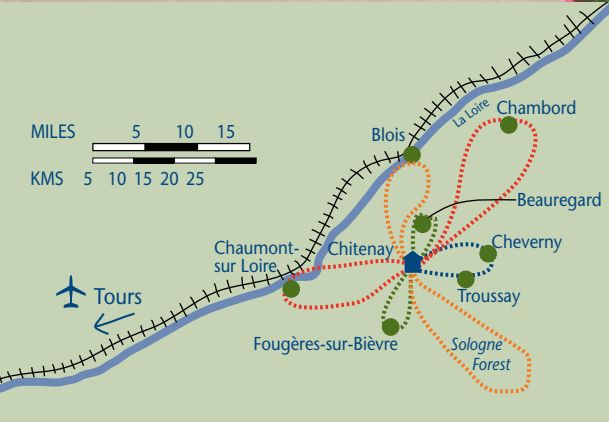
The appropriately named Auberge du Centre sits in the peaceful rural village of Chitenay at the heart of one of the Loire's most inviting châteaux clusters. Creeper-clad and traditional yet contemporary, it's a friendly, 3 star inn whose cosy lounge and relaxing garden immediately put its guests at ease. Thanks to the village setting and quality of the regional cuisine offered by chef, Gilles Martinet, dining al fresco here is a real delight and a true favourite with visitors and locals alike.

Well-deserved dinners

You'll be enjoying the variety of different châteaux each day, so we thought you'd appreciate tasting different local flavours every night! Progress from the 'menu du jour' via something a little more 'supérieur' and 'terroir' to the grand finale of the 'menu gastronomique'.

Need a slightly shorter break away?

Our 4 day/ 3 night option (Tour FLC4) means you might have harder choices when it comes to which routes to select, but we'll still reward you with gastronomic delights on the last night!





Châteaux, Abbeys & Vineyards



TOUR FLS6
6 days (5 nights)

Red, white or maybe rosé; clean, crisp, fruity or pleasantly 'pétillant' – the delightful thing about Loire wines is that there is simply something for everyone – and the vineyard slopes from which they hail make for excellent cycling country too! Blended with a generous helping of history from poets to Plantagenets, feisty fortresses to glorious gardens and the ever-charming collection of châteaux, the gentle wine region around Saumur, Fontevraud and Chinon is an intoxicating destination, just ripe for a short circular cycling break to enjoy with family or friends.

TOUR FACTS

EB **GRADE**
⚡ **1 - 2**

Arrival Day Any day

Day 1 Arrive & explore

Overnight *Saumur*

Day 2 Red wines and royal abbeys

Saumur - Brézé

Overnight *Fontevraud*

Miles: 25

Kms: 40

Day 3 From Plantagenets to power houses

Circular tour to Montreuil-Bellay

Overnight *Fontevraud*

Miles: 28

Kms: 45

Day 4 Legends and legacies

Fontevraud - Rivau

Overnight *Chinon*

Miles: 22

Kms: 35

Day 5 Colleges and caves

Chinon - Candes-St-Martin -

Montsoreau

Overnight *Saumur*

Miles: 22

Kms: 35

Day 6 Depart after breakfast

TOUR

There's something rather refined about **Saumur**. The 14th century castle with its high octagonal towers and mullion windows sits strangely aloof of the Loire. At the National Riding School some of the world's most talented horsemen perform distinguished dressage displays. Even the local white wine aspires to the sparkling products of France's Champagne region. Why not celebrate your arrival in style then ponder the soon-to-be-discovered, rosier hues of the Saumur Champigny vineyards and the vast impressive tunnels and cellars of Château de **Brézé** on the next day's horizon.

Fontevraud, the next stop beyond the vines, is a real labyrinth too. One of the greatest monastic cities in Europe, the Romanesque Abbey is vast, intact and the haunting resting place of the great and good of the Plantagenet dynasty including Richard the Lionheart. From here an excursion out to the fortified village of **Montreuil Bellay** with its powerful château is a treat to remember.

The royal fortress of **Chinon** promises another formidable encounter as you glide on further towards the River Vienne. En route though, there's a chance to be charmed by

TOP TIPS

Surrounded by vineyards, Château de Brézé might look like just another huddle of Renaissance turrets, but just inside there's a whole kilometre of underground caves which are home to everything from a bakery to bottles and even an icehouse!

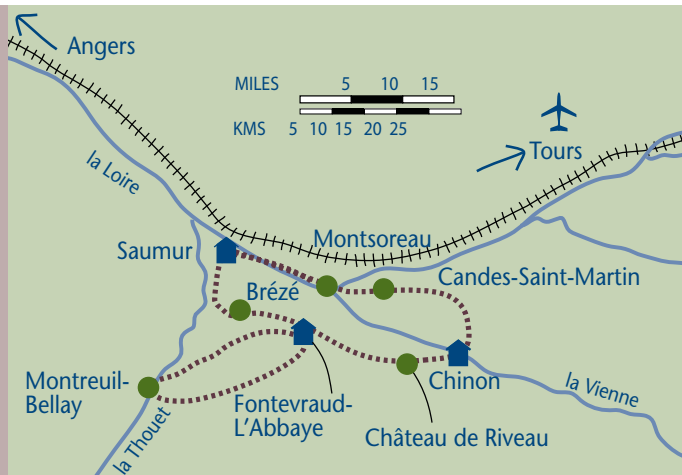
Don't miss the sheer massive spectacle of Montreuil Bellay. The château has vast stretches of walls with 13 interlocking towers.





TOUR the fairytale gardens and legendary stables at the **Château de Rivau** and sample the long revered red wines from Chinon's vineyards: the renowned poet, Rabelais, sung their praises centuries before bikes were even thought of. Magnificent collegiate churches are on the menu next at **Candes-Saint-Martin** before making it back to the Loire at **Montsoreau** where another mighty château-bastide has its toes in the water.

The ride leads back along the Loire to **Saumur**, past troglodyte sites which are home to everything from the locals to Saumur Champigny and even 'champignons'!



cycling in the Dordogne



Clambering cliff-top castles and clinging villages. Patchwork fields and square-towered 'pigeonniers'. Eagles soaring over the Alzou gorge and greedy grey geese standing watch at the farmhouse gate. Beautiful 'bastides', prehistoric caves, a river full of reflections. Everywhere a picture. Canoes and kids enjoying a summer's day splash. Vézère Valley vineyards. Slopes of sweet chestnuts. Walls of Walnut trees. Rocamadour's carved Black Virgin and pigs snuffling for truffles. Sarlat's sprawling squares and cobbled alleyways. Markets full of flavoursome fruits and menus rich with 'magrets' and 'foie gras', or a hearty 'Cassoulet' to wash down with a spicy glass of Cahors.



"Bikes excellent. Choice of locations perfect. Thoroughly good holiday."

Mr & Mrs C., Bristol



Accommodation

Our characterful hotels in the Dordogne give a real flavour of the region - in more ways than one. We've included a three or four course dinner at the hotel or nearby restaurant in the tour price. Sometimes alongside the river, in an historic, honey-coloured stone building, maybe with cosy shutters and shaded restaurant street terrace, the hotels are all well-positioned and are rated at least 2 star according to local classifications.

How to get there

Rail to: Souillac

Ferry or tunnel: Long term parking can usually be arranged

Fly to: Brive, Limoges, Paris

For information regarding airlines serving these airports and contact details of relevant transportation operators, please visit cyclebreaks.com or give us a call.





Cycling through History



TOUR FDS8
8 days (7 nights)

TOUR FACTS

GRADE
4

Arrival day Any day

Day 1 Arrive & explore

Overnight Souillac

Day 2 Caves & crags

Souillac – Lacave

Overnight Rocamadour

Miles: 20

Kms: 32

Day 3 Rolling hills & rich forests

Rocamadour – Couzou – Le Vigan

Overnight Gourdon

Miles: 21

Kms: 34

Day 4 The most beautiful place
in France?

Gourdon – Domme

Overnight La Roque Gageac

Miles: 20

Kms: 32

Day 5 The cradle of prehistory

La Roque Gageac – Marqueyssac –
Beynac

Overnight Les Eyzies

Miles: 34

Kms: 54

Day 6 World famous sites

Les Eyzies – Montignac – Lascaux

Overnight Sarlat

Miles: 34

Kms: 54

Day 7 Relaxed routes &
wonderful views

Sarlat – (Château de Fénelon)

Overnight Souillac

Miles: 19-26

Kms: 31-42

Day 8 Depart after breakfast...

but you're welcome to stay longer

From the prehistoric caves at Vézère Valley and Lascaux to the turreted châteaux and fortified 'Bastide' towns, in the Dordogne there is history around every corner. Dramatic crags and breath-taking panoramas, rolling hills and thick forests make for the widest scope of landscapes all within a short pedal of the famous river valley. Cycling gently along flat riverside lanes, or climbing higher to picnic above the rooftops, this is a circular tour where every effort is very richly rewarded.

TOUR A gastronomic treat or glass of the local Cahors wine is a fine way to settle into **Souillac** and the pleasures of the Dordogne. Do explore the town and the 12th century monastery though before you cycle the riverbank south-east to visit the Grottes de **Lacave** or Parc Préhistorique. Deviate next from the Dordogne, heading up to the lofty and precariously perched **Rocamadour**, a place of pilgrimage to the miracle-working Black Virgin (walnut carving) since the 12th century.

The most spectacular village views are yours en route to the forest and hills of the nature area, Causse de Quercy and beyond to Couzou, Le Vigan and **Gourdon**. You'll meet up with the Dordogne again at **Domme**, another rocky outcrop crowned with a royal 'Bastide' and hailed as one of the most beautiful places in France. To get a great view of the stone houses clinging to the cliffs, why not take a trip by 'Gabare' from the ancient quay of **La Roque Gageac**?

Next up, you can choose to visit the lovely gardens of the Château de Marqueyssac, or the fortress Château at **Beynac**, towering over a huddle of houses on the river bend.

TOP TIPS

The village of Rocamadour perches high above the valley. In the gentle evening light you might glimpse eagles soaring over the gorge of Alzou.

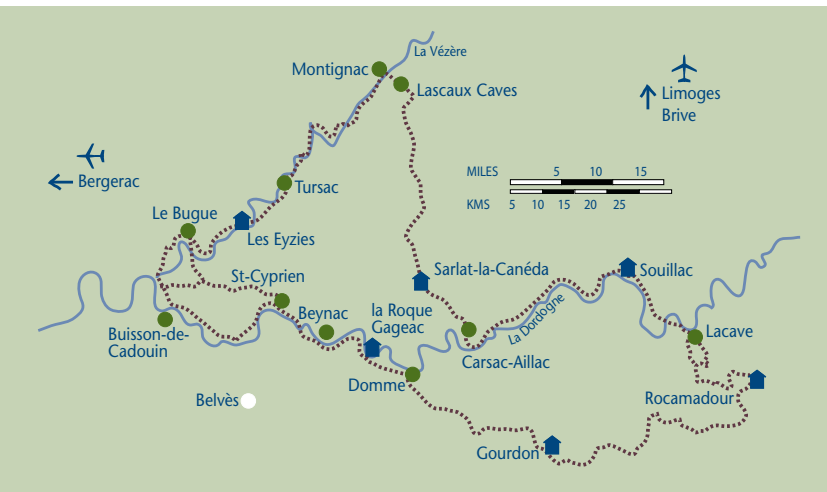
On your final stretch to Souillac, the 14th century Château de Fénelon is beautifully furnished and has wonderful views - surely worth one last detour?





TOUR

There's a superb abbey to discover at **Buisson-de-Cadouin** if you fancy a detour too. At the confluence with the Vézère, track the tributary to where it meets the Beune. Here **Les Eyzies**, known as 'the prehistoric centre of France', huddles beneath limestone cliffs. Follow the Vézère north-east to **Montignac** and the renowned **Lascaux** cave paintings before veering south across rolling countryside to the bustling medieval market town of **Sarlat**. Finally there's a gentle pedal along the route of a disused railway line to rejoin the Dordogne towards **Souillac**.



cycling in Provence



Russet roofs against cobalt skies. Ribbons of the richest purple lavender. A sea of golden sunflowers. Ancient *Orange*. Wheels turning in the warmth of Mediterranean sunshine. Sun-ripened tomatoes. Markets full of melons and fragrant herbs. Pink flamingos and wild white horses by the whispering bulrushes of the Camargue. Black bulls and flamboyant Matadors in the Arles Roman arena. Massive aquaducts and triumphal arches. Tremendous terracotta bowls, brimful of every olive imaginable at Carpentras market. Cobbled streets and vineyard slopes. Little blue shutters and a huge honey-coloured papal palace. Craggy limestone spurs crowned with ruins. Tales of Troubadours. All washed down with ruby-red Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Colourful stuff, Provence.



*"Excellent area to cycle in
& well organised."*

Mr W., Banchory, Aberdeenshire



Accommodation

From a villa-style property with a pool and a stone house complete with predictable blue shutters alongside an inviting courtyard, to the most modern boutique chic right in the heart of historic town, our hotels in Provence are well-located and full of local character. Many have lovely outside dining opportunities and all are rated at least 2 star according to local classifications.

How to get there

Rail to: Orange

Ferry or tunnel: Long term parking can usually be arranged

Fly to: Nîmes, Avignon, Marseilles, Paris

For information regarding airlines serving these airports and contact details of relevant transportation operators, please visit cyclebreaks.com or give us a call.



Provence & the Camargue



TOUR FPC8
8 days (7 nights)

TOUR FACTS

Arrival day Saturday & Monday

Day 1 Arrive & explore

Overnight Orange

EB
GRADE
3 - 4

Day 2 Bouquets & bridges

Orange – Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Overnight Avignon

Miles: 31

Kms: 50

Day 3 Around the Alpilles

Avignon – Graveson – St Rémy –
Les Baux

Overnight Arles

Miles: 34

Kms: 55

Day 4 A wild day out

Circular trip into the Camargue

Overnight Arles

Miles: 28-34

Kms: 45-55

Day 5 Abbeys & castles

Arles – St Gilles

Overnight Tarascon

Miles: 31

Kms: 50

Day 6 The awesome aqueduct

Tarascon – Jonquières –
Pont-du-Gard

Overnight Uzès

Miles: 31

Kms: 50

Day 7 The Huguenot path homeward

Uzès – Bastide d'Engras –
Cavallargues - Caderousse

Overnight Orange

Miles: 34

Kms: 55

Day 8 Depart after breakfast...

*or stay and savour the flavours
just a little longer*

Drink in timeless views and the occasional glass of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Feel the thrill of seeing wild white horses and flocks of flamingos out on the brackish lagoons of the haunting Camargue. This part of Provence has a way of filling the soul. Its river paths and quiet roads which pass awesome Roman architecture and sun-baked farmsteads make for simply great cycling.

TOUR

Fancy mellowing into Mediterranean life from day one? No better place than the street cafés in **Orange's** old town. Once in the saddle, you traverse the world famous vineyards of **Châteauneuf-du-Pape** before your virtually traffic-free cycle route into **Avignon**. Head down to the Rhône to pay homage to the 'Pont d'Avignon' (Pont St-Bénézet) of song fame, or stroll through the cobbled streets past the Pope's palace.

Fortified **Graveson**, the shade of Maillane's plane trees and Petit Crau de St Rémy's fertile fields lead you on to the cooling fountains of **St Rémy**. Here, contemplate your next move, plumping perhaps for the flat route around the Alpilles, or maybe you'll take the challenging climb into the Alpilles for stunning views of rocky **Les Baux**? Finally, as you approach van Gogh's former home of **Arles**, an ancient aqueduct pre-empts the impressive Roman treats to come.

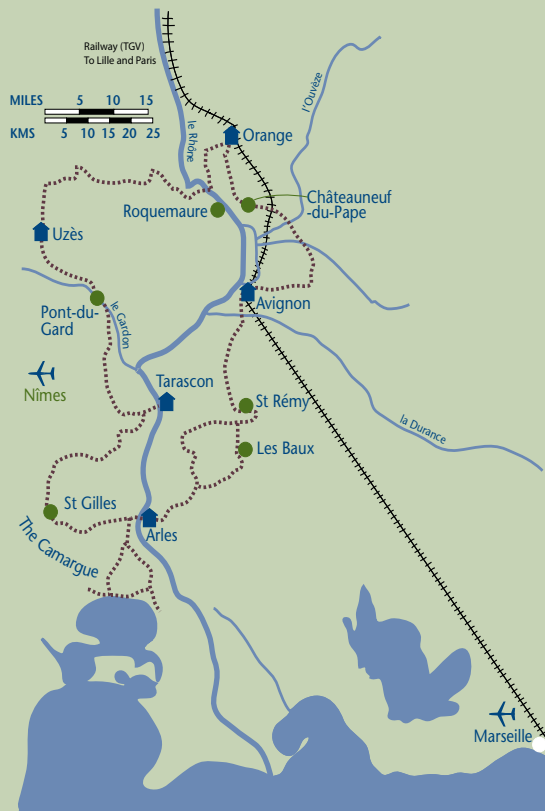
At this point, a day's circular tour of the unique **Camargue** is simply a must. Follow the white horses and black bulls, possibly getting close up to the flamingos with a short detour to the water's edge, or a small electric railway ride near Mejanas.

TOP TIPS

Take inspiration from the Ancients in Orange: as well as a splendid triumphal arch, there's an impressive 10,000 seater Roman theatre which is still in use today.

Spectacular Les Baux has a lower 'living' village and a deserted upper village carved from the solid rock of a natural rock island.





TOUR From Arles to **Tarascon**, you cross the 'Little Camargue' to visit **St Gilles'** 8th century Abbey before being greeted by King René's imposing castle. Over the Rhône, past Jonquières, the massive **Pont-du-Gard** Roman aqueduct will surely stop you in your cycle tracks. Find out the facts at the heritage centre, then sample it for yourself as you cycle over the River Gardon on the way to medieval **Uzès**.

The hills are ever green with Kermes Oaks as you head back to Orange. Past the Bastide d'Engras and the river Tave, pick up an old Huguenot path towards sleepy Cavillargues. Finally vineyards and orchards lead you back to the Rhône, Caderousse and the familiar city of **Orange**.

Love the tour but think you need a bit more power behind your pedals? Our electric bikes are sure to help you on your way.





Classic Provence



TOUR FP8 8 days (7 nights)

TOUR FACTS

Arrival day Saturday & Monday

Day 1 Arrive & explore

Overnight Orange

EB
GRADE
3 - 4

Day 2 Popes & palates - circular route

Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Miles: 28

Kms: 45

Overnight Orange

Day 3 Vineyards & vistas

Orange - St Cécile les Vignes

Miles: 28

Kms: 45

Overnight Vaison-la-Romaine

Day 4 Water & wealth

Vaison-la-Romaine -

Sablét - Gigondas

Miles: 31

Kms: 50

Overnight Carpentras

Day 5 Springs & sources

Carpentras - Pernes-les-Fontaines -

Velleron - Fontaine-de-Vaucluse

Miles: 31

Kms: 50

Overnight L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue

Day 6 Castles & caves

L'Isle-sur-Sorgue - Le Thor -

Pont-du-Gard

Miles: 28

Kms: 45

Overnight Avignon

Day 7 Wine, women & song

Avignon - Roquemaure

Orange

Miles: 22

Kms: 35

Overnight Orange

Day 8 Depart after breakfast...

or stay and savour the flavours

just a little longer

Turn your attentions to water, then to wine in this great tour of rivers and fountains, famous vineyards and celebrated cellars. With Roman legacies, Italian influences, and even kissing festivals(!), there is something miraculous and rather romantic about this part of Provence. The quiet country lanes and river paths make for measured cycling, so you can really enjoy getting a taste for what Provence has to offer.

TOUR Arrive in **Orange** to take in the remarkable Roman theatre, graze the shops and markets or simply sit back and sip in some café on the cobbles. The world famous **Châteauneuf-du-Pape** is on the wine menu in the morning as you sample the seven hundred year old vineyards on a circular cycle tour. Wander round the village too, one-time summer residence of Pope Jean XXII, and visit fortified Couthezon before returning to the city.

Time next for a mouth-watering ride through l'Aigues valley. Picturesque St Cécile des Vignes and then the other charming villages of the Côtes du Rhône certainly offer plenty to tickle the tastebuds.

After the Romanesque Cathédrale Notre Dame de Nazareth and Roman ruins at **Vaison-la-Romaine**, it's off to the foothills of the Dentelles de Montmirail. Sablét will charm you with shady lanes and refreshing fountains whereas higher up, **Gigondas**, once famous for its water, is now a firm favourite with wine-lovers. Your next stop on the other hand - rich and Italianate **Carpentras** - now trades in earthy truffles! **Pernes-les-Fontaines** has water in abundance, but pedal on to Velleron, then **Fontaine-de-Vaucluse** to see the river Sorgue's amazing source and stay, fittingly enough, close to bridges and old water wheels on the island town of **L'Isle-sur-Sorgue**.

TOP TIPS

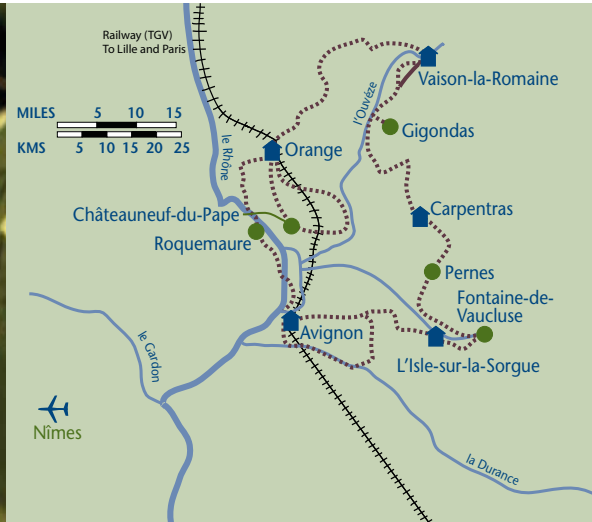
Roquemaure, home to the relics of St Valentine, is known as 'the Capital of Lovers'. Every year 20,000 gather there for the annual 'Fête du Baiser' (Kissing Festival!). Perhaps the local wine is a love potion..?

Pernes-les-Fontaines gives itself away by its name: more than 36 fountains are fed from a large natural spring, including Fontaine de Cormoron with its outspread wings.



TOUR

At nearby Le Thor, the Douzabas gate greets you, complete with town clock and campanile. A medieval château and the church of Notre Dame du Lac add to the charm, and a little further on, at Thouzou, there's an impressive cave to visit. Small roads and cycle paths lead on to **Avignon** and the spectacular Palais des Papes. When you finally leave the city, there's a chance to view the famous 'Pont d'Avignon' and perhaps sing a fond French farewell? Your route follows the Rhône valley to romantic **Roquemaure** and back to **Orange**.



cycling in Germany



Baroque swirls and Bavarian bands. Watzmann mountain peaks and the freshest green valleys. Glockenspiel-induced silence on Munich's Marienplatz. Oktoberfest 'Steine' frothing over in the fun. Feathers in local caps. Local 'Tracht' and Lederhosen. 'Biergärtl', Berchtesgaden; an Eagle's Nest and Passau's three rivers. Lavish castles and little churches. Towering maypoles bright with flowers. 'Würstchen' with sweet mustard. Salt springs. Elegant spa towns bursting with civic pride, offering 'Kaffee und Kuchen' on the Kurgarten terrace. Reflective moments by the great Bavarian Sea and haunting echoes on the Königssee.



Accommodation

Great 'Gasthofe', convenient town centre hotels or relaxed lakeside properties: our German hotels are rated 3 and 4 star according to local classifications. Some hotels have saunas and swimming pools.

For details about **what is included in the price** of our German tours, our partnership with local experts and **how to get to Germany**, please refer to information on page 61.

"A wonderfully scenic route including impressive lakes and awe-inspiring views of rocky peaks..."

Mr H., Ipswich, Suffolk





The Best of Bavaria

Munich to Salzburg

TOUR GMS8 8 days (7 nights)

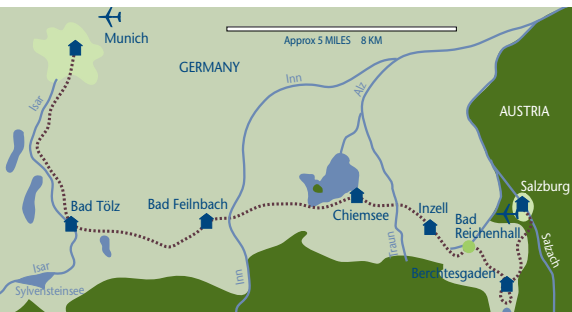


From Munich, the city of colourful clocks, music boxes and Oktoberfest, this heart-warming tour takes in the timeless beauty of the Bavarian lakes with its smart spa towns, inspiring alpine backdrops and wonderful hospitality en route to Austria's musical masterpiece: Salzburg. Packed full of Bavaria's best bits together with stays in comfortable 4 or superior 3 star hotels, highlights also include Bad Tölz, Chiemsee and Berchestgaden with its famous Sankt Bartholomä church on the Königssee lake.

TOUR Make the most of vibrant **Munich**, washed down with a litre of refreshing and appropriately frothy Bavarian welcome before heading down ancient salt routes to the proud spa town of **Bad Tölz**. The greenest pastures by lakes Tegensee and Schliersee inspire colourful vistas and, past **Bad Feilnbach**, fruit orchards give way to peat plots near the foot of the Chiemgau Alps.

At **Lake Chiemsee**, the sparkling 'Bavarian Sea' stretches out by the mountains, so too the enchanting and comfortingly flat moorland around Bergen under the Hochfelln. Unbelievably, the spa towns here become even more picturesque as if trying to rival the breathtaking scenery. **Inzell** reaches amazing heights in more ways than one, with its wonderful painted houses excelling in the local floral decorative art of 'Lüftmalerei'.

An emerald valley ride along The Saalach leads to Bavaria's spa town jewels. **Bad Reichenhall** is mighty, but **Berchtesgaden** home to castles, salt springs, the historic Eagle's Nest and stunning steep-sided Königsee steals the show. Looping round the lake, past caves and cable cars, Austria is just a pedal push away. Baroque treats beckon at Castle Heilbrunn before the final cultural flourish: Mozart's **Salzburg**.



TOUR FACTS

Arrival Day Saturday
Day 1 Arrive & explore
Overnight Munich

EB
GRADE
4

Day 2 Down the Isar to Bad Tölz
Munich – Grünwald -
Wolfratshausen - Geretsried
Overnight Bad Tölz

Miles: 37
Kms: 60

Day 3 Pastures & panoramas
Bad Tölz – Tegensee – Gmund –
Schliersee
Overnight Bad Feilnbach

Miles: 40
Kms: 65

Day 4 From peat to port
Bad Feilnbach – River Inn –
Neubeuern – Frasdorf
Overnight Lake Chiemsee

Miles: 28
Kms: 45

Day 5 Moors & 'Malerei'
Lake Chiemsee – Bergen –
Bad Adelholzen – Siegsdorf
Overnight Inzell

Miles: 22
Kms: 35

Day 6 Down the Alpenstrasse to
beautiful Berchtesgaden
Inzell – Schneitzreuth –
Bad Reichenhall
Overnight Berchtesgaden

Miles: 28
Kms: 45

Day 7 Up & over the border
Berchtesgaden – Lake Königsee –
Heilbrunn
Overnight Salzburg

Miles: 28
Kms: 45

Day 8 Depart after breakfast...
*but you're welcome stay a little
longer - ask us about our GMS9 Tour*

cycling in Austria



Dreamy Danube days. The clearest lakeland waters. Massive monasteries, mega-mountains and Mur Valley magic. Scenery simply more dramatic than the mood swings of 'The Sound of Music'. Real alpine muesli at breakfast time. A well-deserved glass of crisp, cooling Riesling. Schlogen sunsets. The broadest gables and narrowest church spires. Balconies cascading with colourful Geraniums. Alpine Carnations and Edelweiss. Music from Salzburg's Mozart, Beethoven and beyond. Sugarcraft swirls around Baroque doorways. Imposing imperial monuments. Linz's golden statues and Richard the Lionhart's Durnstein dungeon. Bike ferries and horse-drawn carriages. 'Strudel' on the lakeside terrace. And, perhaps most deliciously of all, a palate-full of the local Grüner Veltliner's pure, minerally perfection.



*"The scenery is amazing
& the hotels were great."*

Mr & Mrs N., King's Lynn, Norfolk





Accommodation

From creeper-clad chalets to town centre 'Gasthof', relaxed lakeside properties to pastel-washed places with a cosy 'Biergarten', our Austrian hotels are mainly rated 4 star according to local classifications, although our Ten Lakes Tour (ALS8) does include some 3 star properties. Most hotels have saunas; some have swimming pools and some even offer the option of a relaxing massage - something else to look forward at the end of the day as well as that cold beer, glass of local wine and a guilt-free pastry!

What's included in the price (applicable to Austrian and German tours)

- En-suite hotel accommodation as described with continental breakfast
- Information pack with detailed joining instructions and daily route overviews sent out approx. two weeks before departure
- Detailed route notes and maps with marked routes (Danube: 1:50,000 map book / Ten Lakes / Mur Cycle Path and Best of Bavaria (Munich to Salzburg): 1:75,000 map book) will be provided on arrival
- Luggage transfer
- Hire of bicycle and ancillary equipment - cycles generally available for collection on day two of your tour
- Local assistance on call, although puncture repair is excluded
- Electric bikes available on selected tours where indicated, bookable in advance and at a supplement
- Boat and train transfers and excursions where noted in the itinerary as included
- The tour price **does not** include the costs of getting to and from the tour area

We want to be up front...

As much as we might like to, we can't cut ourselves into pieces and welcome you personally all around Europe. In Austria and Germany, we work in partnership with local experts who share our commitment to quality, service and great cycling. Together, we ensure that the route notes prepared during our own latest experiences are fully up-to-date and that accommodation continues to meet our high standards. We are proud of our partners and delighted that you will be welcomed by friends.

How to get there

Rail to: Passau, Salzburg, Munich or Graz

Ferry or tunnel: Long term parking can usually be arranged (we can advise likely charges)

Fly to: Salzburg, Linz (closest to Passau), Munich, Graz, Vienna

The excellent rail network in the area is the best option for transfers to/from Passau, Vienna, Munich, Salzburg and Graz as required.

For information regarding airlines serving these airports and contact details of relevant transportation operators, please visit cyclebreaks.com or give us a call.



The Danube Cycle Tour



TOUR ADPV8
8 days (7 nights)

TOUR FACTS

EB **GRADE**
⚡ **2 - 3**

Arrival day Any day
Day 1 Arrive & explore three great rivers
Overnight Passau (Germany)

Day 2 **Heading into Austria**
Passau – Engelhartzell (*bike ferry fare included*)
Overnight Schlogen

Miles: 27
Kms: 43

Day 3 **Capital cycling**
Schlogen – Aschach
Overnight Linz

Miles: 35
Kms: 56

Day 4 **Austria's allotment**
Linz – (St Florian) – (Enns) – Lehen
Overnight Grein

Miles: 27-49
Kms: 44-79

Day 5 **Pilgrimage sites & panoramas**
Grein – Persenbeug – Marbach (*Transfer with bikes up out of river valley included*)
Overnight Maria Taferl

Miles: 19-22
Kms: 31-36

Day 6 **World Heritage Site highlights**
Maria Taferl – Melk – Durnstein
Overnight Krems

Miles: 32
Kms: 52

Day 7 **Flower city & Viennese grandeur**
Krems – Tulln – Vienna (*Return bikes at Tulln and take train to Vienna recommended - trains run half hourly, fare approx. 7 euros*)
Overnight Vienna

Miles: 29-53
Kms: 47-85

Day 8 **Depart after breakfast...**
but you're welcome to stay longer

Why not indulge in a comfortable cruise on a bike? We're convinced that this classic cycle route has to be one of the best in Europe. The valley itself and the vineyards make for the most amazing scenery. The cycling is mainly traffic-free with bike ferries allowing you to skip between the paths on both sides of the famous River. And if you fancy a day out of the saddle, that's no problem thanks to the numerous boats and river-hugging, cycle-friendly railway.

TOUR Your adventure starts in historic **Passau**, Germany's 'City of Three Rivers' at the confluence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz where you pick up your bikes. Passau has to be one of the most beautiful cities in Germany: we don't want you to miss out, so be sure to get there early and maybe take a 'Three Rivers' boat trip to enjoy spectacular views from the water.

Next morning as you leave along the north bank of the Danube, you're soon in Austria at Engelhartzell, home to Austria's only Trappist monastery. At **Schlogen**, the Danube meets granite, deviating 180° - your signal to take the bike ferry across to the south bank and relax on the hotel terrace, drinking in the river activity below. On the way to Aschach before you reach Upper Austria's capital, **Linz**, the tightest river bends reveal stunning views. Picturesque **Grein** with its imposing Greinburg Castle is the next overnight stop reached through Lehen with its reconstructed Celtic village and the area known as 'Austria's vegetable garden'. Our suggested detours include St Florian (Baroque-style Augustine monastery) and **Enns** (Austria's oldest city), but if you prefer, there are always the boats and trains to help you on your way.

TOP TIPS

Don't miss Melk - gateway to the vineyards and apricot orchards of the Wachau, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and home to a magnificent Benedictine monastery.

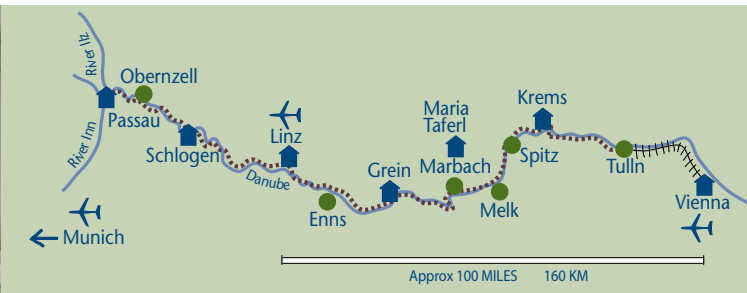
As well as having saunas and swimming pools some of our specially selected hotels also offer a relaxing massage to help you unwind.





TOUR

En route to the ancient pilgrimage centre of **Maria Taferl**, you'll head through picturesque **Persenbeug** and **Marbach** at the entrance of the famed Nibelungengau. Here you're transferred up out of the valley and win magnificent views from high above the river at Maria Taferl. Next morning, it's back down to the Danube, with a chance to visit the World Heritage Site of the Wachau and see Durnstein's castle before arriving at the old town of **Krems**. Your last day's cycling takes you to the 'flower city' of **Tulln**, then on into marvellous **Vienna**, capital city of the Habsburg Empire, for your last night in Austria. We recommend that this final stage is made by train but if you have plenty of energy left, maps and route details are provided for the long cycle ride into Vienna centre.



TOUR FACTS

Arrival day Any day
Day 1 Arrive & explore
Overnight Salzburg

EB
GRADE
3

Day 2 Chapels & abbeys
Salzburg – Oberndorf –
Michaelbeuern Abbey

Miles: 28
Kms: 45

Overnight Seeham

Day 3 Green & pleasant pastures
Seeham – Schleedorf – Wallersee –
Zellersee

Miles: 30
Kms: 49

Overnight Mondsee

Day 4 Ceramics, castles & cruises
Mondsee – Unterach – (boat
transfer on Lake Attersee included) –
Weyregg – Gmunden - Castle Ort

Miles: 37*
Kms: 59

Overnight Traunkirchen

Day 5 Natural beauty in abundance
Traunkirchen – (train
transfer included) – Obertraun –
Hallstatt

Miles: 19-25
Kms: 30-40

Overnight Bad Goisern/Bad Ischl

Day 6 Running short of superlatives yet?
Bad Goisern / Bad Ischl –
Wolfgangsee

Miles: 12-18
Kms: 20-29

Overnight Abersee/St Wolfgang

Day 7 Up & nearly all over
Abersee / Wolfgangsee – St Gilgen –
(transfer of bikes up hill
included) Kuhleiten –
Hintersee – Strubklamm Gorge

Miles: 29
Kms: 47

Overnight Salzburg

Day 8 Depart after breakfast
Unless you'd prefer to stay an
extra night or two...?

*Please note: Ferry on lake Attersee only available mid-May
to mid-September. Outside this period, the route has
10 miles additional cycling.

The Ten Lakes Tour

TOUR ALS8
8 days (7 nights)



If stunning scenery and time for reflection are for you, then this special tour of Austria's Lake District, the Salzkammergut, has to be right up your cycle path. The circular route from Salzburg blends everything from culture to caves, roofscapes and landscapes, sheer confection and awe-inspiring natural beauty. Flat lakeside tracks and quiet country lanes across rolling hills make for great cycling and we even ensure that the boat and train take the strain in places.

Extra nights can be added anywhere on this tour, if you wish.

TOUR Settle into **Salzburg**, a cultural gem brimful of musical connections. Explore for a while before bikes and briefing then, in the morning, follow the river Salzach north west to **Oberndorf**, and the famous 'Stille Nacht (Silent Night) Kapelle'. Michaelbeuren Abbey is on the menu too before the lakeside village of **Seeham**.

Once past the Egel Lakes and nature reserve, the route rolls through green pastures by the lakes Wallersee, Zellersee and on to **Mondsee**. At **Unterach** take your cycles for a cruise along the Attersee to **Weyregg**. From here the picturesque Aurachtal leads to Lake Traunsee and historic **Gmunden** of salt-trading and ceramics fame. With the awesome mountain backdrop, everything has a lost-in-time dreaminess: **Traunkirchen** is idyllic and Castle Ort floats in splendid isolation out on the Traunsee.

Nicely mellow from such natural beauty, continue to relax with a train transfer to **Obertraun** and the next lake, Hallstattersee. Skirt along the water's edge beneath imposing mountains to **Hallstatt**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Perhaps even visit the caves,

On this route all train and boat transfers for you and your bike, plus uphill bike transportation detailed in the tour are included in the tour price.

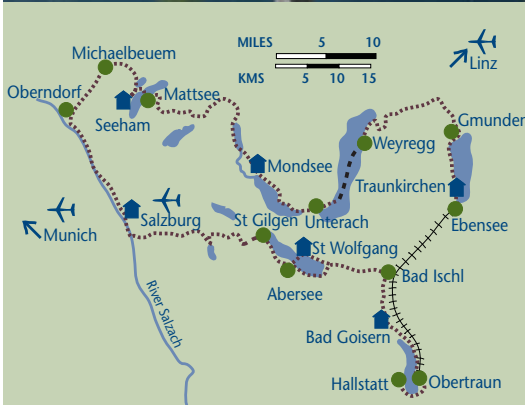




TOUR

before taking the new cycle path to **St Agatha** and **Bad Goisern** or onto inspiring **Bad Ischl**.

Heading across to more lakeland water, best to brace yourself for the most amazing vistas as you reach **Wolfgangsee**, reputedly the warmest and prettiest lake in the Salzkammergut. There's time for more lovely views at **St Wolfgang** or **Abersee**, then on to **St Gilgen** for something a little bit different. Here, take a short 2km uphill hike, leaving your bikes to be transported. Once reunited at **Kuhleiten**, you can enjoy some freewheeling fun down to the **Hintersee** and the **Strubklamm Gorge**, before the final short stretch across the **Salzachtal valley** into **Salzburg**.



TOP TIPS

Bad Ischl boasts Emperor Franz Joseph's summer residence home and breath-taking panoramic views on cable-car rides.

Fallen in love with the tour, but think you need a bit more power behind your pedals? Our electric bikes are sure to help you on your way.



The Mur Cycle Path

Austria's best kept cycling secret

TOUR AMC8 8 days (7 nights)



TOUR FACTS

Arrival Day Any day

EB **GRADE**
⚡ 2 - 3

Day 1 Arrive & explore

Overnight *Salzburg*

Day 2 Heading down to the Mur Valley

Salzburg – St Michael im Lungau –
(Muhr / River Mur source)

Overnight *St Michael im Lungau*

Day 3 Through the woods & over
the bridge

St Michael im Lungau – (Muhr) –
Tamsweg – Moosham – Mauterdorf

Miles: 34

Kms: 55

Overnight *Murau*

Day 4 Ruins & ragged peaks

Murau – Frojach – Teufenbach –
Frauenburg

Miles: 40

Kms: 65

Overnight *Judenburg*

Day 5 More beer & mushroom towers

Judenburg – Knittelfeld – Göss –
Leoben – Oberaich

Miles: 37

Kms: 60

Overnight *Bruck an der Mur*

Day 6 From great grottos & Graz

Bruck an der Mur – Frohnleiten –
Judendorf

Miles: 37

Kms: 60

Overnight *Graz*

Day 7 Wheeling your way down the
wine road

Graz – Kalsdorf

Miles: 40

Kms: 65

Overnight *Mureck*

Day 8 Depart after breakfast

Please note that the train fare to Graz airport
is not included in the price of the tour
(single fare = approx. 9 euros)

Head south from Salzburg, deep into Austria's 'Little Canada', land of high mountain peaks and green pastures, to meet the River Mur and your trusty two-wheeled steed in St Michael im Lungau. Pedal via a National Park rich with birdlife to the buzz of Graz, Styria's lively capital. Forests, farms and fertile plains accompany the river right down to the Slovenian border. Enjoy cycling mainly on a dedicated cycle path through countryside which is practically downhill all the way and relax in especially selected 4 and some 3 star accommodation.

TOUR From **Salzburg** - that city of culture so melodious with Mozart - let the postbus deliver you into a world which couldn't be more in tune with nature, a valley of great dynamics and colourful contrasts.

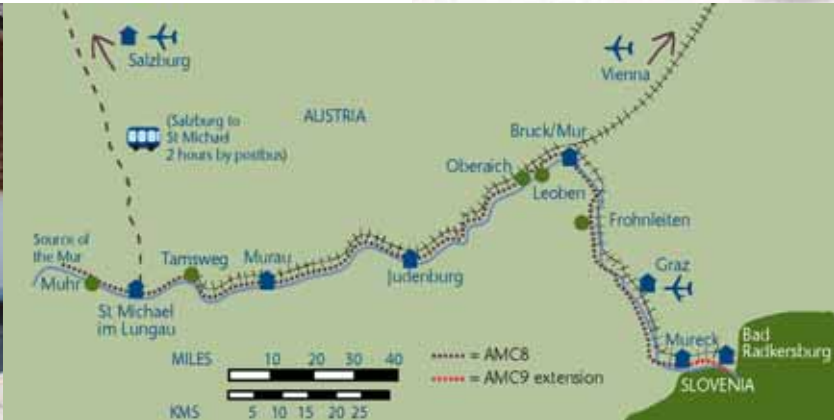
Meet the Mur at **St Michael im Lungau** where the river's lofty source (1898m!) and picture-book village of **Muhr** are only a short ride and walk away, then watch the greenest, freshest mountain landscapes unfold before your handlebars - dense woodlands, verdant pastures, ragged Niedere Tauern peaks; then castle after medieval castle with attendant tales of troubadours, endless places of pilgrimage and brewery museums in abundance. The splendours of **Judenburg** and **Bruck's** castle mountain herald the historic treasures of **Graz**, but 2003's European Capital of Culture has contemporary surprises too: hunt out





TOUR the spaceship (the Kunsthaus) and the silver snail - a mid-Mur steel amphitheatre island and café!

As if the champagne air isn't enough, the South Styrian Wine Road promises more heady delights. Valley slopes trail with vineyards and yet more castles harbour time-honoured cellars. Finally as the Mur winds down towards Slovenia's borderlands, so you wind up in charming **Mureck** famed for its unique riverside mill.



Looking for a shorter stay?

Our 7 day/ 6 night option (AMC7) finishes up at wonderfully cultural city of Graz.

Or a longer one?

Stay an extra night and snuggle right up to the Slovenian border. Our 9 day/8 night tour (AMC9 - Grade 2 - 3) includes an extension and final overnight in amazing **Bad Radkersburg** (Gornja Radgona). This town doesn't really have a castle - it is one! The Herberstorff Renaissance Palace is a must-see and there are renowned thermal springs close by.

cycling in Italy



Scooping gondolas and skyward-stretching 'campaniles'. Redbrick crenulations and grey-green domes. Jagged Dolomite peaks. Vineyard hills, rolling as softly as the local language itself. Verona, Vicenza, Venezia, Veneto, each one their own frisson of excitement. Medieval arcades bustling with shoppers. Mario's market boat on the water. A good glass of light Schiava sunshine, washing down fresh pizza on the 'piazza'. Olive trees and magnolias on the mild, almost Mediterranean, Lago di Garda. Pisa's tottering tower. Juliet's balcony. The effortless flourish of Florence and the freedom of freewheeling to Torbole. Romanesque cloisters and grand arenas. Fading shuttered facades in reddy-brown, green and white - somehow so elegantly Italian. Colourful glass gifts, fascinating frescoes and the peachy sparkle of the finest chilled Prosecco.



*"Thoroughly enjoyed our holiday.
Loved the personal directions –
fantastic."*

Mr & Mrs F., Arbirlot, Scotland



Accommodation

Our Italian hotels have plenty of character from façades flowing with flowers or adorned with red and white shutters to 19th century Neo-classical treats with elegant terraces, to bright modern properties in cheerful colours or with tinted glass fronts. They are rated 4 or 3 star according to local classifications, although our Treasures of Tuscany tour (ITP8) does include one very good 2 star hotel. Some hotels have pool facilities and rooms with balconies.

What's included in the price

- En-suite hotel accommodation as described with continental breakfast
- Information pack with detailed joining instructions and daily route overviews sent out approx. two weeks before departure
- Detailed route notes and maps with marked routes (1:75,000 map books, with Tuscany map book also including some 1:50,000 mapping) will be provided on arrival
- Luggage transfer
- Hire of bicycle and ancillary equipment - cycles generally available for collection on day two of your tour
- Local assistance on call, although puncture repair is excluded
- Electric bikes available on selected tours where indicated, bookable in advance and **at a supplement**
- Boat and train transfers and excursions where noted in the itinerary as included
- The tour price **does not** include the costs of getting to and from the tour area

We want to be up front...

As much as we might like to, we can't cut ourselves into pieces and welcome you personally all around Europe. In Italy, we work in partnership with local experts who share our commitment to quality, service and great cycling. Together, we ensure that the route notes prepared during our own latest experiences are fully up-to-date and that accommodation continues to meet our high standards. We are proud of our partners and delighted that you will be welcomed by friends.

How to get there

Rail to: Verona, Venice (Mestre), Bolzano and Pisa

Ferry or tunnel: Long term parking can usually be arranged (we can advise likely charges)

Fly to: Venice, Treviso, Verona, Innsbruck, Pisa and Florence

For information regarding airlines serving these airports and contact details of relevant transportation operators, please visit cyclebreaks.com or give us a call.



Treasures of Tuscany

Pisa to Florence

TOUR ITP8 8 days (7 nights)



TOUR FACTS

GRADE
3

Arrival day *Saturday (and Monday – July only)*

Day 1 **Arrive & explore**

Overnight *Pisa*

Day 2 **Along the River Serchio**

Pisa

Overnight *Lucca*

Miles: 19

Kms: 30

Day 3 **Walled town or watery retreats?**

Lucca - (Lago di Massaciuccoli)

Overnight *Lucca*

Miles: 25

Kms: 40

Day 4 **Pinocchio & Palazzos**

Lucca – Collodi - Pescia

Overnight *Montecatini Terme*

Miles: 28

Kms: 45

Day 5 **Spa town treats or a spot of genius**

Montecatini Terme – Vinci

Overnight *Montecatini Terme*

Miles: 37

Kms: 60

Day 6 **Divine duomos & galleria greats**

Montecatini Terme – Pistoia

(optional train fare to Pistoia not included – single fare 2 euros)

Overnight *Florence*

Miles: 31-40

Kms: 50-65

Day 7 **Along the Arno**

Florence – Empoli (40 kms by train – train fare not included – single fare 4 euros)

Overnight *Pisa*

Miles: 40

Kms: 65

Day 8 **Depart after breakfast**

but you're welcome to stay longer

Pisa, Lucca, Firenze – the famous places on this tour just seem to flow like Chianti being freed from the bottle. Tuscany's world-renowned art and wine treasures are hardly a secret, but these are the lands of Leonardo, the inspiration of passionate Puccini and cheeky little Pinocchio too. Riverside routes and country lanes introduce undulating vineyards and stunning vistas, grandmasters and gallerias, transforming every unsuspecting piazza, ponte or palazzo into Tuscan treasures all of their own.

TOUR

It would be a miracle in itself if you weren't drawn to the Piazza dei Miracoli on arrival in Pisa, but the lively university city has more to tempt than just the cathedral's leaning bell tower. Away from the Duomo hot spot, historic 'via' lead to cool café terraces and many more miraculous legacies.

Once in the saddle, follow the River Serchio northwards on a gentle countryside route which skirts Monti Pisani. At the foot of the Apuan Alps, Lucca boasts the best preserved Renaissance town walls in Europe - a marvellous tree-lined park to pedal round. Stay around Lucca's red roofs, Roman amphitheatre and the white church confections or spend a day looping out coastwards to Puccini's favourite hunting grounds at Lago di Massaciuccoli.

A panoramic ride leads on to Pinocchio Park in picturesque Collodi, but the aristocratic Villa Garzoni there might be more up your Tuscan street. Pescia is packed full of palaces, more churches, mansions and a flourishing flower market, then there's time to mooch around the famous spa town of Montecatini Terme for a day, taking the cable car up to the old city or alternatively weaving through olive groves and vineyards past Medici villas

TOP TIPS

Giacomo Puccini, the great opera composer, hailed from Lucca and enjoyed hunting trips from his beautiful lakeside villa at Lago di Massaciuccoli. The lake is now a nature reserve and Torre del Lago Puccini is named in his honour.



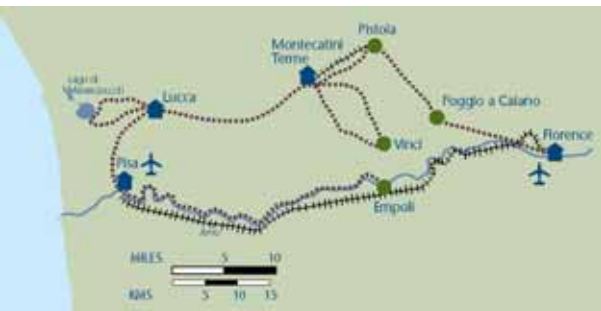


TOUR

to Leonardo's home town of Vinci. A short train ride is an option to reach **Pistoia** and its entrancing cathedral square, with time for one more marvellous Medici villa at **Poggio a Caiano** before a glide along the flatlands of Firenze to land in the very cradle of the Renaissance.

There are never moments enough in the company of Botticelli, Donatello or Michaelangelo, but whichever way you turn, **Florence** just can't fail to please. Be sure to make time though for an evening 'passeggiata' across the Ponte Vecchio where shuttered shop windows gleam with gold like a row of open treasure chests.

With a short train ride to **Empoli** for more piazzas and palazzos, the tour finishes as it started by pedalling riverside paths, this time along the flood plains of the River Arno back to **Pisa**.



Want more time to spend pottering near the Ponte Vecchio or gallery grazing in fantastic Firenze?

We'd be pleased to organise you an extra night or two in Florence before you either continue your cycle tour or return by train directly to Pisa. If you'd like to talk through these or other options, please call us to discuss your requirements.



Bolzano to Verona



TOUR IBV7
7 days (6 nights)

TOUR FACTS

EB **GRADE**
⚡ **2 - 3**

Arrival day Friday
Day 1 Arrive & explore
Overnight Bolzano

Day 2 Pretty villages & peaceful lakes
Bolzano – St Pauls – Eppan
Overnight Lake Caldaro / Ora

Miles:	13-19
Kms:	21-31

Day 3 Cobble streets & castles
Lake Caldaro / Ora
Overnight Trento

Miles:	30-32
Kms:	48-51

Day 4 Discovering Lake Garda
Trento – Rovereto – Mori – Torbole – Riva del Garda
(Ferry transfer included to overnight lakeside destination)
Overnight Sirmione / Desenzano

Miles:	31
Kms:	50

Day 5 From riverside to romance
Sirmione / Desenzano - Verona
Overnight Verona

Miles:	31
Kms:	50

Day 6 Meandering with the River Mincio
Verona – Borghetto – Mantua
(Return to Verona by train – fare included)
Overnight Verona

Miles:	40
Kms:	65

Day 7 Depart after breakfast...
but you are welcome to stay longer

From *Kaffee und Kuchen* to *Prosecco e Prosciutto* – this tour offers a taste of two cultures linked by the most amazing scenery. Much of the route has the dramatic Dolomites as backdrop and uses dedicated cycle paths along the River Adige from sophisticated Bolzano (or Bozen - the capital of German-speaking South Tyrol) towards romantic Verona, setting for Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'. Elsewhere vineyards, orchards, even a ferry trip the length of Lake Garda take centre stage.

TOUR A colourful street market, smart shops and pavement cafés just made for stopping for 'Strudel' are all only a short stroll from your hotel in central **Bolzano**, the impressive old trading town where 'North meets South'.

Dedicated cycle paths lead you out of the city in the morning, heading through orchards, vineyards and characterful villages like **St Pauls** and Eppan to the tranquillity of **Lake Caldaro** and the charming village of **Ora**. You're still practising your German in this area for one last night, but following the Adige cycle path south through the Dolomites will lead you into Italian-speaking Trentino tomorrow. The river-hugging route takes you to the heart of historic **Trento**, with its castle, charming cobble streets and impressive fountain and 16th century frescoes in the Piazza Duomo.

The ancient fortress town of **Rovereto** boasts another castle and the picturesque village of Mori completes the river route. The cycle path then follows an old railway line through a nature reserve, opening up wonderful vistas of **Lake Garda**. Enjoy the freewheeling wind in your hair on the descent to Torbole, then stay lakeside until

TOP TIPS

The Arena di Verona, renowned venue for the cultural festival, is an amazing must-see 30,000 seater Roman amphitheatre.

Don't miss the famous 'Otzi' museum in Bolzano, home to the 5,000 year old man found preserved in ice on a nearby glacier.





TOUR Riva del Garda. Here you cruise the lake by ferry (included), landing to overnight at the delightful resorts of **Sirmione** or **Desenzano**.

Trebbian vines line the gently rolling Veronese hills as, leaving the lake behind, you follow riverside paths to rich, romantic **Verona**. Who can resist looking up at Juliet's Balcony, or treading in Julius Caesar's footsteps on the Ponte Pietra? Take a day to explore or pedal out to Borghetto, a quaint mill village on the River Mincio, then south to ancient **Mantua**, Romeo's supposed place of exile, before heading back with your bicycle by train into Verona.

Need a bit more power behind your pedals?
Ask us about our electric bike service.





Venice, Veneto & Vaporetti



TOUR IVen8 8 days (7 nights)

TOUR FACTS



Arrival day Saturday
Day 1 Arrive & explore
Overnight Mestre

Day 2 Island hopping
Mestre – Venice – Pellestina –
Chioggia
*(fares for two ferries and one
vaporetto included)*

Miles: 23
Kms: 37

Overnight Sottomarina

Day 3 Mellow landscapes
Chioggia - Rovigo

Miles: 41
Kms: 66

Overnight Rovigo

Day 4 Olive groves & rolling hills
Rovigo – Monseice *(by train, rail
fare included)* –
Arquà Petrarca – Monti Berici

Miles: 34
Kms: 55

Overnight Vicenza

Day 5 Inspiration all round
Vicenza – (Lake Fimon)

Miles: 0-22
Kms: 0-35

Overnight Vicenza

Day 6 Time to unwind
Vicenza – Abano Terme

Miles: 22
Kms: 35

Overnight Abano Terme

Day 7 More culture & canals
Abano Terme- Padua

Miles: 31
Kms: 50

Overnight Mestre

Day 8 Depart after breakfast...
but you are welcome to stay longer

Venice is a true carnival of bustle and colour at any time of year. Gondalas and vaporetti, towering buildings and tiny alleyways, one amazing architectural eyeful. Take your fill on this tour and add to it the magic of historic Padua and Palladio's Vicenza, plus surrounding soft hills and green riverside routes, Adriatic beaches, charming clustered villages and heart-warming thermal spas. If you haven't got a taste for Italy after this, we'll want to know why.

TOUR What's it to be first – the Grand Canal, the Campanile, or the original Bridge of Sighs? After checking in at your hotel in **Mestre**, hop on a nearby bus for the fifteen minute ride to Piazzalle Roma, jump aboard a vaporetti and watch **Venice** unfold before your eyes.

You'll be riding across the Freedom Bridge in the morning to pick up a ferry to the famous Lido di Venezia. The views from here back across the lagoon towards dreamy Venice warrant a stop, an ice-cream, perhaps even a celebratory dip in the Adriatic?

After the little ferry ride to island number two, narrow and gentle Pellestrina, full-on Venice seems simply miles away. From the island's southern tip, another vaporetto lands you in **Chioggia**, a charming old fishing village, before you cycle on to **Sottomarina** on the shores of the Adriatic.

Time to head inland and follow quiet roads along canals and rivers. Cycle past melon plantations and fertile fields, through solitary villages and on to the friendly little historic city of **Rovigo** with it's octagonal church 'La Rotunda' and 10th century castle ruins.

TOP TIPS

From palaces to Piazzas, and campaniles to canals, Venice has so much to explore - why not extend your stay with some extra nights in nearby Mestre?

Designed for elegant entertainment, Palladio's classical Venetian villas were the height of fashion in the 16th century. Don't miss Villa Rotunda as you pedal out of Vicenza!

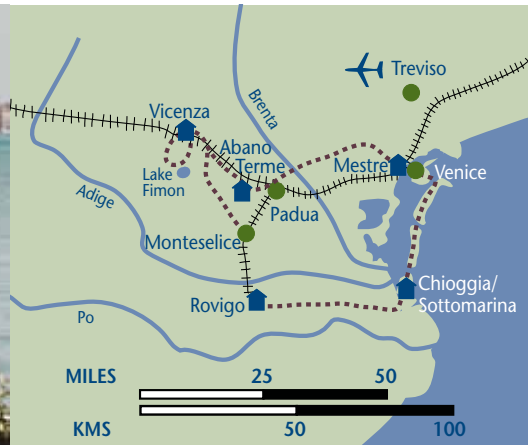




TOUR

Montselice is the next stop, reached by a short train journey. From here it's the olive groves of the rolling Euganese hills all the way to medieval Arquà Petrarca, resting place of the poet and scholar, Petrarch, then little used roads around the beautiful Monti Berici to the fine architectural fanfare of **Vicenza**. The Basilica Palladiana, the Teatro Olimpico... pick off the sights or take an optional cycle ride through the Berici Hills to admire **Lake Fimon's** waterlilies, both breath-taking challenges.

Wind south along the route which hugs the Bacchiglione River, to unwind at length in **Abano Terme**, the famous thermal spa. Treat yourself to a well deserved spa experience or rest up in the pool. **Padua** is promised for the morning, an ancient university city brimful of culture and oozing Italian charm. Finally, canal-side paths lead a level route back to **Mestre** through fields and pastures.



“Superb cycling holidays, perfectly organised, another great experience with Cycle Breaks.”

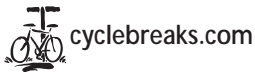
Mr S. & party, Udligenswil, Switzerland

How to make a booking

If you have any questions about any of our tours, do get in touch by phone or email. We'll gladly help you plan your holiday, making sure it meets your requirements. You can contact us by phone, fax or email to make your booking, post us the form within our price insert, or book online. We will confirm back by phone or email, usually within 24 hours (Mon-Fri), followed by written confirmation and joining instructions.

Additional tours & short breaks

For more details about the tours featured in this brochure and other cycling and walking breaks which we just simply couldn't squeeze in this time around, do check out our websites:



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cyclebreaks.com

Call us on

01449 721555

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bookings@cyclebreaks.com
bookings@walkingbreaks.com



“A wonderful tailor-made holiday with excellent friendly service & support.”

Mrs C. & party, Southampton, Hampshire

“... the bikes are excellent, the routes are great, the scenery wonderful and the holiday very reasonably priced.”

Mrs M. & party, London



“... an ideal holiday for families...”

Mr & Mrs O. & family,
Bracknell, Berkshire