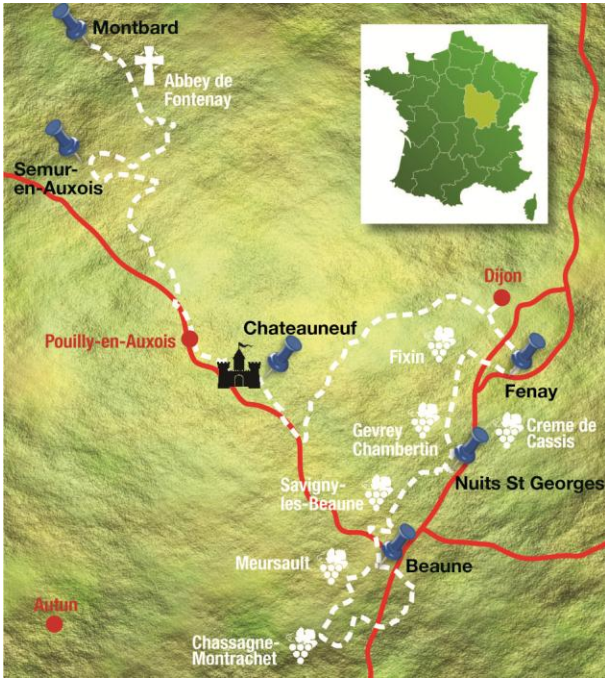


Cycling Safaris

BURGUNDY 2017

Guided Tour

Guide cycling with group | 265 km | 7 nights / 8 days



Burgundy boasts perhaps the best food of any region in France, including renowned classics like frogs legs, escargot, boeuf bourguignonne, coq-au-vin, oeufs meurette – all Burgundy dishes, and naturally on this tour you'll eat like Kings. There are also the famous wines of the Côte D'Or, which you'll explore during the second half of the week.

Burgundy offers beautiful scenery, especially the lush farmland through which the Canal de Bourgogne takes us. There are other fascinating sites throughout the week: The Abbaye de Fontenay, one of the oldest and most complete Cistercian monasteries in Europe; the Hotel Dieu in Beaune, the most spectacular rood in the world, bar none!; and Chateauneuf perhaps the most beautiful village in France.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Arrive Montbard

Our tour starts in Montbard, north of Dijon. The best way there is by train from Paris to Montbard where we arrange transfers to the Hotel De L'Ecu.

DAY 2 Montbard to Semur-en-Auxois 28 miles / 44 km

Saddled up, we head for the Abbaye de Fontenay, one of the oldest and most complete Cistercian abbey in Europe, set in a river valley so beautiful Michelin give it the maximum 3*** rating. We follow the Canal du Bourgogne to Alise Ste Reine, where Vercingétorix, leader of the Gauls finally surrendered to the Romans. We follow the canal again before climbing to the beautiful walled town of Semur-en-Auxois, surrounded on three sides by steep cliffs, where we dismount at the Hotel Cymaises.

DAY 3 Semur-en-Auxois to Chateauneuf 32 miles / 55 km

Back to the canal at Marigny le Cahouet. The canal de Bourgogne has been described as the most beautiful route in France. At Pouilly – en – Auxois it disappears into a tunnel. We cycle over the hill, and down to the hostellerie du Chateau in the fairytale village of Chateauneuf. The food tonight is stunning.

DAY 4 Chateauneuf to Dijon 32 miles / 55 km

We rejoin the canal – the tow path has been converted into a beautiful cycle path passing more than fifty locks (all downhill) continuing through forests, past the Lac du Kir all the way to Dijon, where Burgundy's aristocracy shoe-horned grand town houses into strangely shaped plots alongside the buildings of ordinary Dijonnais. A chance to see the magnificent Palais des Ducs in the heart of the medieval city centre.

DAY 5 Dijon to Nuits St Georges 20 miles / 26 km

Today we follow tiny roads visiting vineyards in Marsannay and Gevrey-Chambertin, as well as Clos de Vougeot. Originally built by monks from the Abbaye de Cîteaux, the chateau is beautifully restored and home to the world-famous *Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin*. One 12th century room contains four enormous oak presses weighing over 20 tons. We finish the day at Nuits St. Georges where we stay at the Hostellerie Saint Vincent.

DAY 6 Nuits St Georges to Beaune 16 miles / 26 km

This is a relatively short day but one with more challenging cycling as we visit the beautiful villages of Savigny les Beaune and Aloxe-Corton. Their wine lacks the prestige of its illustrious neighbors but is still high quality at its best as we'll discover at a tasting before arriving in Beaune, the centre of the Burgundy wine industry. Tonight we stay in the heart of this stunning old town at the Hotel de la Cloche. The Hospice with its magnificent roof is a 'must see'.

DAY 7 Round trip from Beaune 21 miles / 40 km

You don't even have to pack today, as we'll be returning to Beaune tonight. There are a whole series of classic wine villages running south of Beaune toward Macon and the Beaujolais region. Once again we're on tiny roads winding through the vineyards as we visit Pommard, Volnay and Meursault, home to white wines hailed as the finest in the world. From Meursault we cycle to the village of Chassagne-Montrachet, then begin our return to Beaune via tiny roads with the hills of the Côtes D'Or behind us.

DAY 8 Tour end

There is a reasonably civilised departure this morning. Beaune train station is a 2-minute taxi ride, change in Dijon for Paris Gare de Lyon (arriving approx. 12.37) for onward connections to London and Paris airports.

2017 GROUP TOUR DATES

June 17th
July 15th
August 19th
September 16th

2017 TOUR PRICE

€1,540.00 euro per person sharing
+ €395.00 single supplement

If you are travelling on your own we will endeavour to find a roommate for you

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 7 nights hotel accommodation with breakfast
- 7 dinners
- Guide cycling with the group
- Luggage transferred locally
- Route details and maps
- 24 speed hybrid touring bike with pannier and helmet
- Waterproof jacket
- Cycling jersey
- Set Transfer from Montbard to your hotel at the tour start
- Set Transfer back to Beaune at tour end

Not included:

- Admission charges to the chateaux.

WHAT TO BRING

- Comfortable cycling clothing – padded cycling shorts and cycling gloves are invaluable.
- Hat, sunglasses, suntan lotion, swimwear.
- Casual clothes for evening. You may be grateful for something warm with long sleeves.
- Helmets, though not obligatory in France, are highly recommended. To be sure of comfort we suggest you bring your own helmet, however, in the event that you need a helmet, they are provided.

GROUP, GUIDE AND BACK-UP SERVICE

The maximum group size on these tours is fifteen people and one, sometimes two guides. Each person has their own route details, as well as a guide who cycles with you, while your luggage is locally transferred each day. There is no “sag” wagon as such but we can arrange to collect the weary!!

TRAVEL INFORMATION

It is up to you to make your way to and from the tour. To help you in your travel arrangements we will arrange a local transfer to the start point which is included in your tour price.

You will be met in Montbard at 17:57 on Saturday by a tour representative and brought by taxi to your hotel. At the end of the week you will be brought to Beaune train station for the local connection to Dijon and onward travel departure to London (via Lille) and Paris at 11:01. Both local transfers are included in the tour price.

These are the only transfers that we arrange, so it is very important that you are on the right train.

Train Arrival and Departure Times from London/Paris. *Note: Check-in no later than 30 minutes before departure.*

From/To London:

Outward Journey	Departure London St Pancras International	11:24	Change of train in Paris
	Arrival Montbard	17:57	
Inward Journey	Departure Beaune	09.39	Change of train in Paris
	Arrival London St Pancras International	15:30	

Local transfers are from Montbard station to the first hotel, and from the last hotel to Dijon Ville station. Please note the arrival and departure stations are different.

From /To Paris Lyon Train Station

Outward Journey	Departure Paris Lyon	16:53
	Arrival Montbard	17:57
Inward Journey	Departure Beaune	09.39
	Arrival Paris Lyon	12:37

There are no direct trains from Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport.

If you do miss the train, try and arrange to get on the next one. If you have to pay for another ticket you are responsible for the cost (depending on circumstances you may be covered by insurance). Call the owner of the first hotel and give them your name and arrival details. The tour guide will help you arrange another transfer to the hotel.

You can of course make your own way to and from the tour. All details on trains in France are available through the website www.raileurope.com/us/index.htm.

BIKE / FITNESS



We use Trek 7.3 FX Hybrid 24 speed touring bike with aluminum frame and Shimano gear system.

Level of difficulty: **1/2.
 Hilly at the beginning, a couple of difficult days, a couple of easy days.

Average daily distance 30 miles

Maximum daily distance 35 miles

- ***** Training camps / sport cyclists. 50 to 80 miles per day, hills an integral part.
- **** Distances and / or hills make this a challenging tour suitable for people who exercise regularly.
- *** Moderate level of fitness required. Distances are no more than 40 miles a day, but hilly terrain.
- ** Distances and terrain are slightly easier, suitable for people who are not strangers to exercise, but don't get out as often as they'd like!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Food and Drink

What if I have any special dietary requirements?

Vegetarians are catered for (please advise if you eat fish). Vegan's choice will be limited but they can be accommodated.

Are beverages included with the meals?

No, all beverages are to your own account.