

# Cycling Safaris

## FRANCE - BORDEAUX TO BIARRITZ 2024

Self guided Tour

Approx 313 km | 8 days / 7 nights



Ride through nature, heritage and culture of the “Gironde, Landes and Basque Country”. Explore landscapes through the Velodyyssey; the longest cycling tracks in France and Europe, and enjoy the wonderful tranquillity all along the coast! These routes will lead you from Bordeaux to the UNESCO World heritage site to the famous seaside town of Biarritz. You will cycle between lake and ocean, going through the vast forest area of the Landes de Gascogne.

Discover a variety of landscapes: salt marshes, dunes, forests, large beaches surrounded by pine trees and peaceful lakes along your trip. Breathe the sea air, the perfume of the pine trees, mimosa and brooms. Conviviality is surely one of the main features of this cycling holiday. There are many restaurants and bars abound, where the oysters and duck specialties await you. You won't be starving or thirsty!

### TOUR ITINERARY

#### Day 1 Arrival in Bordeaux

Arrive at your 3-star hotel in Bordeaux, where you will find the road book and bikes waiting for you.

Bordeaux, named before “Burdigala”, is a Roman city, outstanding from its vineyards and prestigious stones architecture. The river Garonne, heart of the city, welcomes walkers on the banks and offers boat trips. Capital of wine, Bordeaux is endowed with a rich history and architecture.

Overnight in a 3-star hotel with breakfast included.



## Day 2 From Bordeaux to Lacanau

**64 Km (60m elevation)**



This route allows you to cycle the Green Way, a cycle path following a former railway track Bordeaux-Lacanau. A beautiful itinerary, easy and secured which goes through the pine and forest trails.

In the Médoc Ocean region, where cycling is a way of Life, an area much appreciated for its long ocean beaches sheltered by dunes and forests; its lakes and unspoilt natural areas. This seaside resort is also famous for its surfing spots. Its early 20th century villas bear witness to a rich past. Overnight in a 3-star hotel with breakfast included

## Day 3 From Lacanau to Arcachon

**45 km (50m elevation)**



Continuing along the cycle path and discover the widest beaches of the Aquitaine coast; The Porge Ocean has a vast beach stretching 13km of unbroken landscape. To enjoy it leave from time to time the track of the cycle path. Never far away from the shore line, continue your cycling tour through a beautiful itinerary towards the Cap Ferret or the Bay of Arcachon.

Enjoy and finish your cycling day through typical oyster villages of the Bay of Arcachon or view by ferry the renowned seaside town of Arcachon.

Overnight in a 3-star hotel with breakfast included

## Day 4 From Arcachon to Biscarrosse Plage / Bourg 30-40 km (100m elevation)

Start your day in the direction of the Great Dune of Pyla, an essential trip to its summit to appreciate the beauty of this site. You can't come to the "Bay" without taking a look! Then cycle under the pines of the Landes forest. Leaving the Bay area- the Gironde takes you to Biscarrosse Plage to end your day in the Landes area. Biscarrosse is renowned for its epic waves. But the seaside resort is also the kingdom of beaches, dunes and the pine forest. The town ambience is unique and revitalizing. Its sweet summer perfume guarantees an absolute change of scenery. Sand castles, kites, sunbathing, outdoor aperitivo, night markets, waffles, street shows, casino...

Overnight in a 3-star hotel or 4\*. Breakfast included.

## Day 4 (OPTION): Around the Arcachon Bay 45 km (20m elevation)

Today's cycle takes you around the Archacon Bay, what a pleasant stage. Follow the Velodyssée which rund along an old railway line and little roads to explore the Arcachon Bay. Discover the surrounding towns, small ports and enjoy the splendid views over the bay and observe the numerous species of birds.

## Day 5 From Biscarrosse to Mimizan Plage 52 Km (115m elevation)

La Vélodyssée leaves the coast to make a wide detour inland, where the blue of the vast lakes replaces that of the sea. Discover the lake of Cazaux and Sanguinet, the second largest lake of France (55km<sup>2</sup>!), a mini paradise surrounded by greenery and pines, and then cycling alongside the lake of Biscarrosse and Parentis. Following the cycle path takes you between small lake ports and tranquill lakes to go through the Landes forest and rejoin the ocean in Mimizan Plage.

Mimizan dates back to the "Belle Epoque" when sea bathing became fashionable and was very much prized by a rich clientele. This seaside resort was built as a result of the railway which is no longer there today.

Overnight in a charming bed and breakfast or charming 2-star hotel with breakfast included.

**Day 6 Mimizan plage to the heart of the Landes 55 km (130m elevation)**

Leave the attractive seaside town of Mimizan plage and return on the greenway through the forest. A pleasant stage; quiet and calm through woods and embellished by the scent of the pines. Let yourself be carried by the sea air and enjoy the nearby ocean beaches leaving from time to time on route. Then discover Contis Plage & St Girons Plage as well as the beaches of Leon lake. End your cycling day in yet another attractive seaside town of the Landes. Be seduced by the country atmosphere and the seaside town of the Landes.

Overnight in a 3-star hotel with Breakfast included.



**Day 7 From the Landes to the Basque Country 65 km (120 m elevation)**

Last stage of your cycling holiday before you leave the “Landes” ... The cycle path takes you from the heart of the forest to discover the emblematic famous seaside town of Hossegor and Cap Breton. Enjoy the wide beaches and continue through more urban areas as it approaches Boucau. Welcome the new scenery of the Atlantic coast: “The Basque Country”. Ride on a pleasant cycle route going through the Basque capital, Bayonne, to rejoin the renowned seaside town of Biarritz. Biarritz is one of the most famous seaside resorts of Europe. Its magnificent ocean beaches and surfing are popular worldwide and at night, its restaurants, bars and squares will delight your senses.

Overnight in a 3-star or 4\* hotel with breakfast included.



**Day 8 Departure**

Departure after breakfast or additional nights.



## 2024 TOUR DATES

Arrival daily from 1 April to 31 October

## 2024 TOUR PRICE

### LOW SEASON

€1150 per person sharing

€1575 for single occupancy (if traveling with others)

€1715 for solo travellers (if traveling alone)

### HIGH SEASON (July & August)

€1215 per person sharing

€1715 for single occupancy (if traveling with others)

€1855 for solo travellers (if traveling alone)

## WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 7 overnights with breakfast in 3\* and 4\* hotels & 1 charming 2\* hotel
- 1 riverboat crossing Arcachon bay
- Luggage transfer from hotel to hotel
- Route details and maps (one per room)
- Service hotline from 7.30am – 20.00pm
- Helmet rental (on request only)

### Not included:

- Bike rental: €150
- E-bike: €270
- Option to buy bike insurance for €15 per standard bike and €30 per e-bike, gravel or road bike (in case of bike robbery without insurance, a payment of €400 for standard bike and €2000 per e-bike, gravel or road bike will be charged)
- GPS App for smartphone with vocal guiding +€7 per person
- Entrance fees for visits and wine tasting
- Drinks and personal purchasing

Extra night in Biarritz:	€105 per person in double room low season €140 per person in double room high season €155 single room low season €260 single room high season
Extra night in Bordeaux:	€90 per person in double room all season €150 single room all season

## BIKE / FITNESS

The bicycle (VTC : Hybrid bike for men or women). Replaced every year  
Locks, repair equipment, saddle bags, helmet, handle bar bag  
Assistance for the bike (for big damage)

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

Aer Lingus offers direct flights from Dublin to Bordeaux & Ryanair offers direct flights from Dublin to Biarritz.