



BIKING IN BURGUNDY – CHALLENGE 5-night CYCLING TOUR



Explore France at your own pace

Day 1: Arrival in Burgundy

Upon your arrival, we transfer you from the Dijon or Beaune train station to the first hotel in Gevrey Chambertin, nicely set at the top end of the renowned Grand Cru villages of Burgundy. After settling in, meet with our Trip Manager for your Orientation and bike fitting. Depending on your arrival time, you may well be able to offer yourselves a first wine tasting, at one of the wineries right in the heart of Gevrey - welcome to Burgundy!

Day 2: Gevrey Chambertin to Beaune 81 km / 50 Miles

Start the day's easygoing ride along the pretty Route des Grands Crus, to pay homage to some of the greatest vineyard villages in the world. Stop perhaps to visit the Chateau de Clos de Vougeot and admire the monumental wine presses, and kneel before the vineyard of Romanee Conti.... Then head out into the Saone River plains, passing the site of the once mighty Abbey of Citeaux, which in the middle ages not only had thousands of churches and abbeys spread throughout Europe, but also owned and managed most of the Burgundian vineyards; it was responsible for most of the wine names you see today. Although the original buildings were destroyed during the French revolution, a modern church has been rebuilt on the site today, and there is still a community of monks who live and work there. Stop to buy some Citeaux cheese (this is still the only place in the world it is made) and then continue to the port town of St Jean de Losne on the banks of the Saone. You can find lunch there, in one of the popular local restaurants, before curving back to the vineyards by your destination, Beaune.

Day 3: Loop into the Hautes Cotes 65 km / 40 Miles

Your ride today is a beautiful loop up into the Hautes Cotes. Ride through the village of St Romain, home to several of the region's best-known coopers (barrel-makers), and decide if you wish to climb the extra hill to the ruined castle and great panorama in the upper village. Quiet roads along the top of limestone cliffs, and then a final great downhill sweep bring you to the grand cru vineyards of the Corton Hill. Do some tasting if you wish in Aloxe Corton or Pernand-Vergelesses; and stop near the end of the ride to visit the Chateau de Savigny, whose eccentric owner has a weird and wonderful collection of antique airplanes, motorcycles, and Abarth cars on display. If you didn't have time on the day before, enjoy Beaune's cobblestoned streets, many cafés and boutiques, 15th century tapestries, and Ducal Palace - we provide a Self-guided walking tour to help in your explorations. Be sure to visit the Hospices de Beaune, a fantastic 15th century charity hospital, built by the Chancellor to the Dukes of Burgundy, Nicolas Rolin, and THE site to see in the region.





Day 4: Beaune to Puligny-Montrachet 56 or 74 km / 35 or 46 Miles

Today's ride takes you southwards, ending up in the heart of the vineyards of the Cote de Beaune – a region that makes outstanding red wines, but is renowned in particular for their whites – some of the best white wines in the world... You head out first into the Saone River plains; the ride is heavenly, through pretty sleepy villages, on well-paved roads with very little traffic. You'll cross over the Saone River at its junction with the Doubs if you detour in to the town of Verdun sur le Doubs for a cold drink or some lunch, and then loop back through tiny little farming villages with big stone traditional houses. The route brings you back to snuggle up against the vineyards of the Cote d'Or. Near the end of the day, stop in Meursault if you like for a wine tasting, before continuing the last few kilometres along a marked bike route, into Puligny-Montrachet – welcome to the Chardonnay Kingdom!

Day 5: The Cote Chalonnaise 62 or 88 km / 39 or 55 Miles

Your ride today takes you southward, first through Chassagne Montrachet and Santenay at the end of the Cote de Beaune, and then along the tranquil and pretty Canal du Centre, into the Cote Chalonnais. This wine region lies just to the south of the Côte de Beaune. Away from the ambitious pricing of the Côte d'Or, some producers, in villages like Rully and Mercurey, are turning out respectable Chardonnay and tasty Pinot Noir for a fraction of the prices these wines might fetch further north. Be sure as well to taste here the sparkling Cremant de Bourgogne, the region's version of Champagne! The great riding takes you through the town of Couches, with its medieval castle (open for visits, and for optional tastings). The route is a mix of easy-going terrain and some bike path along the Canal du Centre, and some more challenging, but beautiful hillside scenery.

Day 6: Departure – Bon Voyage!

After a final breakfast, we transfer you to the Beaune train station for easy connections for your further travels.

What's included in your Burgundy Biking Tour

- 5 nights' accommodation of the comfort level of your choice: CLASSIC, CLASSIC+ or DELUXE
- All hotel taxes
- All breakfasts and 2 dinners (drinks not included with dinners)
- Orientation and Bike Fitting with our Trip Manager
- Fully equipped high quality Carbon Road bike
- Detailed maps and step-by-step route instructions
- Regional information and advice
- Uploadable GPS file of the route to use on a free APP in your smartphone or Garmin (device not provided)
 - * Can be used without international internet plan (offline)
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- Transfer from Beaune or Dijon train station to the first hotel
- Transfer from the final hotel to Beaune train station
- Phone call support 7 days a week

