



BIKING IN BURGUNDY – ABBEYS & VINEYARDS



Explore France at your own pace

Day 1: Arrival in Beaune, Burgundy Wine Capital

Upon your arrival in Beaune, we meet at your hotel to set you up with your trip package and fit you on your bikes. Take some time to explore the historic centre of Beaune itself. This lively town, in existence since Celtic times, is filled with history as well as charming squares, little cafés, and lovely boutiques. Dinner tonight is included in a great local restaurant.

Day 2: Beaune to Chagny 47 km / 29 Miles

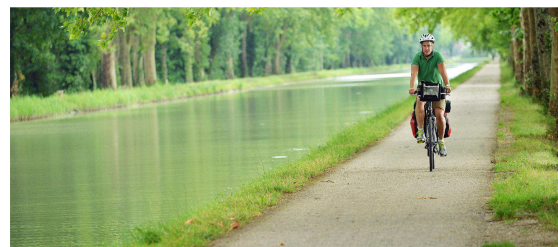
After breakfast head on your first ride - a beautiful and easygoing ride out into the plains, formed long ago by glaciers, and home today of canola and sunflower fields, through small villages with ancient stone farmhouses. You curve back into the vineyards, passing through Pommard, and Volnay, and farther south into the most famous Chardonnay vineyards of the world, surrounding Meursault and Puligny Montrachet. Continue through the Grand Crus through Chassagne Montrachet, stopping for a tasting or a cold drink by the fountain in the pretty square of Santenay. It is not far from there to your hotel for the evening in the small town of Chagny on the Canal du Centre.

Day 3: The Canal du Centre 35 or 46 km / 22 to 29 Miles

Your ride today takes you along the tranquil and pretty Canal du Centre, and then into the Cote Chalonnaise, and return. 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 are turning out respectable Chardonnay and tasty Pinot Noir for a fraction of the prices these wines might fetch further north. Ride through Rully (famous for its sparkling white wines) and Mercurey, before rejoining the bike path along the canal. There is an option for adding some kilometers and visiting the town and castle in Couches, before continuing on. The relaxing terrain and beautiful scenery make for great riding.

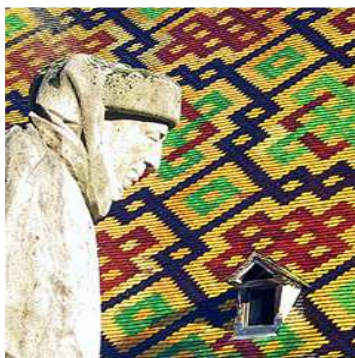
Day 4: The Voie Verte to Cluny 60 km / 37 Miles

Another beautiful and easy ride awaits you today, though it is a little longer. After riding a short stretch again along the canal, your bike path then follows an old train line – you'll find the kilometers go by quickly even though today is your longest day! Along the way pass the beautiful Chateau of Cormatin; take some time to visit the beautiful garden and park, as well as some of the castle itself. Onwards to Cluny: once the most important religious centre in all of Europe, the French Revolution wreaked havoc and little remains of the cathedral. Built in the 11th century, it was the largest in the world until the construction of St Peter's in Rome five centuries later! The town is a UNESCO Heritage site today, and the Museum is excellent. Cluny is also home to the French National stables.





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Day 5: Cluny to Tournus 47 km / 29 Miles

Your ride today takes you up over the top of the Cote to descend into yet another vineyard region, the Maconnais. The largest of Burgundy's wine regions, it produces some nice gamay grape reds, but some particularly fine and elegant white Chardonnay wines (the most renowned are from the villages of Pouilly-Fuissé, Saint Veran, or Vire Clesse). The route taking you there is quite spectacular - starting with a decent hill to warm you up first thing, but after that, all downhill and very easygoing. You'll pass the Medieval castle of Berzé-le-Chatel, with its austere silhouette of thirteen bristling towers, and then descend through lovely vineyard villages, with the region's typical golden-coloured stone. The end of the ride follows the wonderful bike path by the Saone River. Your goal is Tournus, with the beautiful Romanesque Abbey St Philibert – one of the prettiest examples in a region rich in churches from this time. Also visit the more “modern” Hotel Dieu, built in the 1600s. We provide a small walking tour of the town centre.

Day 6: Return to Beaune; the Corton Hill 23 km / 15 Miles

After breakfast, decide which of the several local trains you want to take to return to Beaune. Your ride today is meant as a half day ride, allowing you time for a relaxing morning, and perhaps some final explorations of Tournus before you leave. Once you are back in Beaune, you can head out on a truly lovely ride, through five small villages, each with their own personalities. Stop if you like in Savigny-les-Beaune, to visit the lovely church with its 15th century fresco, or the castle with its odd collection of antique airplanes and motorcycles. The route winds around the base of the Corton hill, with its famous Grand Crus. We have you stop along the way for a real treat - a great wine tasting lunch, with several Grand Cru wines to accompany the delicious regional food!

Day 7: Beaune - options

An extra day in Beaune today, to spend as you like. We provide a few different biking options, heading westwards from Beaune, into the plains and forest, or northwards into the famous Cote de Nuits. You can decide how many kilometers you feel like doing. You'll likely also want to enjoy Beaune itself, picking up a few last-minute gifts or souvenirs, or simply relaxing in one of the many cafés. We provide a Self-guided walk of historic Beaune to help in your explorations, which brings you to the Hospices de Beaune, a 15th century hospital that is THE site to see in town. This incredible building has a wonderful history - we highly recommend a visit!

Day 8: Departure

After a final delicious breakfast, your tour is over; you can catch the train in Beaune for easy connections for further travels. Bon Voyage!





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What's included in your Burgundy Biking Tour

- 8 nights' accommodation of the comfort level of your choice * CLASSIC, CLASSIC+ or DELUXE
- All hotel taxes
- All breakfasts and 4 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
* Can be used without international internet plan (offline)
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- Phone call support 7 days a week

