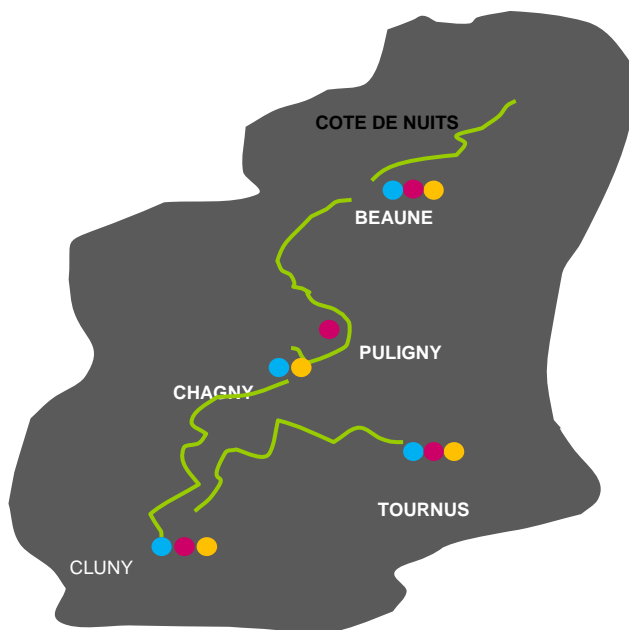




COLOURS OF FRANCE BURGUNDY BIKING

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS
ABBEYS AND VINEYARDS



EXPLORE

BURGUNDY AT YOUR OWN PACE

Day 1: Arrival in Beaune

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. We provide you with a little self-guided walking tour of Beaune to help you find your way around. Dinner tonight is included in a gourmet restaurant.

Day 2: Beaune to Chagny 47 km

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 Meursault, and farther south into the most famous Chardonnay vineyards of the world, surrounding Puligny Montrachet. You'll stop there for a visit of a winery, followed by a delicious homemade regional meal to accompany your wine tasting lesson, with 6 different wines to taste and compare, and explained by the sommelier. Happily, it is not far from there to your hotel for the evening in the small town of Chagny on the Canal du Centre.

(please note the CLASSIC+ itinerary stays in Puligny Montrachet this night).



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Day 3: Loop Ride: The Canal du Centre 35 or 49 km

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 joining a 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

Another beautiful and relatively 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. The town also is home to the French National stables. Dinner tonight is included in a gourmet restaurant.

Day 5: Cluny to Tournus 42 km

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). Before you descend though, stop in the tiny village of Brancion; this medieval village is stuck in time, and is one of the best examples of a fortified medieval village left in France. Your goal is Tournus, which itself has a beautiful Romanesque church, the 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

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



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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. You can stop if you like for a tasting in pretty Aloxe-Corton, before returning to Beaune.

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 pretty 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. However you spend your time, you'll want to be back in Beaune in time to meet your guide at the end of the afternoon for your private tour of the Hospices de Beaune, a 15th century hospital that is THE site to see in town. This incredible building has a wonderful history, that your guide will bring alive for you!

Day 8: Departure

After a final delicious breakfast, connections are easy out of Beaune for your further travels. Bon Voyage!



What's included in your package

- 7 nights' accommodation of the comfort level of your choice CLASSIC, CLASSIC + or DELUXE
- All hotel taxes
- All breakfasts, 1 wine tasting lunch or dinner, and 3 other dinners (drinks not included with these dinners)
- Orientation with our Trip Manager
- A private guided tour of the Hospices de Beaune
- Fully equipped quality hybrid bike
- Daily step-by-step route notes and detailed maps
- Regional information and advice
- Luggage transfers from hotel to hotel
- Train ticket from Tournus back to Beaune
- Emergency phone call support 7 days a week

