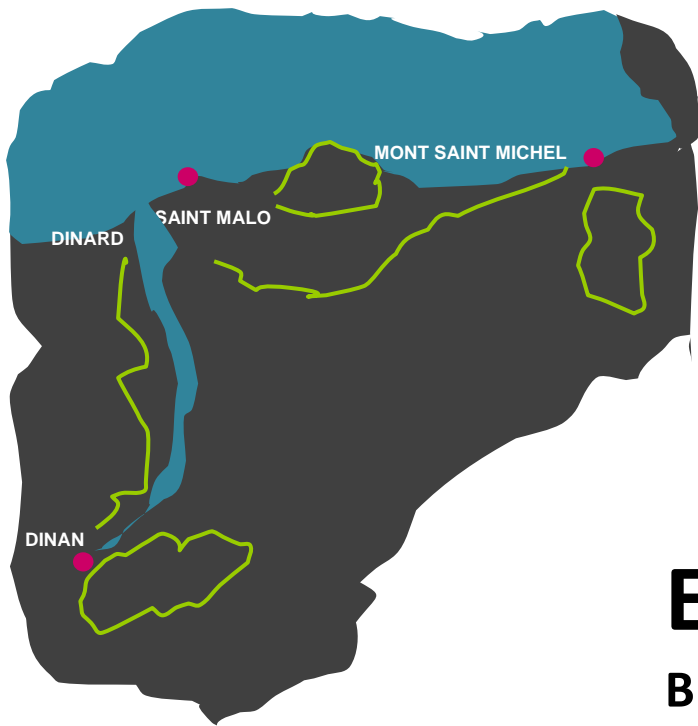




COLOURS OF FRANCE BRITTANY REGION

6 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS
BRITTANY BIKE



EXPLORE BRITTANY AT YOUR OWN PACE

Day 1 : Arrival in Brittany

Upon your arrival in Rennes, we'll pick you up to transfer you directly to your first hotel in Dinan. This lovely medieval town, with its spectacular setting, perched over the Rance River, is worth some exploration. Wander through the twisting streets, admiring the many old buildings, some of which date from the 13th century, and the large sections of medieval walls which remain. Be sure to see the Jacobins Theatre, built in the year 1224, as well as the Gothic Flamboyant St Malo's Church, the Romanesque Saint Saviour's Basilica, and the Chateau of Dinan. Our Trip Manager will spend a little bit of time with you to go over your trip package and check the bike fitting, and then leave you to your explorations. Dinner is included this evening.

Day 2 : Loop Ride: the Canal d'Ille and Rance 40 km

Your ride today takes you along the lush valley of the Rance River, from village to village. Along the way you'll see the medieval village of Lehon, dating from the Gallo-Roman Empire, and home to the ruins of a 12th century castle, as well as the historic Abbey Sainte Magloire. The abbey was founded in the year 850, after the Breton King met 6 monks while out on a hunting expedition, and, swayed by their convictions, promised to help construct an abbey, as long as they accomplished the feat of recuperating the relics of a Breton Saint. As you'll see by the magnificent buildings, they were successful! Return to Dinan for a second evening.



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Day 3: Dinan to St Malo via Dinard 35 km

Say goodbye to Dinan this morning, and head towards the renowned and beautiful Emerald Coast of Brittany. The route brings you back towards the Rance River at its mouth, to Dinard. Dinard was first settled by Saint-Malo's shipping merchants who built some of the town's magnificent houses, a few of which survive. In the late 19th century American and British aristocrats made Dinard popular as a fashionable summer resort, and they built stunning villas on the cliff tops and exclusive hotels on the seafront during the French "Belle Époque". After explorations there, take the local taxi-boat across the mouth of the Rance River to the walled port city of St Malo, renowned for its pirate history, and your destination for the night. Another delicious dinner awaits you this evening.



Day 4: Loop ride to Cancale 40 km

A great loop ride awaits you today, taking you along the Emerald Coast to the picturesque fishing port of Cancale. Many of Cancale's visitors are drawn by its reputation as the "oyster capital" of Brittany. History has it that Louis XIV had his oysters brought to Versailles from Cancale. Centuries later, the farming of oysters is still a major activity in the port and there are oyster beds covering about 7.3 square kilometres easily seen from the pier at the harbour. These beds harvest about 25,000 tons of oysters each year. Though a small town, it is well served by a large number of restaurants, many specialising in seafood. When not eating one can sit and watch the bustle of this busy little town with many stalls selling crustaceans of all types. There is a pleasant coastal path which permits a circular walk from the town to the Pointe du Grouin with views across the bay towards Mont Saint-Michel. After your explorations, your ride brings you inland, back to St Malo for a second night.

Day 5: St Malo to Mont St Michel 55 km

Your longest ride is parallel to the coast for much of the day, bringing you at the end to spectacular Mont St Michel. This island-village has since the eighth century AD been the seat of the monastery from which it draws its name. Its unique position (an island only 600 metres from land) made it readily accessible at low tide to the many pilgrims to its abbey. This position made it readily defensible as an incoming tide stranded, or drowned, would-be assailants. By capitalizing on this natural defense, the Mont remained unconquered during the Hundred Years' War. The reverse benefits of this characteristic were not lost on Louis XI, who turned the Mont into a prison. Today,

Mont St Michel and its bay are one of France's most recognizable landmarks, and are part of the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.



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Day 6: Loop Ride by the Bay of Mont St Michel 35 km

A final loop ride today, taking you inland, for a short excursion into the villages overlooking the bay of Mont St Michel. You climb away from the coast, and your efforts are rewarded by pretty villages, luscious countryside, and spectacular panoramas of the abbey island village. Return to Mont St Michel for your final evening, with a delicious dinner to celebrate your week's explorations. The ride is not very long, allowing you time to enjoy Mont St Michel itself, or perhaps to join a tidal walk with one of the guides from the tourist office.

Day 7: Departure: Bon Voyage!

After a final breakfast, we transfer you to the train station of nearby Pontorson for your further travels. Say goodbye to Brittany, with its medieval towns, Emerald Coast, and the Mont Saint Michel!



What's Included in your Brittany Biking Tour:

- 6 nights in charming hotels of the comfort level of your choice, Classic, Classic + or Deluxe
- All hotel taxes
- All breakfasts, and 3 dinners (drinks not included with dinners)
- Orientation with our Trip Manager
- Fully equipped, quality hybrid bike
- Daily step-by-step route notes and detailed maps
- Regional information and advice
- Transfer from Rennes to Dinan, and transfer from Mont St Michel to Pontorson train station
- Luggage transfers
- Emergency phone call support 7 days a week