

FRANCE & ENGLAND: RIDE THE **GREENWAY** FROM PARIS TO LONDON

8-days / 7-nights easy to moderate inn-to-inn **SELF-GUIDED** or guided cycling tour



Two of Europe's greatest cities are now linked by a designated cycle trail. The **Greenway** or **Avenue Verte** will take you from central Paris and the majestic Eiffel Tower along river valleys and through typically French scenic countryside to the ferry port at Dieppe. Once across the English Channel by ferry, gaining views of the iconic chalk cliffs of Beachy Head, then from the port of Newhaven we cycle across the rolling Sussex Downs, along the River Thames and into the heart of London.

Self Guided Tour Cost from: **\$1635** per person twin share Single room supplement – add \$935

Departs: 26th May; 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th June; 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th July; 4th, 11th, 18th August;
1st, 8th, 15th September, 2019 – with a minimum of 2 people travelling

Guided Tour Cost from: **\$2290** per person twin share Single room supplement – add \$935

Departs: 21st July, 4th August, 2019 (guided tours subject to minimum numbers)
Additional departure dates for private groups of 8 or more clients, on request.

Includes: 7 nights' comfortable accommodation with ensuite in 3 and 4-star hotels (one night in 2-star), daily breakfast, luggage transport between hotels (1 piece - max 20kg), ferry from Dieppe - Newhaven, hire of multi-geared touring bike with pannier and repair kit.

Self-guided tour also includes: route briefing, GPS tracks on dedicated smartphone app, emergency hotline support.

Guided tour also includes: 5 dinners (dinner in Paris and London at own arrangements), English-speaking tour guide, train ticket Chars - Gisors, tour information and support service.

Not included: Meals not mentioned; personal expenses; transfers to/from the starting/end points; drinks; entry fees; train tickets (except as mentioned) or any extras. Bike helmets can be hired for @ \$35, please ask when booking. Printed routebook & maps can be requested for a supplement of @ \$35, please request when booking.

E-bikes are available on both the guided and self-guided tours for a supplement, please ask when booking. Numbers are limited so these must be booked and paid in advance.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details and reservations

The **Avenue Verte** follows clearly marked dedicated cycle paths, road shoulder cycle lanes, rail trails (on disused railway lines) and quiet country roads. Parts of the route are still under construction so the route and cycling surfaces and traffic situation may vary as time progresses with both countries cooperating to see its completion. The route is mostly level when it follows the Seine, Marne and Epte rivers. It becomes slightly more undulating in some rural areas, especially in England.

From Paris our route is about 200km to the coast. We ride along the banks of the River Seine and through woodland in the historic region of Vexin Française, and then in the Epte River valley into the rural countryside of Normandy. This is a landscape that inspired many Impressionist painters including Monet, Daumier, Pissarro, Cézanne and Van Gogh.

We reach Dieppe on the French coast and take a four hour ferry ride across the English Channel to Newhaven and the nearby spectacular tall white cliffs at Beachy Head. Following the Sussex Downs to Brighton we ride through verdant green English countryside with market towns and quaint villages. The last stage to the heart of cosmopolitan London is through parks and along cycle paths to Westminster Abbey and the iconic London Eye.

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive Paris

Plan to arrive at your hotel in central Paris well before 6.00pm for a route briefing and delivery of the bikes. You may like to have a short warm-up ride in Paris this evening. Ask about extra nights in Paris at additional cost.

Day 2: Paris – Maisons Laffitte

Cycling distance @ 52km

After breakfast cycle paths follow the River Seine as it loops through the city past the “*Parc des Impressionistes*” in Reuil-Malmaison. Your destination is Maisons Laffitte, near the chateau built as a hunting lodge for King Louis XIV on the banks of the River Seine. The chateau is a fine example of French Baroque architecture.

Day 3: Maisons Laffitte – Gisors

Cycling distance @ 47 or 75km

Cycle through the oak and beech trees of the Forest of St. Germain-en-Laye, along the Oise Valley, the source of so much inspiration for Impressionist painters past and present. Continue across the regional park of the Vexin Français, with its many villages, castles and churches, to the confluence of the River Seine and the Epte, where we formally enter into Normandy. You can choose to take the train from Chars to Gisors to shorten today's distance (ticket cost paid locally on self-guided tour, included on guided tour).

Day 4: Gisors – Forges-les-Eaux

Cycling distance @ 60km

In the morning leave Gisors, with its legend of the Knights Templar (the castle here was once their prison) and continue through the rural landscapes of the departments of Eure, Seine-Maritime and Pays de Bray to Forges-les-Eaux, a spa resort built in the 16th Century and regarded as one of the most beautiful destinations in France.

Day 5: Forges-les-Eaux – Dieppe

Cycling distance @ 56km + ferry to Newhaven

The cycling today is an easy, flat ride along the old railway track, now converted to a rail trail for cyclists, to the outskirts of Dieppe. The landscape is dotted with farms which produce fresh vegetables, fruit, rich cream, milk and cheeses for the vibrant markets of Normandy and Paris. Pass the chateau at Mesnières-en-Bray, a jewel of the French Renaissance style. Arrive in Dieppe in time for the pre-booked ferry crossing of the English Channel.

Day 6: Newhaven – Crawley

Cycling distance @ 62km

Once in England, continue your ride past the dramatic white cliffs of the South Downs towards the popular seaside resort town of Brighton with its iconic pier, cafes and hotels often packed during the brief British summer. Leaving the city explore Devil's Dyke among the rolling hills of Sussex: a legendary valley said to have been dug by the devil himself. Our destination today is the town of Crawley on the other side of the Tilgate Forest.

Day 7: Crawley – London

Cycling distance @ 67 or 30km

Into the county of Surrey and the outer suburban landscape of London today. The ride into the city itself is gradual, following the River Wandle to the River Thames through the North Downs and several manicured English parks. Your cycling route finishes at Westminster Abbey. You can shorten the distance and avoid London traffic by taking the train from Redhill or Coulsdon to Victoria Station (cost paid locally).

Day 8: London. Tour ends after breakfast – ask about extra nights of accommodation if required (at extra cost)

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and to make reservations:

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