

FRANCE – GARONNE RIVER FROM BORDEAUX TO TOULOUSE

7-days/ 6-nights **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn cycling in Southwest France



Bordeaux is world-renowned as a centre for great wine and food. Starting or ending in the UNESCO World Heritage-listed city of Bordeaux, this leisurely self-guided cycling holiday offers the opportunity to sample many of the treasures of the Bordeaux and Entre-Deux-Mers regions along the Garonne River. The food of course is a highlight - *confit du canard* (confit duck leg), foie gras, steak *bordelaise*, local oysters and mussels, and the signature pastry of Bordeaux city, the *cannelé*, a caramelised cake surrounding a filling of custard flavoured with rum and vanilla.

Your cycling route follows the Canal de Garonne, lined with shady plane trees, through vineyards and past small villages. There are some rolling hills, but otherwise the ride is generally flattish and covers modest daily distances, so there is plenty of time to linger over breakfast or take a long relaxing lunch.

Inn-to-inn self-guided cycling holidays are a perfect way to explore France, with the freedom to see more of the countryside, following mostly quiet backroads and pathways. Travel at your own pace, stop and relax or explore, secure in the knowledge that your room is waiting for you, your bags have gone ahead.

Departs: Daily (except Saturdays & Sundays in July/August) from April to October.

Cost from: **\$1890** per person twin share Single room supplement from \$605
Solo traveler supplement from \$265

Route: Bordeaux to Toulouse (or Toulouse to Bordeaux)

Included: 6 nights' accommodation in carefully chosen guesthouses or 3-4 star hotels with private (mostly en-suite) bathroom facilities; 6 breakfasts, 2 dinners; inn-to-inn luggage transfers as per itinerary (one bag per person, up to 20kg); hire of multi-gear hybrid bike with lock, repair kit, pannier, handlebar bag, and helmet; full route notes and map package (one set per room) and GPS tracks; emergency hotline.

Not Included: Other meals not mentioned, drinks, entry fees, transfers to or from the tour, unscheduled transfers needed during the tour.

E-bikes Option to hire e-bikes for an additional surcharge. Availability is strictly limited, please request when booking.

Grading: Easy cycling on mostly flat terrain with just a little rolling countryside.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details and reservations

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival in Bordeaux

Make your way to your hotel in Bordeaux around mid-afternoon. Your package of route notes, maps and your bike will await your collection.

Day 2: Bordeaux to the Entre-Deux-Mers

cycling @ 45-60km

Ride along the Garonne River passing beautiful quays into the 'Entre-Deux-Mers' area. The greenway trail winds along to the magnificent fortified walled towns of Creon and Sauveterre de Guyenne before you take small roads surrounded by vineyards to your guesthouse for tonight's stay, with dinner included.

Day 3: Canal de Garonne from Sauveterre region

cycling @ 25-55km

Your cycling route crosses vineyards and forests at the start of the Canal de Garonne from near Sauveterre to the Meilhan region. With the option of a shorter day, you can enjoy a leisurely pace with plenty of time to stop along the way. Dinner is also included tonight.

Day 4: Meilhan region to Sérignac sur Garonne

cycling @ 55-60km

Today you continue along the Garonne valley passing orchards and under plane trees, taking in small towns like Buzet, Meilhan-sur-Garonne, Buzet-sur-Baise and Le Mas d'Agen before arriving in the thirteenth century village of Sérignac, a haven of peace on the canal.

Day 5: Sérignac sur Garonne to Moissac

cycling @ 60km

Plenty of sights to enjoy along this gentle route such as the canal bridge on the Baise, the aqueduct Agen Auvillar, Lake Saint-Nicolas-de-la-Grave to Moissac. Enjoy the quiet this evening at the hotel with panoramic views where the Garonne and Tarn meet.

Day 6: Moissac to Toulouse

cycling @ 65km

A lovely ride through rural villages with Gothic churches in Tarn-et-Garonne. Visit the Montech Marina with its unique water slope, a sloping channel that allows larger vessels to move between lower and higher water levels, bypassing the five locks used by smaller boats. Plenty of time to explore Toulouse where the rosy-toned brick buildings have a special glow, earning the city its title, *La Ville Rose* (the Pink City). Enjoy the architecture, visit the famous Place du Capitole or the UNESCO listed 11th century Basilique Saint-Sernin.

Day 7: Depart Toulouse.

Tour arrangements end after breakfast. If you would like to extend your stays in either Bordeaux or Toulouse, ask us for details.



Outdoor Travel offer small group guided or self-guided inn-to-inn cycling tours in Europe - including rides from Passau to Vienna along the Danube, from Vienna to Budapest, in Tuscany and Umbria in Italy, in Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Ireland, England, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. We also offer group guided **Bike & Barge** or **Bike & Boat** cruises in destinations such as France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Italy, Scotland, the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia, the islands of Greece, and Vietnam.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations:

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