

GREAT BEAR - 14 DAY ST MALO TO NICE CYCLE

17th May – 1st June 2025

This tour will have approx 10/12 riders

The 14 day price for **2025** is £2190 per person (£65 extra for night in Nice if required)
Single supplement £570

WHAT THE PRICE INCLUDES

- * Transport to Portsmouth from Milton Keynes
- * Overnight ferry with accommodation in twin cabins
- * 13 nights' accommodation in France in twin rooms in hotels
- * Breakfasts
- * Baggage transfers for the duration of the trip
- * Vehicular support for the entire cycle including back up vehicle carrying spares, mechanical support and use of spare bike should you need it
- * Overnight bike storage
- * Transport for your bikes and luggage back to the UK so you can travel light

WHAT THE PRICE EXCLUDES

- * Bike and helmet hire
- * Personal clothing and equipment
- * Insurance
- * Lunches and evening meals

DAY TO DAY

Pre ride – Travel to Portsmouth and overnight ferry to St Malo

Day 1 – St Malo to Vitre – 61 miles

Day 2 – Vitre to Angers – 65 miles

Day 3 – Angers to Tours – 74 miles

Day 4 – Tours to Chateauroux – 83 miles

Day 5 – Chateauroux to Montlucon – 66 miles

Day 6 – Montlucon to Riom – 53 miles

Day 7 – Riom to Brioude – 57 miles

Day 8 – Brioude to Le Puy – 43 miles

Day 9 – Le Puy to Aubenas – 56 miles

Day 10 – Aubenas to Malaucene – 65 miles

Day 11 – Malaucene to Apt - 48 miles

Day 12 – Apt to Moustiers-Sainte-Marie - 56 miles

Day 13 - Moustiers-Sainte-Marie to Saint-Raphael - 61 miles

Day 14 - Saint-Raphael to Nice - 44 miles - (the last nights' accommodation is optional as some people like to fly back the evening they finish. Hotel in Nice is £65 pp)

TRANSPORT

Transport from Milton Keynes to Portsmouth is included as is collection en route down to Portsmouth (Oxford, Newbury etc) you may also meet us at the port, please enquire at time of booking. The ship departs from Portsmouth at 20.15pm on departure day and you need to be at the port 2 hours in advance. If meeting us at the port then please let me know well in advance so I can arrange to meet you. Once we arrive in St Malo the following morning we will unload the bikes and set off from the public harbour next to the ferry terminal. Transport back to the UK by van is not available and you will need to fly back to the UK from Nice.

Once the ride is over I will load bikes on to the van in Nice where the route finishes and bring bikes and bags back to the UK in the van for you to collect/have delivered a couple of days later.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation provided on the trip is in hotels. They vary due to nature of our locations each night and are based on 2 people sharing a twin room. Most accommodation has food and a bar available on site and if not we are close to local amenities and historic sites.

BIKES AND EQUIPMENT

I strongly recommend that you ride a road or touring bike for the France cycle. Whatever you choose make sure the bike has a suitable range of gears as you will be climbing steep hills in places (this trip will afford you the opportunity to climb Mont Ventoux) and if you are not familiar with the mechanics of your bike it would pay to take it to a cycle shop for a service prior to the trip, I am also finding more and more that a day of bad weather is taking its toll on bottom brackets so if you have had your bike for a while I would highly advise having a new bottom bracket fitted prior to this trip.

You are responsible for your own routine maintenance throughout the trip but I will help out in any way that we can and there will be a spare bike and spare wheels available. If you don't already own a pair prior to the ride you may want to get hold of some waterproof overshoes. These are often overlooked when planning the trip as most riders don't choose to go out in the rain but in completing a ride of this length it is inevitable that you will have to set out in the rain at some point. Lights, you may think well 'I won't be riding at night', but in heavy rain, fog and under tree cover you need to give that vehicle approaching you from behind at 60mph every chance they can get to see you. Gloves, you can never have too many pairs.

It is recommended that you bring a range of spares for your bike but we do have a certain amount for sale on board the support vehicle, please understand however that it is not possible to stock for every single bicycle. I have tyres, tubes, bar tape, cleats, brake pads, gear and brake cables, chains and chamois cream.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Your baggage allowance for this trip is just the one piece of main luggage in the form of a sports/expedition bag or suitcase. It is also a good idea to bring a small bag/rucksack to keep your daily items in to prevent you from having to delve through your suitcase at the side of the road (the van has personal lockers) I would advise that you have your rucksack with you when we board the ship, containing anything you may need for the overnight ferry crossing and also your cycling gear so you are in your riding clothes before we get off the ferry in the morning. (all will be explained closer to the trip)

SUPPORT

The support vehicle will always be on hand should you need assistance at any time during the trip. In the van is a tool kit, spare wheels and even a spare bike. I will always be close to the riding group and will get ahead of you now and again for you to fill up water bottles and have a sit down.

FOOD

Breakfast is provided by your accommodation and is almost everyday a continental buffet. Lunches are not provided so you can enjoy some cafe dining in a variety of locations across France! Some days you will find yourself in some remote places and if you roll into a village at the wrong time of day you will find everything is shut so it is advised that you have some food to keep in the van just in case.

I have a fridge in the van and can do regular supermarket stops. More commonly now people are getting filled baguettes when they can and keeping them in the van so feel free to do as you please.

Evening meals and drinks are not included in the price. Evening meals are available at most accommodations or we are close to pubs/towns with multiple dining options.

LAUNDRY

Due to the fact that we are constantly moving on during the cycle trips it is not practical to be using commercial washing services and it is recommended that you bring enough cycle clothing to rotate and wash in your accommodation by bringing some detergent with you. A few overnight stops have 24 hour coin operated Laundromats nearby.

DOCUMENTS

You will need up to date passports and it is advised that you have an up to date GHIC medical card. Travel insurance is mandatory and must include medical cover and repatriation. (Essential)

Any further queries or questions please contact me on – Carl – 07860563810/07869714319
carlshearman@live.co.uk

Or through the website at www.great-bear-tours.co.uk