

CYCLE LONDON TO PARIS



CHALLENGE HIGHLIGHTS

- An action-packed long weekend ride to Paris
- Beautiful tree-lined route through historic towns and villages
- Spectacular finish beneath the Eiffel Tower
- Time to explore the sights of the French capital and the chance to see the finish of the Tour de France!

FACT FILE

- **Best Time to Go:** April-July
- **Cycle Days:** 4 days
- **Distance:** approx. 420 km
- **Level:** Challenging
- **Accommodation:** Hotels

ITINERARY

Cycling from London to Paris is one of the great European bike rides. This spectacular long weekend challenge covers 420km in 4 days. Ride through Kent with sweeping views of the North Downs to the white cliffs of Dover. Then set sail to France for three more action-packed days of cycling. Encounter historic towns, sleepy villages and rolling countryside en-route. Experience the thrill of riding along wide boulevards and crossing the Seine to finish at the Eiffel Tower. Then explore Paris and see the grand finale of the Tour de France before taking the Eurostar back to London.

Day 1: Wednesday 19th July

London – Dover – Calais

approx. 116 km

Set off from the London Borough of Bexley and cycle through Kent, widely known as the garden of England. Enjoy sweeping views of the North Downs, a designated 'Area of Outstanding Beauty' en-route.

Our destination is the white cliffs of Dover from where we catch a ferry across the Channel to France. Overnight in Calais.

Day 2: Thursday 20th July

Calais – Abberville

approx. 103 km



This morning we set off from Calais for three more action-packed days of cycling. Within a couple of miles we are into the pretty countryside of Nord Pas de Calais - a picturesque area of green meadows, rolling hills and dense forests. This morning we pass through the historic town of Desvres, known for its decorated ceramics. A few miles on we reach the fortified town of Montreuil, setting of Victor Hugo's novel, *Les Misérables*. Our afternoon break stop is at Crécý-en-Ponthieu, site of the 14th-century Battle of Crécý. The last stretch of the day takes us close to the Forêt de Crécý. We overnight in Abbeville, on the banks of the River Somme. Despite being bombed in World War II, its beautiful Flemish-style architecture is still in evidence.

Day 3: Friday 21st July
Abbeville - Beauvais
approx. 110 km

Soon after leaving Abbeville we cross over the River Somme and into the Picardie countryside. The scenery today is very rural with sweeping hills, green pastures and glistening lakes. It is a tranquil area, in contrast to its wartime history as location of many of the famous battles of World War I.

We pass several cemeteries and other memorials to the men who gave their lives. Our destination is Beauvais, a town dominated by the imposing Cathédrale Saint Pierre.



Day 4: Saturday 22nd July
Beauvais – Paris
approx.. 96 km

An exciting day as we head for Paris - our final destination! We enter the city centre via the famous Bois de Boulogne park. From there it's a thrilling ride along wide tree-lined boulevards, finally crossing the Seine to finish at the foot of the Eiffel Tower. There will be an incredible sense of achievement to have completed the challenge. This evening enjoy a celebratory meal and share memories of a wonderful ride.

Day 5: Sunday 23rd July
Free morning then Eurostar transfer Paris to London

This morning is free to explore Paris - Notre Dame, the Champs Elysées, Arc de Triomphe, Montmartre, Sacré Coeur, Musée d'Orsay - there is so much to see and do. This afternoon you will have the chance to experience the hype and atmosphere of the Tour De France, a fitting end to this amazing challenge. This evening we catch our Eurostar home back to Kings Cross St Pancras.

