



# Cycling and cruising in Bordeaux and its famous vineyards

8 jours / 7 nuits

During this cruise you will cycle through the wine-growing regions of Bordeaux, its historical heritage registered at UNESCO, while enjoying breathtaking views aboard the MS Bordeaux.

(Proposed itinerary in reverse 1 week out of two)

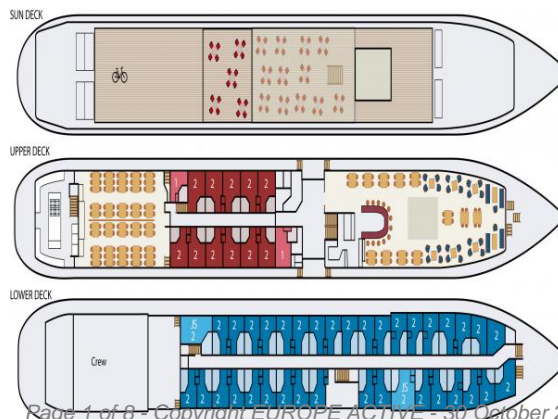
## YOUR PROGRAM

### Day 1 - Castets-en-Dorthe – Canal des Deux Mers

Optional bus transfer from the Saint-Jean station in Bordeaux at 2pm to the boat near the Garonne Canal in Castets-en-Dorthe...

You can enjoy a first bike ride around Castets and discover this region of fertile plains rightly known as "Little Holland", with its walnut trees, kiwi orchards and market gardening. By following the path along the Canal des Deux Mers, a link between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, you can explore these magnificent rural landscapes as you wish. In the evening, a welcome cocktail will be served on board.

Around 15km



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### **Day 2 - Castets-en-Dorthe – Sauternes (Boat up Loupiac or Cadillac)**

After a good night's sleep on board, you will be ready to get on your bike and discover the Sauternes region, where the famous sweet wines of the same name are produced. On part of the route, you will follow the meanders of the Ciron River, whose icy waters flow into the warmer waters of the Garonne.

In autumn, when the weather is mild and dry, the combination of these hot and cold temperatures generates mist, which descends on the vines and creates ideal conditions for the production of the famous Sauternes wine. Along the country roads, you can admire picturesque castles, whose elegant towers overlook an ocean of colourful vines.

Time seems to have stopped in the Middle Ages, when the English occupied the region. In the late afternoon, you will return on board to continue our journey by boat. We will head downstream, along the Garonne river, to reach Loupiac or Cadillac, a very pretty little town dominated by a castle.

Between 35km and 50km depending on the chosen option



### **Day 3 - Loupiac/Cadillac – Entre-Deux-Mers/Graves (boat to Bordeaux)**

Cadillac is located in the Graves region, considered the cradle of Bordeaux wines. It is a fortified medieval village, a bastide in the Entre-Deux-Mers wine-growing region, between the Garonne and the Dordogne.



The cycling route of the day crosses the "Premières Côtes de Bordeaux" appellation area. You will have the opportunity to visit the former residence of the writer François Mauriac as well as the Château Malromé, where the famous painter Toulouse-Lautrec lived. You will even have the opportunity to taste wines from the region!

Back on board, you will sail on the Garonne towards the superb city of Bordeaux, reaching the famous Pont de pierre and the quays of the city centre, facing the most prestigious panorama of the region: the Pont de pierre, the Place de la Bourse and the Quai des Chartrons... all this at the same time.

Around 40km



#### **Day 4 - Bordeaux**

The guide will suggest a visit to the city of Bordeaux to discover its architectural jewels on two wheels: this short bike tour, mainly along the banks of the Garonne, in the heart of the French cycling capital, offers magnificent views of the river and the city.

In the afternoon, you can visit the UNESCO classified sites of Bordeaux during a walk or a bike tour. The main attractions of the city are the royal entrance (the Cailhau Gate), the big bell of the Pey-Berland Tower, the Golden Triangle, the Girondins column, the water mirror, and more.

You will discover sublime squares, a hidden garden, typical places where you can taste the famous Cannelés de Bordeaux with a coffee, or fresh oysters and a glass of white wine. In the afternoon, you will have free time to do some shopping and explore the city. Don't forget to visit the streets of the old town and the shops where the wine is nearly as old as the stone vaulted cellars. Don't miss the Cité du vin, which recently opened its doors.

Around 15km





### **Day 5 - Lamarque – Margaux (boat up to Lamarque then Bourg)**

In the morning, the boat will sail from Bordeaux to Lamarque, in the Gironde estuary, the starting point of your bike ride in the famous Médoc wine region. During your journey through the vineyards, you will discover some of the most beautiful châteaux and some of the most prestigious estates in the Médoc, a region with 21 Grands Crus Classés.

You will discover in particular the Châteaux Palmer, Issan, Lewis Brown, Rauzan Segla, Ferrière and, last but not least, Château Margaux. You can stop at one of these wonderful wineries for a visit/tasting (optional) and learn everything there is to know about the classification of the great vintages before returning on board.

In the late afternoon, the boat will sail on the wide Gironde estuary to reach the pier of Bourg, a picturesque little town on the borders of the Gironde and the Dordogne. The old town overlooks the Gironde estuary.

Around 40km



### **Day 6 - Bourg - Blaye (Boat up to Fronsac/Libourne)**

From Bourg, you will cycle into the Côtes de Blaye appellation area. Its wine-growing châteaux remain unknown, but their production has nothing to envy to its more famous neighbours located on the opposite bank of the Médoc.

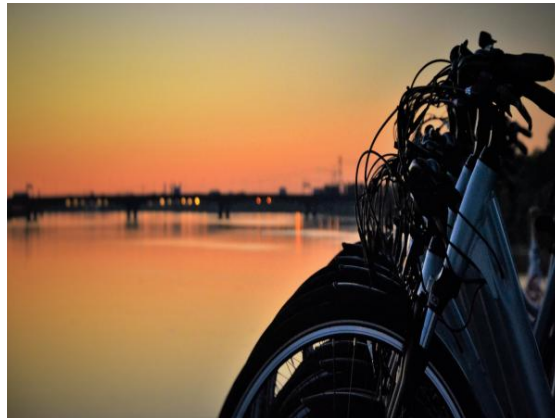


You will be amazed to discover all the secret treasures hidden behind this region, hidden behind its hilly landscapes covered with vineyards as far as the eye can see, punctuated by magical castles and elegant mansions. Since the Middle Ages, countless pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela have crossed this region. Let yourself be seduced by the sweetness of life that characterizes this wine-growing region.

In Blaye, take a walk around the Vauban fortress (listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site) to admire this military masterpiece designed by Louis XIV's architect, before returning to Bourg by pedalling along the "corniche", a peaceful and picturesque path along the Gironde estuary.

In the evening, you will anchor in the direction of Fronsac / Libourne on the Dordogne.

Between 35km and 50km depending on the chosen option.



### **Day 7 - Fronsac/Libourne - Saint-Emilion**

In Libourne, you can stroll around the pretty main square, surrounded by buildings dating back to the 16th century. You can enjoy the Friday morning market before leaving to discover the famous wine-growing regions of Pomerol and Saint-Émilion.

On your bike, through an ocean of vines, you will have all the leisure to admire preserved landscapes, classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Cycling through the countryside offers a unique view of the small medieval streets of the local villages and the surrounding vineyards.

Take the time to visit the sublime village of Saint-Émilion. Your itinerary will continue on the footpaths and other small scenic roads from where you can see the most prestigious castles of Saint Emilion. Along the way, you will be able to see some of the first great classified growths such as Chateaux Angelus, Ausone, Cheval Blanc, Petrus... The most famous estates in the world. A real paradise for wine lovers!

Between 35km and 50km depending on the chosen option



### Day 8 - Libourne

After your last breakfast on board, it's time to say goodbye. Disembarkation and return transfer by bus (optional and previously agreed) in the city centre of Bordeaux, must be achieved by 09h30.



## Additional information

### TARIFFS

Price from 990 euros per person.

### OPTIONS

Bike rental (21 gears, bike bag) : 100 euros per person.

E-bike rental : 210 euros per person.

Tandem bike rental : 180 euros per person.

Return bus transfers from/to Bordeaux St Jean railway station to the boat : 50 euros per person.

Higher bridge double room supplement : 190 euros per person.

Single room supplement : 450 euros per person.

Guided cycling (12 pax maxi per group) : 180 euros per person.

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Mid season Supplement (02/05/2020 - 29/08/2020 / 03/10/2020 - 24/10/2020) : 300 euros per person.

High season supplement (29/08/2020 - 03/10/2020) : 400 euros per person.

### **INCLUDED**

Tour and accommodation on board in a double room on the lower bridge for 8 days / 7 nights (Saturday to Saturday)

Full board : 7 breakfasts, 6 cold lunches during bike tours, 7 three-course dinners

Bed linen and towels (the towels can be changed every day)

Daily cleaning of the cabin

Welcome cocktail, presentation of the ship and crew, and briefing meeting on the first evening

English speaking guide for daily briefings for the current bike journey

Detailed instructions and maps for each bike tour, 1 documentation pack per cabin

Unlimited coffee and tea on board at the end of each bike ride

### **NOT INCLUDED**

Return transfers between Bordeaux and the mooring places in Castets-en-Dorthe and Libourne/Fronsac (see options)

Other transfers

Bike/e-biker rental

Parking fees

Entrances, excursions and wine tastings

Drinks on board

Individual insurance

Tips

Special diets on request, with a possible extra charge of approximately 50€.

### **LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY**

Intermediate level cyclist, in good physical condition. Between 27 to 58 km per day on paved cycle paths or on small roads with little traffic.

No technical difficulties except on a section between Bourg and Blaye, in particular, and in Entre-Deux-Mers, some short sections of the cycle route have steep slopes.

Most of the time, you will have a choice of options: shorter, longer, easier and more difficult itineraries.

### **CARRYING**

Nothing to carry: You only bring your day's belongings, in a small bag. You will find your luggage every day at the boat.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

All cabins are equipped with small windows that can be opened, an ensuite bathroom with shower and toilet, individual air conditioning, satellite TV and a safe. The upper deck has 11 double cabins and 2 single cabins. At the front of the ship, you will find a lounge with a stylish décor, a cosy bar and a small dance floor, large panoramic windows and a separate restaurant. The sun terrace has a large glass sunroof, chairs and tables as well as a bicycle shed (aft deck).

### **SIZE OF GROUP**

A partir de 2 personnes.



## **DEPARTURES**

From April to October

## **DEPARTURE**

On day 1 in Castets-en-Dorthe or in Libourne from 14h00.

## **DISPERSION**

On day 8 in Libourne or Castets-en-Dorthe, after breakfast around 9h30.

We can arrange a bus transfer from and to Bordeaux railway station (50€ per person, see our options)

## **HOW TO GET THERE**

Bordeaux Mérignac airport serves mostly domestic flights though there are international flights like London, Madrid and Amsterdam.

Bergerac Dordogne Périgord Airport is also a possibility, is served by a number of airlines, including British Airways, Flybe, Jet2.com, Ryanair and Transavia. From Bergerac railway station there is a direct train to Bordeaux Saint Jean station.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

The Garonne, Gironde and Dordogne rivers are subject to tides and therefore to fluctuations in water level (the level can vary by 6 metres from one day to the next). We always try to follow the planned itinerary. However, depending on the tides, it may happen that the itinerary is modified if necessary