

Great Explorations



Trip Dates

2012

June 23-30
September 8-15

2013

June 22-29
September 7-14

Self-guided and custom trips also available and can start any day. Call or email for details.

Trip Size

8-16 participants

Total Days:

8 days/ 7 nights

Arrive/Depart:

La Baule/Hennebont

Activity Level:

48 km (30 miles daily average)

Terrain:

Moderate terrain

Brittany, Biking France's Cote Sauvage

In the northwest of France lies one of the great undiscovered regions of the country; dramatic coastline, lush forests and enchanting villages are the initial draw. Look deeper and see a rich land revealed - from the beaches of La Baule to medieval villages such as Guerande and Sarzeau to the pre-historic megaliths of Carnac the Breton Coast is our newest discovery offering gentle cycling, gastronomy of sea-food and crepes and a proud people eager to welcome.

Itinerary



Getting there :

La Baule: La Baule can be reached by train from Paris Montparnasse; the journey takes approx. 3 hours.

DAYS 1+2:

La Baule - Your trip starts in La Baule, where white sand beaches are a short stroll from our hotel. If time allows, take a warm-up ride along the Cote Sauvage to the fishing village of Le Croisic, a good introduction

to this coastal region. Next day, we'll cycle to an area known as the Briere and Kerhinet, with its pedestrian streets and *chaumieres* or thatched cottages. You'll have the chance to explore the marshes by punt to see how peat was extracted before an easy cycle back to our hotel.



DAYS 3+4:

Billiers - Riding north from La Baule, you pass through the salt marshes to the fortified medieval village of Guerande and then through farmlands to Billiers. Along the way, you'll have the opportunity to stop and see the harvesting of salt where locals use the same technique as their ancestors. Next day, your ride options will include La Roche Bernard, a 1000 year old town which claims to be the home of

the inventor of the guillotine.

DAY 5:

Locmariaque - Your ride begins with a glide past the Chateau de Suscinio- a medieval castle once home to the dukes of Brittany. You'll also visit Sarzeau and Surzur and the route des Huitres- the most famous oyster-producing area in Brittany. In Port Novalo you'll ferry across to fishing village of Locmariaque where monuments and tombs from the megalithic civilization still stand.

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Cost

Land Cost (current year):

US \$2450

Includes 7B/2L/6D

Single Supplement:

US \$520

Bike Rental:

US \$160

DAYS 6+7:

Hennebont - Next day our journey will continue towards Hennebont passing through the legendary village of Carnac, one of the most famous megalithic monuments and ancient ruins in France. Your last cycling day includes a loop to the sea-side village of Port Louis with its impressive 17th century citadel.

DAY 8: Depart at your leisure from Hennebont train station.



What's Included in the Cost of Your Trip?

- services of one or more experienced Great Explorations guides and support vehicle
- 7 nights lodging
- all breakfasts, 2 lunches, and all dinners but 1
- entrance fees for selected historical sites and museums
- detailed map and route instructions
- all baggage transportation
- all transportation from initial meeting point to final drop-off (see arrive/depart cities)

Please note: Final itinerary is subject to revision; any changes made are done so in an attempt to provide the best possible trip given route conditions and available services. Due to the nature of our business and exchange rates, prices are subject to change. All prices quoted are U.S. dollars but we gladly accept payment in Canadian dollars also. Due to cancellations and waiting lists, trip availability fluctuates daily. If you have any questions or would like to confirm space on this trip before making your reservation, please contact us at info@great-explorations.com or by telephone at **604.730.1247**

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Accommodations



Hotel Saint Christophe, La Baule

Ideally located in the center of La Baule, just 100 meters from the sea, this 19th century villa-style hotel has beautifully decorated rooms, each with antique furniture and family heirlooms. The restaurant has superb cuisine featuring fresh sea food and farm produce served in the unique dining room or on the terrace.



L'Auberge des Deux Magots, La Roche-Bernard

This hotel is a beautiful landmark manor house situated in the Old Quarter. Built by a retired naval officer, the building now includes 15 guest rooms in a charming, stylish setting. The restaurant has the reputation as the best in town!



Hotel des Trois Fontaines, Locmariaquer

The hotel on the Morbihan Gulf is decorated "marine style", in perfect harmony with its surroundings, and set in a beautiful garden. The comfortable, simply furnished rooms offer an ideal respite at the end of your day's adventures.



Les Chaumières de Kerniaven, Hennebont

Les Chaumières de Kerniaven have two recently renovated authentic 18th century cottages, with nine spacious, comfortable rooms in a serene and relaxing atmosphere. The rooms are crafted with authentic materials, including stone and exposed beams. Three of the rooms boast immense fireplaces which contribute to the relaxed atmosphere.