

Cycling in Gers : between historical sites and Armagnac vineyards

Your cycling tour

- An itinerary with 2 levels of difficulty
- Nights in hotels and guesthouses
- 2 accommodations with swimming pool
- Luggage transfers
- 8 days / 7 nights
- Possibility to rent an electric bike

Highlights

- Discovering various monuments listed as a UNESCO World Heritage
- The Pyrenean mountains as a background
- Crossing charming and beautiful villages
- The local gastronomy
- Beautiful and quiet countryside roads



In the Gers region, a land of adventure and history, go and explore the castles and abbeys, the bastides, the vineyards and the flowery villages. Here, more than elsewhere, culture goes together with relaxation and enjoying a very rich local gastronomy. Starting from Auch, capital of the beautiful and rebellious Gascony, you will discover with this cycling tour many historical sites : the Auch Cathedral, the Flaran Abbey, Romieu Collegiate Church, Saint-Clar Bastide, Lectoure, Eauze the Gallo-Roman capital... and many more. Moreover, we cannot talk about the Gers region without mentioning its terroir, so discovering the local products will hold a special place in this tour : quality restaurants and fine wines are the symbol of a way of living and the trademark of the local producers' know-how. You will have the opportunity to discover it during your cycling wanderings through forests, hills and protected villages, but also during your evening stops. The Gers is also a welcoming land that has learnt how to keep living with the flow of nature. Mankind has always cultivated the fertile valleys with perseverance, therefore keeping the villages lively and protecting the nature. With your family, your friends or as a couple, go and discover the paths, the rivers and the hills, but also the story of the people of Gascony, in the heart of the South-West.

•PROGRAM

Day 1 : Beginning of your holiday in Auch

Arrival in Auch, capital of Gascony, the land of the musketeers and d'Artagnan. Introduction tour of the city : overlooking the city and the Gers river, the Armagnac Tower and the Ste Marie Cathedral (listed as a UNESCO World Heritage) are forming an architectural complex reminding that the city is a key stop on the Way of St James.

- Duration : 2h or walking or cycling tour.

Day 2 : From Auch to Fleurance

Today's itinerary leads you to Montégut, where the view opens over the hills, then it reaches the village of Montaut les Crénaux where you can see various traces of the medieval times. The views over the Pyrenees are magnificent. After passing by the Latour castle, you will go down again towards the Gers valley and the city of Fleurance, a 13th century bastide.

- Distance : approximately 38 km, duration : approximately 4h30, ascent : +360m, descent : -420m.

Day 3 : From Fleurance to Lectoure

During this section in the heart of the Lomagne area, you will have a stop in the superb village of Saint-Clar : this village is renowned for its main square where a 13th-century wooden hall is standing. Saint-Clar was built around this square and offers an untouched medieval architecture, with many half-timbered houses. On Thursdays a market takes place on the square, that also welcomes various festivities related to garlic, which is Lomagne's speciality (possibility to visit the House of Garlic). Your journey then leads you to Lectoure, a fortified town that stretches on a rocky outcrop. The cathedral and the bishop's palace are the most impressive monuments of the town.

- Distance : 38 km, duration : approximately 4h30 , ascent : +460m, descent : -380m.
- Distance : 54 km, duration : approximately 6h, ascent : +650m, descent : -570m.

Day 4 : From Lectoure to Condom through la Romieu and Flaran (extended version)

Today, we put heritage forward, with the Romieu Collegiate Church and the Flaran Abbey, that are both recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage. You should also pay attention to Castelnau-Lectourois, Lagarde and its castle perched over the Archie valley, or the Tausia castle. When crossing the village of Cassaigne, visiting the wineries and the castle is a must-do. The last part of the itinerary towards Condom follows the "Armagnac Green Way", a cycling itinerary that now replaces the old railway connecting Condom to Eauze.

- Distance : 28 km or 32 km, duration : approximately 3h30 to 4h, ascent : +340m, descent : -430m.
- Distance : 51 km, duration : approximately 6h, ascent : +650m, descent : -670m.

Day 5 : From Condom to Eauze through Larressingle, Montréal du Gers and Fourcès

Today, we are focusing on the three "Most Beautiful Villages of France" of the Gers region : Larressingle with its walls standing in the heart of the vineyards and its houses with mullioned windows and arched doors, gathered around the donjon-castle; Fourcès, a round bastide with half-timbered houses and arches; and Montréal du Gers, the first Gascon bastide, created on a rocky outcrop and whose Gothic church is partly fortified. At the end of the day, you will also discover Eauze, a powerful Gallo-Roman capital with a territory stretching from Bordeaux to Toulouse and until the Pyrenees!

- Distance : 36 km, duration : approximately 3h30 to 4h, ascent : +400m, descent : -340m.
- Distance : 51 km, duration : approximately 5h30, ascent : +530m, descent : -470m.

Day 6 : From Eauze to Vic-Fezensac

During this section, you will cross the Bas-Armagnac, a land of vineyards that gathers many castles and famous wine estates of the Gers region : a perfect time and place for a tasting ! Armagnac for the bravest, or white wine if you are up for a cold drink ! All along the day, you will keep discovering a series of authentic villages and hamlets such as Lannepax, Roques or Lupiac, home village of the most famous of the musketeers... Arrival in Vic-Fezensac, the tauromachy capital of Gers, with its arenas, its Pentecost ferias and its latino festival, that tends to give it some Spanish looks!

- Distance : 35 km, duration : approximately 3h30 to 4h, ascent : +300m, descent : -350m.
- Distance : 60 km, duration : approximately 6h, ascent : +420m, descent : -450m.

Day 7 : From Vic-Fezensac to Auch

This last section is full of surprises ! Especially the village of Lavardens, overlooked by its castle, between earth and sky... It was saved from destruction by an association in the 20th century, and nowadays it is a cultural landmark of the Gers region with exhibitions highlighted by this historical setting. Today you will also have the opportunity to discover the pretty villages of Jégun, Ordan-Larroque, Roquelaure but also the thermal resort of Castéra-Verduzan and its sulphurous springs.

- Distance : 38 km, duration : approximately 4h, ascent : +540m, descent : -500m.
- Distance : 57 km, duration : approximately 6h, ascent : +550m, descent : -700m.

Day 8 : End of your holiday in Auch

End of the trip after your breakfast, in Auch.

This program is an example of the itinerary we aim to adhere to. It may be necessary, if situations arise that are beyond our control, for the itinerary to be modified.

• DATES AND PRICE

Departures

Departures every day from the beginning of April to the end of October, from 2 people. To schedule a departure outside of these dates, please contact us.

Price : From 01/04/2020 to 30/10/2020 :

Price per person for a 2 to 3-people group	735 €
Price per person for a 4 to 5-people group	675 €

Extras/discounts :

- Single room extra : 210€/pers.
- Hybrid bike and saddlebags rental for 6 days : 125€/pers.
- Electric bike and saddlebags rental for 6 days : 185€/pers.
- Extra night in Auch in a double room (night and breakfast) : 60€/pers.
- Extra night in Auch in a single room (night and breakfast) : 90€/pers.
- Child discount (from 10 to 12 years old) : 75€/pers.

The price includes :

- Half-board accomodation on Day 2, 5 and 6, night and breakfast on Day 1, 3,4 and 7
- Luggage transfers
- Travelbook with maps and cycling route notes
- GPS track upon request + access to the detailed itnerary on the mobile app GPS Mhikes

The price does not include :

- Travel insurance
- Additional transfers
- Dinners on Day 1 and Day 7 in Auch, on Day 3 in Lectoure, on Day 4 in Condom
- Bike rental
- Visits : museums, castles, tastings...
- Drinks and picnics
- Booking fees :10€

•TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAYS

The itineraries are given for information only. They can be adjusted depending on your goals and wishes. Our trips are always designed to offer the best quality for the fairest price.

Should you want to :

- upgrade your accomodation,
- adjust the duration of your trip,
- organize additional visits and activities,
- get a transfer to/from the airport,
- organize an extra night

Contactez Gaëtan
Tél : 05 34 14 51 50
gaetan@respyrenees.com

•ORGANIZATION

We take care of booking the different accomodations and transferring your luggage between accomodations. We provide you with a detailed travelbook including maps and detailed cycling route notes for 2 to 4 people as well as an access to the detailed itinerary on the mobile app GPS Mhikes. Moreover, our assistance team will answer all your questions, and will provide you with all useful advice in order to make sure that you enjoy your holiday.

•TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Level 2/5

Fairly easy to moderate, with two levels of difficulty : sections from 28km to 38km with ascents from 300m to 540m for the normal version; sections from 38km to 60km with ascents from 360m to 650m for the extended version.

Some information

Detail	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Duration*	2h	4h30	4h30 or 6h	3h30 to 6h	3h30 to 5h30	3h30 or 6h	4h or 6h
Distance	4 km (on foot)	38km	38km or 54km	28km, 32km or 45km	36km or 51km	35km or 60km	38km or 57km

*Be advised : cycling times are average times, that only take into account the effective cycling time and do not include the stops during the tour.

Guide

Self-guided cycling tour without a guide.

Carrying

You will need to carry a day pack only (personnal equipment needed during the day and your picnic). Your main luggage will be transferred by car between the different accomodations. We kindly ask you to make sure that your main luggage is easily transportable (please see below our recommendations regarding the equipment).

• ACCOMODATION / FOOD

Accomodation

Half-board on Day 2, 5 and 6 ; Night and breakfast on Day 1, 3, 4 and 7 ; 2 nights in an accomodation with swimming pool
3 nights in a 3-star hotel
2 night in a 2-star hotel
1 night in a recently renovated 1-star hotel
1 night in a guesthouse

Food

- Continental breakfast (tea, coffee, milk, bread, butter, jam)
- Evening meals are often based on local specialites and include a starter, a main course and a dessert. For dinners on Day 1, Day 3, Day 4 and Day 7 that are not included, there is a wide choice of restaurants on spot.
- Picnics are not included. Possibility to buy one on spot.
- Drinks are not included

• TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Start : On Day 1 at your accomodation in Auch, depending on your arrival time.

End : On Day 8 in Auch after your breakfast.

How to get to Auch :

- By train :

From Toulouse to Auch, many TER trains and SNCF buses. Many trains from Bordeaux, Nice and Marseille. There is also a bus connection (SNCF bus) between Auch and Agen, Tarbes, Mont de Marsan and Montauban.

SNCF Train Station - Rue Pierre Mendès France - 32000 Auch

Tel. +33 (0)892 35 35 35

Website : Midi-Pyrénées TER www.ter.sncf.com/midi-pyrenees - www.voyages-sncf.com

Regional public transport network

Website : www.gers-gascogne.com

Information : 36.35 (direct line) or www.sncf.fr

- By car :

The main access roads are :

- A62 Motorway (Bordeaux-Agen) : exit n° 7
- A64 Motorway (Toulouse-Pau) : exit n° 13 Tarbes Est
- RN 124 road (Toulouse-Dax)
- RN 21 road (Agen-Tarbes)

- By plane :

Five airports operating regular flights are situated near to Auch and its villages :

- Toulouse-Blagnac (approximately 45 minutes far) - Tel. +33 (0)5 61 42 44 00 - www.toulouse.aeroport.fr
- Agen-La Garenne - Tel. +33 (0)5 53 77 00 88 - www.aeroport-agen.com
- Tarbes-Lourdes-Pyrénées - Tel. +33 (0)5 62 32 92 22 - www.tlp.aeroport.fr
- Pau-Pyrénées - Tel. +33 (0)5 59 33 33 00 - www.pau.aeroport.fr
- Bordeaux-Mérignac - Tel. +33 (0)5 56 34 50 50 - www.bordeaux.aeroport.fr

Practical information

Auch Tourist Information Centre :
3, place de la République BP 20174
32003 Auch Cedex
Tel. (+33) 5 62 05 22 89
Fax. (+33) 5 62 05 92 04
Email : info@auch-tourisme.com

May, June and September

Monday to Saturday : from 9:15 (10:00 on Mondays) to 12:15 and from 14:00 to 18:00

Sundays and holidays : from 10:00 to 12:30

July and August

Monday to Saturday : from 9:30 (10:00 on Mondays) to 18:30

Sundays and holidays : from 10:00 to 12:30 and from 15:00 to 17:30

• WHAT TO BRING AND PACK

Bags

A small day pack for your water bottle, camera, picnic and waterproof.

A bag, rucksack or suitcase for your main luggage weighing a maximum of 12kg per person.

For the day time

- Comfortable shoes/trainers
- Walking socks.
- Warm fleece
- Shorts and T shirts.
- Swimming costume or trunks
- Towel
- Water bottle (one litre minimum)
- Personal first aid kit
- Sun and rain protection
- Sunglasses and sun cream
- Sun hat
- Wind and waterproof jacket (Gore-Tex style).

For your picnics

-A good cutting knife and some plastic bags

Relaxing time

- Trainers or open sandals
- Warm Fleece and casual wear

Other little things

- A pair of trainers or sandals for a night
- Glasses and suncream
- Hats
- Camera
- Small toiletry bag and towel
- Torch or headlight
- A first aid kit with personal medication, blister plasters (compeed), aspirin and survival blanket.