Cycle Tour from Versailles to Normandy

10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS, APPROX. 435 KM BOOKING CODE: FR-VSM9

DAILY ROUTE LENGTH ••••

TOPOGRAPHY ••••







Your tour

Walk in royal footsteps and experience Norman originality. Inspired by French castle culture and the royal flair of Versailles, you will experience the charm of the Vallée de Chevreuse, the Perche and Normandy-Maine during your cycling tour. On almost 435 kilometres, you will be surprised again and again by real eye-catchers: the charming Maintenon Castle, the reddish-coloured moated castle of Carrouges and the medieval fortress of Saint-Jean in Nogent-le-Rotrou are on your way. The crowning glory is Mont-Saint-Michel - mountain, island and former Benedictine monastery all in one. From afar, it looms fascinatingly on the horizon.

Itinerary

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Day 1	Individual arrival in Versailles
Day 2	Sightseeing day in Versailles or excursion to Paris
Day 3	Versailles – Épernon / Hanches, approx. 70 km
Day 4	Épernon – Illiers-Combray, approx. 65 km
Day 5	Illiers-Combray – Condeau, approx. 55 km
Day 6	Condeau – Alençon, approx. 70 km
Day 7	Alençon – Bagnoles-de-l'Orne, approx. 55 km
Day 8	Bagnoles-de-l'Orne – Saint-Hilaire-du-Harcouët, approx. 60 km
Day 9	Saint-Hilaire-du-Harcouët – Mont-Saint-Michel – Pontorson, approx. 60 km
Day 10	Transfer to Saint-Malo and individual departure

Travel time

Season A	23.03. – 26.10.	

Arrival Saturday 23.03. – 26.10.2024

Services

- ightarrow 9 nights with breakfast, national 3*-level
- → Luggage transport from hotel to hotel to Pontorson, max. 20 kg / piece
- → Cycle route description with maps (1 x per room)
- → Service-Hotline (7 days, 08.00 a.m. 08.00 p.m.)
- → Transfer from the hotel to Saint Malo train station on the last day

Not included services

- → Train ride Versailles Paris and back, approx. 15 € per person incl. bike
- → Admission Palace of Versailles
- → Citys or visitors tax, if payable

Basic price per person

Double room	1/19,-
Price Surcharge Singleroom	549,-

Additional night prices per person

Pontorson DBL / BB	69,-
Pontorson SGL / BB	119,-
Versailles DBL / BB	89,–
Versailles SGL / BB	159,-

Additional services per person

Rental bike (21-gear)	135,-
Return transfer incl. bike (from 2 persons)	339,-

Notes

→ Minimum number of participants: 2 persons

Exemplary hotel list

Versailles	Résidence du Berry Versailles	http://www.hotel-berry.com/
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Épernon / Hanches	Gästehaus Le Colombier de Hanches	https://www.lecolombier-de-hanches.com/
Illiers-Combray	Hôtel les Aubépines Illiers Combray	https://www.hotel-lesaubepines.com/
Condeau	Domaine de Villeray Condeau	https://www.domainedevilleray.com/fr
Alençon	Hôtel des Ducs Alençon	http://www.hoteldesducsalencon.com/
Bagnoles-de-l'Orne	Hôtel Contact Hôtel Bagnoles de l'Orne	https://www.contact-hotel.com/hotel-france/6234/bagnoles-hotel-bagnoles-de-l-orne.htm
Saint-Hilaire-du-Harcouët	Hôtel le Lion d'Or Saint Hilaire du Harcouët	http://www.hotelleliondor.com
Pontorson	Hôtel Montgomery Pontorson	http://www.hotel-montgomery.com/

Child reduction on basic price

Due to the challenging stages, we do not recommend this trip for children.

Languages Travel documents

→ German, English, French

Additional note

- → All bookings are on request.
- → In France, helmets are compulsory for children up to the age of 12.

 However, for safety reasons, we generally recommend wearing a
 helmet
- → Return journey to Versailles: Private transfer for 2 or more people, must be specified when booking.
- → Alternatively on your own by train from Saint Malo, connections several times a day, duration 3 4 hours, 2 3 changes. No reservation possible through Radweg-Reisen.
- → Twin / double rooms / separate beds are only occasionally available. We treat requests as non-binding customer requests, if above mentioned room types are a booking condition, it must be mentioned as a condition at the time of booking.

Equipment of our rental bikes

- → Bike lock
- → Map holder
- → Breakdown kit (1 x per booking)
- → Waterproof pannier

Journey to Versailles

- → Nearest airports: Paris, Saint Malo
- → Train station: Versailles

Parking in Versailles

→ Public parking spaces near the hotel. No reservation possible through Radweg-Reisen.

Stages description

Day 1: Individual arrival in Versailles

You will see it as soon as you arrive in Versailles: The palace is unmissable! You will get a valuable impression of the city on your day of arrival. Stroll through the pretty old town and enjoy the evening in one of the many restaurants serving French and international dishes.

Day 2: Sightseeing day in Versailles or excursion to Paris

Today you can visit the majestically magnificent palace at length. Take your time to explore the huge and meticulously laid out gardens of the Sun King. Or would you like to spend the day in Paris? In the artists' quarter of Montmartre, for example, you will quickly be infected by the French savoir-vivre. From the Sacré-Cœur Basilica on the Montmartre hill, you can enjoy a wonderful view of the whole of Paris.

Day 3: Versailles – Épernon / Hanches, approx. 70 km

Today you say goodbye to Versailles. You start your cycle tour towards Normandy and cycle through the hilly Vallée de Chevreuse in Île-de-France. You will get to know the first characteristic villages. After a ride through the forest of Rambouillet, the spacious park of the castle of the same name is perfect for a break. You will spend the night in the pretty village of Épernon on the Drouette river.

Day 4: Épernon - Illiers-Combray, approx. 65 km

The Eure-et-Loir valley is royal! After a few kilometres of cycling, you'll know why! The charming moated castle and the well-tended garden of Madame Maintenon, Louis XIV's secret mistress, lie magnificently before you. You cycle on to the famous Notre-Dame Cathedral in Chartres with its famous stained glass windows. Open, wide fields accompany you on the bike to Illiers-Combray.

Day 5: Illiers-Combray - Condeau, approx. 55 km

Cycle past the Thiron-Gardais abbey church and its charming monastery garden. This is where the Perche region begins. Shorter climbs are followed by longer descents. You cycle through pleasant forest sections to Saint-Jean Castle in Nogent-le-Rotrou with its medieval fortifications. On your cycle tour to Condeau, you will see grazing cows to your right and left. Numerous hay bales adorn the green meadows of the vast Normandy countryside.

Status: 14.12.2023

Day 6: Condeau - Alençon, approx. 70 km

The Voie Verte cycle path takes you through the Normandie-Maine Regional Park to Alençon. Thanks to the numerous protective trees, many native animal species can be found here. Be sure to keep your eyes open! In Alençon, the city of the dukes, discover the castle, the Notre-Dame basilica and the picturesque old town centre.

Day 7: Alençon - Bagnoles-de-l'Orne, approx. 55 km

Today's highlight of your cycle tour is the 17th century moated castle of Carrouges. It is one of the largest in Normandy. You will recognise it by its reddish brick. You cycle uphill and downhill in a variety of ways. After a pleasant forest section, you reach Bagnoles-de-l'Orne. The thermal town is characterised by numerous Belle Époque villas from the 19th century.

Day 8: Bagnoles-de-l'Orne – Saint-Hilaire-du-Harcouët, approx. 60 km

Cycle along good forest paths to Domfront, a small town with a beautiful old town centre and a castle ruin worth seeing. Here you need to stock up on provisions before setting off for Saint-Hilaire-du-Harcouët. You cycle through a seemingly endless hilly pasture landscape! Along the way, you will come across numerous signs confirming that you have soon reached your destination of Mont-Saint-Michel.

Day 9: Saint-Hilaire-du-Harcouët – Mont-Saint-Michel – Pontorson, approx. 60 km

You cycle through the Norman countryside for the last time on tarmac cycle paths. Enjoy it, while you always have the impressive Mont-Saint-Michel on the horizon in view! Then you have reached it: Mont-Saint-Michel, a total work of art! Its architecture and the Wadden Sea are breathtaking. You will spend the night in Pontorson, about 10 kilometres away.

Day 10: Transfer to Saint-Malo and individual departure

A transfer (approx. 9 a.m.) will take you to Saint-Malo railway station. From there you start your journey home. If your schedule allows, a visit to the old seafaring town is worthwhile at the end of your cycle tour in Normandy. The historic town centre lies in the sea like a peninsula.

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