



France - Cycling Around Arcachon Bay Cycling Tour (2025)
Individual Self-Guided
7 days/6 nights OR 6 days/5 nights



The Bassin d'Arcachon is the only lake on the Aquitaine coast to have maintained an opening to the sea. Twice a day, the water of this inland sea is renewed by the tide through narrow channels. Only frequented by fishermen for many years, the Bassin d'Arcachon became the kingdom of the oyster in the middle of the last century and its 84 km of beaches fringed with pine trees make it an original and privileged place, unique to the French coast. Delimited by the wild ocean to the west, the Bordeaux vineyards to the north and east, and by the huge Landes Forest to the south, the Bassin enjoys a mild climate where the invigorating aromas of the sea air and the pine trees mingle. The calm waters of the Bassin are the love of those who appreciate nature at its finest, where there are none of the dangers associated with ocean beaches and the temperature of the water is very pleasant. Through little ports with their coloured cabins; along the huge beaches; in the calm of the nature reserves for the birds and the pine forests; this walk is filled with the scent of sea air, the perfume of the pine trees, and mimosa and genet shrubs.



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Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive at Arcachon, late afternoon

An internationally renowned seaside town, Arcachon was born during the 19th century from the imagination of daring pioneers who staked their bets on the popularity of seaside bathing. Come and discover this city, the winter town and sumptuous villas from the second empire, its churches, its walks alongside the Bassin and its port.



Day 2 Or 6 (flexible or depending on the availability): Arcachon – La Dune Du Pyla – Arcachon 25 km

This step is not included in the 7 day trip

After breakfast, you will start your trip by cycling to the Pilat dune, the largest dune in Europe at 105 meters high, 2700 meters long and 500 meters wide. The dune, formed recently (only 35 meters high in 1855), is still not stable and moves towards the forest at a rate of 3 to 4 meters a year. Having left your bikes for a moment, you can climb to the summit using steps or by a marked path.

You will follow beaches on a magnificent track and you will join the “Pyla sur Mer” then Moulleau, a suburb to the west of Arcachon, a very lively place in summer with chic boutiques and trendy cafés. You will be surprised by the Notre dame des Passes church, of byzantine style, built at the top of a sand dune by the Dominicans. It houses the Vierge de l’Avent, one of the 3 statues in France representing a Virgin Mary heavy with child. You then return to Arcachon and your hotel.

Day 3: Arcachon – Biganos – Andernos 25 - 30 km

You will take the train from Arcachon to Biganos with your bike. From the station of Biganos, you will progress towards the Port de Biganos and towards the Port des Tuiles. You continue towards Audenge and Audenge port where former basins are used as swimming pools. Following the dykes of the Graveyron estate, with its fish reservoirs, you reach the castle. Having enjoyed the splendid views over the basin and watched the many species of migrating birds, you come back inland towards Cassy port using a wide shady path, by following the “Domaine de Certes”. You will cycle gently along the cycling track to



Andernos Les Bains, a very pleasant seaside town. For the evening you can enjoy a number of activities; bars overlooking the sea, a walk on the pier or the beach, or go for a walk alongside Andernos to the church at St Eloi as far as St Brice port.



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Day 4: Andernos – Le Grand Crohot – Andernos 37 km

A nice day in the big forest of Cap-Ferret: the pleasure to pedal in the heat, accompanied by the “cigales” song and the pine odours. You will leave Andernos and will pursue your circuit between ocean and forest, along the fine sand beaches where the ocean comes to crash in magnificent rollers. After a well-deserved swim, you will leave the beach and will take your road back through the national forest to join Lège-Cap-Ferret, then Ares, and finally Andernos. The vegetation here is different and replaces the forest of pines which was along the ocean. You will cross the oyster farming port of Ares

and will pursue then your trip towards the saint Brice's magnificent site, which mixes forest and natural bank of the “Bassin d’Arcachon”. You can take advantage of a last stopping place in this peaceful place before taking back your road for Andernos.

Day 5: Andernos-Les-Bains – Le Cap Ferret– Arcachon 30 km

Cap Ferret separates the Atlantic Ocean on the West and the Bay of Arcachon in the East. Offering an original geographical situation which allows you to take advantage on one side of landscapes of the Bay of Arcachon, where we observe the Pyla Dune and the “Banc d’Arguin”, and on the other of the waves of the “Côte d’Argent”. You will leave Andernos and will join the hamlet of Jane de Boy, then you will take the track to discover the famous oyster fishing villages of Herbe and Canon. This portion of the peninsula is enchanting and the panoramic view on leaving the fishing village takes your breath away! Take the time to absorb it all: the bird island, Arcachon in front and the Dune of Pilat... magic. Don’t forget to visit the Algerian chapel at Herbe.... you leave Cap Ferret and cross the Bassin to return to Arcachon and your hotel. You’ll admire the sandbank “le banc d’Arguin” in the middle of the channels, the Bird Island and the famous wooden cabins on stilts. Return to your hotel from the landing stage.



Day 6: OR 2 Arcachon – Le Teich – Arcachon 40 km

Leave Arcachon and take the cycling track via the Port of La Teste. Leave the track and take the “7 oyster ports of Gujan Mestras” small road that runs around the bay alongside the railway station. You arrive at the oyster port at Teste, the port of Rocher passing by the “Salt fields”, vast expanses uncovered by the sea and only covered up during Spring Tides. It is home to a special vegetation, refuge to a variety of fauna: crabs, shellfish and crustaceans, which are adored by many breeds of bird! You enter Gujan - Mestras, capital of oyster fishing which boasts no less than 7 ports dedicated to oyster farming. You’ll discover its ports and wood cabins lined up along the channel

where flat-bottomed boats are moored and a few “pinasses” ... boats typical of the basin. You will see a few marshes with curious dug-out shelters one after the other for hunting the water game, before reaching the Teich bird park. This natural reserve is set up to attract wild birds. The site offers various landscapes, from forests to prairies and lagoons. You will see many different breeds of birds including swans, grey herons, and little egrets as well as mating pairs of storks. Return to your hotel at the end of the day.



Day 7: Arcachon

End of the bicycle ride. Don't leave Arcachon without having seen the winter town and the Moorish park. Departure by train from Arcachon train station.





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Route



Technical Characteristics

Tour Profile: Easy. You will take cycling tracks as well as small roads that are quite flat.

Total distance: 167 km

Travel Season: Every day on request for 2-8 people from April 1 to October 1

Season 1 April-1-June 14 and Sept 16 to October 1

Season 2- June 15-September 15



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Prices per person:	6 day tour	7 day tour
Double Occupancy season 1	€657	€750
Single room supplement season 1	€337	€410
Double Occupancy season 2	€700	€810
Single room supplement season 2	€425	€520
Supplement for Child staying in room with 2 adults	50%	50%
Rental Touring Bike Adult	€110	€125
Rental Touring Bike Child (under 12)	€85	€95
E bike rental	€200	€240
Extra Nights Arcachon 3* Double Occupancy B&B	On request	
Extra Nights Arcachon 3* Single Occupancy B&B	On request	
GPS App for smart phone	€7	
Solo traveler surcharge	€96	
If only renting one bike -charge for delivery and recovery	€45	
Bike theft insurance touring/ e-bike	€20/40	

Accommodation:

Charming 2* and 3* hotels throughout the region

Upgrade to 3* and 4* available – ask us for rates

Included:

- 5 or 6 nights B&B
- 1 boat crossing of the bay
- Luggage transfers
- Route notes and detailed map
- Hotline daily 7:30 am to 8:00pm

Not Included:

- Train transfer from Arcachon to Facture (Biganos) – 5 euros. No need to book.
- Lunches and dinners , drinks
- Entrance fees for visits



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Bikes

Touring Bike Unisex Includes Locks, repair equipment, rear saddle bag, helmet-on request , bar bag, bottle holder and on road assistance (large repairs)



Children's Trailer - Photos of children's bike available on request



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THIS IS A PARTNER TOUR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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