

## Bicycle Tours in Italy: Grand Cycling Tour of Sicily

### OVERVIEW


This bicycle tour of Sicily explores traditional southern Italy and the heart of ancient Magna Grecia. Beginning in Siracusa (Syracuse), a UNESCO World Heritage Site with over 3,000 years of Mediterranean history you'll discover the interior towns in the Valle di Noto. You'll visit four of them, Ragusa, Scicli, Modica and Valle di Noto. All four are listed on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites and each one is spectacularly beautiful. Your journey will continue to the coastal town of Trapani known for its seaport and tuna fishing. Explore the medieval village of Erice with its narrow stone alleyways, and the hilltop town of Caltabellotta. You'll also visit Marsala and sample its fortified wines, and discover some of the finest classical Greek temples still in existence at Selinunte and Agrigento. The diverse terrain offers a rewarding cycling journey through beautiful regions rich in vineyards and agriculture, and picture perfect coastal views.

\*\*\*If this sounds great but you don't have time for the full 14 days, check out either the 8-day [Bicycle the Baroque Towns of Southeastern Sicily](#), or the 7-day [Cycling Southwestern Sicily's Ancient Mediterranean Cities](#) tours.\*\*\*

### HIGHLIGHTS

UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the valle di Noto, Syracuse, Rural countryside accommodations with pools, Olive oil tasting, Beaches and swimming opportunities, Agrigento, Lunch at Caltabellotta, Guided walk of Selinunte, Marsala wines, Erice, Trapani, Archaeological site of Cava d'Ispica.

### TOUR FACTS

<b>Tour Style</b>	Classic: Learn more about our Classic tours at
<b>Includes</b>	14 days, 13 nights accommodation; meals as noted in itinerary; olive press visit and tasting; guided walk of Valle dei Templi and Selinunte; wine tasting; Marsala wine tasting
<b>Countries</b>	Italy
<b>Begin/End</b>	Siracusa (Syracuse in English) / Trapani
<b>Arrive/Depart</b>	Catania Airport (CTA) / Palermo Falcone Borsellino Airport (PMO) or Vincenzo Florio Airport Trapani-Birgi (TPS)
<b>Total Distance</b>	709km (438 miles)
<b>Avg. Daily Distance</b>	64km (40 miles) per riding day
<b>Tour Level</b>	

**Please Note:** We may have small itinerary changes to this trip after you download this PDF document. If you have booked this trip and there are major changes, including changes to towns or activities, we'll email you directly. However, you should always be sure to refer to the [online itinerary](#) for the most up-to-date trip information including arrival and departure tips before you depart for your trip:

<https://www.experienceplus.com/guided-bike-tours/italy/sicily/cycling-tour-sicily>

### Bicycle Tours in Italy: Grand Cycling Tour of Sicily

#### DATES & PRICES

Dates	Price	Single Supplement*
May 04, 2024	USD\$6495	USD\$650
Sep 14, 2024	USD\$6495	USD\$650
Sep 28, 2024	USD\$6495	USD\$650

\*We are happy to match solo travelers who would like to share a room with someone of the same gender. If no match exists, due to hotel pricing, we will charge 50% of the single supplement rate. This fee will be collected at the time of the final payment. If a roommate assignment is available this fee will be refunded at the conclusion of the tour.

#### DAILY RIDE SUMMARY

Day	Distance/Gain	Terrain	Day Level	Notes
1	Test ride			
2	55km / 396m (34mi / 1299ft)	Gentle	▶▶▶▶▶	
3	61km / 457m (38mi / 1499ft)	Gentle	▶▶▶▶▶	
4	45km / 827m (28mi / 2713ft)	Very hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
5	60km / 1002m (38mi / 3287ft)	Hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
6	72km / 746m (45mi / 2447ft)	Rolling hills	▶▶▶▶▶	
7	60km / 932m (38mi / 3057ft)	Hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	Today's ride is an optional loop ride
8	Transfer Day			
9	72km / 1016m (45mi / 3332ft)	Hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
10	63km / 986m (39mi / 3234ft)	Very hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
11	60km / 630m (38mi / 2066ft)	Rolling hills	▶▶▶▶▶	Today's ride is an optional loop ride
12	75km / 415m (47mi / 1361ft)	Rolling hills	▶▶▶▶▶	
13	79km / 1123m (49mi / 3683ft)	Mountainous	▶▶▶▶▶	Shorter optional ride available
14	Last Day			

## Bicycle Tours in Italy: Grand Cycling Tour of Sicily

### ARRIVAL INFO

**Meeting time 2 p.m. - on Day 1, meet your fellow cyclists and Tour Leaders at the Day 1 Hotel specified on the itinerary.**

**Note:**

As you are planning, remember that the hotels listed in our itineraries are our primary hotels and are - in rare cases - subject to change. Before you make arrangements, **check with us** if your tour departure is guaranteed. If your tour departure is out further than 6 months, please also check with us as there might be slight changes to the itinerary.

The below information will help you plan your arrival. For more tips or other routes, you might like [Rome2Rio](#). The fare and timing information listed below is approximate.

**We recommend flying into the Catania Airport (CTA).**

1. Interbus from Catania Airport to Siracusa Corso Umberto 196 Terminal Bus (the last stop) (1 hour 15 min/EUR 6.20)
  2. Taxi from the bus stop to the Day 1 hotel. If there is no taxi at the bus stop, **walk** to the central station square where you will find plenty of taxis (10 min/EUR 12-15)
- Or hotel transfer from the Catania Airport to the Day 1 Hotel (1 hour/fare varies by number of passengers and time of day)

**Note:** Sicily is not an entirely train-friendly region and on some routes train travel can take several hours with various changes. We recommend using the efficient bus network instead.

### DEPARTURE INFO

**Your trip ends on the final day after breakfast.**

The below information will help you plan your departure. For more tips or other routes, you might like [Rome2Rio](#).

**Flying out of the Trapani Airport (TPS):**

- Taxi from the ending hotel to the Trapani Airport (20 min/EUR 30)
- Or AST Bus from Trapani Porto (Tour Leaders or hotel staff can assist) (40 min/EUR 5)

**If you choose to fly out of Palermo (PMO):**

- Taxi from the ending hotel to the Palermo Airport (1 hour/EUR 110 for 1 to max. 4 persons)
- Or [Segesta Autolinee Bus](#) from Trapani Porto to Palermo Airport (Tour Leaders or hotel staff can assist) (1 hour 10 min/EUR 10)

## Bicycle Tours in Italy: Grand Cycling Tour of Sicily

### Meet in Siracusa (Syracuse)

**Highlights** Ancient Siracusa, one of the oldest Greek settlements in Magna Grecia

Arrive today in Siracusa or "Syracuse" in English. The Greek "Syrakousai" was one of the first Greek colonies in the western Mediterranean, founded in 734 BC by colonists from Corinth. By the mid-5th century BC it rivaled Athens for supremacy with a population of a quarter of a million people. Home to Archimedes (of Archimedes Principle fame) Siracusa has a wealth of ancient Greek ruins and the largest Greek theater from the 5th Century BC. Our hotel is in the center of ancient Ortigia. Enjoy a test ride around the ramparts before our special welcome dinner tonight.

### DAY 1: Sat, Sep 28th

**Meals** Dinner

**Lodging**  Henry's House

### Siracusa to Noto

**Highlights** UNESCO town of Noto, country resort near the world famous Vendicari nature reserve

Your first ride in Sicily has you pedaling through small beach and fishing towns, passing an abandoned "tonara" or tuna canning factory which was one of the biggest economic drivers of the island in the late 18th and 19th centuries. The route takes us inland to the imposing town of Noto, one of the many towns in this region rebuilt (in a new location) in the grand baroque style after the earthquake of 1693. The striking white town is perched above the valley and makes for an impressive destination as you pedal towards it. Enjoy a walk in Noto before heading to our destination tonight, a splendid old farmhouse renovated into lodging with a swimming pool and particularly lovely grounds.

### DAY 2: Sun, Sep 29th

**Distance** 55 km (34 mi)

**Gain** 396 m (1299 ft)

**Terrain** Gentle

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

**Lodging**  Hotel Corte del Sole

### Noto Loop to Marzamemi and Capo Passero

**Highlights** Fishing port of Marzamemi, coastal scenery and beaches, wine tasting

Take your swimming suit along today as there are plenty of opportunities to find an isolated beach to take a refreshing dip. You'll pass through the fishing village of Marzamemi, a village built up around the ancient tonara. The red tuna from this area are still prized in Japan for sushi. While the tonara here is no longer working, the quaint fishing village has maintained its charm with quaint buildings, restaurants, cafés and stores. From here you can opt to continue your ride along a quiet coastal road to Capo Passero, which is the furthest southeastern point in Sicily. This evening we'll enjoy a wine tasting before dinner together.

### DAY 3: Mon, Sep 30th

**Distance** 61 km (38 mi)

**Gain** 457 m (1499 ft)

**Terrain** Gentle

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

**Lodging**  Hotel Corte del Sole

### Bicycle Tours in Italy: Grand Cycling Tour of Sicily

#### Spectacular climb to the high plains of the interior

**Highlights** Cavagrande del Cassibile, lunch together with pool and sea view, lovely farm hotel amid almond and olive groves

Your ride today takes you to the interior of the island through olive and almond groves. An impressive climb of approximately 400 meters (1,300 feet) up a narrow canyon that delivers stunning views into the deep canyon and far out to the sea as you summit on the plateau. Reward yourself with a pool side lunch (and perhaps a dip in the pool!) before continuing along the plateau to reach our quiet country lodge immersed in the hills and close to the expansive ruins of the old city of Noto destroyed in the earthquake of 1693. A brief stroll through Noto Antica's ruins allows you to travel back in time and imagine the large city that once dominated the area. All that remains today is scattered stones, crumbling buildings and tower ruins.

#### DAY 4: Tue, Oct 1st

**Distance** 45 km (28 mi)

**Gain** 827 m (2713 ft)

**Terrain** Very hilly

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Lodging**  Borgo Alveria

#### Ride from Noto Antica to Ragusa

**Highlights** Country roads, the new and old cities of Ragusa

You are primarily on country roads today as you pedal west to Ragusa. Stop and visit an olive oil press to learn about the local olives, the local farmers, and the business of making olive oil. From there you'll continue to Ragusa which, like Noto, was rebuilt in the 17th century after the massive earthquake. Uniquely though, Ragusa was not moved to a new site. The result is a new baroque town on a ridge top next to the ancient town clinging to a narrow ridge and the valley below.

#### DAY 5: Wed, Oct 2nd

**Distance** 60 km (38 mi)

**Gain** 1002 m (3287 ft)

**Terrain** Hilly

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast

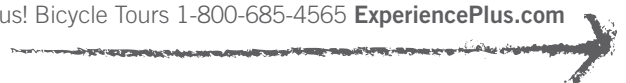
**Lodging**  Antico Convento dei Cappuccini  
 Giardino sul Duomo  
 Neropece Suites

#### Bicycle from Ragusa to Scicli

**Highlights** Lands once occupied by Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans and Italians; water mill; archaeological site of Cava d'Ispica; picnic

The timeless landscape of southeast Sicily comes to life today as you pedal ridges and hills toward the famous archaeological sites of Cava d'Ispica, a narrow gorge filled with grottoes which were used since Neolithic times for lodging. Enjoy a picnic lunch near a unique water mill built in a cave before continuing on to the delightful town of Scicli. Scicli is the set for the TV film series Inspector Montalbano, based on the fictional town of Vigáta. Tourism to the area has boomed thanks to this popular TV series although a walk through town will highlight much more than a mere TV set! The Sept 30 departure will stay at San Giorgio Modica Hotel. Modica is another town rebuilt after the earthquake of 1693 but, as it sits astride the Modica River, it also suffered

#### DAY 6: Thu, Oct 3rd



## Bicycle Tours in Italy: Grand Cycling Tour of Sicily

from devastating floods at the beginning of the 19th century. Modica is also famous for retaining the original Aztec recipe for chocolate imported by the Spaniards in the 16th century. Distance and Gain: 63km (39 miles), 774 meters (2,538 feet).



**Distance** 72 km (45 mi)

**Gain** 746 m (2447 ft)

**Terrain** Rolling hills

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast

**Lodging**  Hotel Novecento  
 San Giorgio Modica  
Hotel

## Bicycle Tours in Italy: Grand Cycling Tour of Sicily

### Loop Rides from Scicli to Modica and/or Donnalucata

**Highlights** Famous chocolate town of Modica and to the seaside town of Donnalucata

We'll mark two loop rides today to nearby Modica and to the seaside at Donnalucata. Donnalucata is the site of a decisive battle in 1091 between the Normans and the moors. It was also central to the allied invasion of Sicily in July 1943. It also offers a chance for a little beach time for those so inclined. Modica is another town rebuilt after the earthquake of 1693 but, as it sits astride the Modica River, it also suffered from devastating floods at the beginning of the 19th century. Modica is also famous for retaining the original Aztec recipe for chocolate imported by the Spaniards in the 16th century. We'll enjoy a special visit and tasting at the Bonajuto chocolate shop which touts six generations of artisan confectioners. The Sept 30 departure will stay at San Giorgio Modica Hotel. Ride to nearby Scicli and the seaside town of Donnalucata.

### DAY 7: Fri, Oct 4th



**Distance** 60 km (38 mi)

**Gain** 932 m (3057 ft)

**Terrain** Hilly

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

**Lodging**  Hotel Novecento  
 San Giorgio Modica Hotel

### Shuttle to Agrigento

**Highlights** Agrigento, guided visit Valle dei Templi

Agrigento features one of the finest collections of ancient Greek temples anywhere in the Mediterranean basin. Our hotel is not far from the ruins and we'll take a guided visit at the Valle dei Templi as the setting sun turns the limestone columns a golden color. We will have dinner together this evening.

### DAY 8: Sat, Oct 5th

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

**Lodging**  Colleverde Park Hotel

### Agrigento to Sciacca

**Highlights** Sciacca

Your ride today offers a lovely combination of terrain as you head inland through wheat fields, and vineyards towards the village of Cattolica Eraclea. When the sweet scent of oranges envelopes you, you will know that you are approaching the town of Ribera famed for - you guessed it - orange (and olive) groves! The landscape changes again as you enter a magical area filled with whimsical geologic formations just before you enter Ribera. Our destination today is Sciacca.

### DAY 9: Sun, Oct 6th

**Distance** 72 km (45 mi)

**Gain** 1016 m (3332 ft)

**Terrain** Hilly

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast

**Lodging**  Domus Maris

### Bicycle Tours in Italy: Grand Cycling Tour of Sicily

#### Sciacca to Menfi

**Highlights** Extraordinary lunch at Caltabellotta, swimming pool

Today you'll enjoy a gorgeous and challenging ride (or shuttle in the van) to Caltabellotta where you'll feast on a lunch of Sicilian specialties. This hilltop village is nestled on a limestone perch three thousand feet above Sciacca. After lunch the rest of the ride is a feast for the senses as you spin through aromatic citrus and olive groves on your way to our elegant lodge tonight. Enjoy a refreshing dip in the swimming pool, and the spectacular views.

#### DAY 10: Mon, Oct 7th

**Distance** 63 km (39 mi)

**Gain** 986 m (3234 ft)

**Terrain** Very hilly

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Lodging**  **Il Vigneto**

#### Loop ride to Selinunte and the sea

**Highlights** Selinunte, optional ride to the beach

Enjoy a ride to Selinunte where we'll have a guided walk through some of the most spectacular ruins in Sicily. The Greek ruins are divided between two ridges, one features temples and the other the remnants of the ancient city. Take an optional ride to the beach at Porto Palo if you'd like a little extra mileage and the chance for a swim. Tonight we'll enjoy a special dinner in a local winery, wine tasting and visit.

#### DAY 11: Tue, Oct 8th

**Distance** 60 km (38 mi)

**Gain** 630 m (2066 ft)

**Terrain** Rolling hills

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

**Lodging**  **Il Vigneto**

#### Menfi to Marsala

**Highlights** Castelvetrano, vineyard landscapes, Marsala and its wines

A beautiful ride is on tap for today. Fall in love with typical Sicilian landscapes that feature rolling hills covered in vineyards. This spectacular ride leads you to Castelvetrano and stop to admire its beautiful square. Next up is Mazara del Vallo where you'll have the chance to explore examples of Muslim architecture and enjoy fresh fish from one of the largest fishing ports in Italy before riding back along the shore to Marsala. This afternoon we'll sample the famous, fortified Marsala wines.

#### DAY 12: Wed, Oct 9th

**Distance** 75 km (47 mi)

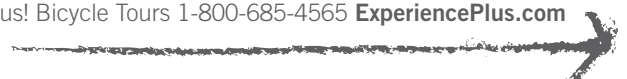
**Gain** 415 m (1361 ft)

**Terrain** Rolling hills

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast

**Lodging**  **Hotel Carmine**





## Bicycle Tours in Italy: Grand Cycling Tour of Sicily

### Marsala to Trapani

#### Highlights Bike to Erice and Trapani

You ride west today, partially along the coast and then up to the hilltop village of Erice. Erice was a Greek town and important medieval fortress that maintains its original ambiance. The end of the bike ride takes you to the coastal town of Trapani for a celebratory dinner together. The September 30 - Grand Cycling Tour of Sicily (October 7 - Southwestern Sicily's Ancient Mediterranean Cities) departure will stay at the Hotel San Michele. All other departures will stay at the Residence La Gancia.

### DAY 13: Thu, Oct 10th

**Distance** 79 km (49 mi)

**Gain** 1123 m (3683 ft)

**Terrain** Mountainous

**Level** 

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

**Lodging**  La Gancia  
 Hotel San Michele

### Cycling tour ends today in Trapani

#### Highlights Trapani

There is plenty of history in Trapani as its strategic position on a slip of land saw Carthaginians, Normans, Arabs, Spanish, and Bourbons walk its streets before the unified Republic of Italy was formed in 1861. If you spend a few days here we recommend a boat excursion and head off to the nearby island of Favignana. Join us again sometime soon!

### DAY 14: Fri, Oct 11th

**Meals** Breakfast

**INCLUDED**

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

When you book a tour with ExperiencePlus! our goal is to ensure your only focus each day is to hop on your bike and explore scenic cycling routes in new destinations. Inclusions may differ depending on which tour style you pick but all ExperiencePlus! tours include the three most important aspects of a guided bike tour.

- Superb tour leaders who are fun and multilingual, bi-cultural experts, and cycling enthusiasts. They will support you and help you navigate confidently on and off the road.
- High quality bikes selected for the terrain you are cycling on and correct bike fitting to ensure comfortable cycling. More details on our bikes page: <https://www.experienceplus.com/what-to-expect/our-bikes/>
- Thoughtfully designed itineraries and routes that take advantage of stunning cycling destinations and the freedom of bicycle travel.

**PRE-TRIP SUPPORT**

- Bicycle training programs designed specifically for your tour and fitness level.
- Planning tips on what to pack, hotel recommendations and other helpful details from our Travel Planning Pages: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/>
- A gift of your choice (cycling jerseys, socks, or a t-shirt) as our way of saying thanks for choosing ExperiencePlus!
- \*Traveler services including assistance booking extra nights at the tour starting and ending hotels. (\*Not included on Explorer Tours.)
- See "What's Included" for tour-specific inclusions and be sure to check the "Keep in mind" section under "Tour Summary" online.

**BICYCLES**

For a full list of what's included with your bike see our bikes page (<https://www.experienceplus.com/what-to-expect/our-bikes/>) . If you would like to bring your own pedals and shoes we recommend doing so. On Explorer tours we include a GPS device on all bikes. We ask that you bring your own helmet to ensure the best fit. Please ask if you would like us to provide you with a gently used helmet and we will do so.

**NAVIGATING, DAYSHEETS AND VAN SUPPORT:**

Each day you'll receive a daily briefing with a highlighted route map. About 14 days prior to your tour, we will provide you with access to RideWithGPS Experiences, our platform

to distribute information on each tour day's activities, meals and ride, as well as GPS-routes.

Daily information also includes Tour Leader phone numbers, hotel information and interesting historical and cultural information. On Classic, Bike and Boat and Expedition tours we also navigate using our signature chalk dust arrows. Our arrows make navigating very easy—you may never need to look at the map. On Explorer tours the terrain and destinations are not always conducive to using chalk arrows so we'll ride as a group or you can navigate on your own with the GPS tracks. On tour you will have a support van providing water and snack resupply, mechanical assistance, a lift for tired cyclists, and luggage transfers. On some itineraries the van will not be able to follow sections of the route that stray from the road for example onto cycling paths.

On tour you will have a support van providing water and snack resupply, mechanical assistance, a lift for tired cyclists, and luggage transfers. On some itineraries the van will not be able to follow sections of the route that stray from the road for example onto cycling paths.

**Need More Miles?** On many days it is possible to add miles to the day, just talk to your tour leader about your options.

**Need Fewer Miles?** If you aren't sure about your abilities or how much you want to ride remember the support van is available to offer snacks, encouragement, a lift over the next hill, or to the next hotel. You are on vacation and we're here to help make it perfect for you.

**TIPPING YOUR TOUR LEADER TEAM:**

If you feel your tour leader team has demonstrated great expertise and service, common practice within the travel industry is to tip. Tipping is voluntary and greatly appreciated, and gratuity amounts vary widely. Should you decide to leave a tip, as a guideline, we suggest 5% of the tour cost per traveler – this is for the entire tour leader team, not each tour leader. You can give the tip to any member of the tour leader team, as they share it evenly. In order to avoid social tensions, we encourage you to tip as individuals and not as a group. If you feel your tour leaders did not quite meet your expectations, please let us know. \*Tips are included in Expedition pricing.

**PHOTOS:**

By reserving space on tour, you agree that ExperiencePlus! may use, re-use and reproduce any images, photos or videos sent to us, or taken by our guides or travelers free of charge and without your right to inspection. If you do not want us to use any images of you on tour, you must inform your tour leader in writing at the start of the tour.

**STYLES** **OUR TOUR STYLES**

We realize that one size does not fit all and there are as many ways to travel by bike as there are different types of cyclists and travelers. No matter what you are looking for in a cycling vacation, we have a tour with just the right pace for you.

**Classic Tours:** Dream of traveling through a region by bike? then our Classic style bike tours are for you! Our unique chalk arrows lead the way as you explore small villages and world-class cities while traveling at your own pace.

- Tour Length: 7-15 days
- Hotels: 3-4 stars, most itineraries include at least one two-night stay at the same hotel.
- Road Type: Pavement, bike paths.
- Multi-night Stays: Occasionally
- Navigation: Chalk Arrows
- Price: \$\$\$
- Tour Levels: 1-4.5

**Explorer Tours:** Travel further off the beaten path - we let the destination dictate where we ride, not the road surface.

- Tour Length: 7-8 days
- Hotels: 2-3 stars, occasional multi-night stays at the same hotel.
- Road Type: 30-50% gravel or hard-packed dirt, the rest pavement.
- Multi-night Stays: Occasionally
- Navigation: Group riding and GPS
- Price: \$\$
- Tour Levels: 1-4

**Bike and Boat Tours:** Spend days cycling and your evenings relaxing on a private boat as you cruise to your next port.

- Tour Length: 7-8 days, some itineraries have land-based extensions available.
- Barge/Boat: 3-4 star, same cabin for the entire boat trip.
- Road Type: Pavement
- Navigation: Chalk Arrows
- Price: \$\$\$
- Tour Levels: 1-4

**Expedition Tours:** Multi-week tours where you spend long days on the bike with the added satisfaction of pedaling across multiple countries.

- Tour Length: 15-40 days
- Hotels: 2-4 stars, typically there is a 2-night hotel stay every 5-7 days.
- Road Type: Pavement with occasional hard-packed dirt or gravel.
- Multi-night Stays: On rest days
- Navigation: Chalk Arrows
- Price: \$\$\$
- Tour Levels: 4-5

**LEVELS**

We know that travelers have different cycling abilities and preferences for the number of miles, elevation gain, and type of terrain they want on a bicycle tour. We have rated each day of our tours on a scale of 1-5. Our Tour Level's are an average of the day rating on tour. We recommend looking at the daily summary on the PDF and Website Itinerary to see details about each day's ride.

**LEVEL 1 - 1.5**

Level 1 - 1.5 days will be mostly flat and the distance will rarely exceed 50 km. Level 1 - 1.5 tours are suitable for beginner cyclists, those traveling by bicycle for the first time, or multi-generational groups with a desire for a nice and easy bike tour with plenty of opportunities to stop and enjoy the scenery.

- **Average daily mileage:** 20 - 50 km. (12-30 miles) Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 0-400 M (0-1200 ft)
- **Terrain:** Mostly flat with occasional gentle climbs at a grade of less than 3%, that are sustained for a maximum of 3km. There might be a steeper but short climb.

**LEVEL 2 - 2.5**

Level 2 - 2.5 days are ideal for riders newer to bicycle touring looking for a bit of a challenge.

- **Average daily mileage:** 30-60 km (18 - 38 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 400 - 600 m (1200 - 2000 ft)
- **Terrain:** Mostly rolling terrain around 3%. Presents multiple 3% to 4% climbs. May present an occasional steeper climb.

**LEVEL 3 - 3.5**

Level 3 - 3.5 days are great for active individuals (who run, bike, swim etc. on a regular basis).

- **Average daily mileage:** 50-70km (30-45 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 600 - 900m (2000 - 2800 ft)
- **Terrain:** Multiple Climbs with grades of 4 - 6%.

**LEVEL 4 - 4.5**

Level 4 - 4.5 days are the best riding days for avid cyclists or very active individuals who are excited to challenge themselves on a bike.

- **Average daily mileage:** 70-90km (45-55 miles) Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 900-1000m (2800-3600 ft)
- **Terrain:** Presents multiple steep climbs (6% to 8% grades), 1 to 3km long. Alternatively, 4 - 6% grades for 6 kilometers or more.

**LEVEL 5 (EXPEDITION)**

Our Expedition tours designed for strong riders looking for the challenge of riding across countries or continents. Long daily mileages mean limited van support so we recommend these tours for riders who feel confident that they can ride every mile.

- **Average daily mileage:** 120 km (75 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 500-2000 m (1600- 6500 ft)
- **Terrain:** Expect and be prepared for any and everything.

**REMEMBER**

A tour level is the average of the days so we recommend you look at the day level on each day of the itinerary to help you better understand what to expect from your tour.

## CHECKLIST

### TO DO ONCE YOU'VE BOOKED!

- Read through your Reservation Confirmation (link sent to you by e-mail), it has important information to help you plan your trip!
- Check the date on your passport. The expiration date should extend three months past your date of return to your home country.
- Complete the Customer Information Form: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/customer-information-form/>
- We recommend you take out travel insurance. Find details at <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/travel-insurance/>
- Choose a bicycle training program: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/bicycle-tour-training/>
- Peruse our country-specific Travel Planning Pages: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/>

### 6 TO 3 MONTHS PRIOR TO TOUR START DATE

- Review the arrival and departure information under the "Travel Information" tab to see meeting place and time, if a reservation on a complimentary ExperiencePlus! Shuttle (if applicable) is required, and other important information to help you plan your arrival and departure.
- Reserve your flights after you know you have a confirmed tour departure. Please check with our office if you do not know if your trip is confirmed.
- Book your pre and post-tour hotel nights.
- Begin your chosen training program
- Final payment is due 90 days (120 days for Bike & Barge/Boat tours) prior to the tour start. Please refer to your Deposit Payment Invoice and the Final Payment Reminder e-mail you have received for detailed instructions.

### 6 TO 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO TOUR START DATE

- Start reading one of the books or watching one of the movies from our Reading and Movie Lists: <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/>.
- Plan what you are going to pack and start packing! Refer to the Packing Lists on our website at <https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/packing/>
- We'll email you your access code to Digital Daysheets, Hotel Itinerary, Participant Roster, names and contact information of your Tour Leaders, emergency phone numbers, and other important departure information about 2 weeks prior to your tour start date. All this will be provided to you via a feature called Experiences via the RideWithGPS App (tracks available but not necessary for navigation on Classic, Expedition and Bike & Boat tours).

### DAY OF YOUR FLIGHT

Get as much sleep on the plane as you can. Pack one day of cycling gear in your carry-on just in case. See you soon!