

# Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic

## OVERVIEW

This bicycle expedition follows 3 rivers and connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Black Sea. We'll travel the full length of the Loire River from France, the Danube River from Germany's Black Forest to the delta of the Danube in Romania on the Black Sea coast. We bicycle through some of the great capitals of central and eastern Europe on this ride through history, including Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade and Bucharest, Romania. During the first two weeks our bike ride follows the border of classical Rome in Germany. We follow some of the most important Medieval trade routes from Eastern France to Southern Germany and into the Alps and visit historic Medieval towns such as Ulm, Regensburg, and Linz.


**Apply for the Expedition today!**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Regensburg
- Vienna
- Budapest
- Black Forest
- Ulm
- Belgrade
- Bucharest and the Black Sea
- Loire Valley and its chateaux
- Basel
- bike paths along major rivers
- Beaune wine
- Chenonceau castle

## TOUR FACTS

<b>Tour Style</b>	 : Learn more about our tours at <a href="https://www.experienceplus.com/tours/bike-tour-styles/-tours">https://www.experienceplus.com/tours/bike-tour-styles/-tours</a>
<b>Includes</b>	45 days, 44 nights accommodation, about 2/3 of dinners (excluding drinks), all breakfasts, dinner cruise in Budapest, boxed lunches on most days
<b>Countries</b>	France, Switzerland, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia
<b>Begin/End</b>	St Brevin, France/Bucharest, Romania
<b>Arrive/Depart</b>	Paris, France/Bucharest, Romania
<b>Total Distance</b>	About 4020 km (2510 miles)
<b>Avg. Daily Distance</b>	55 - 170 km (34 - 108 miles) per riding day
<b>Tour Level</b>	 ExpeditionPlus! tours are for strong, experienced cyclists. Long daily mileage and some mountainous routes mean minimal van support. Not recommended for casual cyclists.

**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 any 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/france/eurovelo6-Atlantic-to-Black-Sea>

## Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic

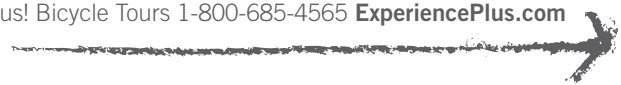
### DATES & PRICES

Dates	Price	Single Supplement*
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\*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
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**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****June 14 - St. Brevin on the Atlantic at the mouth of the Loire****DAY 1****River****Highlights** Bike fitting and welcome dinner**Meals** Dinner

St. Brevin-les-Pins sits on the south bank of the Loire River at its mouth. Just across from St. Nazaire. We'll gather here today, fit bikes and enjoy introductions and a welcome dinner together.

**June 15 - Bicycle St. Brevin-les-Pins to Ancenis****DAY 2****Highlights** Nantes, quiet roads along the Loire River**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

Our route takes us along the river, across a ferry and through the City of Nantes. Despite its size as the sixth largest cities in France, Nantes is famous for its "liveability" and its historic neighborhoods. A towpath takes us east out of the City as we work our way to the small village of Ancenis for the evening. Ancenis is the site of a "maison des vins" featuring wines of the Loire. Dinner is together. Mileage 101 km (63 miles)

**June 16 - Bicycle Loire River****DAY 3****Highlights** Bicycle the flat limestone plateau south of the Loire River**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

Where the Loire River flows north near Angers, we pedal south and east across the wheatlands of the Maine et Loire region today to the town of Saumur with its castle perched on the south bank of the Loire. Saumur is famous throughout France for mushroom production. Dinner together. Mileage 110 km (68 miles)

**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****June 17 - Pedal from Saumur by abbeys and castles to****DAY 4****Chenonceau**

**Highlights** The Abbey of Fontevraud, castle of Chinon, Sleeping Beauty's castle at Usse, Azay-le-Rideau, and the castle of Chenonceau.

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

Our ride takes us away from the Loire today and through the medieval village created by the famous Abbey of Fontevraud, the largest in France. We continue on up the tributaries of the Loire along the Vienne, the Indre and Cher Rivers with a variety of spectacular castles. Take time to visit the castle of Chenonceau at our destination. Mileage 112 km (69 mi)

**June 18 - Bicycle Loire River to Amboise and Orleans****DAY 5**

**Highlights** Amboise (Clos Luce), Blois, the Castle of Chambord, Orleans

**Meals** Breakfast

This is the heart of the famous Loire River with its castles dating to the opulent era of the 15th and 16th centuries. Amboise is where Leonardo da Vinci spent the last years of his life in the service of Frances I, King of France. Da Vinci came in 1516 and died in 1519. We'll bicycle past the castle in Blois and we'll stop at the castle at Chambord, perhaps the most famous castle in the Loire Valley. Take your time to visit this one on your own as it is spectacular. We'll be in Orleans tonight, site of the famous battle in which Joan of Arc defeated the British in 1429. Mileage 117 km (73 miles)

**June 19 - Bicycle Orleans to Sancerre along the Loire River****DAY 6**

**Highlights** St. Benoit-sur-Loire and the Aqueduct in Briare

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

We continue to follow the upper Loire River out of Orleans where we pass by the Abbey of St. Benoit-sur-Loire. Here the remains of St. Benedict, founder of the Benedictine order of monks, reside. Be sure to stop and see the 11th century Romanesque basilica. Our route continues on through Briare where a 19th century aqueduct built in part by Gustave Eiffel (of Eiffel Tower fame) carried the Loire lateral canal across the Loire River. We'll be in Sancerre this evening. Mileage 134 km (84 miles)

**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****June 20 - Sancerre to Nevers****DAY 7**

**Highlights** Late start day and afternoon in Nevers

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

Relax and enjoy a late start today as we have a short ride to Nevers where we'll spend the afternoon relaxing. This is our last day along the Loire River. Take time to visit Nevers, home of Look ski bindings, clipless pedals and carbon fiber bicycles. Mileage 58 km (38 miles)

**June 21 - Nevers to Autun****DAY 8**

**Highlights** Bicycle through the Morvan Regional Park to Autun

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

We leave the Loire River behind us today and head east into the Morvan regional park. Our destination is Autun, an important Roman town built by Ceasar Augustus in the first century BC. Because of its location on key trade routes Autun gave rise to the Dukes of Burgundy who dominated medieval trade in central France throughout the middle ages. Mileage 121 km (75 miles)

**June 22 - Autun to Beaune for lunch and on to Dole****DAY 9**

**Highlights** Wine town of Beaune and historic Dole

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

We've left the Loire River behind and will cross the Rhone-Saone river corridor today in Beaune, the famous wine town and medieval trading center. As we continue east to Dole we begin to follow the Doubs River with the Rhine-Rhone canal linking two of Europe's most important rivers. Dole is the birthplace of Louis Pasteur with a delightful medieval town center. Mileage 122 km (76 miles)

**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****June 23 - Dole to Montbéliard through Besançon****DAY 10**

**Highlights** Follow the Rhine-Rhone Canal

**Meals** Dinner

We follow the Doubs River and the Rhine-Rhone Canal today as we trace the northwestern edge of the Jura Mountains. This route takes us just north of the Alps and into the heart of central Europe. The Rhine-Rhone canal, which we follow all day, was opened in 1834 to link the North Sea with the Mediterranean. Mileage 146 km (91 miles)

**June 24 - Montbéliard to Basel****DAY 11**

**Highlights** The Rhine River and Basel, Switzerland

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

Our route today takes us upstream along the Rhine River into the heart of Basel, Switzerland, an international city where France, Switzerland and Germany come together. The Rhine River, which forms the border between Switzerland and Germany, is navigable from Basel all the way to the North Sea to its mouth in Rotterdam. Mileage 80 km (50 miles)

**June 25 - Rest day in Basel, Switzerland****DAY 12**

**Highlights** Enjoy Old Town Basel along the Rhine

**Meals** Breakfast

This is a rest day to enjoy Switzerland's second largest city. There are a wealth of museums here and plenty of fine sidewalk cafes for people watching. Enjoy exploring the 12th century cathedral and the famous market square in front of the 16th century Gothic town hall. No cycling today.

**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****June 26 - Basel to Donaueschingen****DAY 13**

**Highlights** Germany's Black Forest and the Headwaters of the Danube

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

We follow the Rhine River east from Basel today and then head north through a corner of the beautiful Black Forest. Our destination is the small village of Donaueschingen where a clear spring marks the beginning of the Danube River, Europe's longest. Mileage: 127 km (79.5 miles)

**June 27 - Bicycle Donaueschingen to Sigmaringen, Germany****DAY 14**

**Highlights** The Swabian Alps of Middle Europe

**Meals** Breakfast

The Danube has carved a sinuous valley through the Swabian Alps, affording great bicycling in the valley bottom or short, steep climbs for those who wish. We're pedaling through the heartland of the Jurassic limestones of Central Europe. Castle ruins line the bluffs along the Danube and Beuron Abbey, dating to the 11th century, is a major stop along our route. Enjoy wandering the streets of Sigmaringen this afternoon. Distance: about 103 km (64.5 miles).

**June 28 - Ride Sigmaringen to Ulm****DAY 15**

**Highlights** Historic Medieval Ulm

**Meals** Breakfast

The city of Ulm dates to the 9th century and is one of southern Germany's most important historic cities. The Ulm cathedral has the tallest steeple in the world so you should plan to hike to the top to view the terrain we just pedaled across! Explore the half-timber houses in the fisherman's neighborhood this afternoon. Ulm's modern university has made this city a leader in alternative energy production. Distance: 95 km (59.5 miles).

**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****June 29 - Pedal from Ulm to Ingolstadt in Bavaria****DAY 16**

**Highlights** Explore the Walled Town of Ingolstadt

**Meals** Breakfast

As we pedal today we are tracing the northern border of the Roman empire in Germany. Gunzburg, for example, still preserves the straight streets of a Roman military outpost dating to 70 BC. Ingolstadt, too, is an historic center with its 12th century Medieval wall well preserved. Distance: 151 km (94 miles).

**June 30 - Bicycle Ingolstadt to Regensburg****DAY 17**

**Highlights** Beautiful bicycle rides, Historic Regensburg

**Meals** Breakfast

Regensburg is, perhaps, the most historic city we bicycle through until we get to Vienna. It was a Roman outpost under Marcus Aurelius in 179 AD and marks both the northernmost point of the Roman Empire in Germany and the northernmost extent of the Danube. Its Medieval center is wonderfully preserved. From Regensburg we turn southeast to head towards Austria. Estimated distance: 89 km (55 miles).

**July 1 - Bicycle Regensburg to Deggendorf****DAY 18**

**Highlights** Walhalla Temple, and Benedictine Monasteries near Metten

**Meals** Breakfast

More Roman settlements mark our route today along with Benedictine monasteries, including one near Metten. Bibliophiles will want to stop for a tour of the library in the Abbey of St. Michael of Metten as among the 160,000 volumes in this historic collection is one of the earliest bibles printed in Germany and a 1493 "Nuremberg Chronicle," one of the earliest printed world history books (printed in German and Latin). Distance: 91 km (56 miles)



**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****July 2 - Bicycle from Bavaria to Austria along the Danube****DAY 19****Highlights** Benedictine Monastery, Passau and the Inn River**Meals** Breakfast

We pass another Benedictine Monastery as we leave Deggendorf this morning on our way to Passau, gateway to Austria. In Passau we see the Danube nearly double in size as it is joined by the Inn River, flowing out of Austria and Germany. Our destination today is Schloggen, on a meander of the Danube - a small town with a view. Estimated distance: 98 km (61 miles).

**July 3 - Schloggen to Grein en Donau, Austria****DAY 20****Highlights** The Famous Danube Valley of Austria**Meals** Breakfast

The Danube River and the valley it has formed shape the central transportation artery of Austria. Today and tomorrow we ride through the heartland of Austria. Castles perch above the river and after Linz we begin to see more agriculture on alluvial farmland washed out of the Alps far to the south. We'll suggest a detour to Mauthausen Concentration Camp, just 5 km off of our route. 121 km (75 miles)

**July 4 - Bicycle the Danube Valley to Duernstein****DAY 21****Highlights** Vineyards of the Danube; Abbey in Melk,**Meals** Breakfast

We continue through farmland, including vineyards on our way to Melk, where you'll want to stop and photograph the spectacular baroque Abbey of Melk. We'll be in Durnstein tonight. Distance: 78 km (45 miles)

**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****July 5 - Bicycle to Vienna along the Danube****DAY 22****Highlights** Vienna**Meals** Breakfast

We'll have an easy day, but full of bicycle traffic along the Danube today though not without bicycle traffic since this stretch of the Danube Bicycle Path is one of the busiest in the world. Estimated distance: 98 km (61 miles)

**July 6 - Rest day in Vienna****DAY 23****Highlights** Vienna, former capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire**Meals** Breakfast

This is a rest day in Vienna, one of the great imperial cities of Europe. You've earned a rest after nine cycling days. There is so much to see here we'll provide a briefing this morning, then you are free to wander and explore at your leisure. Be sure to explore the Hofburg imperial palace, home to the ruling Habsburg family for over six centuries. The rest of the day you can go on a quest for the best Viennese pastries!

**July 7 - Pedal Vienna, Austria to Bratislava, Slovakia****DAY 24****Highlights** Vineyards along the Danube and Slovakia**Meals** Breakfast

An easy ride today takes us to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. Czechoslovakia was formed from parts of the historic Austro-Hungarian empire in 1918 and came under Soviet domination in 1948. Not until 1989, with the fall of the Berlin Wall, was the country freed from the Soviets. Bratislava became capital of Slovakia when it separated from the Czech Republic during the "velvet divorce" in 1993. Estimated mileage: 83 km (51 miles)

**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****July 8 - Bratislava, Slovakia to Gyor, Hungary****DAY 25**

**Highlights** Bicycling along the Danube to Hungary

**Meals** Breakfast

While Gyor was a border town early in its history under the Romans, it was an imperial city under the Austro-Hungarian empire. It was also right in the way of barbarian invasions through the centuries. Much of the present city was built by Italian architects after the retreat of the Ottoman empire in the 17th century. Distance: 84 km (52 miles).

**July 9 - Gyor to Esztergom****DAY 26**

**Highlights** Esztergom

**Meals** Breakfast

The region we bicycle through was so much of a frontier region that the towns here were destroyed and rebuilt repeatedly. The bridge over the Danube in Esztergom, for example, was first built in 1895, destroyed by the Germans in 1944 and only rebuilt in 2001. Esztergom was the capital of Hungary for two and a half centuries until mid 13th century, was occupied by the Ottoman Turks for 150 years and enjoyed a period of rebirth with lots of baroque architecture after 1700. Estimated mileage: 105 km (65 miles)

**July 10 - Esztergom to Budapest****DAY 27**

**Highlights** Bicycling along the Danube into Budapest

**Meals** Breakfast, Dinner

We have a fairly short ride into Budapest today so you'll have most of the afternoon to explore and tomorrow is a rest day, as well. Our hotel is near the center of Pest so you'll be close to most of the sights. We have a special dinner tonight including a cruise on the Danube. Estimated distance: 85 km (53 miles)

**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****July 11 - Rest day in Budapest****DAY 28**

**Highlights** No packing today; enjoy Budapest

**Meals** Breakfast

Split in two by the Danube, Buda Castle sits on the west bank high above the river and Pest (say "Pesht") is on the lowland across the river. You'll want to visit the castle, the parliament, and just wander the banks of the Danube which so dominates this city. Enjoy a relaxing day and give your legs a rest!

**July 12 - Bicycle down the Danube to Kalocsa****DAY 29**

**Highlights** Cycling an island of the Danube

**Meals** Breakfast

The Danube divides into two channels south of Budapest, forming an island nearly 30 miles long. We bicycle this island to Rackeve, once a part of Serbia and site of a beautiful Greek orthodox church - historic evidence that we are nearly in the Balkans! We are in Kalocsa tonight, the paprika capital of Hungary. Estimated mileage: 143 km (87 miles).

**July 13 - Kalocsa to Mohacs****DAY 30**

**Highlights** Szekszard wines and Danube-Drava National Park

**Meals** Breakfast

We pedal through the lowlands north of the confluence of the Drava and Danube Rivers today, a marshy area near the border with Croatia. Szekszard is famous for its strong red wines. Mohacs, where we will be tonight, was the site of an important battle against the Turks in 1526 when the Ottomans defeated the Hungarian army and began a century and a half occupation of the region. Estimated mileage: 118 km (73 miles)

**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****July 14 - Mohacs, Hungary to Osijek, Croatia****DAY 31****Highlights** Crossing into Croatia**Meals** Breakfast

We cross the border into Croatia today, a lost corner of the plains of Hungary that have gathered Germans, Greeks, Serbs, and Croatians over the centuries. This is a small wine-producing region centered on Osijek, where we will spend the afternoon and evening. Osijek is situated on the Drava River. Distance: 78 km (48 miles).

**July 15 - Osijek, Croatia to Novi Sad, Serbia****DAY 32****Highlights** Bicycling into Serbia**Meals** Breakfast

We continue through this corner of Croatian Slavonia today on our way to Serbia, the core of Marshall Tito's Yugoslavia. Novi Sad is the second largest city in Serbia. Distance: 130 (81 miles)

**July 16 - Novi Sad to Belgrade, Serbia****DAY 33****Highlights** Belgrade, capital of Serbia and formerly the capital of Yugoslavia**Meals** Breakfast

A short ride today takes us to Belgrade. You'll have the afternoon to relax and explore this capital city, with its Kalemegdan Fortress overlooking the confluence of the Sava with the Danube, with its relaxed cafes and delicious pastry. Distance: 93 km (58 miles)

**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****July 17 - Belgrade to Golubac, Serbia****DAY 34**

**Highlights** Pedaling to the Iron Gates of the Danube

**Meals** Breakfast

We've traced the path of the Danube east, then south through central Hungary. As the river forms the boundary with Hungary and Serbia it turns eastward to push its way through the great mountain chain of the Transylvanian Alps. Here, the famous "Iron Gates" of the Danube formed over millions of years. We follow the river through Serbia today and stay the night right where the Danube enters the "Iron Gates." Distance: 141 km (87 miles)

**July 18 - Golubac, Serbia to Portile de Fier, Romania****DAY 35**

**Highlights** Bicycling the Iron Gates of the Danube

**Meals** Breakfast

The great backward "S" arch of the Carpathian Mountains (Transylvanian Alps) sweeps through the border lands of Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia forming the only real obstacle as the Danube flows toward the Black Sea. Here a great gorge - the "Iron Gates" has been carved through the mountains. We follow the river through this gorge to our destination across the river in Romania. Distance: 123 km (76 miles)

**July 19 - Portile de Fier to Calafat, Romania****DAY 36**

**Highlights** The Plains of Walachia, Romania

**Meals** Breakfast

We are out of the Iron Gates now and the majestic Transylvanian Alps tower above us far to the north. We pedal through densely settled farm lands in Romania on the north side of the Danube. Distance: 134 km (83 miles)

**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****July 20 - Calafat to Corabia, Romania****DAY 37****Highlights** Bicycling the plains of Wallachia, Romania**Meals** Breakfast

We continue through farmlands and small villages on this low-lying plain of the Danube River in Romania. Distance: 172 km (107 miles)

**July 21 - Corabia to Ruse, Bulgaria****DAY 38****Highlights** Bicycle lowland Romania**Meals** Breakfast

Our route today takes us to Giurgiu on the Romanian border and then across the Romanian-Bulgarian "Friendship Bridge", completed in 1954. We arrive in one of the most famous Bulgarian towns, where we will be for the next two nights. Distance: 137 km (85 miles).

**July 22 - Rest day in Ruse****DAY 39****Highlights** Ruse, 19th and 20th-century Neo-Baroque and Neo-Rococo architecture**Meals** Breakfast

We have a rest day in Ruse today; enjoy a walk around the center of town. Ruse is the most important river port of Bulgaria and is famous for its 19th to 20th century Neo-Baroque and Neo-Rococo architecture. Distance: no biking today

**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****July 23 - Ruse, Bulgaria to Calarasi, Romania****DAY 40**

**Highlights** Bicycling Downhill through Walachia

**Meals** Breakfast

We cross the "Friendship Bridge" again this morning and re-enter Romania (keep your passports out!) We'll be in Calarasi this evening. Distance: 158 km (98 miles).

**July 24 - Calarasi to Braila, Romania****DAY 41**

**Highlights** Bicycling through the countryside along the Danube

**Meals** Breakfast

We follow the river or different branches of the river through numerous farm villages to Braila. This is a long ride today but we'll start early and take our time as the ride is entirely flat. Distance: 170 km (106 miles).

**July 25 - Braila to Tulcea****DAY 42**

**Highlights** The Heart of the Danube Delta

**Meals** Breakfast

Our ride today begins with a ferry crossing of the Danube; we arrive in Tulcea (say "tool-chuh") this afternoon. Not only have we traveled nearly 3,000 kilometers but we have also traveled back in time nearly three thousand years as Tulcea was inhabited by the ancient Greeks who built their settlement on that of earlier settlers dating to the 7th century BC. At various times in history Tulcea was controlled by the Byzantines, the Genoese, and the Ottoman Turks. Distance: about 94 km (58 miles).



**Bicycle Tours in France: ExpeditionPlus! Bicycle Across Europe - Euro Velo 6 from the Atlantic****July 26 - Boat from Tulcea to Sulina****DAY 43**

**Highlights** Ferry along the Sulina Branch of the Danube

**Meals** Breakfast

We say goodbye to our bicycles this morning and catch a boat to complete our last leg down the Danube to Sulina. We'll take a swim in the Black Sea, visit some bird sanctuaries and return to Tulcea this evening.

**July 27 - Transfer to Bucharest****DAY 44**

**Highlights** Bucharest, Ceausescu's Palace

**Meals** Breakfast

We'll transfer to Bucharest today for a guided walk and our last evening together. Maybe you'll have some extra days to take a walk through this historic capital which has some Ottoman architecture but is also marked by the hand of the authoritarian dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu.

**Jul 28 - Tour ends today in Bucharest****DAY 45**

**Highlights** Tour ends

**Meals** Breakfast

Our journey ends this morning. Perhaps you are headed into the interior of Romania to explore Transylvania, the land of Dracula? Have a great trip!

**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](#).
- 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](#).
- 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.)

**ON TOUR**

- See "What's Included" on your tour Itinerary for tour-specific inclusions.

**BICYCLES**

For a full list of what's included with your bike see [Our Bikes page](#). 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 and daysheet (print or digital) that includes information on the day's activities, meals and ride. Daily information also includes Tour Leader phone numbers, hotel information and interesting historical and cultural information.

You'll receive a highlighted route map each day or a briefing with the GPS tracks. On Classic, Bike and Boat, Spotlight 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.

Before each tour we offer the opportunity to download GPS tracks of most tour routes to your personal GPS device or smartphone using RideWithGPS.com. We do not provide GPS tracks for tours in South America.

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

**Spotlight Tours:** Multi-nights stays, loop rides, choose from a selection of activities or enjoy hotel amenities during your free time.

- Tour Length: 6-7 days
- Hotels: 3-5 stars, typically 3-nights spent in one hotel and 2-nights in the other.
- Road Type: Pavement
- Multi-night Stays: Min 2 night stays
- Navigation: Chalk Arrows
- 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 (EXPEDITIONPLUS!)**

Our ExpeditionPlus! 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 your Hotel Itinerary, the Participant Roster, names and contact information of your Tour Leaders and other important departure information about 2 weeks prior to your tour start date.

### 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!