



Rugby World Cup Cycle Tour, France 2023 Cycle Bordeaux to Nantes

Day 1 8th Sept Depart Dublin for Bordeaux

Depart on morning flight from Dublin Airport to Bordeaux. On arrival coach transfer to your hotel in Libourne –approx. 30 km from Bordeaux. Evening welcome dinner in local restaurant.



Day 2 9th Sept Match Day – RWC 2023 Ireland v Europe 2 KO 15:30

Breakfast in Hotel. Morning free for leisurely cycle around Libourne located on the river. Match transfer at 12.00. Kick-off at 15.30 in Stade de Bordeaux. After Match return transfer to hotel.



Day 3 10th Sept Libourne to Cognac (125km)

Heading directly North from the city the cycle ventures into the Medoc region. The terrain is flat and easy going, but the region is special, being home to many wonderful and famous vineyards and Chateau. At the town of Lamarque is a short boat journey across the Garrone river to Blaye

with its UNESCO listed citadel. Riding inland there are many vineyards and chateau to appreciate along with pretty towns like Jonzac.

Cognac is famous all over the world thanks to its namesake drink, the grape-based spirit that has been made here for the past 300 years, founded by one of the famous Irish Wild Geese Richard Hennessy. Depending on time of arrival we plan to visit the distillery – optional extra.

Cognac is a lovely old town with narrow streets that are a mix of small medieval timber framed houses that once housed the workers and the grander mansions of the wealthy merchants.



Day 4 11th Sept

Cognac to La Rochelle

(105km)

The landscape changes as the vineyards give way to traditional farmland. The terrain is still easy, making our way to Rochefort and crossing the river on the unique Pont Transbordeur bridge. The town has a rich naval heritage with its dockyards being nicknamed the “Versailles of the sea” after Louis XIV determined to create the most beautiful dockyard in France here. We re-

join the coast at Châtelailon-Plage and follow it the last few kilometres to La Rochelle.



La Rochelle is a beautiful town. The old port town of narrow pedestrianised streets and timber framed houses, is guarded by the much-photographed towers at its entrance. The nearby Ile de Re is a great option for some extra mileage. Its flat terrain, numerous bike paths and pretty scenery makes the island a mecca for cycling.

Day 5

12th Sept

Île de Ré Circuit

(50-100km)

This wonderful Island is famous for its cycling. With the highest point at only 19m and 100km of cycle paths it is easy to understand why cycling is the best way to explore. Add to this the fresh seafood, vineyards, pretty harbours and alluring towns and villages, then there is much to enjoy on an easy ride. 50km will ensure you take in the charming capital of St Martin and 100km will get you to the furthest flung places including the nature reserve at Lilleau des Niges on the north-western end, with its salt pans, marshes, and thousands of birds.



Day 6

13th Sept

La Rochelle to Parthenay

(110km)



Soon after leaving La Rochelle, we encounter the Parc Naturel Régional du Marais Poitevin nicknamed the “Green Venice” due to the duckweed that colours the myriad of canals in spring and summer a vibrant green. The Park covers 800 square km of wetland that is home mainly to birds, boats, and bikes. There are some pretty villages in Arçais and Coulon. Parthenay is another attractive fortified medieval town of half-timbered houses.

Day 7

14th Sept

Parthenay to Angers

(110km)

Having started the cycle in the heart of the Chateau and wine region of Bordeaux, today sees the return to Chateau and vineyards, but this time in the Loire Valley.

Montreuil Bellay is a wonderful walled medieval town with a beautiful Chateau at its heart. Soon after the great river itself appears, we enjoy a scenic cycle along its banks to Angers. The city is dominated by its 13th century castle with 17 towers and housing the remarkable Apocalypse Tapestry. The town is a lively place with a big student population that supports a thriving café culture.



Day 8

15th Sept

Angers to Ancenis

(70km)

The last day on the bike and lovely a way to finish following the mighty Loire River. The vineyards are very much still evident, yielding tasty and refreshing Muscadet. Ancenis is built on an island on the Loire River and was historically a busy river port, reflected in its warehouses and quays. The town centre is dominated by a Chateau and plenty of lovely old manor houses, some with cast iron balconies.

FAREWELL Dinner tonight included



Day 9 16th Sept Match Day – RWC 2023 Ireland v Asia Pacific 1 KO 21:00

After breakfast, transfer to Nantes at 11.00. Free Day to explore Nantes – Optional extra City Tour Including Lunch. Match kick-off at 21:00 in Stade de la Beaujoire. After Match return transfer to hotel.



Day 10 17th Sept Tour Ends Return Flight

After breakfast, transfer to Nantes Airport for the flight home.

Includes:

- Return Flight Dublin to Bordeaux and Nantes to Dublin
- Return Transport of Bikes to France
- Airport transfers
- 9 x Night B&B Accommodation on a twin sharing basis in minimum of 3* hotels
- Official category 4 Match tickets to both matches
- 7 x Evening Meals (on cycling days and a Farewell Dinner)
- Snacks and water on route
- Luggage transfers between hotels
- Support Vehicle
- Cycling Guide
- Fully Researched Routes for the 6 days cycling
- Services of Tour Operator Representative (Killester Travel)

