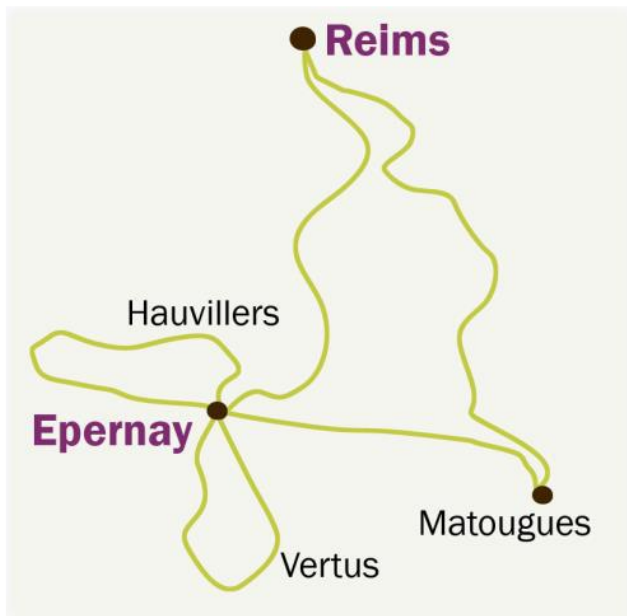


Cycling Europe

FRANCE

CHAMPAGNE DISCOVERY 2020

Self-Guided Cycle Tour, 7days/6 nights – 147kms



Reims is only a 46 minute train ride from Paris: At the heart of the Champagne area, marked by French history, arts and culture, you will meet men and women, happy to share their passion, their love of their region and their knowledge. Exploring the Champagne region by bicycle is a journey rich in diversity. The whole region is marked by the omnipresence of the vineyards. Enjoy the shimmering countryside during your cycling tour between the Marne Valley and the Montagne de Reims Natural Park. The Champagne region also has a fabulous religious heritage, the jewel of which is the Gothic Cathedral of Reims.

Welcome to Champagne!

GRADE:

Moderate, with some hilly terrain where climbs cannot be avoided. You need to be used to regular cycling, and cycle between 25 and 54 km per day without difficulty. Most days are short 12 - 35 km, so you have plenty of time to visit vineyards and taste the world renowned Champagne.

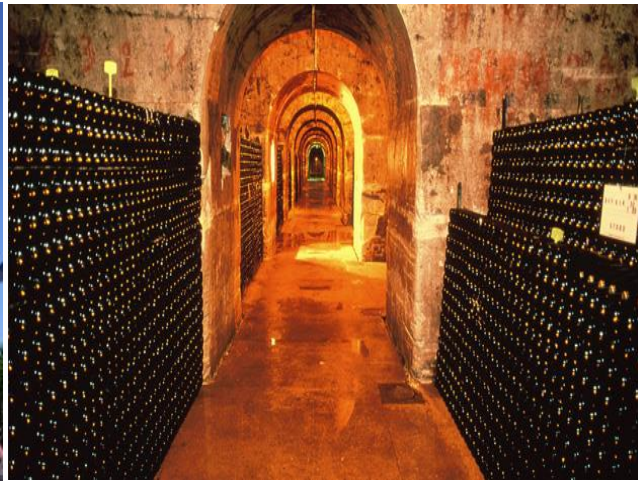
ITINERARY:

Day 1: Arrival in Reims

Make your own way to your hotel in Reims in the afternoon. If you plan to arrive early, you will have time to explore the city of Reims, or book Champagne house tastings close by. The hotel reception will give you your maps, road-books & tourist information.

Day 2: Reims - Matougues - 49km

After breakfast, cycle via Tinquieux, through typical villages of the 'Montagne de Reims' vineyard region: Mailly Champagne, Verzenay, Bouzy arrive for your overnight stay in Matougues.



Day 3: Matougues – Epernay- 29km

After breakfast, there is a short and easy ride to Epernay, alongside the Marne canal. You will have time in the afternoon to visit some of the most famous cellars in Epernay. (It is necessary to book to visit Champagne houses for tastings, see “optional tastings listed below.

Day 4: Epernay – Loop ride in Marne Valley – 36 km

Wend your way between vines and hillsides; the Champagne Trail in Marne Valley will introduce you to the rich viticultural heritage. The picturesque trail snakes through the vines leading to Hautvillers, a charming village known for its Benedictine abbey. Head to Cumières and stop for a lunch break, maybe in a restaurant sculpted in chalk. On the way to Venteuil, you can enjoy a view of Château de Boursault. The valley trail will take you through villages between vines, fields and forests all the way to Reuil. Return to Epernay on the other side of the Marne.

Day 5 Epernay – Epernay Loop ride in Cote de Blancs ~30km

Today you will visit the vineyards of The Côte des Blancs which is the home of the Chardonnay grape. Following the Champagne Tourist Trail, descend towards Pierry – where you can visit its 18th century château, storeroom and cellars - and also Chavot-Courcourt church (12th c.), a solitary island of stone in an ocean of vines. After Cuis and its fine Romanesque church, the trail will take you close to cliffs to reach Cramant and its over-sized bottle (8.50 metres). Not far from there visit the small village of Avize decorated in frescoes (of which many can be found in Champagne). Return to Epernay in the afternoon.



Day 6: Epernay – Reims ~ 36 km

After breakfast discover the national forest of Hautvillers by passing through Avenay Val d'Or, Germaine. Return to Reims via Ludes.

Day 7: Tour ends in Reims

Arrangements end after breakfast. You can extend your stay in Reims, and maybe you would like to book additional champagne house visit, or a private vineyard tour with lunch and Champagne tasting to complete your experience.

2020 SCHEDULE

Start any day except Friday or Sunday

2020 COST PER PERSON IN EURO

Share twin / double room	€978
Single room supplement*	€ 410
Dinner Supplement (6 dinners)	€ 270 (Recommended)
Rental Bike	€ 120
Electric Bike	€ 240

Extra nights Reims - share twin/double from €100

Extra nights Epernay-share twin/double from € 89

Single room- cost on request

***Solo travellers:** there will be a surcharge for luggage transportation - price on request

2020 COST INCLUDES

- 6 nights bed & breakfast accommodation in 3* and 4* hotels and charming B&Bs, all rooms have private bathroom facilities.
- Luggage transfers
- Detailed cycling notes, route maps and tourist information (1 pack per room).
- Local contact in case of difficulties.

2020 COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Lunches, dinners (if B&B), beverages, extras, bar expenses
- Visits or activities suggested on the tour

OPTIONAL CHAMPAGNE HOUSE TOURS AND TASTINGS

Please note: It is necessary to book to visit Champagne houses for tastings.

REIMS: All the Champagne houses with "crayeres" - former Roman chalk-pits, are situated a little bit south of the city center of Reims. All of them are within 20-25min. walk from the hotel, and about 10-15min bicycle ride. We will provide detailed maps on how to get to them from the city center.

- **Champagne Ruinart:** This one is the most prestigious and beautiful. Tours Tue - Sat. Cost is approx €70 per person – 2 hours
- **Champagne Vranken Pommery** is very nice as well. Approx. €30 per person for 60min. visit
- **Champagne Taittinger:** Approx €33 per person (Tour plus 2 glass tasting) - 1 hour visit
- **Wafflard-Briet Champagne private tour incl. lunch & tasting (4-4.5 hrs) From approx. €120 per person**

This tour has been highly recommended by our clients. It is a personal tour to visit a small champagne house, owned by a local family. It is not large and fancy... but is unique experience to really see what champagne is all about. Your English speaking guide will pick you up from your hotel in Reims. The tour includes: Croissants and Champagne on arrival; a vineyard visit; discussion about the Champagne process; a typical French light lunch (cold meats, cheese, quiche); tasting 2 champagnes; a half bottle of WB Champagne hand labeled by you - one bottle per person. As this includes lunch, we could book this for your "Day 1", or "Day 7". (Subject to availability of guide).

EPERNAY CHAMPAGNE TASTINGS:

- **Champagne Moët et Chandon** (a winding maze of cellars almost 30 km long – very nice visit): approx. €25 - € 32 (1 or 2 tastings) per person for the Traditional Tour - 1.15 hours.
- **Champagne Mercier:** approx. €28 per person – Self Guided Audio Tour by Train with tasting of three champagnes - 1.30 hours
- **Champagne de Castellane:** approx. €30 per person

Tasting costs are approximate only and subject to availability.



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