



What to Expect on an Expedition Tour - Europe 2019

Even though this is a new route, it is our 8th annual European tour. You are in for a treat as your journey provides not just great scenery and tourist highlights but the experiences of traditional local cultures, food, drink and sharing special times with other like-minded cyclists. The ride has been researched and planned intensively and is based on the winning formula of our previous European tours, however there is still an exciting element of 'expedition' and therefore travelling on this tour requires a degree of flexibility and understanding. Approach these tours with an open mind and positive outlook as we do, and you will enjoy the experience of cycling some of the most wonderful parts of Europe.

These European 'expedition' rides are different to our AllTrails rides in Australia. Due to the unique nature of these trips and in order to set clear expectations please review our list of some of the differences between our European tours and AllTrails Australian tours below and let us know if you have any questions at all.

DISTANCE – Daily distances will often be longer than some of our Australian rides. Some European tours also feature mountainous terrain. Be sure to check the tour map and itinerary to make sure that you are comfortable with the distances and terrain of this ride. Your aim in training should be to cycle at an average speed of 20-25kph on flat terrain, in which case we expect that you will finish your day's ride between 1-4pm.

LODGING – Most hotels have been inspected and used on previous tours by our local guides, however there may be some that have not been inspected other than online investigations. Hotels are generally of a good 3-4 star standard however can be of varying quality depending on the location and what's available in the region. While creature comforts such as air-conditioning are sought, and most often found, we cannot guarantee this on every night of the tour as air-conditioning is not the norm in many parts of Europe.

ROUTES / ROAD CONDITIONS – We have planned this route on bitumen roads and sometimes bike paths however road conditions cannot be guaranteed. Over the length of the tour you will almost surely hit some construction, and possibly some short gravel or dirt roads along the journey. Though we have local guides, they may or may not have ridden the route in advance on a bike. There may be occasions where tour leaders will need to adjust the day's route on the fly.

VAN SUPPORT – Van support will be less than on our Australian rides. The crew will be often stopped at the rest places helping riders with water, snacks, bananas or information. You will usually see a support vehicle 2-4 times a day, but not at pre-specified times so you should plan to be self-sufficient to a certain degree. This also gives cyclists more flexibility to 'go at their own pace' compared to our Australian rides. If you are far ahead of other cyclists in the group you may not see the van at all. If you should need a ride, know that you may have to wait until after the van has arrived at the hotel, deposited the luggage and doubles back for you. Phone numbers for Tour Leaders will be provided if you get stuck or need assistance.

FOOD & MEALS - We will not have set times for snack & lunch stops as we generally do in Australia. Cafes and restaurants in Europe often cannot handle a group all arriving at once. We will give you recommendations on where to stop for lunch & snacks. Dinners together may be buffet style to make meals quicker and will not include alcoholic drinks. While we do our best to accommodate dietary preferences know that in some areas variety will be limited or unavailable. You may wish to bring supplemental food/snacks from home.

DAILY DEPARTURE TIME - To allow for our navigational chalk arrows to be marked ahead of the cyclists, and because of hotel limitations on how early breakfast is served, leaving before 8:00 am or 8:30 am is usually not possible. If you choose to skip breakfast and cycle ahead without arrows you will be on your own to navigate, and you will not see the support van unless the rest of the group catches up to you. We advise against starting your cycling day early.