

AMR Ziggurat London To Compiègne



Duration: 5 days

We ride through the leafy lanes of southeast England before crossing the Channel and riding through northern France, tracing some of the region's most significant World War One & World War Two battle sites touring the national Allied memorials to the French, Canadian, Australian, Indian and British fallen. The towns of Arras and Saint Quinten also featured heavily during this period but now provide us with beautiful town squares to spend the evening. Our route finishes in the Glade of the Armistice, a fitting ending to a poignant tour.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Coulsdon – Dover – Dunkirk

An early start sees us pass through the outskirts of London onto quieter roads. It is not long before we are among the rolling fields and villages of rural Kent, passing orchards and traditional oast houses where hops are stored. We follow country roads across the hills of the North Downs to Dover and the coast. Taking the ferry to Dunkirk, we have dinner on board and cycle the short distance to our hotel. Night hotel.

(Dinner on ferry not included)

Cycle approx. 136km (85 miles)

Day 2: Dunkirk – Arras

After a hearty breakfast we head south east from Dunkirk to Ypres and Menin Gate. After stopping and reflecting on the significance of the memorial to the missing soldiers of the Commonwealth, we continue our journey south through the picturesque flat landscapes of Belgium crossing back into France at Armentières. Our journey this afternoon holds a huge amount of World War One history, as we visit memorials including those dedicated to

Indian soldiers at Neuve Chapelle; the world's largest French military cemetery of Notre Dame de Lorette, and the Vimy Ridge Memorial dedicated to the memory of Canadian Expeditionary Force members on the outskirts of Arras. By the end of First World War, Arras was so heavily damaged that three quarters had to be rebuilt. The reconstruction was extremely costly, yet it proved to be a success and allowed the city to expand and the town centre lays testament to the quality of work undertaken. Night hotel.

Cycle approx. 14km (89 miles)

Day 3: Arras – Saint Quentin

Today's route takes us south, along country roads which roll through farmland and woodland. Passing through picturesque hamlets and small towns, it's hard to picture this peaceful countryside scene was once dominated by the First World War. This morning's first stop is at Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, the main memorial to the lost British soldiers who gave their lives during the battles of the Somme between 1916 and 1918. We continue to the Somme, crossing it at Corbie, before stopping to visit the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux where we can view an incredible panoramic of the region of the Somme. We then follow the Somme east to our overnight stop in Saint Quentin. Night hotel.

Cycle approx. 132km (82 miles)

Day 4: Saint Quentin – Compiègne

Our final days riding take us south out of Saint Quentin. We follow the Oise River for most of the morning, which makes for some scenic and flat riding – a welcome relief from 3 full days in the saddle. We have lunch next to Tracy-le-Mont Cemetery before heading to the Glade of the Armistice on the outskirts of Compiègne. The memorial was built at the location where the Germans signed the Armistice of 11 November 1918 that ended World War One. During World War Two, Adolf Hitler chose the same spot for the French and Germans to sign the Armistice of 22 June 1940. Today, the Glade of the Armistice contains a statue of Marshal Ferdinand Foch, the World War I French military leader and Allied supreme commander, along with the reconstructed Alsace-Lorraine Memorial, depicting a German Eagle impaled by a sword. From the Glade it's a short ride into Compiègne where we finish this memorable tour.

Cycle approx. 113km (70 miles)

Day 5: Compiègne – Lille – London

We have a morning transfer to Lille to catch the Eurostar to St Pancras.

(Lunch & Dinner not included)

GRADE | ORANGE

Trips are graded Yellow, Orange or Red, in increasing level of challenge. This trip lies within the **ORANGE** range.



The grade is determined by factors such as terrain, distance, climate, altitude, etc. Each colour grade has a **spectrum** which reflects the difficulty of these factors; trip duration, accommodation and living conditions (see icon) are also taken into account.

[Trip grading explained](#)



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Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

Please note: This document was downloaded on 29 Mar 2024, and the challenge is subject to change.