

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 Thiépval 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

All our trips are designed to provide a challenge. 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 are also taken into account. Some sections will feel more challenging than others, but the grade reflects the overall trip. Unusual weather conditions can also have a significant impact.

The Accommodation icon indicates the living conditions while trekking/cycling. While there are usually several factors that present a challenge, the Challenge icon indicates the trip's most challenging element, for most people.

[Trip grading explained](#)

CHALLENGE INFORMATION

DETAILED INFORMATION

Leaders & Trip Support

Your trip will be led by experienced Discover Adventure crew - selected for their knowledge and experience, friendliness and approachability, sense of humour and ability to safely and effectively deal with any situation that arises; they are also trained in first aid. The crew will have mobile phones and/or radios where appropriate, medical kit and other safety apparatus where necessary.

The number of crew and support vehicles looking after you will depend on the final size of your group, but the team will be looking after every aspect of your trip whether that's transporting your luggage, ensuring your route is clear, making you lunch and sorting out any mechanical problems. Support vehicles are with the group all of the time, and carry all luggage and spares.

Trip Safety

Your safety, and that of the rest of the group, is our highest priority. Our trips are designed and planned with safety in mind. Your crew will be equipped with communication devices (eg phones, radios and/or emergency satellite phones), medical kit and other safety apparatus appropriate to the destination. Our leaders always have access to our 24-hour emergency UK back-up. They are responsible for safety on the trip, and will make any changes to the itinerary they deem necessary, should local conditions dictate. Pre-trip administration - such as medical questionnaires and travel insurance as appropriate - is all done with your safety in mind.

Accommodation

Accommodation is usually in well-located, comfortable 2-3* hotel(s); standards are generally very good though there may be some variation.

Roomshare Arrangements

Our trips are sold on a shared accommodation basis, usually twin-share, in hotels convenient to our route.

You can tell us if you are travelling with someone else on the trip when you book or within your passenger portal, and we will do all we can to accommodate this request. It is important that both people complete the room share request on their bookings. For customers booking and travelling together, including same-sex couples, a double bed can be requested if available.

If you're not familiar with anyone in the group, rest assured, we always pair you with someone of the same gender (as per the information you provided when booking, or passport markers), and a similar age where possible. We're actively working to improve our system's gender restrictions to be more inclusive, and we've recently made significant strides in this area. If you identify differently from the gender marker on your passport and would like to discuss this before booking, please feel free to reach out to us.

Food & Dietary Requirements

We like to support local businesses and will source food locally wherever we can. Lunches will be a mix of restaurants along the route or supplies will be purchased from local shops; dinners are usually eaten at the hotel. For larger sized groups we may opt to cater the lunches ourselves with a buffet style provision. Being vegetarian or having other dietary requirements is not usually a problem provided you let us know well in advance. Having said that, despite working very hard with the hotels, it doesn't always translate into what we'd like for you. If this is the case on your trip, please chat to the crew at the time and they will do their best to find a solution. If you know there are plenty of foods you cannot eat you may wish to bring extra snacks from home so you can top up your energy supply.

Detailed information

Your website talks about Open and Bespoke Challenges, what is the difference?

Open Challenges are trips featured in our Brochure, they are made up of groups of people fundraising for different charities but all with one thing in common – pushing limits and doing something worthwhile. These types of trips offer you three different payment methods – fundraising, self payment but donate all funds raised to charity, and self payment requiring no fundraising. Our Bespoke Challenges are those that we have been invited by a particular charity to organise for a group of their fundraisers.

PREPARING FOR THE CHALLENGE

Challenge Grading

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[Trip grading explained](#)

Clothing & Kit

We plan our trips around the optimal weather conditions, but could still be exposed to bad weather at any time. It is vital you are prepared for all conditions. We provide you with a detailed packing kit-list on registration, with plenty of information, and we are always available if you need advice.

Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance is compulsory on all of our challenges outside of the UK; we strongly suggest that you arrange insurance cover as soon as your booking with us is confirmed, or as soon as you're able to purchase some, and at least 8 months prior to travel. Should you need to cancel prior to departure, you will need insurance to cover the costs involved (registration fee and any trip costs depending on cancellation date).

We all hope never to need it, and thankfully most of the time we don't, but on those rare occasions when you do, you want it to cover you as best it can. Whilst it's a fairly boring admin task relating to your trip of a lifetime, it is really important you ensure that you have adequate cover for the type of challenge you are taking part in as well as medical emergencies, evacuation and repatriation, so make sure you're happy with the level of cover. There are lots of suppliers out there, with a wide range in levels of cover; generally speaking, you get what you pay for! Get and pay for the right level of cover and then you can go on your adventure not having to worry about the what-if's. For more details click [here](#).

Once your travel insurance is arranged, just remember to let us know the policy number and 24-hr medical emergency phone number provided by your insurers.



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 12 Jul 2025, and the challenge is subject to change.