



BIG BATTLEFIELD BIKE RIDE

UK, FRANCE • CYCLE • YELLOW 2

ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

For over a decade, our Big Battlefield Bike Ride has used sheer pedal-power to raise funds in support of wounded, injured and sick Veterans, Service Personnel and their families.

Commemorating 80 years since the Dunkirk evacuation in 2020, this challenge of a lifetime will allow you to pay your respects to the Heroes of yesterday, whilst cycling alongside our Heroes of today.

Your cycling route will take you to several historic battle sites – from the place of the failed evacuation at Dieppe to Ypres, which was a backdrop for some of the biggest battles during World War I. Retracing the steps of the brave souls who fought to keep us safe, you will learn about their poignant history, with stories told by some of the UK's finest historians.

Cycling around 70 miles a day alongside fellow fundraisers, you'll experience a true sense of camaraderie whilst immersing yourself in history that has been re-told in many a classic war film.

What better way to honour the incredible commitment, dedication and bravery of our Armed Forces, both past and present, than by joining Veterans from our own Band of Brothers on this iconic bike ride.

BIG BATTLEFIELD BIKE RIDE 2020 • 7 DAYS

Big Battlefield Bike Ride (BBBR) is an iconic cycling challenge that combines military history, camaraderie and pedal power in an event like no other! In 2020 we will be retracing the path of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and its retreat to Dunkirk. Join us and pay your respects to the Heroes of the past whilst supporting our Heroes of today.

Day 1: Portsmouth to Caen

Meet your fellow fundraisers at Portsmouth for a welcome dinner before boarding the ferry for an overnight journey to Caen.

Day 2: Caen – Étretat – Dieppe

We arrive in port early morning where we will hop on the coach to Étretat where your ride of a lifetime will begin! Led by our team of Veterans, the challenge will commence as you cycle to Dieppe, via St Valery to remember the failed evacuations and surrender.

Day 3: Dieppe – Le Touquet

Explore the mind boggling logistics of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and experience a glimpse of the cost of war as you stop at Etaples cemetery, the final resting place for 11,500 soldiers from World Wars I and II.

Day 4: Le Touquet - B  thune

Today you'll pedal inland through deepest rural France and back in time to World War I with a visit to Montreuil. Here, Field Marshal Haig commanded the BEF from 1916 until the end of the war.

Day 5: B  thune - Ypres

Cycle across the Ypres Salient, the scene of many of the biggest battles in World War I, with a Last Post ceremony at Menin Gate and a visit to the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Tyne Cot.

Day 6: Ypres to Dunkirk

The final leg will be down the corridor, held open with such bravery, which allowed the BEF to withdraw to the coast for operation DYNAMO. You will finish beachside, before enjoying a well-earned meal to mark the end of the ride.

Day 7: Calais to London

Travel back by Eurostar to London, and wave farewell (for now) to new found friends.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All transport from Portsmouth, right back to London (by ferry and Eurostar)
- All meals except where specified and accommodation on a twin share basis
- Discover Adventure leaders, mechanics and drivers
- Full vehicle support throughout the trip
- Maps and route information

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- Any meals specified 'not included' in the itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Bicycle
- Cycle helmet (compulsory) and water bottles
- Optional Discover Adventure bike courier return service
- Personal spending money, souvenirs and drinks
- Any applicable surcharges as per Terms and Conditions

CHALLENGE INFORMATION

DETAILED INFORMATION

Roomshare Arrangements

Accommodation is usually on a twin-share basis in hotels convenient to our route. Please tell us if you know somebody else on the trip that you would like to share with and we will try our best to accommodate your request. If you don't know anyone else in the group don't worry, we always pair you up with someone of the same gender, and a similar age where possible. We do not charge a single supplement if you are a solo traveller in a shared room.

There may be a limited number of single rooms subject to request, on a first-come first-served basis, after you have booked. Extra charges will apply.

Accommodation

We usually stay in hotels or lodges of a 2-3* standard or equivalent. Standards may vary between the hotels but they are generally comfortable and convenient for our route. Hotels are often on the outskirts of towns to minimise unnecessary extra mileage and avoid traffic.

Food & Dietary Requirements

We like to support local businesses and will source food locally. Lunches will be in restaurants along the route and dinners are usually eaten at the hotel. Do make sure you eat enough to give you the energy for your exertions. Being vegetarian or having other dietary requirements is not usually a problem provided you let us know well in advance. 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.

Leaders & Trip Support

Your trip will be led by experienced Discover Adventure leaders and support crew, including mechanics. Our leaders are 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 well-marked, 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.

PREPARING FOR THE CHALLENGE

Clothing

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, as well as details on useful discounts you are entitled to as a Discover Adventure customer. We are always available if you need advice.

Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance is compulsory on our challenges; we strongly suggest that you arrange insurance cover as soon as your booking with us is confirmed. Should you need to cancel on medical grounds, you will need insurance to cover the costs involved (registration fee and any trip costs depending on cancellation date).

You should also ensure that you have adequate cover for the type of challenge you are taking part in as well as medical emergencies, evacuation and repatriation.

You can obtain a quote with Insure to Travel from our website [here](#), or you may choose to take out your own travel insurance, just remember to let us know the policy number and emergency phone number!

For more information about travel insurance, please click [here](#).

Passport & Visa / Vaccinations

Entry requirements vary depending on your destination and nationality. It is your responsibility to ensure your passport is valid, and any visas are obtained in good time. Check the [FCO's advice](#) on entry requirements for your destination to be sure. To find out if you need a visa you can check your requirements using our partner, Visa Machine, website [here](#); please ensure you allow plenty of time.

Your routine UK schedule of vaccinations should be up-to-date (especially tetanus). We recommend you check [Fit For Travel](#) for further details. You should always check with a GP or travel clinic for up-to-date travel health advice as it does change.

GRADE | YELLOW

Trips are graded Yellow, Orange or Red, in increasing level of challenge. This trip lies within the **YELLOW** 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 16 Jul 2019, and the challenge is subject to change.