



Trip description

Cycling from the Somme Bay to the Opal Coast along the Vélomaritime

Cycle along the Opal Coast and explore France's Northern beaches from the Somme Bay to Le Touquet, Boulogne-sur-Mer and Dunkirk. Climb up Capes Blanc-Nez & Gris-Nez via the Vélomaritime.



Type of stay
itinerant trip



Destination	France
Location	Baie de Somme
Duration	8 days
Difficulty Level	Moderate
Validity	April to October
Minimum age	14 years-old
Reference	OPA0801

Itinerary



© Le Vélo voyageur

The Opal Coast's sandy beaches are opening up to you during this 8-day trip cycling on the Vélomaritime route. Nature lovers will be spoiled all along the road, starting from the Somme Bay and ending on Dunkirk's coastline.

Cycling mostly on a very well maintained bike path, you will stroll along Bercq-sur-Mer's dunes before reaching Le Touquet's pine forests. Small country roads will slowly lead you up grassy plains and sloping hinterlands overlooking the Opal Coast. Enjoy the amazing lookouts from Capes Gris-Nez and Blanc-Nez, offering stunning views over the British cliffs. Then drop off your bikes in Dunkirk and take the time to learn more about the city's incredible History.

Most importantly, don't forget to taste each day's specialty: gâteau battu picard (Picardy "beaten" cake), carbonade flamande (Flemish stew), galette dunkerquoise (Dunkirk's biscuit), and obviously local craft beers !

Day 1

Arrival in Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme

Ideally located onto a limestone promontary facing the Somme Bay, you will be amazed by the medieval city of Saint-Valéry with its lively streets and its colourful fishermen's houses. Take the time to settle down into your hotel before strolling along the wharfs.

Day 2

Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme - Fort-Mahon

Bike
39km

Altitude
±21m

Slowly start off the day by putting your bikes into a vintage steam train or cycle up to Le Crotoy to make the most of the view over the Somme Bay. If you are lucky enough to arrive at low tide, you will be able to wave at France's biggest seal colony !

Keep going on small country roads up to the Marquenterre's park (Nature reserve) where we advise you to stop. Then follow the bike path surrounded by pine trees before reaching Fort-Mahon's beach.

Day 3

Fort-Mahon - Le Touquet

Bike
41km

Altitude
±24m

Leave Fort-Mahon and follow the Vélomaritime route accross fields to reach Berck-sur-Mer. Park your bikes on the embankment and enjoy a walk on its long sandy beaches. You may meet up with the Authie Bay's seal colony lying down on the sandbank.

The road goes further inland and takes you through Stella-Plage's vintage neighbourhood with its charming 70's-looking houses. You will then arrive in the very chic Le Touquet, surrounded by pine trees and Belle Epoque villas.

Day 4

Le Touquet - Boulogne-sur-Mer

Bike
43km

Altitude
±374m

Today you cycle along Le Touquet's quiet and leafy paths to reach the heart of the Opal Coast. Etaple's small country roads will give you the opportunity to warm your legs up and to fully test your bikes before going back down for a swim in Sainte-Cécile.

The Vélomaritime will then lead you right to the bottom of Château d'Hardelot, wonderful French-British castle nestled in the heart of the forest.

The cycling path slowly climbs back up to the plains, offering a breathtaking view over the coastline and Boulogne-sur-Mer's belfry. One last effort and you will arrive in front of the city's walls to enjoy a well-deserved beer!

Day 5

Boulogne-sur-Mer - Wissant

Bike
31km

Altitude
±285m

With today's stage, you will make the most of the Opal Coast's seaside towns. No sooner have you left Boulogne-sur-Mer than you will start spotting Wimereux's Belle Epoque villas from the cliffs. Take a break on the beach before jumping back on your bike to reach Ambleteuse and its Vauban's fortress.

You will have one more opportunity for a swim in Audresselles before starting your climb

up Cape Gris-Nez. Your efforts will be rewarded by the stunning view over the British cliffs, only 35 km away from France.

Make the most of the view while cycling down country roads to the lovely seaside town of Wissant, ideally located between the two capes.

Day 6

Bike
58km

Altitude
 **±258m**

Leaving Wissant, you will have two options to reach Cape Blanc-Nez : we advise you to follow the road to Escalles where you will be able to park your bikes before hiking up the cape. The most audacious ones can, if they wish to, take the winding road to the top. (Be careful with traffic during high peak season).

After this last effort, you will leave your legs in peace for the rest of the trip. Easily bike through Calais thanks to its well organised bike paths. Don't forget to stop by the famous statue of "Les Bourgeois de Calais" when cycling past the Town Hall.

In case you were missing the beach, you will meet up with it again when arriving at le Platier d'Oye. This nature reserve is worth a stop for its incredible fauna and flora.

You will then only need to cycle down the river Aa to reach the city of Gravelines, designed by Vauban.

Day 7

Gravelines - Dunkerque

Bike
29km

Altitude
 **±5m**

You are only a few pedal strokes away from Dunkirk, thanks to this short stage through parks and residential neighbourhoods.

Whether you are a History buff, a food connoisseur, or an ocean lover, you will be seduced by the city of Jean Bart, a notorious 17th-century privateer. In this town made for cycling, you will easily reach the beach, sadly famous for its Operation Dynamo during the Second World War. Don't forget to visit the maritime museum before ending the day in a local brewhouse.

Malo-les-Bains loop

Bike
9km

Altitude
 **±17m**

If you are in the mood for one more adventure, jump back on your bike to follow the locals for a stroll along Malo-les-Bains's beach. Reward yourself with a waffle while admiring Belle Epoque's villas.

Day 8

Departure from Dunkirk

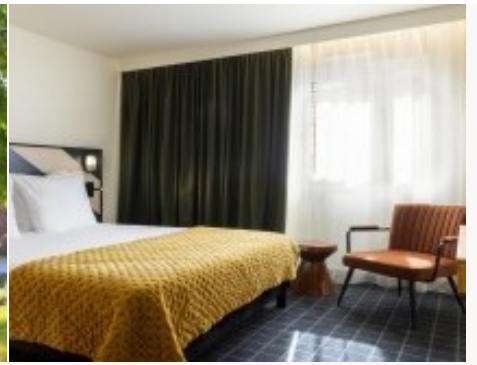
This is the end of your journey. However, there is still plenty to do and see in Dunkirk. Extend your stay and take the time to explore the warfs, walk along the canals or visit the Frac, regional contemporary museum.

Don't forget to get your post work-out meal after all these miles and try a waterzoi (chicken soup) or a pot jevleesch (literally "potted" meat) before leaving !

Accommodation

Category B

You will be staying in **/** hotels or guest houses. Breakfast is included.



* Example of the type of accommodation

Practical information

To get to the departure point:

By plane: flight to Paris.

By train: the closest train station is Noyelles-sur-Mer. The easiest way to reach your accommodation in Saint-Valéry from the station is to book a taxi. You will find taxi companies' contact details in your travel documents.

From Paris station (Gare du Nord), take a direct Intercités train to Noyelles-sur-Mer (2h02) or an Intercités train to Amiens (1h) then a regional train (TER) from Amiens to Noyelles-sur-Mer (40 min).

Please note that you can transit through a city other than Amiens if you book a non direct train from Paris (Abbeville or Boulogne-Ville are also possible), depending on the day and time.

The duration of your journey will vary according to the chosen route. You can plan your trip on : [snCF-connect](#) or [thetrainline](#)

Parking:

If you choose to drive, you can park your car for free for the duration of your stay at Noyelle-sur-Mer's train station car park.

Meeting time:

Please communicate your approximate time of arrival and departure when you fill out the online booking form.

Price description

Catégorie B

Double room fare

2-3 adults €1299/pers

4-5 adults €1099/pers

6 adults and more €1019/pers

7 nights in 2/3* hotels or guest houses

7 breakfasts

6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (saddle bags, locks, toolkit)

pick-up and drop-off of your bike at your hotel or bike rental company

luggage transport

access to our mobile app including the roadbook and the practical and tourist information

7/7 hotline

Half-board supplement : 3 dinners €110/pers

Single room supplement €85/nuit

High peak season supplement* €50/pers

Solo traveler - logistics supplement €390

Extra night in Saint-Valéry-sur-Somme	€110/pers
Extra night in Dunkirk	€85/pers

Options

E-bike or gravel bike supplement (6 days)	€60/pers
Discount if you bring your own bike	-€80/pers

* High peak season from 27 April to 20 October

The package doesn't include:

journey to the tour location
drinks
meals which are not included
entrance fee to sites
insurances (optional)

Children discount (in the same room as 2 full rate participants):

0-4 year : -70%
5-11 year : -50%
12-17 year : -30%

For more information or booking : www.levelovoyageur.com
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