Cycling from London to Paris is one of the great cycle experiences in Europe. Passing through picturesque Kent countryside, we cross the Channel and continue through the small villages and medieval market towns of Northern France. With long days in the saddle and some strenuous hill-climbs, the sight of the Eiffel Tower, our finishing point, will evoke a real sense of achievement.

Our last day in Paris allows us to explore the sights and enjoy the excitement of witnessing the arrival of the professionals of the Tour De France!

Day 1: London – Calais
An early start from Blackheath Common allows us to avoid the morning traffic as we 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 head through Tonbridge and follow country roads across the hills of the North Downs to Dover and the coast. Taking the ferry to Calais, we have dinner on board and cycle the short distance to our hotel in Calais. Night hotel.

(Dinner on ferry not included)
Cycle approx 125km (80 miles)

Day 2: Calais – Arras
After a hearty breakfast, we head south through beautiful French countryside. Our route takes us along small, quiet roads through villages and small towns. During the afternoon we ride past small War Cemeteries such as at Noordpeene and Gauchin, a reminder of the remarkable history of this region. The terrain is reasonably flat to begin with but becomes more undulating as we travel south. We spend the night in Arras. Night hotel.

Cycle approx 125km (80 miles)
Day 3: Arras - Compiègne
This morning, after a couple of long days in the saddle, our legs may feel a little tired. We continue south through villages and along quiet undulating French roads to the more forested region around Compiègne, where we spend the night. This attractive town lies on the banks of the River Oise. Night hotel.

Cycle approx 125 km (80 miles)

Day 4: Compiègne – Paris
Our final day’s cycling takes us southwest, initially through small villages and woodland before we meet the outskirts of Paris. Needless to say, the volume of traffic increases but our destination and the finish is in sight! We cycle through the Parisian streets, sweeping around the Arc de Triomphe and down the famed Champs-Elysées to our finish beneath the lofty arches of the Eiffel Tower. We head to our hotel and get ready for a few celebration drinks to mark our achievement. Night hotel.

Cycle approx 96 km (60 miles)

(Dinner not included)

Day 5: Paris – London
After breakfast you are free to explore the city; popular attractions include the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Sacré Coeur and the Louvre, or simply wander along the river-bank and watch the world go by. Later you can enjoy the huge spectacle that is the Tour de France! The 71m-wide Champs-Elysees is by far the best place to watch laps before the final sprint. The atmosphere will be electric as spectators gather early to watch the world’s most famous cycling event arrive home! You are responsible for getting yourself and your bags to the Gare du Nord in good time for our Eurostar train back to St Pancras, where we will be reunited with our bikes. (Lunch & dinner not included)

(Lunch & Dinner not included)

Our trips are graded from 1 (Moderate) to 5 (Extreme). This ride is Grade 1. The cycling is mainly undulating. Distances are fairly long, varying from 90 - 125km per day; you should make sure you are fit enough to manage these distances. The first day is particularly strenuous with some tough climbs. We ride mainly on small country roads. Road bikes are the most suitable on this trip.

It is imperative that you supply your own helmet and wear it at all times while cycling, with straps done up.

Sample Day’s Profile

We generally have great cycling weather, but temperatures can vary, and rain and strong winds are always a possibility.

May / Jun 14-28°C  Aug / Sep 16-32°C

DESIGNED TO BE CHALLENGING!
This ride is designed to be challenging for those of good health and fitness, and is achievable for most people provided they train well in advance. We will supply you with a thorough training guide when you have registered. Training for the challenge is all part of the preparation and requires commitment! Without it, you will find the ride less enjoyable – and we want you to have the time of your life!

What’s Included
All accommodation is included in 2-3* hotels on a twin-share basis, as well as transport (by ferry and Eurostar) and all meals except three as specified. It also includes full trip support of experienced Discover Adventure leaders, drivers and mechanics.

Lunches are generous buffet-style, while dinners are generally eaten in the hotels. Please let us know any dietary requirements in advance.

The tour cost does not include personal travel insurance, meals as specified (allow £30-50), transport around Paris on Day 5, a bicycle, drinks, extra food, personal items or any optional tourist activities. We strongly recommend you carry a credit card in case of personal emergency.

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