



# Paris to Copenhagen

via Villers Bretonneux, Roubaix, Amsterdam

28 Jun – 21 July 2024

**Join AllTrails in 2024 on our legendary annual European Expedition.**

We begin this year's tour in the city of love, the city of light, and the city hosting the world's largest sporting event: the 2024 Paris Olympics! It's a great place to spend a couple of days before the tour begins, but it won't be long before the Eiffel Tower and Champs Elysees are well-behind us as the bustling heart of France's capital gives way to the agricultural lands, natural parks and UNESCO heritage sites of rural France.

We stop in at Villers-Bretonneux, heavily-laden with WWI memories and forever tied to Australia after two significant battles fought here by the Australians. It's then on to the famous cobblestones and velodrome of Roubaix before moving north into Belgium and the Netherlands where there is no shortage of lovely cycling and pretty towns to cruise through by day, and at the end of each ride, tasty cheeses to snack on and fine European bier to reward your efforts with.

Amsterdam is our mid-tour stopover where we enjoy a morning food tour on the canals, with the rest of the day to explore as you wish. As we wind our way further north through the flat, cycle-friendly terrain of northeast Europe, the stunning architecture and history is a constant companion, including the intriguing city of Hamburg, as well as the smaller, lesser-known gems like Lubeck (don't miss the local marzipan).

With Scandinavia in our sights we enjoy the beaches, coastlines and impossibly postcard-perfect villages of the 'Holstein Switzerland' and the southern Danish islands before arriving in one of the most bike-friendly cities in the world – Copenhagen.

This is an expedition that covers everything that you are looking for in an exceptional European cycling holiday; great cycling routes, multiple countries and a mix of cultures, language and customs, amazing history, architecture and stories, great accommodation, excellent local food complimented by local wines and world-famous beer...and of course, that renowned AllTrails camaraderie.

## The Tour at a Glance

**Stage One Dates:** 28 Jun – 9 Jul 2024, Paris to Amsterdam (11 nights)

**Stage Two Dates:** 9 Jul – 21 Jul 2024, Amsterdam to Copenhagen (12 nights)

**Duration:** Full tour 23 nights. Short tour options 11/12 nights

**Bike Type:** Road Bike (BYO or hire) with puncture-resistant road tyres

**Distance:** 1650 km

**Average Daily:** 86km

**Accommodation:** 3 to 4 star hotels and quality lodging

**Group Size:** 10-20

**E-bike:** Welcome (limited numbers – book early)

**Surface:** Good bitumen roads and cycle paths

**Terrain:** Flat

**Weather:** Avg temps: Low 13 / High 22 degrees Celsius. Prevailing westerly tailwinds behind you all the way!

**Difficulty Rating:** 6.5/10 (a few 100+km days but very flat)

## Some of the Highlights

- Explore Paris - the city of light, the city of love
- Villers Bretonneux Australian War Memorial
- Ride the cobbles streets of Roubaix (optional)
- Visit to the famous Roubaix Velodrome
- Rest Day Brewery Tour Bruges
- Antwerp, Ghent, Bruges
- Kinderdijk UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Gouda (yes, the place of the famous cheese)
- Amsterdam's canals, culture, art and architecture
- Rest day food & canal tour Amsterdam (included on Stage 1)
- Rest Day Harbour Cruise in Hamburg
- Niederegger Marzipan – some of the best in the world
- Lubeck UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Beer factory of Maribo
- Beautiful cycling around Rodvig on the Baltic Sea
- Copenhagen – the 'poster-city' for cycling integrated into lifestyle
- Wonderful local bilingual guides
- AllTrails Australian owners on tour with you

*And while in the neighbourhood, travel back to Paris after the tour for the 2024 Olympics opening ceremony on the Seine River (26 July)*



## Pricing and Payment Information

All prices in AUD

### Paris – Amsterdam - Copenhagen (23 nts) - FULL TOUR

Twin share	\$13,980 pp
Single room	\$16,370

### Paris – Amsterdam (11 nts) - STAGE 1 ONLY

Twin share	\$6,790 pp
Single room	\$8,280

### Amsterdam - Copenhagen (12 nts) - STAGE 2 ONLY

Twin share	\$7,790 pp
Single room	\$9,090

#### Included (full tour):

- 23 nights accommodation
- Amsterdam food and canal tour
- Roubaix Velodrome visit
- Bruges guided walking tour and brewery visit
- Online maps, directions and luggage transfer
- Support and safety vehicle
- 23 breakfasts, 15 dinners
- Hamburg harbour cruise
- Villers Bretonneux Australian War Memorial visit
- Gouda cheese museum visit and tasting
- Local bilingual Tour Guides + AllTrails Australian Tour Hosts
- AllTrails cycling jersey

**NOTE: Tour Leader gratuities / tips already included in price**

#### Payment Schedule:

- Non-refundable deposit upon booking (\$800)
- Progress Payment 30 days after deposit (40% of package cost less deposit paid)
- Balance 28 March 2024 (three months before the tours begin)

#### Travelling on your own

You may choose to pay the 'Single Supplement' price to have your own room, or you can put your name on the 'Twin Share Request List' and we will pair you up with another solo traveller of the same gender in twin share accommodation if we have another similar request. If we cannot match you, the single room price will apply. Contact us anytime to check twin share availability - we may already have a match for you.

#### Optional Extras (AUD)

##### Pre and post tour accommodation:

We are not holding extra rooms before and after the tour, however we have negotiated rates for our customers if you would like to book a room direct with our tour hotels. See our 'Pre Tour Departure Info' PDF for details.

##### Bike hire:

A great option for those who prefer not to take their own bicycle to Europe. Our local European team has a great fleet of rentals including titanium frame touring-specific bikes.

**Single Stage: AUD \$350 (e-bike \$720). Full Tour: \$660 (e-bike \$1290)**

##### Bike bag/case freight/storage NOT AVAILABLE:

Due to limited space in vehicles, and the excessive costs of freight and storage, we cannot accept hard case bike boxes or soft bike bags on this tour. Most cyclists hire bikes on this tour, however if you want to BYO bike, please travel with your bike packed in a cardboard box that can be stored flat in our vehicles (**no charge**).

##### Amsterdam Canal Cruise:

The tour is a real highlight of our Amsterdam stay. Cruise the canals of the trendy Jordaan neighbourhood with the streets and waterways flanked by arty boutique shops, great pubs and hip eateries. Includes guide and lunch. The tour is included for Stage 1 cyclists.

**If you are on Stage 2 (only) and want to join the tour: \$250**

## What to Expect

Our European 'expedition' rides are different to our AllTrails rides in Australia. Due to the unique nature of these trips and in order to set clear expectations please review our list of some of the differences between our European tours and AllTrails Australian tours below and let us know if you have any questions at all.

**DISTANCE** – Be sure to check the tour map and itinerary to make sure that you are comfortable with the distances and terrain of this ride. Your aim in training should be to cycle at an average speed of 20kmh or more on flat terrain, in which case we expect that on average you will finish your day's ride between 1-3pm.

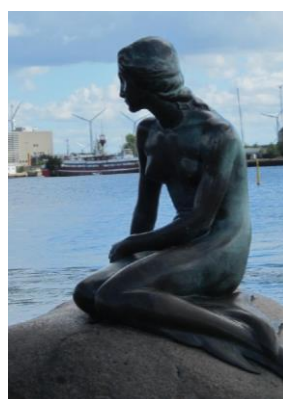
**LODGING** – Most hotels have been inspected and used on previous tours by our local guides, however there may be some that have not been inspected other than online investigations. Hotels are generally of a good 3-4 star standard however can be of varying quality depending on the location and what's available in the region. While creature comforts such as air-conditioning are sought, we cannot guarantee this on every night of the tour as air-conditioning is not the norm in many parts of Europe.

**ROUTES / ROAD CONDITIONS** – We have planned this route mostly on bitumen roads and bike paths, however surface conditions cannot be guaranteed. Over the length of the tour you will almost surely hit some construction, and possibly some short gravel or dirt roads along the journey. Our local guides may or may not have ridden the route in advance on a bike and there may be occasions where leaders will need to adjust the day's route on the fly.

**VAN SUPPORT** – Van support will be less than on our Australian rides. The crew will often be stopped at the rest places helping riders with water, snacks or information. You will usually see a support vehicle 2-4 times a day, but not at pre-specified times so you should plan to be self-sufficient to a certain degree. This also gives cyclists more flexibility to 'go at their own pace' compared to our Australian rides. Note that a 'sweep' rider will often be behind you to assist with questions or any mechanical issues you may have along the way. If you are far ahead of other cyclists in the group you may not see the van at all. If you should need a ride, van support is usually within the vicinity, but know that if close to the end of the route, you may have to wait until after the van has arrived at the hotel, deposited the luggage and doubles back for you. Phone numbers for Tour Leaders will be provided if you get stuck or need assistance.

**DAILY ROUTE MAPS** – We will not have paper 'Day Sheets' as we do in Australia. Cyclists will be provided paper maps to be used in conjunction with a 'Ride with GPS Experience' which is an in-app tour database holding digital route maps, hotel details, tour leader contacts and other important tour information. For those with GPS devices and bike computers, gpx files will also be provided in addition to our standard chalk road arrow navigation method.

**FOOD & MEALS** – We will not have set times for snack and lunch stops as we generally do in Australia. Cafes and restaurants in Europe often cannot handle a group all arriving at once. We will give you recommendations on where to stop for lunch and snacks. Dinners together may be buffet style to make meals quicker and will not include alcoholic drinks. While we do our best to accommodate dietary preferences know that in some areas variety will be limited or unavailable. You may wish to bring supplemental food/snacks from home. Note that dinners and breakfasts are often served at a later time than they are in Australia.



## Getting To and From the Tour / Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

**START:** Flights arrive daily into Paris. You'll need to be there by lunchtime Fri 28 June at the latest, in time for the compulsory 2:30pm Orientation, but we suggest arriving a day or two earlier if you can. Our hotel is right next to one of Paris' picturesque canals, in the lovely La Villette area, approx 5km from The Louvre, Champs Elysees and other central city attractions. The hotel has an airport shuttle service (from €70).

**Pre-tour accommodation:** We have included one night pre-tour in our Paris tour hotel as part of the tour cost (Fri 28 June). If you want to arrive a few days earlier you can book your own hotel anywhere in the city, or book directly with our tour hotel – see the 'How to Reserve Extra Hotel Nights' section in our 'Pre Tour Departure Info' PDF for rates and contact details.

**MIDDLE:** For single stage cyclists, arrive or depart Amsterdam via train or air. Our tour hotel is in the heart of Amsterdam, just a ten min walk from Centraal Station. Between the airport and Centraal Station the train is cheap (€5), quick and easy. A taxi is also possible for a door to door service, but can be expensive (~€50+) and slower in peak traffic. For stage 2 cyclists, you will need to arrive by lunchtime Tue 9 July at the latest, in time for the compulsory 2:30pm Orientation.

**Mid-tour accommodation:** We will be in Amsterdam Mon 8 July (incl. in Stage 1) and Tue 9 July (incl. in Stage 2). If you are on a single stage and wish to stay longer in Amsterdam than the one included night, see the 'How to Reserve Extra Hotel Nights' section in our 'Pre Tour Departure Info' PDF for rates and contact details.

**END:** We cycle into Copenhagen on Sat 20 July and accom is included that night. From here you can fly out of Copenhagen Airport or continue your European adventure on Sun 21 July after breakfast when the tour officially ends. Our hotel is 10km from the airport and 2 min walk to the train station. Taxi to the airport ~DKK350 (~AUD 75), train to the airport ~DKK35 (~AUD8). Note that we have designed our tour to coincide with the Paris Olympics. You may wish to stay a few days in Copenhagen discovering this magnificent city before making your way back to Paris to arrive by Fri 26 July when the Olympics Opening Ceremony kicks off along the River Seine.

**Post-tour accommodation:** We have included one night post-tour in our Copenhagen hotel (Sat 20 July) as part of the tour cost. If you wish to stay longer, see the 'How to Reserve Extra Hotel Nights' section in our 'Pre Tour Departure Info' PDF for details.



# Itinerary

Meals and Accommodation inclusions. Breakfast = B, Dinner = D, Accommodation = A

Location	Distance	Date	B	D	A
<b>Paris ARRIVAL DAY (short test ride)</b>		Fri 28 Jun 2024	-	D	A
Paris to Beauvais	100km	Sat 29 Jun 2024	B	-	A
Beauvais to Amiens	67km	Sun 30 Jun 2024	B	D	A
Amiens to Arras via Villers Bretonneux	88km	Mon 1 Jul 2024	B	D	A
Arras to Roubaix	81km	Tue 2 Jul 2024	B	-	A
Roubaix to Bruges	90km	Wed 3 Jul 2024	B	D	A
<b>Bruges REST DAY</b>	NA	Thu 4 Jul 2024	B	-	A
Bruges to Ghent	60km	Fri 5 Jul 2024	B	-	A
Ghent to Antwerp	66km	Sat 6 Jul 2024	B	D	A
Antwerp to Gouda	123km	Sun 7 Jul 2024	B	D	A
Gouda to Amsterdam	86km	Mon 8 Jul 2024	B	D	A
<b>Amsterdam REST DAY</b>	NA	Tue 9 Jul 2024	B	-	A
Amsterdam to Kampen	108km	Wed 10 Jul 2024	B	D	A
Kampen to Coevorden	77km	Thu 11 Jul 2024	B	-	A
Coevorden to Cloppenburg	105km	Fri 12 Jul 2024	B	D	A
Cloppenburg to Bremen	92km	Sat 13 Jul 2024	B	D	A
Bremen to Hamburg	108km	Sun 14 Jul 2024	B	D	A
<b>Hamburg REST DAY</b>	NA	Mon 15 Jul 2024	B	-	A
Hamburg to Lubeck	70km	Tue 16 Jul 2024	B	-	A
Lubeck to Malente	55km	Wed 17 Jul 2024	B	D	A
Malente to Maribo	96km	Thu 18 Jul 2024	B	D	A
Maribo to Rodvig	98km	Fri 19 Jul 2024	B	D	A
Rodvig to Copenhagen	77km	Sat 20 Jul 2024	B	D	A
<b>Copenhagen END OF TOUR</b>	NA	Sun 21 Jul 2024	B	-	-
<b>Total Distance Cycled</b>	<b>1647km</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Average Daily Distance</b>	<b>86km</b>				

## Day to Day

### Paris ARRIVAL DAY Fri 28 Jun 2024

**Day 1.** Our hotel is right next to one of Paris' picturesque canals, in the lovely La Villette area, approx 5km from The Louvre, Champs Elysees and other central city attractions. You'll need to arrive by lunchtime at the latest, in time for the compulsory 2:00pm Orientation & Bike Fitting, where we will do some introductions, run through the tour details, go over tomorrow's cycling route, set up hire bikes and go for a short test ride. Tonight we meet for a welcome dinner eagerly anticipating the exciting road ahead.

### Paris to Beauvais 100km Sat 29 Jun 2024

**Day 2.** A mix of hidden bike paths and larger city streets will take us out the centre of Paris passing by two natural parks following the Seine River before it meets with the Oise River at Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, built at the confluence of the two rivers. On our way to Beauvais, heavily damaged in both WWI and WWII, we'll cycle through a mix of agricultural and wooded areas. Today the city is known for its airport, Paris Beauvais, which is a major hub for low-cost airlines, but the city centre does merit a visit.

## Day to Day cont.

### **Beauvais to Amiens 67km Sun 30 Jun 2024**

**Day 3.** We'll pedal north, departing Beauvais and into one of France's newest regions, the 'Hauts-de-France' which was formed in 2014 and named in 2016, and is composed of two smaller regions. We'll later reach and explore Amiens, with its UNESCO World Heritage Site of Gothic Cathedral, and the Jules Verne Museum at the prolific author's former home.

### **Amiens to Arras via Villers Bretonneux 88km Mon 1 Jul 2024**

**Day 4.** Not far outside Amiens we will cross the Somme River, the site of multiple deadly battles in WWI, a war that devastated this region of northern France. We're headed to Villers-Bretonneux where Australians erected a WWI memorial (Sir John Monash Centre) commemorating their fallen military personnel. This town was the site of two battles in 1918 that heavily impacted the Australian regiment and has forever tied the small town to Australia. The local school quadrangle is decorated with Aboriginal-painting style motifs and a large overhead banner reads 'Do Not Forget Australia'. We recommend spending time at the memorial and at the museum (it is a very moving experience), before continuing to the town of Arras. Here you can check out the amazing belfry, listed since 2005 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, enjoy the impressive Town Hall, visit the underground maze 10m below ground, or visit the Roman city ruins before enjoying dinner together tonight.

### **Arras to Roubaix 81km Tue 2 Jul 2024**

**Day 5.** We'll start on pavement today but will soon ride on the 2018 Tour de France route from Arras to Roubaix, on a few of the cobblestone streets that characterise the annual Paris-Roubaix bike race. We'll enjoy a visit to the Roubaix velodrome where the race has ended every year since 1943.

### **Roubaix to Bruges 90km Wed 3 Jul 2024**

**Day 6.** It's "au revoir" to France today as we cross into Belgium through West Flanders. One of Europe's most densely populated areas, this region is known for its ferocious WWI battles, and its beer. We will pass by important historical towns like Kortrijk along the way and enjoy a lunch amidst the Medieval and Renaissance architecture before continuing into Belgium, Bruges and its city centre which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stroll along the canals that were once main arteries of the city and don't miss a visit to the medieval square and City Hall which features the fantastic architecture that characterises this unique city. Bruges is bustling with sites to see including the stepped gable houses, market square with the Belfort, and historic neighbourhoods such as the 'Beguinage', an architectural complex created to house a community of lay women from the 13th century.

### **Bruges REST DAY Thu 4 Jul 2024**

**Day 7.** Today we'll enjoy a leisurely guided walk of the city as well as a visit to the city's brewery. Although not one of the elite Trappist breweries present in the country, we'll learn about how this important export is made and imbibe in some tasty samples. A fitting part of a rest day in Belgium.

### **Bruges to Ghent 60km Fri 5 Jul 2024**

**Day 8.** A short ride today takes us from Bruges to its historic and cultural rival Ghent. The marshes we'll ride through provided fodder for sheep and Ghent became one of the richest cities in the world during the Middle Ages because of its wool industry. While not as wealthy as it once was, this lively university city is still one of the prettiest cities in Belgium. Admire its traditional tall Flemish buildings towering over the small streets and plazas.

### **Ghent to Antwerp 66km Sat 6 Jul 2024**

**Day 9.** Another short ride permits a late start as we leave Ghent and head east through historic marshes. We'll soon reach Antwerp, historically known as the city of diamonds but also birthplace of the Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens. Here you can visit the famous painter's art in the city's cathedral, the historic city centre, or the diamond district. The Red Star Line Museum is a bit further out but well worth the effort. The museum documents the time when 2 million emigrants shipped off to North America between 1873 and 1934.

## Day to Day cont.

### **Antwerp to Gouda 123km Sun 7 Jul 2024**

**Day 10.** After a rest day and two shorter days on the bike you will be energised and jumping out of your knicks to take on today's ride which is the longest of the tour. Start the day early pedalling through Dordrecht and enjoy time at a unique UNESCO World Heritage Site along our route: Kinderdijk. Nineteen majestic windmills align to form a memorable and stunning sight, before heading to Gouda (pronounced Gowda), famous for its orange cheese. Enjoy a visit to the town's cheese museum to celebrate your big effort today, before dinner together tonight.

### **Gouda to Amsterdam 86km Mon 8 Jul 2024**

**Day 11.** Our first stop of the day is the tiny, quaint centre of Utrecht. Follow bike paths into the region of the Hollandic Waterline, a defence system born in the 17th Century where castles and military forts could be used to turn Holland into an island to keep out invaders through integrated systems of flooding. A century later the water froze creating a bridge for the French army to attack. We'll ride east today following small bike paths that border inlets from the North Sea that spread deep into the Netherlands, reminding us that many parts of the country are at, or below, sea level and that water management is crucial here. We'll finish the day in Amsterdam, a magical city built on canals. Our hotel overlooks the 'IJ', the body of water that acts as Amsterdam's waterfront and that connects the North Sea to the interior's water ways. We'll enjoy a walk and final Stage 1 dinner tonight together.

### **Amsterdam REST DAY Tue 9 Jul 2024**

**Day 12.** Enjoy a leisurely morning and then meet up for a unique food and canal tour of the city which is included for Stage 1 cyclists (optional extra for Stage 2 cyclists). We will taste a variety of Dutch specialties and getting a tour of the Jordaan neighbourhood by boat, finishing just after lunch. You'll have time this afternoon to visit any number of the city's attractions like the Anne Frank house, Van Gogh Museum, canals, quaint neighbourhoods, hip locales and lively night scene; there is plenty to explore. For those arriving to begin their tour on Stage 2, you will need to arrive by lunchtime at the latest, in time for the compulsory 2:30pm Orientation.

### **Amsterdam to Kampen 108km Wed 10 Jul 2024**

**Day 13.** Pedal today to one of the best-preserved city centres in the Netherlands, the Hanseatic city of Kampen. The city centre was built on the banks of the IJssel River, a Dutch branch of the Rhine River. Stroll around town to visit the ancient city walls and gates, as well as the numerous ancient buildings and churches spanning from the 15th to the 19th centuries. Tonight, we have a welcome dinner for our new Stage 2 cyclists joining the tour.

### **Kampen to Coevorden 77km Thu 11 Jul 2024**

**Day 14.** Pedal along the famous Dutch network of bike paths which make the Netherlands one of the most cycling-friendly countries in the world. Visit the small city of Zwolle ('hill' in old Dutch), built on a hill in between four rivers. Our destination, Coevorden was reconstructed as an ideal Renaissance City in the 17th century.

### **Coevorden to Cloppenburg 105km Fri 12 Jul 2024**

**Day 15.** Today you'll start your ride in the Netherlands and end in Germany, cycling along quiet country roads and bike paths. As we exit Holland, we'll cross the Ems River and its delta. Keep your eyes peeled for 'willkommen' and 'tot siens' signs as they are the only indicators that you are crossing from one country to another! Once at our destination, the small town of Cloppenburg, take time to visit the oldest outdoor museum village in Germany.

### **Cloppenburg to Bremen 92km Sat 13 Jul 2024**

**Day 16.** We start today pedalling through rural countryside and the Ahlhorner Fischteiche nature reserve with its small ponds and opportunities for birdwatching. It's a relaxing ride east to Oldenburg where you might want to enjoy lunch and a thick slice of German cake in the pedestrian city centre. Alternatively, enjoy a visit to the Oldenburg castle, home to the Oldenburg monarchs until 1918. Our destination is the city state of Bremen, important both historically as a hotly contested city-state between the Holy Roman Empire and Sweden in the 17th Century. In modern day Germany it is one of the largest cities of the area. Bremen is also famous for the Brothers Grimm tale ostensibly set there (The Town Musicians of Bremen) even if in the fairy tale the animal musicians never actually make it to Bremen!



## Day to Day cont.

### **Bremen to Hamburg 108km Sun 14 Jul 2024**

**Day 17.** The 'gateway to the world' might be a bold claim, but Germany's second-largest city and largest port (despite being located on a river 100 km from the coast) has never been sleepy. Hamburg has engaged in international business trade since joining the Hanseatic League back in the Middle Ages, and this 'harbour-polis' is now the nation's premier media hub and its wealthiest city. Notice the small villages and farmhouses with richly decorated half-timbered houses that characterise the region while leaving Bremen to then turn north into the 'Altes Land', or Old Country, reclaimed marshland which is now fertile farmland, producing apples and cherries. Along the Elbe River we'll reach the centre of the city of Hamburg.

### **Hamburg REST DAY Mon 15 Jul 2024**

**Day 18.** Enjoy a harbour cruise this morning and some free time to visit some of the local attractions like the impressive Rathaus (city hall) or one of the museums in the newly popular warehouse district. Or perhaps you'd like to take a Beatles Tour of Hamburg, do some shopping in the main streets around the train station, or take a stroll along the Alster River and harbour to feel the bustle of this thriving city.

### **Hamburg to Lubeck 70km Tue 16 Jul 2024**

**Day 19.** We'll bike through Ahrenesburg before reaching the medieval city of Lübeck. Lübeck is referred to as the Queen of Hanseatic cities. Its extensive Brick Gothic architecture is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Make sure you enjoy Lübeck's beloved delicacy - some of the best marzipan in the world made by Niederegger.

### **Lubeck to Malente 55km Wed 17 Jul 2024**

**Day 20.** Today is the shortest day on tour so it's a great day to take it easy and enjoy the sights as we ride along and beside the beach and enjoy the waterfront of the Timmendorfer Strand while pedalling out of Lübeck. Malente is a charming town located in the heart of 'Holstein Switzerland', a region famous for its picturesque landscapes and natural beauty. Known as the City of Seven Lakes, Malente is surrounded by several beautiful lakes that are perfect for swimming, fishing, and other water activities, and are a major draw for tourists who come to the area.

### **Malente to Maribo 96km Thu 18 Jul 2024**

**Day 21.** 50km from our hotel start, near the East German Baltic Sea Coast, we catch a ferry from Germany and enter Denmark via the Femer Bælt. The ferry lands us on the small island of Fehmarn, where we'll cross over onto Lolland Island, the fourth largest island in Denmark and mostly one of transit as it is the closest to Germany. The charming and cozy cathedral town of Maribo is our destination and is fondly known as 'the town of love' as it hosts so many weddings for foreign couples. For those who also love a beer, enjoy a freshly poured drop from the local brewery.

### **Maribo to Rodvig 98km Fri 19 Jul 2024**

**Day 22.** From Lolland Island we'll cross over to the Seeland peninsula and continue pedalling northeast through rural Denmark and then along the Præstø Fjord, one of the many fjords in the area that features salt marshes. There has long been a symbiotic relationship between the town of Rodvig and nature here, as the town's development has been marked by the flint along the coast and its access to the Baltic Sea. The harbour's mix of shipyard, fishing boats and pleasure craft helps to give life and soul to both the town and harbour.

### **Rodvig to Copenhagen 77km Sat 20 Jul 2024**

**Day 23.** We are on our way on our final day! Open fields fill our landscape this morning as we cross the peninsula to our lunch stop Køge, a century-old market town on the bay, with an impressive medieval section surrounding the central square. This town is home to the oldest half-timbered house in Denmark. From here we follow the curve of the bay around to Copenhagen which is accessed via one of its many extraordinary bike paths to the Kalvebod Fælled, nowadays one of the biggest recreational areas around Copenhagen.

### **Copenhagen END OF TOUR Sun 21 Jul 2024**

**Day 24.** Our tour officially disbands after breakfast. We have designed our tour to coincide with the Paris Olympics. You may wish to stay a few extra days in Copenhagen discovering this magnificent city before slowly making your way back to Paris to arrive by Fri 26 July when the Olympics Opening Ceremony kicks off along the River Seine.

## Frequently Asked Questions and Helpful Information

Feel free to contact us at any time if your question is not answered here.

### Training

You really need to be a reasonably keen cyclist - not necessarily fast, but consistent. If you can gradually build your training distance to about 80km/day for two days straight, at the expected speed for the tour, that should put you in a good position to be ready for this ride. We have a training schedule specific to each tour which we send to you after you place your deposit, however we are more than happy to send this to you earlier when you are considering the tour – just ask us for a copy and we will get it out to you straight away.

For this tour: Expected average speed 20+km/hr on flat terrain. Average distance 86km/day. Longest day 123km.

### Bike Hire

You can hire a bike in Europe or you can bring your own – there are pros and cons to either choice. Bringing your own bike assures you of a level of familiarity and comfort, which is important on a long-distance multi-day tour. For those bringing their own bike, note that due to limited space in vehicles, and the excessive costs of freight and storage, we cannot accept hard case bike boxes or soft bike bags on this tour. You will need to travel with your bike packed in a cardboard box that can be stored flat in our vehicles – contact us for more info if required. Hiring a bike can help you avoid hassles that arise on occasion with travelling on airlines with bicycles and also leave you free to enjoy pre and post tour travel without a bicycle as luggage. Our local operators have a great range of light weight titanium Van Nicholas hire bikes, which are high quality road bikes with drop-down or flat handlebars and an optional small rack on the back for jackets and other personal items.

### Safe cycling in Europe?

European motorists have a great reputation for being cyclist-considerate and generally speaking it is a safe and enjoyable place to cycle. We at AllTrails have a great safety record too, however cyclists must play their part in keeping well over to the side of the road where possible. Riders will be briefed before each day's ride pointing out parts of the road that may get narrow or have any known hazards.

### Accommodation

Most hotels have been inspected and used on previous tours by our local guides, however on these expedition trips there may be some (very few) that have not been inspected other than online investigations. Hotels are generally of a good 3-4 star standard however can be of varying quality depending on the location and what's available in the region. While creature comforts such as air-conditioning are sought, and most often found, we cannot guarantee this on every night of the tour. All rooms have ensuite facilities. In the smaller villages or more rural areas we often get lovely and interesting accommodation full of character and personality. We always try to choose accommodation that is bicycle friendly, with good restaurants and near to town centres where possible.

### Twin Share Request List for Solo Travellers

We often have cyclists come on our rides who are travelling alone. If so, you may pay the Single Room price to have your own room, or you can put your name on our 'Twin Share Request List' and we will pair you with another solo traveller of the same gender in twin share accommodation if we have another similar request. If we cannot find you a match, the single price will apply which will give you your own room for the entire tour. Contact us anytime to have a chat and check twin share availability – we may already have a match for you.

### Snorers can enjoy their own room

If you are a chronic snorer or have other habits that may affect your fellow roommates, we suggest booking your own room (single room cost). This is not just a courtesy to your fellow travelling companions but will also give you the space and privacy you need to enjoy your sleep after a long day on the bike.

## Frequently Asked Questions and Helpful Information Cont.

### Meals and food

Always a big part of any cycling holiday! Our emphasis is on fresh local food and a balanced diet with plenty of carbohydrates, proteins, fruit and veggies catering for a cycling holiday. We always try to include as many local specialties, delicacies and flavours as possible. Our local team can cater to most dietary requirements, however please be aware that this can sometimes be a little more challenging in Europe and you may need to exercise some patience in this area – feel free to contact us if you wish to discuss further. We provide daily quality breakfasts and many dinners. You will generally purchase your own lunches and some evening meals however there are plenty of great bakeries and cafes along the way for you to pick up lunches and snacks as you wish (our team will give you recommendations).

### Travel insurance for international rides

Yes, yes, yes. Make sure that you are covered for every country that you are travelling to and ensure that you are covered from and including the day you leave and arrive back home. Due to the nature of our tours we are sometimes in remote areas – ensure that you have medical insurance that would cover the cost of an ambulance to transport you to the nearest hospital. We recommend getting your travel insurance in place immediately after you book your ride so that you are covered for unforeseen events which may lead to you having to cancel your trip and losing your deposit.

### Is a Visa required for Europe?

We will send you a 'Pre Departure Info' document upon booking with more details on all aspects of your travel including visas – let us know if you would like us to send you the document before you book. In general, if you are on an ordinary Australian passport with no special circumstances (eg. criminal convictions) no visa is required when travelling for holiday purposes for a length of time under 90 days to the countries that we will visit. Our tour in 2024 is based in the European Schengen Area for visa purposes. This means that entry to one country gives you entry to them all. Be aware that the 90 day limit runs concurrently across the whole of the Schengen zone and the countdown begins when entering the first of any of the signatory countries. It does not reset when travelling into another country covered by the Schengen agreement. This is important if you are considering staying in Europe before or after the ride for more than 90 days total. A visa is a form of permission for a non-citizen to enter, transit or remain in a particular country. We do not issue visas for overseas travel and cannot provide definitive information on visas. Only the representatives of the countries you plan to visit can provide up-to-date information about their visa requirements. For all countries, contact your nearest embassy or consulate of the country you intend to visit well in advance of travel. For Australian passport holders, additional advice can be found on the [Smartraveller website](#).

### Packing for Europe

Limit your luggage to two medium-sized pieces. The best combination is a medium-sized suitcase on wheels and a small or medium carry-on bag, such as a backpack or a small duffel bag. Your baggage should be clearly labelled and kept to a reasonable minimum. Luggage limits on airlines are strictly enforced and space on vehicles is limited. Most economy class flights booked through Travel Agents (domestic and international) have a luggage limit of 20 kilograms per person and usually this can include your bike if you are not renting one in Europe. You will be required to carry your own luggage at times so you should be capable of carrying your own bags up and down stairs. A good guide is to try to keep it under 15kg. If you are doing lots of shopping during your travels, it may be necessary for you to forward any excess to the city where your journey concludes, or ship purchases directly home.

### Weather

Average high temperatures along our route start off in the mid-twenties and drop to low-twenties as we get further north. Previous years' experience in Europe over this same period suggests that some days may be very hot, and you may get the odd day of rain, however most days are beautiful cycling weather.

## Frequently Asked Questions and Helpful Information cont.

### What sorts of people join our tours?

Usually most cyclists are from Australia with a few overseas guests too. Ages generally range from 35 – 75 with the average cyclist aged in their 50's or 60's. Approx 40% women & 60% men with a mix of singles, friends and couples.

### Speak to a past client

We will be happy to give you contact details of people who have participated in the ride or a similar ride to the one which you are considering. Another good place to look is our 'Testimonials' page.

### Changing or cancelling a tour

Should you wish to change your booking with AllTrails to a different tour, there will be a very reasonable service charge. We try to keep this figure as low as possible to allow flexibility where we can as we want to make sure that you get on the right tour for you. For cancellation and refund policies for your tour click the 'book this tour' tab on the relevant tour page of our website to see the T&Cs.

If you need to cancel your tour, a travel insurance policy will cover cancellation fees due to most unforeseen events. This is why we provide links to travel insurance options and highly recommend that you investigate and purchase travel insurance for all our rides at the time of deposit and ensure that it includes coverage for cancellation fees if for some reason you are not able to travel (see Travel Insurance FAQ). For our international tours we require all participants to have Travel Insurance to assist you in the event of a medical emergency, lost baggage, cancelled tour or other trip related issues.

### Why book with us?

We only run approximately 10-15 tours per year. This makes every tour as special to us as it is to you because we are not repeating the same rides over and over again, week-in week-out. Every tour is meticulously planned, and we are just as excited to be there as you. On most occasions the owner-operators of the business will be on tour with you looking after everyone on the ride. The safety and confidence that comes with that is one of many great reasons to book your cycling holiday with us. AllTrails is a proud Australian owned company with a great reputation in the bicycle tour industry. We have earned that reputation through hard work and dedication and we sincerely care about every person on every tour. Our large community of loyal AllTrails riders that keep coming back year after year are testament to the high standard of tours that we provide. We consider ourselves the best in the business and we only use the best local operators when we travel beyond Australia, to assist us in providing a tour, up to the AllTrails standard.

