

**SEPTEMBER 2018 BIKE TOURS IN EUROPE  
(For KABC and SUN CITY BIKE CLUB MEMBERS)**

**Terry & Mary Jo Herron – KABC Bike Club – [terry@herron-group.com](mailto:terry@herron-group.com) 843-271-9919  
Sue & Ed Brett, Sun City 843-705-2239, [edzoo2@hargray.com](mailto:edzoo2@hargray.com)**

NOTE: These bike tours will be offered to KABC and SUN CITY bike club members. One or both rides are likely to fill up quickly. Also, the Tour Operators in Europe for both rides will only hold hotel rooms for a few weeks in December. After that, the rooms will be released for the general population. Your window for a decision will be short. Please study this information carefully, and also research the details of these two rides at [www.biketours.com](http://www.biketours.com). After reviewing the information, you can contact BikeTours.com with any questions at 423-756-8907 or email at [info@biketours.com](mailto:info@biketours.com).

**Following is a detailed summary by Terry Herron, and Sue & Ed Brett. Please inform Terry and the Bretts of your decision and your reservation. Both rides are limited to 20 people. These rides are suitable for qualified riders at C+ or higher levels. You must be able to ride 7 consecutive days, at average speeds of 12 to 16 mph, depending on terrain. They are both relatively flat with some rolling hills (or a Level 2 by European standards).**

Hello fellow bike riders,

Following is the KABC annual Europe Bike Tour information, for September 13 to October 1<sup>st</sup>, approximately. Our tour provider is [www.biketours.com](http://www.biketours.com). They offer the lowest European Bicycle Tour prices, with excellent 2 & 3 star hotels, all breakfasts included, detailed Daily Maps, Luggage Transfers each day, quality Hybrid Bikes and E-bikes, with Pannier, a local Bike Outfitter for support, and an optional Dinner package, which is 30 to 40% less than restaurant prices. Their prices are approximately 40% less than Vermont Bike Tours, Backroads, and similar “deluxe Bike tour companies”. We have used them for 23 years without fail. Our rides are self-guided and do not offer a SAG vehicle, with the exception of a Guide for the first tour below from London to Amsterdam. Prior to any phone calls with questions, we ask that you **study each tour online** and read this material very carefully, to get a full understanding of the tours, and to answer most of your questions. Note: All costs are quoted in EUROS.

**WHO IS QUALIFIED TO SIGN UP?**

Generally speaking, our groups each year are a mix of Couples and Singles. We usually plan a social get-together in Hilton Head or Bluffton a few months prior to the actual trip. On the tours, we get to know each other almost immediately; we stay together as one or two groups; we help each other, and nobody is left behind as long as you can maintain the group speed with ease. You must be a confident C+ level rider or higher, with the ability to ride 7 days in a row, with average distances from 25 to 50 miles each day, give or take.

**Please do not bring a spouse or invite a friend as a way to introduce them to biking. This is always a big problem for the rest of the group. Based on past experience, each rider will have a short telephone interview** with us to discuss their level of skill and current biking activity.

### DAILY ROUTINE:

When in Europe, we start at 9am and we try to arrive at our next hotel around 2 to 4 pm each day, to enjoy the local history & sights, a group dinner, and lots of laughs. We ride rain or shine. Along the way, we “smell the roses” with coffee and lunch stops, occasional tours in towns and castles ... all at a moderate speed from 12 mph to 16mph, with a ride leader and ride sweeper chosen from the group. Depending on levels of skill, and the total number of riders, we sometimes break into two Ride Groups. If you want to go to Europe to climb the Alps on a sleek racing bike, and experience a Tour de France “rush”, we are the wrong group for you. We are interested in scenery, good food, good fun, history ... and soaking up the local culture ... on a steady, healthy ride each day with some levels of challenge. Both Tours below are [Level 2](#), which is very do-able. ELECTRIC BIKES are available, and are recommended for anyone with doubts. They are excellent for rolling hills. Be sure to double-check E-Bike availability and bike sizes.

RIDER LIMITS & SIGN-UP-WINDOW: We have a limit of 20 people for each tour. You are not guaranteed a slot until and unless you sign up directly with [www.biketours.com](http://www.biketours.com), and arrange a telephone discussion with Terry Herron or Ed Brett to qualify your biking level. Your space on the tour is not guaranteed until you have received confirmation of your booking from [Biketours.com](http://Biketours.com).

### TOUR INFORMATION

**(please review each tour online at [www.biketours.com](http://www.biketours.com))**

Following is a short summary of each Tour. You can purchase one or both. We suggest you arrive Europe at least one full day before the “check-in date” to adjust to the time lag. Most people tend to add one or two days at the end of each weeklong tour, and/or extend their Europe visit before returning home to the U.S. Generally, you can buy a round-trip into one major airport, and out of another major airport at the end of your stay.

### **Here are some costs not included in the Tour prices:**

1. BIKES – pricing listed below
2. DINNERS – Dinner package available for additional cost – pricing listed below
3. BOOKING FEE – \$30 per person (Biketours.com offers to waive the booking fee on the second tour if both tours are booked)
4. TRANSPORTATION – Tolls, Ferries, Bus or Train rides (other than those mentioned in the included services on the [biketours.com](http://biketours.com) tour pages)
5. AIR FARE
6. OTHER – Anything not mentioned as “included” in the tour package information, any costs associated with extra nights (food, transit, etc)

## TOUR #1

### London To Amsterdam (GUIDED)

**Official Tour Start Date:** September 14, 2018<sup>[SEP]</sup>

**Terrain:** primarily flat; hilly terrain between Canterbury and Dover (34 km). Cycling distances: 44 to 80 km per day. Travel time: 3h to 6h per day. Basic cycling experience is required for this tour.

**Surface:** 80% asphalt, 20% unpaved country roads

**Luggage transfer:** yes + Support Service plus<sup>[SEP]</sup>\*

**Rooms held for KABC/SUN CITY through December 2017:** 6 doubles and 2 singles.

*NOTE: There are already 10 people signed up, so most of these rooms are already booked.*

*Additional rooms are "on request" which means BikeTours.com must receive a booking request from you, and then will begin booking the hotel rooms.*

*\* SPECIAL NOTE: The **London to Amsterdam** tour offers "support service plus". This is a service that ensures you are at ease during your bike tour, especially if this is your first bike tour experience in Europe. In addition to the classic luggage transport and emergency telephone number, they provide roadside assistance and/or recovery in case of emergency (illness, mechanical problem that cannot be repaired with the repair-kit). If necessary, you can be transported to your hotel. (This Tour does not include a vehicle that stays with the bicycle riders, but it does include a full time Guide). If anyone feels they must take a train, bus or boat to the next destination for any reason, they must arrange this on their own.*

### **Guided Tour - Package Pricing:**

#### **Base Tour Package**

Per person, double occupancy: €1,320<sup>[SEP]</sup> (+ €30 night one dinner)

Single room surcharge (1 person/1 room): €420<sup>[SEP]</sup>

#### **Bike Rental**<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Hybrid touring bike, 24-speed: €90<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Electrically assisted bike: €180 (Book these early)

Helmets: €15 (We recommend bringing your own)

#### <sup>[SEP]</sup>**Extra nights in Greenwich**<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Per person, double occupancy: €120<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Single room (1 person/1 room): €210<sup>[SEP]</sup>

#### **Extra nights in Amsterdam**<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Per person, double occupancy: €110<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Single room (1 person/1 room): €200

## Included Services

- 7 nights accommodations in 3- and 4-star <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>hotels <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Breakfasts and dinners
- English speaking guide <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Luggage transfer (limit 1 piece per person, 44 lb limit) <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Support service Plus, including a 24/7 phone number in case of questions or problems
- Transfers as indicated in Daily Program
  - Ferry from Dover-Dunkirk
  - Ferry from Breskens-Vlissingen <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
  - Train ride from Dartford to Whistable
  - Train ride from Vlissingen to Dordrecht <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Included with Bike Rental
  - One waterproof pannier
  - One handlebar bag (1 per room)
  - Map holder (1 per room)
  - One bike lock (1 per room)
  - Flat pedals (you can bring your own pedals and shoes)

## How to get there:

### Arriving into London?

There are three major airports in London, we recommend searching flights into all three airports in order to find the best airfare prices. You can then take a taxi or public transit to your tour start hotel.

### Departing Amsterdam?

The closest international airport is the Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

## Tour #2

### Bordeaux Vineyards and Backroads (SELF GUIDED)

**Official Tour Start Date:** September 24, 2018

**Terrain:** The tour follows quiet roads with little traffic about 55% of the time and dedicated bike paths 45% of the time. The terrain is flat with only occasional hills.

**Luggage transfer:** yes + emergency assistance in case of problems.

**Rooms held for KABC/SUN CITY through January 2018:** 5 doubles and 1 single.

*NOTE: There are already 4 people signed up, so there are 3 doubles and 1 single remaining.*

*Additional rooms are "on request" which means BikeTours.com must receive a booking request from you, and then will begin booking the hotel rooms.*

### Self-Guided Tour - Package Pricing:

#### Base Tour Package

Per person, double occupancy: €950

Single room surcharge (1 person/1 room): €440

Optional evening dinner package: €300

#### Bike Rental:

Hybrid touring bike, 24-speed: €150

Electrically assisted bike: €190

#### Extra nights, Bordeaux (Check with Terry Herron or Ed Brett first)

Per person, double occupancy: €120

Single room (1 person/1 room): €155

#### Extra nights, Arcachon

Per person, double occupancy: €85

Single room (1 person/1 room): €125

### Included services:

- 7 nights accommodations in 2- and 3-star hotels and charming B&B's
- Breakfasts and dinners (if dinner package is booked)
- Welcome meeting and tour briefing on Day 1
- Bike delivery and fitting on Day 2
- Maps, road book, and tourist information
- Luggage transfer

- One-way boat transfer from Arcachon to Cap-Ferret with bikes <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Emergency assistance in case of problems <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Included with Bike Rental:
  - One pannier
  - One handlebar bag with map case (1 per room)
  - One bike lock (1 per room)
  - Tire repair kit (should have knowledge of how to change flat tire)
  - Flat pedals (you can bring your own pedals and shoes)
  - Helmets (please let us know if you would like to rent a helmet)

## **How to get there:**

### **Coming from the States?**

Option 1 (recommended): Fly into Paris, and then train to Bordeaux (~ 3 ½ hours). Upon arriving to Bordeaux St Jean station, you could take a taxi or tramway to your first hotel.

Option 2: Fly into Bordeaux-Merignac airport, and then take a taxi (~40 minutes) to the first hotel.

**Coming from Amsterdam?** You can compare the costs of flights vs trains using Rome2Rio.com. The train ride is about 6 hours and makes a connection through Paris. The flights from Amsterdam to Bordeaux are usually around an hour and 45 minutes.

If you choose to travel by train, we recommend using [Rail Europe](#) for booking train tickets. If you decide to book airfare, I recommend using your favorite airfare search engine or going directly through your favorite airline. Skyscanner.com is also a popular choice for finding cost effective airfare within Europe.