



TRIP NOTES

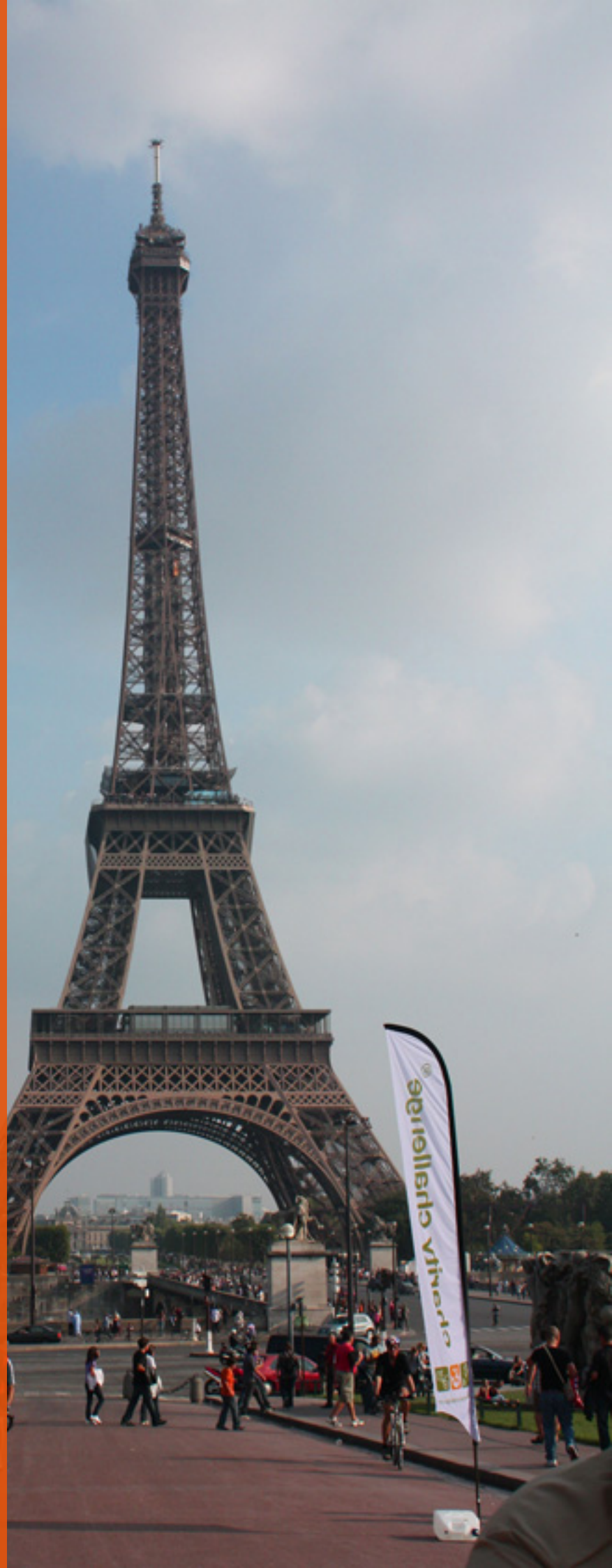
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# BELIEVE ACHIEVE INSPIRE

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LONDON TO PARIS BIKE RIDE  
UK

Sun 01 May - Wed 04 May 2022





## In aid of Haven House Children's Hospice

01 May - 04 May 2022



### 4 DAYS | UK & FRANCE | CHALLENGING

Travel from one great European city to another, powered by your own cycling steam. Over the course of three days, cyclists will cover an impressive 200 miles/320 kms across England and France. Setting off from London, the group will head through London and into the Sussex countryside. We then make the 4 hour crossing to Dieppe.

From here the French leg of the journey continues through the beautiful French countryside towards our second overnight stop in Beauvais. On day three we have the final push into Paris where the Eiffel Tower creeps up on you for a spectacular finish after our quiet route in.

- Cycle 200 miles over one long weekend
- Depart from England's bustling capital, London
- Ride through beautiful French countryside
- Celebrate the completion of your challenge at the Eiffel Tower
- Return in comfort on the Eurostar from Paris

## YOUR CHALLENGE DAY BY DAY

### DAY 1 Sun 01 May

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#### London to Dieppe (approx. 71 miles/114km)

After all the preparation, the time has finally come to get pedalling! The journey kicks off at Haven House, where you'll meet the rest of the group, the challenge leader and support team. An introductory briefing will include vital safety advice, and then you're off! After a cycle through London, the route passes along country roads then on to Newhaven. From here we will catch a late afternoon ferry to Dieppe. (L,D)

Accommodation: Hotel

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### DAY 2 Mon 02 May

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#### Dieppe to Beauvais (approx. 75 miles/120km)

Rise and shine early for the day of cycling. It's a challenging start before lunch as you negotiate several climbs over the first 35 miles of the day. Along the way expect to pass fields of sunflowers, corn and other crops, while stopping for several pitstops. It's full on and you should arrive at Beauvais in the late afternoon. (B,L,D)

Accommodation: Hotel

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### DAY 3 Tue 03 May

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#### Beauvais to Paris (approx. 54 miles/87km)

Refreshed after your night's sleep, it's time to push on for the final ride to Paris. The team will regroup and refuel on the outskirts of Paris, ahead of the last section which will take approximately 90 minutes. Soon you'll catch your first glimpse of the iconic Tour Eiffel and the adrenaline will be pumping as you glide your way past the Arc de Triomphe and down the Champs Elysees, before reaching your ultimate destination. There's time for a quick celebratory drink and the obligatory victory snaps in the shadow of the tower, before heading off to your hotel for the final celebratory dinner together. (B,L,D)

Accommodation: Hotel

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### DAY 4 Wed 04 May

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#### Depart Paris

Now the hard work is over, take the morning to explore Paris at your leisure or simply lie in and relax after last night's celebrations. Later it's time to make your own way to the Gare du Nord station, from where you'll catch the Eurostar back to St Pancras International. (Please see Q&As for information on bike transportation back to the UK.) (B)

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## NB

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

The itinerary is there as a guide and may change for a variety of reasons. We will do our very best to keep to the set itinerary; however we cannot be held responsible for any last minute changes that may occur. In all such circumstances, your expedition leader will have the final say.

## HOW TO FUND YOUR CHALLENGE

### SELF FUNDER

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Pay a registration fee of £250.00 when you book

Then a balance of £779.00

(10 weeks before your challenge)

Raise as much as you can for your charity.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

### Before you go

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- Members only benefits and discounts at a wide range of clothing and equipment suppliers including Outdoorhire, Cotswold Outdoor, Runners Needs, Snow + Rock, Water to Go, The Altitude Centre, Sporttape and Nomad & MASTA.
- Sponsorship forms
- Support materials (itinerary, kit list, visa information, travel tips, responsible travel policy and guidance)
- Fitness training notes
- Fundraising advice
- 16 and 20 week trek/bike training schedule
- Warm up exercise routines
- Access to training weekends (optional and at additional expense)
- Access to your own password protected account including support materials and training schedules
- Risk assessment and emergency management planning
- Public liability insurance

### On your challenge

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- Three meals a day (unless otherwise stated in the itinerary)
- An English speaking first aid trained challenge leader and full local support team
- Drinking water on challenge days
- Internal transfers (unless otherwise stated in the itinerary)
- Accommodation during the challenge (usually in twin share)
- Full back-up support including first-aid qualified staff and first-aid supplies
- A Charity Challenge T-Shirt
- A donation to a community project in one of the countries in which we operate
- UK-based 24-hour emergency support line

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

### Before you go

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- Visa (if required)
- Any covid tests required for entry to any countries or places of interest on your challenge itinerary
- Vaccinations (please check Trip Notes for requirements)

### On your challenge

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- Bike and helmet
- Tips
- Departure Tax (if applicable)



## Level of Difficulty

The London to Paris bike ride is graded as moderate. This is the perfect challenge for participants who haven't experienced cycling abroad and who haven't experienced the feeling of consecutive days riding before. It is a strenuous challenge which will allow people to push themselves out of their comfort zone. You can tell your supporters that on your London to Paris bike ride you will be:

- Cycling from around 8 hours each day.
- Covering roughly 200 miles/320km over 3 days of cycling
- Ascending over 800m each day
- Cycling into Paris on quiet roads before finishing at the iconic Eiffel Tower

## Climate

As you know, the weather in the UK can be highly unpredictable and at times erratic (and it is the same in the regions of France that we will cycle through), so being prepared is the key! We run UK challenges between April and October, and although the summer months of June-August should be, in general, warmer, sunnier and more stable in terms of the weather conditions, we all know that this isn't always the case. Please check the weather forecasts up to ensure that you bring clothing suitable for warm sunny walking weather and also sudden wind and downpours should they occur.

## Emergencies

The back up support vehicle will never be far away from participants and can be used in the event of an emergency. Contact will be maintained between challenge leader, guides and support team throughout the challenge. Mobile phones have good general coverage and all guides carry one. You will always be given an emergency card with your leader's number on it and those of the guides.

## Safety

Safety advice for the London to Paris Cycle Challenge

Charity Challenge considers the safety of all of our participants and staff to be a top priority, and as such we have set up Challenge Safe, one of the most advanced and thorough safety management systems in the industry. Challenge Safe formalises our ethos when it comes to safety, and brings together the procedures and risk management strategies that we use to audit all aspects of our challenges, from vehicles to accommodation to the challenge activity itself. Your welfare is absolutely paramount!

Here are a couple of important points that you should be aware of:

- The terrain on the challenge is often undulating, especially in the UK and through the South Downs. Once you reach France the terrain is more gradual with a few steady climbs.
- The weather during the challenge can be unpredictable so we would recommend checking the weather forecast beforehand and pack the appropriate clothes for the challenge.
- You will be expected to adhere to the Highway Code during the challenge and respecting the traffic laws. Once you arrive into France you will be required to cycle on the right hand side of the road, and it is a legal requirement that you have a bell on your bike.

- 8 hours of cycling is long time to spend on a bicycle, so please ensure that you fuel your body correctly at the water stops and during breakfast and lunch. There will be plenty of water stops to fill up your water bottles during the challenge.

### Toilets

There will be bathroom facilities both at the start and end of each day of the challenge. However during the challenge such facilities will be limited to lunch breaks as well as service stations and public restrooms en-route.

### Food & Drink

The hotels in which you will be staying will have a continental breakfast buffet (please note that breakfast is not included on departure in London). At lunch times you will stop and have a light yet energy-filled picnic. Dinner will be either at the hotel or at a local restaurant. Water will be provided throughout. Please let Charity Challenge know prior to departure if you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies.

### Accommodation

All accommodation will be in good quality tourist-class hotels of 2-3 star rating. Rooms will be used on a twin share basis & all rooms will have their own bathroom. If you are travelling with a friend or partner who you wish to share with, please indicate this where appropriate during the registration process or if you email [bookings@charitychallenge.com](mailto:bookings@charitychallenge.com) well in advance of the challenge.

### Getting there

The group will convene at Haven House where you will meet the rest of the group. We will confirm the exact location of your starting point at no later than 1 month prior to the start of the challenge. Please ensure that you have breakfast beforehand, because breakfast is not provided for on the first day.

### Challenge Timings

Your challenge will begin early on day 1 in the morning, where you will start the adventure.

Each day you will be briefed about the timings for that day.

On your final day, the group will have the morning free to lie-in or make the most of Paris prior to getting a Eurostar train in the afternoon back to St. Pancras International Station.

### Responsible Tourism

At Charity Challenge we are committed to sustainable and responsible tourism, and work closely with bodies such as the International Porter Protection Group and Climate Care to ensure that our challenges benefit the local



environments and communities in which they take place. We ensure that all rubbish is disposed of responsibly, and following local guidelines on cultural and environmental protection and respect, we aim to limit our impact on the natural environment. In addition to taking these practical steps to ensure that our challenges are sustainable, we also make a contribution each year to a number of local community projects, so as to give something back directly to the communities that we visit. Since 2000 we have donated almost £200,000 to such projects, supporting a range of initiatives, including schooling for children in Africa, shelter for street children in Brazil, and Orang-utan conservation in Indonesia. We recommend that any gifts brought over for children are given to the UK challenge leader and distributed where needed by them and our local Ground Agent. If you wish to do more, you should consider buying drinks, postcards and souvenirs from the local vendors. For many, it is their sole source of income. For more information, please visit our Responsible Tourism pages, where you will be able to view a list of the projects that we currently support.

### Terrain

This cycle challenge will put you up against a whole host of different terrain across the UK and France. From great lengths of flat ground, to hours spent on hilly land, be prepared for all types of environments. For this is reason it is important to train properly. Please be aware that the distances, lunch stops and finish points may change.

### Leadership

There will be a first aid qualified challenge leader, plus 2 fully qualified cycling guides for every 10 participants. There will also be a qualified medic in the leadership team. The leader & the guides will ultimately be responsible for the running of the itinerary and the safety of your group, so please listen to their instructions.

### Group Size

The group is intended to be between 31 – 60 people. We will be able to run this challenge for 20 to 30 people by charging a small group supplement of £75, which will be added to your final balance invoice.

### Insurance

Your safety when travelling with Charity Challenges is our main concern which is why it is a booking condition that you have a suitable travel insurance policy that will cover you for the adventurous nature of your challenge. We have chosen to partner with specialist travel insurance providers Campbell Irvine, who offer cover for an extensive number of adventurous activities. Cover is available directly from Campbell Irvine for most European residents and includes cover for emergency medical and repatriation and for your cancellation or curtailment of the challenge. Full details including costs may be found by clicking [here](#).

For more travel insurance questions, please refer to our main [FAQs](#) page or for any specific queries, please contact us at [bookings@charitychallenge.com](mailto:bookings@charitychallenge.com).

### Money

**Cash:** We recommend approximately £125 in Euros as a sufficient amount for your London to Paris bike ride, and you could bring this all in cash, or in a mixture of cash and a bankcard (check with your own bank about relevant charges). You will need a debit or credit card in case of emergency.

**ATMs:** There will be ATMs on each nightly stop, but you are unlikely to pass them during the day.

**Tips:** We recommend approximately £10-£15pp for tipping, which will be given to the challenge leader at the end of the challenge and split between all of the leaders and drivers fairly.

## Training

This challenge is suitable for all levels, as it is guided. If you have never cycled before, this ride is still achievable with the correct ride preparation. We advise that you start at least 5 months ahead of the ride with some short distances at weekends and whenever you can during the week. 5-10miles is not a great distance and will help your bottom and legs get used to it all. By 3 months prior to departure, you should be able to take on longer rides, up to 40-50miles in a day. If you live in a flat area it is well worth getting out and finding some hills, and whilst this may hurt, the more of these you do the easier you will find the ride and the rest of your training. Within a month of the ride we recommend that you have done at least one 2-day ride. This will be the best indication of how well you are doing and mentally prepare you for the 3 days to Paris. If you cannot maintain a steady average speed of 8 miles per hour you are unlikely to be able to complete each day's cycling. You may therefore be asked to get in the van. If possible, try to train with a group as it will make it much easier to get motivated.

## Packing your Bike

Bikes can be packed into a bike box if you wish, but please notify us beforehand so that we can ensure there is enough room for the box in our vehicles. You will be expected to have the necessary tools with you to construct and deconstruct your bike. Once you have completed the challenge we will transport your bikes back to London by van so that you can collect them at St Pancras International Station.

## Type of Bike

Typically a good road bike is recommended for the challenge; however a hybrid would be suitable, but possibly make your life more difficult. A mountain bike may struggle to keep up with the same pace as some cyclists on a road bike because it will be heavy and the tyres are wider. We would recommend that the bike is serviced the week before your challenge to ensure that the brake and gear cables along with brake pads haven't been worn out during your pre-challenge training.

## Clothing and Equipment

Choosing the right kit could make a huge difference to your enjoyment of the challenge. You will need to bring your own helmet so that the fit will be perfect. You will not be allowed to ride unless you wear a helmet. We recommend you bring your own gloves too. They are an essential piece of kit that will relieve strain and abrasions in the event of a fall. You must also bring your own padded cycle shorts, and stiff-soled sports shoes are recommended if you are not

wearing SPD shoes. You will need to bring your own puncture repair kit, inner tubes and pump with you in case you get a puncture during the challenge. Please refer to the kit list for more details [here](#).

Your main luggage will go in the support vehicle that is transported to the hotel each night and you will only need snacks, camera, drinks etc. in your jersey pockets or backpack for the day.

### Why book with Charity Challenge

- Everything included from the moment you arrive. Unlike other operators we include everything from hotel accommodation, your evening meals, breakfast, lunch and plenty of snacks and water stops whilst on the bike ride.
- The very best cycling tour leaders, who are fully qualified, highly experienced, knowledgeable and fun. They will do everything to help you complete the challenge and have a great time doing it.
- The accommodation is situated in the heart of Paris and a stone's throw away from the Eiffel Tower.



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Brilliant! A well supported challenge, some long climbs and the beautiful French countryside. As for cycling down the Champs Elysees towards the Eiffel Tower it was something else. Mission accomplished with knobs on!

Sharon Hartley

“

It's the best cycle challenge I've ever done. Great roads, great camaraderie, a great experience!

Ian Calder

“

I had the best time on my London to Paris bike ride! I went by myself and was really grateful to have such a fun group of participants and leaders. If you're looking for a well organised adventure, I would definitely recommend Charity Challenge!

Jodie Cavendish

# CH>RITY CH>LLENGE

## Any more questions?

Contact us:

+ 44 (0)20 8346 0500

[info@charitychallenge.com](mailto:info@charitychallenge.com)

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