

## **“DOME to DOME” RIDE - LONDON TO PARIS via CALAIS - v2.0**

### Introduction to this Document

This route is available at <http://longbikerides.info/the-rides/london-to-paris-bike-ride/>.

The website also has more information about the route, including a summary description, photos and GPX files. This version of the route is based on a ride undertaken in September 2017, which refines the previous version of the route.

### Overview of the Route

The ride is organised as a three day trip, with recommendations for meal and overnight stops, as summarised below. If ridden in the period from April to September then most of the ride is in daylight.

#### **Day 1 – London to Dover (131km / 82 miles) and Calais to St Omer (44k / 28 miles) – climbing ~1200m**

21 September - Sunrise 06:45 (London), Sunset 19:52 (N. France) (effective daylight 06:15 – 20:20)

05.40 Depart - St Paul’s Cathedral

08:30 Café stop (~30 mins) at Rochester (~52km from start)

11:00 Lunch stop (~30 mins) at Graveney (~100km)

13.30 Arrive Dover (~132km) – this arrival time allows 45 mins contingency.

14.15 Check in latest time (need to check in at least 1 hr before sailing)

15.15 Ferry departs Dover. Crossing time is 1.5 hours – snack at ferry terminal or on the crossing

17.45 Arrival time at Calais (includes + 1h). De-boating takes 30 mins (bikes off last!).

18.15 Set off from Calais for ~44km (quiet route with some small hills), to St Omer .

20.30 Arrive at St Omer for overnight at Hotel Ibis (Centre), Rue Henri Dupuis.

#### **Day 2 – St Omer to Noyon (179km / 112 miles, climbing ~600m)**

22 September - Sunrise 07.38, Sunset 19:45 (effective daylight 07:10 – 20:15)

07:30 Depart St Omer, after breakfast in hotel. About 9 hrs riding. Plus 2.5 - 3 hrs of potential stops:

- Busnes old-school cycle café (~30km)
- Bethune (~45km) – belfry and square
- War memorial at Vimy (~70km)
- Arras for lunch (~81km)
- Peronne, Musee de la Grande Guerre (~130km)

19:30 Arrive Noyon for overnight at Hotel le Cedre, right next to the cathedral.

### **Day 3 – Noyon to Paris (125km / 78 miles, climbing ~500m)**

23 September - Sunrise 07:36, Sunset 19:46 (effective daylight 07:10 – 20:15)

07:30 Depart. About 7 hrs riding. Plus 2 hrs of potential stops:

9am - Compeigne – good for coffee & croissants

1pm - Othis - Lunch

16:30 Arrive – Sacre Coeur, Montmartre. Photos, beers.

The following assumes an immediate return to London by Eurostar:

17:00 Depart Sacre Coeur, ride to Gare du Nord and check bikes in. (at least 90 mins before departure.)

18:00 Meal near Gare du Nord.

19:00 Back to GdN to check passengers in (at least half an hour before departure – double-check!)

20:13 Train Departs, Gare du Nord

21:39 Train Arrives, St Pancras.

22:00 Pick up bikes (usually takes 15 – 20 minutes for them to come off the train).

***Total Distance (“Dome to Dome” – St Paul’s to Sacre Coeur) = about 483km / 302 miles***

#### Key to Abbreviations in the Route Description

L: Turn left

R: Turn right

SA: Straight ahead

T: T-junction

TL: Traffic lights

RB: Roundabout

MRB: Mini-roundabout

1E: First exit

Imm: Immediately

\$. Signpost

x: Cross / across

Cont: Continue

Eff: Effectively

Tri: Grass Triangle

< Before

> After

~ About / approximately (for distances)

N/S/E/W etc: Compass directions

Bold places are next to be visited en route.

## LONDON TO PARIS VIA CALAIS – DETAILED ROUTE

### Day 1 - LONDON TO ST OMER (179km / 112 miles)

#### Section 1.1 – St Paul's Cathedral to Rochester (45km)

- From St Paul's Cathedral, head east onto Cannon Street
- After ~1km, R at traffic lights onto King William Street
- SA x London Bridge.
- After bridge, L onto A200, becomes Tooley St.
- Continue for ~2.5km through Bermondsey, on A200/Jamaica Rd. SA
- At Rotherhithe Tunnel roundabout, 3E onto Lower Rd
- SA for 3.2km, on Lower Rd then Evelyn St, Deptford.
- At lights, keep L to go SA on Creek Road (still A200) for 900m and into Greenwich.
- Go  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way round the Greenwich 1-way system, exiting at A206 towards Lewisham
- Almost immediately, L into Stockwell St
- L into Nevada St
- R to enter Greenwich Park (check opening time) by King William Walk entrance.
- Through Greenwich Park on The Avenue – up hill with Observatory on the left.
- At RB within park, take 3E onto Blackheath Avenue
- Continue 400m and exit park onto Blackheath.
- On exiting park, SA for ~100m to arrive at Shooters Hill Road.
- L on Shooters Hill Rd to head east.
- After 1.4km, 2E to go SA at Sun in the Sands RB
- Continue ~3km on Shooters Hill Rd (A207) climbing up big hill.
- SA down big hill, cont ~6km thro **Welling** & into **Bexleyheath**
- SA thro Bexleyheath ped shopping area if early, else cont on road round back of shops.
- SA Watling St (A207) becomes London Rd.
- SA thro **Crayford**, exit on A207 Crayford Rd.
- Fork L onto Dartford Rd (A226) becomes West Hill, descends towards Dartford centre.
- There is no nice way through the centre of **Dartford**. Follow West Hill as it curves L at the lights then after ~50m use pelican crossing to turn R and x pavement into Essex Rd.
- After ~150m, R onto Kent Rd.
- After ~100m, L into Spital St.

- Either, from end Spital St go SA to walk thro ped area then against 1-way road then SA x pelican to head up East Hill, signed Greenhithe A226. (This is route shown on GPX).
- Or, to avoid walking:
  - L onto Hythe St.
  - After 250m, R at lights to join the Dartford centre bypass dual carriageway.
  - At RB, 2<sup>nd</sup> exit to continue on bypass dual carriageway.
  - After ~300m, at lights, L onto East Hill, signed Greenhithe A226.
- After 650m, at mini RB, fork L onto The Brent.
- After ~250m, 2E at RB, to continue on The Brent, signed Greenhithe A226.
- Another 250m, continue on A226 as it X over A282 (a continuation of M25 which is the approach road to Dartford Bridge.)
- Continue SA on A226 (now London Rd) for ~6km.
  - Through **Stone**.
  - Passes about <1km north of the Bluewater shops.
  - After **Swanscombe**, A226 becomes Galley Hill Rd.
  - Descends with views of industrial Thames estuary to X bridge over the HS railway heading to the chunnel.
- At end of descent, curves R and arrives at a RB.
- Take 2E (to R of cafes) to head uphill on B2175, High St.
- After 1.3km, keep L to continue on B2175, London Rd towards **Gravesend**.
- After 1.2km, L onto Burch Rd (~ opposite Aldi), down to The Shore.
- R and follow river as closely as possible, heading east
- L onto Clifton Marine Parade.
- When this becomes dead end, join (cycle) path between flats and river.
- After ~300m on path, rejoin road by L onto West St.
- After ~200m, take 1E to go SA at RB to continue West St – busier now, town traffic.
- SA for 550m, becomes Crooked Lane, then The Terrace.
- Curves R, signed A226 Higham.
  - Alt route is SA then L to detour to little park by the river front, which is ~30km from start.
  - To rejoin main route, exit park, up Milton Place – walk final section against 1-way.
  - At jct with Milton Rd, A226, then L.
- At clock tower, L onto Milton Rd, signed A226, Higham.

- Continue for 2km, becomes East Milton Rd, then Rochester Rd,
- Curves R to head south east.
- At big roundabout take 2E, Lower Higham Rd.
- After 600m, fork L to continue on Lower Higham Rd (easy to miss, look for small sign on lamp post to Highham, Cliffe. Don't go SA on Chalk Rd).
- Becomes Lower Rd, continue ~4km arrives at **Higham** village, where it is Chalk Rd now!
- Follow road into village, after ~200m, sharp L and x railway.
- After ~50m, road curves R & leaves Highham village on Lower Rochester Rd.
- Ignore fork L after 50m and carry SA out of village, signed towards Wainscott.
- After ~2.5km, arrive at jct with B2000.
- R onto B2000 (busier).
- The B2000 curves R, after ~1km x bridge over A289, uphill to mini RB
- L at RB, then immediately R at a second mini RB, still B2000, now Cooling Rd.
- SA for about 1km, up and over a hill, through a narrow squeeze.
- R at T to continue downhill on Frindsbury Road (A288).
- After ~200m, L onto Station Rd (B2002).
- Curves R, past **Strood** Station.
- At end of Station Rd, L at lights, approach and x Medway Bridge on cycle lane.
- Imm after bridge, x dual carriageway using pelican xing
- Fork R into **Rochester** High St.

LOTS OF OPTIONS FOR COFFEE STOPS

### Section 1.2 – ROCHESTER to FAVERSHAM (36km)

- Continue east along Rochester High St to lights.
- SA x big jct, still High St, continue for 1.1km, past Rochester station on L, to jct with Waterfront Way.
- If early & not busy, SA onto pedestrianised **Chatham** High Street.
  - Inferior alt is R, then L onto The Best, A2, then L onto the Brook.
- At end of ped street, x dual carriageway by pelican and continue SA, with Gala bingo on R.
- SA for 300m to big RB
- 1E at big RB, onto A2 / Chatham Hill, up steepish long hill.
- After ~500m, just after going under foot bridge, L off Chatham Hill onto path to Windmill Rd.

- Continues steep up, briefly doubling-back then curving R, and then gently downhill.
- Windmill Rd continues ~1km, ends in a dead end (for cars) at Canterbury St.
- X Canterbury St to head SA onto Gillingham Rd.
- Gillingham Rd continues in various sections, including taking 1E at mini RB
- After ~ 1.5km on Gillingham Rd, x a level xing.
- Becomes Ingram Road – continue SA.
- Take 4<sup>th</sup> R, after level xing, onto Grange Rd.
- Grange Rd swoops down, L then R.
- Short steep up to jct with Woodlands Rd, wiggle SA (R-L wiggle) continues as Grange Rd.
- After another ~300m of Grange Rd , 1E at RB by new estate, onto Plantation Rd.
- At next RB, 2E into Lower Rainham Rd.
- After another ~300m reach big RB, 2E to go SA on Lower Rainham Rd (B2004).
- Continue B2004, **Lower Rainham** Rd for ~3 to 4km.
- L into Otterham Quay Ln, uphill.
- Around top of hill continue SA (rather than R), becomes Horsham Ln.
- After ~1.5km since turning off Lwr Rainham Rd, you enter **Upchurch**.
- At church with double-steeple, L then curves R onto Forge Ln heading downhill out of village.
- After ~300m, Forge Lane curves L and becomes The Street.
- Another ~1km and you are in **Lower Halstow**. Weave thru village, past Three Tuns pub.
- About ~1km after the village, R on to Basser Hill to go up and over steep hill.
- At T, R then imm L onto Stickfast Ln, ~ 1.5km long.
- At T, L onto Sheppey Way (busier road).
- After 800m (just after industrial buildings with high metal railings around), R onto Bramblefield Ln, No Through Road but signed as part of the NCN.
- Cont Bramblefield Ln to x bridge over A249 then curve L.
- Bramblefield Ln resumes as a proper road with houses.
- At jct, x (with slight offset) the B2005 to go SA into Hurst Ln.
- At end of Hurst Lane, SA onto path xing railway into **Kemsley**, on edge of **Sittingbourne**.
- After xing railway, L onto Ypres Drive.
- After 100m, route is barred by metal barrier, go R onto Menin Road. Curves R.
- At RB, 1E onto Ridham Avenue. Continue SA on this 550m, thru jcts and RB to the point where Ridham Avenue becomes a tarmacked path signed as No Through Road.

- Continue SA on Ridham Ave path to join Swale Way, just before the first of four big roundabouts, linked by roads that go from N to E around the outside of Sittingbourne.
- The path from Ridham Avenue comes out on a shared use path on the R of Swale way, so you can ride on this or join the road (can be busy with lorries due to nearby industrial estates).
- Continue on Swale Way for 2.6km, SA at the first three RB.
- At the fourth RB on Swale Way, take 2E to the R towards new estate.
- Past small lake on the R, then 1E at mini RB and then R, then cut through path.
- Path comes out onto Oak Rd, turn L onto this.
- After ~300m, L onto Tonge Road becomes Lomas Road, continue ~1km.
- At T, R onto Church Rd, under railway bridge, to hamlet of **Tonge**.
- ~ 150m after railway bridge, L onto Scraps Hill, becomes Lower Rd.
- Continue ~2km into **Teynham** and SA through it.
- SA after Teynham, after another ~2km Lower Rd x level xing.
- ~1km after level xing, road curves L at tri, becomes Bysing Wood Rd.
- 450m after tri, sharp R (still called Bysing Wood Rd) and down steep hill.
- Before T, fork onto cycle path on L and use it to turn L to ride next to busy-ish B2045.
- After ~50m, R to cross B2045 to continue on Bysing Wood Rd, with Sainsbury on L.
- SA for 1.1km on Bysing Wood Rd then Dark Hill, into **Faversham** centre.
- At T and triangle, L onto West Street.
- At T, SA and thro pedestrian centre of Faversham to Market Place (picturesque).

### Section 1.3 – FAVERSHAM TO CANTERBURY (15km)

Description below is for the direct route to Dover. Hillier, but a lot shorter, about 44km. (Alternatives would involve staying close to the estuary as far as Seasalter or even Herne Bay – slightly flatter but much longer distance, around 60km).

- From Faversham Market Place, exit on Market St.
- After ~50m, fork L onto East Street and walk against 1-way for ~50m.
- At lights, SA to cont on East Street, B2040.
- After ~1km, x railway bridge then imm 1E at RB onto Graveney Rd, becomes Whitstable Rd.
- After 1.8km, you reach x roads with Head Hill and Staple St Rd.
  - Food stop option: L down Head Hill Road (towards Whitstable for 1.3km to <http://www.thefreewheel.pub/pub-and-cycling-cafe/> Graveney – 01795 538143. To rejoin the route, retrace steps back to x roads with Whitstable Rd and Staple St Rd.

- Coming from Faversham, R onto Staple St Rd (From Graveney it is SA).
- Staple St Rd curves L to x bridge over A299.
- After xing A299, R at T onto Staple St (becomes Staplestreet Rd) for ~2km.
- Curves R at end of Staplestreet Rd, before arriving at T, in **Boughton**.
- L onto Canterbury Rd. SA for ~2km, starts with a long straight climb of ~ 60m.
- After 1.4km, branch L, signed Canterbury, Dover (A2) – this is a feeder road for the A2.
- After 600m, turn L on London Rd (No Thru Rd) to run parallel to the A2 itself for ~100m.
- At end of London Rd, there is a shared use path to Dover, next to A2. Continue on this for ~1.5km. The surface looks rubbish on Google Street but is OK & makes this route possible.
- You can leave the path after Holiday Inn onto a kind of service road parallel to A2 for 400m. Or stay on path for the 400m and join the A2 slip road signed to Upper Harbledown.
- Cont for 1.6km, becomes (misleadingly) Roman Road (not actually straight at all).
- Merges L into busy A2050.
- After ~ 240m, R off A2050 then imm L onto Faulkners Lane, signed **Harbledown**.
- Cont for ~1.3km - Faulkners Ln curves R, becomes Church Hill then Summer Hill.
- At T with A2050 dual carriageway, turn R towards **Canterbury**. There is a cycle lane.
  - It is tricky to get into centre of Canterbury, due to medieval streets, but worth it for the history and atmosphere. However from 9 and 5.30 you have to pay to even enter the cathedral courtyard and without doing this it is almost impossible to get a decent view.
- Continue next to A2050, after 50-100m, get off to the L, onto small parallel road
- After another ~50m, L onto London Rd.
  - Alt, if needing to make up time, SA on Reims Way as it becomes dual carriageway, then R at RB signed Margate, Ashford and take ring road round SW until on opposite side of Canterbury centre, at which point R at RB onto A257, signed Sandwich. This turns into Longport at which point you are back on the route. This probably saves 15 mins.
- First R off London Rd onto Queen's Ave
- Continue Queens Avenue to T, then wiggle L then R onto Whitehall Bridge Road.
- SA over pedestrian bridge across railway cutting (no steps). Following NCN signs.
- Whitehall Bridge Road continues after crossing railway. Follow it as it curves L.
- At T opposite red brick wall, L into Whitehall Road
- At the point where Whitehall Rd forks L to become Linden Grove, you go SA or fork R on path next to the river Great Stour.

- Either way you arrive at T and go R into St Dunstons Street.
- SA, thru medieval gate.
- SA down pedestrianised street for about 200m.
- L into The Friars.
- If avoiding the cathedral, L into King St. After ~200m , curves R and becomes Borough.  
There are lots of cafes and places to eat here.
  - If going to the cathedral, SA becomes Orange St, then SA (slight fork R) onto Sun St.  
Comes out in little cobbled square with stone cross. Turn L and go through medieval gate, to the precincts of the cathedral. As mentioned, have to pay to go in from about 9 – 5pm.  
To return to route, retrace steps up Sun St, R into Palace Street, joins Borough.

#### **Section 1.4 – CANTERBURY to DOVER (29km)**

- Continue on Borough, take first R onto Broad St.
- After 200m, at T, use cycle lane to turn R onto (still) Broad St.
- After 200m, L onto Lady Wootton’s Green.
  - There is a tiny park with benches where you can eat fish and chips or other take away food bought in Borough. You get one of the best non-paying views the cathedral, too!
- Continue ~50m down Lady Wootton’s Green.
- At mini RB, R onto Monastery Street.
- After 100m, just after medieval tower, part of St Augustine’s Abbey, L onto Longport.
- Continue ~150m to RB then take 1E / L. Pass former HMP Canterbury on L.
- ~400m after RB, R onto Spring Lane. Curves L.
- After ~500m on Spring Ln, 2E at mini RB onto Pilgrims Rd
- After ~200m, first L onto Pilgrim’s Way.
- Imm X railway bridge; Pilgrim’s Way continues & curves L thru housing estate.
- After ~ 500m from railway bridge, Pilgrim’s Way turns into tarmacked non-car track.
- Pilgrim’s Way cycle track continues about 2 – 3km, tarmacked all the way.
- Merges in to road, Biffrons Hill, at village of **Patricbourne**.
- 1E at RB, onto Station Road, for ~400m.
- Just before viaduct, R into School Lane.
- SA on School Lane, becomes Chalkpit Hill, becomes Adisham Road, for ~4km.
- At tri, SA (keep R) onto Pond Hill thru village of **Adisham**.

- Continue SA, is Station Road, exits village & goes under viaduct, climbing now.
- At T with B2046, R (signed Dover ~13 miles!) for ~100m then first L, signed Nonington.
- After ~800m, curves R, signed to Aylesham & Nonington.
- After ~400m, curves L and goes through N edge of **Aylesham**.
- SA for 3 – 4km, (including SA at give way after Yodel and at Stop sign SA on Nightingale Ln. Follow the blue-signed cycle route 16, for the time being.)
- After wiggling thru small wood, arrives at “gingerbread” house which is in **Frogham**.
- At Give Way, L signed to Eythorne. After 100m, curves R, still signed to Eythorne.
- Continue SA for ~500m, this is **Barfrestone** outskirts. Don’t turn off.
- SA on road Unsuitable for HGVs.  
[All roads around here seem to be called Barfrestone Road; not much navigational help]
- At road sign in tri, R to Sheperdswell & Wootton. Still following cycle route 16.
- 1.3km after tri, L at right angles into Long Ln.
- After ~400m, x Shepherdswell Rd (runs diagonal) to continue SA on Long Ln.
- After ~100m, R into Mill Lane, near industrial farm / timber place. Still following route 16.
- After ~600m on Mill Lane, L into Little Haynes. Follow route 16 sign and sign to Coldred.
- After ~1km, at crossroads / giveaway, SA x bigger road. Follow route 16. This is Singledge Ln.
- This climbs for ~3km to highest point of ride to Dover, at 128m, near **Whitfield**.
- At the edge of the village, there is a choice.

*Option 1 – via London Road (Quieter but involves walking x A2 and down very steep path)*

- Just before entering Whitfield, turn R at 30mph sign (departs from NCN route 16 here) on Green Ln.
- There is ~500m of Green Lane not open to cars and not visible on Google Street. You need to walk x A2 (it is, at least, not a dual carriageway at this point) and then walk down a very steep lane with a surface that could prove very tricky in winter. And, at the end, lift bikes over a gate to get back onto tarmac. The advantage is that it avoids some busy stretches of road.
- Once back on the tarmac, swoop down Green Lane, becomes Wellington Road, merges into London Road.
- SA on London Road, for ~1km, to RB.
- 2E at RB, to cont SA on London Road, now the A256.

### Option 2 – via Whitfield – bigger roads

- Continue SA on Singledge Rd into Whitfield.
- Singledge Road merges with A2, turn L.
- 4E at big RB onto A256, signed Dover (north), River, Temple Ewell.
- Swoop down steep hill towards Buckland.
- After ~1.5km arrives at RB - take 1E onto London Road, the A256.

*Merges with option 1 here.*

- Continue 1.7km on London Rd to lights
- SA onto 1-way system, Buckland Hill/Ave, still A256.
- At lights, still SA, now Barton Road, with park on the R.
- After school, Barton Road / A256 curves R. (The British Legion L2P route forks L here, presumably to take a route avoiding the final stretch of dual carriageway to the ferry).
- After ~200m, L at lights, signed M20, Deal, Ferries.
- SA for 1.2km, running next to the River Dour, to jct / lights near sea front.
- L onto dual carriageway for ~500m to ferry port. The first few hundred metres can be horribly busy, then it is possible to get onto a smaller road running parallel on the L.
- Follow signs to enter Dover ferry port. Cycle check-in is reasonably well signed.

### **Section 1.5 – CALAIS to ST OMER (44km)**

Three options – option 3 has been described in detail, below:

- 1) Google recommended = “via D943” (2h 2m) = 39km, 137m climbing, highest point 57m – runs right next to the Autoroute, so might not be that scenic.
- 2) Google alternative = “via D928” (2h 21m) = 45km, 49m climbing, highest point 23m – after about 10km heads east and through the dutch style landscape.
- 3) Compromise = slightly more direct, via D219 then D943 – 44km, 140m climbing, highest point 54m - google says this takes the same time as #2 above. Instead of several up and downs, has one bigger hill in the middle.

### Option 3 description

- Leave ferry terminal can be tricky. You need to get onto the outside of the security fence and then follow signs for Calais / Centre Ville.

- You should find yourself on Avenue Commandant Cousteau, which heads West South West alongside the security fence towards Centre Ville.
- After ~800m take 3E / L at RB to head away from port and the sea, onto Quai de la Loire. (Note this exit is NOT the one signed to Centre Ville. But don't worry if you miss it – the 2017 GPX file contains exactly such a navigational error and so shows how to get back on route).
- Quai de la Loire runs parallel to canal on its east side.
- After 1km, arrives at T, with Lidl on L.
- R at T onto Rue Mollien.
- SA for 500m, heading towards landmark Calais tower.
- L at Quai de la Gendamerie, signed Terre D'Opale etc (if you x canal you've missed the turn).
- Continue SA on cycle lane, with canal immediately on R, for ~1km. (SA at RB ~halfway along).
- At No Entry sign, continue against traffic for last 50m on legal cycle lane, up slip road.
- At the bridge, turn L.
- After 50m, fork R, signed Toutes Directions, on to Bvd Victor Hugo.
- SA on Bvd Victor Hugo for ~1km.
- 3E at RB, to go SA on D119, signed Toutes Directions. Crosses small canal.
- SA for ~1km.
- At massive RB, go under A16 motorway, and take 2E to go SA, D943 signed to St Omer.
- SA on busy D943 for 3 – 4km. (Running parallel to A26, ~300m W of the autoroute)
- Enter village of Les Attaques. At lights, leave D943 taking the R onto D248.
- After 100m, crosses canal via typical low countries bridge.
- Immediately after xing canal, L onto Rue de Contre Halage – tarmacked tow path.
- Continue SA for 2 – 3km to Pont d'Ardres.
- The route actually involves a sharp R ~100m before the Pont d'Ardres bridge, but might be worth going up to look at the interesting 4-way canal junction (!) then doubling back.
- The sharp R goes downhill and under railway line for 50m.
- L onto Chemin Lateral.
- After another 50m, L at stop sign, to x one of canals, next to railway.
- The road then goes under flyover for the D943 and emerges with Pont D'Ardres station on L.
- ~ 100m > station, L onto Rue de La Riviere 1777, which stays next to railway.
- Then curves R to run next to tiny canal.
- Continues, heading south east, for ~3km.

- At La Ferme de la Pont Troue, road curves sharp L to x pretty brick bridge over another canal.
- After ~200m, road goes under A26, Autoroute des Anglais.
- Continue SA for ~800m.
- At jct next to interesting old building (see below), R onto Rue Edmond d'Artois.



- Pass village sign for Nortkerque, continue ~800m, heading SSE.
- R at T in village of **Nortkerque**.
- L after 50m, at bar, onto D226, Rue du Zutkerque.
- SA for ~2km, then road wiggles sharp L then after 100m sharp R, becomes Rue de Nortkerque.
- After ~500m, near a chateau d'eau, the D226 does another wiggle L then R.
- Another ~600m, another wiggle L then R for the D226.
- Just after wiggle D226 curves L at little bar (if it still exists) to go into Zutkerque. Ignore this and continue SA (effectively turning R off D226) onto Rue Notre Dame.
- Bypass Zutkerque. Ignore any signs for Kapitainkerque.
- Continue ~1km.
- R at T to rejoin D226, heads briefly south west before curving south east.
- After ~2km back on D226, arrives at Chateau Cocove, marked by big stone wall.
- D226 turns sharp R at corner of wall; instead go SA (by turning L off D226) on R de la Dreuze.
- Continue ~1km, to T.
- R onto D218 then after just 20m L onto D217, which doubles-back on D218, heading NE.
- After ~600m, R onto Rue Basse, just after entering village of **Reques sur Hem**.
- Rue Basse heads SE for ~500m, then curves R to head SW.
- After ~400m, road curves L to head SE again.
- After ~400m, L at T.

- Cont ~100m, then curve R at concrete wall of isolated bungalow.
  - SA, heading SE, for ~3km, first R de Bayenghem, then R d l Longue Digue, climbing gradually. This is highest point on this stretch, at about 54m.
  - At curved x-roads in **Bayenghem–des-Eperleques**, go SA (signed to Marie) on D221E1.
  - After ~500m in centre of village, wiggle R then L past church. (GPX drops out around here)
  - About 2km after church, the D221E1 enters a new village and curves R then L then R then L.
  - At jct, R onto D219, continue ~2.5km, including a little hill near start of this stretch.
  - At T, L onto D943 (this is an RN standard road for a stretch here) towards St Omer. A bit of a climb in the first 500m.
  - After ~2.5km on D943, arrive at large RB. Take 2E, SA onto D943E1, signed Salperwick.
  - After 3 – 4km, at RB near Conforama, SA, becomes D928.
  - Continue ~1.5km to next RB, again 1E (in fact SA) onto Rue de Capitaine Revel. (Slightly confusing, but keep the car park and modern “Marie” on your left, as you exit RB).
  - After ~600m, L at corner of park (has a large Chateau d’Eau).
  - Continue along edge of park for ~400m
  - R at T, park is still on your R.
  - Continue ~200m to RB, take 3E / L.
  - Continue ~50m to jct, where **Hotel Ibis** (Centre) is opposite.
- St Omer is a lively town with lots of places to eat, especially around Place du Marechal Foch.

## Day 2 - ST OMER to NOYON (179km / 112miles)

### Section 2.1 – ST OMER to BETHUNE (45km)

- Leave Hotel Ibis on R Henri Dupuis, heading SE.
- After ~100m, curves half-way round the cathedral, on cobbles.
- Fork R (walk ~20m against 1-way).
- Come out into triangular “square”, at corner of this R onto R St Croix.
- After ~30m, L down narrow “road”, signed Parking St Charles.
- After 20m, emerges onto Rue St Charles with car park on L. SA ~60m.
- SA at x roads, becomes Rue Pasteur.
- SA for ~400m, including SA at another x roads, into residential area.
- At T, L onto R Louis Noel.
- At Stop sign at jct with big road, SA with little tri on L and petrol station on R.
- Imm fork R onto R d’Aire.
- After 150m, 2E at RB to go SA, becomes R Brueghel.
- After ~500m, curves R to arrive at jct with Rue Leon Blom.
- L, via central reservation island.
- After 100m, SA at RB. Bike lane starts up shortly after RB.
- After ~500m, SA at next RB.
- Another 500m, another RB. SA, is D211.
- Curves R, passes small chateau on R, curves L and x a short bridge over a canal of L’Aa river.
- After another ~200m, x another canal then R down one-way (Rue Voltaire) signed to A26.
- Gets narrow then comes out in big square / car park, overlooked by grand Hotel de Ville.
- L to go along far side (E side) of big square, still signed to A26.
- R at T, signed A26. This is Ave General de Gaulle.
- After ~200m, SA at RB with funky glass brick design.
- After ~800m on Ave General de Gaulle, there is a small restaurant on L.

There is a route choice here. You can take the D943 for 32km and continue for ~32km (!), until big RB after Choques, where you leave D943 to get on D181E8 to go into centre of **Bethune**. The alternative is much quieter but more complex - through lots of villages and some lovely dutch-style landscape. This is the route which is described here.

- ~ 100m after the small restaurant, fork R and go down the slip road.
- Then L at RB to go under Ave General de Gaulle.
- ~ 50m after going under Ave G de G, R at T onto Chemin de Lobel – smaller road, heads SE.
- Past industrial estates. After 1km, SA across diagonal x roads.
- After another 350m, SA at Stop x roads with busier road.
- Another 450m, SA at another Stop x roads.
- After 950m, on the edge of **Wardreques**, SA at another Stop x roads.
- Small rough road curves L and bypasses village centre.
- After 250m, join D199 by turning R. Continue 1 – 2km.
- L at jct with D190.
- R after ~100m (about 100m *before* the D190 crosses the canal). D306 / R de Choquel.
- Continue 3 – 4km. Road curves to L, becomes D106, signed to Hazebrouck.
- After ~100m, cross the canal, enter **Blaringhem**.
- After another 100m, R at nondescript x-roads, just after xing little trickle. This is R d Neuffosse.
- Continue SA (heading S), road curves R slightly and after ~1km, x RB & ride beside main canal.
- After ~1km beside canal, road curves L away from it, but tarmacked tow path continues SA.
- At this point you can see bridge ~500m away. Continue towards bridge, but at some point turn L away from river to get onto D157E3 which is the road that heads E after crossing canal.
- It is essential to turn R just after the metal fence around what looks like a municipal recycling yard, down what appears a dead end but actually curves R and rejoins the canal.
- After ~800m, road forks, with towpath looking a bit gravelly, so take better tarmac, forking L.
- After ~1km, by concrete bridge carrying pipes over the canal, tarmac road goes L then 50m later R (again parallel to canal).
- Need to get onto D157 and x the canal from E to W. This is the edge of **Air-sur-la-Lys**. There are canals & rivers all about here.
- ~500m after xing canal, turn L (easy to miss – opposite ‘VATP’ sign) onto cycle path.
- After 200 - 300m, becomes small road and then arrives at RB.
- At RB, SA, Rue de Lille, signed Thiene. After ~50m, take 1<sup>st</sup> R.
- After ~200m, L at T with D187.
- Continue on D187 ~4km, to Isbergues. There is a cycle lane for some of this road.
- 3E at big RB (the exits are not evenly spaced, so count carefully), and continue on D187.
- Stay on D187 for ~4km, through centre of **Isbergues**, eventually lots of shops.

- Eventually, arrive at significant jct with D186, with traffic lights – turn L onto D186.
- Continue D186 / Route de la Victoire, ~1.5km (there is a cycle lane on L for some of it).
- R onto D187 (actually signed **Guarbecque** Centre / Busnes). *Soon after turn, Intermarche on L.*
- Continue D187 for 3 – 4km, to **Busnes**.
- At T with D916, turn R (signed to A26).
- Continue ~100m, then L by Café au Stop  
Cycling café, with bike on its wall – worth a stop to chat with ancient local cycling heros!
- About 50m after Café au Stop, becomes D187 again.  
[From here to Oblinghem the route is tricky to follow, with some confusing village signs].
- Continue D187 for 1km, to the edge of **L'Ecleme**.
- L where the road curves R at a driveway to a farm - see photo. (2017 GPX is wrong here).



- Road imm curves R then SA for ~900m.
- L at T, onto D69 and cont for ~700m.
- At point where D69 curves L by 90 degrees, take R to go SA on smaller road - see photo.



- Road goes over small bridge over dike, then into big fields and wiggles L then R.
- ~650m after small bridge, curves L by 90 degrees past line of poplar trees.
- After ~400m, curves R, towards hamlet.
- SA for another 1km after curve, through hamlet.
- At curved T, L onto D182, signed **Gonnehem** centre.

- After 1.1km and wiggles into centre, arrive at T.
- L onto D181, signed Oblinghem, **Bethune**.
- Continue D181, during which it curves to head S again, for 1.8km.
- At junction with D182, in hamlet of Le Blanc Sabot, R to stay on D181, signed Oblinghem.
- After 900m, L onto D180E1 (jct in middle of big fields), signed Oblinghem.
- Stay on D180(E1) for 1.8km as it wiggles through **Oblinghem**. (GPX drop out here)
- L at T, onto D180.
- After ~300m, at red brick church, R onto D180E1 again.
- After ~300m, at x roads with Christ on cross, L onto D181E8. Signed Bethune.
- SA on D181E8 for 1.1km. Arrive at RB.
- 2E at RB, signed **Bethune** D937.
- Cont ~800m – look out for prison on L then art-deco style Palais de Justice on R.
- At the triangular Place Lamartine, fork R, continue ~500m, including on severe cobbles.
- Arrive at main square, with famous Belfry of Bethune. Enter square from N
- Lots of places for food and drink.

## Section 2.2 – BETHUNE to ARRAS (36km)

- Exit Bethune main square to the S onto Ave Jean Jaures, by red brick Credit du Nord.
- At T after ~300m, turn R
- Cont ~50m to RB and take 3E to turn L, Rue Eugene Haynaut.
- Continue 100m to RB, take 3E - more or less SA. Rue du Faubourg d'Arras.
- Continue ~800m, 3E at next RB, (green sign to Arras, not blue sign for motorway).
- This is Ave Winston Churchill / D937. After ~500m x railway.
- Then after another ~1km, 2E at big RB, to go SA on D937, green sign to Arras.
- After ~500m, crosses under A26. Intermarche on R (open on Sundays?)
- After another ~2km, D937 enters **Noeux-les-Mines**. Vaguely reminiscent of English town!
- Built up area continues for 2 – 3km.
- At RB on S edge of town, SA on D937, signed A21 and Arras. Road now gradually rising.
- After 1km, through **Sains-en-Gohelle** – SA at roundabout with model of Eiffel Tower!
- Then after another 1km, x bridge on D937 over A21.
- 3E at RB, to cont on D937, green sign to Arras.
- Continue ~ 1km into **Aix-Noulette**.

- Continue on D937, heading S, ~3km towards Souchez. From here, terrain is rolling.
  - If you're finding the D937 too busy, at RB in centre of Aix-Noulette, take R to get off D937, then after ~250m, L onto R Rene Lantoine. Continue parallel to D937 for 1 – 2km until you can't go SA any further than turn L to rejoin D937.

The route described here takes in the Vimy Canadian War Memorial. If wanting to visit extra war sites, the French national war cemetery of Notre Dame de Lorette is a detour of about 3 – 4km if you turn R a kilometre or two before Souchez. If you want to press on without detours, then continue on D937 for another ~4km, to east of Neuville-Saint-Vaast. Merges with the route described below at the point where the D937 and D55 cross.

- ~2km after RB in centre of Aix-Noulette, L onto D51, signed to Vimy memorial
- After ~100m, x over A26. Continue ~2km into centre of **Angres**.
- In centre of Angres, at long "oval-ish" RB, take 3E, to continue on D51.
- Continue on D51 for ~1.5km then R onto Rue Arthur Lamendin, signed "**Givenchy** Centre".
- Continue ~1km, road curves L and becomes Rue Marcel Sembat.
- Opposite church, turn R into Rue Jules Ferry.
- After ~200m, at small green triangle, merge with D55, heading W / SW.
- Road curves L to head S. After about 1km, should see signs to **Vimy** memorial(s). Preserved trenches are near jct of D55 and D55E2.
- To get to Arras, continue S on D55 for ~3km to **Neuville-St-Vaast**, xing under A26 again.
- In centre of Neuville-Saint-Vaast, L onto D49, signed to A26.
- Continue for ~400m, curving L.
- Turn R onto D49E1, signed to Ecurie and Rolincourt.
- Continue on D49E1 due south for ~3km.
- SA at x-roads, continue D49E1 for ~500m to arrive at jct with N25.
- SA for ~500m, fork R on cycle lane which runs against 1-way traffic.
- After another 500m, the road merges with the D264.
- Turn R onto D264. At RB, continue SA (2<sup>nd</sup> exit) on D264, towards centre of Arras.
- After about 1km, arrive at big RB. From here, usual one-way nonsense.
- 3E at RB onto Rue Roger Salengo – residential.

- After ~600m, at lights, L onto Rue Saint Aubert, passing façade with fountain on your R (i.e. following red & blue cars in photo below), becomes Rue Ernastele.



- ~600m after the point in the photo above, at x-roads with t-lights at which only buses can go straight on, turn L into R Desire Delansorne.
- SA for ~250m, brings you to Place des Heros (cobbled) and the Belfroi d'Arras. There are more lunch options in the Grand Place (also cobbled) (exit at eastern corner of Heros): e.g. Palerme (pizzas, with tables outside in summer) [+33 3 21 58 53 84](tel:+33321585384)

### Section 2.3 – ARRAS to PERONNE (49km)

- Starting from Belfroi d'Arras, exit square to NE, Rue de la Tallerie. Cobbles.
- After 100m, R into Grand Place = big square – sometimes fairground / car park.
- SA across the W end of the square and SA to exit square onto Rue Paul Perrin.
- After 100m, R onto D917 – a centre of town main road with a cycle lane.
- After ~500m arrive at lights & big jct.
- Diagonally SA on D917, signed Achicourt, Beaurains.
- Imm after xing jct, curves / forks L, signed Beaurains (NOT Achicourt). X railway.
- Cont through towns, after 2 to 3km, you are passing through **Beaurains**.
- D917 continues dead-straight for ~7km, with decent hard-shoulder / cycle lane.
- After **Boiry-Becquerelle**, the cycle lane disappears and D917 might be a bit busy.
- Continue another 1km on D917 to **Boyelles**.  
(From Boyelles you could continue on the D917 / D1017 which is a relatively busy road which goes all the way to Peronne. However, the following route is quiet and easy to follow.)
- In Boyelles, where road curves L, turn L opposite café / tabac, into Rue Principale.
- Follow this through village. At Christ on cross, fork L.

- Just after small modern estate, the road divides into two small tarmacked roads. Fork R.
- Continue, heading SE, for ~2km.
- At jct, join D12, turning L, signed for St Leger.
- D12 curves L and continues ~1km, to jct with D12E1 on outskirts of Saint Leger.
- Turn R and through centre of **Saint Leger**.
- At x roads in centre go SA - becomes D36E2, signed Mory & Vaulx Vraucourt.
- Continue SSE from St Leger on D36E2.
- After ~3km, x under railway then autoroute A1.
- Continue D36E2, signed VV (becomes D36 after 1km, with a merge from the R).
- 3km after xing under A1, arrive in **Vaulx Vraucourt**.
- In what looks like centre, fork R on D36 then D20, signed to Beugny.
- Continue on D20 for 3km, to **Beugny**.
- At T, R onto D930 then after ~50m, L to continue on D20, signed Haplincourt.
- Continue on D20 for 4km to **Haplincourt**.

[The images on Google Street were all mashed up and potentially misleading around here!]

- At jct in **Haplincourt**, x D7 and continue SA (heading S) on D20, signed Barastre.
- After 2km, enter **Barastre**, continue on D20 which wiggles through the village.
- Next village on D20 is **Rocquigny**, about 2km after Barastre. Amazing modern church spire.
- Another 1km, x over A2. ~100m after bridge, x from Pas-de-Calais to Somme. Becomes D72.
- Another 500m, arrive in **Mesnil-en-Arrouaise**. This is about highest point on this stretch.
- Continue heading SE on D72. After ~3km, at T in village, R onto D43, signed Moislains.
- Continue on D43 for ~4km, heading S, at some points near to Canal du Nord (on L).
- D43 passes through **Moislains**, for ~1km.
- Near the end of Moislains, D43 curves sharp R, signed to Peronne.
- Continue on D43 heading SW, after ~1km crosses canal, then after another ~1km, turns S.
- From here, there is a fair climb for next 2km, up to Chateau D'Eau, then jct with D1017.
- At RB with D1017, go SA, into residential area, on Rue Jean Touef, heading SW.
- Continue ~ 1.5km on Rue Jean Touef, gradually curving L to head S, thru boring bits of town.
- R into Blvd du Poilu at nondescript jct (look out for mock tudor house on L, as per photo).



- At end of Blvd, L onto Ave de la Republique.
- In ~200m on the R is a chateau which is a Museum de la Gd Guerre. Cafes around.

#### Section 2.4 – PERONNE to NOYON (49km)

- From chateau, head SSE (keeping L at jcts, heading up slope), for about 200m.
- R at T, onto D1017, signed for A1 etc, Compeigne & Senlis etc.
- D1017 curves L, after ~400m x one of several waterways to S of Peronne related to Somme.
- Continue S on D1017 for ~1km to x Canal du Somme.  
(This is the first of several opportunities, over the next 15 – 20km, to switch between road and towpath – however, quality of surface unknown, so tarmac route described here).
- Continue S on D1017 (quite narrow and busy) for ~3km, to Eterpigny, then fork L onto D62.
- Follow D62 for ~2km, during which it meets canal/river, to jct with D1029.  
(This is another opportunity to switch to towpath).
- D62 goes under D1029, wiggles R away from river then L to run parallel.
- Continue S, on D62 for ~5km to point where it x under A29.
- Continue another 1km, into **Epanacourt**.
- Next village is **Pargny**, after +1km. D62 curves L then R at church, signed Morchains, Nesles.
- Another 3km, reach **Bethencourt-sur-Somme**.
- At jct just after church, R then after ~100m, fork L onto smaller road, heading SSW.
- Another 2km, reach **Rouy-le-Grand** (& Petit is on other side of river / canal!).
- Road is D930C here, curves R after entering village, to head W.
- Over ~1km, road curves L, following bend in canal, to head S again.
- Arrive at bridge over Canal du Nord.
- X bridge over the canal. Continue ~300m into **Rouy-le-Petit** up slight slope.

- Before centre of village, sharp R onto Chemin des Vignes (at big red brick building), to head S.
- Continue ~1.5km. L at jct with D930.
- After 500m, R onto D89, signed Languevoisin.
- After 200m, x bridge to W side of canal.  
(This point provides another choice between road and towpath.)
- Continue on D89, heading SW and climbing a bit, for ~1km, into **Languevoisin**.
- L (signed Moyencourt) at small RB, with Christ on an iron cross in middle.
- Continue on small road ~3km, into **Moyencourt**.
- Where road curves L at painted iron cross, turn R onto Rue D'Eglise.
- L at Stop jct, after church, then SA for ~100m.
- R at T, onto D154.
- Continue on D154 for ~2km, rising (gently) to **Ercheu**.
- SA at jct along farming / residential street for ~500m to Stop jct.
- L to leave village by D154, signed Fretoy Le Chateau.
- Head S on D154, about 1.5km after Ercheu is where towpath option would merge, if it exists!
- Within + ~1km, sign for La Panneterie – this is roughly border between Somme & Oise.
- At border, the D154 invisibly becomes the D545.
- ~2km after La Panneterie, arrive at jct with D76. SA on D545 - looks v small but is fine! The D545 takes ~2km to get to Campagne – more direct than alternatives.
- ~1.5km after jct with D76, you arrive at D39 and turn L x bridge over the Canal du Nord.
- ~150m after canal, continue D39 as it curves left to enter **Campagne**.
- ~100m after curve, at church, turn R onto D103, signed Bussy.
- There is a relatively steeper climb for the next ~500m on D103.
- Arrive in **Bussy** ~3km after Campagne.
- At x roads in Bussy, SA on the D103, signed Noyon. Crosses stream(s) signed La Verse.
- Continue ~2km, to hamlet of **Genvry**. Nice fast riding around here.
- Fork R on D558, signed Genvry – village and Beaurains les Noyons.
- Through village to T (opposite Christ on cross). Turn L on D558, signed Noyon.
- After ~2.5km, arrive at jct with D934.
- L and through outskirts of Noyon.
- After ~600m, at RB, SA into centre of **Noyon**.
- You can see the cathedral ~ 200m away. Head SA to arrive at it.

- The cathedral is in effect in the middle of a big RB / one-way system, with cobbles. Either turn L and go the correct way, or turn R and wheel bikes about 50m to the Hotel Le Cedre!

Dinner options seem surprisingly limited in Noyon. Near the Hotel d'Ville and theatre, there is:

- Le Delice des Orients – café style middle eastern
- Le Petit Noyonais – 2016 choice – sub-alpine sort of stuff
- Galway pub – 2017 – actually a restaurant and quite reasonable
- Café Theatre - more bar than brasserie.

Could also try Pizza King – takeaways and deliveries (behind the cathedral).

### Day 3 - NOYON to PARIS (125km / 78miles)

Google directions suggested three options:

- 1) Via Chemin de Halage (towpath) – 116km – 6h 10m – 416m climbing, highest point 168m – picks up towpath just S of CdG airport, and continues for the last 20km or so.
- 2) Via D932A – 105km – 5h 46m – 429m climbing, highest point 137m
- 3) D932A / D1017 – 107km – 5h 55m – 473m climbing, highest point 148m – virtually the same as route 2, until the last 30km.

All routes go through Compeigne, about 20km south of Noyon. All routes pass through at least some of the forest / national park of Oise-Pays.

Routes 2 and 3 go through Senlis, in the middle of the parc regional, which looks pretty and is about half way. Route 1 could be varied to go through Senlis, adding about 6km to the total route.

Senlis is about 7km from Chateau de Chantilly, which featured in the final stage of 2016 Tour de France and is stunning. It looks like you can cycle right up to it, but would need to check. But this would be a total add on of about 14km in terms of the distance to ride this day.

But Route 1 seems the best bet for arriving in Paris without going on huge and busy N roads.

The idea of finishing at Sacre Coeur is that it is a different landmark to the Eiffel Tower, it is on a hill with great views, there is only 1.5km to cycle on the Parisian streets after the canal ends. Also Montmartre is an interesting (if touristy) area, and it is less than 1km from Gare du Nord. If you started at St Pauls in London then the ride is “Dome to Dome”!

#### Section 3.1 – NOYON to COMPEIGNE (27km)

- Leave Hotel le Cedre, turn L and head round to front of cathedral, on cobbles.
- L down Rue St Antonine, then after 50m, take 1<sup>st</sup> L, more cobbles.
- After ~40m, fork R (leaving the cobbles behind!) onto Rue de L’Arc.
- After ~100m at T, turn R (right way on 1-way).
- Then after 20m first L, signed Compeigne.
- After ~80m, L onto bigger road, D932. (There are smaller roads parallel if main road too busy).
- After ~300m, 2E at RB with column in the middle of it, to continue on D932.

[If looking for an early bakery, detour by taking 4E from RB, onto Rue de Paris. Olivier Bayart bakers is about 20m up on the R, open from 5am or 6.30am at weekends].

- Another 500m, SA at next RB, continue on D932.
- Another 300m, use central lane to turn L, signed D145 to Pont L’Eveque (not of cheese-fame, that is in Normandy).

- After ~1km, just after road bridge, turn R just before water tower. Signed D64, Passel.
- After +~1km, D64 curves R and x Canal du Nord, with railway bridge just to the L.
- After ~1km, L at T onto D1032 (RN standard – busy, but only for 2km and very straight).
- At 2<sup>nd</sup> set of lights in **Chiry Ourscamp**, L onto D535.
- After ~40m, fork R, still D535.
- Another 50m, fork R again, still D535.
- Continue ~1km to T (just after passing C-O end of village sign), then turn L.
- Cross railway and after ~100m on this road, turn R, signed C5, Pimprez.
- Small road, continues ~2km.
- L at T with D608, on the edge of Pimprez.
- From here, follow green and white signs to get onto the Oise Cycle Route 3, which takes you in the direction of Compeigne, on fairly quiet roads, through lots of forests.
- Follow D608 into **Pimprez**, as it curves R and runs parallel to Canal Lateral de l’Oise.
- Continue on D608 as it curves L to cross the canal.
- After a further ~1km on D608, it arrives at jct with D40. Turn L onto D40.
- After ~600m, the D40 crosses the Oise itself.
- At jct, R onto D165.
- Continue D165 for 2-3km, through **Saint-Leger-Aux-Bois**.
- At end of the village, R signed Montmacq to head into the forest on Oise Cycle Route 3.
  - Depending on bikes and surface conditions, you can continue following the cycle route signs through the middle of the forest until you emerge near Choisy-au-Bac, coming in on Rue Raymond Poincare then R into the centre on Rue de General Leclerc, D81. Instead, the description here sticks to guaranteed tarmac, and is broadly as per the 2017 GPX!
- After leaving Saint-Leger-Aux-Bois, cont thru forest SA without turning off, for 3.8km.
- L at T in **Montmacq**, onto D66.
- Continue on D66 another 3.8km to big RB.
- 2E at RB, signed Choisy-au-Bac Centre.
- Continue SA for 1.4km on Rue Georges Clemenceau into **Choisy-au-Bac**.  
[Note there are some bizarre “give way to minor road from the right” traffic measures here!]  
*Tarmac and forest alternatives merge at jct of Rue Georges Clemenceau and D81:*
- SA or L (depending on route to this point) on Rue due Marechal Foch for ~200m, then x the River Aisne.

(It is possible that the Oise Cycle Route 3 continues on the south bank of the river, probably accessed via a R turn into a car park ~50m after the bridge, to pick up a path along the river. This may well be a good route in to Compeigne, but has not been tested, so the following heads in on suburban roads.)

- ~300m after the bridge, arrive at big RB.
- Take 2E (SA) at RB, onto D66, signed Compeigne Z.I. Nord.
- D66 continues, pretty straight, for 3 – 4km into **Compeigne**.

(There is a clear R onto a tarmac cycle path after ~ 1km; may be a more pleasant way in).

- R at lights jct with N31

[Up to 2016 it was possible to go SA up hill and enter the city through a 50m cobbled tunnel under the ancient walls. Sadly now blocked by new one way system.]

- Stay on N31 for 1.1km, it curves L and runs next to River Oise. There is a cycle path under the avenue of trees on the R.
- At jct with lights, L (opposite direction to bridge over Oise) into Rue de Solferino.
- SA for about 200m up to the Place Hotel de Ville and Mairie.

There are lots of cafes in this area. A quieter alternative is the café in the Place General de Gaulle, which you reach by exiting the NW corner of the square and going broadly SA for ~200m. Lots more cobbles, though.

(A later section of the Oise cycle route forms part of the Avenue Verte route from London to Paris – see <https://avenuevertelondonparis.co.uk/etapes/auvers-sur-oise-asnieres-sur-oise>. It also features in the ambitious Pilgrims Route from Bayonne to Cologne, described at <http://www.biroto.eu/en/cycle-tour/europe/pilgrims-route-ev3-bayonne-cologne/rt00001859>.)

### **Section 3.2 – COMPEIGNE to ERMONENVILLE (44km)**

- From Compeigne Hotel de Ville, leave SE corner of square, Rue Jean Legendre.
- First R into Rue de L'étoile (small shopping street)
- SA for ~280m, becomes Rue Saint-Antoine.
- L (ish) at lights onto Rue d'Austerlitz.
- Keep R past urban tri, forking R onto Rue Notre Dame du Bon Secours.

- L at lights into Rue des Capucins
- R at lights into Rue de Paris (just after Poste, *not* before - is no thru road).
- After 130m, stay R at oval shaped RB, 1E still Rue de Paris.
- Cont SA for 1.4km on Rue de Paris.
- 2E at RB, to go SA on Avenue des Martyrs de la Liberte
- After 1km, keep L, becomes Rue de Senlis, signed to Senlis.
- After 450m, 2E at big RB, to go SA on D932A, green sign to Senlis & Paris.
- Cont into forest. There is a reasonable cycle lane, if needed.
- SA for ~3km, to **Lacroix St Ouen**. SA through town on D932A.
- After Lacroix, continue ~4km on D932A. No cycle lane, but no obvious alternative.
- 2E at big RB, signed Zone D'Activities de Verberie.
  - Alt to the next two steps is 1E at RB to stay on D932A, but is boring & busy and you probably want some variety by now!
- After ~500m, need to x railway at pedestrian level crossing. Take care and walk across.
- SA for 500m, then L to rejoin D932A, heading SW.
- At lights at jct of D932A and D123, R to head W on D123.
- SA on D123, thru **Verberie**. After ~1km, you are reaching the edge of town.
- Cont SA on D123, heading W. Has a cycle path next to it, if preferred.
- 2.6km after leaving Verberie, just before A1 viaduct, L onto D100, signed Roberval.
- Cont ~1km on D100, climbing S & parallel to A1 viaduct, to **Roberval**.  
(In the next 2-3km, there is nearly 100m of climbing).
- In Roberval, take 2nd R (after bar) to fork onto Route de L'Eglise, passing under A1 viaduct.
- After 700m on Route de L'Eglise, L at tri.
- This small lane curves R to run next to D100 and A1, and climbs steeply.
- After 500m, careful R at blind jct with D100. Climb continues.
- ~ 1km after rejoining D100, R onto D932, signed Senlis, at edge of **Villeneuve de Verbiere**.

This is where you need to decide whether you want to do the detour to Senlis.

#### OPTION 1: NO SENLIS

- After 250m on D932A, L onto D100.

This section of the ride alternates dappled forests and big skied fields as you progress south across a sequence of ridges, plateaus and plains.

- Head SE on D100 for ~3km to Raray.
- Enter **Raray** on Rue Jean Cocteau – look for fab chateau on R (now a hotel, naturally).
- Another 3km to **Rully**.
- Another 6km to Baron. (In the middle of this stretch is a great ridge climb, plateau then sub-alpine descent on a hair-pinned road with fantastic views to the south.)
- In **Baron**, wiggle R then 100m later go L (before La Truite Vagabond!).
- Another 5km on D100, then into **Montagny Sainte Felicite**.
- At tri in centre of village, R onto D922.
- Cont ~3km on D922, heading W. Route a bit indirect here, no direct routes with tarmac.
- At T, R to enter village of **Ermenonville**,
- Cont for ~800m following Ermonenville's very own 1-way system. The road descends in a big loop round the centre (would be fun but for viscious speed bumps).
- At cobbled area, cont SA, past Chateau on the R and Parc Jean-Jacques Rousseau on L. The park is a landscaped garden in honour of the philosopher who spent 6 weeks here in 1778 and then died. Hoping this is not a bad omen! Ermenonville seems like it should be a reasonable bet for refreshments, but have never found anything suitable to be open.
- About 400m on from cobbles, L at T with busy N330.

OPTION 2: SENLIS (summary only, not full description - have not ridden this as not sure that Senlis is quite cute enough to make the detour worthwhile!)

- From Villeneuve-sur-Verberies, take D26 to Ognon.
- Then D932A to Chamant and on to Senlis.
- Exit D330 to Mont L'Eveque.
- Continue D330A to Borest and Fontain-Chaalis, to minimise N road.
- Eventually have to take N330 busy road for last 5km to Ermonenville to rejoin route.

### Section 3.3 – ERMONENVILLE to PARIS (54km)

- ~500m on N330 from Ermonenville jct, 2E at big RB to go L, signed N330 to Meaux.
- Continue on N330 for ~1km.
- 2E at big RB, to go SA onto D84.

- Continue ~1km, to **Ver-sur-Launette**. Basically SA through village, to exit on D549.
- After ~2km, climbing, pass Region Ile de France sign at boundary of Oise & Seine-Marne.
- Road becomes D13 at boundary.
- SA at lights at the edge of **Othis**.
- Cont through centre of Othis, going SA at oval-shaped RB next to church.
- ~400m after church, as you are leaving Othis, there is a pizza / chicken / kebab place on the L, as well as a posher restaurant. The fast food place proved a good lunch stop in Sep 2017.
- Continue SA on D13. Over next 2km, road climbs nearly 100m!
- ~900m after Othis church, fork R, signed **Dammartin** centre.
- SA ~500m on very straight Avenue l'Europe.
- Just after end of straight section, as the road starts to curve L, get off onto the pavement on the R and go between metal barriers, onto cul-de-sac Chemin d'Othis,
- This continues uphill (steeper) in the same line as the main section of Avenue l'Europe.
- Chemin d'Othis curves R at the top and rejoins Avenue l'Europe, near the town centre.

The town of Dammartin has limited attractions and the 1-way system at the top is a veritable labyrinth. If you want to go into the centre for shops etc, you will need to comply with the 1-way inner loop road, which after ~500m brings you to the main street, heading E - or else walk. If you want to get out of Dammartin asap (recommended) then the little circular park at the top is your best escape route.

- R at T at top of Chemin d'Othis
- Imm L, then get off and walk into the entrance to the park, on the L.
- Head for SE corner of the park; you can cycle carefully on paths then pick up a car access road.
- You emerge into a more open area and are at T with D401.
- L onto D401.
- After ~150m on D401, R at lights down Bvd de la Gare / D41B, signed Saint Mard.
- As the descent starts, look R for views of Paris in the distance.
- After nice descent for ~1km, x under N2.
- Through **Saint Mard**. At lights jct, SA (slightly L diagonal) onto D404, signed Juilly.
- As leaving town, x under railway.
- After ~2km, D404 passes W edge of **Juilly**. CDG airport is about 4km due W from here.
- At jct with D9, SA, signed Nantouillet & Messy.
- After ~500m, D404 turns L to enter **Nantouillet**.
- After 200m, at red brick circular tower, sharp R to cont on D404, signed St Mesmes.

- After 2 – 3km, through **St Mesmes**.
- Continue D404 going SA at lights, signed Messy.
- After ~2km, D404 continues through **Messy**.
- At lights at x roads in Messy, R onto D139, signed Gressy.
- Head W for ~2km into **Gressy**.
- ~ 100m after church, L onto Chemin les Carosses (imm after Manoir de Gressy posh hotel).
- SA for ~300m
- Just after road curves L, take R onto Chemin de la Rose.
- This reaches canal in 300m, then curves away from it and conts ~200m.
- L at T with D212.
- After ~100m, R off D212 at Piste Cyclable sign, just < bridge, to join canal towpath on N side. From here, it's ~ 20km to centre of Paris, heading WSW. The towpath route is well signed. The later sections, in Paris, can be very busy with cyclists and pedestrians.
- After ~6km on the canal, x to S side, near Gare de Villeparisis-Mitry-le-Neuf.
- After further ~12km on the canal, x to N side, just before A3 autoroute crosses the canal.
- After ~3.8km back on the N side, around Bobigny, cont on cycle path as it leaves the canal to go round railway sidings, before returning to the canal after ~900m.
- ~500m after returning to canal, cont on cycle path as it x to the S side again.
- Another ~1.5km brings you to La Villette, with an interesting park, museums etc.
- Another ~1km, then cycle path ends, at T with Rue de Crimee, next to iron footbridge (photo).



- R at T at end of cycle path, onto Rue de Crimee, to cross water by road bridge.
- After ~50m, first L onto Quai de la Seine – has a cycle path on L.
- SA for 900m, with Bassin de la Villette on the L.
- At end of Quai de la Seine cycle path, L via traffic island, onto Ave de Flandre.
- Imm R, at lights. Do not go under the elevated section of railway.

- This is Boulevard de la Villette, becomes Blvd la Chappelle, and runs on N side of elevated railway. There is a segregated cycle lane – peds will step into it, but probably safer than the very busy car lanes.
- SA, heading W, and xing over the lines going in to Gare de L’Est and then Nord.  
It is quite tricky to get to Sacre Coeur due to hills and one-way streets. The following has been tested and works quite well – few tourists, no walking.
- 1.6km after joining Boulevard de la Villette/Chappelle, R into Rue de Clignacourt.  
This turn can be tricky to spot. It is about 200m after big x roads with Boulevard Barbes, and is (in Sep 2017) just after “La Halle” shop as shown in photo below.



- Climb up Rue de Clignacourt for 350m, incl SA where it gives way to road merging from R.
- ~50m after the give way bit of Clignacourt, sharp L onto Rue Muller. Climbs and is cobbled,
- After ~250m, curves sharp R and becomes Rue Paul Albert.
- SA up Rue Paul Albert (signed as No Entry “sauf velos” - except for bikes!).  
This is cobbled and pretty steep, so makes for an exciting climb near the end of the ride!
- At top of Paul Albert, curve L. You can see Sacre Coeur close ahead, up some steps.
- There are 40 steps, with wide cobbled paths either side, so you could attempt to ride up for the ultimate hilltop finish.
- Or turn L onto Rue Lamark (not cobbled). After ~150m this curves round the front of Sacre Coeur. This is a nice place for photos, as the top area can be too crowded.
- Otherwise, continue (the road is now Rue du Cardinal Dubois) along below front of church, and then the road curves R (at this point you can look over to the Eiffel Tower).
- Imm R into Rue Azais, which brings you up to the front of the Sacre Coeur and its dome.

**ARRIVEE!**

## SACRE COEUR to GARE DU NORD

- To get away avoiding main tourist throngs in Montmartre, you must go along the W side of Sacre Coeur, and round the back.
- This is Rue du Cardinal Guibert, and is the cobbled street right next to the church on the L side as you stand facing the front steps.
- At the back of the church, cont round to take the 3<sup>rd</sup> L into Rue de la Bonne.
- After ~100m curves L and becomes R St Vincent.
- Continue R St Vincent for ~400m. Steep down on cobbles – careful if wet.
- Curves R and after 100m arrives at lights.
- R into Rue Caulaincourt (non-cobbled).
- Continue ~300m. Fork R onto Rue Custine.
- After ~400m arrives at Blvd Barbes.
- R into Blvd Barbes, continue for ~400m to jct with Blvd de la Chapelle.
- Turn L onto Blvd de la Chapelle (need to x under the elevated railway then L).
- Continue for ~400m then R onto Rue du Maubeuge.
- This runs down W side of the Gare du Nord, frustratingly close to the Eurodespatch cycle check in, but you have continue along to the side entrance nearly at the front of the station.

Post ride: Au Garage a Velos, 19 Rue Gérando, 75009 Paris, from 5pm Tues-Sat, +33 9 83 45 14 70

