



Dijon & Beaune Challenge

Recce Report from Rob, Preston & Mike

A trio of Extra Mile organisers left Bedford at 6.45 am on Thursday 19 May to check the 500-mile cycle route and the hotels for the 2022 Dijon & Beaune Challenge. They each had their primary roles – Rob Oakley as chauffeur and cycle adviser, Preston

Ayres as navigator and route planner and Mike Rhodes as hotel and food supremo.

Having pre-loaded pdf copies of vaccination details, Eurotunnel was swift and efficient and we were soon heading down the Autoroute, destination Dijon.

Many aspects of our 20th Extra Mile Challenge excite us. In Dijon we all stay in the Holiday Inn north of the city whilst in Beaune we are all staying at the Novotel – both are excellent 4* hotels with swimming pools. Each is on the edge of town allowing us to start and finish cycling each day at the hotel car parks – so convenient.

The countryside from start to finish is superb as we are in a beautiful part of France. We traverse many forests on Day 1 on undulating roads. On Day 2 the first 40 miles and last 40 miles are relatively flat in arable farming areas with numerous river crossings including the Saone and Doubs. In between is the “lumpy” bit to excite you climbers and those who relish a challenge. This is not surprising as we venture to within about 30 miles of Switzerland. Day 3 has many water features despite us being very much inland. At the start, 10 miles alongside Canal Centrale is easy riding after which the roads become undulating. Later we cycle round two major lakes, Lac de Panneciere and Lac des Settons. The last few miles before arriving in Beaune, we cycle between fields of vines.



Throughout the road surfaces are so much better than at home with only a few vehicles on the roads – our support vehicles might double the traffic on some lanes! We have even found a few nice cafes en route.

Our Grande Finale Gala Dinner will indeed be grand. At the completion of the challenge, everyone travels the short trip to the famous Hospices de Beaune by coach. We have planned cocktails and canapes in the amazing quadrangle before heading inside the Bastion for a superb 4- course dinner prepared by a “2- fork” Michelin chef. It will certainly have been worth cycling 500 miles for this treat.



If you are still undecided about entering the Dijon & Beaune Challenge, we suggest that you grab one of the few remaining team places before it is too late.

Rob, Preston & Mike



Organisers' Nightmare!!

