



## PRESS RELEASE

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# THE VÉLOMARITIME® - RIDE THE FRENCH NORTH COAST

## A MARITIME EXPERIENCE FULL OF PROMISE

*Fresh sea air, lighthouses, beaches, cliffs... Pedalling along The Vélomaritime®, the promise of a maritime experience is kept. But there's more to it ! The 1,500 km cycle route also enables you to discover the riches of a diverse territory extending from Roscoff, in Brittany, to Dunkirk, at the Belgian border. Now, with over 90% of the route completed, the French portion of the EuroVelo 4 promises moments of wonder at the foot of the lighthouses or in front of the landscapes, as well as cultural and heritage discoveries, and convivial times around the local gastronomy.*

### OBJECTIVE FOR 2021

To this day, 93% of the overall itinerary is complete – including the whole section between Roscoff and Cherbourg-en-Cotentin – and the objective is to inaugurate the full Vélomaritime route in 2021. In the meantime, alternate routes are under study to facilitate as much as possible cycling on the non-completed sections. Travel agencies specialised in cycle trips are already marketing The Vélomaritime and are developing ideas around the route.

### SHINING A LIGHT ON THE ROUTE

From Roscoff to the Risban lighthouse in Dunkirk, the route includes over 50 lighthouses. They are located in the sea, on islands and capes, as well as in towns or on boats like the Sandettie in Dunkirk, which has been turned into a museum. Currently, 8 lighthouses can be visited, you can stay in a former lighthouse keeper's cottage, or take a break at the foot of these maritime towers which mark the 1,500 km of La Vélomaritime.

### BREATHTAKING LANDSCAPES

Capes, cliffs, dunes, beaches, and the sea as far as the eye can see. This is what France's most iodised cycling route promises. Salt and sea spray have sketched unique and spectacular landscapes, which are now recognised internationally. From Roscoff to Dunkirk, you can therefore admire 5 very different "Grands Sites de France"\*: the expanse of the Somme Bay, the jagged capes of Erquy and Fréhel, the Deux-Caps Blanc-Nez and Gris-Nez, the Flandres Dunes (ongoing) and the Étretat Cliffs and Côte d'Albâtre (ongoing).

\*Labelled or applying for a label



CYCLING  
and more!

## DISCOVER HERITAGE TREASURES

3 Unesco World Heritage sites, 4 National Monuments, 3 "Plus Beaux Villages de France": the list of heritage discoveries is impressive. All along the route, the natural wonders are offset by architectural prowesses. Saint-Malo, the Mont-Saint-Michel, the seaside resort Touquet-Paris-Plage, as well as the charming little fishing harbours. Here again, a cycling holiday on The Vélomaritime promises visits filled with history and charming addresses to take a break and recharge at night.

## SHARE MOMENTS OF FRIENDSHIP AND EXPERIENCES AROUND THE LOCAL GASTRONOMY

Admire the landscapes and heritage at leisure while pedalling on The Vélomaritime... and more ! With friends, as a couple or a family, sharing and conviviality are part of the trip. The 1,500 km route promises encounters with the inhabitants and experiences around the local products. The menu is rich and diverse : the Flemish cuisine, the Cancale oysters, Normandy cheeses, etc. Taste the French culinary heritage by visiting small local addresses and Michelin-starred restaurants – on the water or at the water's edge, along with visits to local producers.

### A NEW ROUTE ON THE FRENCH PORTION OF THE EUROVELO 4

The EuroVelo 4 is a European cycling route that extends from Roscoff, in Brittany, to Kiev, in Ukraine. The French municipalities involved in its development have initiated a process to structure the French sections and affirm the route's positioning in the National and European cycling offer. They are currently developing The Vélomaritime® : a route extending from the Channel to the North Sea, in the continuity of the Tour de Manche. With a fair share of hilly roads, this is the perfect route for cyclists seeking a sporting challenge and for electric bicycles.



## A COLLECTIVE PROJECT

The Vélomaritime® is a project borne by 15 local authorities and their tourist institutions. Together, they established a route committee at the end of 2018, which they support both financially and technically, and which is headed by Calvados Attractivité. They work together to implement an ambitious action plan over the next 5 years (2019-2023). The route is supported by Vélo & Territoires, Coordinator of the national cycle network.



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