

- **Tour Cost: €265 - This is the price for your group, not a per person cost. Please note below the additional costs for extending the touring time to allow for dining in the restaurant Chez Erwan (as well as the associated additional dining costs), or for otherwise extending the tour time beyond the standard touring time of 3 hours 12 minutes.**
- **Additional Costs:** Train Ticket – €17.80pp Bike Rental – €30pp
- **Meeting time and train times:** We will meet at the bike rental store at 8:50AM and take a 9:58AM train leaving Paris and arriving in Houdan at 10:54AM. We will take a train departing from Houdan at 2:06PM and arrive in Paris at 3:02PM. For those wishing to extend the touring time to dine in the restaurant or for any other reason, there are trains departing from Houdan once every hour at 6 minutes past the top of every hour (i.e. 3:06PM, 4:06PM etc.).
- **Total round trip train time:** 1 hour 52 minutes
- **Touring Time:** 3 hours 12 minutes from train arrival in Houdan to train departure from Houdan
- **Distance round trip from bike store to train station:** 9km / 5.5 miles
- **Touring Distance:** 18km / 11 miles from train arrival in Houdan to train departure from Houdan
- **Total biking distance:** 27km / 17 miles
- **Level of Difficulty:** Easy. The terrain on this tour varies from flat to gently rolling with no significant hills (and only a few inclines). This tour is suitable for all levels of cyclists.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you would like to have a picnic lunch on this tour that is an option but please note that purchasing picnic lunch food and eating your picnic lunch must be completed within the standard 3 hour 12 minute tour time noted in the standard tour logistics.

However, as long as you are fit and competent cyclists then buying and eating a picnic lunch should not be a problem. The terrain on this tour is flat to gently rolling (with no steep hills) and the touring distance is only 18km / 11 miles so given that the standard touring time is just over 3 hours **then even if cycling non-stop** it should not be a problem to cycle the full distance of this tour in about 2 hours, more or less (this assumes you can cycle at the very reasonable pace of 10km per hour / 6-7 miles per hour). Thus, you would be left with an additional hour (more or less) at your disposal.

For those who do not wish to have a picnic lunch, nor dine in the restaurant I have proposed, you may be wondering "Gee, if it only takes 2 hours to complete this tour then what will I do with the additional hour"? Don't worry, I've got options for you. First of all, you may wish to cycle at a casual pace (or maybe you just aren't an experienced cyclist) and thus there would not be much (if any) additional touring time left over. Secondly, the lovely little medieval town of Houdan (where we start and end the tour) has several cafés/pastry shops/stores where you can indulge your gastronomic curiosity to enjoyably pass any remaining tour time once we arrive there at the end of the tour. You can sit back and relax at a café, go to one of its boulangeries (bakeries) and grab some tasty pastries to munch on, or wander around and window shop (or do some actual shopping) to pleausurably pass time if we happen to arrive back in Houdan and have some extra tour time to use up.

For those who wish to customize this tour to add additional touring time to dine at the restaurant I've proposed, or, to simply extend the standard touring time please see the information below.

As noted, the standard tour time for this tour is 3 hour 12 minutes from train arrival in Houdan to train departure from Houdan. **Trains depart once every hour from Houdan and there is a supplemental fee of €35 per hour for additional touring time.** The total standard touring distance is only 18km / 11 miles and if you were cycling non-stop (at a very casual cycling pace) without having a picnic lunch or dining in the restaurant it should only take just over 2 hours to complete this touring distance.

I've already mentioned about the option of how to pass any remaining tour time (if desired/needed) if you choose to not have a picnic lunch nor dine at the restaurant within the standard tour time allowed. So, I know the question you are asking yourself is "How much is the additional cost for dining at the restaurant you've proposed?" An excellent question, and one to which I can only give you an estimate.

Let me do my best to give you the best answer I can to that question. If you cycle at a reasonable/casual pace then it should only be necessary to extend the standard touring time by one hour to allow you sufficient time to dine in the restaurant. **Thus, the supplemental fee you would pay to extend the standard tour time to allow you to dine in the restaurant would be €35, meaning the total touring time would be 4 hours 12 minutes and the tour cost would be €300 (vs. the standard tour cost of €265). It should also be noted that tour participants pay for their own meal costs (your dining costs are not included in the tour price) so you should factor your per person meal costs into your calculations when determining your total estimated tour cost.**

I have only given you an ESTIMATE of a €35 supplemental fee to dine in the restaurant (with the total tour time equaling 4 hour 12 minutes from train arrival in Houdan to train departure from Houdan). This estimate is based on the assumption that you can maintain an average minimum cycling pace of roughly 10km per hour / 6-7 miles per hour for the duration of the total touring distance of 18km / 11 miles (this is a VERY casual cycling speed). Thus, the estimated €35 supplemental fee will allow you a total of 4 hour 12 minutes to complete this tour, meaning the total tour cost would be €300. **If you can not maintain the minimum cycling speed averages noted above and can not complete this tour within 4 hours 12 minutes (including the time required to dine in the restaurant) then you will incur an additional supplemental fee of €35, bringing the total tour cost to €335 (not including your restaurant dining expenses) with a total touring time of 5 hours 12 minutes.**

This leads (I'm sure) to your next question, which is "**How much will it cost me to dine in the restaurant?**" A very good question, indeed. The entrées (appetizers) generally range in price from 6-8 euros. The plats (main courses) generally range in price from 10-20 euros. The desserts generally range in price from 2-6 euros. The cheese plate costs 8 euros. Prices for beverages generally range in price from 3-6 euros. A single glass of wine costs €5. Wine is also available by the bottle and there is an enormous wine cellar where you can choose your own bottle. Each bottle has a price tag and you pay €10 more than shown on the price tag. This can be an excellent choice since bottles of wine (per the price shown on the bottle) generally range anywhere in price from under €10 to €100 for the very best bottles. Outside of the standard menu there are usually one or two "plat du jour" (specialty dishes of the day) and these change daily according to the ingredients purchased daily by the chef. The Plat du Jour generally costs €12.

Since the restaurant has no website, and almost zero internet presence, then I will give you essential info to help you decide if dining in this restaurant is an option which would suit you/your group. **If you have certain food allergies or you require special menu requests then this is not a good restaurant option for you. Special requests at this restaurant will not be accommodated.** This is a very "meat and potatoes" type of restaurant (literally). There are no vegetables nor salad so do not expect these food items. You will be served a side dish of potatoes with your main course. The name of the restaurant is Chez Erwan and it is located in the little village of Bourdonné, west of Paris. You can click on the following link to see a video exposé of this restaurant.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRlmwChq1uk>

You can click the link below to check the Chez Erwan Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Chez-Erwan/302709636490409>

Also, it should be noted that **the restaurant Chez Erwan is closed on Wednesdays and Sundays** and the lunch hours are from noon to 2PM (though it is necessary to arrive before 1:30PM). The hours noted on the Facebook page have not been updated and the link posted to a Chez Erwan website also noted on the facebook page is inactive.

The menu is fixed so if you'd like to see what is offered on the menu (not including the "plat du jour", which varies daily) then below you will see the menu options. Obviously the menu is in French so I have provided (as best I could) the menu in French with the associated English translation:

Entrées (Appetizers):

Fois Gras Maison: €8 (there is no translation for Fois Gras. "Maison" means "home style")

Saumon Fumé Maison: €8 (Home Style Smoked Salmon)

Escargots (6): €8 (6 Snails)

Jambon Ibérico: €10 (Spanish Ham)

Jambon Melon: €8 (Ham and Melon)

Caviar (20gr): €25 (20 grams of caviar)

Tomate Mozza: €8 (slices of tomato and mozzarella cheese)

Plats (Main Courses):

Plat du Jour: €12 (Dish of the Day)

Andouillette: €12 (This is a tough one to translate. The closest I can come up with is chitterlings)

Gambas: €12 (Shrimp)

½ Magret: €10 (Half Duck Breast)

Magret: €15 (Duck Breast)

Entrecôte: €20 (Rib Steak)

Côte de bœuf (pour 2): €40 (Prime Rib for 2 people)

Plateau de Fromage: €8 (Cheese Plate)

Desserts: (um, obviously desserts)

Crème Brûlée Maison: €6 (You need to google this one.)

Mousse Chocolat Maison: €6 (Home Style Chocolate Mousse)

Panna Cotta Maison: €6 (Home Style Panna Cotta)

Nougat Glacé Maison: €6 (You need to google this one)

Fromage Blanc Coulis: €6 (You need to google this one)

Fruits: €6 (Well, I think this should be obvious.)

Moëlleux au Chocolat: €6 (Chocolate Cake)

Glaces (Ice Cream):

1 boule: €2 (1 scoop)

2 boules: €3 (2 scoops)

3 boules: €4 (3 scoops)

Mangue, Passion, Coco, Cassis, Framboise, Pomme, Citron, Menthe, Fraise, Rhum Raisin, Vanille, Caramel

(Mango, Passion Fruit, Coconut, Blackcurrant, Raspberry, Apple, Lemon, Mint, Strawberry, Rum-Raisin, Vanilla, Caramel)