
Tekst 3

France versus England

adapted from a blog by Max Wooldridge, Travel Mail writer

Why can't the UK be more like France? Sacre bleu, non! I hear you cry.

- 1 This blog is not sponsored by the French Tourist Board. This one comes straight from the heart. Each week, tour operators send me information about cycling breaks in the UK and bang on about how great they are. My reaction is the same: thanks, but no thanks. A cycling break in the UK simply won't feel like a holiday. To me, it's a contradiction in terms. Holidays should be relaxing affairs, not anxiety-fests in which you worry what's coming around the next corner. Will the next car that passes clip my ankle? Or bustle me into a hedgerow? Cycling in cities is deemed cool so much so that every self-respecting mid-life crisis male now treats himself to a six-grand carbon fibre road bike instead of a BMW motorbike. Despite the successes of British cyclists like Mark Cavendish and Bradley Wiggins, the UK is still not a particularly fun place to ride a bike.
- 2 It has nothing to do with the weather, as I love cycling in the rain and the cold. The problem is the mentality of many British drivers who tend to see cyclists as pests. In Belgium, Holland, Italy and France bicycles are an integral part of the culture, and drivers have an in-built respect for cyclists. 8 Britain's best professional cyclists base themselves abroad, where they are assured of better road conditions and a positive cycling culture.
- 3 When it comes to holidays, it's France for me every time. Nowhere else gets a look-in, and not just because some of the happiest days of my life have been spent on a bicycle there. This positive discrimination is based on 20 years of cycling in France. My infatuation has a lot to do with the countryside, and its sleepy villages; the waft of fresh patisserie smells as you set off in the morning

and the mid-afternoon clank of *boules* as you reach your destination. But it has a lot more to do with the general welcoming attitude you get on two wheels, even when your accent exposes you as a *rosbif*.

- 4 The French drive like nutters on motorways reserved for cars but slow down to a snail's pace through towns. When I cycle in the Pyrenees cars often wait five minutes behind me until the road straightens and it is safe to overtake. Events like this are virtually unthinkable in the UK, where waiting for a cyclist is an affront, or slowing down for one a sign of failure. I won't take a cycling holiday in the UK until I feel safer on the roads. Until that changes, it's France for my cycling holidays every time.

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- 1p 7 What becomes clear about Max Wooldridge from paragraph 1?
- A He feels British cyclists often make the roads unsafe for other users.
 - B He hopes the demand for cycling holidays in Britain will increase.
 - C He thinks cycling in Britain is stressful and dangerous.
 - D He wants to organise cycling holidays in France.

- 1p 8 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 2?
- A No wonder
 - B Surprisingly,
 - C Unfortunately,
 - D Yet

- 1p 9 What is the main function of paragraph 3?
- A To explain why the writer is a popular guest in France.
 - B To list the writer's reasons for going to France in his leisure time.
 - C To make clear the writer has fond memories of growing up in France.
 - D To prove that the writer has visited France often and extensively.

- 2p 10 “the general welcoming attitude you get on two wheels” (einde alinea 3)
Geef van elk van de volgende citaten aan of dit wel of niet hiervan een voorbeeld is.
- 1 “Will the next car that passes clip my ankle?” (alinea 1)
 - 2 “I love cycling in the rain and the cold” (alinea 2)
 - 3 “the waft of fresh patisserie smells as you set off in the morning” (alinea 3)
 - 4 “The French drive like nutters on motorways reserved for cars but slow down to a snail's pace through towns.” (alinea 4)
- Noteer het nummer van elk citaat, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.

- “where waiting for a cyclist is an affront, or slowing down for one a sign of failure” (alinea 4)
- 1p 11 Welke zin uit een eerdere alinea geeft een uitleg voor deze houding? Citeer de eerste twee woorden van deze zin.