



CLASSIC CLIMBS: THE ALPS BIKE TOUR

LEGENDARY CLIMBS INCLUDING COLOMBIERE, GLANDON, CROIX DE FER AND ALPE D'HUEZ

There are mountains, and then there are the Alps. This is where cycling mythology was born, from Eddy Merckx's dominance of five Tours to Pantani's record-breaking ascent up Alpe d'Huez, to the new champions like Contador, Quintana and Froome battling it out in the mist and haze of Europe's high peaks. We'll tackle climbs like Col de la Colombière, Col du Glandon, Col de la Croix de Fer, Alpe d'Huez, and more while we bask in the gorgeous hues of crystal-clear Lake Annecy and the sights from Mont Blanc, a must-stop on any Alps tour. We'll refuel with Savoyard cuisine and recover in some of the most charming and central hotels. If you've ever had a desire to conquer the monsters of France, this is your trip. Ride in the Alps with us on a bike tour from Annecy to Alpe d'Huez. [Book your trip with confidence »Learn more about your Perfect Day in Alps»](#)

From
\$4099

Rider Type
Avid

Hotel Style
Explorer

Duration
6 days | 5 nights

Start | End
Annecy, France | Grenoble, France

Dates
2021/Jul/Aug

TRIP WOWS

Fuel your day with traditional alpine favorites: tartiflette, raclette and fondue

Imagine leading the peloton as you ride over the names of your favorite riders painted on the road, and hear the echoes of fans cheering you on

Ride up Alpe d'Huez and time yourself - how do you stack up against Tour de France winners at the end of the day?

Now is your chance to tackle the same climbs as the pros like Glandon, Alpe d'Huez, Croix de Fer, Colombière

Experience the city of Annecy, France and stay in a Relais & Chateaux property tucked away in a mountain range as well as a luxury chalet in the mountain-top town of Les Deux Alpes



DAILY ITINERARY

2021

Day

1

TODAY'S RIDE:

Annecy to La Clusaz via Col du Marais and Col de la Croix Fry

Approximately 34 miles with 5,020 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to the Alps! A short drive through the bustling heart of Annecy leads you and your new traveling companions around Lake Annecy, the cleanest lake in all of Europe, to the start of your adventure. After some initial introductions and a thorough bike fitting, your guides will take you on a challenging ride through the alpine hills and over the Col du Marais and Col de la Croix Fry. The perfect warm up ride, the Croix Fry climb has been featured in the Tour de France five times, most recently in 2018. We'll roll into our hotel in La Clusaz in time for a leisurely lunch, and you'll have time to relax and unpack before reconvening later in the day. This evening you'll gather with the group for a welcome reception and dinner at the hotel.

HOTEL:

Hotel au Coeur du Village

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Lunch | Social Hour | Dinner

Day

2

TODAY'S RIDE:

La Clusaz to Col des Aravis, Megève, and Col de la Colombière Loop

Approximately 60 miles with 7,520 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

Enjoy incredible riding today over some of the iconic climbs of the Tour de France. Start your day with a plentiful breakfast before heading out for a loop ride that offers spectacular roads and sprawling vistas. You'll first spin up and over the seven kilometer climb to Col des Aravis, just as the pro peloton has done some 40 times since the Tour began. Today you will climb the "easier" side from La Clusaz before heading through Megève, Europe's jet-set ski resort village of choice. Continue on our loop through Sallanches, then pace yourself up the 16 kilometer climb with an average 7% grade up the Col de la Colombière. Enjoy a bistro lunch on the Col if you choose or at the base of the mountain in Le Grand Bornand. After we return to our idyllic hotel, relax at the pool or maybe catch up on a well deserved nap. Tonight you are on your own to explore the local culture and enjoy a meal of your choice in the village.

HOTEL:

Hotel au Coeur du Village
[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast

Day

3

TODAY'S RIDE:

La Clusaz to Col du Marais, l'Arpettaz, and Aravis Loop

Approximately 50 miles with 6,200 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

La Clusaz to Col du Marais, l'Arpettaz, Aravis, and Colombiere Loop

Approximately 71 miles with 9,300 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

Today prepare yourself for a gorgeous loop with classic sweeping views of the Alps. You'll start with a descent out of town, head into the steady 7km climb of the Col du Marais, followed by a 12 kilometer climb with a 6% average grade up l'Arpettaz. Choose to have lunch on your own on the Col or after you descend into the village of Flumet. After lunch, you'll tackle the more challenging side of the Col des Aravis at almost 12 kilometers long with an average grade of 5%. Once at the top, enjoy views all the way to the Mont Blanc if the sky is clear, before a lightning fast descent to the village of La Clusaz. If you are up for more climbing, you can climb the Col de la Colombière as well. This evening you'll share a meal showcasing the best of Savoyard cuisine with your newfound friends. Tomorrow brings a lot of excitement leading into Alpe d'Huez, so be sure to rest up!

HOTEL:

Hotel au Coeur du Village
[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Dinner

Day

4

TODAY'S RIDE:

La Chambre to Col du Glandon to Col de la Croix de Fer to Venosc

Approximately 47 miles with 7,300 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

La Chambre to Col du Glandon to Col de la Croix de Fer to Les deux Alpes

Approximately 52 miles with 9,900 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

We'll begin our adventure via the 21 kilometer climb of Col du Glandon with an average gradient of 6.9% and featured in the Tour de France 14 times. Just because we can, take a little jaunt to the summit of the Croix de Fer before starting the long descent of Glandon. Enjoy a satisfying lunch then if you'd like to spin some more, keep riding to our hotel in Les Deux Alpes or opt for a quintessential Alps experience by ascending via cable car. Les Deux Alpes is your port-of-call for the next two nights and where you'll find Chalet Mounier, our mountain lodging. Once at the chalet, you'll enjoy a warm family welcome and incredible views of the mountains that surround you. Tonight, you're free to explore this lively mountain ski town. Grab a quick pizza at a local brewpub, indulge in a hearty raclette, or saddle up to some pasta. There's plenty of variety to be found tonight and your guides are more than happy to help you choose.

HOTEL:

Chalet Mounier
[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Lunch

Day

5

TODAY'S RIDE:

Alpe d'Huez to Col de Sarenne to Les Deux Alpes

Approximately 42 miles with 7,675 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

Are you ready to inscribe your legs into the book of legends? After a hearty breakfast, today's ride begins with a descent down into the valley to the base of the mythic Alpe d'Huez. Each of the 21 switchbacks is named after a winner of this climb in the Tour de France, each one baiting you to ride to the next. After ascending to the summit of the historic pass, snap some photos then fuel up over lunch while you bask in the afterglow of your conquest and savor the astounding views. If you're eager for more, continue up and over the mountain to attack Col de Sarenne. This quiet road is popular with locals as an understated, less-traveled and equally difficult challenge that culminates at the top of the mountain from the opposite side of the Alp. After an exhilarating descent, choose to ride back to Les Deux Alpes directly or opt for a shuttle and enjoy the gorgeous spa of the hotel. Tonight, you'll meet for drinks with a striking view of the mountains before you savor a hearty, well-earned Savoyard dinner with your mountain goat companions, reliving all the great climbs and descents you've tackled together.

HOTEL:

Chalet Mounier

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Social Hour | Dinner

Day

6

TODAY'S RIDE:

Les Deux Alpes to Lac du Chambon

Approximately 18 miles with 3,000 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

It's hard to believe that our adventure has concluded. The morning is yours to recover after an epic week of cycling. You'll have time for a short spin to loosen the legs, or choose to sleep in for a full recovery. A private Trek Travel shuttle will take you to the Grenoble train station this morning to travel to your final destination. You'll say farewell to your guides at 11:00 AM at the hotel. Please do not schedule a train out of the Grenoble station before 12:30 PM.

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast

WHAT'S INCLUDED

For us, the details matter most

Every moment of a Trek Travel bike trip has more than you could have ever dreamed. More romance. More scenery. More choice. It's the little additions to every Trek Travel cycling vacation that make it truly special. And that's how we help you create more memories.

What's Included

- Five nights of accommodation at handpicked hotels
- Two experienced guides to provide local knowledge, support, and camaraderie
- Daily route support with both guides and our support van
- Daily breakfast, two lunches and three dinners
- Two social hours of drinks and hors d'oeuvres
- Ride a Trek Domane SL 7 disc
- Up to three daily route options on riding days
- Snacks and drinks for each day's ride
- Trek Travel Bontrager cycling jersey to keep
- Trek Travel water bottles to keep
- Cinch sack day bag to keep
- Each bike is equipped with a Garmin Edge 1030 GPS computer, flat pack, front and rear Bontrager Flare R lights, a Bontrager saddle and pedals (Shimano clipless road pedals, Shimano clipless mountain pedals, caged, or flat pedals)
- Bontrager WaveCel helmets
- All gratuities for drivers, local experts, and hospitality staff
- All luggage transfers and transportation during your trip
- A personalized digital photobook of your trip
- Entrance fees for all activities, private tours, and events

Gear

- Trek Domane SL 7 disc carbon road bike with Shimano Di2 electronic shifting
- Trek Travel Bontrager cycling jersey to keep
- Trek Travel water bottles to keep
- Shimano clipless road pedals, Shimano clipless mountain pedals, caged, or flat pedals
- Bontrager WaveCel helmet
- Bontrager men's and women's specific saddles
- Bontrager front and rear Flare R lights and a flat pack
- Garmin Edge 1030 GPS computer
- Cinch sack day bag to keep
- Upgrade your bike to include carbon wheels (+\$200)
- Coupon valued up to \$500 off a new Trek Bicycle. Your coupon will be delivered via email.
- *For the most comfortable ride, you may choose to bring your own pedals, saddle, and helmet on the trip. Your guides will install your gear on the first day during your bike fit.*

THANK YOUR GUIDES, BY TIPPING

Gratuities for your Trek Travel guides are not included in your trip price. We recommend tipping 7.5-10% of your trip price for the guide team. Local currency is preferred and unless you want to tip separately, guides will divide tips amongst themselves. Please tip your guides at your discretion, based on their level of professionalism, guest care, and service.

What's Not Included

- Airfare and transportation to and from the trip pick-up/drop-off locations
- Lodging before and after the trip
- Personal items purchased during the trip
- Optional activities not scheduled by Trek Travel
- On select trips some meals are not included. On these trips, Trek Travel invites you to explore the local cuisine at your leisure.

HOTELS



HOTEL AU COEUR DU VILLAGE

LA CLUSAZ, FRANCE



Au Coeur du Village is a Relais & Châteaux hotel and the only 5-star property in La Clusaz. As its name implies, it is in the heart of this ski village nestled in the French Alps. Enjoy its elegant modern rooms and relax in its exclusive spa and wellness center.



CHALET MOUNIER

LES DEUX ALPES, FRANCE



New hotel for 2021! With amazing views of the surrounding area, this upscale 4-star chalet-style hotel features a spa and two pools so you can relax and recover from the week's epic riding. *Please note: This is a luxury-level property.*



MEETING & DEPARTING

How To Get There

We suggest that you arrive at least one day prior to the trip start, which will enable you to adjust to the time zone and minimize the risk of missing the trip start due to flight-related delays.

We recommend that you fly into Paris (CDG) or Geneva (GVA). From Paris' Gare de Lyon, trains depart daily for Annecy with a travel time of four to five hours. The train journey from Geneva to Annecy takes one and a half to two hours. However, train options and times are somewhat limited to and from Geneva and can sometimes present more logistical challenges. Alternatively, you can take a taxi from the Geneva airport to Annecy for approximately 100 euros or a bus for 20 euros. Please consult www.SNCF.com or speak with our travel agent for current train schedules.

Before: Annecy, France

Gorgeous Annecy! Guided tours of historic Annecy allow you to discover the medieval aspects of the town and visit buildings dating back to the Renaissance and 12th century. Hiking trails are numerous, covering diverse terrain, offering spectacular views all around, and water activities are bountiful along the lake. Paragliding is world-renowned in Annecy, boasting some of the world's best and providing a bird's eye view of the lake and surrounding mountains. Be sure to lounge in the park by the lake, just across from the town center, or linger at a café or ice cream parlor surrounded by flowers. We recommend the following accommodations for your pre-trip hotel:

After: Grenoble, France

Grenoble offers numerous outdoor activities, including via ferrata, a mountain route equipped with fixed cables, ladders, and bridges providing access to otherwise isolated routes to climbers with a variety of skills. Not to be missed in this Rhone-Alpes town is a ride on the téléphérique: egg-shaped cable cars, les bulles, take you across the Isère River to the Bastille, a series of ancient fortifications. Enjoy the view from the summit, then wander the many trails leading down to the city. We recommend the following

Meeting Time And Location

Your Trek Travel guides will meet you at the Annecy Train Station (Place de la Gare, 74000 Annecy, France) at 9:00 AM on the first day of the trip. A shuttle through the bustling city of Annecy will bring you to your ride start. Please have your first day's riding gear handy and separate from your other luggage to facilitate the bike fitting and ride.

If you will be late for the pick-up or are going to miss it altogether, please inform your guides. You will receive an email a week before the trip start with their names and contact details. If you cannot reach them, please call our first hotel, Hotel Au Coeur du Village (+33 4 50 01 50 01), and leave a message with your expected arrival time and contact details.

Departing Time And Location

You will say farewell to your guides at 11:00 AM at Chalet Mounier. You will arrive by 12:30 PM at the Grenoble train station. Please do not book a departing train before 1:00 PM on this day. We recommend booking your return flight from Paris (CDG) or Lyon (LYS). Trains run from Grenoble to both Paris and Lyon. For all train travel, feel free to confirm train times on the posted timetable at France's rail site, www.SNCF.com.

L'IMPÉRIAL PALACE

Located in a park on Lake Annecy, L'Imperial Palace houses the Casino Imperial, as well as one of the most famous convention centers in France. It has been fully remodeled and includes both a fitness and a beauty center with a sauna and steam bath. 98 rooms.

www.Hotel-Imperial-Palace.com

LES TRÉSOMS

This is a residence-style hotel that dates from the early 1900's, with a shaded terrace overlooking the swimming pool and a beautiful view of the lake. 48 rooms.

www.LesTresoms.com

HOTEL SPLENDID

This recently renovated hotel is ideally located between the lake and the mountains. The Splendid Hotel sits across from the shores of Lake Annecy, the cleanest lake in all of France, and is perfectly nestled in the heart of the old town.

www.Splendidhotel.fr

PARK HOTEL

Situated adjacent to the Paul Mistral Park in the center of Grenoble, the city's only 4-star hotel is sure to win you over with its elegance and charm.

www.park-hotel-grenoble.fr/en

LE GRAND HOTEL

A historic hotel built in 1870, the Grand Hotel Grenoble Hyper Centre is located in the heart of the Alps capital. The Bastille cable railway, the antique dealers' district, the Grenoble museum and its theater are less than five minutes on foot from the Grand Hotel. Located close to Grenoble's city center, this 4-star hotel offers you many of the modern comforts you enjoy.

www.grand-hotel-grenoble.com

BEST WESTERN TERMINUS

accommodations for your post-trip hotel:

This Belle Epoque hotel (1906), with modern conveniences such as air-conditioning and WiFi, is conveniently located just across the street from the Grenoble train station.

www.Terminus-Hotel-Grenoble.fr

* Hotels listed above are local properties we love. We do not have special rates available.



FAQS

What Are The Daily Rides Like?

- Rider Type | 4 - Avid
- Average Daily Mileage | 47
- Terrain | Mountainous
- Average Daily Elevation | 7,383 feet
- Total Miles | 283
- Total Elevation | 44,300 feet

Averages and totals are calculated from our "Avid Ride" options.

The terrain is highlighted by stunning views, quiet roads, and challenging climbs. We will make an average of two to three major climbs per day that combine sustained climbing with several steep sections. Annecy to Alpe d'Huez is best suited for our Type 4 Riders. Our Trek Travel guides can also easily accommodate Type 3 Riders, who seek less mileage or fewer uphill, with a boost in the van.

What are the options for a non-rider travel companion?

This destination is best suited to guests who want to cycle every day. Because of the terrain and/or remoteness of the hotels and riding routes, there are few, if any, non-riding options available. If a non-rider wants to accompany a rider guest on this trip, they would need to spend many hours in the van and/or at the hotels on the trip. Due to this, we strongly discourage non-riders from this destination. As an alternative, call a Trek Travel Trip Consultant at 866-464-8735 for trip suggestions where more non-rider activities are available, such as:

- Provence
- Tuscany
- Croatia

Trip Changes

See itinerary for specific daily ride distances and elevation options. On all of our vacations, Trek Travel seeks to find quiet, paved, secondary roads or bike paths to experience a region; busy roads are avoided as much as possible. Our itineraries are an approximation of our trips. Trek Travel strives to offer every guest a vacation of a lifetime on every trip. At times routes, hotels, activities, etc. listed here may change at the discretion of the trip designer or guides to improve the trip experience.