

CLASSIC CLIMBS OF THE TOUR

FRENCH ALPS, PYRENEES AND MONT VENTOUX

Ride the most famous climbs of the Tour de France on this 9-day adventure. Join us on this epic trip through the French Alps and Pyrenees. Greet each day with new challenges and ride the legendary cols of Aubisque, Galibier, and the mythic Ventoux, along with the test of all tests: the grueling ascent of Alpe d'Huez. This Classic Climbs trip offers scenic beauty, spectacular riding and the trip of a lifetime in classic Trek Travel style.

From
\$4999

Rider Type
Avid

Hotel Style
Explorer

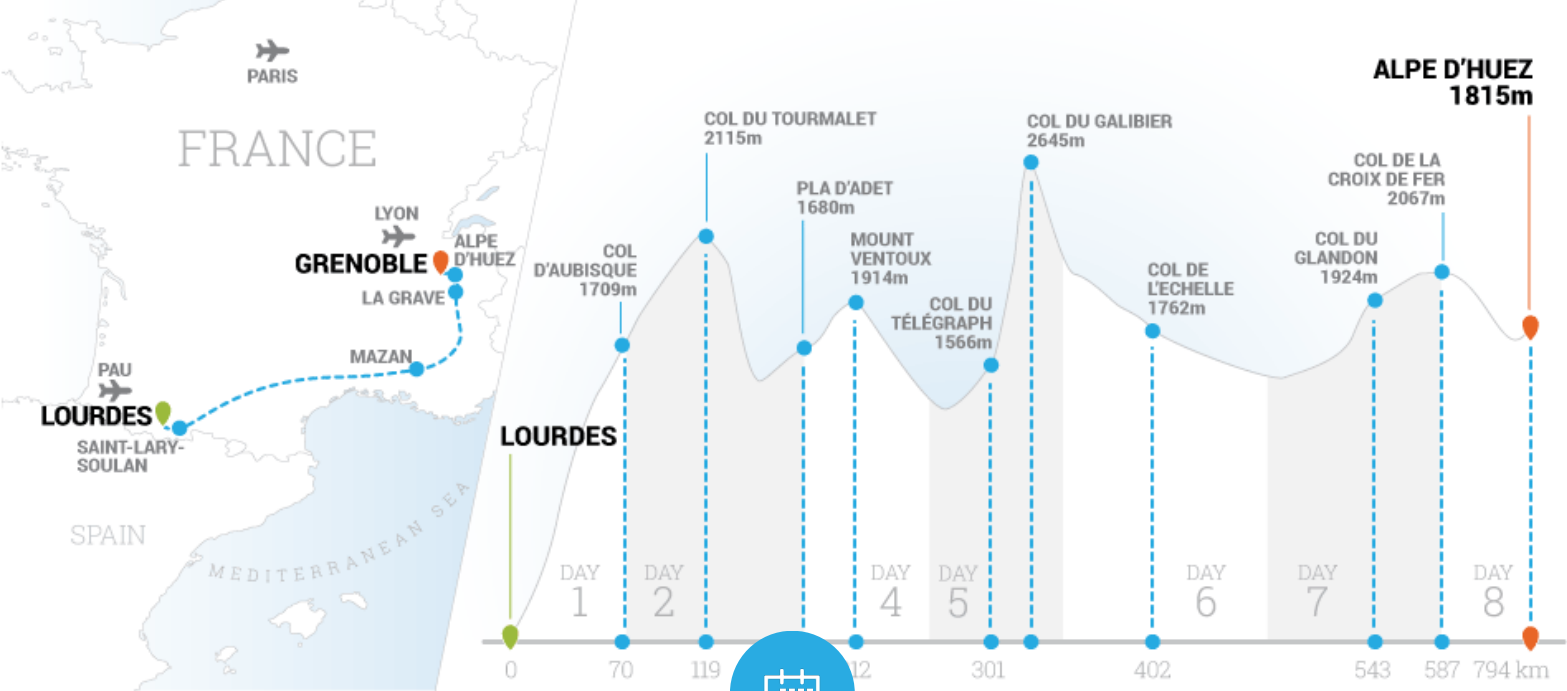
Duration
9 days | 8 nights

Start | End
**Lourdes, France |
Grenoble, France**

Dates
**2018/Jun/Jul/Aug
2019/Jun/Jul**

TRIP WOWS

Challenging climbs and alpine passes await you in between the gorgeous French country side
Fuel yourself with traditional alpine favorites tartiflette, raclette, and fondue
Imagine yourself leading the peloton as you ride over the names of your favorite riders painted on the road
Marvel at the stunning alpine vistas along the way throughout the entire trip
Explore the intimate villages that come alive with dedicated fans during cycling's grandest race



DAILY ITINERARY

2018

Day
1

TODAY'S RIDE:

Lourdes to Soulor Loop
Approximately 53 miles with 5,100 feet of climbing

SHORT OPTION:

Lourdes to Col du Soulor w/ shuttle
Approximately 31 miles with 4,800 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

Lourdes to Soulor Loop with Col d'Aubisque
Approximately 65 miles with 7,300 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

Your Trek Travel guides will meet you at the Hotel Gallia & Londres (26 Avenue Bernadette Soubirous- BP83 Lourdes) at 8:30 AM for a round of introductions and a bike fit. This morning you'll appreciate the true grit and sheer determination of the pros as you climb the Col du Soulor, often featured in the Tour de France. It begins with a gentle ascent then soon ratchets up to a severe 9% grade. Take a break for lunch at the summit at a local bistro, or continue on to summit Col d'Aubisque, from where you can enjoy a well-earned sweeping descent and scenic ride all the way back to Lourdes. This evening we'll meet to discuss the days ahead over cocktails and dinner at a charming restaurant in town.

HOTEL:

Hotel Gallia & Londres

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Lunch | Social Hour | Dinner

Day

2

TODAY'S RIDE:

Lourdes to St. Lary via Col du Tourmalet & Aspin
Approximately 65 miles with 9,500 feet of climbing

SHORT OPTION:

Lourdes to Payolle via Col du Tourmalet w/ shuttle
Approximately 45 miles with 7,500 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

Lourdes to St. Lary via Col du Tourmalet, Aspin, & Pla d'Adet
Approximately 74 miles with 12,300 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

Today you confront one of the Pyrenees' legendary mountain passes: the mighty Col du Tourmalet. Cruise 12.5 miles along the valley floor following the river to Pierrefitte-Nestalas before climbing gently through the Gorges de Luz. With dramatic jagged cliffs above and a lively bubbling stream below, this section of the ride is incredibly picturesque. We'll ascend Tourmalet from the Barèges side - the same side the pros approached in 2012 - and where Andy Schleck and Alberto Contador confronted each other in the fog in 2010's deciding mountaintop finish. From here you'll descend to climb over the Col d'Aspin, just as the pros are in this year's Tour de France, to the town of Saint Lary-Soulan. Or, if you still have power in your legs, ride one more climb up the Pla d'Adet, with an 8% average grade over the 6-mile climb, and grades reaching up to 12%.

HOTEL:

Mercure Saint Lary Sensoria
[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast

Day

3

TODAY'S RIDE:

Malaucène to Col du Suzette Loop
Approximately 16 miles with 2,000 feet of climbing

TODAY'S ACTIVITY:

Shuttle Pyrenees to Provence

DESCRIPTION:

This morning you'll rise early, bidding 'adieu' to the mountains of the Pyrenees and beginning the day's transfer to Provence and the home of Mont Ventoux. Take some time to rest, relax and watch the scenery change from the Pyrenean mountain landscapes to the vibrant lavender fields of Provence. This afternoon, with Ventoux as your backdrop, you'll ride through the vineyard-covered hillsides from one sleepy village to another. If you'd rather take a day off the bike to linger in one of Provence's quaint villages or take a dip in the pool, your guides are always there to accommodate. Tonight your home will be in the Domaine des Tilleuls, once a working Silkworm farm. You and your travel companions will be treated to your first Provençal meal at a local restaurant.

HOTEL:

Domaine des Tilleuls or Chateau de Mazan
[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Dinner

Day

4

TODAY'S RIDE:

Malaucène to Mont Ventoux Loop
Approximately 31 miles with 5,800 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

Malaucène to Bedoin to Malaucène with double Ascent of Mont Ventoux
Approximately 55 miles with 9,200 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

Prepare yourself for epic scenery and legendary riding today! The challenge is the mighty Mont Ventoux - 13.42 miles of climbing with no flat sections and an average grade of 10% through the middle 6.2 miles before you hit the moonscape. What makes this climb challenging is not just the ride itself, but also the weather. Intense winds or scorching heat can make this climb seem a hundred times more difficult than those found in the Alps. Your day will start early to give you the best opportunity to have a stellar climb. After taking a picture at the top to memorialize achieving this feat, you'll descend to Malaucène to enjoy a bistro lunch where you can relax and refuel before spinning back to the hotel. This evening you and your travel companions can explore this charming Provençal village to dine in the bistro of your choice.

HOTEL:

Domaine des Tilleuls
[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Lunch

Day

5

TODAY'S RIDE:

St. Michel to La Grave with Col du Télégraphe and Col du Galibier

Approximately 35 miles with 7,500 feet of climbing

SHORT OPTION:

Col du Télégraphe to La Grave via Col du Galibier

Approximately 27 miles with 4,600 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

La Chambre to La Grave with the Lacets de Monvernier, Col du Télégraphe and Col du Galibier

Approximately 55 miles with 9,000 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

This morning you'll rise early and say "au revoir" to the lavender fields of Provence to focus on your next destination - the majestic Alps. After a scenic 3.5 hour transfer, you'll gear up to tackle the next classic climbs: Télégraphe and Galibier. Now the Tour's most visited mountain pass, the peloton first ascended Galibier in 1911. Take on the same route as the pros and understand just what makes the double ascent so tough! Challenging and beautiful, this is one of the great rides of the French Alps. If you're up to it, throw in the Lacets de Montvernier, featured in this year's Tour de France, for some additional miles. After cresting the top of Galibier, you have a beautiful and fast descent to the town of La Grave, and our hotel for the night, Hotel-Edelweiss. This evening you'll be treated to a cycling-friendly dinner so you can retreat to your bed in time to rest up for tomorrow's special day.

HOTEL:

Auberge Edelweiss

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Dinner

Day

6

TODAY'S RIDE:

La Grave to Bardonecchia, Italy with Col du Lautaret and Col de l'Echelle

Approximately 56 miles with 5,600 feet of climbing

SHORT OPTION:

Vallée de la Clarée to Bardonecchia, Italy via Col de l'Echelle

Approximately 32 miles with 3,300 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

La Grave to Bardonecchia with Col du Lautaret and Col de l'Echelle double

Approximately 84 miles with 8,200 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

This morning you begin by cycling one of the Tour's most famous climbs and descents, the Col du Lautaret and descent to Briançon. Here is where Alberto Contador and Alexander Vinokourov won some of their most heralded Tour stages. Once in Briançon, make your way to the Vallée Névache, with its quiet roads and stunning scenery. After a short climb over Col de l'Echelle, you'll descend into Bardonecchia, Italy for lunch. Enjoy the superb Italian food and coffee, and a fleeting taste of what makes Italy so magical. Later you have the option to tackle both climbs again, or alternatively opt out for a shuttle back to La Grave. Tonight you are free to explore La Grave to find a great restaurant to refuel before more stunning climbs tomorrow!

HOTEL:

Auberge Edelweiss

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Lunch

Day

7

TODAY'S RIDE:

La Grave to Alpe d'Huez via Villard Reculas w/ Col du Glandon

Approximately 68 miles with 9,700 feet of climbing

SHORT OPTION:

Shuttle to Glandon Base and ride Alpe d'Huez via Villard Reculas

Approximately 41 miles with 6,000 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

La Grave to Alpe d'Huez via Villard Reculas w/ Col du Glandon & Col de la Croix de Fer

Approximately 70 miles with 11,000 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to another day of thigh burning climbs and rapid descents. You'll start your day with a gentle descent and incredible views from La Grave, en route to the epic Col du Glandon - first featured in the 1947 Tour and showcased again in Stage 19 of 2013. The base of the col is at the Lac du Verney which often hosts the swim of the Alpe d'Huez triathlon. From there you'll ascend 1150 meters over 24 kilometers. At the top you've earned the fresh alpine air and dramatic mountain views this remote area affords for the short time the road is open (from June to October). As always your Trek Travel guides will have refreshments and snacks available for you to rest and refuel. If you have the legs, continue up the 2.5 kilometers to the summit of nearby Col de la Croix de Fer, featured in last year's Tour. After a satisfying mountain lunch enjoy an incredible descent and the last climb back to our hotel in Alpe d'Huez. Tonight, explore the village of Alpe d'Huez for dinner and celebrate the week's exploits so far.

HOTEL:

Chamois d'Or

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Lunch

Day

8

TODAY'S RIDE:

Alpe d'Huez Loop with Col de Sarenne

Approximately 35 miles with 5,800 feet of climbing

SHORT OPTION:

Bourg d'Oisans to Alpe d'Huez classic side

Approximately 9 miles with 3,900 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

Alpe d'Huez Loop with Col de Sarenne Double

Approximately 60 miles with 9,500 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

It's time. The moment you have been waiting for, the classic ascent of Alpe d'Huez, the most revered and famous mountaintop finish in France. With an average grade of 8% and 21 hairpin bends, this lion of a climb will grab and hold all your attention. We'll descend onto the route made famous in the 2013 Tour over the Col de Sarenne to take in the beauty of the mountains, and imagine the pros descending this small and narrow road, before we reach the final climb of the trip, Alpe d'Huez, the ultimate grand finale ride. This climb was first included in the Tour in 1952 and it's often one of the most exciting points in the race as the pros dance on their pedals to the summit, over an average grade of nearly 8%. Take a photo on the summit podium and relax over lunch at the top of this mighty mountain and soak up the reward of the grueling ascent and astounding views. Tonight, gather with your traveling companions and guides to raise a glass to the Tour, the legendary riding that makes it famous, heroes past and present and the incredible cycling of these truly epic climbs!

HOTEL:

Chamois d'Or

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast | Social Hour | Dinner

Day

9

TODAY'S ACTIVITY:

Departure

DESCRIPTION:

It's truly been an amazing trip, and you're sure to return a different cyclist. But it's time to say farewell to your guides at 9:00 AM at the Hotel Chamois d'Or.

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

- 8 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, 4 lunches and 4 dinners
- Social hour of drinks and hors d'oeuvres on your first and last night of the trip
- Ride a Trek Domane SL 7
- Three daily route options
- Snacks and drinks for each day's ride
- Trek Travel Bontrager RL cycling jersey
- Trek Travel water bottles 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 of your choice
- All gratuities for drivers, local experts and hospitality staff
- All luggage transfers and transportation during your trip
- A personalized photobook of your trip
- Entrance fees for all activities, private tours and events

Gear

- Trek Domane SL 7 carbon road bike with Shimano Di2 electronic shifting
- Trek Travel Bontrager RL cycling jersey
- Trek Travel water bottles

- Shimano clipless road pedals, Shimano clipless mountain pedals, caged or flat pedals
- Bontrager helmet and saddle to use
- Bontrager front and rear Flare R lights
- Flat pack
- 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 prior to your trip.
- *You may bring your own pedals and saddle 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



HÔTEL GALLIA & LONDRES

LOURDES, FRANCE

This 4 star, 17th century-style hotel is located right in the historic heart of Lourdes. Spectacular riding into the Pyrenees and the sights and sounds of this unique city lie right outside your door.



MERCURE SAINT LARY SENSORIA

SAINT LARY SOULAN, FRANCE

In the heart of the Pyrenees lies the hotel Mercure Saint Lary Sensoria, offering an exceptional location with excellent access to many of the legendary mountain passes. The hotel has kept its roots and soul in these mountains and has a history of impeccable service.



DOMAINE DES TILLEULS

MALAUCÈNE, FRANCE

Set at the foot of Mont Ventoux in the heart of Malaucène, a typically Provençal village is the delightful hotel the Domaine des Tilleuls. Set in a refurbished 18th century magnanery (silk farm), this hotel is full of warmth and character and is characterized by its conviviality, authenticity and simplicity.



AUBERGE EDELWEISS

LE GRAVE, FRANCE

Located along the route between the Col du Lautaret and Alpe d'Huez, the charming Auberge Edelweiss is run by a family passionate about cycling. Accustomed to housing cyclists - even a stage winner or two - this hotel knows how to cater to active travelers and has the appropriate facilities, including a whirlpool and sauna. Additionally, the hotel's terrace offers the ideal setting to enjoy a cold beverage and spectacular views of the Meije glacier after a great day of cycling.



CHAMOIS D'OR

ALPE D'HUEZ, FRANCE

A spectacular mountainside retreat. The cozy duvets, the soothing wood, the warm fabrics and the patina of the furniture will prolong the magic of the mountains even in your dreams. Admire the magnificent panorama of the Oisans glaciers, huddled up in a deckchair on the sunny balcony of your room.



CHATEAU DE MAZAN | HOTEL VARIATION

MAZAN, FRANCE

Nestled in the tiny town of Mazan - only a short distance from the base of Mont Ventoux - stands Château de Mazan. Originally built in 1720 during the Regency Period, the Château soon became the property of the notorious Marquis de Sade. It was here that the Marquis organized his first Theatre Festival. In 2001, the new owner, Madame Lhermie, transformed the Château into the quaint Hotel de Charme that welcomes tourists from all over the world. **You will stay at this hotel instead of Domaine des Tilleuls on select dates.**



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 Pau (PUF) or Tarbes-Lourdes-Pyrenees airport (LDE). There are direct flights to Pau and Tarbes from Paris (CDG or ORY) and some European cities. Air France has several daily options, and early bookers may find cheaper flights with EasyJet although these are less frequent. From the airport you can take a taxi to Lourdes: from Tarbes the taxi is approximately 30 euros and from Pau expect to pay between 70-100 euros.

As the trip ends in Grenoble, we recommend booking your return flight from Lyon (LYS) or Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG). You can take a TGV from Grenoble to Paris Gare de Lyon station or Lyon. This journey is approximately 3 hours to Paris and 1 hour to Lyon. For tickets and schedules please

Meeting Time And Location

Your Trek Travel guides will meet you at the Hotel Gallia & Londres (26 Avenue Bernadette Soubirous- BP83 Lourdes) at 8:30 AM on the first day of the trip. Your guides will be on hand to welcome you, get you settled in and begin your bike fitting. Once you arrive at the hotel please present yourself at reception and you will be directed to your guides. You also have the option to meet your guides between 3-6pm on the afternoon before your trip starts for your bicycle fitting.

If you will be late for the start 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 Gallia & Londres (+33 (0)5 62 94 35 44), and leave a message with your expected arrival time and contact details. A taxi from the airport to our meeting place at the hotel will take approximately 30 minutes and cost around 40 Euros.

Departing Time And Location

You will say farewell to your guides at 9:00 AM at the Hotel Chamois d'Or and a private shuttle will take you back to the Grenoble TGV station to arrive approximately at 10:15 AM. Trains run directly to Lyon and Paris, see www.sncf.fr for schedules. Please do not arrange any connections from the station until after 11:00 AM

Before: Lourdes, France

If you have the time, consider staying in Lourdes before your trip to experience this unique town. As the second most visited destination in France after Paris, Lourdes attracts some 5 million people each year and is a place of mass pilgrimage from Europe and other parts of the world. Visit the famous grotto where apparitions of the Virgin Mary are reported to have occurred in 1858. The spring water from the grotto is also believed by some to possess healing properties. Lourdes is a fascinating destination unto itself. We recommend the following accommodations for your pre-trip hotel:

After: Grenoble, France

If you have the time, consider staying in Grenoble after your trip to further explore the diverse activities this French town offers. Grenoble has 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 Rhône-Alpes town, is a ride up 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 accommodations for your post-trip hotel:

GRAND HÔTEL MODERNE

This stately and elegant hotel offers privileged access to the Sanctuaries. Rich in history, it was completely restored in 2008, and the new owners have taken great care to preserve the precious heritage and soul of this Baroque masterpiece.

www.GrandHotelModerne.com | ~\$150

MERCURE LOURDES IMPÉRIAL

Comfortably appointed rooms and an attentive staff will make your stay at this downtown property on the Gave River a pleasure. The hotel features two restaurants and a lounge bar.

www.AccorHotels.com | ~\$115

GRAND HÔTEL GALLIA & LONDRES

The Grand Hôtel Gallia & Londres is a 4-star hotel that enjoys an excellent location near the Sanctuaries in Lourdes. The guestrooms feature modern comforts such as en suite bathrooms, air conditioning, satellite channels, phone and balconies. Guests will enjoy free Wi-Fi and high-speed internet connection during their stay at the hotel. The attentive, professional multilingual staff of the Grand Hôtel Gallia & Londres will provide the utmost quality of service to make every stay a memorable moment.

www.HotelGalliaLondres.com | ~\$150

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 | ~\$395

PATRICK HOTEL

Located close to Grenoble's city center, this hotel offers you many of the modern comforts you enjoy.

www.PatrickHotel-Grenoble.com | ~\$133

BEST WESTERN TERMINUS

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

www.Terminus-Hotel-Grenoble.fr | ~\$175

* 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 | 53
- Terrain | Mountainous
- Average Daily Elevation | 7,344 feet
- Total Miles | 481
- Total Elevation | 66,100 feet

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

The terrain is mountainous with several mountain passes. Classic Climbs of the Tour is best suited for our Type 4 Riders. Type 4+ Riders will enjoy the extra mileage the avid route options offer.

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
- Tour de France

Trip Changes

See itinerary for specific daily ride distances and elevation options. On all of our vacations, Trek Travel strives 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.