

Cycling Safaris

Tour de France Week

Guided Tour 2017

Guide cycling with group | approx 550 km | 7 nights / 8 days



The 2017 Tour de France is likely to be decided in the Alps with big mountain stages on July 19th (stage 17) and July 20th (stage 18). We will ride part of the both these stages before the tour arrives, experiencing the building atmosphere among the massing spectators cheering us up the slopes.

Our Tour de France week is aimed at keen, motivated riders. We have limited numbers and the Tour de France week is always booked out early so if you want to register your interest it is best to do so now.

This trip is designed to allow a variety of rider levels to enjoy the unique experience of both watching the Tour de France but also to ride part of the route prior to the pros arriving later in the day. These are memorable experiences and we are likely to witness the winning moves of the race.

Each day, as ever, we have full support allowing stronger cyclists to ride faster and longer while the other riders can take in shorter rides at their own pace.

On non Tour de France days we ride about 100km with 1500m of climbing taking in legendary Tour climbs. On the Tour days, of which there are 3, we will follow the route prior to the pros (riding from 80 to 100km per day) before finding a good spot to watch the race. If partners or non cyclists would like to join this trip you are more than welcome. You can still enjoy the Tour days and take in the mountains and enjoy the variety of activities available in this beautiful alpine village.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 Saturday 15th July Arrival

Arrive at Geneva . Transfer to our luxurious chalet base in Courchevel Le Praz.

You can then put the bikes together or pick up your hire bikes. Our technicians are there to help if need be.

Day 2 Sunday 16th July

Our first day in the Alps takes in the relatively easy but long Col de Petit St Bernard over to Italy. This beautiful ride, in the shadow of Mont Blanc, has steady gradients of around 4/5% over 30km. We have lunch in Italy and there are options to ride additional cols if you have the motivation or legs.

Day 3 Monday 17th July

Another tour favourite is the Cormet de Roseland. We head into the Beaufortian valley to which the Tour de France is a regular visitor. Climbing out of Bourg St Maurice it is 20km of around 6% to the summit. The descent via the Barrage de Roseland is breathtaking. After a lunch to refuel in Beaufort the ride home is mostly flat.

Day 4 Tuesday 18th July

Leaving the Chalet we ride off in the direction of the Tour's stages taking in the iconic Col de Madeleine, a challenging 26km at 7% average. If you have anything left after the Madeleine you can try the Lacets de Montvernier, one of the most beautiful roads in cycling with its 18 hairpins in less than 6km it is definitely worth the effort. We stay tonight in our Hotel in St Jean de Maurienne which always provides us with an excellent dinner.

Day 5 Wednesday 19th July

The excitement is palpable as it is tour day and we are on the road early to ride the legendary Col du Telegraphe and the Col du Galibier in advance of the Tours arrival. We climb through the crowds to the 2300m summit, just like the pros, but we get to relax on the Galibier before the race arrives and we witness the fireworks that could decide the race. After the stage we travel to our overnight hotel in St Maire de Vars half way up the Col de Vars.

Day 6 Thursday 20th July

Today's stage, finishing on top of the Col d'Izoard, is the last chance for the climbers to seek stage or GC honours in the 2017 tour. It's likely to be an all action day. Ahead of the race we will ride the crucial part of the route to the stage finish at the summit of the Izoard, climbing through back to back campervans on multi- coloured roads painted in support of each nations favourite climber. After the stage we will transfer to our base in the Courchevel Le Praz for supper back at the chalet.

Day 7 Friday 21st July

After a more relaxed breakfast today the plan is to ride locally. There are numerous possibilities but a tour of some of the remote mountain villages in our region is a great way to finish the week. We will back at the chalet for some tea and cakes with ample time to pack your bikes prior to supper and some celebratory champagne to mark the end of a great week.

Day 8 Saturday 22nd July

After breakfast transfer to Geneva for flight home. Ideally book flights in the afternoon.

*Please note if you only want to ride part of each day, this is easily organised. There are easier options and the minibus support is always available with drinks, energy drinks and bars.

2017 GROUP TOUR PRICE

€1,100 per person sharing

€1,270 single occupancy

2017 GROUP TOUR DATES

15 - 22 July

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- ▶ 7 nights accommodation to include hearty breakfast
- ▶ 7 x 3 course evening meals with wine
- ▶ Snacks & drinks enroute
- ▶ Luggage transfers
- ▶ Full support on training rides
- ▶ All rides with Alpine Chaingang guides who are experienced riders and have in depth knowledge of all the climbs
- ▶ Fantastic hospitality and great food
- ▶ Amazing terrain following Tour routes
- ▶ Return transfers – Geneva/Lyon Airport

Optional

Road bike rental €200 (Shimano 105 or Ultegra Groups sets on a triple chain set. Bikes will be either Carbon or lightweight Aluminium frames.)