

Cycling Safaris

Tour de France Week

Guided Tour 2018

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



We are absolutely delighted to see the Tour de France on our doorsteps in July 2018! This gives us 3 full days at the Tour riding the routes before the race arrives later in the day. This is quite an experience riding through throngs of camper vans and spectators where the atmosphere is something special

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 14th July Arrival

Arrive at Geneva . 2 hour long 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. Afternoon tea on arrival and three course evening meal prepared by our resident chef.

Day 2 Sunday 15th July

Our first days riding takes us up to the Col de Petit St Bernard. Its a relatively easy climb but its a long and scenic route to the Italian border with some stunning views of Mont Blanc. We then descend to La Thuile for some lunch and climb from the other side. There are options to do more or less as you prefer. Its back to the chalet for afternoon tea and a soak in the hot tub before dinner.

Day 3 Monday 16th July

The tour has its rest day in Annecy so we will ride part of Wednesday's route. On our agenda is the Col de Pre and the Cornet de Roseland. This is one of the most beautiful circuits in this part of the Alps and with the Tour there the next day the route will be besieged with camper vans which makes for a fabulous ambiance.

Day 4 Tuesday 17th July

The stage starts in Annecy today and the plan to ride the Col de la Croix Fry then watch the race come over the summit. Once the race has passed we will have time to ride on towards Le Grand Bornand and watch the race finish.

Day 5 Wednesday 18th July

The stage starts in Albertville this morning and it follows the route we will already have ridden on Monday. Our day will take us to the summit finish in the ski station of La Rosiere and its a road we know very well. We will ride the last climb and then find a good spot to watch the race finish. As ever there are options to do more riding if you want to or simply enjoy the atmosphere on the mountain.

Day 6 Thursday 19th July

Today is all about the Alpe d'Huez. We will start the day with a 10 km flat spin to the base of the climb and then you have the opportunity to ride the Alpe before the race comes through later. I'm sure everyone has seen this on the TV but its quite an experience (especially at Dutch corner). You can then chose were you want to watch – either on the hill or drop down to Bourg d'Oisans and enjoy the carnival atmosphere.

Day 7 Friday 20th July

The race leaves the Alps today but we will ride part of yesterday's route tackling the Col de la Madeleine! We can ride out from the chalet and enjoy an easy warm up before taking on the 26 km monster! There is a great lunch stop at the summit before the long descent back to Moutiers and perhaps a nice beer in town to finish the week!

Day 8 Saturday 21st 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.

2018 GROUP TOUR PRICE

€1,325 per person sharing

€1,580 single occupancy

€ 950 per person sharing non cyclists

2018 GROUP TOUR DATES

14 - 21 July

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- ▶ 7 nights accommodation to include hearty breakfast
- ▶ 7 x 3 course evening meals
- ▶ 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 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.)