



## Leisurely 3 Lake tour: Geneva, Bourget, Annecy

6 days / 5 nights

This unique Alpine tour makes it possible for leisure riders to experience the captivating cycling routes of the Alps without the hill hassle. Linking the three major lakes of the area (Lake Geneva, Lake Bourget, and Lake Annecy), the cycling routes essentially follow river paths along the Rhône and Isère rivers, taking in historic villages, stunning natural scenery, lush meadows and valleys, and picturesque peaks along the way.

### YOUR PROGRAM

#### Day 1 - Geneva

Arrive in Geneva at your leisure and check in at your hotel. Take time to discover this stylish city on your own. It's a gem of international organizations, finance, and culture, meshing Old World with new, and is a delight to explore. The crescent-shaped Lake Geneva (Lac Léman) provides a marvelous treat for your eyes and plentiful photo fodder. Dinner is at leisure. Since Geneva is the culinary capital of Switzerland, you'll find a variety of restaurants and eateries sure to please every palate.

#### Day 2 - Geneva - Seyssel

Meet our local rep in the morning for the bike outfitting and itinerary briefing. The highlights of your route include cycling along the infamous Rhône River, admiring the views over the charming wine-making villages of Dardagny and Satigny, and frolicking around forts. Conquer the westernmost point of Switzerland by bike at the village of Chancy and then cross the border into France. Do not miss the Fort de l'Ecluse, an elevated fort founded by a Duke of Savoy. He built it out of a striking rock formation, one which forms a natural entrance of the Rhône Valley into France between the Vauche hills and the Jura. Your home for the night is in Seyssel, a small "double-town" in both the Haute-Savoie (Upper Savoy) and the Ain departments on the Rhône River located between two dams.

Around 63 km and 834m of elevation gain.

#### Day 3 - Seyssel - Aix les Bains

The views on today's ride — the 14 summits of the Bauges mountain range on one side, as well as Mont de la Charvaz and Col-du-Chat on the other — are some of the major highlights of this tour. Sheer cliffs seem to spring up magically from the water and the mountains surround you in protective peacefulness. Lake Bourget (Lac du Bourget) is the largest natural lake of glacial origin and the deepest entirely within France. It was home to the now extinct Bezoules, a freshwater whitefish that fed at muddy depths of 70 to 80 meters (230 - 260 ft) and reportedly disappeared in the 1960s. Cycle past the impressive site of the medieval Château de Montverran in Culoz, which was built on a rock in 1316 and, in more recent times, inspired the likes of the Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev. Pedal on to the spa town of Aix-les-Bains, which was known for its baths as far back as the Roman Empire. You can discover the numerous Roman ruins that remain.

Around 46km and 461m of elevation gain.

#### Day 4 - Aix les bains - Tournon or Saint Pierre d'Albigny



Today you'll pedal through the heart of Savoy to Chambéry, a town of art and history. Located in a wide valley between the Bauges and Chartreuse Mountain ranges, at the crossroads of ancient trade routes, the old-town section of Chambéry is one of the most remarkable in France. Along the way, take in the ruins of the 10th century fortress, Chateau de Miolans, which overlook the rich wine-growing region of the Combe de Savoie valley (including the village of Chignin, with remains of the 8th century Sarasin stronghold and its 6 towers). The Isère River guides the route to Grésy-sur-Isère, a largely agricultural community that has been inhabited by man since the Neolithic Age.

About 65km and 702m of elevation gain

### **Day 5 - Toward Annecy**

Roll your way to Grésy-sur-Isère by way of Albertville, situated on the Arly River close to the confluence with the Isere River. Albertville hosted the 1992 Winter Olympics and has become quite an industrial center, but it also encompasses the medieval town of Conflans, whose buildings date back to the 14th century. The Beaufortain and Bauges Mountain ranges will dazzle you as you cycle to the stunning Lake Annecy (Lac d'Annecy). Known as Europe's cleanest lake, the Aravis mountain range reigns over the lake edge; its heights are famous for the hairpin turns and steep bends in the Tour de France. The magnificent town of Annecy, nestled on the northern tip of Lake Annecy, might remind you of Venice — canals cut through sections of the historic Alpine-style village. Strolling around, you'll encounter the Palais de l'Isle (12th Century prison on an island, the town's symbol), the Chateau d'Annecy, the 16th century Cathedral of Around 55km or 69km and 400m of elevation gain

### **Day 6 - Departure**

Have a relaxing breakfast, enjoy more of the sights and sounds and ambience of Annecy, and depart at your leisure.

Or, feel free to prolong your stay in Annecy in order to make the most of this extraordinary town and setting.

## **Additional information**

### **TARIFFS**

Price from 695 euros per person.

### **OPTIONS**

Hybrid bike rental : 90 euros per person.

Carbon bike rental : 170 euros per person.

E bike rental : 175 euros per person.

Drop off fees (if you don't return the bikes in Geneva) : 20 euros per person.

Drop off fees E Bike (if you don't return the bikes in Geneva) : 30 euros per person.

Confort version : 200 euros per person.

Single supplement : 240 euros per person.

Single supplement for confort version : 385 euros per person.

Supplement July & August( standard / confort version) : 10 euros per person.



Supplement July & August Confort version : 395 euros per person.

#### **INCLUDED**

- 5 nights accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- 2 dinners (drinks are not included)
- Meeting with our local representative
- Luggage transfers
- Marked maps and/or cue sheets and route notes
- Pre-loaded GPS unit (subject to availability)
- Assistance if necessary
- All tax and service charges

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

- Transportation to Geneva and from Annecy
- Expenses of personal nature
- Travel insurance
- Bicycle rentals

#### **LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY**

Easy to moderate: 3 to 5 hours of actual biking on various terrain. About 40 or 50 miles daily for a road tour.

#### **CARRYING**

Luggage transfers by vehicle. You only need to take your day bag with you (for picnics, cameras etc.).

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

Normal version: 4 nights in 2-star hotels & 1 night in a 3-star hotel in double room.

Confort version: 3 nights in 3-star hotels, 1 night in a guesthouse of charm & 1 night in a 2-star hotel in double room.

#### **SIZE OF GROUP**

Based on 2 people

#### **DEPARTURES**

Any Friday or Sunday from April to October

#### **DEPARTURE**

At your hotel in Geneva.

#### **DISPERSION**

After the breakfast at your hotel in Annecy.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Possibility to do a version with a challenging option : Famous Climbs and Lesser-known Passes...