

## Cycle Geneva To Nice TdF 2024



Duration: 8 days

This demanding yet spectacular cycle challenge takes us from lakeside Geneva through the Alps and Provence, following part of the historic Route Napoleon as we head south to the sunny Mediterranean city of Nice. We cycle via the picturesque towns of Annecy and Sisteron as we head through beautiful scenery of towering mountain peaks, spectacular limestone cliffs and gorges, dense forests and lavender fields.

### OUR 2024 EDITION OFFERS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY.

For the first time in almost 50 years the Tour de France finale will not be held on the iconic Champs-Elysees in Paris, it will instead be held in Nice! and we've scheduled our ride to coincide with this spectacle. Instead of the usual 1 night's accommodation at the end of a ride, we're including 3 nights, which will not only give you the opportunity to see this rare finish to The Tour but also some extra personal time to enjoy more of the French Riviera.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1: Meet Geneva

On arrival in Geneva, check in and make time to assemble your bike, and ensure everything is ready. Spend any free time (flight-times dependent) exploring the streets of this cosmopolitan city, or head for the lovely lakeside gardens and famous fountain. We meet in the evening for dinner and a trip briefing before a good night's rest in preparation for tomorrow's efforts.

*(Lunch not included)*

### Day 2: Geneva – Montmélian

Heading south out of Geneva, a gentle climb on quiet back-roads takes us out of Switzerland into France. Beautiful views of the Alps accompany us almost the entire time today – a very inspiring start! We ride south to the beautiful town of Annecy, a lakeside jewel nestled among mountain peaks. We cycle alongside the shores of crystal-clear Lake Annecy for a few miles before continuing south on an undulating road through the forests and quiet villages of the Massif des Bauges. A steady, gradual ascent through lovely scenery takes us to the Col du Frêne – at 950m, not a high mountain pass, and not a steep climb, but nevertheless our first real encounter with hair-pin bends! We descend via more sweeping bends to Montmélian, a town on the Isère river. Night hotel.

**Cycle approx. 115km (72 miles)**

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### Day 3: Montmélian – Corps

Our day starts in the Isère valley, riding parallel to the river for some time before approaching the historic city of Grenoble. No stranger to the Tour de France, Grenoble has hosted the peloton over 40 times. Situated in a broad valley between mountains, the terrain is flat for many miles, though new views of the surrounding peaks continually open up to us. We climb a gently sloping hill to Roissard, pausing to appreciate the spectacular views of the twists and turns of the lovely Drac river, before continuing through to the village of Mens. A stretch of more rolling road takes us to the shores of the Lac du Sautet; we then have a short climb up into the small town of Corps. Tomorrow we will start riding on the Route Napoleon, a classic stretch of road that traces Napoleon's route from Elba in 1815, and you can't fail to notice that Corps is proud of its position on the route – there are references everywhere. Night hotel.

**Cycle approx. 125km (78 miles)**

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### Day 4: Corps – Digne-les-Bains

Leaving Corps behind us, we continue our journey south through the southern Alps. Many of the roads we ride on today have featured regularly in the Tour de France over the years. Our morning's ride takes us predominantly along the scenic, hilly Route Napoleon: look out for the flying-eagle road markers that commemorate the route. Striking out on back roads for a short while, we climb the relatively gentle gradient of the Col de Manse – at 1268m our highest point of the challenge – before reaching the Alpine town of Gap. Continuing south on back-roads, the landscape around us gradually changes to thickly-forested limestone hills and sheer cliffs – spectacular scenery. Entering Provence, we reach the ancient, picturesque town of Sisteron, situated in beautiful scenery on the riverbank between towering mountain ridges. From here it becomes more and more evident that we are leaving the high mountains behind, as we ride east to the lovely old spa town of Digne-les-Bains. Night hotel.

**Cycle approx. 144 km (90 miles)**

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### Day 5: Digne-les-Bains – Nice

Today is a long day, and a hilly one, but it's also our last day of cycling so we enjoy every kilometre of beautiful countryside! Setting off from Digne, our day starts on a quiet rolling road which warms us up nicely before the Col de Corobin (1230m), which sees us pedalling uphill for almost 10km. The well-earned descent is wonderful, and

you'll be glad to know it's steeper than the side we ascended! Rejoining the Route Napoleon, we tackle several more testing climbs and descents as the road winds through stunning hilly scenery, passing the lovely town of Castellane on the river Verdon en route. Taking our leave of our historic companion, the Route Napoleon, we head east on very quiet back-roads through small villages. The landscape is made up of rocky outcrops and ridges, verdant forests and deep blue rivers, and provides a breathtaking backdrop to our final day. We reach the photogenic medieval hilltop town of Gréolières, perched high up in the hills behind the coast, and then we can freewheel almost all the way on quiet roads right to the coast! Our descent takes us through the stunningly beautiful Gorge de Loup, before reaching sea level; we join a lovely flat cycle path for the final section. We finish this long day and our incredible challenge celebrating beside the Mediterranean Sea. Night hotel.

**Cycle approx 140 km (88 miles)**

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### Day 6 - 7: Free Time Nice - Tour de France

Free time to spend as you wish. The last two stages of the Tour de France both start in Nice, so you are spoilt for choice! It's an easy cycle into central Nice, or a short train ride. You can also make the most of this stunning location to relax on the beach, wander the Promenade, or explore the city.

*(Lunches and Dinners not included)*

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### Day 8: Depart Nice

After breakfast, free until it's time to head to the airport (depending on your own flight arrangements.)

*(Lunch not included)*

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## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 7 nights hotel accommodation on a twin share basis
- Most meals except where specified
- Snacks and water on cycle days
- Discover Adventure crew (number dependant on group size)
- Full vehicle support throughout the trip
- Digital map and gpx route information
- Bike transfer from Geneva airport (within agreed time-frame)

## WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- Any meals specified 'not included' in the itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Flights to Geneva and from Nice
- Bicycle, cycle helmet (compulsory) and water bottles
- Personal spending money, souvenirs and drinks
- Fees for any optional sites, attractions or activities
- Any applicable surcharges as per Terms and Conditions

## GRADE | ORANGE

Trips are graded Yellow, Orange or Red, in increasing level of challenge. This trip lies within the **ORANGE** range.



The grade is determined by factors such as terrain, distance, climate, altitude, etc. Each colour grade has a **spectrum** which reflects the difficulty of these factors; trip duration, accommodation and living conditions (see icon) are also taken into account.

[Trip grading explained](#)



Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

Please note: This document was downloaded on 1 Mar 2024, and the challenge is subject to change.