

Bicycle Tours in France: Cycling Lake Geneva to Chambéry Plus! Lyon

OVERVIEW

Cycle from one cultural capital to another as you traverse the border of France and Switzerland. Iconic views of rolling vineyards, quaint villages, and exquisite natural beauty await, including the crystal waters of France's deepest lake, Lac du Bourget. Explore an old abbey and pedal across an architectural wonder - the "Pont de l'Abime," a stunning suspension bridge constructed in the 1800's. Along the way you'll stop in colorful towns nestled in the shadow of the Alps and pass by breathtaking lakes and forests while tasting some of France's most famous culinary specialties. You'll end in one of the most renowned food capitals in all of France, if not the world - the beautiful city of Lyon.

If this sounds great but you don't have time for the 11-day tour, join us for 7-days on [Cycling Lake Geneva to Chambéry](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

Four two-night stays; Lake Geneva; Lake Annecy; Lake du Bourget; Medieval villages; Savoy French cuisine; Wine tasting in the Beaujolais; Guided tour of Lyon and Cluny

TOUR FACTS

Tour Style	■ Classic: Learn more about our Classic tours at https://www.experienceplus.com/choosing-the-best-tour/styles/classic
Includes	11 days, 10 nights accommodation, meals as noted in itinerary, guided visit of Cluny, guided visit of Lyon, 1 wine tasting
Countries	France, Switzerland
Begin/End	Yvoire / Lyon
Arrive/Depart	Geneva (GVA) / Lyon (LYS)
Total Distance	427km (267 miles)
Avg. Daily Distance	47km (29 miles) per riding day
Tour Level	▶▶▶▶▶

Please Note: We may have small itinerary changes to this trip after you download this PDF document. If you have booked this trip and there are major changes, including changes to towns or activities, we'll email you directly. However, you should always be sure to refer to the ■ [online itinerary](#) for the most up-to-date trip information including arrival and departure tips before you depart for your trip:

<https://www.experienceplus.com/bike-tours/france/rhone-alpes/geneva-chambery-lyon>

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DATES & PRICES

Dates	Price	Single Supplement*
☑ Sep 01, 2024	☑ USD\$6695	☑ USD\$650
☑ Jun 22, 2025	☑ USD\$6750	☑ USD\$650
☑ Aug 31, 2025	☑ USD\$6750	☑ USD\$650

DAILY RIDE SUMMARY

Day	Distance/Gain	Terrain	Day Level	Notes
1	Test ride			
2	37km / 325m (23mi / 1066ft)	Rolling hills	▶▶▶▶▶	
3	50km / 619m (31mi / 2030ft)	Rolling hills	▶▶▶▶▶	Longer optional ride available
4	37km / 281m (23mi / 922ft)	Rolling hills	▶▶▶▶▶	
5	63km / 579m (39mi / 1899ft)	Hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
6	39km / 260m (24mi / 853ft)	Gentle	▶▶▶▶▶	Longer optional ride available
7	29km / 188m (18mi / 617ft)	Gentle	▶▶▶▶▶	
8	51km / 812m (32mi / 2663ft)	Hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
9	60km / 718m (37mi / 2355ft)	Rolling hills	▶▶▶▶▶	
10	66km / 738m (41mi / 2421ft)	Hilly	▶▶▶▶▶	
11	Last Day			

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ARRIVAL INFO

Meeting time 2 p.m. - on Day 1, meet your fellow cyclists and Tour Leaders at the Day 1 Hotel specified on the itinerary.

Note: As you are planning, remember that the hotels listed in our itineraries are our primary hotels and are - in rare cases - subject to change. Before you make arrangements, [check with us](#) if your tour departure is guaranteed. If your tour departure is out further than 6 months, please also check with us as there might be slight changes to the itinerary.

The below information will help you plan your arrival. For more tips or other routes, you might like [Rome2Rio](#). The fare and timing information listed below is approximate.

Airport: We recommend flying into the Geneva Airport (GVA).

Getting from the Geneva airport to the Day 1 hotel

1. Train from Geneva Airport to Nyon station (trains traveling into the direction of Luzern or St. Gallen). Frequent connections, no pre-booking necessary (20 min/CHF 7-8)
2. [Ferry](#) from Nyon to Yvoire (20 min/CHF 15)
3. [Walk less than 1 minute](#) to the Day 1 hotel.

Look up Swiss train schedules and book tickets, if necessary, at [SBB](#) or [Trainline](#). Questions? See our [information on taking trains in Europe](#) or [ask us](#).

DEPARTURE INFO

Your trip ends on the final day after the tour of Vieux Lyon, at around 11:30 a.m. back at the hotel. If you wish to partake, book your homebound flight for the next day.

The below information will help you plan your departure. For more tips or other routes, you might like [Rome2Rio](#).

Airports: The closest airport is Lyon (LYS). Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG) can be reached in 2 hours by train.

Getting to the Lyon airport:

1. Taxi to the Lyon Part Dieu train station (15 min/EUR 20)
2. Rhonexpress train to the Lyon airport (departures every 15 minutes, no pre-booking necessary) (30 min/EUR 15)

Or

- Taxi to the Lyon Airport (45min/EUR 80)

Look up French train schedules and book tickets, if necessary, at [SNCF](#) or [Trainline](#). Questions? See our [information on taking trains in Europe](#) or [ask us](#).

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Welcome to Yvoire

Highlights Medieval port town Yvoire, welcome dinner

Welcome to the tiny port village of Yvoire, a romantic medieval settlement on the shores of Lake Geneva. Take in the views and explore the cobblestone streets where seemingly every balcony and windowsill are lined with blooming flower baskets. This afternoon we'll fit bikes and head out for a scenic test ride. In the evening we'll meet up again for our welcome dinner together.

Yvoire Loop

Highlights Shady forests, farmland, and enchanting villages

This morning you'll pedal along tiny shaded lanes through forests and enchanting villages on a loop ride into the alpine interior of eastern France. Extend your ride into the afternoon or head back to Yvoire for lunch and an afternoon of exploration or relaxation. If you're in the mood to explore, take a short boat ride across the lake to Switzerland and visit Nyon.

Yvoire to Annecy

Highlights Cross borders between France and Switzerland

You'll cross the Swiss border several times this morning on your way south to our next destination, Lake Annecy. As you ride, take in the subtle cultural differences between the two countries. In the afternoon we'll meet up in La Roche sur Foron where you can opt to take a train into Annecy. If you're looking for an added challenge with stunning views, we'll set you up with an extra ride all the way to Annecy. You'll quickly see why this town is commonly referred to as "Venice of the Alps" with its whimsical canals and ancient architecture nestled below snow-capped peaks. Enjoy the winding cobblestone streets of the Vieille Ville (old town) as you pass pastel houses and bright flower boxes.

DAY 1: Thu, Aug 20th

Meals Dinner

Lodging  [Hotel Le Jules Verne](#)

DAY 2: Fri, Aug 21st

Distance 37 km (23 mi)

Gain 325 m (1066 ft)

Terrain Rolling hills

Level 

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging  [Hotel Le Jules Verne](#)

DAY 3: Sat, Aug 22nd

Distance 50 km (31 mi)

Gain 619 m (2030 ft)

Terrain Rolling hills

Level 

Meals Breakfast

Lodging  [Allobroges Park Hotel](#)
 [Hebe Hotel](#)

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Annecy Loop

Highlights Lake Annecy

Grab some picnic supplies in Annecy's gorgeous historic center then take off around the lake for incredible views. If you prefer a day off the bike, Annecy provides something for all tastes. Lounge on the beach of the lake's crystal-clear water, rent a paddle boat, or visit some of the city's historic monuments. Be sure to get a "glace artisanal" this afternoon - without a doubt some of France's best ice cream is in Annecy.

DAY 4: Sun, Aug 23rd

Distance 37 km (23 mi)
Gain 281 m (922 ft)
Terrain Rolling hills
Level 
Meals Breakfast, Dinner
Lodging  Allobroges Park Hotel
 Hebe Hotel

Annecy to Chambéry

Highlights Aix les Bains, Lac du Bourget

This morning we leave Annecy for an intriguing ride through forests, hills, and across the "Pont de l'Abime," a stunning suspension bridge constructed in the 1800's. Stop and enjoy the views of France's deepest lake, the Lac du Bourget, before pedaling a bike path into charming Chambéry, our home for the next two nights. Located in a valley, Chambéry provides almost a 360 degree view of the French Alps and has been an important crossroads dating back to the 11th century. Though it's hard to beat Chambéry's rich history and stunning views -- the diverse culinary scene might be a contender. Dinner is on your tonight so you have an opportunity to see how they compare.

DAY 5: Mon, Aug 24th

Distance 63 km (39 mi)
Gain 579 m (1899 ft)
Terrain Hilly
Level 
Meals Breakfast
Lodging  Hotel des Princes

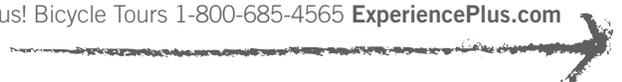
Chambéry loop

Highlights Abbaye d'Hautecombe

Your options are endless today. Pedal up to the lake for a swim or continue your exploration of the city, where you can enjoy a relaxing aperitif below the castle. For those looking for a gorgeous cycling challenge, we'll propose an exhilarating vineyard loop to the secluded Abbaye d'Hautecombe, with a history that goes back to a religious community founded there in 1101. We'll experience some of the Savoy's most famous culinary specialties this evening: fondue, and raclette!

DAY 6: Tue, Aug 25th

Distance 39 km (24 mi)
Gain 260 m (853 ft)
Terrain Gentle
Level 
Meals Breakfast, Dinner
Lodging  Hotel des Princes



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Shuttle to Cluny then pedal to Macon

Highlights Guided tour of Cluny Abbey, Saone river

After breakfast this morning we'll shuttle to the historic Cluny Abbey. This was once the largest church in all Christendom! You'll learn its intriguing history with a local guide. After the tour enjoy a relaxing lunch in a local café before pedaling to our elegant hotel in the center of Macon, on the bank of the Saone river. We'll enjoy some delicious Beaujolais during dinner together this evening.

DAY 7: Wed, Aug 26th

Distance 29 km (18 mi)
Gain 188 m (617 ft)
Terrain Gentle
Level 
Meals Breakfast, Dinner
Lodging  [Hotel Panorama 360](#)

Beaujolais loop

Highlights Stunning wine country ride

This is the France you dream about! Our loop ride today weaves through picturesque Beaujolais villages and vineyards, farm houses, wineries, and turreted villas. We'll enjoy a delicious wine tasting at a local enoteque on the Saône River this evening.

DAY 8: Thu, Aug 27th

Distance 51 km (32 mi)
Gain 812 m (2663 ft)
Terrain Hilly
Level 
Meals Breakfast
Lodging  [Hotel Panorama 360](#)

Mâcon to Villefranche sur Saone

Highlights Vineyards and medieval villages

If you thought yesterday's ride was nice, wait for today! Ancient Romanesque chapels await you in picture-perfect hamlets. Each town is an immaculate masterpiece. We'll be in Villefranche sur Saone this evening, the capital of the Beaujolais.

DAY 9: Fri, Aug 28th

Distance 60 km (37 mi)
Gain 718 m (2355 ft)
Terrain Rolling hills
Level 
Meals Breakfast
Lodging  [Hotel Ici et La](#)



Bicycle Tours in France: Cycling Lake Geneva to Chambéry Plus! Lyon**Villefranche sur Saone to Lyon****Highlights** Pierres Dorées

Today we're pedaling in the land of the "Pierres Dorées." These picturesque villages carved from "golden stones" have the warmest golden-orange glow you've ever seen. We'll weave through these hamlets until we get to the banks of the elegant Saone river, which we'll follow on bike paths that lead into the heart of Lyon. We'll celebrate this amazing cycling trip together at (what we think) might be Lyon's best restaurant. ***The September 1st departure is staying at Le Globe et Cecil.

DAY 10: Sat, Aug 29th**Distance** 66 km (41 mi)**Gain** 738 m (2421 ft)**Terrain** Hilly**Level** **Meals** Breakfast, Dinner**Lodging**  Sofitel Lyon Bellecour Hotel
 Le Globe et Cecil**Bon Voyage! - Lyon****Highlights** Guided visit of Lyon

Our journey ends this morning after a fascinating guided tour through Lyon and its secret passageways. For those of you who would like to spend more time visiting this unique city, we'll suggest some highlights. It was a pleasure having you join us.

DAY 11: Sun, Aug 30th**Meals** Breakfast

INCLUDED

WHAT'S INCLUDED

When you book a tour with ExperiencePlus! our goal is to ensure your only focus each day is to hop on your bike and explore scenic cycling routes in new destinations. Inclusions may differ depending on which tour style you pick but all ExperiencePlus! tours include what we believe are the most important aspects of a bike tour.

- On all our guided tours, you can expect superb tour leaders who are fun and multilingual, bi-cultural experts, and cycling enthusiasts. They will support you and help you navigate confidently on and off the road.
- High quality bikes selected for the terrain you are cycling on and correct bike fitting to ensure comfortable cycling.
- Thoughtfully designed itineraries and routes that take advantage of stunning cycling destinations and the freedom of bicycle travel. Plus, all the logistics are taken care of.

PRE-TRIP SUPPORT

- Bicycle training programs designed specifically for your tour and fitness level.
- Planning tips on what to pack, hotel recommendations and other helpful details from our Travel Planning Pages: <https://www.experienceplus.com/travel-planning/>
- A gift of your choice (cycling jerseys, socks, or a t-shirt) as our way of saying thanks for choosing EP!
- *Traveler services including assistance booking extra nights at the tour starting and ending hotels. (*Explorer and Self-guided tour styles excluded)
- See "What's Included" for tour-specific inclusions and be sure to check the "Keep in mind" section under "Tour Summary" online.

BICYCLES

For a full list of what's included with your bike see: <https://www.experienceplus.com/what-to-expect/our-bikes/>. If you would like to bring your own pedals and shoes we recommend doing so. On Explorer and Self-guided tours we include a GPS device on all bikes.

NAVIGATING, DAYSHEETS AND VAN SUPPORT:

On a guided tour, each day you'll receive a daily briefing with a highlighted route map. On a self-guided tour you'll receive a comprehensive orientation and bike fit on the first or second morning of your trip. About 14 days prior to your tour, we will provide you with access to

RideWithGPS Experiences, our platform to distribute information on each tour day's activities, meals and ride, as well as GPS-routes.

Daily information on the RWGPS Experience includes important phone numbers, hotel information and interesting historical and cultural information. On Classic, Bike and Boat and Expedition tours we also navigate using our signature chalk dust arrows. Our arrows make navigating very easy—you may never need to look at the map. On Explorer tours the terrain and destinations are not always conducive to using chalk arrows so we'll ride as a group or you can navigate on your own with the GPS tracks.

On a guided tour you will have a support van providing water and snack resupply, mechanical assistance, a lift for tired cyclists, and luggage transfers. On some itineraries the van will not be able to follow sections of the route that stray from the road for example onto cycling paths. On a self-guided tour you will have luggage transfers that will transport your bags from one hotel to the other.

Need More Miles? On many days it is possible to add miles to the day, just talk to your tour leader about your options or ask when you are planning your self-guided trip.

Need Fewer Miles? On a guided tour, the support van is available to offer snacks, encouragement, a lift over the next hill, or to the next hotel. On a self-guided tour we recommend you review the tour level to make sure you can ride the full distance.

ON A GUIDED TOUR: TIPPING YOUR TOUR LEADERS

If you feel your tour leader team has demonstrated great expertise and service, common practice within the travel industry is to tip. Tipping is voluntary and greatly appreciated, and gratuity amounts vary widely. Should you decide to leave a tip, as a guideline, we suggest 5-8% of the tour cost per traveler — this is for the entire tour leader team, not each tour leader. You can give the tip to any member of the tour leader team, as they share it evenly. In order to avoid social tensions, we encourage you to tip as individuals and not as a group. If you feel your tour leaders did not quite meet your expectations, please let us know.

*Tips are included in Expedition pricing and not expected on self-guided tours.

PHOTOS:

By reserving space on tour, you agree that ExperiencePlus! may use, re-use and reproduce any images, photos or videos sent to us, or that are taken by our guides or other travelers, in any medium, including but not limited to print, electronic media, or Internet, free of charge and without your right to inspection. If you do not want us to use any images of you, you must inform us or your tour leader in writing at the start of the tour.

STYLES

OUR TOUR STYLES

We realize that one size does not fit all and there are as many ways to travel by bike as there are different types of cyclists and travelers.

Classic Tours: Dream of traveling through a region by bike? Our unique chalk arrows lead the way as you explore small villages and world-class cities while traveling at your own pace.

- Tour Length: 7-15 days
- Hotels: 3-4 stars.
- Road Type: Pavement, bike paths.
- Multi-night Stays: Occasionally
- Navigation and support: 2-3 tour leaders, van support and chalk arrows
- Price: \$\$\$
- Tour Levels: 1-4.5

Explorer Tours: Travel further off the beaten path - we let the destination dictate where we ride, not the road surface.

- Tour Length: 7-8 days
- Hotels: 2-3 stars
- Road Type: 30-50% gravel or hard-packed dirt, the rest pavement.
- Multi-night Stays: Occasionally
- Navigation and support: 2 tour leaders, GPS and van support
- Price: \$\$
- Tour Levels: 1-4

Bike and Boat Tours: Spend days cycling and your evenings relaxing on a private boat as you cruise to your next port.

- Tour Length: 7-8 days, some itineraries have land-based extensions available.
- Barge/Boat: 3-4 star, same cabin for the entire boat trip except for land extension.
- Road Type: Pavement
- Navigation and support: 2 tour leaders, van Support and chalk arrows
- Price: \$\$\$
- Tour Levels: 1-4

Expedition Tours: Multi-week tours where you spend long days on the bike with the added satisfaction of pedaling across multiple countries.

- Tour Length: 15-40 days
- Hotels: 2-4 stars
- Road Type: Pavement with occasional hard-packed dirt or gravel.
- Multi-night Stays: On rest days
- Navigation and support: 2-3 tour leaders, van Support and chalk arrows
- Price: \$\$\$
- Tour Levels: 4-5

Self-guided Tours: perfect for those who have an independent spirit, want the flexibility to choose their own dates, and don't need van support or tour leaders during their trip. Every departure is a private tour!

- Tour Length: 6-8-days
- Hotels: 3-4 stars
- Road Type: Pavement with occasional hard-packed dirt or gravel on bike paths.
- Multi-night Stays: Occasionally
- Navigation and support: GPS routes and luggage transfers
- Price: \$
- Tour Levels: 1-4

**LEVELS**

We know that travelers have different cycling abilities and preferences for the number of miles, elevation gain, and type of terrain they want on a bicycle tour. We have rated each day of our tours on a scale of 1-5. Our Tour Level's are an average of the day rating on tour. We recommend looking at the daily summary on the PDF and Website Itinerary to see details about each day's ride.

LEVEL 1 - 1.5

Level 1 - 1.5 days will be mostly flat and the distance will rarely exceed 50 km. Level 1 - 1.5 tours are suitable for beginner cyclists, those traveling by bicycle for the first time, or multi-generational groups with a desire for a nice and easy bike tour with plenty of opportunities to stop and enjoy the scenery.

- **Average daily mileage:** 20 - 50 km. (12-30 miles) Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 0-400 M (0-1200 ft)
- **Terrain:** Mostly flat with occasional gentle climbs at a grade of less than 3%, that are sustained for a maximum of 3km. There might be a steeper but short climb.

LEVEL 2 - 2.5

Level 2 - 2.5 days are ideal for riders newer to bicycle touring looking for a bit of a challenge.

- **Average daily mileage:** 30-60 km (18 - 38 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 400 - 600 m (1200 - 2000 ft)
- **Terrain:** Mostly rolling terrain around 3%. Presents multiple 3% to 4% climbs. May present an occasional steeper climb.

LEVEL 3 - 3.5

Level 3 - 3.5 days are great for active individuals (who run, bike, swim etc. on a regular basis).

- **Average daily mileage:** 50-70km (30-45 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 600 - 900m (2000 - 2800 ft)
- **Terrain:** Multiple Climbs with grades of 4 - 6%.

LEVEL 4 - 4.5

Level 4 - 4.5 days are the best riding days for avid cyclists or very active individuals who are excited to challenge themselves on a bike.

- **Average daily mileage:** 70-90km (45-55 miles) Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 900-1000m (2800-3600 ft)
- **Terrain:** Presents multiple steep climbs (6% to 8% grades), 1 to 3km long. Alternatively, 4 — 6% grades for 6 kilometers or more.

LEVEL 5 (EXPEDITION)

Our Expedition tours designed for strong riders looking for the challenge of riding across countries or continents. Long daily mileages mean limited van support so we recommend these tours for riders who feel confident that they can ride every mile.

- **Average daily mileage:** 120 km (75 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Gain:** 500-2000 m (1600- 6500 ft)
- **Terrain:** Expect and be prepared for any and everything.

REMEMBER

A tour level is the average of the days so we recommend you look at the day level on each day of the itinerary to help you better understand what to expect from your tour.

CHECKLIST

TO DO ONCE YOU'VE BOOKED!

- Read through your Reservation Confirmation and After you Book Information (link sent to you by e-mail), it has important information to help you plan your trip!
- Check the date on your passport. The expiration date should extend three months past your date of return to your home country.
- Complete the Customer Information Form: <https://www.experienceplus.com/travel-planning/customer-information-form/>
- We recommend you take out travel insurance. Find details at <https://www.experienceplus.com/travel-planning/travel-insurance/>
- Choose a bicycle training program: <https://www.experienceplus.com/travel-planning/bicycle-tour-training/>
- Peruse our country-specific Travel Planning Pages: <https://www.experienceplus.com/travel-planning/>

6 TO 3 MONTHS PRIOR TO TOUR START DATE

- Refer to your Tour Packet/Itinerary to see step-by-step arrival and departure information for your tour, meeting place and time, if a reservation on a complimentary ExperiencePlus! Shuttle (if applicable) is required, along with other important information to help you plan your arrival and departure.
- Reserve your flights after you know you have a confirmed tour departure. Please check with our office if you do not know if your trip is confirmed.
- Book your pre and post-tour hotel nights.
- Begin your chosen training program
- Final payment is due 90 days (120 days for Bike & Barge/Boat tours) prior to the tour start. Please refer to your Invoice and the Final Payment Reminder e-mail which we send 10 days prior to the due date for detailed instructions.

6 TO 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO TOUR START DATE

- Start reading one of the books or watching one of the movies from our Reading and Movie Lists: <https://www.experienceplus.com/travel-planning/>.
- Plan what you are going to pack and start packing! Refer to the Packing Lists for suggestions, and see luggage limits at <https://www.experienceplus.com/travel-planning/packing/>.
- We'll email you your access code to Digital Daysheets, Hotel Itinerary, Participant Roster, names and contact information of your Tour Leaders, emergency phone numbers, and other important departure information about 2 weeks prior to your tour start date. All this will be provided to you via a feature called Experiences via the RideWithGPS App (tracks available but not necessary for navigation on Classic, Expedition and Bike & Boat tours).

DAY OF YOUR FLIGHT

Get as much sleep on the plane as you can. Pack one day of cycling gear in your carry-on just in case. See you soon!