Cycling the Alpine Lakes: Geneva to Annecy

CYCLING ADVENTURE AND DISCOVERY

- Cycle from Lake Geneva to the turquoise shores of Lake Annecy
- Experience French Alpine villages, hospitality and local cuisine
- Explore the slick, sophisticated lakeside city of Geneva
- Easy going rides along the Rhone and Isere River
- Panoramic views across the snow-capped Bauges Alps

macsbike.com
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Linking the three major European lakes of Geneva, Bourget and Annecy are historic villages, Olympic towns, scenic river paths and rolling flower filled meadows. Framed each day by the French Alps, you’ll be able to experience the beauty of the Alpine cycling without having to venture onto high passes.

Cycling from the sophisticated streets of Geneva you’ll head out to the wine-making twin villages of Dardagny and Satigny before riding over the border from Switzerland and into France’s Rhone Valley. Be sure to visit the Roman baths in Aix-les-Bains and also the historical centre of Chambéry which is one of the most remarkable in France. Finishing at the chic Haute-Savoie capital of Annecy, it’s easy to lose several hours wandering the streets of Annecy’s old town or relaxing lakeside mountain gazing between visits to the exceptionally good patisseries!

Is this tour for me?
This self-guided cycling holiday captures the pure majesty of the Alps but without the difficulty associated with the majority of cycling tours in the region. It is rated moderate, but it is a tour that most people with a good fitness level can accomplish. If you love Alpine scenery and want to see some really alluring towns and villages en route, then this is the tour for you.

Itinerary

What’s Included
5 Nights in 2* or 3* hotels and inns • 5 Breakfasts • 2 Dinners • Baggage transfer • Detailed maps, route notes, and information pack • 24/7 local partner and UK telephone support
**ITINERARY**

**Day 1**

**Arrive Geneva**

Arrive at your leisure and check into your hotel by the lake. Take time to explore this stylish city on your own as it is a hub of international organizations, finance and culture, entwining the old with the new. Lake Geneva provides a marvellous backdrop. Perhaps you would like to try some excellent local cuisine in a lakeside restaurant this evening, after all Geneva is the culinary capital of Switzerland!

**Overnight:** Geneva

**Day 2**

**Cycle to Seyssel**

A member of our team will meet you this morning to go over the itinerary and outfitting of bikes. Then you embark on today’s journey by cycling alongside, and enjoying the lovely view over the Rhone River. You will then come upon the charming wine-making villages of Dardagny and Satigny. Since the late 1980’s there has been a formalised Swiss appellation system and the grapes here are mostly the Gamay variety which make great Sauvignon Blanc’s and Chardonnay’s.

After pausing here to perhaps try a glass of these excellent Swiss wines head towards the westernmost point of Switzerland by pedalling through the village of Chancy and then crossing the border into France. Do not miss the Fort de l’Ecluse, founded by one of the Duke’s of Savoy. It is built on top of a striking rock formation within the natural entrance of the Rhone Valley between the Vuache hills and the Jura.

**Cycle:** 60 km  
**Overnight:** Seyssel

**Day 3**

**Cycle to Aix-les-Bains**

Today’s views are some of the real highlights of your cycling tour, from the fourteen summits of the Bauges mountain range to the Mont de la Charvaz and the Col-du-Chat. Cycle alongside the lake and past the impressive Château de Montvran in Culoz, which inspired the Russian composer, Prokofiev.

Pedal on to the spa town of Aix-les-Bains, situated on the banks of Lake Bourget, which was known for its thermal baths as far back as the Roman Empire. There are numerous Roman ruins still remaining. Lake Bourget is the largest natural lake of glacial origin, and the deepest within France.

**Cycle:** 47 km  
**Overnight:** Aix-les-Bains

**Day 4**

**Cycle to Grésy-sur-Isère**

Pedaling through Chambéry, a town in the heart of the Savoy region is the central feature to today’s route. It is located in a wide valley between the Bauges and Chartreuse Mountain ranges, and is also situated at the crossroads of ancient trade routes. The old quarter of Chambéry is one of the most remarkable in France, so it is worth spending some time here and immersing yourself in its fascinating history. Along the way also take in the ruins of the 10th century fortress, Château de Miolans, which overlooks the rich wine-growing region of the Combe de Savoy Valley, including the wine-making village of Chignin.

**Cycle:** 59 km  
**Overnight:** Sainte Helene

**Day 5**

**Cycle to Annecy**

After a sustaining buffet breakfast wind your way to Grésy-sur-Isère via Albertville, the town that hosted the 1992 Winter Olympics. En route to Lake Annecy you will be astounded by the mountain ranges of Beaufortain and Bauges. The town of Annecy, which is nestled on the northern tip of Lake Annecy, is home to the International Animated Film Festival as well as some notable sites, such as the Palais de l’Isle, the Château d’Annecy, the 16th century Cathedral of Saint-Pierre, and the 20th century Pont des Amour (Lover’s Bridge) made of iron.

**Cycle:** 60 km

**Overnight:** Annecy

**Day 6**

**Onward Travel**

Annecy is a delightful town to explore, and taking a lakeside stroll or boat trip out onto the waters is a superb way to round off your Alpine Lake exploration.

**TRIP INFORMATION**

**Accommodation**

Your 6 day, 5 night self-guided cycling holiday includes five nights in 3* star hotels and 2* hotel. They have been hand-picked and are located either centrally, or in remarkable settings.

You might be booked into alternative accommodations which are not listed in the description. If those listed are unavailable the alternative accommodation will be of the same or better standard as those described.

**Solo Cyclists & Single Rooms**

If you require single rooms within your party we would be happy to accommodate you although there is a single room supplement payable. Solo cyclists are also welcome for an additional charge.

**Meals**

Breakfast is included at your hotel each morning. Two dinners are also included at the hotels in Seyssel and Grésy-sur-Isère. Your route notes will suggest where you can eat lunch and dinners on the other evenings.

**Baggage Transfer**

Daily door to door baggage transfer is included in the price of your trip. We ask you to keep your baggage to a maximum of 1 bag per person (maximum weight 20kg).

**Navigation**

You will be provided with detailed route notes and maps to help you find your way. Most of the time you will be cycling on quiet back roads, however in order to connect the various routes, you may have short cycles on main roads.
Grade & Terrain

This cycling tour is rated moderate because of the daily ascents and descents, and mileages. People with a fit and active lifestyle, and good level of fitness should be able to complete this tour comfortably. Please do consider though that this is the Alps!

Equipment

You will need a bike in good condition, we would recommend a hybrid or a touring bike. Your information pack has a detailed equipment list which includes standard cycling gear such as helmet, cycling clothes warm and waterproof clothes and a day pack.

Bike Hire

Bike hire is available as an optional extra. Full-carbon, aluminium, or hybrid bikes are available and the bike will be delivered to you.

The aluminium bike will be a Giant CRS 2.0 or similar model. The carbon bike is a Scott CR1 Team or similar model. All rental bikes come with a helmet, saddle pack, lock, pump, and also provided is a rear rack, water bottle cage, water bottle, repair kit, multi-tool, spare tube, and a CO2 cartridge. If you don’t return the bike to Geneva there is an additional fee to transport it back.

Complete bike specs are listed in your information pack.

Please note that if you do want to rent a bike you need to provide us with your height so that we can make sure that the bike is going to be a good fit.

Travel Insurance

It is a requirement of booking this tour with Macs Bike that you have suitable travel insurance which covers you for the activity and emergency evacuation and hospital care.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Getting to Geneva

By Air: Geneva Airport is served by many airlines from the UK and throughout Europe. The airport is only 4km from the city and it is possible to take either a bus or train into the centre. Trains take about 6 minutes and by bus a little longer, depending on the traffic. You can also take a taxi which costs between 30 and 35 CHF, depending on the time of day.

By Rail: There are frequent trains from Paris Gare de Lyon to Geneva. Please consult the SNCF website for more information.

By Car: Eurotunnel Folkestone to Calais takes approximately 35 minutes. Drive from Folkestone to Geneva. (approximately 9 hours)

Ferry: Dover to Calais by ferry is a 90 minute journey. The drive from Calais to Geneva takes approximately 8 hours.

Getting from Annecy

By Air: Annecy does have a small airport but it is only served by Air France from Paris. (Annecy Airport)

By Rail: From Annecy you can get back to Geneva by train or direct to Paris Gare de Lyon or via Lyon. Please consult the SNCF website for more information.

By Car: Eurotunnel Calais to Folkestone takes approximately 35 minutes. Drive from Annecy to Calais. (approximately 9 hours)

Ferry: Calais to Dover ferry is a 90 minute journey. The drive from Annecy to Calais takes approximately 8 hours.

BOOKING INFO

Availability

We suggest you book as soon as your plans are finalised as this holiday is extremely popular especially in the summer months. Please note you can start this holiday on any day of the week in the season.

When To Go?

Anytime is the best time to go on this tour. However, the spring and autumn months tend to be less busy, and have cooler temperatures.

Price

Please see our website for current prices.

Included

5 Nights in 2* or 3* hotels and inns • 5 Breakfasts • 2 Dinners • Baggage transfer • Detailed maps, route notes, and information pack • 24/7 local partner and UK telephone support

Not Included

Travel to Geneva/ from Annecy • Bike hire/ Helmet • Lunches and 3 Dinners • Drinks and snacks • Personal equipment and expenditure • Travel insurance

Optional Extras

Bike hire • Single room/solo traveller supplement • Additional nights

Booking

When you are ready to book you can do so securely online at [macsbike.com](http://www.macsbike.com) or by phone: +44 (0) 141 530 8886 (UK) or +1 (0) 866 355 1037 (US/Canada)

Financial Security

Book with Confidence. We are a member of ABTA which means you have the benefit of ABTA’s assistance and Code of Conduct. We provide full financial protection for your money.

ABTA Member Statement

Macs Adventure Holidays is a Member of ABTA. ABTA and ABTA members help holidaymakers to get the most from their travel and assist when things don’t go according to plan. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA’s Code of Conduct.

For more information on ABTA, the Code of Conduct and the arbitration scheme available to you if you have a complaint, contact ABTA, 30 Park Street, London SE1 9EQ, tel 020 317 0581 • [www.abta.com](http://www.abta.com)