10 Day Provence and Lake Annecy Tour, including Col de l'Arpettaz, Col du Grand Colombier, Col du Granon and Col de l’Iseran.

Tour Dates: 13 June - 23 June 2016

Cost: €3 000

Our tours focus on maximizing your enjoyment and riding time, which is why we design the tours with two hotel stays so you only have to re-pack your bags once during the tour.

Inclusions: All tour transport and support vehicles, transfers, support staff, quality accommodation, welcome dinner and farewell dinner, daily breakfast, mechanical assistance, sightseeing, maps, daily itinerary and briefings.

Additional tour options can be arranged by request: lunch and dinner bookings, additional accommodation for those arriving early or departing after the tour ends, bike hire, insurance, pre/post tour travel arrangements, just ask.

Our Tour will start in Provence, so your flight will need to get you to Lyon Airport.

**Bedoin:** After selecting from more than 100 properties in Provence, we are delighted to confirm the 2016 base camp for our 5 days of riding in Provence will be a beautiful 3 star hotel (complete with swimming pool) in Bedoin. The village has a lovely medieval core with narrow streets, old fountains and ancient doorways. The main road has terrace cafés, shops and lots of activity, most of which is centred around cycling as Bedoin is the official starting point for the climb up Mont Ventoux, The Giant of Provence.

We believe that using Provence as the first stop in our 2016 tour not only gives riders time to experience the beautiful warm weather, lavender fields and Mediterranean feel of the region, it also provides much quieter roads to get used to riding in the tour group, on the other side of the road and on big mountain climbs.

The ascent of Ventoux from Bedoin is the classic way up the mountain. The length of the climb from Bedoin at 300m elevation to the summit at 1912m is 21.5km. This gives an elevation of 1612m and an average gradient of 7.5%. We can argue until the cows come home which is harder, the Bedoin side or the Malaucene side; what we do know is that both sides are long and our tour riders will get the opportunity to judge for themselves!

To the south of Bedoin is the stunning Gorge de la Nesque and the village of Sault and to the east is the Plateau d’Albion which rises up to the second highest mountain in the region, the Montagne de Lure at 1800m. Between the Plateau d’Albion and the Baronnies to the north is the 1212m Col de l’Homme Mort - Dead Man’s Pass! Our daily routes will average 80 km with 1500m climbing.
Lake Annecy: Also known as the Blue Lake, Lake Annecy is one of France’s most beautiful cities and is situated at the heart of the Savoy Alps. As well as an extraordinary landscape, it takes pride in being one of the cleanest and purest lakes in the world. This water flows from the lake into the canals running through the ‘old town’ (Annecy’s historic centre), giving it, its picturesque appearance.

Lake Annecy is synonymous with friendliness and the art of living. It is primarily a Mecca for French cuisine. Four great Michelin-starred chefs have establishments on the lake shore.

Lake Annecy is also the ideal place for cycling. A bike path has been built along the shore of the lake covering a distance of 28 miles. Free from traffic, it is one of the most popular cycle routes in France. The course around Lake Annecy was even used for the 18th stage time trial circuit during the 2009 Tour de France.

Our stay here will give us excellent access to some challenging and beautiful routes including Lake Loop via Col de la Forclaz, Col de la Forclaz de Montmin, Le Semnoz (summit also called Crêt de Chatillon), Col de l’Epine, Col du Tamie and Col du Vorger.

Col de l’Arpettaz is a particular favourite; hairpins galore on a quiet road that is partly pasture land and partly light forest. Nearing the Col the tree line disappears and you receive great views of the Aravis Alps. There is a nice little restaurant at the Col where we will stop for lunch. The route we use to descend the mountain is fabulous, with beautiful

views of Mont Blanc and a fast, quiet descent on beautiful roads back to Ugine where we rejoin the Annecy bike path to head home. Even the tunnels are fun (car-free) here.

Our daily routes in Annecy will average 100km with 2000 – 3000 metres of climbing.

Places on our Tours are limited so we can provide you with the best possible experience of European cycling, so don’t delay your booking or you may miss out.

A 2016 Tour Booking Form must be completed upon booking your Tour and a 20% deposit is required to secure your place. Please read the Tour Booking Form for further Terms and Conditions.