

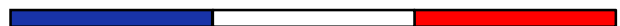
DAUPHINE

French Alps & Haute Loire (June 2019)



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Critérium du Dauphine: the biggest TDF warm-up race!



This cycling tour starts in Grenoble and finishes in Lyon and provides the perfect balance between pro racing, Tour de France road recognition and back road cycling experiences. The **Critérium du Dauphine** is one of the most important lead-up Tour de France races. There are many advantages in travelling to the 'Dauphine' rather than Le Tour. The race is disputed during early June meaning lesser crowds and organised by A.S.O which means all the big names come out for this 8 stage race.

If you are keen to explore the French Alps and Haute Loire regions and witness three stages of the 2019 Dauphine LIVE then look no further! Come and join us from 5 to 13 June 2019. This cycling tour will start in Grenoble (capital of the French Alps) and finish in Lyon providing excellent access to Lyon Saint Exupery Airport. We will also spend multiple nights in the Le-Puy-en-Velay which is famous for numerous TDF battles, pilgrims and two million year old volcanic chimneys that set the town's skyline!

To provide a major challenge the tour also includes the legendary Alpe d'Huez climb which is located only a short transfer from Grenoble.

Come & join us from 5 - 13 June 2019 for a French Alps & Haute Loire journey!

ITINERARY

DAY ONE – Wednesday 5 June 2019 – Grenoble

We will be available to meet you in reception of Hotel de l'Europe (Grenoble city centre) at 11:00am for a tour welcome and briefing. Grenoble is considered by many as the French Alps capital and the Fort de la Bastille sitting high above the city centre provides an amazing backdrop. The town is surrounded by inspiring mountain peaks! There will be time to set-up the bikes and head out for an afternoon loop following Route de Sarcenas which is one of our favourite local rides.



Meals: Tour Welcome Dinner

Destinations: Grenoble

Today's Ride: Approx. 50km

Accommodation: Grenoble (Alpes)

DAY TWO – Thursday 6 June 2019 – Alpe d'Huez!

From the hotel we will transfer you 1hr to Allemont which is only 10km from the base of Alpe d'Huez and its famed 21 switchbacks! While Alpe d'Huez does not feature this year it's played centre stage for almost forty combined Dauphine and TDF battles. The 13km climb at 8% average grade will be a constant test. The reward will be the descent which follows a picturesque back road with awesome views. The second climb for those looking for more is the well-known Col d'Ornon which was last used during Stage 17 of the 2017 Tour de France. It is a 10km climb at 5% average grade which winds its way up through some beautiful woodlands before yet another spectacular descent.



Meals: Breakfast

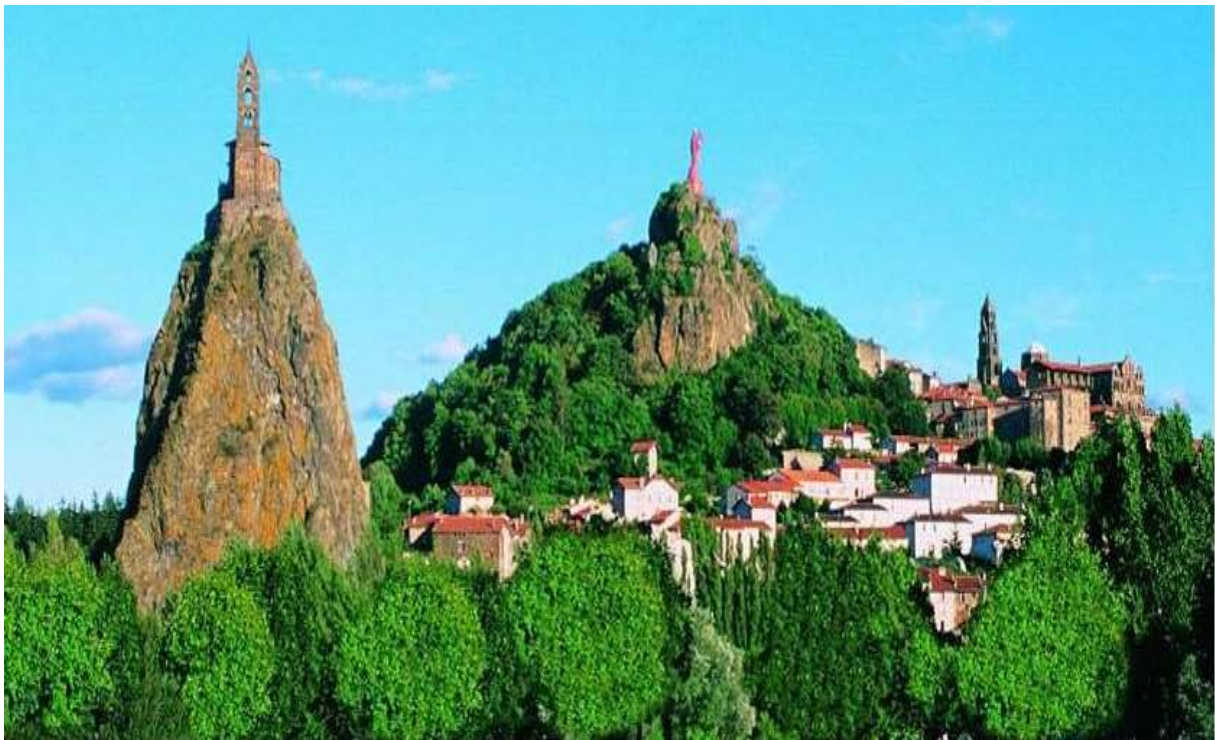
Destinations: Alpe d'Huez

Today's Ride: 100km

Accommodation: Grenoble (Alpes)

DAY THREE – Friday 7 June 2019 – Le Puy en Velay

Following breakfast there will be a 1.5 hour transfer setting us up to ride through to Le-Puy-en-Velay and the tour hotel for the next three nights. Today's ride provides an undulating route including 1000m of elevation gain. You will enjoy quiet peaceful roads through the forest Forêt de Taillard which is rated and preserved for its ecological value. 'Le Puy' is located in the Haute Loire region and offers interesting landscapes with a few dramatic volcanic chimneys located in the township. You will have plenty of time to explore and take in its history!



Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations: Le-Puy-en-Velay

Today's Ride: 85km

Accommodation: Le-Puy-en-Velay (Haute Loire)

DAY FOUR – Saturday 8 June 2019 – 2019 Dauphine Stage 3 Reccie

Le Puy will host the Stage 3 departure of the 2019 Criterium du Dauphine. This morning you will ride the first 50km of Stage 3 a few days ahead of the professionals including the Category 4 climb Cote d'Allegre. The descent towards Arlanc will be great fun before doubling back and following other rural roads to complete the loop through to 'Le Puy'. When staying in Le Puy one must also swap their cleats for walking shoes and like the pilgrims scale the 'chimney staircases' up to impressive churches, such as, the 10th Century Rocher et Chapelle Saint-Michel d'Aiguilhe!



Meals: Breakfast

Destinations: Allegre

Today's Ride: 100km

Accommodation: Le-Puy-en-Velay (Haute Loire)

DAY FIVE – Sunday 9 June 2019 – Climb Croix de Boutieres!

Following breakfast the cycling takes us to the south east of Le Puy in search of the Ardeche mountains. At 1506m elevation 'Col de la Croix de Boutieres' is the highest point on the L'Ardechoise Velo Marathon gran fondo. This time next week hundreds of recreational cyclists will also test themselves on 'Boutieres'. The 13km climb at 4% average gradient will feel like a breeze with Alpe d'Huez already under your belts! During the afternoon we will find ourselves a comfortable venue to sit back and watch Stage 1 of the 2019 Dauphine live on the TV!

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations: Col de la Croix de Boutieres

Today's Ride: 90km

Accommodation: Le-Puy-en-Velay (Haute Loire)

DAY SIX – Mon 10 June 2019 – Dauphine Stage 2 – Crappone sur Arzon

After three nights in the Haute Loire region this morning we say goodbye and ride towards the closing Stage 2 kilometres in Crappone-sur-Arzon. Along the way you will intersect and ride the final 35km of today's stage route ahead of the pro peloton. While relatively short at 3km in length the Category 2 climb 'Cote de Saint-Victor-sur-Arlanc' abruptly stands in our way as its 9% average gradient will provide everyone with a good test. The final 20km run home to 'Crappone' will be for the smart sprinters who have still saved a little in their legs! Enjoy the Dauphine race atmosphere, hit the barriers for the winning sprint and get close to watch the post stage presentations! Following the 'Dauphine show' there is a 1.5 hour transfer to our new home in Clermont-Ferrand.

Meals: Breakfast

Destinations: Crappone-sur-Arzon

Today's Ride: 80km

Accommodation: Clermont Ferrand (Puy-de-Dome)

DAY SEVEN – Tuesday 11 June 2019 – Dauphine Stage 3 - Riom

Today we return to watch Stage 3 of the Criterium du Dauphine LIVE. Having cycled the initial 50km of Stage 3 a few days ago today we will focus on viewing the peloton as they summit one of the small mid-stage hilltop villages. Once the peloton passes by feel free to jump in the vans or continue cycling back to the hotel with one of our guides. There will also be a return coffee stop scheduled to watch the Stage 3 sprint finish on TV.



Meals: Breakfast

Destinations: Cote de Piboulet & Cote de Courbiere

Today's Ride: 70km or 110km

Accommodation: Clermont Ferrand (Puy-de-Dome)

DAY EIGHT – Wed 12 June 2019 – Dauphine – Stage 4 Ind. Time Trial

This morning there will be a 1 hour transfer before cycling our way into Roanne which is home to the start and finish of today's Stage 4 Individual Time Trial. Time trial stages always provide exceptional access to the pro teams and riders and today will be no exception. It will be an intriguing stage to gauge the condition of the general classification riders before the closing mountain stages. Today's 26km ITT and profile is also very similar to that designed for Stage 13 of the 2019 TDF (27km ITT in Pau) so the testing and fine tuning for July will be on in earnest.

Meals: Breakfast & Tour Farewell Dinner

Destinations: Roanne

Today's Ride: 80km cycling

Accommodation: Lyon (Rhône)

DAY NINE – Thur 13 June 2019 – Goodbye from Lyon

After breakfast we will be available to transport you to Lyon Saint Exupéry Airport with arrival by 10:00am.



Meals: Breakfast

TRIP DETAILS

REGION: ALPES & HAUTE LOIRE

LEVEL: BEGINNER +

PRICE: 3250 € p.p. (twin share)

TOUR DATES: 5 – 13 JUNE 2019

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: 500 €

HOTELS: Grenoble (x2), Le Puy (x3),
Clermont Ferrand (x2), Lyon (x1), 3-4
stars

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

Carbon Road Bike Hire: 350 €

DURATION: 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

PAYMENT:

Option 1: In Euro to our nominated Spanish bank account (via international bank transfer)

Option 2: In \$AUD to our nominated Australian bank account.

INCLUDED

Arrival & Departure transfers
8 nights accommodation including breakfast
4 dinners with beer & wine included
8 guided cycling stages with van and mechanic
Food & drinks during cycling stages
Sierra cycling tour jersey

NOT INCLUDED

Airfares
Pre or post Tour Accommodation