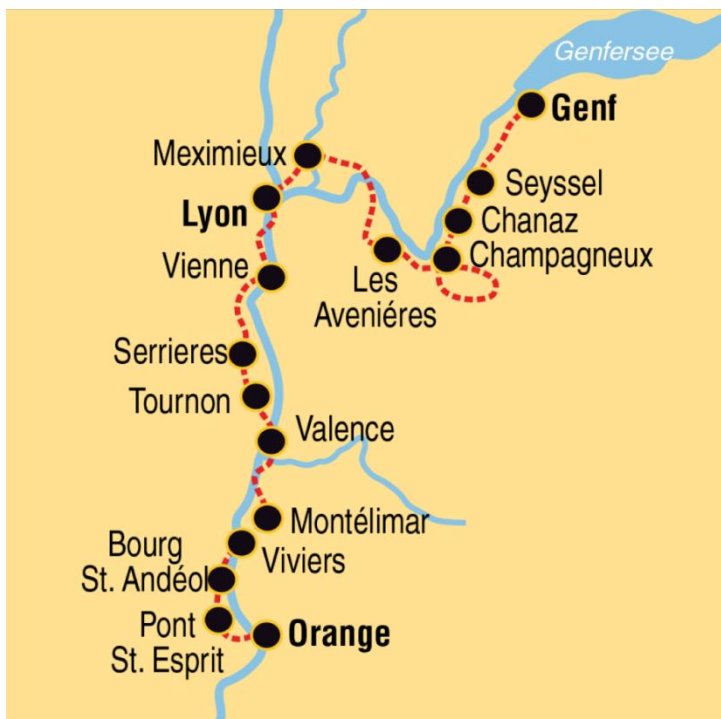


# Cycling Europe

## RHÔNE CYCLE PATH SWITZERLAND TO FRANCE STAGE 1 - GENEVA TO LYON 2020 SELF-GUIDED CYCLE TOUR - 7 DAYS/6 NIGHTS 265 KMS



World-famous Geneva is the starting point for your tour. The fountain in Lake Geneva salutes you and bids farewell as you leave Switzerland and embark on a cycling tour which could not be more varied. Constantly accompanied by the river Rhône, you either cycle directly along the river bank or sometimes the route takes you away for a while and leads you through charming villages, sunflower fields and vineyards. Once the mighty Mont Blanc disappears into the horizon, you dive deeper into the French ambience and you will be drawn into their savoir-vivre'. A glass of wine, freshly baked baguette and time to enjoy it all – this is the genuine French way of living'.

- Beautiful views of Mont Blanc
- Steeply towering vineyards
- Lyon, the capital for gourmets
- The famous water fountain in Geneva

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrival in Geneva

Enjoy your stay at the harbour in Geneva with its famous water fountain 'Jet d' Eau' and in the picturesque old part of town of the 'smallest metropolis in the world' – with its cosmopolitan flair and brimming with art and vitality.

### Day 2: Geneva – Seyssel approx. 60 km

You leave Geneva and follow the River Rhône through the Défilé de l'Écluse, a narrow river passage through the mountains. Only after just a few kilometres, you cycle along the first vineyards and your gaze fixes on the mountains of the Savoy Alps and Mont Blanc. Today's destination is Seyssel, where two suspension bridges connect the pretty houses and squares on the left and right hand-side of the River Rhône.

### Day 3: Seyssel – Champagneux approx. 60 km

On either side of the River Rhône, vineyards rise up steeply. You however cycle on flat terrain along the riverbank and enjoy the view. We suggest you have your first break in Chanaz with its charming houses dating back to the 15th and 16th century and its restaurants located directly at the edge of the canal. Afterwards the River Rhône breaks up and you follow the Western branch until Champagneux.



### Day 4: Panorama-Trip Champagneux approx. 25 km

Today you cycle on remote country lanes up to the viewing plateau of Rochefort. Past the Château de Mandrin, the route leads you through orchards to marvellous panoramic views. Back at the hotel, you can enjoy the sun terrace, the indoor pool or the renowned restaurant featuring French delicacies.

### Day 5: Champagneux – Pérouges approx. 70 km

The Rhône cycle path takes you directly along the riverbank through the harmonious border scenery between Ain and Isère. In Perrozan you leave the river and cycle through little hamlets with medieval flair reaching today's destination, the romantic perched village of Pérouges. Due to its amazing historic village centre, Pérouges is considered one of the most beautiful villages in France.



## Day 6: Pérouges – Lyon approx. 50 km

You cycle on remote paths through lush meadows and fields back to the River Rhône. Now you follow the riverbank along the well-constructed cycle path all the way into the centre of Lyon. Since 1998 the old part of town is classified UNESCO World Cultural Heritage. Marvel at the numerous architectural highlights and enjoy your final evening in one of the countless exquisite restaurants.

## Day 7: Departure or extension

We recommend the connecting tour from **Lyon to Orange**.



## GRADE / TERRAIN

On days 2 and 4 there are a few longer ascents to be tackled. On all other stages the terrain is nearly flat throughout and easy to cycle on. Except for a few interruptions, the Rhône-cycle path is well constructed and it is a perfect example for signposting and routing.

## SCHEDULE 2020

Wednesdays and Sundays between 12 April and 11 October

Season 1: 12 April – 09 May | 28 September - 11 October

Season 2: 10 May – 20 June | 10– 27 September

Season 3: 21 June – 09 September

## COST 2020: PER PERSON IN EUROS

	Season 1	Season 2	Season 3
Share Twin/Double	€715	€775	€825
Single Supplement	€270	€270	€270

Bike (7 or 21 gear) € 75

Bike (30 gear) €125

Electric Bike €175

Cycle helmets are not compulsory in France. There are no helmets for hire so we advise you to bring your own.

## ADDITIONAL NIGHTS

Geneva - share twin/double per person B&B	€122	Single room supplement	€55
Lyon - share twin/double per person B&B	€ 73	Single room supplement	€48

## 2020 COST INCLUDES

- Accommodation 6 nights in 3\* hotels and one 2\* hotel
- Breakfast buffet daily
- Welcome briefing
- Luggage transfer between the hotels
- Detailed travel documents (route maps, route description, local attractions, important telephone numbers)
- GPS-data is available on request
- Rental bike insurance
- Service hotline

# RHÔNE CYCLE PATH

## STAGE 2 - LYON TO ORANGE 2019

### SELF-GUIDED CYCLE TOUR - 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS 275 kms



*Follow the lifeline of the Rhône-Alpes region through lush vineyards and fragrant orchards all the way to Provence. This is an area rich in both nature and culture. Splendid cathedrals and relics from Roman times are testimony to an opulent era long gone. Cultural highlights include the large Roman theatre in Vienne and the architecturally outstanding museum of the Confluences in Lyon. And let's not forget the culinary treasures; frog legs or soft caramel ice cream? There is something to suit everyone's taste.*

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrive Lyon

Since 1998 the old part of town of Lyon is UNESCO World Heritage listed. Mighty churches, about 30 museums and an excellent gourmet industry guarantee a delightful stay.

### Day 2: Lyon – Serrières approx. 69 km

After just a few kilometres cycling the futuristic Museum des Confluences appears with its spectacular location on an island at the confluence of the rivers Rhône and Saône. You follow the course of the River Rhône, and reach today's destination Vienne, with its many remains of an ancient Roman colony. You will be impressed by the temple of Augustus and Livia and by the biggest Roman theatre in Gaul.

### Day 3: Serrières - Valence approx. 60 km

Today the cycle path leads you directly south along the Rhône riverbank. On either side of the river the vineyards of the Cotes du Rhône rise up steeply. Lunch is recommended in one of the charming villages with their medieval centres. Be sure to sample at least one glass of the famous Hermitage! After that you will soon reach Valence, the main town of the Drôme-region, also called the 'Northern Gate to Provence', it will amaze you with its vibrant town centre full of cafés and restaurants.

### Day 4: Valence – Montélimar approx. 65 km

Effortlessly you cycle through the fertile Rhône valley. The temptation to help yourself is especially high today as there are peaches, apples and kiwi fruit growing along the route. Nevertheless make sure you look up and do not miss the sight of a once proud castle high above which is now in ruins, but still keeps a watchful eye over the valley. Today's destination, Montélimar, it is all about nougat, which is produced here. Temptations from dawn to dusk...!





### **Day 5: Round trip Montélimar approx.. 65km**

Today explore the outer lying Drôme region. Enjoy the small romantic towns known as “Villages Perches” and the old romantic churches with the Drôme Mountains as your backdrop.

### **Day 6: Montélimar – Bourg St. Andéol approx. 30 km**

Today's stage is very short and leaves you with lots of time to just enjoy! Several times you switch from one side of the River Rhône to the other via impressive suspension bridges. Continue onwards along the cycle path to the former diocesan town of Viviers. Behind the cathedral dating back to the 12th century you have an amazing view across the Rhône valley. Then it becomes very quiet in the alluvial forests except for the buzzing noise of your spokes till you reach Bourg St. Andéol. The old part of town is characterised by picturesque houses dating back to the 16th, 17th and 18th century, situated directly on the River Rhône.

### **Day 7: Bourg St. Andéol – Orange approx. 50 km**

On your final stage you cycle through glowing yellow sunflower fields, apple orchards and peach plantations, past tomato and basil fields. En route you come across the little town of Pont St. Esprit, known for its 600-year old bridge, whose 25 arches stretch impressively across the Rhône River. At the end of the day reach the town of Orange with its well-known Roman theatre and the city founding arch, both part of the UNESCO-World Cultural Heritage.

**Day 8:** Tour ends after breakfast in Orange.



## GRADE / TERRAIN

Easy with some undulating hills – mostly on cycle paths.

## SCHEDULE 2020

Thursday and Saturday between 18 April and 12 October

Season 1: 18 April – 10 May | 29 September – 12 October

Season 2: 11 May – 21 June | 08 – 28 September

Season 3: 22 June – 07 September

## COST 2020 PER PERSON IN EURO

	Season 1	Season 2	Season 3
Share Twin/Double	€830	€889	€949
Single Supplement	€305	€305	€305

Bike (7 or 21 gear) € 79

Bike (30 gear) €129

Electric Bike €189

Cycle helmets are not compulsory in France. There are no helmets for hire so we advise you to bring your own.

## ADDITIONAL NIGHTS

Lyon - share twin/double per person B&B	€67	Single room supplement	€39
Orange - share twin/double per person B&B	€73	Single room supplement	€45

## COST INCLUDES

- Accommodation 7 nights in 3\* hotels, and one 2\* hotel next to River Rhone
- Breakfast buffet daily
- Welcome briefing
- Luggage transfer between the hotels
- Detailed travel documents (route maps, route description, local attractions, important telephone numbers)
- GPS-data is available
- Rental bike insurance
- Service hotline

## STAGE 1 & STAGE 2 COMBINED:

We recommend that you start Stage 1 on the Sunday, and finish in Lyon on the Saturday. This will connect you with Stage 2 beginning with an overnight in Lyon (so total of 2 nights in Lyon - 1 night at the end of Stage 1, and 1 night at the beginning of Stage 2).

Alternatively if you start Stage 1 on a Wednesday you will finish in Lyon on a Tuesday and require an extra 2 nights in Lyon before beginning Stage 2 on a Saturday (this would mean 4 nights in Lyon in total).

**Book through:**

# A Walker's World

**Don't just see the world. Experience it.**

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