

Venice to Constance to Paris 2017

Ride a single stage or both (13 nights each stage)

Tuesday 27 June, 2017 to Sunday 23 July, 2017

Day to Day

Just picture it, cycling through the spectacular Dolomites, feasting on famous Italian cuisine, riding through the Black Forest or around Lake Constance, sipping Champagne as you relax at your beautiful little French hotel situated in the Champagne region itself. Take in the awesome grandeur of Innsbruck and its surrounding Alpine playground, visit Australian war memorials at Villers Bretonneux and raise your glass in a champagne toast under the Eiffel Tower. This is the best European cycling experience on offer.

Location	Distance	Date	B	L	D	A
Arrive Venice	NA	Tue 27 June 2017	--	--	Y	Y
Venice (Mira) to Valdobbiadene	86km	Wed 28 June 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Valdobbiadene to Belluno	64km	Thu 29 June 2017	Y	--	--	Y
Belluno to Cortina	77km	Fri 30 June 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Cortina loop ride (or rest)	35km	Sat 1 July 2017	Y	--	--	Y
Dolomites REST DAY hike (Cortina)	NA	Sun 2 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Sella Ronda Circuit (Corvara) (or rest)	52km	Mon 3 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Corvara to Vipiteno	89km	Tue 4 July 2017	Y	--	--	Y
Vipiteno to Innsbruck	60km	Wed 5 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Innsbruck REST DAY	NA	Thu 6 July 2017	Y	--	--	Y
Innsbruck to Elmen	93km	Fri 7 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Elmen to Oberstaufen	83km	Sat 8 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Oberstaufen to Constance	88km	Sun 9 July 2017	Y	--	--	Y
Constance (END STAGE 1, START STAGE 2)	NA	Mon 10 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Constance to Donaueschingen, Black Forest	86km	Tue 11 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Donaueschingen to Freiburg	63km	Wed 12 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Freiburg to Riquewhir	65km	Thu 13 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Riquewhir to Strasbourg	88km	Fri 14 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Strasbourg REST DAY	NA	Sat 15 July 2017	Y	--	--	Y
Strasbourg to Sarrebourg	80km	Sun 16 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Sarrebourg to Nancy	79km	Mon 17 July 2017	Y	--	--	Y
Nancy to Bar Le Duc	107km	Tue 18 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Bar le Duc to Reims	130 or 80	Wed 19 July 2017	Y	--	--	Y
Reims REST DAY (Villers-Bretonneux day trip)	NA	Thu 20 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Reims to Chateau Thierry	82km	Fri 21 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Chateau Thierry to Paris	123km	Sat 22 July 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Paris Tour de France arrival	NA	Sun 23 July 2017	Y	--	--	--

Total distance cycled	1630km		26	0	18	26
Average daily distance	82km					

Meal and accom inclusions noted as B, L, D, A (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Accom)

Arrive Venice — NA — Tue 27 June 2017 — - - D A

Day 1 (pre tour). Venice is a wonderful place to start this tour. We suggest arriving at least a few days early to make the most of your time here and to 'see the sights'. Don't miss Piazza San Marco - the world famous central city square. Central Venice is extremely busy and not an ideal place to begin our cycling so our pre-tour accom is in Mira, a short bus ride out of central Venice. If you would like to spend a few days in Venice we recommend staying in central Venice itself before coming out to Mira on the first day of the tour. Contact us for more details and recommendations on central Venice accom and how to get to Mira.

Venice (Mira) to Valdobbiadene — 86km — Wed 28 June 2017 — B - D A

Day 2. We pedal north into the foothills of the alps and through vineyards. Our day ends in Valdobbiadene, home of prosecco, one of Italy's finest sparkling wines. Tonight we will have a special wine tasting (prosecco) and aperitivo with snacks before dinner together.

Valdobbiadene to Belluno — 64km — Thu 29 June 2017 — B - - A

Day 3. The landscapes are changing quickly now as the mountains grow closer with each pedal stroke. Relax and spin your way through farmland and small villages to picturesque Belluno.

Belluno to Cortina — 77km — Fri 30 June 2017 — B - D A

Day 4. We enter the mountains today up the Longarone valley switching between bike paths and roads with towering mountains surrounding us. Our ride ends in Cortina along an old railroad grade that is now a bike path. Walk into town to stroll through downtown with its shops and vibrant holidaying scene. Known in the winter as one of the premier skiing destinations for the aristocratic European crowd, in the summer this region becomes a destination for all types of active and leisure travelers alike.

Cortina loop ride (or rest) — 35km — Sat 1 July 2017 — B - - A

Day 5. Today we have a classic ride of the Alps planned to challenge the mountain climbers among the group. It will be less than 20km each way, however we will be climbing around 1000m over that distance before enjoying the same downhill back home. If you are not up for the ride, have a rest day in beautiful Cortina and stroll through downtown and its shops and vibrant café scene. Known in the winter as one of the premier skiing destinations for the aristocratic European crowd, in the summer this region becomes a destination for all types of active and leisure

travelers alike.

Dolomites REST DAY hike (Cortina) — NA — Sun 2 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 6. Leave your cycling shoes behind today as we enjoy a hike along some of the most spectacular trails in the Dolomites. These mountains are truly best seen on two feet (2 to 4 hours hiking). Tre Cime di Lavaredo, Tofane, and Monte Cristallo are just a few of the peaks that will surround us while we enjoy our rest day from biking.

Sella Ronda Circuit (Corvara) (or rest) — 52km — Mon 3 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 7. An early morning shuttle will take us into Val Badia where you can pedal the legendary loop around the Sella Massif on the Dolomite High Road often a part of the Giro d'Italia! This 52 km (32 mile) loop features 5,600 feet (1707 meters) of climbing over 4 famous passes (Campolongo, Pordoi, Sella, and Gardena). The support van will assist you, so you can shuttle part way home if you choose! Anybody wanting to relax in town or enjoy some more hiking is free to do so as well. [Click here to see a great 1 min video](#) of cycling in the Dolomites Sella Ronda.

Corvara to Vipiteno — 89km — Tue 4 July 2017 — B - - A

Day 8. We continue our ride towards Austria, ending on the border in Vipiteno (or Sterzing in Austrian) a town considered one of the most beautiful cities in this area. Our ride pedals through the Trentino Alto Adige a region that culturally feels more Tyrolean than Italian and is a true crossroads of language, culture and food.

Vipiteno to Innsbruck — 60km — Wed 5 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 9. Our ride today takes us north to Innsbruck and over Brenner Pass which is one of the most important alpine passes in Europe. It is also the lowest pass (1,370 meters or 4,495 feet) connecting Germany and Austria with Italy. We start our climb on railroad grade cycling paths and then finish the day with a fabulous descent of 574 meters (1,883 feet) into Innsbruck.

Innsbruck REST DAY — NA — Thu 6 July 2017 — B - - A

Day 10. The capital of Tyrol offers a late medieval city center and a getaway to spectacular alpine outdoors. Take a day to explore the city, visit the Golden Roof Museum, visit the Imperial Palace, sit in a beer garden or take the funicular and cable car up the local mountain.

Innsbruck to Elmen — 93km — Fri 7 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 11. Follow the river Inn today as it winds its way along picturesque mountain villages, refreshing alpine scenery and the magnificent turquoise-colored waters of the river Lech, one of the last unaltered or 'wild' rivers in Europe. The Lech valley's mountain views and rolling meadows invite you to kick back after your ride.

Elmen to Oberstaufen — 83km — Sat 8 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 12. After crossing the border from Austria to Germany, you will ride through the beautiful Swabian Allgäu region before entering Austria again at Bregenz Forest to pedal the Cheese Road – make sure to stop at a local store to sample some. Tonight is our final evening together before the end of the first stage - tomorrow we reach Constance. We will celebrate tonight with our final briefing and group dinner together as we look back on the highlights of this remarkable trip.

Oberstaufen to Constance — 88km — Sun 9 July 2017 — B - - A

Day 13. We'll take the famous Lake Constance Cycle path today en route to Constance – passing first through the town of Lindau at the southern tip of Lake Constance. Meander through beautiful villages, ride under castles, vineyards and stunning mountain and lake views on either side make this day a picture perfect ride in one of the region's most famous bicycling destinations. We pedal on the German side of the lake today but look out across the lake to the Swiss side. End the day with a short ferry across the northern branch of the lake to reach the enigmatic town of Constance, primary town on the lake split between two countries. For those looking for a longer ride you can skip the ferry and head around the long way, making your trip 142km.

Constance (END STAGE 1, START STAGE 2) — NA — Mon 10 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 14 (or Day 1). Today we welcome our riders joining the second stage of this tour and farewell those who may be leaving us after the first stage. And what a place to have a rest day - one of the most popular cycling destinations in Europe. Measuring 64 km in length and 12 km at its widest point, Lake Constance is at the confluence of Switzerland/Germany/Austria and is the third largest lake in Central Europe. Explore Constance today as we rest up before heading into Germany and Northern France on our way to Paris on stage 2. Tonight we share a welcome dinner together.

Constance to Donaueschingen, Black Forest — 86km — Tue 11 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 15 (or Day 2). We pedal West through another border today as we first jump on the Cycle Path around the lake and then continue into Switzerland and Germany and into Germany's Black Forest - this area is sure to delight and it won't take long for you to realise why it is considered one of the best places to ride a bike in the country. Our destination is Donaueschingen, famous also as the source of the mighty Danube River.

Donaueschingen to Freiburg — 63km — Wed 12 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 16 (or Day 3). Our ride today leaves the hills off the Black Forest to head towards Freiburg, without doubt one of Germany's most beautiful cities. That's not only because of its splendid colorful houses, or the impressive cathedral, but because it is also is a gorgeous city for shopping. And of course everywhere you will find the old 'Bächle' an unusual system of gutters that run throughout its center. These Bächle, were once used to provide water to fight fires and feed livestock. They have a constant flow of water diverted from the Dreisam River and were never intended to remove sewage, and even in the Middle Ages such use would lead to harsh penalties. During the summer, the running water provides a natural form of air conditioning, and offers a pleasant gurgling sound. It is said that if one accidentally falls or steps into a Bächle, they will marry a Freiburger, or 'Bobbele'.

Freiburg to Riquewhir — 65km — Thu 13 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 17 (or Day 4). Today we head into the Alsace with its festive villages in the midst of vineyards, Renaissance house facades, and expansive views across the Rhine River Valley, and the Haut Koenigsbourg castle. Those who want to can visit the castle, then explore any number of the sixteen villages of the local consortium on the way to our hotel in the center of Riquewihr (Bergheim is probably the best preserved). The villages have populations that range from 400 people to the 5,000 in the town of Ribeauvillé.

Riquewhir to Strasbourg — 88km — Fri 14 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 18 (or Day 5). Alsace is arguably the most unique region of France. As a place that has changed hands 5 times between France and Germany over the last 150 years, it is now a cultural crossroads where French finesse meets German gusto. Tucked between the Vosges Mountains and the Rhine River we pedal to Strasbourg the capitol of this region that enjoys a perfect balance between architecture, nature, and gastronomy. During our time in the Alsace we will enjoy another local wine tasting event to sample some of that local produce.

Strasbourg REST DAY — NA — Sat 15 July 2017 — B - - A

Day 19 (or Day 6). Enjoy Strasbourg today and visit highlights of the city such as the Notre Dame de Strasbourg Cathedral which was started in 1015 AD and now stands as one of France's most famous architectural masterpieces. The glowing pink stone comes from the nearby Vosges Mountains and it was the world's tallest building until 1874. Strasbourg is full of architectural gems as well as quaint quarters such as the La Petite France, often called the little Venice of the north with its canals, revolving bridges, and typical Alsatian-style buildings.

Strasbourg to Sarrebourg — 80km — Sun 16 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 20 (or Day 7). We leave Strasbourg today via side streets, bike paths, and the serene Canal de la Marne au Rhin - part of the vast network of canals that crisscross Europe north of the Alps. Pedaling west over rolling hills, you'll pass through several beautiful villages including Bouxwiller and Dettwiller and where you'll want to stop for some pictures and perhaps an Alsatian lunch. Our route then leads us to the charming town of Saverne, laced by canals and the Zorn River. Our route ends in Sarrebourg in the Moselle department of France.

Sarrebourg to Nancy — 79km — Mon 17 July 2017 — B - - A

Day 21 (or Day 8). Our route continues through quiet roads and along canals and small villages on our way to Nancy. A bustling town that mixes modern and historic life seamlessly with its UNESCO Heritage historic city center, art nouveau galleries and gourmet specialties.

Nancy to Bar Le Duc — 107km — Tue 18 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 22 (or Day 9). We continue pedaling quiet road canal paths and country roads on our way to Bar Le Duc, the 'capital of the currant'. We'll pedal through small towns and villages that look and feel more quintessentially French than what we've seen before. This area has been part of medieval and renaissance aristocracy since the 10th century.

Bar le Duc to Reims — 130 or 80 — Wed 19 July 2017 — B - - A

Day 23 (or Day 10). Today is the longest day of the tour and our support vehicles will be there to help those who do not wish to ride the entire distance - we can easily cut this day to around 80km if required. A stark contrast to previous days' rides we have fields for as far as the eye can see as we leave the canals and forests behind and enter one of the premier wine regions of France: Champagne. During our time here in the Champagne region it would be remiss not to arrange a tasting event, wouldn't you agree?

Reims REST DAY (Villers-Bretonneux day trip) — NA — Thu 20 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 24 (or Day 11). Today we will be offering a day trip to Villers-Bretonneux Australian War Memorial which is approx 100km from Reims. A very special opportunity for our cyclists to see the town that was taken by the Germans on 24 April 1918, but that night and the next day recaptured by Australian forces at a cost of some 1200 Australian lives. The Australian War Memorial is located just outside Villers-Bretonneux and in front of it lie the graves of over 770 Australian soldiers, as well as those of other British Empire soldiers involved in the campaign. The school in Villers-Bretonneux was rebuilt using donations from school children of Victoria, Australia (many of whom had relatives perish in the town's liberation) and above every blackboard is the inscription "N'oublions jamais l'Australie" (Let us never forget Australia). Based on minimum numbers of 10, cost will be approx EUR 70-90. Back in Reims, take a look around this important city for the Roman Empire and as the traditional site of the crowning of Kings in France, Reims has quite a few sights to visit. Or, rest your legs and sip some Champagne as we prepare to pedal the last few days towards Paris.

Reims to Chateau Thierry — 82km — Fri 21 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 25 (or Day 12). Our route today traverses some of the most important battle grounds of both the Napoleonic Wars and of WWI. Rolling hills greet us en route to Chateau Thierry. We are still in the heart of Champagne country and will be following the regional Champagne 'route' for the last 25 kms of today's ride.

Chateau Thierry to Paris — 123km — Sat 22 July 2017 — B - D A

Day 26 (or Day 13). Today is one of the longest days on tour and our support vehicles will be there to help those who do not wish to ride the entire distance - you may want to miss the first part of the ride and cycle from mid morning into Paris, enjoying the scenery, vineyards, villages, churches, magnificent architecture to Notre Dame Cathedral and finish under the Eiffel Tower with celebrations, champagne, French bread, cheese, olives, meats. Photos and 3 cheers before cycling down to the Champs-Élysées. Our hotel is exceptional, placed between Eiffel Tower and Champs-Élysées, in a lovely area of Paris amongst great restaurants. Tonight is our final celebration dinner as our tour comes to an end tomorrow morning.

Paris Tour de France arrival — NA — Sun 23 July 2017 — B - - -

Day 27 (or Day 14). This morning the tour officially finishes after breakfast but the fun is far from over - in just a few hours the Tour de France arrives! If you wish to stay longer in our Paris hotel we can give you the contact details and some preferred booking rates (see 'pricing' tab on our website for more). Today you can wander the streets and see the sights of this wonderful city, and as an optional extra, some clients have bought a Tour de France hospitality package on the Champs Elysees, with food, drinks and a giant screen opposite (ask us for more details). Others are scouting around, grabbing their best vantage points for the last day of the great race as it enters the city. Don't miss it!

