

BOOK: 2007 TOUR DE FRANCE - 10 Day Package

France -



In conjunction with an Official Licenced Tour Operator to the Tour de France

PYRENEES to PARIS - With or Without Bikes

On this tour you will see all the crucial Pyrenean mountain stages, the decisive Individual Time Trial and the finish on the cobblestones of the Champ Elysees. For those bringing bikes you will be able to ride the famous climbs such as Plateau Bielle, Port de Bales, Tourmalet (not on 2007 route), and Aubisque.

Following the Tour de France for 10 days can be tiring; therefore this tour has been designed with the minimum amount of hotel changes.

Apart from the first & last nights in Paris at the 3* Hotel Mercure Porte de Versailles EXPO we shall spend 2 nights in Toulouse, 3 nights in Bagneres de Bigorre, 2 nights in Bordeaux, and 1 night in Poitiers / Tours.

Route map available

Dates

Start	End
7/7/2007	29/7/2007

Itinerary

Day 1 20/7/2007

We shall collect clients from Paris Charles de Gaulle airport at 10.00hrs, 12.00hrs, 15.00hrs & 17.00hrs for transport to our Paris hotel, Hotel Mercure Porte de Versailles EXPO. This airport transfer is included in the tour price.

Please indicate on your booking form your required collection point or Charles de Gaulle collection time.

We shall spend 1 night in Paris on Bed & Buffet Breakfast basis at the 3* Hotel Mercure Paris Porte de Versailles EXPO. We have arranged for you to keep your bike box / bag at the hotel for the duration of the tour as the bikes will travel built up in a special bike trailer.

Day 2 21/7/2007

After breakfast you will be able to load your bike onto the special bike trailer. We shall leave Paris and travel to the beautiful "Pink City" of Toulouse where we shall spend the next 2 nights on Bed & Breakfast basis at a 3* Hotel. Not only is Toulouse a beautiful city to stay in, it offers excellent access to the first 2 Pyrenean stages of the Tour de France.

Day 3 22/7/2007

After two weeks of racing the 2007 Tour de France enters the Pyrenees for its final phase, and what a showdown the Pyrenees are to offer, with 3 incredibly hard stages in 4 days. Today is the first stage of the Pyrenees, and after leaving Mazamet, the hometown of Laurent Jalabert, it uses two climbs that are becoming a regular feature in the Tour de France route, the 2000mt Port de Pailheres and the climb to Plateau de Bielle 1780mt.

Once again our location in Toulouse offers good access to this first Pyrenean stage. We shall travel out of the city, and those with bikes will be able to ride to the final climb of the stage, Plateau de Bielle, whilst those without bikes will be taken by the bus to the village of Les Cabannes (foot of the climb to Plateau de Bielle) from where they will be able to walk on to the lower slopes of the climb.

After seeing the stage we shall rejoin the bus in Les Cabannes and return to Toulouse

Day 4 23/7/2007

The second Pyrenean stage is a classic 5 mountain traverse of the Pyrenees from Foix to Loudenvielle over 197km and featuring the Col du Port, Portet d'Aspet and the Casartelli memorial, Col de Mente, Port de Bales and the classic Col du Peyresourde before a hair raising descent to the finish in Loudenvielle. The Port de Bales has never been used by the Tour de France, and is an extremely difficult climb (20km @ 6.2 average) on a small road with parts of the climb at 14%!!

We have decided to see the stage on the unknown Port de Bales as we can access it easily from Toulouse and exit quickly after the stage, as we are moving on to Bagneres de Bigorre today.

Those with bikes will be dropped off south of Toulouse and will be able to ride to the Port de Bales, whilst those without bikes will be taken to the foot of the climb by the bus.

After seeing the stage on the Port de Bales we shall see the stage finish on TV. before traveling to the Spa town of Bagneres de Bigorre where we shall spend the next 3 nights at the excellent 3* Hotel La Residence.

Day 5 24/7/2007

After two vicious stages in the Pyrenees the riders of the Tour de France spend their 2nd rest day in the town of Pau.

This gives those with bikes the opportunity to ride the famous Col du Tourmalet, whilst those without bikes will be able to spend the day at leisure in Bagneres de Bigorre, either visiting the town or by the pool side of the hotel.

Day 6 25/7/2007

The final Pyrenean stage is brutal, 218km and 4 mountains en-route between Orthez and the ski village of Gourette (Col d'Aubisque). The Port de Larrau is the first mountain and takes the riders over the border into Spain, whilst the second mountain the Col de la Pierre St Martin brings the riders back into France. But it is the final two climbs where the showdown will take place, and the super steep Col du Marie Blanche is next before the final climb to the ski village of Gourette, near the summit of the Col d'Aubisque.

Our location in Bagneres de Bigorre is excellent for accessing the stage and those with bikes will be able to ride to the final climb to Gourette (Col d'Aubisque), whilst those without bikes will be taken to the foot of the climb from where they will be able to walk on to the lower slopes.

After seeing the stage we shall return to Bagneres de Bigorre.

Day 7 26/7/2007

After 3 fantastic stages in the mountains the Tour de France leaves the Pyrenees and commences its final journey to Paris with a short flat stage between Pau and Castelsarrasin.

We shall also leave Bagneres de Bigorre and travel to Pau where we shall see the stage start, which will give you the opportunity of meeting the riders for photos & autographs. Those with bikes will be able to ride from Bagneres de Bigorre to Pau whilst those without bikes will be taken by the bus.

After seeing the stage start we shall travel to Bordeaux, the wine capital of France, where we shall spend the next 2 nights on Bed & Breakfast basis at a 3* hotel in the city centre. After checking in you will have the rest of the afternoon to visit this wonderful city. Bordeaux provides us with good access for the next two stages.

Day 8 27/7/2007

Today's penultimate road stage of the 2007 Tour de France is one of the longest stages, 206km from Cahors to Angouleme, and crosses the undulating roads of the Dordogne & Perigieux regions.

On such a long day in the saddle, fuel is vital....therefore we have chosen to see today's stage pass through the feed station, which we think will be very close to the town of Perigueux.

Our location in Bordeaux allows easy access to Perigueux and after traveling out of the city those with bikes will be able to ride to the feed station, passing through the beautiful wine country of St Emillion. Those without bikes will be taken to the feed station by the bus.

After seeing the stage pass through the feed station we shall see the rest of the stage live on TV before heading back to Bordeaux.

Day 9 28/7/2007

If the 2007 Tour de France hasn't been decided by now, then surely today's 55km Individual Time Trial between Cognac and Angouleme will.

After breakfast we shall leave Bordeaux and travel to Angouleme where you will see the finish of this all important time trial. Those with bikes will be dropped off within cycling distance of Angouleme whilst those without bikes will be taken by the bus.

After seeing the finish of the time trial we shall travel to either Poitiers or Tours where we shall overnight on Dinner Bed & Breakfast basis at a 3* hotel.

Day 10 29/7/2007

After an early breakfast we shall depart from Poitiers / Tours and head to Paris for today's final stage that finishes with a 10 lap finale on the Champs Elysees. Before heading to the Champs Elysees we shall return to our Paris hotel, the 3* Hotel Mercure Porte de Versailles EXPO, where the bikes will be unloaded and hopefully you will be able to check into your rooms. At 12.00hrs we shall depart on the tour bus for the Champs Elysees, where you will see the 10 lap finale of this final stage of the 2007 Tour de France.

As an Official Tour Operator of the Tour de France we can offer you a wide selection of Grandstand seats on the Champs Elysees, from basic Grandstand seats to luxury hospitality and privileged grandstand seats.

After seeing the stage the rest of the evening is at your leisure in Paris. For those who want to finish off the tour with a special evening we can offer a dinner dance cruise on the River Seine, aboard a typical Parisian River Boat.

Day 11 30/7/2007

After breakfast we shall leave Paris. We shall offer transfers from the hotel to Paris Charles de Gaulle airport at the following times 07.30hrs, 11.00hrs & 14.00hrs. For those people returning to the UK, a UK coach will depart from the Hotel Mercure Porte de Versailles EXPO at 08.30hrs, taking a 13.30hrs sailing from Calais to Dover and making drop offs throughout the UK.

Inclusions

Package INCLUSIONS

10 Nights Bed & Buffet Breakfast accommodation in 3* Hotels

4 Evening meals

Air conditioned coach transportation throughout

Coach transfers to and from Paris hotel and Paris Charles de Gaulle airport at specific times

Special bike trailer for the safe keeping & transport of your bike

Guided bike rides (1 guided ride per day)

Coloured maps with Tour de France route marked

Detailed itinerary

Services of our 2 guides (1 riding & 1 coach)

Exclusive Holidays Hat

Tour de France Survival Kit

Neck Ticket Wallet

All Booking Fees & Ticket Handling Charges

Package EXCLUSIONS

Drinks with meals

Hotel extras (telephone, drinks, laundry)

Airfares

Sightseeing

Travel Insurance

Accommodation/Costs Options

	Rating	Twin	Twin Extra Night	Triple	Triple Extra Night	Single	Single Extra Night	
<u>10 Day Quality Package</u>	3 Star	3,509.00	159.00	N/A	N/A	4,779.00	255.00	AUD