



# **CYCLING ELDORADO IN THE HIGH ALPS**



**Duration : 6 days**

**Best time : to June to September**

**Number of people (mini /max) : 10-40**

## **Day 1 : CHORGES**

Arrival at the end of the day.  
Welcome drink. Dinner and accommodation.

## **Day 2 : LAKE TOUR SERRE PONCON**

Breakfast and departure in the morning for **the tour of Lac de Serre Ponçon**.  
**80 km -**  
**Positive altitude difference 1,640 m**  
**Altitude at the highest point: 1,333 m.**

*During the day - Lunch in the form of a picnic brought by the coach.*  
*Possibility of different departures depending on the level of each participant.*



The lake, where the surrounding mountains are reflected, offers exceptional landscapes that you will discover throughout this tour.

On the first ascent to Le Sauze, you will be surprised by the ladies impressive haircuts due to the size of the headdresses. After having seen and photographed the marmots of the **Sauze** animal park, the descent to the **Ubaye** will keep you alert due to some very angular curves.

The ascent to the **Col St Jean** is gentle and regular, and precedes a descent after **Selonnet**, through the **Gorges de la Blache**, a wild and natural environment formed by erosion, which takes you to the foot of the dam. The climb that follows, up to the **Belvédère du Rousset** is severe, but the effort is greatly rewarded on arrival by a unique view point. The museum will reveal everything about the hydroelectric complex and the development of the **Durance**.

The ascent of **Col Lebraut** and its tunnel is easier. A rest period is then offered to you until you get to **Chorges** and its church St Victor (XII° S).  
Return to your hotel for dinner and accommodation.

## Day 3 : THE CHAMPSAUR

Breakfast, then departure for the Champsaur Valley.

**91 km from the hotel**

**Highest point: 1,439 m**

*During the day - Lunch in the form of a picnic brought by the coach.  
(Possibility of different departures depending on the level of each participant).*

**Dominated by the massive pyramid of the Vieux Chaillol (3,163 m), a mythical mountain in the heart of Champsaur. Champsaur occupies the entire Drac valley. With its agricultural plots delimited by hedges (a human construction skillfully arranged over the centuries), it is one of the few preserved mountain groves in Europe. Its role is to protect crops from drying out and from the wind, and provides shade and calm for the herds. It also provides shelter for small animals, whether furred or feathered.**

From your hotel, the route starts at the **Col de Manse** (1,269 m), one of the two crossing points linking Gap and Champsaur. The Napoleon refuge, located a little below, is one of the six shelters built thanks to a legacy from Napoleon I. He had wanted to thank the people of the Haute-Alps for the warm welcome he had found while crossing the department on his return from the island of Elba. This project was abandoned just after the First World War, but some structures are now being restored by a voluntary association.

After **Forest Saint-Julien**, turn left, cross the Drac by the "Pont Blanc" and then turn right, in the direction of Chabottes.



From this village, there is a small road that follows the course of the river. It should be noted that a large part of this course was the site of the *French Road Cycling Championships* in 2004. It also hosts the annual *Champsaur Cycling Weekend*, a competition reserved for the elite of regional cycling, at the end of July.

Return by Moissières and Bâtie-Neuve.  
Dinner and overnight stay at your hotel.

## Day 4 : THE LOOP OF THE IZOARD

Breakfast, then departure for **Col Izoard**.

**182 Km from the hotel**

**Highest point: 2,360 m**

*During the day - Lunch in the form of a picnic brought by the coach.*

*Possibility of different departures depending on the level of each participant.*



**We no longer present the Col d'Izoard, its 2,360 metres of altitude and its deserted Casse (lunar landscape and inexhaustible subject of press photos during the passage of the Tour de France) to a cycling enthusiast.**

This mythical pass, a pastoral passage in its early days and then a military road with a strategic position, has become, over time, the battleground of the great champions... and the haunting of the simple messengers of the Grande Boucle. Exploits and calvaries have always been found there... and the legend is not about to end. Two commemorative plaques, erected in the Desert Breakwater, recall the memory of two of the heroes of this event: Fausto Coppi, winner in 1952, and Louison Bobet, three-time winner in 1953, 1954 and 1955.

A small museum, located on the pass itself, is also dedicated to the Grande Boucle. This tour offers you a chance to tackle the mythical ascent of the **Col d'Izoard**.

Dinner and overnight stay at your hotel.



## Day 5 : ASCENT OF THE ALPES D'HUEZ

Breakfast, then departure for the **Alpes d'Huez**, by coach to Briançon.  
Then itinerant.

**164 Km**

**Highest point: 1,780 m**

**During the day - Lunch in the form of a picnic brought by the coach.**

**Possibility of different departures depending on the level of each participant.**

A major venue for the Tour de France, Alpe d'Huez and its 21 bends is the essential stage for the passage of the Grande Boucle. 21 panels mark the runner's effort in a countdown of 14 km out of 1,120 m of difference in altitude. On average, nearly 300 cyclists climb the mythical climb every day. More than 6,000 cyclists participate each year in the Marmot event (early July) and 2,000 receive a formal certificate in recognition of their climbing time. Alpe d'Huez, in the heart of the Oisans, is really the Mecca of cycling and it is above all the climb to do at least once in your life!

**For those who wish, you can be timed!**

Dinner and overnight stay at your hotel.

## Day 6 : DEPARTURE

Breakfast.

Departure from your location.

### **INFOMATION:**

- **The coach that accompanies you every day has a bicycle trailer. This allows you, depending on your level, to start the tour at your convenience.**
- **Hotel with an indoor swimming pool with free access or the possibility to go to the SPA (infrared sauna, hammam, weights room - entrance subject to conditions). You can also have treatments, such as a massage.**
- **Closed bicycle room - Private parking.**