

VéloRoo's Iconic Pyrenees Cycling Holiday

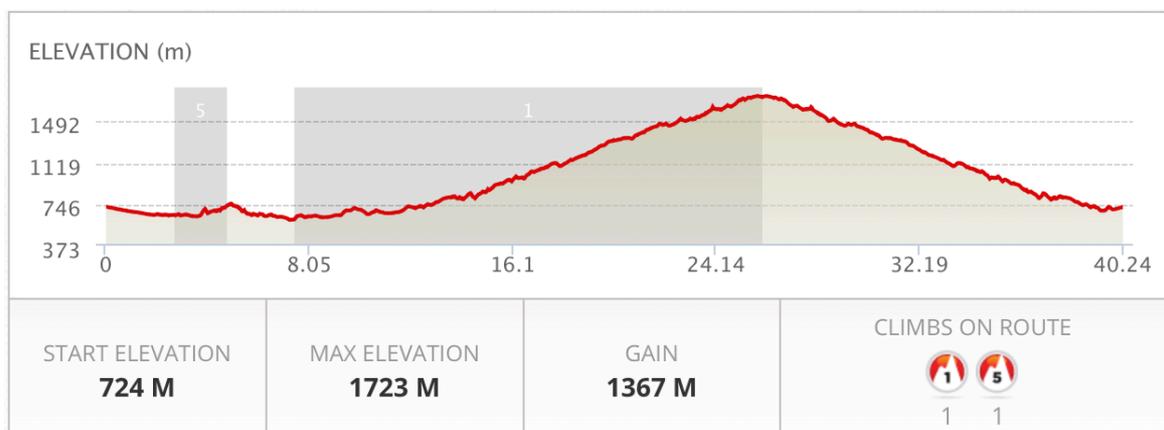
Day 1: Luz Ardiden

Transfers will be available at 1pm from Lourdes Train Station. Lourdes can be easily accessed by TGV train from Paris or train from Pau (closest airport) and other major destinations.

Please contact us for help planning your travel and BEFORE you book your train. Useful links to help plan your trip – [Rome2rio](#) – general overview of travel and for the Train – [SNCF](#) (Please be aware 3rd party websites will not always show all available options, only what they have been allocated)

From Lourdes we have a short 40 mins transfer up the beautiful valley to our home village of Luz Saint Sauveur. Our hotel, Hotel Les Templiers, is in the historic centre of town alongside the fortified Eglise des Templiers providing easy access to all the iconic climbs and Km 0 start of the infamous climb of the Col du Tourmalet.

Upon arrival we will get you set up on your VéloRoo bike in preparation to tackle your first Col for the tour, Luz Ardiden.



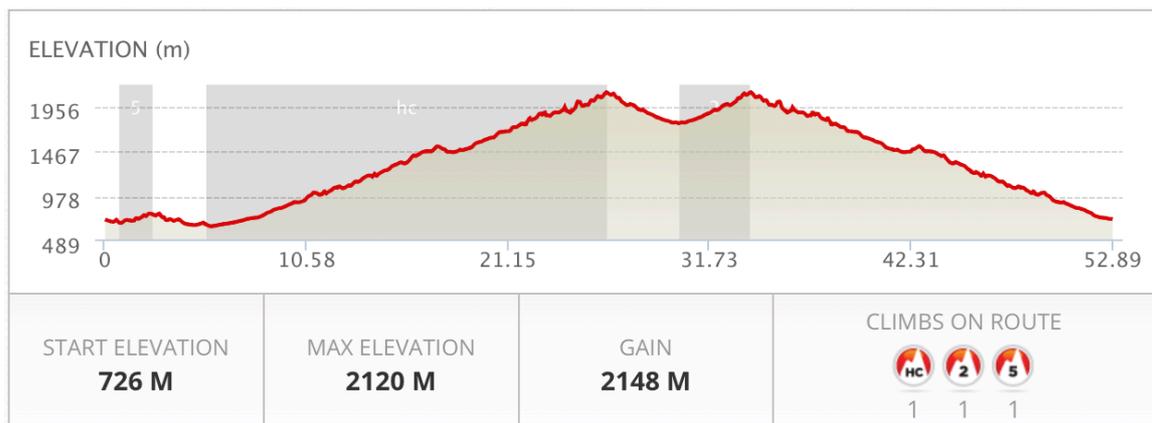
It might only be a 15 kilometre ascent, but there is some serious climbing to be had to reach the summit of the Ski Station and numerous TDF finishes that is Luz Ardiden. We have a 12km loop to get your legs warmed up before tackling the start of the climb.

Shaded for the first part, you arrive at the bottom of the open area in sight of the summit. With 9 more switchbacks than Alpe d'Huez, each switchback offers a new view of the towering mountains that surround us.

Tonight, over dinner in a local restaurant, you get to talk with your fellow travellers about your first challenge of the tour and we will discuss the days ahead.

Included meals: dinner

Day 2: Col du Tourmalet



The Iconic of all Iconic TDF climbs.

So many stories have been written about the “grand daddy” of climbs, and today it is your turn to scribe your own story into the history pages of the Tourmalet’s slopes. The climb from either side is challenging, with spectacular views along the route. Both sides provide 1,000 meters plus of elevation, while not offering a single km of level relief. “Assassins” is what Octave Lapize shouted at the TDF organisers on the first Tour de France crossing of the Col du Tourmalet in 1910, and it is he who is immortalised as the Geant de Tourmalet welcoming you at the summit.

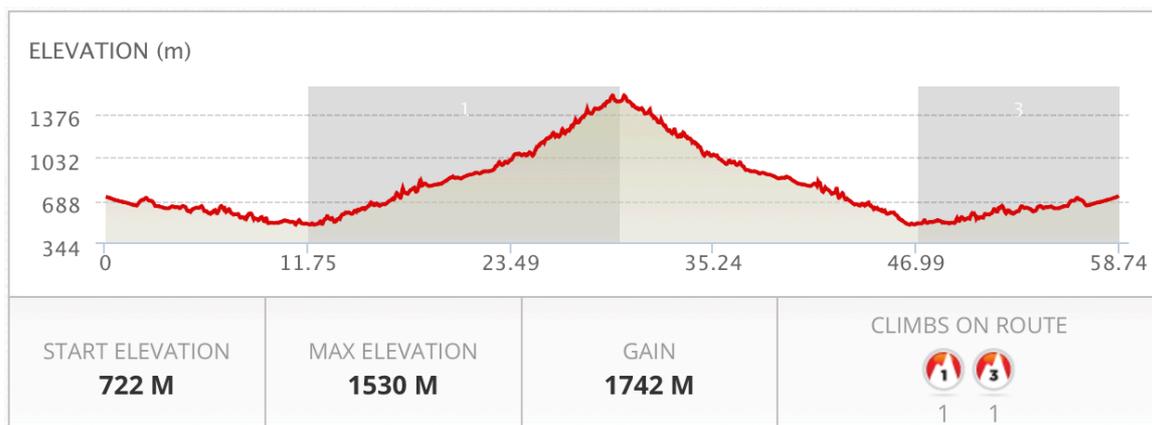
After you have reached the summit of Tourmalet, (and celebrated with a VeloRoo salute - we will show you how!) we have the option of descending 4km to the ski station of La Mongie then turn around and enjoy the last part of the ascent from the eastern side.

After the descent back towards Luz we will enjoy a well earned lunch. After lunch you can take a break and either explore the local village or check out one of the local spas for a relaxing dip or massage.

Our June tour co-incides with the party atmosphere of the local cycling communities Montée du Geante.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 3: Pont d’Espagne



We ride from our hotel, down the valley and around the base of the Pic de Viscos. Climbing though the deep valley we are alongside the raging Gave de Cauterets. The views all along our route are immense.

The climb to the spa town of Cauterets is moderately challenging, with a highlight on the way being a bunch of hairpins, so tightly packed, they virtually sit upon each other.

We will take a coffee break in Cauterets, to recharge for the steep climb up to Pont d'Espagne, one of the Grand Sites de Midi-Pyrenees.

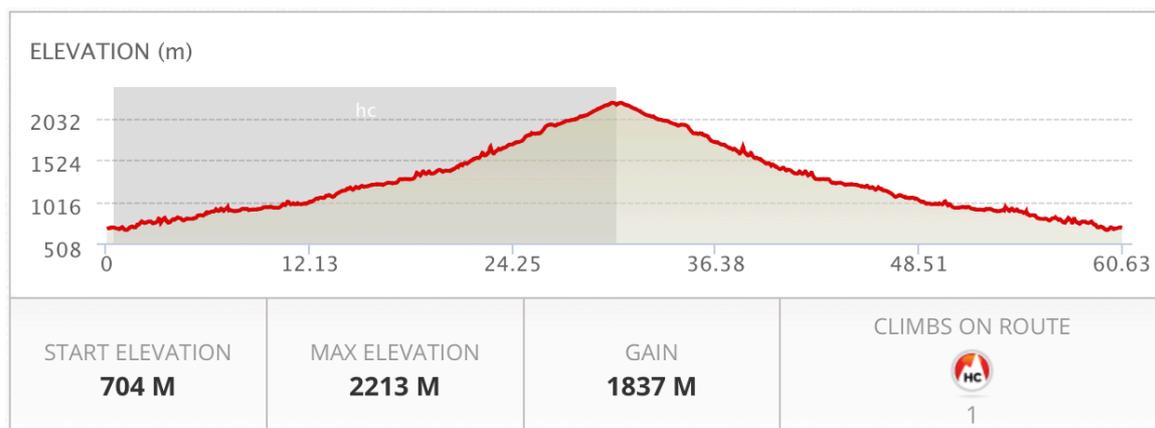
Here we change into our walking shoes and take a short walk into the spectacular valley to enjoy a picnic lunch and soak up the vistas to be discovered in this pristine environment. This is alpine nature at its best.

In Spring, we are surrounded by snow peaked mountains, alpine lakes and rivers, so perfect they hardly seem real. In Autumn, you have the beautiful changing colours on the mountain sides.

For **non-cyclists** they have the option of doing a guided morning walk and then meeting up for our picnic lunch together.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 4: Gavarnie and Col de Tentes



Today's ride is in the direction of the Spanish border and a region listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The steady climbing route takes us along the gorge, it's river full of massive rocks, a result of previous slides from the dramatic peaks we are surrounded by and a reminder of the harsh reality of the beautiful scenery surrounding us.

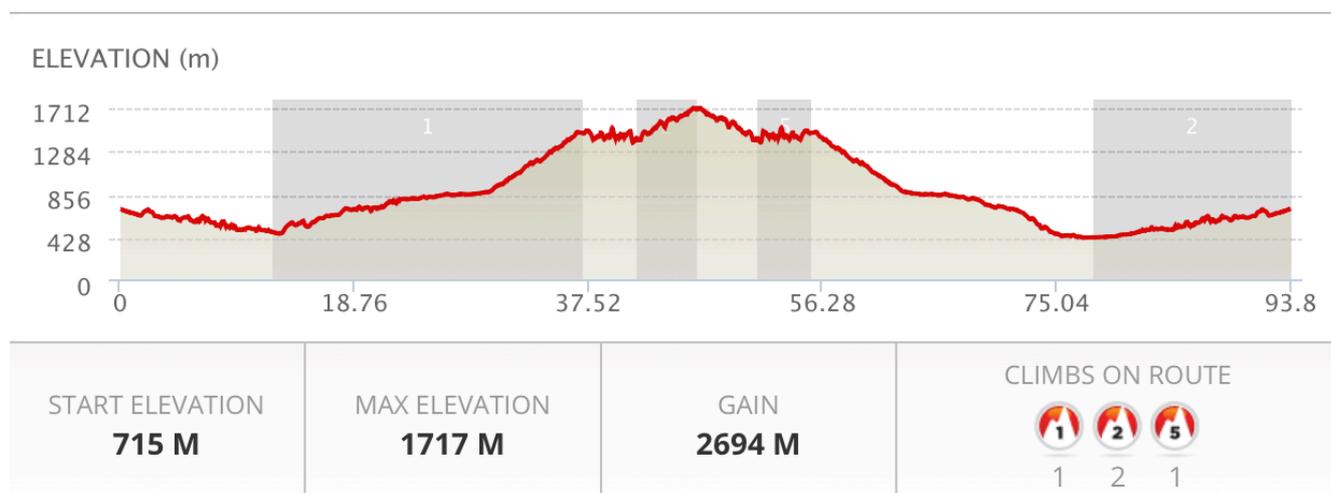
We pause for a coffee stop to enjoy the spectacular view of Cirque de Gavarnie. It was described by Victor Hugo as "the Colosseum of nature" due to its enormous size and horseshoe shape resembling an ancient amphitheatre. During the warmer seasons there are a number of large meltwater falls that spill into the cirque. The largest of these is Gavarnie Falls, the second highest waterfall in Europe. It descends some 422 m (1385ft) over a series of steps before reaching the floor of the cirque.

Now our climb starts in earnest. A sinuous climb on good road surfaces, the higher we climb the more open the terrain, the average gradient kicks up to 8%. Col des Tentes is simply most incredible climb you have never heard of but will never forget. On top of that, it will be the highest altitude we reach this week another 2,000 m plus high summit.

After completing your summit we descend back into Gavarnie for a hearty lunch with a delicious regional specialty. After lunch enjoy the gentle descent back along the valley to Luz.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 5: Col de Soulor & Col d'Aubisque



Today we celebrate two wonderful climbs the Col du Solour and Col d'Aubisque. Our route passes through delightful grey stone villages surrounded by open fields and spectacular mountain backdrops. The first ramps at the foot of the Col du Solour, are challenging with the whole climb offering its own charm and character. A photo stop at the summit marker is a must, before we continue onto Col d'Aubisque.

The balcony road between Col du Solour and Col d'Aubisque has been described as the most beautiful road in Europe. Stunning. Awe inspiring. As a bonus it is also a legitimate TDF Monument. At the summit, the famous bike statues await for photo marking your successful climb.

Our lunch stop has been justly earned! And to be honest - not a bad view whilst having lunch!

This is a day in the saddle to remember, 94 km's will never be the same again. 2 TDF Col's in the one ride, perfect!

Non-cyclist option- We can drop you off en-route to the village of Argeles-Gazost to enjoy a day of exploring the markets and the town and collect you on our return after lunch. Lunch will be at your leisure.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch (except non cyclists at markets), dinner

Day 6: Au revoir

Today we bid you farewell ... until next time

After breakfast we will transfer you to Lourdes Train Station for your ongoing journey. Contact us for help with planning train / flight times.

Included meals: breakfast.