

VERBIER – GRIMENTZ MTB WEEK

GRAND RAID

A WEEK OF GUIDED MOUNTAIN BIKING
IN THE SWISS ALPS CULMINATING IN
THE GRAND RAID MTB RACE

19TH – 25TH AUGUST 2019

A unique opportunity to experience some of the best MTB trails in the world ranging in altitude from 2900m down to 800m above sea level. Verbier offers a stunning array of enduro, cross country and down-hill trails all serviced by telecabine and bus up-lifts to ensure optimum accessibility for all amongst stunning scenery.

Acclimatise over the first 4 days of guided and free riding in preparation for the Grand Raid BCVS otherwise known as the Verbier – Grimentz. This epic race attracts 2,500 of the best, and not so great, mountain bikers in the world; some who take on the whole 125km route with 5,000m of ascent and some who start at one of the 3 alternative “Departs” along the course including one designated for eBikes. Riders come in all shapes and sizes and are greeted by a carnival atmosphere at each of the small towns and villages en-route. Andreas Seewald won the 2018 edition in a time of 6h 00min 12s but we can expect to take considerably longer.



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DAY 1:

PM. Arrive Geneva Airport. Transfer to Le Chable.

You will be met at the airport by your guides and driven 2 hours to a comfortable hotel in Le Chable where you will have a chance to assemble your bikes with the assistance of our professional mechanic and meet fellow challengers. Le Chable lies at the foot of the Verbier climb and hosts the start of the lift system. With its own train station and assortment of bars and restaurants it is a popular destination for those wishing to access the Port Du Soleil in the Summer and 4 Vallees in the Winter.



DAY 5:

Free day!

Today is yours to follow your own itinerary, try some of the world's best down-hill trails or simply rest the muscles in preparation for race day. Take a free bus ride up the Val de Bagnes and ride along the wall of the world's 6th highest arch dam before circumnavigating Lac Mauvoisin, walk the Sentier Des Chamois (a species of goat-antelope) or simply relax by the outdoor pool at Verbier's new sports centre.



DAYS 2, 3 AND 4:

Guided Trail Riding

Plenty of guided trail riding awaits you from morning 'til evening. Our local guide will take you from the better known 800km of designated trails to secluded bowls and valleys rarely visited. Electric MTB's are readily available to hire for those who wish to bring less dedicated partners and the extended lift system is free for walkers looking for a more sedentary pace.

DAY 6:

It's Race Day!

An early breakfast and transit to one of the 4 start points along the Grand Raid. Join the elites at the Verbier depart or the masses at Heremence – you can even start as one of the eBikers from Evolene and smash the last 37km to Grimentz! Whichever way you opt to take part or spectate we promise you the experience of a lifetime.

DAY 7:

Transit to Geneva Airport

Transfer back to Geneva Airport after breakfast along the beautiful north shore of Lake Geneva. Don't worry about bikes and luggage – we'll bring them back to the UK for you over the next couple of days.

ALL INCLUSIVE
£1,249

Plus free race entry worth £150*

Bagman reserves the right to amend this itinerary at any stage should adverse weather or safety become a cause for concern.

*Registration Fee to Grand Raid BCVS worth £150

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Terrain

The Swiss Alps are, by definition, mountainous. Ridable trails range from 800m to 2900m above sea level and cover the whole spectrum of technical levels. Your guide will quickly assess the group's ability and optimum routes but, in any case, up-lifts are available from bottom to top and plenty of flatter trails can be found in between. Verbier's world famous bike park provides 12km of down-hill trails over 7 courses, 3 of which benefit from "Freelap" timing so you can compare yourself against the best. www.verbier.ch/en/fppoi-bortabitché-1585-8349.html. E-bikes are also available for rent which provide a fantastic opportunity to ride with faster climbers with as much or as little effort as you choose.



Weather

Although we are level with mid-France, in August the weather at altitude can change very quickly. Temperatures can vary from very hot (upwards of 30°C) to single figures and fog or hail are not unheard of even at this time of year. Typically, however, Verbier enjoys above average sunshine hours for this part of the world and is generally described as warm. Long descents, however, may get cold even on warm days so you should bring a varied wardrobe.



Accommodation and Food

Rooms are on a twin-share basis unless a single supplement* is paid and include breakfast, packed lunch and dinner with a glass of wine or beer. Our hotel is very comfortable and dinner is served in its famed ground floor burger bar or its sister restaurant just round the corner. Packed lunches are provided and taken up the mountain. Le Chable and the surrounding mountains offer a wide choice of bars and shops.

*Single room supplement available on request.



Support

Bagman provides constant mechanical support, bike and luggage shipping, a mini-coach for airport transits, free up-lifts, transport to and from the Grand Raid race and a professional cycling guide. Full board accommodation and free entry to the race ensures that very little additional expenditure is required.

WHAT'S INCLUDED...

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- ✓ Airport Transfers
- ✓ Free bike and luggage shipping
- ✓ All accommodation
- ✓ Breakfasts, packed lunch and dinners
- ✓ Up-lift and bus passes
- ✓ Professional Guide
- ✓ Support vehicle
- ✓ Professional mechanic and equipment
- ✓ Cycle kit laundry
- ✓ Tourism Tax
- ✓ Registration Fee to Grand Raid BCVS worth £150

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

- ✗ Flights to and from Geneva
- ✗ Hotel extras
- ✗ Sports Centre admission
- ✗ Additional nutrition and cycle spares
- ✗ Travel and medical insurance
- ✗ Spending money



For further information, please contact Owen Watkins on 01242 221770 or 07785 564309 or visit www.bagman.website