

LE 10 COL CHALLENGE FRANCE

TEN CLASSIC TOUR DE FRANCE CLIMBS

13TH – 20TH JUNE 2021

The Tour de France was first run in 1903 and was designed to promote L'Auto, a French newspaper devoted to sport and printed on yellow paper. Since then, with a few war time exceptions, it has been run every year and is now undoubtedly the world's greatest bicycle race although some would consider it to be the greatest sporting event of any type. Two years after its inception Le Tour recognised the merits of mountain passes and since then has provided us with feats of monumental human attainment, epic battles, glory, heartbreak and tragedy.

Our challenge takes us over 10 of the most notorious cols that Le Tour has to offer in both the Pyrenees and the Alps as well as the daddy

of them all – Mont Ventoux. This is your chance to bag the biggest names in cycling and point at your TV throughout many Julys to come and say, ... *"I've climbed that."*

Le 10 Cols rates 4 out of 5 in terms of difficulty. It should only be undertaken by experienced cyclists who have trained for this type of terrain. There is, of course, full vehicle support and a lift to the top should you need it but the experience will be far greater for those with a reasonable degree of fitness. A training programme is included in the pre-challenge pack.

CYCLING
8 DAYS
DIFFICULTY:
HIGH



A JOINT CLASSIC CYCLING ADVENTURE FROM
LE 10 COL VELO CLUB & BAGMAN

01242 221770 / WWW.BAGMAN.WEBSITE

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DAY 1:

PM. Arrive Bordeaux Airport. Transfer to Pau.

You will be met at the airport by your guides and driven 45 minutes to a comfortable hotel in Pau where you will have a chance to assemble your bikes with the assistance of our professional mechanic and meet fellow challengers. Pau is the largest town in the Pyrenees and offers great restaurants and bars as well as spectacular views of the mountains.

DAY 2:

Pau - Lourdes

After an hour or so of gentle riding and a quick coffee stop we commence our assault on the Pyrenees with the Col d'Aubisque. At over 16km long and an average gradient of 7.2% the col delivers an early taster of things to come with outstanding views at the top and a long descent all the way to Lourdes for a mid-afternoon finish and plenty of time to explore this famous town.



DAY 3:

Lourdes – Arreau

Today we mean business! The Col du Tourmalet awaits with 19km at 7.5% followed by the gentler but no less famous Col d'Aspin with its open pastures and forested section. Our beautiful destination town of Arreau offers a number of great restaurants and bars in which to relax and discuss today's trials.

DAY 4:

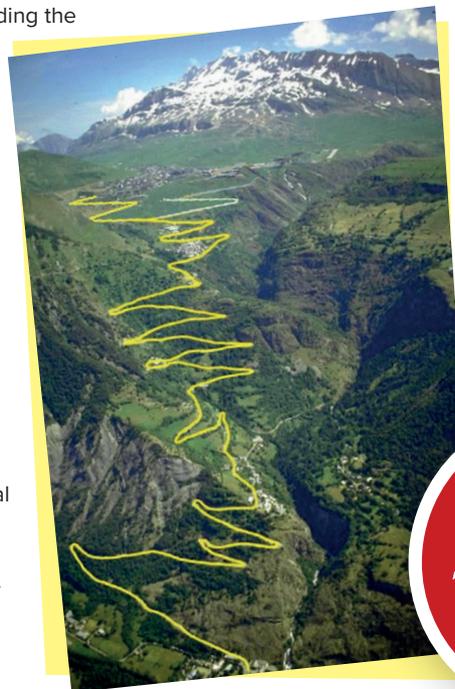
Arreau - Bagnères-de-Luchon. Transit to Bédoin.

The climb over Col de Peyresourde commences as soon as we leave Arreau and culminates in superb vistas of the Pyrenees to the East. After the dramatic descent in to Luchon we load up for our transit to Bedoin and the mid-section of our challenge.

DAY 5:

Bédoin – Sault via Mont Ventoux. Transit to Briancon

Bedoin lies at the foot of "The Giant of Provence" providing the perfect stop-over for today's big event. We'll be glad of the rest opportunity yesterday's transit gave us as we take on the summit's moon-like terrain reflecting in the sun some 21km and 1600 vertical metres away. Tom Simpson's memorial just 3km from the observatory serves as a stark reminder of just what this mountain can do to people.



DAY 6:

Briançon – Allemond

After a comfortable night at a four star hotel in Briançon we immediately begin our ascent of the Col du Galibier some 36km away, peaking out at our highest altitude of 2640m – you can expect snow drifts at this height but – fingers crossed – the road should be clear. After descending the Col du Télégraphe and lunch we'll tackle the Col de la Croix de Fer in the afternoon – truly an epic day.

DAY 7:

Allemond – Alpe d'Huez

A stone's throw as the crow flies but not for us! The aptly named Col de la Morte should bring the blood back to our legs after yesterday's efforts and prepare us for the final push. Nothing epitomises Le Tour de France like the 21 named hairpins of "The Alpe". First introduced to the Tour in 1952 it has been a regular feature ever since and a prerequisite on any serious col catchers CV; a drug fuelled Marco Pantani climbed it in 37mins 35secs in 1997 but we would expect to take at least twice that on a good day.

DAY 8:

AM. Transit to Lyons Airport

A 2 hour transit will deliver you to the airport and flights back to the UK. You may sleep on the plane!

**COST
£1,389**



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

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Terrain

Le 10 Cols Challenge is designed to be tough. The itinerary includes one or more mountain passes each day and a good level of fitness is required. All stages are on tarmaced roads but some surfaces can be a bit sketchy in places – standard road bikes with compact groupsets are advised.



Weather

Although we are in southern France in June the weather at altitude can change very quickly. Temperatures can vary from very hot (upwards of 30°C) to single figures and snow or hail are not unheard of even at this time of year. Typically, however, cycling shorts, shirts and possibly a long sleeve top or gilet should suffice – descents can get cold even on warm days and winter gloves can be a godsend.



Accommodation and Food

Rooms are on a twin-share basis unless a single supplement* is paid and include breakfast but not lunch or dinner. Hotels vary from 2* to 4* and all are comfortable and have been used and approved on prior trips. Lunches are taken in cafes and restaurants en-route and evening meals at our hotels or in local restaurants. The towns we stop over in invariably offer good choices of bars and restaurants and we encourage our clients to explore in the evening and find their own choice of food – we are, of course happy to recommend venues from previous experience.

*Single room supplement £325.00



Support

Le 10 Cols Challenge is supported by a mini-coach for transits and broom wagon, a van with professional mechanic for bikes and mechanical back-up and an experienced cycling guide. As well as GPS routing and daily briefings you will never be more than a few minutes from assistance should you need it and everything from additional water and nutrition to puncture repair, mechanical assistance and a lift to the top (and bottom for that matter) are never more than a phone call away. Regardless of modern communications, our drivers and guides constantly cover the field of cyclists to ensure everyone is on track and comfortable so no-one is left behind.

CHARITY PAYMENT OPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE

Use this challenge as an open charity option to raise money for a cause of your choice.

	Registration Fee Payable on Registration	Fundraising Target Payable 10 weeks prior to trip departure	Trip Cost Payable 6 weeks prior to trip departure
Fundraising options	Paid to Bagman to secure your trip booking. This is applicable to all payment options and is non-refundable.	You commit to raising the fundraising target. Your chosen charity will retain 50% of this plus 100% of anything over the target you achieve.	Paid by your charity provided they have received all of your fundraising target.
	£299.00	£1,899.00	N/A
Part payment option	Paid to Bagman to secure your trip booking. This is applicable to all payment options and is non-refundable.	Your contribution to the trip reduces your fundraising target. Your chosen charity will retain 50% of this target plus 100% of anything over the target you achieve.	Part payment of trip paid by you. Remaining costs paid for by your charity provided they have received all of your fundraising target.
	£299.00	£899.00	£500.00
Self payment option	Paid to Bagman to secure your trip booking. This is applicable to all payment options and is non-refundable.	100% of your donations will go to your chosen charity.	100% paid by you.
	£299.00	N/A	£949.00

N.B. All prices are subject to a single room supplement of £325.00 if selected.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- ✓ All transits in France
- ✓ All accommodation and breakfasts
- ✓ Drivers and guides
- ✓ GPS routing
- ✓ Support vehicles mechanic and equipment
- ✓ Cycle kit laundry
- ✓ Daily route cards and top tube stickers

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

- ✗ Flights to and from France
- ✗ Lunches and evening meals
- ✗ Hotel extras
- ✗ Additional nutrition and cycle spares
- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Spending money

CONTACT US FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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