

Ronan Pensec Travel

99th Tour de France

June 30th to July 22nd 2012



*Live your Passion of Cycling and Experience the Ultimate
Monuments of the Tour de France.*

Vosges & Alps
Classic Package
From Friday, July 6th to Friday, July 13th 2012

Please note that this is not a race or a training camp, and each participant can enjoy the Tour de France at his/her own pace.

8 days, 7 nights in 3* and 4* hotels on half-board basis

(4 nights in 3* hotels and 3 nights in 4* hotels)

Start: Bâle/Mulhouse Airport, Finish: Lyon

Tour de France viewings: 4

Staff: 4

With or without bikes

This Vosges & Alps package enables you to fully enjoy the excitement and the spectacle that is the Tour de France. We take you into the heart of the Tour with the knowledge and experience that can only be provided by a former Tour rider. Ronan Pensec was a professional rider for 13 years and finished the Tour 9 times. He wore the yellow jersey in 1990 and went on to help his team mate Greg Lemond win his third Tour. Ronan has now been involved in the Tour for 25 years. His knowledge helps to ensure that you are getting the best experience and he has taken extra care to ensure that your 3* and 4* hotels are as close to the action as possible.

Your tour will be spectacular and a richly rewarding experience as you will not only challenge yourself, but you will also be in the heat of the Tour action. During this tour you will see all the Vosges & Alps stages, where you will experience the atmosphere of enthusiastic crowds, waving the flags and cheering you on while you climb some steep slopes. This year, the Vosges, Jura and Alps stages will include 14 mountain climbs including La Planche des Belles Filles, le Col de la Croix, and le Col de la Madeleine. Up there, you will not only see the pros battle on these climbs, but you will climb the same famous peaks before the pros arrive. This week will be a challenge for the Tour riders, and it is where we give you the chance to face the same challenges.

After the Vosges' stages, you will see the first Time Trial with the opportunity to cheer on your favourite riders as they leave the start house.

This tour package, assembled by Ronan Pensec, will provide you with an unbeatable experience. We could not have said it better than one of our guests from the previous year, come see and experience the real Tour for yourself.

"I have done several cycling tours in Europe and other countries and this was by far the best. The experience, organization and the itinerary. The guides and the owner himself were concerned for satisfaction of every participant on the trip. I can't say enough about the quality of this package and group!!!"

Cathy A.

Highlights:

- Be part of the Vosges and Alps stages.
- Climb up to the summit of the Vosges Mountains and experience the crowd's enthusiast cheering.
- Enjoy a ride in Switzerland.
- Ride the last 80 km (50 miles) of the Tour circuit up to le Col de la Toussuire.
- Attend the first Time Trial start in Arc-et-Senans.
- Climb the Col de la Madeleine and watch the Tour pro riders and the publicity caravan pass by.

The Tour de France stages you will see:

Saturday, July 7th:

Stage 7, (mountain stage) Tomblaine / La Planche des Belles Filles: 199km (123 miles)

Sunday, July 8th:

Stage 8, (mountain stage) Belfort / Porrentruy: 154km (96 miles)

Monday, July 9th:

Stage 9, Arc-et-Senans / Besançon (Time trial): 38km (24 miles)

Thursday, July 12th:

Stage 11, Albertville / La Toussuire: 140km (87 miles)

YOUR TRAVEL:

Please arrange your flights into the following airport: Bâle-Mulhouse.
(<http://www.euroairport.com>).

The following companies operate regular direct flights to Bâle-Mulhouse airport:

Air France (www.airfrance.com) from Paris airports (Paris Orly and Roissy Charles de Gaulle).

British Airways (www.britishairways.com) from London Heathrow.



Flights are going to be on very high demand and there will be limited space for bikes on each flight. Please make sure to book your bike onto the flight and to book early in order to secure your seat and get the best fares.

Your guides will meet you at the airport and a coach will take you to your hotel.

Friday, July 6th - Day 1:

Tour de France: Stage 6, Epernay / Metz

Group: Arrival at Bâle-Mulhouse airport and transfer to your hotel.

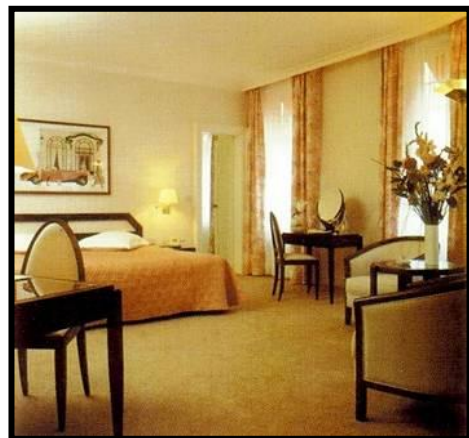
Hotel: 4* Hotel in Mulhouse for 3 nights.

Bienvenue en France!

Your guides will meet you in Bâle-Mulhouse at 11:00am and a private coach will then take you to your 4* hotel, on a half-board basis.



Your hotel is located in Mulhouse, which was a free town in the 12th Century, an imperial town in the 15th Century, then was a republic allied to the Swiss federation, and became part of France in 1798. It was a pioneer town in the French industrial revolution. This past is reflected in the streets of the old town and in the Place de la Réunion, the true heart of the city, as well as in the elegant 19th Century houses. You will enjoy your hotel's warm and neat atmosphere, its spacious rooms, a fitness centre, a free Wi-Fi access and many other facilities.



If you wish, you will have time to go for an easy ride that will give you a taste of the delights that are in store for the week. In the evening, you will enjoy your first meal in a nearby restaurant.

Saturday, July 7th - Day 2:

Tour de France: Tomblaine / La Planche des Belles Filles

Group: Climb up La Planche des Belles Filles summit and wait for the pro riders.

Hotel: 4* Hotel in Mulhouse

Today, the race will head for La Planche des Belles Filles, which is the summit of the Vosges massive (1148m). Pro riders will get to discover the steep final climb which leads to the top. The Tour's favourites will undoubtedly get noticed there!

Planche des Belles filles: 6km (4 miles), 8.5% (with some sections of 13%)



After an early breakfast, today's stage will take you to the highest point in the Vosges Mountains. Your coach will first drive you to reach the Tour's circuit. From there, you will climb up to La Planche des Belles Filles, where you will watch the professional riders on the way to the finish line. This is a climb to the Finish so we should see a heated battle by the Tour contenders as they try to take time from each other and weaken their opponents' legs for the days ahead. Once the last riders have gone by, you will ride back to the meeting point, where your coach will wait for the group, before driving back to the hotel.

Take the time to enjoy this day, thousands of cyclists dream about doing these kinds of rides, only the lucky ones are able to. Tonight, you will appreciate your hotel's hospitality and attention to your comfort as you relax and celebrate your achievement with others over tonight's dinner.

Sunday, July 8th - Day 3:

Tour de France: Stage 8, Belfort / Porrentruy

Group: Climb the Col de la Croix and reach Porrentruy to watch the Finish of the stage.

Hotel: 4* Hotel in Mulhouse.

This medium mountain stage will be short and difficult, thus demanding. The ascents will be steep: Côte du Passage de la Douleur, Côte de Saignelégier, Côte de Saulcy, Col de la Croix are names that speak for themselves. Le Col de la Croix, which is about 20km away from the Finish, will be a decisive factor in the stage. Indeed, Swiss stages sometimes carry a lot of consequences in the race's outcome.

Col de la Croix: 4km (2.5 miles), 9.2%



After breakfast, you will leave the hotel by coach and then ride to the top of the Col de la Croix. It will be a great spot to watch the race and this will be a wonderful experience for you. Riding this mountain stage ahead of time will give you the opportunity to experience the same "Tour de France" atmosphere as the pros do. You will enjoy the fanfare and good-natured encouragement of the crowd, some who have been parked there for days in advance.

Monday, July 9th - Day 4:

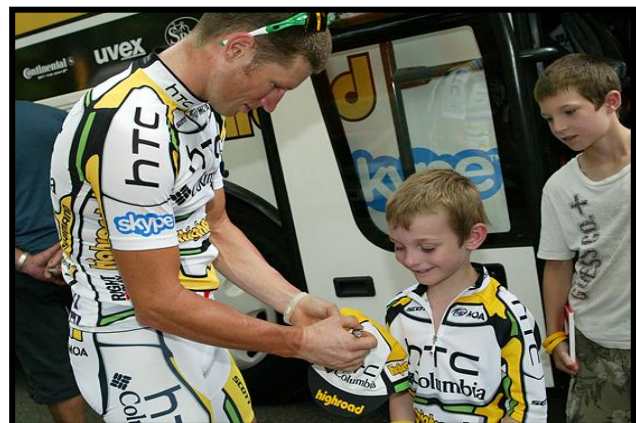
Tour de France: Stage 9, Arc-et-Senans / Besançon (Time-Trial)

Group: Attend the Start of the Time Trial.

Hotel: 3* Château de Rigny.

Today you will head for the start of the first individual time-trial in this Tour de France. This will be a first moment of truth as this 38-km long time-trial is a good opportunity for Tour riders to improve their position over their rivals. We could easily see a sorting of the top riders as those who are good time trialers will be able to make up time that they may have lost in the mountains. Seconds will count.

Here you will be able to see the team buses, the riders warming up, and will of course be able to see the riders leave the start house, one after the other.



After today's stage, you'll get back on the coach and arrive in Château de Rigny. Dinner will be served at the hotel's restaurant.



Tuesday, July 10th - Day 5:

Tour de France: Rest Day

Group: Transfer to the Alps

Hotel: 3* Hotel in Moutiers for 3 nights.

Today will be a rest day for you and an opportunity to relax after the tiring climbs of previous days.

Make the most of your stay in Château de Rigny, which is set in the heart of a 5-hectare park, situated on the banks of the Saône. Enjoy a sunbath on the terrace or go for a relaxed walk in the park, surrounded by singing birds. You will also be able to enjoy the outdoors heated swimming pool and a tennis court right on the grounds of the Château.

You will then leave around noon, when your coach transfers you to the Alps and to your next hotel, which is located near Moutiers.



In the heart of the Alps' valleys, the thermal spa resort of La Léchère, created at the beginning of the 20th Century, is known to provide cures and get fit stays. It is ideally situated at the foot of Col de la Madeleine. Built in 1930, your hotel was entirely renovated in 1989 but has kept the charm of its Art Deco style.

Wednesday, July 11th - Day 6:

Tour de France: Stage 10, Mâcon / Bellegarde-sur-Valsérine

Group: Ride the last 80km of tomorrow's stage 11.

Hotel: 3* Hotel in Moutiers

After breakfast, you will leave the hotel and your coach will get you to a village called La Chambre. From there, you will start cycling on the same route as stage 11. You will indeed ride the 80 last kilometres (50 miles) of the stage Albertville – La Toussuire. This will definitely be the biggest challenge of your week as you will climb up three famous passes which are le Col de la Croix de Fer, le Col du Mollard, before arriving to the top of Col de la Toussuire. An enthusiastic crowd of supporters waiting for the pro riders' passage will cheer you on all along the way and we bet you will have a great time. This will be a fantastic cycling day!

Col de la Croix de Fer: 22.4km (14 miles), 6.9%

Col du Mollard: 5.7km (3.5 miles), 6.8%

Col de la Toussuire : 18km (11 miles), 6,1%

If necessary we will split off into two groups of different ability levels.

The groups will be accompanied by a staff rider and a back-up vehicle with supplies (food and drink).

Would you prefer not to ride through the passes, an alternative circuit will be available to go straight to the last Pass: La Toussuire.



Thursday, July 12th - Day 7:

Tour de France: Stage 11, Albertville / La Toussuire – les Sybelles

Group: Ride the Col de la Madeleine and see the riders pass by.

Hotel: 3* Hotel in Moutiers

The 11th stage of 2012 Tour de France will definitely be one of the most spectacular stages and one that will be significant for riders to win the Tour. This stage features the very difficult Col de la Madeleine, which is the first Pass of a series of 4.

Col de la Madeleine: 24.54 km (15.25 miles); Average: 6.4% (max. 11.1%)

Today, you will ride to the Col de la Madeleine where we will stand on the “route du Tour” to watch the riders passing by and heading into the arrival. You will be part of this great carnival, at the best point to live the magic of the Tour de France, with the crowd cheering up and the publicity caravan featuring some of the most bizarre motor vehicles you will ever see. The mountain stages have an even more frenzied atmosphere. You may see the riders pass one after the other before one hundred of others come up and disappear from sight.



After watching the stage we will ride back to the hotel, where you will have time to watch the Tour arrival in La Toussuire on telly. This will be a decisive stage for the pro riders. Dinner's time will be the opportunity to share your thoughts on the day's events.

Friday, July 13th - Day 8:

Tour de France: Stage 12, Saint Jean de Maurienne / Annonay Davézieux

Group: Departure

This last morning, you will enjoy breakfast with a multitude of images in your mind. Not only will you have your own accomplishments to be proud of, but you will also have a lot of memories of remarkable athletes, the spectacle of the tour, and a taste of France. Your coach will take you to Lyon Airport, where it will be time to say goodbye to this year's Tour de France. Your guides will be available to help you, should you have any question or request, and to wish you a nice trip back home. Alternatively, if you'd like to enjoy France just a little longer, we will be happy to make arrangements for you.



PRICES:

Vosges & Alps package (Room sharing in twin or double): 2200 Euros (all taxes and fees included)

Vosges & Alps package (Single room): 2490 Euros (all taxes and fees included)

- Deposit to secure this tour: **35% of the total amount.**
- Outstanding balance between **May 15th and May 31st 2012.**
- For payment by instalments, contact us at info@ronanpensectravel.com

The price includes:

- Accommodation for 7 nights: 4 nights in three-stars and 3 nights in four-star hotels: double/twin rooms with private bathroom including toilets, and a tub and/or a shower.
- 7 breakfasts and 7 dinners (drinks wine and water included for each dinner).
- 2 English-speaking and certified support riders who will accompany the group during the whole trip.
- 1 Support vehicles with 1 RPT professionally trained mechanic, and 1 coach driver.
- Accident and repatriation insurance.
- Daily travel in a luxury private coach.
- Daily luggage transportation.
- Special bikes' trailer for the safe transport of your bikes.
- Ronan Pensec Travel Road Books with detailed maps and daily stage routes.
- Tour de France backpack with Ronan Pensec Travel cycling jersey & travel t-shirt.
- Local taxes.

The price does not include:

- Airfare.
- Cancellation, theft of material and luggage insurances.
- Lunches
- Personal expenses, aperitifs.

Options:

- Bike rentals
- Tour extension

Bike rental

Would you prefer not take your own bike, we can arrange the rental of Scott bikes.

-Trek carbon madone 4, 5 with Shimano 105 10 gears Triple (50 39 30 in the front and 12 x 26 in the back): **Contact us for more information.**

-Trek aluminium 1, 5 with Shimano 105 10 gears Triple (50 39 30 in the front and 12 x 26 in the back): **Contact us for more information.**

Bikes will be delivered and picked up at the hotel.

Tour extension:

Would you like to extend your trip, we will be pleased to organize for you a longer stay.

Please contact us at **info@ronanpensetravel.com**.