

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.*



Pyrenean stages

Classic Package

From Monday, July 16th to Friday, July 20th 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.

5 days, 4 nights in 2* hotels on half-board basis

Start: Pau Airport, Finish: Pau Airport

Tour de France viewings: 3

This Pyrenean 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 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 crucial Pyrenean stages, where you will experience the atmosphere of enthusiastic crowds, waving the flags and cheering you on while you climb some of the most prestigious climbs in France. This year, the Pyrenean stages will include 11 mountain climbs including the mythical col de l'Aubisque, du Tourmalet, and Peyrourde. 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 last week is always a challenge for the Tour riders, and it is where we give you the chance to face the same challenges.

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 crucial Pyrenean stages.
- Attend the Finish in Pau, on stage 15; see information Day 1.
- Ride 82 km (51 miles) of the Tour circuit up to the mythical Col de Tourmalet.
- Climb the Col de Peyresourde and experience the crowd's enthusiast cheering.

The Tour de France stages you will see:

Monday, July 16th:

Stage 15, Samatan / Pau: 160km (99 miles)

Wednesday, July 18th:

Stage 16, (mountain stage) Pau / Bagnères-de-Luchon: 197km (122 miles)

Thursday, July 19th:

Stage 17, (mountain stage) Bagnères-de-Luchon / Peyragudes: 144km (90 miles)

YOUR TRAVEL:

Please arrange your flights into the following airport: **Pau** (<http://www.pau.aeroport.fr/>).

The following companies operate regular direct flights to Pau airport:

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

CityJet (www.cityjet.com) from London City airport and Amsterdam Schiphol airport.



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.

Monday, July 16th - Day 1:

Tour de France: Stage 15, Samatan / Pau

Group: Arrival at Pau airport and transfer to your hotel.

Hotel: 2* Hotel in Pau for 2 nights.

Bienvenue en France!

Your guides will meet you in Pau Airport between 10 and 11:00 am and a private coach will then take you to your 2* hotel, on a half-board basis.



Your hotel is located in Pau, a small town in Southwest France. It is a commune located on the northern edge of the Pyrenees. The Boulevard des Pyrénées is 1.8 km from the Château de Pau to the Parc Beaumont, with views of the mountains. Alphonse de Lamartine said: "Pau has the world's most beautiful view of the earth just as Naples has the most beautiful view of the sea."



If you arrive before 11:00 am, you will definitely enjoy attending the arrival of the 15th stage, in Pau. It will be a great way to dive into this week's action! In the evening, you will gather with your travelling companions and enjoy your first meal in the hotel's restaurant. We are pleased to inform you that we managed to book rooms in hotels that are very close from the ones where professional riders will stay. It could be a great opportunity to go and meet them during their rest day.

Tuesday, July 17th - Day 2:

Tour de France: Rest Day

Group: Climb the Tourmalet Pass.

Hotel: 2* Hotel in Pau.

As the Tour de France riders spend their well-deserved second rest day, after 16 days of tough racing, you will have time to explore the area ahead of their arrival on the Col de Tourmalet tomorrow.



Cyclists: Today you will leave the hotel at 10am for an 82 km (51 mile) circuit that will include the legendary Col de Tourmalet. You will join the route of the tour by going through the village of Argèles Gazost, up to the summit of Tourmalet, on Sainte Marie de Campan side. After stopping at the summit to take photos and enjoy the view, you will descend. This will be a long but achievable day. Ride at your own pace.



Col de Tourmalet: 18.3 km (11.5 miles) 7.7%

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.

Wednesday, July 18th - Day 3:

Tour de France: Stage 16, Pau / Bagnères de Luchon

Group: Ride the Climb of Tourmalet and reach the finish area.

Hotel: 2* Hotel in Tarbes for 2 nights.

Many people identify this stage as the most decisive for the favorites. It is a day that may well determine the overall winner, but it is not just the battle for overall that will take place. There will be riders looking for the honor of a mountain top win on Tourmalet. There will be a best climber, and there will be the sprinters struggling to finish before the time cut. This is the stage you do not want to miss; a stage to remember and that will keep you saying: “I was there”.

Col du Tourmalet: 19km (12 miles), 7.4%



Cyclists: After breakfast, you will leave the hotel to ride to the top of the Tourmalet. It will be a great spot to watch the race and this will be a wonderful experience for you. Once the last rider will have passed by, followed by the broom wagon, you will descend the Tourmalet. Be very careful on the descent as there are thousands of people also going down the hill on foot, bikes and cars. We will gather over a much deserved dinner, you'll sleep well tonight.

Your new hotel is located in Tarbes, in the Midi-Pyrenees region, to the north of Lourdes. The town markets itself as being the gateway to the Pyrenees which lie to the south. There are attractive views of the snow-capped mountains from the town.



Thursday, July 19th - Day 4:

Tour de France: Stage 17, Bagnères-de-Luchon / Peyragudes

Group: Experience the crowd of supporters while you climb up the Col de Peyragudes.

Hotel: 2* hotel in Tarbes.

This day will be under high tension as it will be the most threatening stage for the favorites of the Tour, a decisive turn for the win. The field is favorable to a great struggle.

Cyclists: After an early breakfast, today's stage will take you to the summit of Peyresourde. Your coach will first drive you to the village of Arreau, located in the valley right before the Peyresourde Pass. From there, you will climb up to Peyresourde and Peyragudes. 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.



Tonight, for those who have rented a bike, time will have come to return them.

Friday, July 20th - Day 5:

Tour de France: Stage 18, Blagnac / Brive-la-Gaillarde

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 have the memories of remarkable athletes, the spectacle of the tour, and a taste of France.

Afterwards, 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:

Pyrenean stages package (Room sharing in twin or double): 985 Euros (all taxes and fees included)

Pyrenean stages package (Single room): 1185 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 4 nights in two-star hotels: double/twin rooms with private bathroom including toilets, and a tub and/or a shower.
- 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners (drinks wine and water included for each dinner).
- English-speaking and certified support rider who will accompany the group during the whole trip.
- 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 offer the rental of Scott bikes.

- Carbon Bike : 10 gears Triple (50 39 30 in the front and 12 x 26 in the back): **160 €**

-Aluminium Bike, 10 gears Triple (50 39 30 in the front and 12 x 26 in the back): **120 €**

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.