

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.*



Last Week

Classic Package

From Monday, July 16th to Monday, July 23rd 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
(5 nights in 3* hotels and 2 nights in 4* hotels)

Start: Pau Airport, Finish: Paris

Tour de France viewings: 5

Staff: 5

With or without bikes

This Last Week 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 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 Peyrsourde. 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.

After the mountain stages, you will see the second and last 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 crucial Pyrenean stages.
- 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.
- See the last Time Trial and Tour de France arrival in Paris.
- Included: Grandstand tickets on the Champs Elysées, facing the finish line.

The Tour de France stages you will see:

Tuesday, July 17th:

Rest Day in Pau

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)

Friday, July 20th:

Stage 18, Blagnac/ Brive-la-Gaillarde: 215km (133 miles)

Saturday, July 21st:

Stage 19, (time trial) Bonneval / Chartres: 52km (32 miles)

Sunday, July 22nd:

Stage 20, Rambouillet / Paris Champs-Elysées: 130km (81 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:

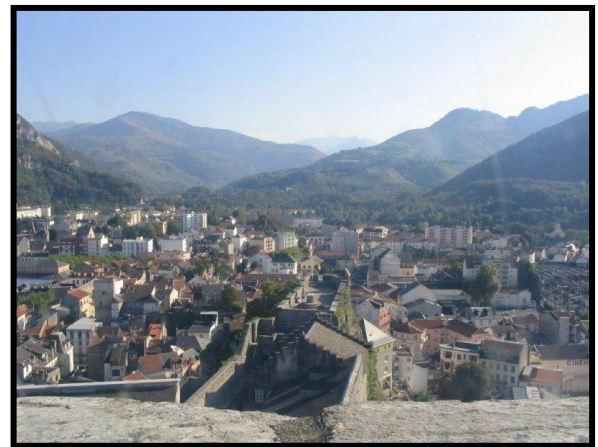
Tour de France: Stage 15, Samatan / Pau

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

Hotel: 3* Hotel in Lourdes for 3 nights.

Bienvenue en France!

Your guides will meet you in Pau Airport at 11:00am and a private coach will then take you to your 3* hotel, on a half-board basis.



Your hotel is located in the outskirts of Lourdes, a small town in Southwest France. It is best known as being the largest Catholic pilgrimage destination in France and one of the most popular Catholic shrines in the world. Lourdes lies 497 miles south of Paris in the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains. You will enjoy the warm and neat atmosphere of this hotel, which offers spacious rooms, a solarium, a heated outdoors swimming pool and a free Wi-Fi access.



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 gather over a welcoming cocktail with your travelling companions, before enjoying your first meal in the hotel's restaurant.

Tuesday, July 17th - Day 2:

Tour de France: Rest Day

Group: Climb the Tourmalet Pass.

Hotel: 3* Hotel in Lourdes.

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. 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: 3* Hotel in Lourdes.

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”.

Our hotel’s location is excellent for accessing today’s stage, which means that we will be able to spend the day without any coach. This will be another great day on the bike.

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.

The distance from the hotel to the base of Tourmalet is 33km (20 miles).

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 Peyresourde.

Hotel: 3* hotel in Seilh.

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. You will see flags from nations in Europe, and of course from Australia, the US, South Africa and more.



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

After today's Finish, you'll all get back on the coach and arrive in your new hotel, located in Seilh, near Toulouse. Dinner will be served at the hotel's restaurant.



Friday, July 20th - Day 5:

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

Group: Watch the Start of the stage

Hotel: 3* Hotel in Orléans

Today will be a rest day for you and an opportunity to relax after the tiring climbs of previous days. Shortly after breakfast, your coach will take you to Blagnac in order to watch the Start. The sprinters who are looking for a victory are advised to draw their inspiration from the local expertise in terms of speed as the city which accommodates Toulouse Airport is also the one which manufactures Airbus aircraft. The Tour's peloton has set off from Blagnac twice to leave the Pyrenees Mountains and the breakaway riders had the last word!

You will then leave in the afternoon when your coach transfers you to Orléans and to your next hotel.



Your hotel is particularly well-positioned for tomorrow's last Time Trial that will start from Bonneval. It is located in the Val de Loire area and nestled in green surroundings, on the banks of the Loire river. In the evening, dinner will be served at the hotel.



Saturday, July 21st - Day 6:

Tour de France: Stage 19, Bonneval / Chartres

Group: Start of the Time Trial and way to Paris

Hotel: 4* Hotel near the Champs Elysées.

Today you will head for the start of the second individual time-trial in this Tour de France. This will be the moment of truth as this 52-km long time-trial is the last 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. This is the last battle, and you can bet, even with tired legs after 19 hard stages, the riders will give it their all.

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.



Once the yellow jersey is finished, we will head for Paris by coach. Within 1 hour and a half, you will be in Paris where your guides will take you to your 4* hotel near the Champs Elysées. In the morning, our van will have picked up your luggage and your bikes and will have reached Paris. You will stay in a 4* hotel on a B&B basis, it is located in what is known as the “Golden Triangle”. We have chosen this hotel near the finish line near the Champs Elysées as an ideal point from which to make the most of your stay in Paris. You will be in the perfect location to watch the final stage and from there, you will have easy access to all major interests in Paris. Although the hotel is located in a quiet neighbourhood, you will be in the heart of the action.



Tonight you will have the opportunity to explore the town and find a restaurant of your choice, before enjoying a well deserved night's rest. What an experience you will have had, and the icing on the cake is tomorrow!

Bonneval / Paris Hotel: 123 km (76 miles) – 1H30

Sunday, July 22th - Day 7:

Tour de France: Stage 20, Rambouillet / Paris Champs-Elysées

Group: Attend the finish of the Tour

Hotel: 4* Hotel near the Champs Elysées.

Since the beginning of this 99th Tour de France, the riders have dreamt of reaching Paris to ride on the cobblestones of the Champs Elysees in front of cheering crowds of supporters. For some of them, it is enough to say, “I finished a Tour.”

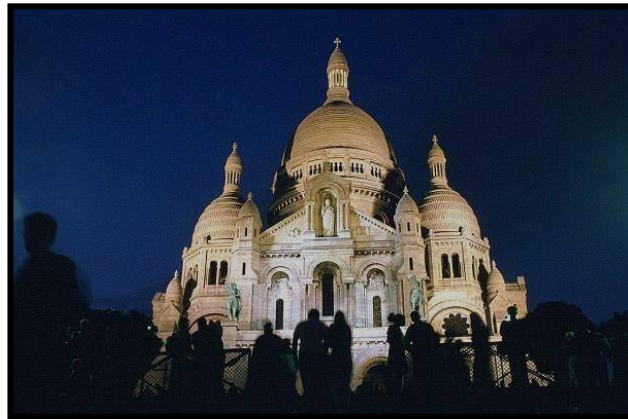
Riders arrive with pride on what some call the world's most beautiful Avenue. They have completed what is arguably the world's toughest professional bike race. The overall ranking is usually settled before the final stage so the racing is more for glory and to settle the Sprinter's competition if it is close. Yet even with the celebrations, the race is for real, and in the heart of Paris, surrounded by historic monuments and buildings, this is a wonderful show and a spectacle worth seeing.



Today you will be able to sleep in, or enjoy a morning in Paris on your own, before you head to the Champs-Elysees to see the final stage.

Our status as a **Cycling Operator** enables us to offer you grandstand seats on the Champs Elysees right in front of the finish line, from where you will be able to watch the race, and the podium where the awards ceremony will take place. From there you will watch the riders pass by 8 times before crossing the finish line of the 99th Tour de France for the last time.

At the end of the race, you will have time to explore Paris on your own.



Other options are also available:

- **Dinner cruise on the Seine.**

A dinner-cruise on the Seine river, offers you a spectacular view of Paris as you pass under the bridges, close to historical monuments and buildings, among which the Eiffel Tower at night. You will enjoy this truly memorable cruise. Refined decor and tableware, the intimacy of small tables by the windows form the ingredients for a wonderful evening. The boat glides gently by the monuments for 2 ½ hours of magic with entertainment by a singer and her musicians. The menu combines tradition and creativeness and the dishes are prepared on board under the supervision of the Chef and his team. *(See our Options for more information)*

- **Dinner-show at the LIDO:** If you'd like to finish off the Tour de France with a special evening, we offer as an option a champagne dinner-show at the LIDO. The Lido is one of the greatest cabarets in the world, located on the prestigious avenue des Champs Elysees. It has been a venue for the finest shows since 1946. *(See our Options for more information)*

Monday, July 23rd - Day 8:

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 Paris just a little longer, we will be happy to make arrangements for you.

PRICES:

Last Week package (Room sharing in twin or double): 2375 Euros (all taxes and fees included)

Last Week package (Single room): 2930 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: 5 nights in three-stars and 2 nights in four-star hotels: double/twin rooms with private bathroom including toilets, and a tub and/or a shower.
- 7 breakfasts and 6 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.
- 2 Support vehicles with 2 RPT professionally trained mechanic, and 1 coach driver.
- Grandstand on the Champs Elysées.
- 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
- Dinner day 6 & 7.
- Personal expenses, aperitifs.

Options:

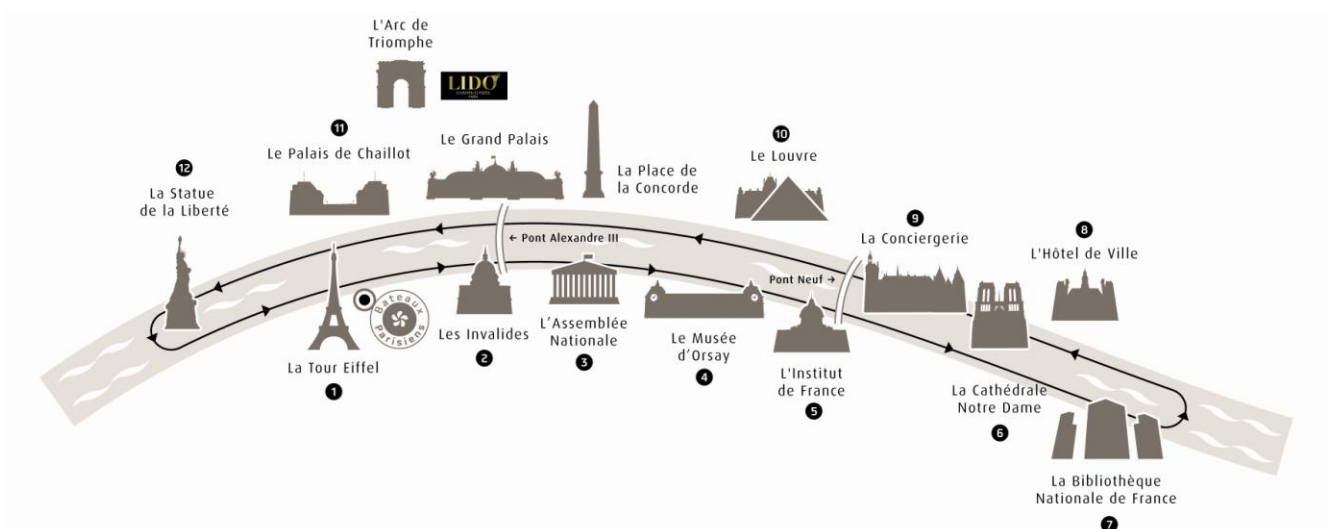
- Dinner cruise
- Dinner champagne-show at the Lido
- Bike rentals
- Tour extension

Dinner-cruise: 98 €

Dinner-cruise on the Seine, under Paris romantic bridges. It is a beautiful ride, for a gourmet and musical cruising. Refined decor and tableware, the intimacy of small tables by the windows and the liveliness of the dance floor form the ingredients for a wonderful evening. The menu combines tradition and creativeness and the dishes are prepared on board under the supervision of the Chef and his teams.



The boat glides gently close to the monuments seen through the glass canopy—two and a half hours of magic with entertainment by a female singer and three musicians.



LIDO show: 150 €

You will enjoy a champagne dinner-show (formal dress required) at the Lido, the world-famous Parisian cabaret www.lido.fr.

Located on the prestigious Avenue des Champs Elysées, the Lido has been a venue for the finest shows since 1946 and has welcomed the greatest artists such as Elvis Presley, Shirley MacLaine or Elton John.

We offer you to attend an unforgettable 3 hours long Champagne dinner show with 42 dancers, 23 sets, hundreds of sumptuous costumes and breathtaking scenes.

After the show, around 11:30 PM, the night will be yours!



Bike rental

Would you prefer not take your own bike, we offer 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): **245 €**

-Trek aluminium 1, 5 with Shimano 105 10 gears Triple (50 39 30 in the front and 12 x 26 in the back): **185 €**

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.