

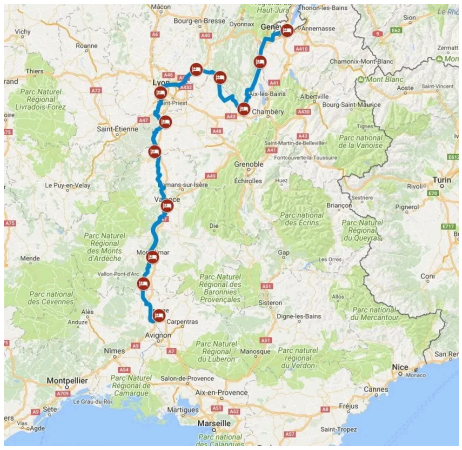
WINE , RIVERSIDE , NATURE , GASTRONOMY , CITY

type :	Self-guided Linear cycle routes Classic Cycle Routes of France Electric bike option
hybrid :	●●●○○
e-bike :	●●○○○
duration :	13 days
comfort :	●●◐○○
period:	Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code:	FRSB880

ViaRhôna - From Geneva to Orange

13 days, *€ 1775*

Introduction



Take your bike and discover the Via Rhôna! From Lake Geneva in Switzerland to the Mediterranean Sea, follow a route that has been used by successive civilizations for over 2,000 years. Wonderful landscapes, towns, authentic villages, impressive nature, vineyards and delicious gastronomy await you along the way!

Start this great cycling trip from the cosmopolitan city of **Geneva**. Follow the ViaRhôna that meanders through the mountains and valleys of the Upper Rhône. Bike through the breathtaking landscapes of the Savoie and the Bugey: mountains, lakes, gorges... and pass typical old villages before your stay in the elegant historic city of **Lyon**.

After visiting the gastronomic capital, the second part of the tour will show you why the Rhône has long been renowned as the route of successive civilizations. Many spots recall the importance of river navigation and trade in times past. Several towns here have Roman roots, while famous vineyards line up along the steep, sunny slopes. Valence classed as city of Art and History for its rich cultural legacy, and finally **Orange**, the gateway to Provence.

A bicycle trip from the Lac Léman to the sound of cicadas !

You even have the option to add another stage we provide along the ViaRhona: Orange -Sète!

Day to Day

Day 1 **Arrival in Geneva**

Arrival in Geneva and installation to your hotel. Take the time to discover this beautiful city of Switzerland, also known as the "capital of peace" with its humanitarian tradition, it will seduce you with its international charm and its old town offering a wide choice of delicious restaurants. Enjoy a pleasant stroll along the Lake Geneva.

Day 2 **Geneva - Seyssel (or train option)**

Your first bike ride takes you from Switzerland to France along the Rhone, you will discover the "Défilé de l'Écluse" and then the first vineyards between mountains and valleys, while keeping in view the sumptuous mountains of the Alps. This part of the trip will be on some busier roads, but the rest of the week it will be much quieter. You will spend the night in the charming little town of Seyssel, on the banks of the river.

Challenge: 60.8km, 656m ascent, 786m descent

Day 3 **Seyssel - Champagneux**

Leave Seyssel and cycle between ridges and plateau on both banks of the Rhone. Arrival in Chanaz, also called "La Petite Venise Savoyarde", enjoy a pleasant break in one of the charming restaurants along the canal of Savières. Continue on towards Culoz and Belley, peaceful small towns with a rich heritage that punctuates the Bugey mountain. Continue your journey, in a surprising nature to arrive in the region of Champagneux.

Challenge: 55.9km, 260m ascent, 248m descent

Day 4 **Champagneux - Villebois**

Today you pass through Saint-Genix-sur-Guiers, for the greedy, we advise you to stop there to taste the famous brioche pralines! Further away, a little detour towards the village of Glandieu will allow you to refresh yourself with its majestic waterfall, a wonder of nature.Then you cross Morestel, stroll through the narrow streets of the old town, city of painters, flowered city and city in poetry. A lovely greenway links "La Vallée Bleue" to Villebois, this is where you'll stay overnight.

Challenge: 65.6km, 338m ascent, 346m descent

Day 5 **Villebois - Pérouges**

This ViaRhôna stage takes you through unspoilt countryside of Burgey above the Rhône. You pass lovely villages this morning : Saint-Sorlin-en-Bugey and Sault-Brénaz, and the more secretive La Balme-les-Grottes, with its great caves and picturesque centre. Your destination will soon be in sight as you approach the hilltop medieval village of Pérouges, labeled one of the most beautiful villages in France.

Challenge: 55.4km, 199m ascent, 174m descent

Day 6 **Pérouges - Lyon**

This last cycle day cleverly links the parks and lakes of Greater Lyon, including at Le Grand Large and Miribel-Jonage. Then enjoy the magnificent cycle route through central Lyon, along the Rhône's banks. At

the Rhône's confluence with the Saône, you come to a brand-new quarter marked by contemporary architecture, the most striking building being the Musée des Confluences. Your options for the rest of the day are endless but you can also reward your soul of cyclist with a delicious meal in a "petit bouchon", typical restaurant in the city.

Challenge: 43.4km, 109m ascent, 213m descent

Day 7 **Lyon - Vienne (or train option)**

After buzzing Lyon, the itinerary leads through the towns of Grigny and Givors, on to St-Romain-enGal. The historic importance of navigation is clearer here than anywhere else along the Rhône. Museums at St-Romain-en-Gal and Vienne give a good picture of the river's rich history, from classical to contemporary times.

Challenge: 37.1km, 203m ascent, 212m descent

Day 8 **Vienne - Serrières**

This remarkable cycling day offers a great variety of landscapes. From Vienne, once an ancient capital of Roman Gaul, to the nature reserve of L'île au Beurre, bearing witness to the Rhône's wild side, via steeply terraced vineyards, including the prestigious Côte-Rôtie, and the first major orchards along the Rhône Valley, this stage will delight those interested in history, nature and gastronomy.

Challenge: 32.7km, 81m ascent, 96m descent

Day 9 **Serrières - Valence**

Your itinerary today runs between steep vineyards and dense orchards. Heading south from Lyon, this is the first ViaRhôna stage to enter the rugged Ardèche, a beautiful département (or French county) on the mighty Rhône's west flank. Here, the tamed river supports orchards, market gardens and vines producing top-class Saint-Joseph wines. Arriving in Tournon-sur-Rhone enjoy a pleasant break laden with Gallo-Roman history.

Challenge: 61.6km, 116m ascent, 130m descent

Day 10 **Valence - Montélimar**

After a halt at Valence's southern river port of L'Epervière, your route leads you back onto the western, Ardèche bank of the Rhône. The Ardèche is known for its exceptional caves, archaeological sites, characterful villages, châteaux and nature reserves. Continuing south along ViaRhôna and cycle on the recent Himalayan-style footbridge at Rochemaure is a great experience, built using the pillars of the Vieux Pont, it is an historic bridge over the Rhône. Here you are at the gates of Provence: "Montélimar" where a human presence has existed for more than 50,000 years. Renowned for its nougat, Montélimar is a pleasant town where it is good to stroll in the old city center.

Challenge: 70.9km, 151m ascent, 193m descent

Day 11 **Montélimar - Pierrelatte**

Leaving the beautiful city of Montélimar, cycle beside branches of the Rhône and pass through historic towns: Viviers, with its medieval spirit; Bourg-Saint-Andéol, its treasures including a rare sculpture of a Mithraic deity. Today your short itinerary is packed with heritage treasures, especially religious ones, including cathedrals, chapels and grand clerical residences. Those who love history as well as nature can enjoy their fill.

Challenge: 33.4km, 64m ascent, 98m descent

Day 12 **Pierrelatte - Orange**

Today is your last cycling today, and not just anyone. The program of the day : Pedaling through a impressive nature with the scents of Provence and across the charming village of Pont-Saint-Esprit. In the afternoon you reach the beautiful city of Orange. Of the numerous Roman buildings and monuments originally built, you still can see parts of the City Wall, the Arc de Triumph and the Theatre (UNESCO heritage), the stage wall of which the Sun King, Louis XIV, described as the most beautiful wall in his country.

Challenge: 51km, 74m ascent, 71m descent

Day 13 **Departure from Orange**

End of your trip after breakfast. We advise you to extend your stay in order to take the time to visit the history city of Orange.

Prices, Data, Booking

Starting dates:
Friday, Saturday & Sunday from April 01 till October 31
Of course you can also book extra night(s) during the trip. We can give you these prices on request. Please mention where you would like to add extra night(s).

Practical Info

12 Nights included

2/3 Star Hotels or 3/4 Star Hotels (supplement applied)

All Breakfasts and 1 Dinner-tray on day 4 in Villebois (as no alternatives in the surroundings) included during the trip

Maps and tourist information on all the places of interest

24/7 Bilingual Emergency hotline

Luggage transport to your next accommodations. Luggage accepted per person: 1 suitcase or travel bag (20 kg maximum)

For time tables and further information check the **website of SNCF** or **rome2rio** for all French National trains (SNCF).
We strongly advise you to **download the sncf mobile app** prior to departure.
If you want to travel on a train with your bike, you can find more information **via this link**.

Parking informations on request

We will supply the directions of this trip with a personalized code which gives you access to our travel App.