

Thomson



TDF K/QOM Challenge – Week 1 Grand Depart & Pyrenees

TDF K/QOM Challenge – Week I Grand Depart & Pyrenees

DEPARTURES

June 30th 2023

PRICE FROM

AUD \$9,995

DURATION

8 days / 7 nights

NON-RIDER FRIENDLY

Yes

RENTAL BIKE

AUD \$700

TOTAL DISTANCE

350 km

TOTAL ELEVATION

10,781 m

DAILY AV. DISTANCE

58 km

DAILY AV. ELEVATION

1,797 m

The Grand Depart and Pyrenees stages with the Premier Official Tour Operator

LIVE race-viewing of the opening stages in the Basque region of Spain and the French Pyrenees. Ride the Tourmalet, Aspin, Peyresourde, Portet, Jaizkibel and many more of the legendary climbs in the Pyrenees and Spain.

FEATURED CLIMBS

COL DU TOURMALET, COL DE PORTET, PORT DE BALÈS, JAIZKIBEL

Thomson Tour de France K/QOM Challenges are the trips of choice for avid cyclists of all abilities looking for a unique blend of LIVE race-viewing and challenging riding.

Experience the opening stages of the Tour de France in Bilbao and San Sebastián, and witness the key Pyrenees stage live on the Col du Tourmalet from the comfort of our Private Hospitality Marquee. Mingle with the pro riders and Tour celebrities with our privileged VIP access to the Departure Village at the Opening Stage in Bilbao, and cherish the unique experience of riding across the Finish Line ahead of the peloton in San Sebastián.

You'll also have a challenging ride program. You'll conquer numerous famous climbs including the Col du Tourmalet, Col de Portet, Port de Balès, Col de Peyresourde, Col d'Aspin and the legendary Jaizkibel climb, just 20km from the Finish of Stage 2 in San Sebastián.

No one rides like Thomson!



Performance Itinerary



DAY	DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	ELEVATION	HOTEL
01	Welcome to Spain!	26 km	645 m	Hotel Barceló Costa Vasca
02	LIVE Race-Viewing: The Opening Stage			Hotel Barceló Costa Vasca
03	LIVE Race-Viewing, Ride over the Finish Line & Podium Photo Op in San Sebastián	54 km	1,192 m	Hotel Barceló Costa Vasca
04	Into the Pyrenees	68 km	1,884 m	Hotel Mercure, Saint Lary Soulan
05	Port de Balès (Chaingate)	82 km	2,403 m	Hotel Mercure, Saint Lary Soulan
06	The stunning Cap de Long	70 km	2,479 m	Hotel Mercure, Saint Lary Soulan
07	LIVE Race-Viewing: Private Hospitality Marquee on the Tourmalet	50 km	2,178 m	Hotel Mercure, Saint Lary Soulan
08	Au revoir!			

Performance Itinerary

Day 1

DISTANCE

26 km

ELEVATION

645 m

Welcome to Spain!

Your trip starts at Bilbao Airport where our staff will meet you before the transfer to your hotel in San Sebastian.

After a brief orientation meeting, lunch and bike build-up, you'll head out on your first ride in the Basque Country. The warm-up ride takes you into the rolling hills to the south of San Sebastian before the climb to Igeldo and the incredibly scenic coastal road that leads back to the hotel in San Sebastian.

CLIMBS

Igeldo
from Aginaga

5.9 km 286 m 4.8%



Performance Itinerary

Day 2

LIVE Race-Viewing: The Opening Stage

The 2023 Tour de France kicks off today with a magnificent stage, starting and finishing in Bilbao.

This is a unique opportunity to witness both the start and the finish of the Opening Stage of the Tour de France. You'll have privileged access to the VIP Departure Village, a great place to mingle and meet the riders as they prepare for the start of the 1st stage of the Tour de France. After the official departure, enjoy lunch in Bilbao before rounding off an amazing Tour de France day by witnessing the Race Finish from the VIP Tribune at the Finish Line in Bilbao.



Performance Itinerary

Day 3

DISTANCE

54 km

ELEVATION

1,192 m

LIVE Race-Viewing, Ride over the Finish Line & Podium Photo Op in San Sebastián

A unique opportunity today to ride your bike across the Official Finish Line just a few hours before the peloton – followed by a photo shoot on the Official Podium. You'll round off an amazing Tour de France day by witnessing the finish of Stage 2 in San Sebastián.

In addition to all of the above, you'll also enjoy a spectacular ride through the rolling hills of the Basque Country to the medieval town of Hondarribia. Leaving Hondarribia you'll ride the legendary Jaizkibel climb, the ultimate climb in the annual Clásica San Sebastián pro race, and where you can expect to be cheered on by thousands of passionate Basque cycling fans.

CLIMBS

Jaizkibel
from Hondarribia

8.3 km 456 m 5.5%



Performance Itinerary

Day 4

DISTANCE
68 km

ELEVATION
1,884 m

Into the Pyrenees

The Tour de France leaves the Basque Country today and heads into France. We'll also say "adios" to Spain and head over to St Lary Soulan in the heart of the French Pyrenees.

After lunch at the hotel in St Lary, you'll head out on your first ride in the Pyrenees, over 2 classic Pyrenees climbs. From the hotel, enjoy the couple of km of flat through the quaint village streets, as soon as you exit St Lary you'll be on the lower slopes of today's first climb, the Col de Val Louron-Azet. Hope for clear weather today as the Val Louron offers magnificent views of the border with Spain and the highest peaks in the Pyrenees off to your right. From Val Louron you'll continue up the valley to Arreau and the classic climb to the Col d'Aspin.

CLIMBS

Col de Val Louron-Azet from St Lary Soulan	10.7 km	765 m	7.1%
Col d'Aspin from Arreau	11.9 km	794 m	6.7%



Performance Itinerary

Day 5

DISTANCE

82 km

ELEVATION

2,403 m

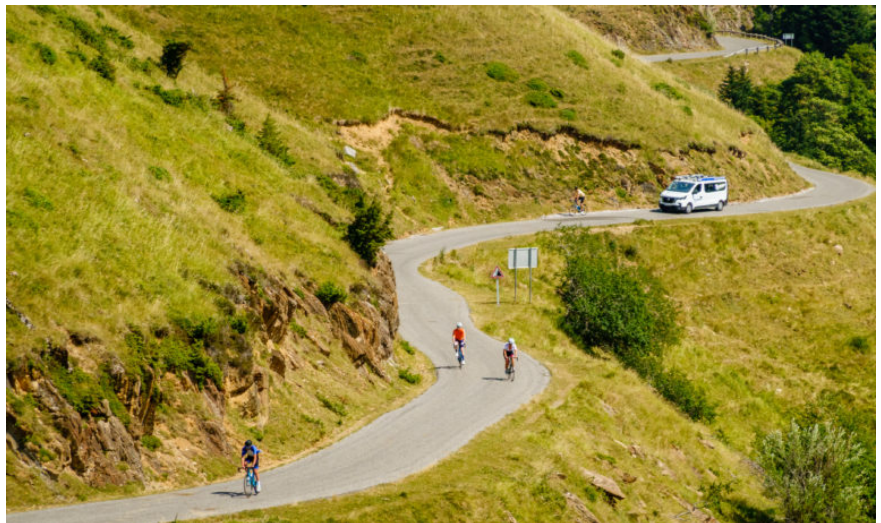
Port de Balès (Chaingate)

Today's ride features one of our favorite Pyreneen climbs. The Port de Bales was first introduced to the Tour de France in 2007 when a gravel forestry trail was asphalted allowing a connection between two valleys. It's probably best remembered for the "chaingate" incident in 2010 when Alberto Contador attacked Andy Schleck after Andy had dropped his chain.

Stunning scenery, no traffic, great pavement, fantastic views from the summit, and on a par with the Tourmalet in terms of difficulty all combine to make the Port de Bales one of our all-time favorite climbs. It's a long ride so our staff will advance you 50km in the vans, to the village of St Bertrand de Comminges. From St Bertrand you'll have a 10km warm-up before reaching Mauleon-Barousse and the start of the climb. From the summit, enjoy the great descent before the final climb of the day, the iconic Col de Peyresourde.

CLIMBS

Port de Balès from Mauleon-Barousse	19.3 km	1,250 m	6.5%
Col de Peyresourde from Junction to Port de Balès	9.7 km	737 m	7.6%



Performance Itinerary

Day 6

DISTANCE

70 km

ELEVATION

2,479 m

The stunning Cap de Long

One of the most beautiful and challenging climbs in the Pyrenees is the road that leads through the highest peaks in the Pyrenees to Lake Cap de Long, close to the Spanish border. The road winds its way through the Pyrenees Nature Reserve which essentially excludes it from ever being included in the Tour de France route. It is an absolute gem of a climb and regarded by many as their favorite climb in the Pyrenees. Today you'll have the opportunity to conquer this stunning climb followed by Tour de France favorite, the climb to Pla d'Adet – where George Hincapie won his only stage of the Tour de France in 2005.

CLIMBS

Cap de Long
from Fabian

13.6 km 1,044 m 7.7%

Pla d'Adet
from St Lary Soulan

11.1 km 857 m 7.7%



Performance Itinerary

Day 7

DISTANCE
50 km

ELEVATION
2,178 m

LIVE Race-Viewing: Private Hospitality Marquee on the Tourmalet

The peloton will take on the legendary Col du Tourmalet today and you'll be there to witness all the action LIVE on the mountain. You'll ride from the hotel over the magnificent Hourquette d'Ancizan to Sainte Marie de Campan where you'll meet up with the Tour de France race route for the climb to the Tourmalet. Riding this legendary climb on race day will be an experience you're unlikely to forget. Enjoy!

Our Logistics Team will have set up our Race-Viewing Hospitality Marquee on the Tourmalet which will be buzzing with thousands of passionate fans excited to see the top riders battle it out on this famous climb. Enjoy the atmosphere from the comfort of our Private Hospitality Marquee. Food, drinks, and satellite TV race coverage will keep you entertained as you wait for the peloton to approach.

CLIMBS

Hourquette d'Ancizan from Guchen	10.4 km	794 m	7.6%
Col du Tourmalet from Ste Marie de Campan	17.0 km	1,272 m	7.5%



Performance Itinerary

Day 8

Au revoir!

Sadly, your trip to the Tour de France in the Basque Country and Pyrenees has come to an end.

Our private shuttle will drop you off at Toulouse Blagnac Airport.



Climbs

CATEGORY	CLIMB	DAY	DIFFICULTY	LENGTH	ELE. GAIN	AV. GRADE
2	Igeldo from Aginaga	01	33	5.9 km	286 m	4.8%
2	Jaizkibel from Hondarribia	03	47	8.3 km	456 m	5.5%
1	Col de Val Louron-Azet from St Lary Soulan	04	82	10.7 km	765 m	7.1%
1	Col d'Aspin from Arreau	04	80	11.9 km	794 m	6.7%
HC	Port de Balès from Mauleon-Barousse	05	108	19.3 km	1,250 m	6.5%
1	Col de Peyresourde from Junction to Port de Balès	05	86	9.7 km	737 m	7.6%
HC	Cap de Long from Fabian	06	111	13.6 km	1,044 m	7.7%
HC	Pla d'Adet from St Lary Soulan	06	97	11.1 km	857 m	7.7%
1	Hourquette d'Ancizan from Guchen	07	91	10.4 km	794 m	7.6%
HC	Col du Tourmalet from Ste Marie de Campan	07	126	17.0 km	1,272 m	7.5%



What's Included



TOUR DE FRANCE VIEWING

TDF Stage 1: access to the VIP Departure Village in Bilbao

TDF Stage 1: access to the VIP Tribune at the Finish Line in Bilbao

TDF Stage 2: VIP ride across the Finish Line, Podium photo op, view the Finish in San Sebastian

TDF Stage 6: access to our Private Race-Viewing Hospitality Marquee on the Col du Tourmalet

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

8 days / 7 nights fully accompanied trip

All accommodations

All breakfasts

All but 1 dinner

3 x lunches

3 x picnic lunches during the rides

TRANSPORTATION

Pick-up at Bilbao Airport

Drop-off at Toulouse Blagnac Airport

All transportation during the trip

All luggage & bike box transfers

CYCLING SUPPORT

1 x Support Van & 1 x Ride Leader per 8 guests (approx.)

Overall Staff to Guest ratio: 1 to 3

Experienced bike mechanic

Park Tools Toolkit

Daily ride gpx files provided

NUTRITION DURING THE RIDES

Energy bars, gels and sports drink

Variety of snacks and local specialties for picnic lunches

Bottled water

Post-ride recovery food

MERCHANDISING

Tour de France Gift Bag

Special Discount card for Official Tour de France stores

Thomson Bike Tours S/S cycling jersey

What's Not Included



Airfare

Travel and personal insurance

Additional hotel expenses i.e. phone charges, mini-bar, gratuities

Staff gratuities

Pick-up/Drop-off Info



PICKUP LOCATION	TIME	DROPOFF LOCATION	TIME
Bilbao Airport	June 30th at 9:00am	Toulouse Blagnac Airport	July 7th at 10:00am
OR			
Holiday Inn Express Bilbao Airport	June 30th at 9:00am		

Rental Bikes

RENTAL FEE
AUD \$700

OPTIONAL INSURANCE
AUD \$95



Hotels



Hotel Barceló Costa Vasca



Hotel Mercure, Saint Lary Soulan





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We hope this itinerary has whetted your appetite for a trip with Thomson Bike Tours.

Our best-in-class service starts from the moment you get in touch, so please feel free to drop us a line with any questions you may have. We look forward to welcoming you for an experience you will never forget.

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