

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

213 km

TOTAL ELEVATION

6,255 m

DAILY AV. DISTANCE

36 km

DAILY AV. ELEVATION

1,043 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!



Sport Itinerary



DAY	DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	ELEVATION	HOTEL
01	Welcome to Spain!	17 km	405 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	28 km	640 m	Hotel Barceló Costa Vasca
04	Into the Pyrenees	36 km	1,188 m	Hotel Mercure, Saint Lary Soulan
05	Col de Val Louron-Azet	42 km	1,123 m	Hotel Mercure, Saint Lary Soulan
06	Col d'Aspin & Hourquette d'Ancizan	56 km	1,549 m	Hotel Mercure, Saint Lary Soulan
07	LIVE Race-Viewing: Private Hospitality Marquee on the Tourmalet	34 km	1,350 m	Hotel Mercure, Saint Lary Soulan
08	Au revoir!			

Sport Itinerary

Day 1

DISTANCE

17 km

ELEVATION

405 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 joining the incredibly scenic coastal road that leads through Igeldo and back to San Sebastian.



Sport 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.



Sport Itinerary

Day 3

DISTANCE

28 km

ELEVATION

640 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.

After breakfast you'll have a short transfer to the magnificent medieval town of Hondarribia where you'll start the ride. 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%



Sport Itinerary

Day 4

DISTANCE

36 km

ELEVATION

1,188 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. Sitting directly behind the hotel is the famous climb to Pla d'Adet, where George Hincapie won his only Tour de France stage back in 2005. Today is your turn to test your legs on this famous climb.

CLIMBS

Pla d'Adet
from St Lary Soulan

11.1 km 857 m 7.7%



Sport Itinerary

Day 5

DISTANCE

42 km

ELEVATION

1,123 m

Col de Val Louron-Azet

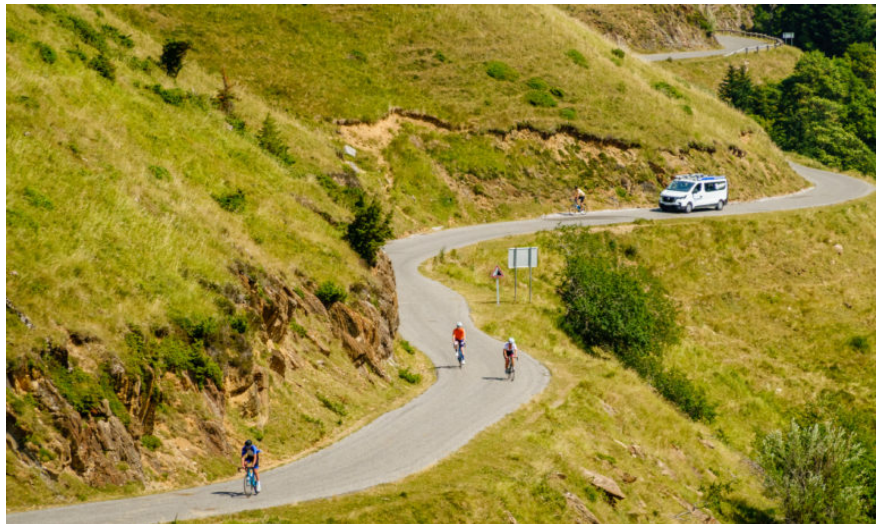
Today's ride features one of the most scenic climbs in the Pyrenees, the Col de Val Louron-Azet.

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 the col. 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 the summit, enjoy the descent into the Louron valley, following the Neste du Louron river to the quaint market town of Arreau, the perfect spot for a coffee stop before the final 10km stretch to the hotel.

CLIMBS

Col de Val Louron-Azet
from St Lary Soulan

10.7 km 765 m 7.1%



Sport Itinerary

Day 6

DISTANCE

56 km

ELEVATION

1,549 m

Col d'Aspin & Hourquette d'Ancizan

A magnificent ride today over 2 legendary but very different Tour de France climbs. The Col d'Aspin is the classic Pyreneen climb through open mountain landscapes. The Hourquette d'Ancizan is one of the prettiest roads in the Pyrenees, initially running through pine forests along the side of a mountain stream, then eventually opening up to vast prairies where herds of wild horses roam freely. After the Col d'Aspin, enjoy a break and a bite to eat in a typical French Cafe in the mountain village of Payolle just before you start the climb to Hourquette. A beautiful ride that highlights the best of the Pyrenees!

CLIMBS

Col d'Aspin from Arreau	11.9 km	794 m	6.7%
Hourquette d'Ancizan from Payolle	10.1 km	537 m	5.3%



Sport Itinerary

Day 7

DISTANCE
34 km

ELEVATION
1,350 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. Our staff will provide a van transfer to the top of the Hourquette d'Ancizan. From the Hourquette enjoy the magnificent ride through vast prairies 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

Col du Tourmalet
from Ste Marie de Campan

17.0 km 1,272 m 7.5%



Sport 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	Jaizkibel from Hondarribia	03	47	8.3 km	456 m	5.5%
HC	Pla d'Adet from St Lary Soulan	04	97	11.1 km	857 m	7.7%
1	Col de Val Louron-Azet from St Lary Soulan	05	82	10.7 km	765 m	7.1%
1	Col d'Aspin from Arreau	06	80	11.9 km	794 m	6.7%
2	Hourquette d'Ancizan from Payolle	06	49	10.1 km	537 m	5.3%
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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