

*Thomson*



TDF K/QOM Challenge – Week  
3 Alps Stages with Paris Option

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# TDF K/QOM Challenge – Week 3 Alps Stages with Paris

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## Option

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### DEPARTURES

July 17th 2023  
July 17th 2023

### PRICE FROM

AUD \$14,995

### DURATION

8 days / 7 nights

### NON-RIDER FRIENDLY

Yes

### RENTAL BIKE

AUD \$700

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## Week 3: the Alps stages with the Premier Official Tour Operator Optional Paris extension

LIVE race-viewing of the key Alps stages during Week 3 of the Tour de France. Ride the Col de la Loze, Col de la Croix de Fer, Les Lacets de Montvernier and the Col du Platzerwasel, the ultimate climb of the 2023 Tour de France.

Optional extension to witness the Grand Finale in Paris.

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### FEATURED CLIMBS

COL DE LA LOZE, COL DE LA CROIX DE FER,  
LACETS DE MONVERNIER, COL DU PETIT  
BALLON, COL DU PLATZERWASEL

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### TOTAL DISTANCE

361 km

### TOTAL ELEVATION

10,821 m

### DAILY AV. DISTANCE

72 km

### DAILY AV. ELEVATION

2,164 m

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.

Be there to witness stage 20, the Final Mountain Stage of the 2023 Tour de France, in the Vosges mountains.

### Our Final Mountain Stage race-viewing program includes:

access to our VIP Tribune at the Finish Line in Le Marksteinan official ride across the Finish Line before the arrival of the Tour de France pelotona memorable photo shoot on the Official Podium in Le Markstein

You'll also witness Stage 17, LIVE on the mountain-side of the Col de la Loze, the most challenging climb in the Alps, and mingle with pro riders and Tour celebrities with our privileged VIP access to the Departure Village at the start of Stage 19 in Moirans-en-Montagne.

Riding is also a key feature of every Thomson Tour de France trip and on this trip you'll conquer numerous famous climbs including the incredible Col de la Loze, the Col de la Croix de Fer, the spectacular Lacets de Montvernier, Mont Semnoz with its stunning views of Lake Annecy, and the final 2 spectacular climbs of the 2023 Tour de France in Les Vosges, the Col du Petit Ballon and the Col du Platzerwasel.

No one rides like Thomson!

**Paris Extension:** extend your trip to continue on to Paris and witness the Final Stage on the Champs-Élysées. Our Paris Extension includes travel to Paris by high-speed TGV train, accommodation at the 5-star Hotel Intercontinental Opera, and entry to the Elysée Tribune directly opposite the Finish Line on the Champs-Élysées circuit.

**Paris Extension VIP Upgrade:** please contact us if you'd like to upgrade to the VIP Espace Rive Gauche Tribune (subject to availability).







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# Performance Itinerary

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DAY	DESCRIPTION	DISTANCE	ELEVATION	HOTEL
01	Bienvenue en France!	40 km	907 m	Chateau des Comte de Challes
02	Col de la Croix de Fer	75 km	2,305 m	Chateau des Comte de Challes
03	LIVE Race-Viewing: Private Hospitality Marquee on the Col de la Loze	55 km	2,358 m	Chateau des Comte de Challes
04	Massif des Bauges Natural Park	110 km	2,907 m	Chateau des Comte de Challes
05	LIVE Race-Viewing: VIP Departure Village in Moirans en Montagne			Hotel Les Jardins de Sophie
06	LIVE Official Viewing of the Final Stage Finish - Photo Op	81 km	2,344 m	Hotel Les Jardins de Sophie
07	End of the Alps Trip - OR - continue to Paris for the Final Stage (Paris Extension Only)			Hotel Intercontinental Le Grand, Paris
08	End of the Paris Extension			

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# Performance Itinerary

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## Day 1

DISTANCE

40 km

ELEVATION

907 m

Bienvenue en France!

Your trip starts at Geneva Airport where our staff will meet you before the transfer to your first hotel, the 15th century Chateau des Comtes de Challes near Chambéry. Before lunch we'll have a brief Orientation Meeting followed by the bike-build where our mechanics will be on hand if you need help preparing your bike.

You'll kick off your week in the Alps with a magnificent ride into the Massif des Bauges Natural Park and your first Alpine climb, the "Categorie 1" climb to the Col de Marocaz.

CLIMBS

Col du Marocaz  
from Cruet

7.5 km 615 m 8.2%

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# Performance Itinerary

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## Day 2

DISTANCE

75 km

ELEVATION

2,305 m

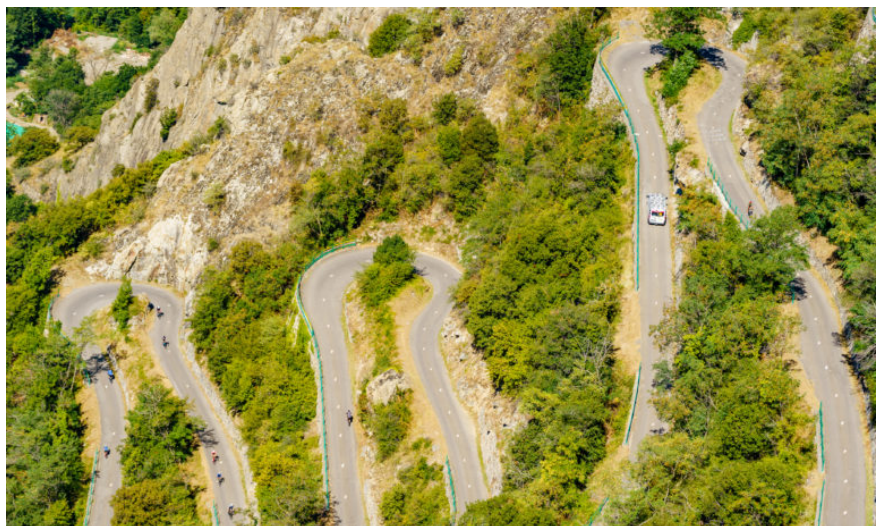
### Col de la Croix de Fer

A quintessential Alps ride today featuring several legendary Tour de France climbs.

After a short transfer to La Chambre, you'll head along the Maurienne Valley for 8km. As you're riding along the valley you'll notice a steep cliff on your left hand side with what looks like a road weaving its way up the almost vertical cliff face. Welcome to Les Lacets de Monvernier, an incredible road carved into the side of the mountain and incorporating 17 switchbacks in just 3km! From the Lacets you'll ride along the valley to Jean de Maurienne where you'll start the legendary climb to the Col de la Croix de Fer, then continue on to the Col du Glandon before the long descent back to La Chambre. Bon courage!

#### CLIMBS

Lacets de Monvernier from Pontamafrey	3.8 km	296 m	10.6%
Col de la Croix de Fer from St Jean de Maurienne	29.0 km	1,726 m	6.0%



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# Performance Itinerary

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## Day 3

DISTANCE

55 km

ELEVATION

2,358 m

**LIVE Race-Viewing: Private Hospitality Marquee on the Col de la Loze**

Since the Col de la Loze was paved in 2019, it has become the most challenging climb of the Tour de France. Today is your opportunity to test your climbing skills on this monster climb which boasts an average grade of 7.5% over 21.5km, and a maximum grade of 24%!

Our Logistics Team will have set up our Race-Viewing Hospitality Marquee on the climb which will be buzzing with thousands of passionate fans excited to see the Tour de France on this spectacular climb. Enjoy the race 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 de la Loze

from Brides les Bains – via Meribel

20.9 km 1,599 m 7.7%

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# Performance Itinerary

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## Day 4

DISTANCE

110 km

ELEVATION

2,907 m

### Massif des Bauges Natural Park

Stunning cycling is a common theme throughout the French Alps, but few regions can match the Massif des Bauges Natural Park. Incredible scenery, big climbs and super-quiet roads combine to make this one of the top cycling destinations in the Alps – and your entire ride today takes place in this natural paradise.

The ride starts with the 18km climb to the Col des Pres. From the summit of this climb you'll head deep into the natural park, a real paradise for cyclists. Next up is the famous Mont Semnoz, the final climb of the 100th edition of the Tour de France back in 2013 when Nairo Quintana was first over the finish line. From Semnoz enjoy the descent and a rolling section before starting the final climb of the day to the Col de Plainpalais and the final descent back to the hotel and the end of a magnificent day on the bike.

#### CLIMBS

Col des Pres from Challes Les Eaux	16.1 km	881 m	5.5%
Mont Semnoz from le Pont	20.6 km	1,105 m	5.4%
Col de Plainpalais from Le Pont	12.5 km	600 m	4.8%



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# Performance Itinerary

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## Day 5

### LIVE Race-Viewing: VIP Departure Village in Moirans en Montagne

After breakfast you'll head over to Moirans en Montagne to experience the start of Stage 19 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 relax and warm-up before the start of today's stage. Once the peloton takes off on their 173km ride to Poligny, you'll transfer to your next hotel in the heart of the Vosges mountains, perfectly situated close to tomorrow's race route.



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# Performance Itinerary

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## Day 6

DISTANCE

81 km

ELEVATION

2,344 m

LIVE Race-Viewing: VIP Tribune at the Stage Finish - plus Official Ride over the Finish Line & Podium Photo Op

The penultimate stage and the organisers have designed a real thriller of a stage to close out the 2023 Tour de France. The Tour stage includes 8 categorised climbs, our ride has 5 categorised climbs, the final 3 climbs on the actual race route! If the GC classification is still pretty close, this final stage will blow the race apart for sure.

Your ride starts from the hotel and we pick up the race route after 15km on the Col de Grosse Pierre. Expect huge crowds to cheer you over each of the next 4 climbs – but remember to save something in the legs, the last 2 climbs over the Petit Ballon and the Col de Platzerwasel are killers.

On arriving at the Finish in Le Markstein, you'll have the unique experience of riding your bike across the Official Finish Line just a few hours ahead of the peloton – followed by a photo shoot on the Official Podium. We'll round off an amazing Tour de France day by witnessing the Race Finish from the VIP Finish Line Tribune in Le Markstein.

### CLIMBS

Col de Grosse Pierre from Gerardmer	6.1 km	337 m	5.5%
Col de la Schlucht from La Cure	10.6 km	402 m	3.8%
Col du Petit Ballon from Munster	10.6 km	774 m	7.3%
Col du Platzerwasel from Sondernach	7.1 km	602 m	8.5%





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# Performance Itinerary

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## Day 7

End of the Alps Trip - OR - continue to Paris for the Final Stage  
(Paris Extension Only)

**End of the Alps Trip:** our private shuttle will drop you off at Basel Airport

OR

**Paris Extension:** travel to Paris by TGV High speed train for the grand finale of the 2023 Tour de France. Witness the Final Stage from the Elysée Tribune directly opposite the Finish Line on the Champs-Élysées. Enjoy the thrilling sprint finish, champion's podium and electric atmosphere of the final stage of the race.

**Paris Extension VIP Upgrade:** please contact us if you'd like to upgrade to the VIP Espace Rive Gauche Tribune (subject to availability).



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# Performance Itinerary

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## Day 8

### End of the Paris Extension

Sadly, your trip to the Tour de France in the Alps and Paris has come to an end.

The trip ends at the hotel in Paris on Monday July 24 after breakfast.

Please note we will not be providing a drop-off service on Monday morning. In our past experience, many guests have stayed on in Paris for a few extra days, and those returning home on the Monday have had flights at various times of the day and from different airports, making it difficult to schedule airport transfers at the right times. Our staff (and the hotel staff) will be available to help you reserve transport to the airport or train station.



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# Climbs

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CATEGORY	CLIMB	DAY	DIFFICULTY	LENGTH	ELE. GAIN	AV. GRADE
1	Col du Marocaz from Cruet	01	83	7.5 km	615 m	8.2%
2	Lacets de Monvernier from Pontamafrey	02	85	3.8 km	296 m	10.6%
HC	Col de la Croix de Fer from St Jean de Maurienne	02	128	29.0 km	1,726 m	6.0%
HC	Col de la Loze from Brides les Bains - via Meribel	03	155	20.9 km	1,599 m	7.7%
1	Col des Pres from Challes Les Eaux	04	71	16.1 km	881 m	5.5%
1	Mont Semnoz from le Pont	04	82	20.6 km	1,105 m	5.4%
2	Col de Plainpalais from Le Pont	04	48	12.5 km	600 m	4.8%
2	Col de Grosse Pierre from Gerardmer	06	40	6.1 km	337 m	5.5%
3	Col de la Schlucht from La Cure	06	31	10.6 km	402 m	3.8%
1	Col du Petit Ballon from Munster	06	86	10.6 km	774 m	7.3%
1	Col du Platzerwasel from Sondernach	06	85	7.1 km	602 m	8.5%





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# What's Included

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## TOUR DE FRANCE VIEWING

TDF Stage 17: access to our Private Race-Viewing Hospitality Marquee on the Col de la Loze

TDF Stage 19: access to the VIP Departure Village in Moirans-en-Montagne

TDF Stage 20: VIP ride across the Finish Line, Podium photo op, and access to the VIP Tribune at the Finish Line in Le Markstein

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## ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

7 days / 6 nights fully accompanied trip

All accommodations

All breakfasts

All dinners

2 x lunches

3 x picnic lunches during the rides

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## TRANSPORTATION

Pick-up at Geneva Airport

Drop-off at Basel Airport

All transportation during the trip

All luggage & bike box transfers

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## 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

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## 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

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**MERCHANDISING**

Tour de France Gift Bag

Special Discount card for Official Tour de France stores

Thomson Bike Tours S/S cycling jersey

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**PARIS EXTENSION (IF SELECTED)**

1 extra day / night

TDF Stage 21: access to the Elysée Tribune at the Finish Line in Paris

Transfer from Strasbourg to Paris (TGV High-speed train)

Private shuttle to the Hotel Intercontinental in Paris

1 night accommodation in the 5-star Hotel Intercontinental Opera

Breakfast at the Hotel Intercontinental in Paris



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## What's Not Included

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Airfare

Travel and personal insurance

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

Staff gratuities

Paris extension - lunch and dinner in Paris

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## Pick-up/Drop-off Info

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PICKUP LOCATION	TIME	DROPOFF LOCATION	TIME
Geneva Airport	July 17th at 9:00am	PARIS EXTENSION: No organized Drop-Off	
OR			
Holiday Inn Express Geneva Airport	July 17th at 9:00am		

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## Rental Bikes

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RENTAL FEE  
AUD \$700

OPTIONAL INSURANCE  
AUD \$95



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## Hotels

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Chateau des Comte de Challes



Hotel Les Jardins de Sophie



Hotel Intercontinental Le Grand, Paris



Thomson  
BIKE TOURS



Thomson  
BIKE TOURS

DSM  
Gulfone







# TDF K/QOM Challenge – Week 3 Alps Stages with Paris Option

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.

## **Travel & Sports Australia (TASA)**

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