



Trip description

7-day family cycle trip along the ViaRhôna

From Vienne to Montelimar, discover the ViaRhôna cycling with your family on short and secure itineraries. A week full of great memories for children and parents!



Destination	France
Location	Vallée du Rhône
Duration	7 days
Difficulty Level	Very easy
Validity	April to November
Minimum age	1 year
Reference	VR0702

Type of stay
itinerant trip



Itinerary



You start your bike tour in Vienne, former capital of Roman Gaul. Discover the many well preserved monuments of the Gallo-Roman era including

the impressive ancient theater. Your route continues at the foot of the terraced vineyards of the prestigious Côte-Rotie. Chocolate lovers will not miss to stop at the Cité du Chocolat for a sweet break. Then, you can add an extra day to discover the Gorges du Doux and the Ardèche mountains inside an authentic steam train, unforgettable experience! A few pedal strokes further, the first orchards of the Rhone Valley appear. Pass Valence, City of Art and History, which introduces you to the South. Your itinerary continues in Ardèche between caves, picturesque villages, castles and nature reserve. You finally reach Montélimar and its Provençal charm. Stroll through the old parts of the town and enjoy the famous nougat!

Day 1

Arrival in Vienne

Vienne boasts many Gallo-Roman vestiges. The best way to visit it is to walk from one site to the other, as the majority of the built heritage is located in the town center. Among them, the most famous are the antique theater, remarkable for its size, and the temple d'Auguste et de Livie, which nicely stands out in the middle of a town square.

Day 2

Vienne - Serrières

Bike
34km

You cycle quietly along the Rhône River on the bike path before crossing the river to get to the "Ile au Beurre". Have a break on this peaceful island known for the diversity of its fauna! Take the time to have a look around since you are in the heart of the major vineyards of the Rhône Valley including the famous Condrieu, Saint-Joseph, Côte-Rôtie. From this point on, you will get your first glimpse of the typical Provence villages and houses.

Day 3

Serrières - Tain l'Hermitage

Bike
37km

Just before crossing the river once again, have a break in the Village of Saint-Vallier. As strange as it may seem, the railway connecting Paris to Marseille split the Saint-Vallier historical center in two. Enter the Saint-Vallery Church, and the Poitiers family's burial chapel (parents of Diane de Poitiers)

As you arrive in Tournon-sur-Rhône you cross the Rhône River on the oldest French hanging bridge that is still in use today. This "Passerelle Seguin" bridge allows you to reach the village of Tain-l'Hermitage, home of the famous wine and ValRhôna chocolate. Be sure to taste both of these delicious regional specialties.

Extra day : Journey in a steam train

The train does not run everyday,
please contact us

Take an extra day to enjoy the gorges of the Doux river in a true steam powered historic landmarked train. Get aboard the train in the Tournon-sur-Rhône station and discover the gorges of the Doux River and the Ardeche mountains. You reach the lovely small town of Lamastre where you will stroll or have a picnic on the river banks. In the afternoon you get back on the train and start the return way to Tournon-sur-Rhône and Tain l'Hermitage where you will stay for the night.

Day 4

Tain l'Hermitage - Valence

Bike
22km

The cycle path now offers a gentle introduction to the South of France, with its pretty villages in typical southern style. Vineyards and fruits orchards are now the main part of the landscape.

Discover the surprising blind channel around "La-Roche-de-Glun" village. Make sure you have a close look at the Diane de Poitiers Tower.

Your trip ends in Valence, a classified Town of Art and History. With its colorful markets, shaded gardens and historic quarters, this living city makes you feel like being in Provence already.

Day 5

Valence - Baix

Today, the ViaRhôna snakes in Ardèche in the midst of the orchards. Stop in Soyons to visit the "Jardin des Trains Ardéchois", a gorgeous garden, 2800 m² large, miniature trains are

Bike
40km

crossing stations, tunnels and rivers in precisely reproduced Ardèche landscapes! Your path will take you then to picturesque villages and historic cities such as Charnes-sur-Rhône and La Voulte-sur-Rhône.

Day 6

Baix - Montélimar

Bike
34km

You still head south alongside the Rhône river with the beautiful Abbey of Cruas and the Rochemaure Castle in the background. These two pieces of Architectural Art perfectly show the rich heritage of the Rhône valley. You cross the Rhône river using the "himalayan bridge" built on the pillars of the Old Bridge of Rochemaure, quite an experience! You are now in Drôme and your way will gently end with some sweets in Montélimar, the city of "nougats"!

Day 7

Departure from Montélimar

Wellknown stop on the road to the South, Montélimar has a flair of Provence! Walk the pedestrian streets in the old district, admire the colorful houses and enjoy a drink sitting in sidewalk cafes in the cool shade of trees. You can't miss tasting the famous nougats which will rejoice kids and parents.

Accommodation

Category B

You are accommodated in **/** hotels selected for their ideal situation on the itinerary. You will be comfortable and warmly welcomed. Breakfast is included.



** Example of the type of accommodation*

Practical information

To get to departure point:

By plane: the nearest airport is Lyon Saint-Exupéry. At the airport, there is a shuttle tramway Rhone Express taking you to the city center at Lyon Part-Dieu train station in 30 mn.

By train: many regional trains go to Vienne from Lyon, from either Lyon Part-Dieu or Lyon Perrache train stations (duration of the trip about 20min). High-speed trains do not stop in Vienne. To plan your trip, www.oui.sncf

Parking

If you come by car to Vienne, you can park in the secure car parks of Saint-Marcel (11,60 €/day) or SNCF station (11,50€/day).

To get back to starting point:

Trains take you back to your starting point if you wish. Regular regional trains are riding between Montélimar and Vienne. Bikes are accepted for free. The duration of the trip is about 1h. Full rate is 21.60€/pers.

You will find the timetable of the day in your travel documents.

Meeting time:

The first day is an arrival day without cycling. You arrive whenever you want depending on from where you come. Please note that rooms are usually available in the middle of the afternoon depending on your accommodation. We advise you to plan half a day for visiting Vienne, which is worth it. We thank you to advise us if you plan to arrive late.

Price description

Category B

Double room fare

940 €/pers

6 nights in **/** hotels

6 breakfasts

5-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (packs, helmets, locks...)

a road book with maps and descriptions of the routes

luggage transport

the entrance to the Cité du Chocolat Valrhona

the delivery of the bike

local visitors' taxes

sending charge of the travel documents in France

7/7 hotline

Half-board

30 €/pers

Single occupancy extra (**)

42 €/night

High season extra (*)

15 €/pers

Extra night in Vienne

65 €/pers

Extra night in Montélimar

55 €/pers

Extra day : journey in a steam train

(Child discount applicable depending on the age and the rooms distribution)

1 night in a *** hotel in Tain l'Hermitage

1 breakfast

steam train journey (round trip)

1 day of bike rental

98 €/adult

Options

Extra for the rental of an electric bike (5 days)

70 €/pers

Discount if you ride your own bicycle

-70 €/pers

(**) These prices are guaranteed for 2 participants minimum.

(*) High season :

from 01.07 to 31.08.2020

Children discount (in the same room as 2 full rate participants)

0-4 year : -70%

5-11 year : -50%

12-17 year : -30%

The package doesn't include:

the journey to the tour location
the drinks
the meals which are not included
the entrance fee to sites
insurances (optional)

For more information or booking : www.levelovoyageur.com
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