



LAKES, MOUNTAINS
AND COW-BELLS!

TOUR OF THE FRENCH, SWISS AND AUSTRIAN ALPS

THURSDAY 27 AUGUST TO
SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2020



OUR TRAVEL PHILOSOPHY

I have never been a great fan of the classic group tour mentality, and as a result have put together a programme which is very personable, and most of all fun! I think it is important that people see less, but see it better. I want people to meet locals and experience their lifestyles, as well as experiencing their history. I also want people to have time out, and the opportunity to relax as well - there's no point if you need a holiday at the end of the trip!! Don't be surprised if I get you out walking in the hills, swimming in the sea, or tasting food in a chef's kitchen.

I have put together a program lasting just over two weeks which I hope matches your desires. For this spring-time tour we will commence our tour in the "gastronomic" capital of France, Lyon, before exploring the French and Swiss Alps, before travelling in to Austria for a magical week of Salzburg and Vienna, for a musical journey from Mozart to Julie Andrews!!



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LYON, FRANCE

Thursday 27 August to Saturday 29 August

For our time here we will have a fun first day with a local showing us all there is to know about Lyon. The Lyonnais all think that this is the capital of gastronomy in France, so our guide will have his work cut out for him proving this to be the point. No pressure!



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LAC ANNECY, FRENCH ALPS

**Saturday 29 August to
Tuesday 1 September 2020**

Today we will drive from Lyon to the lake-side town of Annecy, sitting on Lac Annecy. This is an idyllic location, with many similarities to the beauty and location of Queenstown. On one of our full days here we will drive to Chamonix where we have the option (weather permitting) of ascending Mont Blanc on a cable-car before following the Tour de France course (by car!!) through to the magical countryside close to Lake Annecy. This is but one of many glorious places we will visit over the next few weeks. Depending on our timings there is the chance, for any boaties amongst us, that I take you to Geneva nearby to see the HQ of the Alinghi team (under the sponsorship of Bertarelli) – last time I was here they were engraving the America's Cup beneath the NZ engraving!



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GRINDELWALD, SWISS ALPS

Tuesday 1 September to Friday 4 September

Today we will travel from France through to the town of Interlaken, where we will stay in the mountain village of Grindelwald (Switzerland). On one of the days here we will travel on the mountain railway to the summit of the Jungfrau – this is the highest railway in the world and ascends to 3,450 metres. This is all Swiss perfection from the mechanical triumph of this track to the precision and prettiness of the surrounding countryside – picture postcard Swiss perfection! We will also have time to visit Interlaken and/or go for some gentle mountain walks!



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KITZBUHEL, AUSTRIA

Friday 4 September to Sunday 6 September

Today we are going to travel from Interlaken to the mountain resort of Kitzbuhel, which is situated between Innsbruck and Salzburg in Austria. This town is delightful and sits in the valley surrounded by breath-taking and gentle mountain scenery. I have recently made this drive and it was one of the most astoundingly beautiful drives I've ever experienced! While we are here in Kitzbuhel I want to get you in to the hills to follow some walking trails through the rolling countryside.



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SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

**Sunday 6 September to
Wednesday 9 September**

Today we will drive the short distance through to Salzburg, to our centrally located four star hotel. While here we will have a walking tour through the centre of the town, as well as take a delightful tour highlighting aspects of “The Sound of Music” including a glorious drive through the mountains seeing some of the filming locations etc.. “Climb every Mountain”! One day we will also make a tour to the “Eagle’s Nest”, made famous by Adolf Hitler during the Second World War – many stories to tell!



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VIENNA, AUSTRIA

**Wednesday 9 September to
Sunday 13 September**

Today we will travel down the Danube River to the wonderful Vienna. Vienna is very much associated with music, being the home for many years for Mozart and Strauss. We will be surrounded by their history and attempt to attend the Vienna State Opera House for a performance, which would likely be a performance you won't forget. As well we will be introduced to the magnificence of Austrian history and grandeur with a tour of the spectacular Schönbrunn Palace. We will also attend the world famous Austrian landmark, the Vienna Riding School for a performance.



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END OF TOUR

Sunday 13 September 2020

Today this tour comes to an end!



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PRE AND POST TOUR PLANS

The tour will begin at our Lyon hotel. On that day I will be training from Paris to Lyon, and suggest that you could join me on this train ride, or meet us directly in Lyon. A few nights before the tour at either city in order to get over their “jet lag” isn’t a bad idea. At the end of the tour we will finish in Vienna, which offers plentiful onward flight options.

PRICING

Please note that the price for this tour is:

€8,590 per person.

DEPOSIT

A deposit of 1000€ per person is required on booking.

Payment of the deposit implies your commitment to make the final payment, so you are encouraged to take out full comprehensive travel insurance to cover you for cancellations etc.

FINAL PAYMENT

This will be due 8 weeks before the beginning of the tour.

INCLUDED

The following is included in your tour:

Accommodation and breakfasts throughout.

Guiding and Transportation. End of tour transport to airport or station (if this coincides with rest of the group).

Six special dinners included (wine and water included), 1 Lunch.

Visits (referred to above)

NOT INCLUDED

Comprehensive Travel Insurance. This is compulsory and payment assumes that you have this in place.

Single Supplement – if you require a single occupancy room then there will be a supplement of 1,890€.

HOTELS

We will be staying in charming small boutique three or four star hotels throughout. All hotels have air-conditioned rooms (with private facilities). Feel free to ask for more details.

COSTINGS

These prices are dependent on a minimum number of travellers joining us for the tour.

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JOHN REESE

I have been leading tours in Europe since 1993. My escorted tours have tended to cover Western Europe where I have taken a large number of tours to France, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Portugal, and Morocco. I speak French and Italian, although none of this will help for much in Switzerland and Austria! I have taken many tours through the French Alps and have taken several groups through Austria and its Alps.

I look forward to discussing this tour outline in more detail with you.

John Reese, France-The French Way

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