

Your schedule: LAKE ANNECY, GASTRONOMY & THE REGION - 3 days / 2 nights

Non-contractual photos – For logistical reasons and depending on the dates of your stay, the incoming agency may have to change the activity and/or day schedule.

SUMMARY

Day 1

Trip to the market to discover local produce

Visit to meet a Master cheesemaker, 'Meilleur Ouvrier de France', and cheese tasting

Lunch cruise

Exploring the lakeshore by bike or on a Segway

Wine-tasting and "Food & wine pairing" dinner in a well-known location by the lakeshore

Day 2

Invitation to breakfast with a World Champion Pastry Chef and 'Meilleur Ouvrier de France'

Exploring the mountain pastures and trip to a cheese dairy in the Aravis Mountains

Lunch in the mountains

Cookery workshop and 'tasting' dinner on-site

Day 3

Visit to a coffee roasting facility and an oil mill in Chanaz

Cruise on the Savières Canal

Lunch

Trip to a wine estate and wine-tasting

Visit to Hautecombe Abbey

Back to Annecy

DETAILED PROGRAMM

Day 1

9:00 am: Old Annecy market...



The traditional market is held in the old centre of Annecy every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday throughout the year from 8 am to 12 pm: an extensive selection of local produce including fruit and vegetables, cheeses and cold cuts... The incredible setting – under the arcades and along the canals – gives this "Annecy institution" a highly particular charm. It's also a great opportunity to meet with the locals who come along to do their shopping every week! Your guide will show you around the stalls and introduce you to typical regional products... and, it goes without saying, you'll definitely have the chance to taste quite a few!

On to meet a traditional cheesemaker, 'Meilleur Ouvrier de France' 2011, in his shop in the centre of town, which is one of the oldest in Annecy... a really exceptional moment! He will fascinate you with his tales of his family's cheese history and adventure, his passion for his work, and will invite you to taste some of the cheeses he matures in his cellar.

12:00 pm: Lunch-cruise...



You will embark on the MS Libellule, the only restaurant-boat on Lake Annecy, for a lunch cruise "beyond the limits of time". During this 2-hour cruise you will discover Lake Annecy and enjoy a 100% homemade lunch, prepared on-board the boat. A few minutes break between the different dishes ... a chance to go up on the roof terrace to fully admire the incredible 360° panorama!

2:30 pm: Time for a bike or Segway ride...



Back on dry land and time for a jaunt on a bike or Segway ® to explore a magical environment along one of France's oldest greenways. This particularly flat, hill-free track, built over an old railway line that linked Annecy to Albertville, can be enjoyed by everyone.

After your ride, take some time out to relax before your evening

6:00 pm: Oenology initiation and dinner...



Your evening will take place in a historic building, dating back to the 17th century, located along the shore of the beautiful Talloires Bay. Even the architecture and design will transport you instantly to "another world". You will have time for a short visit through the communal areas and the current exhibition, an opportunity to take in this exceptional atmosphere, which captivated Paul Cézanne when he stayed here back in 1896. Then on to the vaulted wine cellar where Charly, the head sommelier and Master Sommelier from the

Union de la Sommellerie Française, will initiate you in tasting Savoie wines. Chef Fabrice Taulier will then invite you to enjoy a mouth-watering dinner that will delight even the most expert taste-buds, accompanied by wines selected by Charly.

Day 2

9:00 am: Breakfast with a World Champion Pastry Chef...



You are invited for breakfast in this multi-prizewinning pastry chef-chocolate maker's tea room-shop. Sit down to a selection of hot drinks, fruit juices, homemade (it goes without saying) viennoiseries as well as an array of the chef's awesome sweet delights in an ever-so warm and cosy atmosphere. Pure indulgence for your eyes and your taste-buds!

10:00 am: Trip to the Aravis, Lake Annecy's mountains...



"Up into the mountains"! The route will take you along the right bank of Lake Annecy, then will climb up to the Col de Bluffy, where, as we go through the mountain pass, you'll catch a wonderful glimpse of the Castle of Menthon Saint Bernard, a thousand year old building that still belongs to the Menthon family today. Once through the pass, the backdrop changes and you'll find yourself in "highland" territory. Your destination for today is the heart of the Aravis Mountains and local villages and hamlets whose charm is enhanced by the authenticity of the local inhabitants, who are passionate about their region and its heritage. Although these mountain villages have undergone great development, they have, somehow, always managed to keep their traditional architecture intact. They are set in one of the few Alpine areas that has successfully and harmoniously balanced tourism and agriculture, for the greatest delight of visitors.

You will visit a cheese dairy, established at 1,000 metres altitude in the middle of the Aravis green valley, at the very heart of the AOC Reblochon area, where you will discover the craftsmanship and incomparable know-how, which turn each cheese into a gastronomic delicacy of the most supreme quality. Your visit ends with a taste of various local cheeses (Reblochon, Tomme, etc.)... an appetizer for the meal to come!

12:30 pm: Savoyard lunch...

We propose a lunch of Savoyard specialities, right at the heart of the Aravis Mountains.

Back to Annecy after lunch

4:00 pm: Cookery workshop and dinner on-site...



Another exceptional experience is in store when you meet your host in Saint-Jorioz, in her home and, above all, in her kitchen, where you will enjoy some magical, fun-filled moments. You will “get your hands dirty”, following her recipes and her advice. She’ll share some tips and tricks with you that guarantee cooking becomes ‘a piece of cake’! You’ll discover with your host that cooking can be pure pleasure and ever-so easy!

Then, what more could you ask for than sitting down around the family table to taste the dishes you’ve made yourself!

8:00 pm: back to Annecy...

Day 3

8:30 am: early morning start for Chanaz...

Take in some incredible panoramas over the lake as you journey along the road that leads to Chautagne (the name given to this area at the edge of Lake Bourget). You will discover a never-ending backdrop of villages and vineyards.

9:30 am: Chanaz...

The village of Chanaz, located at the heart of Chautagne, between the Rhône and Lake Bourget, enchants with its charming traditional dwellings, some dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries, complete with mullioned windows and doors, and its artisanal stores.

Your first stop of the day is with a traditional coffee roaster. In a 15th century cellar that has been totally redeveloped as a coffee roasting facility, you will get the chance to watch how coffee is roasted in the traditional way. You will learn all about this art, about flavours... and, of course, enjoy a coffee-tasting session!



Then on to discover the atmosphere of a 19th century water mill. The mill has been fully restored to its original state and its wheel, once again, propels the cogs and the millstone. Here, you will learn all about the miller’s activity, a profession that is gradually disappearing! Hazelnut oils are made here in keeping with ancestral methods.

11:30 am: cruise along the Savières Canal...



Time now to embark on the region's only-existing paddle steamer, a non-polluting, silent boat that runs with an electric propulsion system, to cruise along the Savières Canal, which links together Lake Bourget and the Rhône. And, you can be sure that the captain will be only too delighted to tell you stories of boats from days of yore!

1:00 pm: lunch...

You will have lunch in an old totally-renovated farmhouse, overlooking Chanaz. Weather permitting... lunch will be served outside on the terrace under the trees, or otherwise around the cosy, warm fireplace inside the farm!

3:00 pm: Savoie wine-tasting...



Discover a wine-tasting cellar in the centre of Jongieux, a wine-producing village. Outstanding landscapes, highly-mastered development, a top-quality winning strategy as regards the wine, but also as regards: the more general natural environment that the family champions and promotes enthusiastically. An invitation to delight in the setting as well as in the wine, to acknowledge the harmoniously-balanced sharing of values... the secret of this family-run estate!

You will visit the wine cellar, learn about winemaking and, of course, enjoy a tasting session.

4:00 pm: Hautecombe Abbey...



Poised majestically on the shores of Lake Bourget, the abbey offers you a wondrous view over the surrounding countryside.

This royal abbey houses the tombs of many illustrious Counts of Savoie and the last kings and queens of Italy. The audio-guided tour of the abbey gives you the chance to wonder at the incredible architecture in the unique Gothic-troubadour style with its remarkable features including: mural paintings, marble sculptures and cenotaphs.

Back to Annecy after the visit or departure