


Why was this one of our best-ever trips to France?





Mike Jacobsonsky
Jul 16, 2022 at 10:05 PM · Geneva, France

Try a new climb. How bad could it be?

No records at today! (definitely having issues with heat; never got a chance to get used to it back home, but it's been damn pretty cool. Today was definitely not pretty cool. Apparently...)

Distance	Elev Gain	Time	Achievements
43.21 mi	5,666 ft	4h 5m	👍 4



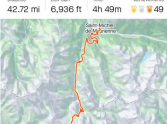



Mike Jacobsonsky
Jul 17, 2022 at 10:30 AM · Saint-Martin-de-Ré, France

We can relate to Pogacar today, not Vingepar

Really fun day for us, especially today. In the Dalmatian I never was going to try anything extreme. I was actually preparing for a tough battle. Well, I don't think so. We went home.

Distance	Elev Gain	Time	Achievements
42.72 mi	6,936 ft	4h 49m	👍 49







Mike Jacobsonsky
Jul 16, 2022 at 10:50 AM · La Bourg-d'Oisans, France

Alpe d'Huez is easy! (compared to our previous two rides)

The price tag idea I was on the river pretty much the entire time. I guess it was like we had to go to play. Some of it may be for sure back to using the river again. We'll see.

Distance	Elev Gain	Time	Achievements
29.35 mi	3,914 ft	3h 13m	👍 65







Mike Jacobsonsky
Jul 17, 2022 at 10:40 AM · London, France

Climb the "Big Mountain" (think "Kings"-type) on today's stage

Distance	Elev Gain	Time	Achievements
24.41 mi	1,421 ft	2h 12m	👍 8



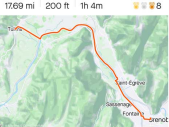



Mike Jacobsonsky
Jul 17, 2022 at 8:40 PM · Tulsa, France

I can crank into the wind again!

Returning from today's 10th stage along the Grande Brèche bike, that means I had to ride back to the top of the hill a bit. Despite times in the upper 100, I was feeling good.

Distance	Elev Gain	Time	Achievements
12.69 mi	200 ft	1h 4m	👍 8







Mike Jacobsonsky
Jul 17, 2022 at 10:00 AM · Strasbourg, France

"Best" day ride? Quality Miles

Distance	Elev Gain	Time	Achievements
32.63 mi	4,382 ft		👍 30



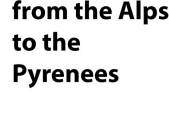



Mike Jacobsonsky
Jul 17, 2022 at 8:42 AM · London, France

Garmin said 110F, probably just 104 or so. But claims just 80% accomplished? What's it gonna take?

Finished the Cambray, an obscure climb not in the Tour since the lastest days. Why not? It's pretty weird, like a mini Alpe d'Huez, with numbered arches, just 8h, but...

Distance	Elev Gain	Time	Achievements
46.16 mi	3,504 ft	4h 0m	👍 15



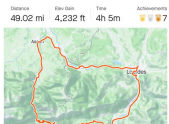



Mike Jacobsonsky
Jul 16, 2022 at 8:42 AM · London, France

Wow! The Spandeles is an AWESOME climb!

Who knew? You find obscure references to the Spandeles, and it does take a required length of the great climb. It's on top, but what's basic. And what's a view from the top! Best climb...

Distance	Elev Gain	Time	Achievements
49.02 mi	4,232 ft	4h 5m	👍 7



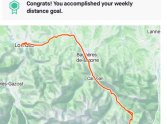



Mike Jacobsonsky
Jul 17, 2022 at 8:59 AM · London, France

Anizan, another new climb for us!

Distance	Elev Gain	Time	Achievements
62.43 mi	5,541 ft	5h 44m	👍 41

👏👏👏 You accomplished your weekly distance goal!



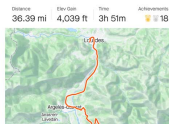


Mike Jacobsonsky
Jul 17, 2022 at 8:42 AM · London, France

Final France ride - Hautacam!

Got all the way to 220 meters to go, and got to watch the stage unfold on a gigantic TV in front of us! This was our shortest ride of the trip (Hautacam is in Lourdes back then).

Distance	Elev Gain	Time	Achievements
36.39 mi	4,039 ft	3h 51m	👍 18



9 days of riding, one travel day between the Alps & Pyrenees. Not sure why this trip went so well, despite some real difficulties getting to France (spent all day in the Munich airport thanks to a delayed United flight), and a longer-than-should-have-been travel day between the Alps & Pyrenees causing us to be stuck in Toulouse for hours. Also missed two stages of the "Tour, the first due to our extremely-late arrival in Grenoble Monday night (close to midnight instead of 2pm) and later on, when France cancelled rail service to Foix due to heat.

So a fair number of changes and hassles, plus the long transfer between the Alps & Pyrenees (we normally stay in just one place, but this year's Tour de France route was really light on mountains in the Pyrenees, so the idea of basing ourselves in just one place, and then moving on to Paris, didn't make sense.

Paris. We missed out on the final time trial and the finale in Paris. Logistically, even if we'd only done the Pyrenees, it still would have been impossible to get to the time trial and then Paris afterward. The time trial was in the middle of nowhere; it would have added another day of travel to get there, and afterward, it would have been tough to get to Paris the next day. But Paris is pretty tiring; it becomes a very very long day & evening, followed by a very early flight out the next morning.

If we weren't traveling, we were riding. Every day, without exception. By the end we were absolutely stronger than the beginning! Nothing really long, but we did get in some pretty stiff climbs. The weather was probably the hottest ever, but the humidity was pretty low. The toughest was the very first day's ride, a new climb for us, the Chamrousse. 104 degrees on the lower flanks of the mountain! But every day after seemed to get just a little bit easier.

The least-challenging ride was from Grenoble out to the Cat 2 climb out past Tulins, a town just 17 miles from Grenoble yet feeling like an entirely different country. While Grenoble is modern and people dress up and nobody's overweight and English is common, Tulins is the opposite. The crowds lining the hillsides were 100% local too, with no sign of anyone who follows the "Tour from place to place. Kind of refreshing to see. Just surprising that you could be so close to Grenoble yet feel like you were in a different country.

I'm going to work on this some more, breaking the trip down day-by-day and try to figure out exactly what made it feel like such a success, despite the best efforts of airlines and trains to try and mess things up for us.