

A *BIG* first ride

ST13a Ride to Columbier

Cycling Route

★ Saved Edit ▾

Details

📍 39.64 mi 📏 5,218 ft

🕒 3:04:56

First day's ride, from Annecy to Columbier.
40 miles. Figure two hours for main climb.
riders finish just after 5pm so need to be at
top by 2:30 or so.

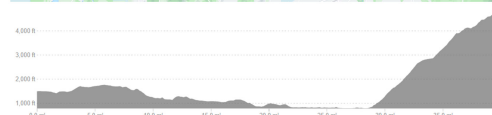
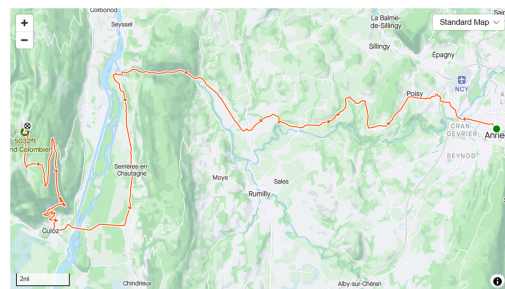
Means making it to the base town by noon,
so need to start ride by 9am.

CREATED BY

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Route and Elevation



This is what's mapped out for our ride tomorrow, Friday, Stage 14 of the Tour de France. The stage everyone's been waiting for, the first really monster, potentially decisive climb. A pretty tough one for Kevin and I to start out with, to be sure! Today and yesterday are just one big blur of sleepless travel and endless walking through airports.

The first 29 miles are pretty easy. Mild rolling stuff, no pressure to ride hard. Even if we do just 12mph average speed, we'll get to the base of the climb in less than three hours. But from Culoz it's up, up, up, and more up. We've descended this side of the mountain previously but we climbed it from the other side. None of the four ways up this beast are easy.

The caravan, that long line of vehicles tossing out trinkets to the fans... we have to make it to wherever we're going before the caravan gets there, which is 3:32pm at the top. And it's going to be pretty hot too, so while Kevin's loaded down with a ton of camera gear, I'm going to be carrying a lot of food and drinks. Which, of course, slows us down. On the other hand, being able to bring all that stuff means we can hang out pretty much all day if we have to, waiting for the race to come through.

So my thinking is we get out of the apartment in Annecy at 8am, find something to eat, and be on the road by 8:30. In all likelihood that will get us there too early, but I'm OK with that, not knowing how I'm going to be doing.

We'll be doing live updates to Facebook and eventually, hoping we get back at a reasonable hour, updating here. Cross your fingers for us!

Ah, forgot to mention the elevator here. It's so tiny, the only way I can get my bike into it is by removing the front wheel. Which means yes, we did get our Bike Friday travel bikes built up and tested along the waterfront here in Annecy. Video below-