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Is this YOUR year for a trip to the Tour de France?

Lourdes, center of Pyrenees Cycling. The brave will buy a map and go on their own. Smart people go TREKTravel!

TREKTravel presentation April 25th in Redwood City! The most-fun and no-hassle way to see the Tour de France.
I've been to the Tour de France... 10 times? 11? I've lost track. I started the 2nd time Lance won and have missed just one since (in 2008). The first two trips, I was a beta-tester for what would become TREKTravel, and the experience got me hooked.

In the years since, my brother Steve and his wife Teri have done a number of trips with TREKTravel, both domestic and overseas, and look forward to a trip with TREKTravel to Spain this coming June. But since I know the Tour de France like few others, that's what I'm going to talk about in this post.

"Being there" takes on new meaning on a moutain top at the 'Tour!If you haven't traveled outside the US before, particularly to a place where English isn't the normal language, I'd highly recommend the TREKTravel option. It's a "no worries" experience, with every detail covered including choice hotels, transportation, meals... there's not much you have to think about. They even supply bikes! And not just any bikes, but high-quality TREK Madone road bikes (or a hybrid if you prefer, and on some trips, you can even arrange for an electric-assist model).

Time trials are great opportunities to get photos of your favorites, one at a time

TREK is going to offer a variety of trips to the 2012 Tour de France, and it's not too late to book one. Yes, they do have a lot more offerings that just Tour de France trips, but since I'm kinda obsessed with France and the 'Tour, that's what I'm going to cover here.Â Leave your navigational and translation skills at home and leave everything to them.

IfÂ you want the ultimate French col (mountain) experience, you can't do better than this. 10 days riding the most-famous climbs in France.Â The Galibier,Â Alpe d'Huez, Ventoux, Tourmalet, Peyresourde and one of my favorites, the Port de Bales. In addition

you'll have some beautiful rides through the lavender fields of Provence and rolling farmlands surrounding Lourdes. July 12th-21st, with several opportunities to view the Tour de France (which won't be visiting Alpe d'Huez or Ventoux this year; you get those as bonus climbs!).

Kevin's getting a "Climber's" jersey signed by Richard Virenque, famous French cyclist, at the depart Village in Pau.

Want something more special? TREKTravel offers a VIP tour that includes access to the Village (the fenced-in pre-race departure area where you'll be able to get autographs from the racers and mingle with celebrities) and the opportunity to ride the final 50k of a stage a few hours before the race and be photographed atop the podium! I've spoken with Chain Reaction customers who have done TREKTravel VIP tours in the past and heard stories of once-in-a-lifetime behind-the-scenes experiences.

TREKTravel has a full array of options for the 2012 Tour de France. And again, they take care of everything, including amazing food & depending upon the trip, even wine tastings! You'll beÂ getting a wonderful, no-hassle vacation of a lifetime. And if a taste of France isn't your fancy this year, TREKTravel offers Napa Valley Wine Coutry, Moab, Vermont and a variety of other dream cycling vacations a bit closer to home.

We'll have an informative evening with TREKTravel people April 25th in our Redwood City location. Click on the image in the upper-left of this piece for the details. Most important things to know are that it's free and it will be fun!

Â Thanks- Â --MikeÂ & Steve Jacoubowsky