

River Rhone Cycle Route update March 2021

In France the planning of long-distance cycle routes is a national and regional government responsibility. However, the implementation of these plans by building the infrastructure is delegated to départements (counties), some of which are quicker than others in getting the job done. When the guide was written, 75 percent of the ViaRhôna route was definite and way-marked. The rest existed as proposed routings and these were used as the base route for the guide. This was particularly the case in the départements of Isère, Vaucluse and Bouches du Rhône; plus the city of Lyon. Subsequently, in a number of places the route finally chosen, built and waymarked did not correspond with the initial proposals. This update incorporates all the new sections that have been completed in the last five years and the route is now over 90 percent complete. There are still a few provisional sections where roads have to be followed, particularly along the south side of Lake Geneva in Haute Savoie and the southern exit from Lyon. These provisional routes are included here, although they may change as the final pieces are put into place.

By contrast, in Switzerland, where the definitive route was already complete, there have been only minor changes, mostly the result of road building or traffic management schemes like new motorways, roundabouts, cycle lanes or traffic lights.

Introduction, getting to the start by rail

During the coronavirus pandemic Eurostar departures have been greatly reduced and the carriage of cycles is suspended. When normal service is resumed, Eurostar have announced that they intend to increase the fares for cycles but have not announced what the new fares will be. The paragraph below describes the arrangements prior to the pandemic, which is an update to the situation given in the guide.

p24 Travelling from the UK, you can take your cycle on Eurostar from London St Pancras (not Ebbsfleet nor Ashford) to Paris (Gare du Nord). Trains run hourly throughout the day, taking less than two and a half hours to reach Paris via the Channel tunnel. Up to six cycles are carried per train, two fully-assembled plus four dismantled bikes packed in specially designed fibre-glass bike boxes provided by Eurostar. Bookings, which open six months in advance, must be made through EuroDespatch (+44 (0)344 822 5822). Prices vary from £30–£55 depending on how far ahead you book and whether your cycle is fully assembled or dismantled. Cycles must be checked in at the EuroDespatch centre beside the bus drop-off point at the back of St Pancras station, at least 60mins before departure. If you need to dismantle your bike, EuroDespatch will provide tools and packing advice. Leave yourself plenty of time for dismantling and packing. In Paris Gare du Nord, cycles are collected from Geoparts baggage office which is reached by a path L of platform 3. More information at www.eurostar.com Unfortunately the daily direct Eurostar service to Lyon, Valence and Marseille does not carry cycles.

Cycle carrying provision has been removed from the Franco-Swiss Lyria TGV trains between Paris Gare de Lyon–Geneva/Lausanne and Basle/Zurich. However there has been an increase in the number of SNCF TGV trains carrying cycles between Paris Gare de l'Est–Strasbourg from where regular trains run to Basle. You can still travel from the UK to Andermatt in a day via Paris, Strasbourg, Basle and Göschenen by leaving London early and having a cycle reservation on a lunchtime/early afternoon TGV train from Paris to Strasbourg.

p24 After arrival in Paris it is a short ride from Gare du Nord to Gare de l'Est. Go-ahead opposite Gare du Nord's main exit along Blvd de Denain, a one-way street with contra-flow cycling permitted. At the end turn L (Blvd de Magenta) then fork L at second traffic lights (Rue du 8 Mai 1945) to reach Gare de l'Est (5min).

Frequent high-speed TGV trains run from Paris Gare de l'Est to Strasbourg but only a few have bicycle spaces. Details are on SNCF (French Railways) website www.oui.sncf. Reservations (€10) are mandatory for cycles and must be purchased with your passenger ticket. Booking can be made via SNCF or Trainline www.thetrainline.com. From Strasbourg you can connect to Basle by an hourly SNCF TER regional express train (neither cycle ticket nor reservation required) then on to Göschenen for Andermatt by hourly Swiss Rail (SBB) trains. A one-day cycle pass (CHF14) is needed on Swiss trains. Although most Swiss trains do not require cycle reservations, some IC inter-city trains on the Gotthard route used by Basle to Göschenen trains, have mandatory reservations (CHF5) from 21st March to 31st October. Details at www.sbb.ch.

During the pandemic the SNCF TGV service from Paris to Strasbourg has been reduced, with only four trains/week carrying cycles (2 Friday/1 Saturday/1 Sunday).

Getting home by rail

p26 There are currently no cycle carrying TGV trains operating between Avignon Centre–Paris Gare de Lyon. It is necessary to use two TER regional express trains, one from Arles–Lyon Perrache and the other from Lyon–Paris Gare de Bercy (a 5min ride from Gare de Lyon). Although this increases the journey time by five hours, it is still possible to connect in Paris for a same-day Eurostar train to London. TER trains do not need cycle tickets nor reservations. This is a permanent change and is unlikely to change when the pandemic ends.

During the pandemic the Lyon–Paris TER service has been reduced from hourly departures to two trains per day.

Stage 1

There has been a small route change between Bitsch and Naters to use a new cycle track on a disused railway bridge over the river Massa.

p52 In **Bitsch**, pass Raff Eisenbank L and turn L, then just before railway bridge turn R on cycle track beside railway. Cross bridge over river Massa and immediately turn sharply R downhill and immediately R again under bridge to re-join original route beside point where Massa and Rhone merge.

Stage 2

*The route has been altered after **Visp** to circumvent a new motorway junction.*

p59 Follow Kreuzmattenstrasse over Rhone bridge then turn L and R under railway and motorway. Cross bridge over slip road and turn R beside motorway at T-junction of tracks. Fork L through fields to re-join original route, turning L and R past stables.

*The route has been altered between **Gampel-Steg** bridge and **Getwing** to follow the riverside cycle track rather than passing through Gampel-Bratsch and Getwing villages.*

p60 After passing under Gampel-Steg bridge and crossing river Lonza, continue ahead past campsite (*do not turn R away from river*) following riverside cycle track. Cross Tschingel stream

and pass under Getwing road bridge to eventually re-join original route, turning L over Rhone at next bridge.

p60 Go straight ahead at new roundabout between **Gampinen** and **Susten**.

*A new railway bridge on the route into **Sierre** has altered the route slightly.*

p62 At end of Rte du Bois de Finges, follow road bearing L then continue ahead on cycle track beside railway and re-join original route turning R (Ch du Monastère) over railway.

Stage 3

The route has been diverted away from Chamoson power station.

p68 Just before Chamoson hydro-electric power station, turn R away from river through orchards. Turn L at T-junction continuing beside drainage canal. Re-join original route and dogleg R and L over canal at first bridge, continuing on other side through orchards.

Routes around Lake Geneva

p77 The main route described in the guide (stages 5 & 6) passes north of Lake Geneva following Swiss cycle route R1. The route south of the lake (alternative stages 5A & 6A), which is mostly in France and used main roads, was un-numbered and un-waymarked. The French authorities have now accepted the southern route as part of EuroVèlo EV17 and are providing dedicated cycle tracks and waymarks. As this is shorter and less hilly than the northern route through Switzerland, it is now regarded as the main route for the Rhone Cycle Route.

Stage 5

*The route has changed slightly in centre of **Vevey**.*

p84 At end of Grande Place, turn R in front of Chateau de l'Aile and follow Ave Paul-Ceresole away from lake. At end bear L (Rue de Lausanne), then turn R over roundabout into Ave de Gilamont to re-join original route passing under railway bridge and ascending into **Corsier-sur-Vevey**.

*The route has changed between **Corseaux** and **St Saphorin**.*

p87 At end of **Corseaux**, continue ahead (*do not turn R beside house 16*) downhill to reach T-junction. Turn R and after 250m turn L on concrete road between vineyards. Follow this to re-join original route passing above **St Saphorin**.

Stage 6

*There have been two route changes through **Morges** and a change to the stage end in **Geneva**.*

p95 From opposite Temple de Morges church, cycle SW on pedestrianised Grande Rue, soon re-joining original route.

p95 After turning L into Ave de Riond-Bosson, turn R (Rte Ignace Paderewski) to reach T-junction and turn R (Rue du Mollau) under motorway. After 150m, turn L (Ch de Pré Dessous) past orchards. At end, turn R and immediately L (Ch de Préveyres) to re-join original route.

p105 At end of stage, continue ahead past **Geneva Cornavin** station. Go ahead over first crossroads then turn L (Rue de Chantepoulet) behind Notre-Dame church. At next crossroads turn

second R (first R is one-way street) into Rue de Cornavin. Where tram tracks bear L, continue ahead (Rue des Corps-Saints) then turn L downhill (Rue Vallin) to reach stage end at Pl de St Gervais in centre of **Geneva**.

Stage 5A

Part of the disused St Gingolph–Evian railway line, which runs parallel to the D1005 main road, has been converted into a cycle track.

p107 Where road emerges on lakeshore after passing through centre of **St Gingolph**, cross road to join cycle track L. Opposite sign showing end of St Gingolph, turn L under bridge and R on cycle track parallel with disused railway. Continue through woods then dogleg L and R over road serving Chéniaz quarry L. Continue through **Bret** (accommodation) to reach end of cycle track and turn R downhill under railway. Re-join original route by turning L onto D1005 main road through **Locum**.

The route has been changed between Evian and Amphion-les-Bains to avoid the D1005 main road.

p111 After leaving Evian on Ave Général Dupas, fork L at roundabout (Rte de Bissinges, D11, second exit, sp Publier) uphill. Cross railway bridge and continue uphill into Ave des Rives du Léman. Pass house 44 L, then turn second R (Rue de la Flogère, sp Amphion) winding downhill. Cross railway and continue downhill into Rue de la Gare, becoming Rue de la Source. Turn R (Rue du Clos Fleuri) at T-junction, then go ahead over main road into Rue du Port in **Amphion-les-Bains** (accommodation, refreshments, camping, tourist office).

Where road reaches lake shore, turn sharply L (Rue de la Garenne). Go ahead over crossroads (Rte de Vieux Mottay) using cycle lane R and follow this ahead onto main road. Pass car park for Cite de l'Eau centre R, then fork L (Rue des Huttins) (camping) to reach T-junction and turn L (Rue de la Plaine). Turn R at triangular junction (Rue de Gennevilles) then L at roundabout (Rue de Cartheray, third exit, sp Thonon). At next roundabout take second exit (Rue des Vignes Rouges, sp with Evian Water logo) parallel to D1005 and continue ahead with railway L over another roundabout to re-join original route passing entrance to **Evian water bottling plant**.

Stage 6A

There has been a small change of route leaving Thonon-les-Bains.

p114 After forking R onto Ch des Clerges, turn L opposite house 23 (Ch du Gaz) steeply uphill. Follow this bearing L and turn sharply R (Ave General Leclerc) continuing uphill. Cross road at T-junction junction and turn R on cycle track parallel to road (Ave de Corzent) to re-join original route.

The route has changed between Bonnatrait–La Sciez to avoid main roads.

p117 In **Bonnatrait**, turn L beside building 611 (Rte de Perrignier, D35, sp Perrignier). Turn R (Rte d'Excuvilly) first uphill then downhill to T-junction. Turn L (Rte des Sénateurs), then pass house 98 and turn uphill steeply (Rte du Crêt Beule). Continue into Ave de l'Église and turn R immediately after church (Ch de la Rouette). Continue downhill past cemetery L and fork L to reach T-junction. Turn R and immediately L, then join cycle track R and go ahead over roundabout (second exit, sp Excenevex) in **Sciez**. Go ahead again at second roundabout, (Rte des Grands Crêts, D25, second exit, sp Excenevex) to re-join original route through fields to La Fattaz.

*The route has changed slightly through **Hermance**.*

p120 Pass through **Hermance** and turn L beside building 546 (Rue de l'Église). Turn R at T-junction (Rue du Bourg-Dessus) past church R and continue uphill on Rue du Crêt-de-la-Tour with tower of old castle L, re-joining original route.

*The route has changed in the centre of **Geneva**.*

p120 Do not bear R through Jardin Anglais. Rather continue ahead to reach T-junction then bear R on cycle track beside Quai du Général-Guisan with Jardin Anglais park R. Where main road bears R, turn L across road and R on other side to continue on Quai du Général-Guisan, which soon becomes one-way with contra-flow cycle lane R. At PI du Rhône, turn R on Pont des Bergues) bridge across Rhone, passing Ile Rousseau R. Turn L (Quai des Bergues) and continue beside river to end of stage at PI de St Gervais in centre of **Geneva**.

Stage 7

p122 Stage now starts from PI de St Gervais by following Quai Turretini W alongside Rhone.

Stage 9

*A completely new route has been waymarked between **Groslée** and **Sault-Brénaz**. This moves away from the river through the town of **Morestel** and adds 13.5km to the stage distance. If you do not want to cycle this extra distance, it is still possible to follow the original route through **Creys**.*

p143–146 Pass under **Le Port de Groslée** bridge, then after 100m fork R away from river. Turn R at T-junction then R again (D198) over bridge across Rhone into Isère département. Immediately after bridge turn sharply R onto cycle track. Follow this bearing L through barrier and continue beside river. Turn L at first junction then R at T-junction in **Tours** (camping). Turn R and follow winding road through open country. At second bend, where road bears R, continue ahead on cycle track through fields. Turn L at T-junction on quiet road winding through fields and woods. After 1km, turn R over small stream and through barrier onto cycle track and continue to T-junction. Turn L (D60), to reach entrance to Château de Brangues L (21.5km, 218m) [*The ancient Château de Brangues was bought in 1927 by writer, poet and former diplomat Paul Claudel (1868–1955) who is buried in the surrounding park. It is still owned by his descendants*].

To visit **Brangues** (refreshments) continue ahead for 500m, otherwise turn R and pass through small hamlet then turn R on cycle track between fields. Turn R at T-junction, then where asphalt ends turn sharply L on cycle track. Cross small stream and bear R to road junction. Turn L, then join cycle track R and follow this bearing R beside main road. Turn R at crossroads (Ave Paul Claudel, sp Lycée) then L just after sign for Morestel on cycle track beside school. Emerge beside main road and bear R on cycle track to reach roundabout in **Morestel** (27km, 211m)

(accommodation, refreshments, camping, tourist office, cycle shop).

*Although **Morestel** (pop 4500) is nowadays a commuter town for Lyon, at its heart is an old medieval walled settlement that grew up around a 13th-century castle. perched on a rocky outcrop. This was destroyed during the 16th-century religious wars with only the central keep and dungeon remaining. The dungeon has been restored and is now an exhibition space and art gallery. Other sights include St Symphorien church with a gothic tower that dominates the skyline and Maison Ravier, the former home of French landscape artist François-Auguste Ravier (1814–1895).*

Just before roundabout, cross road to L and follow cycle track 'wrong-way' around roundabout. Continue ahead (D1075, third exit, sp Bourg en Bresse) using cycle track L and follow this ahead over two more roundabouts. Where cycle track ends, fork L (Ch de la Plaine de Crévières) ascending gently through fields. Bear L at second crossing of tracks. Where cycle track ends, go ahead over crossroads (Rte de la Plaine) and after 80m, fork L (Ch de la Massotière) through **Crévières** (31km, 243m) ([accommodation](#)).

Go ahead over crossroads then bear R at T-junction (Ch du Bron) and fork second L (Ch du Vert). Turn L at T-junction (Rte de Chassins) and after 200m, turn R on cycle track winding downhill through woods. Pass limestone quarry L then turn R (Ch de l'Épaul) at T-junction. Cross river Save and go ahead over crossroads in L'Épaul hamlet ([refreshments](#)). Emerge on quiet road then turn immediately R on cycle track along former railway trackbed. Pass Petit Etang lake L and go under road bridge at site of old **Arandon** station.

Emerge on road (Rue des Cités) and continue ahead between derelict aluminium smelter R and series of small lakes L. Where road bears R, fork L into forest on cycle track along old railway. Emerge on road (Rue du Devin) and turn R then bear L under limestone conveyor. *[For next 6km, the old railway trackbed is occupied by a covered conveyor belt taking limestone from local quarries to Vicat cement works near Montalieu-Vercieu].* Where trees end, turn R on cycle track through fields. At junction of cycle tracks, fork R into forest and continue on winding cycle track. After end of trees, continue through fields for 200m then turn L towards another wood and continue winding beside forest with fields L and forest R. Cross conveyor and turn immediately R beside conveyor R. At crossroads, dogleg R and L across conveyor to continue now with conveyor L. Opposite farm, turn R away from conveyor, then after 200m turn L through fields. Dogleg L and R over conveyor and continue on cycle track winding through fields. At next crossroads, dogleg R and L across conveyor and continue beside conveyor L. At next road crossing, turn R and follow road (Montée de Quirieu) to beginning of **Quirieu** (44km, 236m).

Turn sharply L (Ch de St Roch) and follow cycle track through fields, Cross conveyor for last time then bear L, passing large circular cement silos R, to reach T-junction. Turn R on cycle track R of road, then continue across two crossroads at entrance to Vicat cement works (46km, 219m). *[Louis Vicat discovered the properties of artificial cement in 1836 and the company he founded has grown to be one of the largest cement companies in the world].*

Turn L away from factory opposite works entrance on cycle track and follow this bearing R to reach road. Turn R then L (Rue du Stade) at mini-roundabout. Go ahead over next roundabout and follow cycle track to reach main road (D52). Turn L, using cycle track R, and follow this forking R away from road. After 300m, turn R through fields and follow cycle track bearing L to reach T-junction. Turn L beside river Furon R, then turn sharply R onto bridge over river and continue to T-junction. Turn R (Rue du Rhône). After 250m, follow cycle track R away from road winding alongside Le Gauchon lagoon R. Emerge on road and follow this bearing L beside Rhone R. Where road ends at turning circle, continue ahead on cycle track winding through Vallée Bleue leisure park in **Montalieu-Vercieu** (50km, 205m) ([accommodation](#), [refreshments](#), [camping](#), [tourist office](#), [cycle shop](#)).

After leisure park, pass marina R, and continue beside river to reach Porcieu-Amblagnieu hydro-electric dam. *[The narrow-gauge railway beside cycle track L is 3.5km long Haut Rhône preserved railway from La Vallée Bleue to Porcieu-Amblagnieu dam. Trains run on Sundays and*

holidays only] Turn R over dam onto **Ile de la Serre** and R again between dam R and disused lock L.

*On the **Ile de la Serre** is the Espace Eau Vive, a water park with facilities and courses for canoeing, kayaking and white-water rafting. The old lock on the island, which allowed boats to pass Villebois dam, is no longer operable and has been replaced with a portage ramp.*

Cross portage ramp and pass Espace Eau Vive water park L, then bear L across Villebois dam over main stream of Rhone. Turn L to re-join original route on Rhone's right bank and reach **Sault-Brénaz** bridge (57.5km, 200m).

Stage 10

There have been five small route changes, mostly to replace busy roads with quieter ones.

*p149 The route has changed between **Lagnieu–La-Balme-les-Grottes**.*

From roundabout below **Lagnieu**, follow road (D1075) S over Rhone bridge. At road junction, fork R (D65) and after 1km fork R on quiet road past farms. Where road ends, continue ahead on track to emerge on Rte de Port Michaud in **La-Balme-les-Grottes** (4km, 212m), re-joining original route.

*p151 The route has changed between **Moulin d'Avaux–Hières-sur-Amby**.*

From Ch du Port de la Bruine, turn R (Rte de Marignieu) at next T-junction and R again (Ch des Moines) past campsite L. Continue to T-junction on edge of **Moulin d'Avaux** and turn L (Rte des Usines, D52A). Follow road into **Hières-sur-Amby** and turn R uphill (Montée de la Cure, D65E), re-joining original route.

*p152 The route has changed between **Château de Cingle–Le Peillard**.*

After passing old St Martin's church ruins L, go straight ahead (D65B) over roundabout using cycle track R. After 150m, fork R on gravel track between fields. At end, turn R (Ch de Passieu) on track parallel with Rhone. Pass aggregates pit L and turn R at T-junction (Ch de Peillard) re-joining original route through Le Peillard hamlet.

*p152 The route has changed between **Pommier–Jons**.*

After turning R at T-junction in hamlet of Pommier, go ahead at roundabout (Ch des Meules) into **Jons**. Pass town hall L and join cycle track R of road. Follow this bearing R at T-junction to re-join original route downhill to Jonage canal towpath.

*p158 The stage end has changed as the route now passes through **Lyon** on the E bank.*

Follow riverside cycle track under six bridges, passing white façade of black domed Grand Hôtel-Dieu, which occupies whole riverfront on opposite bank between sixth and seventh bridges, to reach stage end under Pont de la Guillotière bridge in **Lyon**. [*To visit city centre, cross bridge and continue ahead to Place Bellecour*].

Stage 11

*p161 The start point has changed as the route now passes through **Lyon** on the E bank.*

From below Pont de la Guillotière bridge in **Lyon**, follow riverside cycle track SW beside Rhone R past swimming pool complex with four white towers. L. Pass under two road bridges and

Perrache railway bridge then continue under two more bridges. After 75m, turn sharply L back up towards bridge approach and turn L on modern Pont Raymond Barre tram and cycle bridge over Rhone. On opposite bank, pass ultra-modern building of **Musée des Confluences** L and go ahead under motorway bridge. Turn L beside motorway, using cycle lane R, and continue on Pont de la Mulatière bridge over river Saône. At complicated road junction, fork half-L past mini-roundabout (sp Quai Pierre Semard) to re-join original route and continue past Aquarium de Lyon R.

*p163 The route crosses to the E bank between **Vernaison–Givors**.*

At second roundabout in **Vernaison**, with St Denis parish church R, turn L (Rue du Pont, D36, second exit, sp Solaize). Go ahead over railway crossing and Pont de Vernaison suspension bridge over Rhone onto wooded Île de Sénozan. Continue over Rhone canal on Pont de Solaize bridge and turn sharply L at roundabout (first exit). After 50m, fork R onto cycle track and follow this bearing L beside canal for 3.5km. Emerge on road then bear L over motorway bridge. Go ahead over main road onto Rue de la Gare and pass under railway bridge, then zig-zag R and L uphill to reach roundabout in **Ternay**.

Turn R (first exit), then after 100m fork R onto side road (Ch du Port). Where this ends, continue ahead on cycle track. Emerge on road (Montée de la Monnaie) and bear R to reach roundabout. Go ahead (first exit), then turn R (Rte de Gravignan) over railway bridge. Turn L at T-junction (Rue du 27 Juillet 1944) and follow this winding to T-junction. Go ahead onto cycle track beside house 63 and follow this bearing L beside Rhone. Pass under two bridges, then immediately after third bridge bear L away from river and turn L on Pont du Chasse 19th-century suspension bridge over river. On opposite bank, turn L on Quai Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, re-joining original route.

*p166 The route has changed to pass through the centre of **Loire-sur-Rhône**.*

From Ave Anatole France) turn R (Rue Gabriel Péri, sp église du XIIème) at traffic lights. Cross over railway bridge and fork L (Rue Renée Peillon). Continue to mini-roundabout and turn half-L (Rue 8 Mai 1945, third exit). Turn R at T-junction (still Rue 8 Mai 1945), then go ahead over crossroads into Rue du Centre. Turn R at roundabout (Rue Edmond Cinquin, first exit) in **Loire-sur-Rhône** (28km, 167m) ([refreshments](#)).

Pass modern town hall and turn L at T-junction (Rue Étienne Flachy, sp Vienne). Go ahead over two crossroads and pass under railway bridge. Bear R past sports club R and keep R on cycle track (do not turn L under road bridge). Bear R, re-joining original route on cycle track bearing R past roundabout and alongside Rue de Provence.

Stage 13

*p178 Where route reaches approach road to **Arras dam**, do not turn L and R, rather go straight across and continue on cycle track beside railway.*

*p179 Where route reaches large tree-lined square in **Tournon-sur-Rhône**, turn L and follow marked cycle track clock-wise around square to reach riverside then bear R to reach stage end at suspension bridge.*

Stage 14

*p183 The route has changed between **Glun–La Roche-de-Glun**.*

After passing church in **Glun** and bearing L on cycle track beside drainage ditch, fork L at path junction and zig-zag L and R onto flood dyke. Where cycle track ends, continue ahead on road across **Glun dam**. At roundabout after dam, turn L (Quai des Marettes, third exit, sp Plan d'Eau). Go ahead over roundabout then fork L onto track along flood dyke. Follow this bearing R around outside of **La-Roche-de-Glun**. Pass under road bridge then turn immediately R and sharply R again (Ave du Vercours) to re-join original route crossing bridge over Rhône canalisé.

*p183 The route has been diverted to by-pass **Bourg-lès-Valence** lock and dam.*

A new cycle track has been built which winds through scrubland before crossing dam approach road and re-joining original route along towpath 100m S of lock entrance.

Stage 16

*p194 The ford across river **Peyré** has been replaced by a cyclist's suspension bridge on L.*

*p197 Dedicated cycle tracks before and after **Baix** have replaced 4.5km of main road cycling. Before **Baix**, when D86 main road is reached, use cycle track L to reach village.*

At end of **Baix**, after passing red flood marker on wall R, *do not turn R on Ch des Pêcheurs*, rather continue on asphalt cycle track (sp Stade de Foot) out of village through allotments and vineyards. Turn R under railway, then L to continue on other side. Dogleg L and R back under railway and follow cycle track for 2.5km. Turn L at T-junction onto road, re-joining original route.

Stage 17

*p201 The route by-passes **Viviers** on a new riverside cycle track.*

Immediately after crossing Châteauneuf-du-Rhône bridge, turn R then R again on cycle track under bridge and along riverside. After 1km follow this R away from river and turn L at T-junction of tracks to re-join original route with limestone cliffs rising R.

*p207 The route follows the E bank past Pont-St Esprit and the stage now ends at **Le Bout-du-Pont** on the opposite side of the Rhone from the town.*

Stage 18

*Apart from a small section just before **Caderousse**, this stage has been re-routed completely with a waymarked route that now stays entirely on the E bank, visiting the wine-producing town of **Châteauneuf-du-Pape** on the way. The new route is 13.5km longer than the original route.*

p208–215 New description for the whole stage.

Follow road (D994) W through **Le Bout-du-Pont** and fork R towards Rhone after end of built-up area. Turn sharply L under bridge with flood meadows R then fork R before farm to pass under second road bridge. After 250m, turn L through fields then cross flood dyke and turn R at crossing of tracks. Continue to reach flood dyke and bear L beside dyke. After next bend, fork L away from dyke on quiet road winding through fields. Pass under TGV high speed railway and go ahead over crossroads. Turn L to reach road (D44) and R on bridge over Canal de Donzère–Mondragon. [Opened in 1952 as part of the Donzère dam hydro-electric scheme, the Donzère–Mondragon canal is the Rhone's main navigable channel] Follow main road bearing R then fork R (sp Mornas)

to by-pass **Mondragon** (5.5km, 42m). [*To visit Mondragon ([accommodation](#), [refreshments](#)) follow main road forking L over motorway*]

Turn L at crossroads then bear R beside A7 motorway. Turn L over river Lez, then R to continue beside motorway. Bear R away from motorway then turn L at crossroads to return to motorway. Bear R and follow motorway for 2.5km. Bear R away from motorway again then turn L (Ch du Moulas) at T-junction. Fork R (Ch des Pièces) before motorway and continue to T-junction in **Mornas** (11km, 35m) ([accommodation](#), [refreshments](#)).

Turn R (still Ch des Pièces) then L at crossroads (Ch du Paty). Go ahead over next crossroads and continue through fields and vineyards to reach triangular junction with tree in middle of road. Fork L (Ch du Moulin) and continue to T-junction. Turn R (Ch du Petit Frigoulet) then fork R and pass under railway bridge. Go ahead over crossroads, then fork R on cycle track winding past lake in old aggregates quarry R to reach Rhone (17km, 37m). Turn L beside river and follow cycle track for 5km, eventually following river Aygues away from Rhone bank. Emerge beside road and continue to T-junction beside Caderousse dam. Turn L over Aygues and pass La Piboulette L. Cross main road at T-junction and turn R on cycle track into woods. Follow this parallel with road past Cite des Islons to reach edge of **Caderousse** (27km, 29m) ([accommodation](#), [refreshments](#)) where cycle track ends. [*A sign board at the beginning of Caderousse includes the Provençale dialect spelling 'Cadaroussou'*]

Turn L (Ave Emmanuel Vitria) beside city wall R and follow this bearing R at mini-roundabout to reach N gate (Porte Castellan) and turn R through wall. Turn immediately R again (Cours Guy Môquet) and follow this along course of old moat between inner and outer walls. Continue around city to reach E gate (Porte Léon Roche) and turn R through walls. Go ahead over roundabout (second exit, D17, sp Orange) and after 100m, fork R (Rte de la Lusignane). At next junction, fork L (sp Châteauneuf-du-Pape) and continue through open country passing under railway bridge. Pass La Lusignane cultural centre L then continue over river Meyne and A9 motorway to T-junction. Turn L (D976) using cycle lane R, then fork L (Ch de la Gironde Ouest, sp Centre de Boisfeuillet) (32km, 33m) [*To visit Orange ([accommodation](#), [refreshments](#), [tourist office](#), [cycle shop](#), [station](#)) continue ahead on D976 for 3km*]

Go ahead over first crossroads then turn R at second (Rte du Grès) and pass Institut Rhodanien R. [*Institut Rhodanien is a vine research and development centre with an adjoining viticultural college*] Go ahead (Ch de Maucoil, sp Château Mont Redon) over crossroads in **Grès** ([accommodation](#)) and begin ascending through vineyards. Fork R at triangular junction with tractor monument in centre and continue winding uphill to Château Mont-Redon (36km, 104m). [*Château Mont-Redon (established 1334) is one of the oldest wine producing estates in France and with 100 acres of vines is the largest wine property in the Châteauneuf du Pape appellation*] Fork R downhill, winding through vineyards past Château de la Gardine L, to reach T-junction. Turn L (D17) and after 125m, turn R downhill (sp Camping Islon St Luc). At bottom of hill, turn sharply first L and follow Ch des Garrigues ahead over mini-roundabout to reach second roundabout on edge of **Châteauneuf-du-Pape** (41km, 52m). ([accommodation](#), [refreshments](#), [camping](#), [tourist office](#)). [*To reach town centre, turn L uphill (third exit) at roundabout*].

Châteauneuf-du-Pape (pop 2200) is one of the leading wine producing towns in Southern France. Viticulture started during the great schism (1305–1417) when the papacy moved from Rome to Avignon. Pope John XXII built a castle on a hillside N of Avignon as a summer

palace and encouraged wine makers from Cahors to plant vineyards on neighbouring plots. The village that developed around this castle became known as Châteauneuf du Pape (translation; 'new castle of the Pope') and the wines grown here became 'Vin du Pape'. Prior to 1870 when phylloxera destroyed the vines, the wine was of only modest quality and was mostly shipped to Burgundy to boost the strength of Burgundian wine. Post-phylloxera, newer varieties were planted which enhanced wine quality. When poorer wines started to be passed-off as Châteauneuf du Pape, the local producers drew-up in 1923 the first appellation contrôlée rules in France. These defined which grape varieties could be used, limited the type of terroir (land) which could be planted, controlled the yield per acre and set minimum alcohol levels. There are three different terroirs, the most distinctive being an area of 'galets roulés' where round quartzite pebbles cover underlying clay soil. These heat up during the day and release this heat at night, ripening the grapes faster while at the same time helping retain moisture in the soil. Wine can be red or white, though 95% of production is red. The main grape varietal used is Grenache blended with smaller amounts of Syrah and Mourvèdre plus very small amounts of up to twelve other varieties. The resulting wine is a full-bodied red wine that matures well with age.

Go ahead (Ch du Bois de la Ville) downhill through vineyards and follow road bearing L to mini-roundabout. Go ahead (Ch de Boursan) past gendarmerie police barracks L and continue to T-junction. Turn R and immediately R again (Ch des Plagnes) past St Pierre chapel L. Continue through vineyards and keep R at fork (Ch de la Lionne) parallel to old Rhone backwater behind trees R. Dogleg past derelict suspension bridge R and follow road bearing L to mini-roundabout. Go ahead (Ch Île d'Oiselay, second exit), then pass under motorway to reach mini-roundabout. Turn R (Pont de l'Ouvèze, first exit) over river Ouvèze and continue ahead (Ave d'Orange). Bear L at mini-roundabout (Rue du Pontillac, sp Théâtre) to reach Place de la République in centre of **Sorgues** (48.5km, 23m) ([accommodation](#), [refreshments](#), [camping](#), [station](#)).

Continue into Cours de la République and turn R to roundabout. Go ahead L (third exit) and turn immediately L (D6, sp Vedène) through Place Charles de Gaulle past town hall behind car park R. Go ahead over next roundabout (Ave Achille Maureau, second exit) and continue under railway bridge. Go ahead over next roundabout (Ave Pablo Picasso) then turn R at larger roundabout (Ch de Brantes, sp Poinsard), using cycle lane R. Follow this through industrial area, then just before road rises to cross railway bridge, turn L (Ch des Granges). Follow road ahead for 3km, with railway line R, then bear L beside motorway. Dog-leg R and L across slip-road then turn R over motorway bridge to reach roundabout. Turn L (third exit, sp Le Pontet centre), then at next roundabout, bear R (first exit, sp Centre ville) using cycle lane R. Pass prison R and continue ahead over next roundabout (Ave Gustave Goutarel) into Avignon suburb of **Le Pontet** (55km, 23m) ([accommodation](#), [refreshments](#), [camping](#), [cycle shop](#)).

Turn second L (Rue Lavoisier) opposite house 60 to reach T-junction and turn R (Ave Guillaume de Fargis). Bear R at next T-junction, continuing to wind through residential area, then pass Château de Fargues L and go ahead over main road into Ave Émile Zola. Immediately before next roundabout, cross road to L and turn L on cycle track beside Rue Gustave Courbet. Go ahead over crossroads (Ave François de Chateaubriand) now using cycle lane R and continue to T-junction. Dogleg L and R across N100 main road into Rue Claude Chabrol. Opposite first pedestrian crossing, turn R on wooden boardwalk over small stream and continue on cycle track beside

stream L. Go ahead over crossroads, continuing behind houses R, then dogleg L over stream and R on tree-lined avenue beside childrens' playground in Parc Chico Mendes. Turn R beside Rue Georges Braque, then L across road and follow cycle track between houses L and shopping centre R in Avignon suburb of **Quartier Est**.

Cross main road then turn R on cycle track beside road and follow this bearing L past roundabout beside Ave de la Folie. At second roundabout, continue ahead over first exit to join Ch des Canaux cycle track and follow this bearing L away from road. Dogleg L and R over drainage canal then bear L under motorway. Go ahead over crossroads, still following drainage canal, then dogleg R and L over staggered crossroads, into Ave de St Jean. Pas under two railway bridges and emerge beside Blvd Limbert. [*Bldv Limbert is part of a ring of boulevards that circle the outside of Avignon city walls*] Turn L and immediately R across road at first crossing, then bear L on cycle track through gardens between road L and Avignon city walls R. Follow this ahead over two crossroads, then turn R through walls at third crossroads and L (Ave de 7eme Génie) to continue beside walls now inside city. At next crossroads turn R (Cours Jean Jaurès, sp Place de l'Horloge) away from walls and continue ahead past tourist office R to reach Place de l'Horloge in centre of **Avignon** (62.5km, 24m) ([accommodation](#), [refreshments](#), [camping](#), [tourist office](#), [cycle shop](#), [station](#)).

Stage 19

*Apart from short stretches through **Les Angles**, **Beaucaire** and **Fourques**, this stage has been completely re-routed. The new waymarked route is 12.5km longer than the original route.*

p217–224 New description for the whole stage.

From S end of Place d'Horloge in **Avignon**, cycle W on Rue St Agricole. Turn second R (Rue de la Petite Fusterie then turn L at end (Rue St Étienne) to reach Avignon city walls. Turn L beside wall (Rue du Rempart du Rhône) then R through wall at Porte de l'Oulle gate. Turn immediately R beside wall then follow green surfaced cycle track bearing L across Blvd du Rhône. Continue ahead (D900) on Pont Édouard Daladier and Pont du Royaume bridges over two Rhone channels into **Villeneuve-lès-Avignon** ([accommodation](#), [refreshments](#), [tourist office](#), [camping](#)). At end of bridge, follow cycle track bearing slightly R and turn immediately L back to main road using crossing. Just before railway bridge, turn L (Rte d'Aramon, becoming Rue du Chêne Vert). Go ahead at roundabout and pass under railway bridge. Turn L at crossroads (Blvd du Midi) and continue out of built-up area. At crossroads by major highway, turn R away from highway (still Boulevard du Midi) and continue through edge of **Les Angles** (4km, 25m) ([accommodation](#)).

Bear L on treelined Ch Louis Montagne with limestone cliffs rising R and continue under motorway. Road now winds along beside forested hillside R, becoming Ch de la Tuilerie. Pass under two high viaducts that carry branches of the TGV railway line over the Rhone and a small stone bridge that carries the old railway. Go ahead over main road, then turn R on cycle track beside Rhone flood dyke L. Follow this for 6km then emerge on main road just before Aramon bridge. [*Sanofi chemical works on opposite side of railway produces pharmaceuticals from plant and vegetable extracts*]

Cross road using crossing then take second exit at roundabout going through barriers onto cycle track. Where this ends, turn R using cycle track L to reach roundabout at beginning of Aramon.

Turn L (Lotissement les Sarments) and follow this bearing R beside railway. Just before this reaches road, turn R on track parallel with road past sports club. Turn R on road to reach roundabout and go ahead (second exit, sp Centre Historique) through gateway into **Aramon** (15.5km, 15m) ([accommodation](#), [refreshments](#), [tourist office](#)).

Continue ahead (Blvd Gambetta) through narrow streets of old town and turn L at end (Ave de la Liberation). At second cross roads, fork R after house 24, then fork L (Ch du Mas Neuf) by wayside cross R. Pass through flood dyke and continue into open country. Go under railway bridge to reach T-junction (20km, 10m). [*To visit **Théziers** ([accommodation](#)) turn R at T-junction*]

Turn L and continue under another railway bridge and over crossroads. After 3km, turn R through vineyards and pass under railway for third time. Immediately after bridge, turn L beside railway. Follow quiet road bearing R away from railway to reach junction and fork L through trees. Bear L past boules piste R to reach T-junction on edge of **Montfrin** (26km, 12m). [*To visit **Montfrin** ([accommodation](#), [refreshments](#)) turn R at T-junction and go ahead over roundabout*]

Turn L and follow road over river Gardon. Immediately after bridge, bear L (D264, sp Beaucaire) in Faubourg du Pont to reach roundabout. Go ahead (D763, second exit, sp Jonquières) and after 600m turn L onto Voie Verte du Pont-du-Guard cycle track along former railway trackbed. Dogleg L and R under TGV railway bridge and continue past old station in **Comps** (30km, 19m).

Pass through short (200m) tunnel under Mont Aiguille to reach end of cycle track on outskirts of Beaucaire. Turn L to roundabout and go ahead (Ch de Marguilliers, second exit, sp Champ de Foire). Follow this to crossroads just before carpark for Roman arena and turn L beside arena R. Turn R at T-junction and continue beside Rhone L. Where road forks, keep L beside river, passing below Beaucaire castle above R. Pass casino R and turn second R across casino carpark and through gateway in city walls. Turn immediately L (Rue Danton) with city wall L and continue into Rue Frederic Mistral. After building 1, fork R (Sq Eysette). At end turn R (Quai Général de Gaulle) along N side of canal du Rhône à Sète basin in middle of **Beaucaire** (37.5km, 5m) ([accommodation](#), [refreshments](#), [tourist office](#), [station](#)). [*The road around the canal basin is a large one-way system making it necessary to cycle round the north and west sides*].

At end of basin, fork L up ramp beside steps and turn L at top across canal bridge. At next roundabout, S of canal basin, go straight ahead (first exit, sp Fourques) then keep R at fork (Ave de la Plaine) and go ahead at crossroads under railway bridge. Continue out of town on Rte de Fourques. Turn R beside 14th century gothic-arch covered cross L then continue over irrigation canal and fork L (Ch de Beauvoir). Pass under road bridge and continue winding through fields and vineyards to T-junction beside **La Vieux Mas** (45.5km, 3m) [*La Vieux Mas is a petting farm and traditional farming museum*]

Dogleg R and L to continue on Ch de Beauvoir. Turn R at T-junction (Ch du Mas de Forton) and L (Ch de la Cabanette) winding through fields. Turn L at T-junction (Ch de Saujan) then first R. Turn R at next T-junction (Ch du Mas Maillan) and first L, then cross canal Philippe Lamour. After 100m, turn R and continue to T-junction. Turn L, then keep R (Ch St Paul) at next fork. Pass under road bridge and through flood dyke to emerge on main road. Turn R, then go ahead at roundabout to reach **Fourques** (54km, 6m).

Pass carpark L and where road ahead becomes one-way, turn L beside carpark past old well and immediately R (Rue des Arènes). Follow this bearing L then turn R (Rue des Écoles) past church L.

At end, turn R and continue to reach main road. Turn R (Ave de Vieux Pont, D15A) using cycle lane R, then cross old suspension bridge over Petit Rhone.

Continue ahead (Ave Edouard Herriot) for 125m then turn sharply R in front of house 67, back along roadside cycle track and dropping down to lower level. This sharp R turn is easy to miss Follow cycle track, turning L and L again (Rue Robert Martin), following cycle track across road to R. Pass school entrance R, then dogleg L and R under railway bridge and continue ahead (Ch de Dragées). Go ahead L (Rue Bracke Desrousseau) over staggered crossroads to reach T-junction. Turn L and immediately fork R (Ch de St Genest). At end, turn R and R again (Rue Jean Mattieu Artaud) then at end follow cycle track bearing L onto bridge over Rhone. On other side of river, descend ramp beside L of bridge to reach stage end at junction with Blvd Georges Clemenceau in **Arles** (57.5km, 8m) ([accommodation](#), [refreshments](#), [youth hostel](#), [tourist office](#), [cycle shop](#), [station](#)). [*To reach city centre, turn L on Blvd Clemenceau*]

Stage 20

*There are two small changes; to the beginning of the stage through **Arles** and the end of the stage into **Port-St Louis-du Rhône**.*

*p226 The revised route by-passes the centre of **Arles** and starts where stage 19 ends in the suburb of La Roquette, SW of the city centre.*

From Blvd Georges Clemenceau in **Arles**, follow cycle track S beside ruins of Carmes Déchaussés church L and continue past carpark R. Bear R over motorway and cross bridge over Arles–Fos canal. Immediately after bridge, turn L on cycle track downhill then continue between canal L and Rue Jean Charcot R. Pass under railway bridge and fork L (sp Pont van Gogh), beside canal to re-join original route.

*p229–231 The route has changed between **Barcarin lock–Port-St Louis-du Rhône** to avoid D35 main road.*

After passing final wind turbine, go ahead L at junction and fork R to join road (D35) over canal with **Barcarin lock** L. Immediately after bridge, fork L on cycle track that curves L then R to pass under road. Continue ahead, with road L and canal R, to reach Barcarin ferry.

Bear L beside ferry ramp and follow cycle track beside flood dyke R to reach beginning of **Port-St Louis-du-Rhône**. Go ahead over crossing of tracks to re-join original route following flood dyke with houses L.