

**ViaRhôna**  
DU LÉMAN À LA MÉDITERRANÉE

**VIARHÔNA,  
A CYCLING ROUTE  
ALONG  
THE RHÔNE RIVER**



**PRESS FILE 2025**

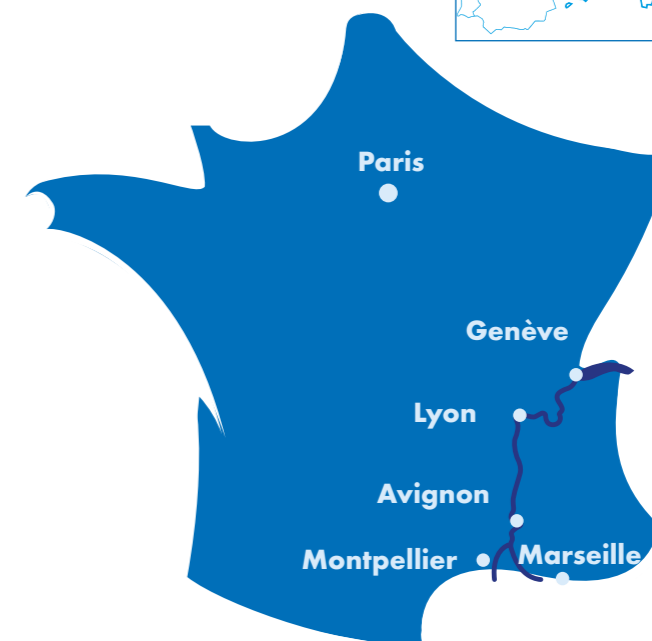
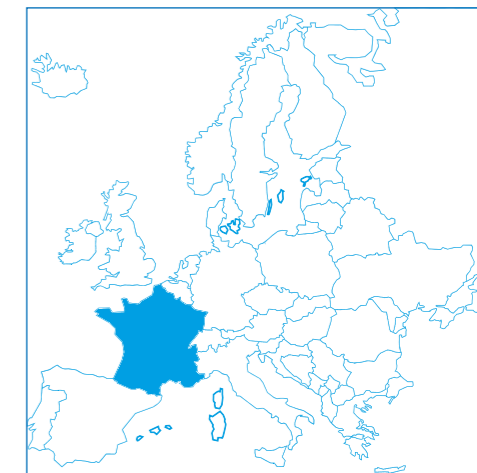


**ViaRhôna is a unique European cycle route, 815km in length, sticking close to the banks of the mighty Rhône from the Franco-Swiss frontier down to the Mediterranean.**

Beyond the cycling adventure itself, ViaRhôna offers you a wonderful opportunity to explore the many riches of the very varied areas it crosses at your own pace.

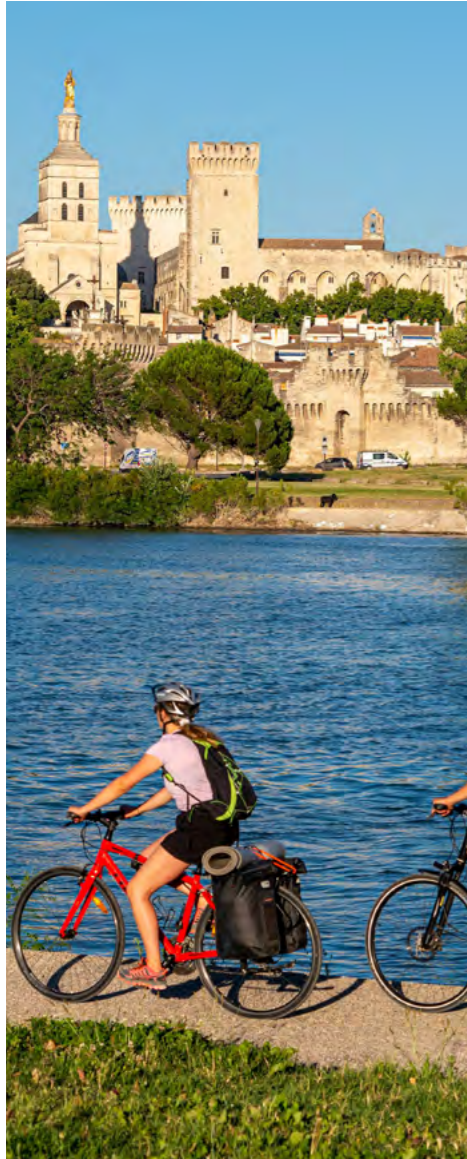
Gastronomy, oenology, culture, heritage and nature will be your main companions along the way for those of you open to discoveries.

**Cycle the mighty course of history along the Rhône!**



- **815 KM**  
from Geneva Lake to the Mediterranean Sea
- **65%**  
close to the Rhône  
**60%** on greenways and **40%** on shared paths
- **FLAT ROUTE**  
(3% max slope) except for the first 120 km
- More than **30 TRAIN STATIONS**  
along the way





### 3 REGIONS CROSSED

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Occitanie and Région Sud - Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

### 12 COUNTRIES

Haute-Savoie, Savoie, Ain, Rhône, Isère, Loire, Drôme, Ardèche, Vaucluse, Bouches-du-Rhône, Gard, Hérault.

### 3 REGIONAL NATURAL SITES

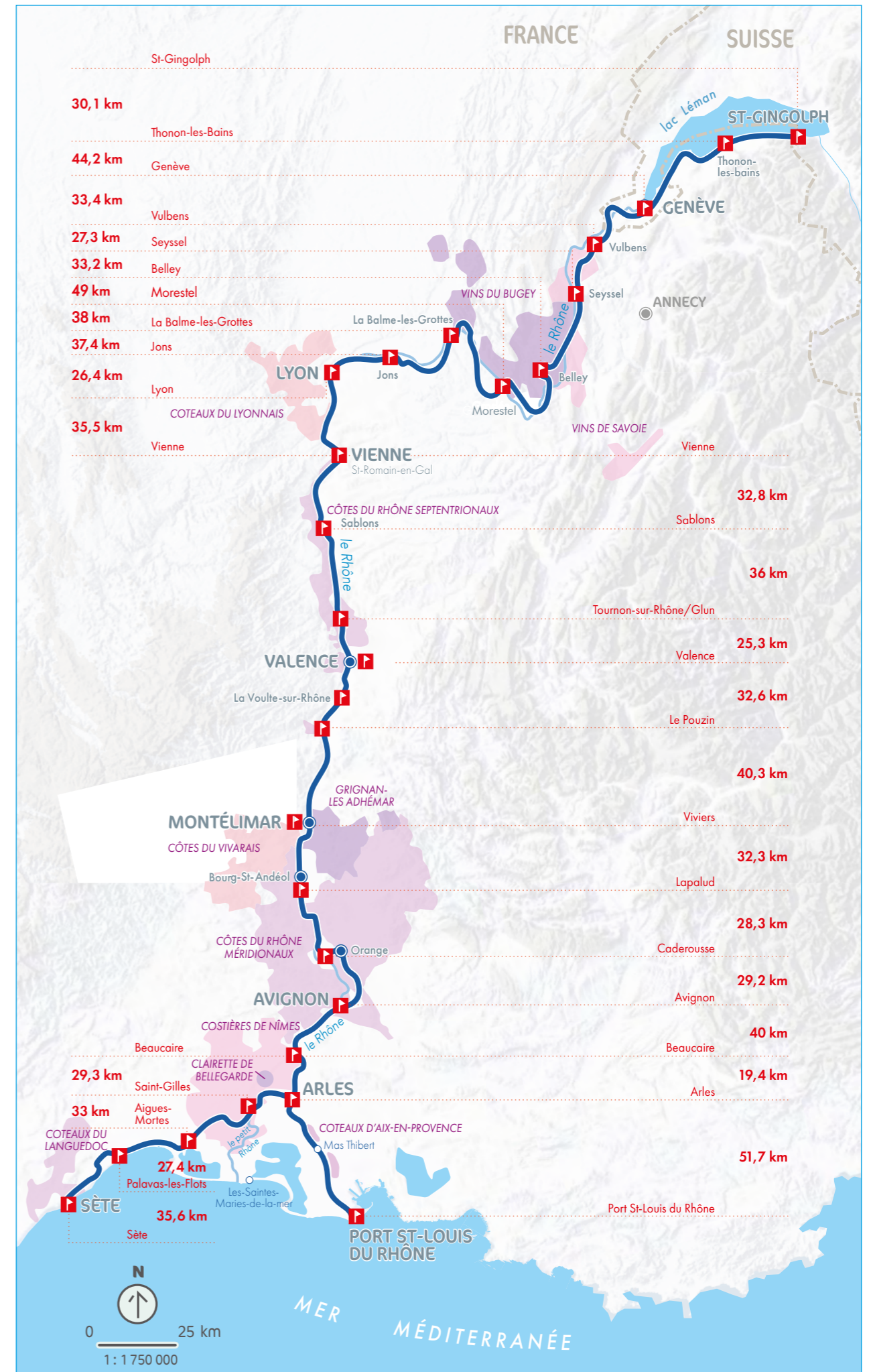
Haut-Jura, Pilat and la Camargue.

### 77 PROTECTED NATURAL SITES

to take time for an enchanting break in front of breathtaking landscapes.

### 3 UNESCO-CLASSIFIED CITIES

Lyon, Avignon, Arles, as well as prestigious monuments including, among others, the triumphal arch and the Roman theatre of Orange.





# A CYCLE ROUTE WITH A GREAT VARIETY OF ATMOSPHERES



From Geneva Lake to the Mediterranean, **ViaRhôna** offers a cycling adventure along the Rhône, rich in history from the Gallo-Roman era to the present day.

ViaRhôna unveils the epic story of a great river that has carved out its own vast valley down so many centuries. Its tales still come vividly to life through encounters with craftspeople, guides, producers and local inhabitants... and through the epic memories you create, tackling the route as a couple, a family, or with friends!

Riding down the Rhône, you embark on an odyssey through 2,000 years of history, exploring unspoilt landscapes in Savoie, the Roman city of Lyon, the dramatic Ardèche Gorges and the wild Camargue. As you follow the cycle route and nearby circuits, or try out other activities, the ever-shifting countryside will amaze you.

**ViaRhôna** also provides a wine and food adventure, from Bugey truffles to Camargue bull's meat, via so many famed Rhône Valley wines, offering 815km of encounters and shared experiences.





## A PARTNERSHIP PROJECT



The ViaRhôna project, that was imagined at the end of the 1990s, really began to materialise from 2004/2005, when the Rhône-Alpes Region and the Compagnie Nationale du Rhône (CNR) formalised their financial participation and their partnership for its implementation. In 2013/2014, the partnership was strengthened around an itinerary committee bringing together in particular the Compagnie Nationale du Rhône, the French State and EU Funds as well as the three regions concerned: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Sud-Provence-Alpes Côte d'Azur and Occitanie. The actors then set themselves the ambition of making ViaRhôna a large-scale project by 2023 and then initiate the process to make the route a tourism destination.

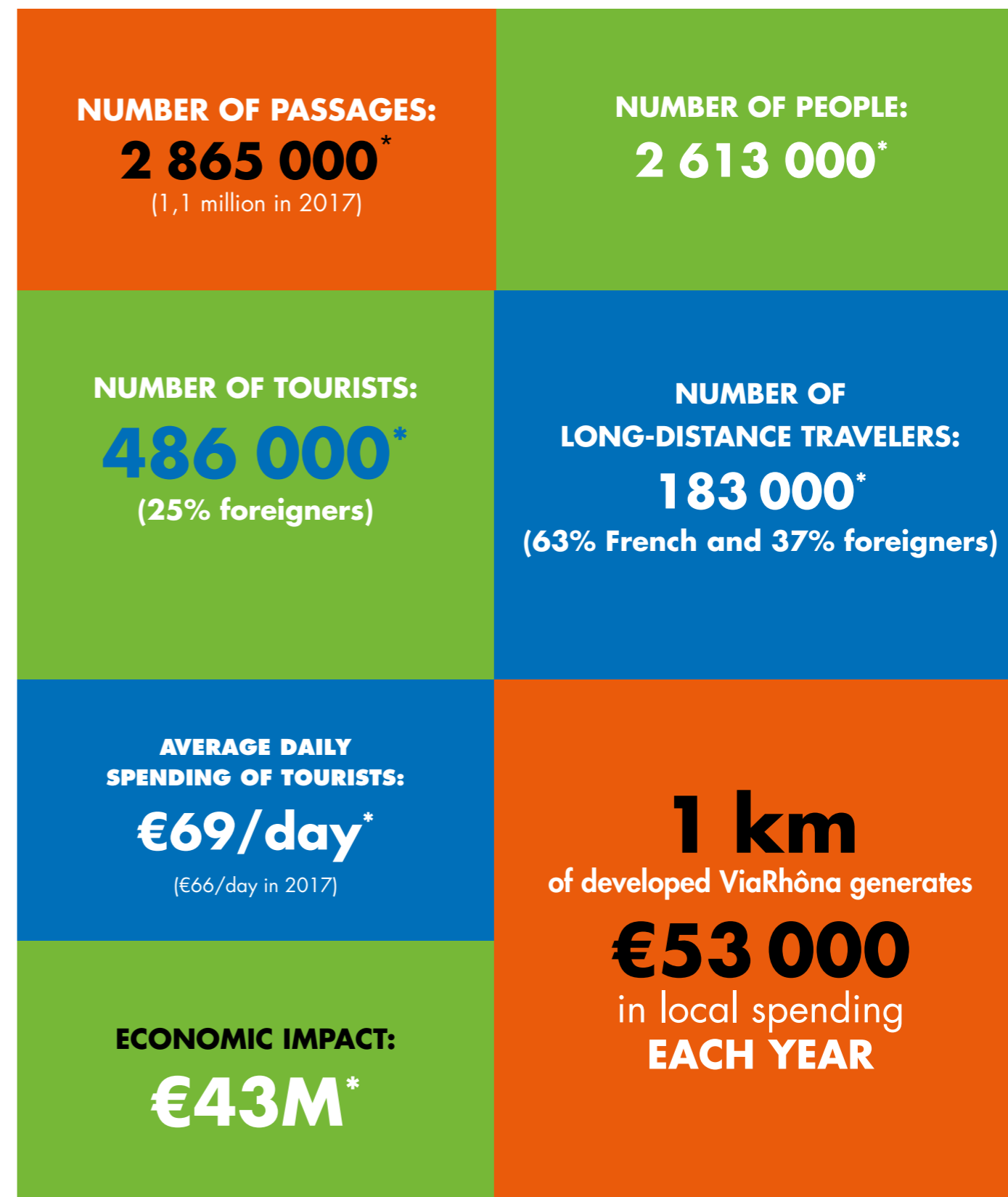
## A EUROPEAN AND INTERCONNECTED ROUTE



The two cycle routes, La Route du Rhône (covering 235km through Switzerland) and ViaRhôna (stretching 815km through France), have joined forces to become a significant part of the wider EuroVelo European Cycle Route Network, so achieving the status of a veritable European cycle route (or véloroute in French) in 2016. Called EuroVelo 17, this long-distance European route also goes by the name of the Route Cyclable du Rhône. It follows the course of the mighty Rhône for some 1050km, from its source up in the Swiss Alps down to its delta on the French Mediterranean, renowned for the Camargue wetlands. Joining EuroVelo's pan-European network of cycle routes, the Route Cyclable du Rhône aims to become one of the continent's major cycling tourism destinations.

*Network of European cycling routes, supported by the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF), currently comprising 17 cross-border cycling itineraries spread across the entire continent.*

## KEY FIGURES (2022)



\* Inddigo / Symetris survey on behalf of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region.



# 10 KEY REASONS FOR YOUR NEXT CYCLING ADVENTURE



**1. The Rhône, central thoroughfare of this cycle route**  
The mighty River Rhône, the route's guiding thread, presents cyclists with ever-changing landscapes and an exceptionally rich heritage. It's your main companion along the way, as your ride close to its waters for a large part of the route.

**2. Historical and cultural riches**  
ViaRhôna immerses you in 2,000 years of French history, going from impressive Gallo-Roman vestiges, via medieval towns, to its more recent industrial heritage. The route is dotted with remarkable sites and monuments.

**3. A wide variety of experiences**  
Beyond the cycling, ViaRhôna can provide a whole array of activities: tours of towns and villages; tastings of local produce; encounters with craftspeople; breaks in nature... The cycle route is so well set up to offer authentic, varied experiences.

**4. An easy, well-signposted cycle route**  
The route is mainly on the flat and safe, suitable for cyclists of all levels, and particularly for families and beginners. It's signposted in both directions and you can download the tracks for free via the website.

**5. The natural setting and getting back to nature!**  
The route crosses exceptional landscapes and offers many opportunities for cyclists to feel the benefits of being in the heart of the countryside – ViaRhôna provides an active break, but a relaxing one too!

**6. Human exchanges at the heart of the experience**  
Exchanges with local inhabitants, producers and other cyclists will enrich your journey. Such encounters are a key part of the ViaRhôna experience.

**7. Culinary discoveries**  
The wide variety of terroirs along the cycle route allows riders to enjoy culinary explorations, from Savoie's mountain specialities to Mediterranean ones, with a mass of culinary addresses to try out.

**8. An eco-responsible option**  
All along its 815km, ViaRhôna proves easily accessible. There are many train stations dotted along the cycle route, making it easy to put together your own tailor-made train + bike journey. You can also take your bike on a coach between certain stages to cut down travelling time along the route if necessary.

**9. A wonderful variety of landscapes**  
Enjoy breathtaking views, from the French Alps to Mediterranean beaches. The visual treat of exceptional beauty is guaranteed all along the route. Explore the great variety of landscapes you cross.

**10. ViaRhôna is a gateway to further European cycling adventures!**  
ViaRhôna forms part of a wider European network of cycle routes, so it's possible to extend your adventure beyond the French frontier, giving an international dimension to your trip. The way is open to pan-European cycling tourism!

Prepare your cycling trip on [www.viarhona.com](http://www.viarhona.com)



# FROM GENEVA LAKE TO LYON

Distance: 320km

## Landscapes:

- Alpine landscapes
- The banks of Lake Geneva
- Historic towns such as Geneva and Lyon

Between Geneva Lake and Lyon,  
discover the great contrasts in the range of  
unspoilt natural landscapes along this 320km-long section

## DETAILS AND POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Geneva:** an international city with many cultural and historical attractions.
- **Bugey and French Savoie vineyards,** reputed for the variety of wines they produce, in small quantities, making for high-quality but little-known vintages.
- **Morestel:** nicknamed the Cité des Peintres, an historic fortified town reputed for its heritage and for inspiring artists.
- **Lyon:** renowned as a French gastronomic capital, and for its architecture, its historic centre awarded UNESCO World Heritage status.



After leaving Lake Geneva, you ride along the borders of the two parts of French Savoie, and then the Bugey area, passing close to mountains, with lakes, gorges and La Balme's startling caves in which to cool down.



Stop in communes (parishes) boasting a unique heritage: Chanaz, Savoie's Little Venice; the thermal spa towns of Aix-les-Bains and Thonon-les-Bains; and the fortified medieval towns of the Balcons du Dauphiné area, Morestel and Crémieu.



The last stage on this section leads you to Lyon via the Grand Parc Miribel Jonage. Why not take a dip in the waters of the Lac des Eaux Bleues here before immersing yourself in the monumental heritage of the city of Lyon, once ancient capital of the Gauls.



# FROM GENEVA LAKE TO LYON



## CYCLING CIRCUITS CONNECTED TO VIARHÔNA



### Le tour du Lac du Bourget - 35 km

To cycle around a mirror of water surrounded by mountains, one of the most beautiful circuits imaginable, including numerous remarkable stretches: the beach and port of Le Bourget; the belvederes at the Col du Chat and at Ontex; plunging views down on Hautecombe Abbey; the port of Portout. Consider electric assistance unless a seasoned cyclist, as the exits from ViaRhôna along its northern stretch are challenging, if magnificent. [For further information](#)



### Voie Verte de Crémieu – 30 km

This safe, tranquil, 30km-long greenway is perfect for families and nature lovers. It follows the tracks of a disused railway line, crossing vineyards, fields and picturesque villages, while offering direct access to the Rhône's banks. [For further information](#)



### Tour du Lac Léman

A Franco-Swiss trail leading cyclists through the Swiss cantons of Geneva, Vaud and Valais and the French counties (départements) of Ain and Haute-Savoie, sticking close to Lake Geneva. It makes use, both to north and south, of parts of the ViaRhôna cycle route. It's recommended you ride clockwise around the lake. [For further information](#)

## TO TEST

**Wine:** Cycling along the ViaRhôna, you cross many vineyards, some famous, some less so, but also worth discovering. Viticultural gems are dotted all along the route. Little gems like the wines of Jongieux Marestel are scattered throughout your journey. The "Route des vins du Bugey" provide you with the opportunity of meeting local winemakers proud of their small-scale production. [For further information](#)



**Ice creams:** the best in the world are produced in the northern stretch... and we're scarcely exaggerating! No need to feel guilty about eating an ice cream a day when tackling a cycle route [Glacier l'Avalanche in Yenne](#) La Sibérienne, a reputed ice cream maker from Aix-les-Bains, its produce available at the restaurant [le Doux Nid in Chanaz](#).

**The Gâteau de Saint-Genix** is a brioche-style light cake packed with red caramel-coated almonds. This Savoie speciality has been made in the area for over two centuries. Note that the many copies to be found in supermarkets and elsewhere around the region don't follow the original recipe. Authentic Gâteau de Saint-Genix may also go by the name of Gâteau Labully, at the Pâtisserie Bavuz. In Saint-Genix-sur-Guiers, you will find at the Pâtisserie Bavuz or at [Aux Gateaux de Saint-Genix](#).



## TO TEST OUT!

### Explore the wild Rhône and its backwaters, or îlons.

Here, venture into nature, away from pollution, to discover the wild Rhône and its lush vegetation, distanced from human activity. For a day's outing or a weekend away, board a canoe to discover different aspects to this magnificent river that will make you feel quite transported! [For further information](#)

### Crémieu, Chanaz and Yvoire,



three little towns you can get to know in a few hours, or over a day. From the flower-filled medieval village of Yvoire perched beside Lake Geneva to the equally well-flowered, architecturally rich medieval village of Crémieu east of Lyon, via Savoie's lovely Little Venice, Chanaz, there are such beautiful, history-packed gems to uncover all along this cycle route. [For further information on Crémieu](#) [For further information on Chanaz](#) [For further information on Yvoire](#)

**The Barrage de Génissiat**, nicknamed the French Niagara, is one of the largest hydroelectric constructions ever built in Western Europe. It's a fascinating place to visit. A gem of functionalist architecture, the electricity-generating centre is open to visitors. Admire its grandeur and Art Deco features, quite exceptional for such an industrial structure. [For further information](#)



## WHERE TO STAY?



The recommended accommodation providers have Accueil Vélo accreditation.

These establishments offer specific services for cyclists (such as secure places to keep your bike(s), bike repair kits and sometimes even facilities for washing your clothes).

### Les lodges de la ViaRhôna in Virignin



These unusual cabins right beside the ViaRhôna cycle route benefit from great views over the water. Choose from perched huts or cosy cabins with their own hot tub, among the types of accommodation on offer in this uniquely different setting. [For further information](#)

### Camping municipal de Morestel

A campsite set in a green corner of this artists' town. Spend a night under a hundred-year-old tree or in a wood cabin, enjoying Morestel's magical historic quarter, immortalized by the artist Ravier. A lovely time to visit is for the Sunday market, when the town centre is pedestrianized and you can wander around choosing produce for your lunchtime picnic as well as enjoying a hot drink or perhaps brunch under the ramparts. [For further information](#)

### Aux Kotas Finland'Ain in Izieu

You'll feel transported to Lapland here! As a couple or as a family, enjoy a cosy night in a natural setting. Staying beside the ViaRhôna cycle route, you could also add to your evening by visiting the moving Maison d'Izieu or by enjoying a wine tasting. [For further information](#)



# FROM LYON TO AVIGNON

Distance: 305 km

## Landscapes:

- Rhône Valley vineyards
- Picturesque villages aplenty
- Riverine landscapes



Going from Lyon, ancient capital of the Gauls, to Avignon, France's papal city, this ViaRhôna section immerses you in 2,000 years of intense history based around the Rhône covering 305km.

## DETAILS AND POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Vienne:** a town boasting Roman and medieval monuments, and a major jazz festival.
- **Tourmon-sur-Rhône:** a Rhône-side town renowned for its wines and the chocolate Valrhona.
- **Valence:** designated a Ville d'Art et d'Histoire, its centre hosting great markets.
- **Avignon:** famed for its papal palace, bridge and theatre festival.



Covering 305km, it unveils an exceptionally rich heritage, from major Roman settlements at Lyon, Vienne and Orange to perched medieval castles as Beauchastel, Rochemaure and Mondragon, plus character-filled little villages full of southern scents.



Meet women and men who cultivate their Rhône Valley vines with passion; join them in tasting exceptional wines from Condrieu, Crozes-Hermitage, Cornas, Châteauneuf-du-Pape and more. Make the most of magnificent festivals with views, at Vienne, Valence, Saint-Péray, Orange and Avignon.



At the end of this section, France's papal city reserves a whole host of surprises: in one of Avignon's many theatres; on its famed bridge; in its Papal Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site – all evoking a host of history and stories.



# FROM LYON TO AVIGNON



## CYCLING CIRCUITS CONNECTED TO VIARHÔNA



### Beside the Rhône

Starting from Vienne, this 63km-long cycling circuit may have steep stretches but it leads you to discover a richly historical heritage. You ride along quiet roads, amidst vines and orchards.  
[For further information](#)



### Petit Train de l'Ardèche and La Dolce Via

Leave the ViaRhôna at Saint-Jean-de-Muzols to reach a railway station that's home to an old-fashioned steam train. Board this with your bike(s) to enjoy a trip back in time along the Gorges du Doux, enabling you to reach a splendid further cycle route, **La Dolce Via**. Ride along this route down the Eyrieux Valley for 37km, rejoining the ViaRhôna at La Voulte-sur-Rhône.  
[Le petit train de l'Ardèche](#)  
[La Dolce Via](#)



### Via Venaissia

Close to the little town of Piolenc, leave the ViaRhôna to follow the Via Venaissia, riding to the Roman town of Orange, famed for its superbly preserved ancient theatre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This lovely 63km-long cycle route laid out by the French county (département) of Vaucluse serves as a fine link between ViaRhôna and the Méditerranée à Vélo cycle route.  
[Via Venaissia](#)

## WHERE TO STAY?

### Domaine de Senaud

at Albon, between Lyon and Valence, in the Drôme des Collines area. At this campsite just made for cycling tourists, choose from a tree-top cabin, a suspended tent, a pod, or a teepee for a really unusual stay, or then opt for a mobile home or a chalet with its own hot tub!  
[For further information](#)



### The Camping Iserand at Vion



is a campsite perfectly located just 100m from an entry point to the ViaRhôna cycle route. The Bivouac Vélo / Rando rental packages here have been specifically designed to provide facilities for cyclists and hikers. Book a reasonably-priced overnight stay at any time of year, plus there are bike lockers that come with each pitch, so you can protect and lock up your bike(s).  
[For further information](#)

### Cabanes Grand Cépage

for high-quality, timeless, exceptional wood cabins. These are located at Sorgues, just 20 minutes from Avignon, in the heart of Provence, close to the Mont Ventoux, the Luberon and the famed vineyards of Châteauneuf-du-Pape  
[For further information](#)

## TO TEST

### Fine wine

All along your cycling trip down the Rhône Valley, you'll get the chance to taste the great variety of wines produced along the Coteaux du Rhône slopes – Côte-Rotie, Condrieu, Saint-Joseph, Hermitage, Cornas, Saint-Péray, Grignan-les-Adhémar, Châteauneuf-du-Pape... Tours and tastings laid on at the [Caves de Tain](#).



**Ravioles.** A long-established speciality of the historic Dauphiné province east of the Rhône, these delicate little square raviolis come with various fillings. After a long day's cycling, they make a warm, hearty meal, for example to be tasted in the beautiful historic Rhône-side city of Valence.  
[Restaurant La Ravioline in Valence](#)



**Nougat.** This delicious sweet that some of you may be used to savouring at Christmas in particular has traditionally been made around Montélimar. But nougat de Montélimar is of course a treat to enjoy at any time of year. The town counts around a dozen craft makers of high-quality nougat, hence why Montélimar is known as France's nougat capital!  
[Nougaterie Arnaud Soubeyran](#)



## TO TEST OUT!

### Espace eaux vives at Saint-Pierre-de-Bœuf



an outdoor leisure centre set right beside the ViaRhôna cycle route and on the edge of the Pilat Natural Regional Park, provides a refreshing break with its array of nautical activities, such as rafting, canoeing, paddleboarding or river swimming.  
[For further information](#)

**La ferme aux crocodiles**, near Pierrelatte. For a journey into the midst of a tropical world, home to 600 animals living in partial freedom, including crocodiles, giant tortoises, snakes, lizards, fish and birds. This tropical reserve also presents an amazing collection of over 600 exotic plants! This is an Accueil Vélo accredited site.  
[For further information](#)



Embark on an electric boat for a lovely cruise along the Rhône, really allowing you to discover the river close up. The Compagnie des Canotiers proposes a variety of outings combining train + bike + boat!  
[La Compagnie des Canotiers](#)



# AVIGNON TO THE MÉDITERRANÉAN SEA

Distance: 235 km

Landscapes:

- Plains
- Regional Natural Parks
- The Mediterranean coast.



Leading you from Avignon to Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône or Sète, this final southerly section of the ViaRhôna is full of surprises, with the mesmerizing horizon of the Mediterranean at the end.

## DETAILS AND POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Arles**, for its Roman monuments and influence on Van Gogh.
- **Parc Naturel Régional de la Camargue**: with its unique fauna, so appealing to nature lovers and photographers.
- **Sète**: the city of Georges Brassens with its many festivals and renowned seafood gastronomy.
- **Mediterranean beaches**, a big reward at the end of your trek, great for a well-earned swim and an unforgettable selfie, to prove you've made it to the end of your cycling adventure!



Covering 235 km, it takes you on a splendid trip back in time, from Antiquity at Beaucaire, Arles and Sète, via the Middle Ages at Tarascon and Aigues-Mortes, to a futuristic contemporary space in the form of Luma d'Arles.



On this final epic leg, savour gastronomic discoveries: Camargue rice; Aigues-Mortes salt; Frontignan's Muscat wine; and oysters from the Étang de Thau and Carteau.



As to the landscapes, from the wild Camargue to the vast beaches of Le Grau-du-Roi and Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône, they encourage you to slow down to enjoy moments suspended in time!



# FROM AVIGNON TO THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA



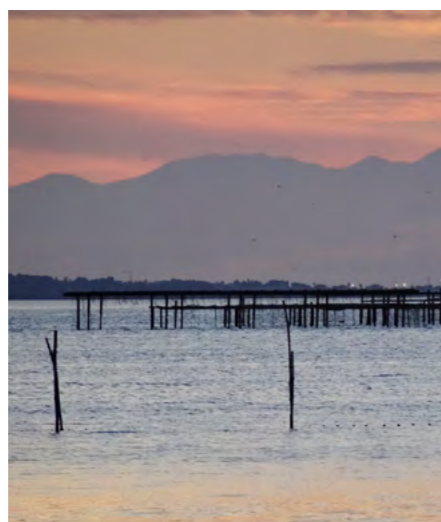
## CYCLING CIRCUITS CONNECTED TO VIARHÔNA



### The route of bulls and vines

This secretive 30km-long circuit leads you into the heart of the Camargue, tamed by humans, with not just its rice paddies, but also its Camargue white horses and black bulls.

[For further information](#)



### Tour de l'étang de Thau

A unique cycling circuit around the Thau Lagoon, just set back from the Mediterranean. This magnificent trail guides you almost exclusively along greenways or tracks suitable for any kind of bike. The Lagoon is ever-present, major features including the Pointe des Onglous headland, views onto Mont Saint-Clair and local oyster farms. An easy start point is Sète train station, avoiding using a car.

[For further information](#)



### The Voie Verte du Pont du Gard la plus longue voie verte du Gard

is the longest greenway in the French county (département) of the Gard. This safe, 31km-long trail is so distinctive, meandering between vineyards and the typical scrubland of the garrigues, passing beautiful traditional villages. The Voie Verte du Pont du Gard leads you deep into the Gard's countryside, with intriguing stretches, plus places to swim, a delight for young and old alike.

[For further information](#)

## WHERE TO STAY?



The recommended accommodation providers are Accueil Vélo accredited.

These establishments offer specific services for cyclists (such as secure places to keep your bike(s), bike repair kits and sometimes even facilities for washing your clothes).

In the midst of the Parc Naturel Régional de Camargue, this smart house, known as **Maébrilu Camargue Provence**, welcomes cyclists. It boasts a 35m<sup>2</sup> suite with views of the grounds. Or there's a tent-lodge in which cyclists can spend a relaxing, reinvigorating night. To reach this accommodation at Salin de Giraud from the ViaRhôna, the quickest way, and the most unusual, is to take the little ferry (bac in French), the Bac de Barcarin.

[For further information](#)

### Hôtel l'Oustau Camarguen at Le Grau du Roi.

Here, former stables have been converted into a charming hotel done up with great care and artistic touches. Each of the 32 rooms and 8 suites are decorated to reflect the spirit of the Camargue and Provence.

[For further information](#)

### Domaine de Selhac

a guest house in the midst of a wine-making property close to the sea at Frontignan

[For further information](#)



## TO TEST

### Bull's meat

On the cycling stage between Saint-Gilles and Aigues-Mortes, try the bull's meat specialities served in these parts: l'aigriade Saint-Gilloise, a typical regional dish, traditionally eaten by Rhône boatmen and other Camargue country workers, made from slowly stewed bull (or beef) chuck steak, of course served with renowned PGI Camargue rice; la gardianne, the classic bull stew; and also saucisson de Taureau de Camargue, a bull salami.

[For further information](#)

### Oysters and mussels

Arriving at Port Saint-Louis-du-Rhône, celebrate the end of your cycling adventure by savouring the local shellfish, such as clams or natural oysters and mussels, harvested by craft farmers in sustainable manner.

[For further information](#)

### Les Tielles sétoises



Making it to the port of Sète, sample local Sétois specialities: tielles (tiny clams); ragoût de seiches à la valrasienne (cuttlefish stew); bourride de baudroie (monkfish or anglerfish stew); and more.

[For further information](#)

## TO TEST OUT!

### Captain your own little electric boat along the Canal du Rhône à Sète!

Loca-Camargue provides the vessels, going from Port de Gallician, allowing you to slip silently along the canal by boat, respecting the environment, observing the Camargue's flora and fauna.

[Loca-camargue](#)

### Visit Les Marais du Viguerau



This 1,200-hectare protected natural zone lies between the Rhône Delta and the Plaine de la Crau to the east. You can leave your bike in a secure spot to head off to discover the Camargue's flora and fauna, going around by foot, on horseback, or in a horse-drawn carriage.

[For further information](#)

### Sea turtles

In the Ponant Quarter of the coastal resort of La Grande Motte, discover turtles living in partial freedom in the natural environment of a sea inlet. The centre here is dedicated to caring for turtles, which you can view in their final stage of convalescence before they're released back into the sea.

[For further information](#)





## CYCLE THE MIGHTY COURSE OF HISTORY!

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**Access to the photo library**

**Prepare your cycling trip:**  
**[www.viarhona.com](http://www.viarhona.com)**

### ViaRhôna tourist maps



### Guidebooks

