

# 7-Night French Alps Guided Walking Holiday

**Tour Style:** European Centre Based

**Destinations:** France, Alps & Mediterranean

**Trip code:** AYLCL-7

2 & 4



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Bordered by Switzerland to the north and Italy to the east, Haute-Savoie is dominated by the high peaks of the French Alps and glistening lakes. Often referred to as the 'Pearl of the Alps' or 'Venice of the Alps', Annecy can trace its origins back to the time of the Romans. Situated in a commanding position at the head of Lake Annecy, the town offers a variety of quaint cafes, local history and culture. As you stroll through this ancient city, you will see the gorgeous Palais de L'Isle, a historical prison located in the centre of the Canal du Thiou which now houses a local history museum.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- A full programme of guided walks with 2 options every walking day
- All transport to and from walks
- The services of experienced HF Holidays leaders
- 'With flight' holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers
- 7 night's accommodation in en-suite rooms

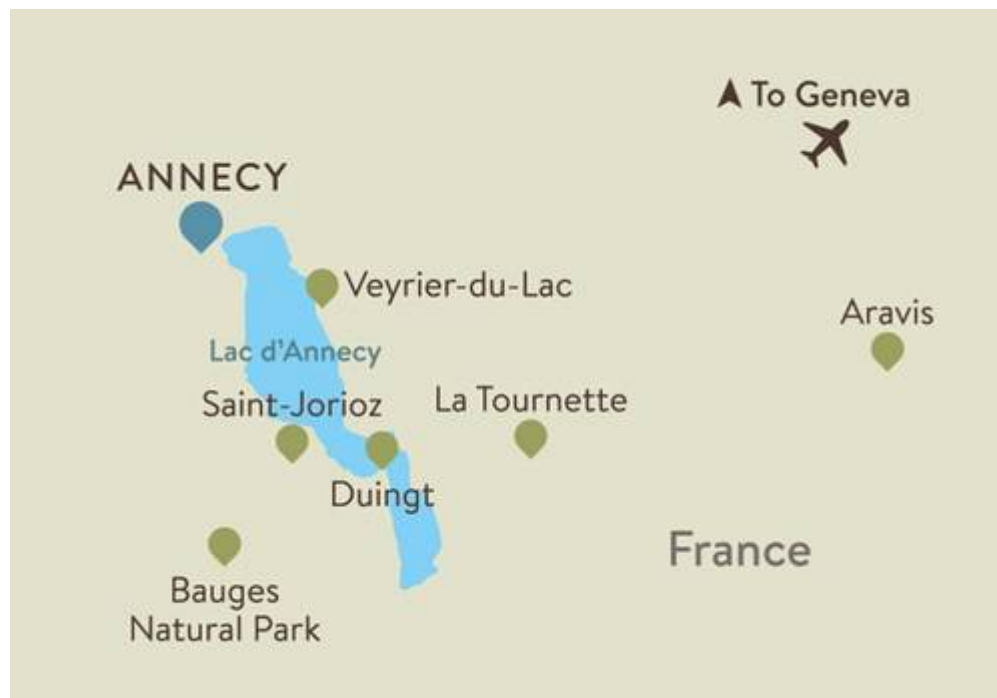
- Half Board –buffet breakfast and 3-course evening meal

## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the rich culture of Haute-Savoie
- Follow the footsteps of the French Resistance on the Glières Plateau
- Visit the Massif des Bauges Natural Park
- Wander the medieval streets of Annecy
- Enjoy walks with views of the beautiful Lake Annecy

## TRIP SUITABILITY

This is a level 2 and level 4 graded Activity, Easier walks: 5 to 8 miles (8 to 13km) on good paths. Up to 1,800 feet (540m) of ascent in a day. Harder walks: 7 to 11 miles (11 to 17½km) with some steep ascents and rough sections. Up to 3,600 feet (1,080m) of ascent in a day.



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrival Day

Welcome to Hotel Splendid. Unpack and settle in.

### Day 2: Exploring Lake Annecy

Our transport will take us to the start of our walks on the western shore of Lake Annecy. Both groups will return to the hotel using the Lake Annecy passenger ferry.

### Day 3: Glières Plateau

The Plateau des Glières was the site chosen as a command post by a Free French resistance group, who were eventually overrun by German forces in March 1944. There is a small museum and evocative memorial to the

men of the Maquis.

## **Day 4: The Bauges Mountains**

Today takes us to the beautiful Massif des Bauges in neighbouring Savoie. With its traditional farms and barns, and unhurried way of life, it feels like stepping back in time.

## **Day 5: Free Day**

Each week there is a free day when no guided walks are offered. This is an ideal opportunity to relax around Annecy, walk independently or visit local places of interest.

## **Day 6: Into The Heart Of The Aravis**

Both groups will journey by coach to the start of these walks at Les Confins and finish at the Col des Annes. This area is dominated by the towering limestone peaks of the Aravis mountains.

## **Day 7: Eastern Shore**

For our final walks of the week we visit the eastern shore of Lake Annecy. Our transport takes us to the Col de Bluffy to start – with the harder walk heading north and the easier walk south.

## **Day 8: Departure Day**

We hope to see you again soon.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

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### **Hotel Splendid - Annecy**

This 3-star hotel is conveniently located overlooking the Canal du Vasse and a short walk from the medieval centre of Annecy as well as the lake, which is access via a large and pleasant public park.

#### **Accommodation Info**

#### **Rooms**

There is a ground floor reception and the bedrooms are on the first, second and third floor with views to the Lake or overlooking the old town. The hotel has 47 ensuite rooms with telephone, TV, free room safe, hairdryer, complimentary toiletries, mini-bar, tea/coffee making facilities as well as a coffee machine.

The owner of the hotel has thoughtfully provided a small library of books in each room.

Our guests will be provided with 2 free bottles of water in their room.

#### **Facilities**

There is a cosy bar and a lounge area which opens out onto a balcony with seating to enjoy the view on warmer evenings. Next to this is the breakfast dining room. The guests also have use of a computer to access the internet and on the top floor there is a small gym, accessed via the room keycard.

## Food & Drink

Our holidays at Hotel Splendid are on a Half Board basis and include breakfast and evening meal. Our groups will be dining at a local restaurant just a few minutes walk from the hotel where they will enjoy a 3-course served meal with options and all dietary requirements are catered for.

## Travel Details

### *THE HASSLE-FREE OPTION*

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Book your holiday 'with flight' and choose between Heathrow or Manchester flights to Geneva airport.

If you choose this option we automatically include return transfers between the airport and the hotel. The coach transfer takes approx 1 hour 15 minutes to the Hotel Splendid.

### *THE FLEXIBLE TRAVEL OPTION*

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Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flight' allowing you the freedom to book your own flights from your local airport.

If you choose this option, transfers are not included in the price. However, we can book you a seat on the HF Holidays' transfer coach from Geneva airport. This is timed to meet the HF Holidays' flights\* (provisional flight times can be found on the dates and prices tab or you can call us on 020 8732 1220 for more information). Cost per single journey is £37

Transfers must be pre-booked. Please call 020 8732 1220 for more details

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### What To Bring

#### Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety and comfort are our priorities, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents.
- Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares).
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended.
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers.
- Warm hat and gloves.
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks.
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner.
- Thermos flask for hot drink.
- Water bottle (at least 2 litre).
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar.
- Small torch.

- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed).
- Sun hat and sunglasses
- Sun cream.

## Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents.
- Insect repellent.
- Camera.
- Gaiters.

## Useful Information

The local language is French.

Is considered safe to drink, but if you prefer, bottled mineral water can be purchased from the hotel or local supermarkets.

If the international number you wish to call starts with a 0, you must drop the starting digit when dialing the number.

To dial a UK number 0044

To dial a French number 0033

## Local Currency

The local currency is the Euro.

## Electricity

220 Volt AC with round two pin plugs; you will need an adaptor for any appliances brought from the UK.

## ATM Availability

There are several ATMs in Annecy where you can obtain money.

## HOW TO BOOK

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When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

## PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

## ASSOCIATE'S FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying an Associate's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively,

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full life membership is available from £100 – visit [hfholidays.co.uk/membership](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

## **BACS PAYMENTS**

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

## **MANAGE MY BOOKINGS**

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

## **YOUR FINAL BALANCE**

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

## **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://hfholidays.co.uk/insurance)

## **PEACE OF MIND**

### **ATOL:**

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website [atol.org.uk](http://atol.org.uk)

### **MEMBER OF ABTOT:**

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

## **TRIP NOTE VALIDITY**

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and

our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

## PRICE GUARANTEE

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We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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