

Explore Lake Annecy

Tour Style: European Centre Based

Destinations: France, Alps & Mediterranean

Trip code: AYLCL-7

1 & 2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

With mighty mountain backdrops and the rich culture of Haute-Savoie, Lake Annecy on the edge of the French Alps is truly magical. From a hotel base in the historic town we'll explore Annecy with strolls on the lakeshore and visit Vieille Ville (old town), with its famous canals and bridges. Visit the Abbey of Tamié, the Cistercian abbey founded in 1132, where monks are still living and make the cheese of the same name "Tamié". Follow the footbridge through the Gorge de Fier 150 feet up through this spectacular canyon carved out by the river over 1000's of years.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

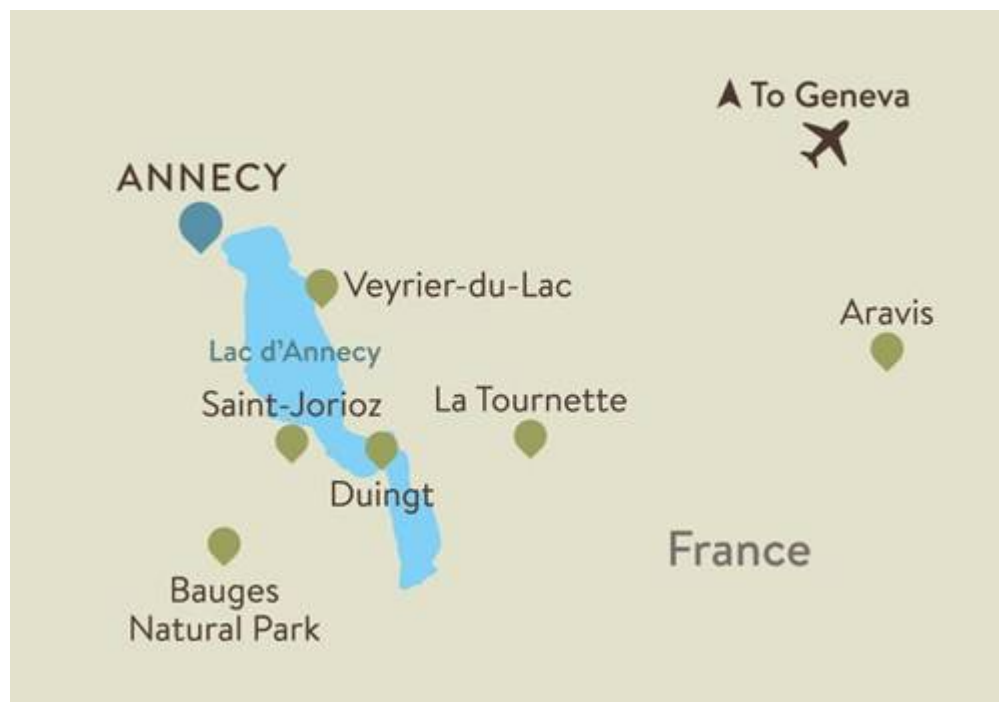
- A full program of guided walks with 2 options every walking day
- All transport to and from walks
- The services of experienced HF Holidays leaders
- Half-day with Local Guide.
- 'With flight' holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers
- 7 night's accommodation in en-suite rooms
- 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 1 and level 2 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: Lake Annecy

Option 1 - St Jorioz And Duingt

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km)

Total ascent: 25 feet (8m)

In summary: First, discover the natural park for the "marais de l'enfer" and walk along the side of the swamp. There'll be stunning views of the surrounding mountains. The swamp reed is home to many kinds of wildlife and we'll hopefully have the possibility to observe many different types of birds on our walk. The second part of the

walk follows an easy, man-made path along Annecy Lake to Duingt before boarding the ferry back.

Highlight: A delightful boat trip to end the walk – great views of where we have walked today.

Option 2 - Église Saint-Eustache

Distance: 6½ miles (10.5km)

Total ascent: 325 feet (100m)

Descent: 1,250 feet (380m)

In summary: The walk starts inland, at the village of Saint Eustache. This walk was set up by the Annecy local council and they have called it the "Laudon" river walk. We'll have some excellent views of the lake and the mountains on this walk, which covers a pleasant mix of countryside, forest and villages. We'll finish our walk along the lake's edge and on to Duingt where we'll board the ferry back to Annecy.

Highlight: A delightful boat trip to end the walk – great views of where we have walked today.

Day 3: Exploring Annecy

Option 1 - Annecy And Its Basilica

Distance: 4.5 miles (7km)

Total ascent: 225 feet (70m)

In summary: We'll probably see some locals out for their morning stroll along the lake shore to Le Paquier beach. We'll pass the town hall, which is surrounded by the Jardin de l'Europe before heading inland to the Basilica of Visitation. The rest of the walk will be a city tour, immersed in the little "Venice of the Alps", its canals, history and monuments.

Highlight: The city, lake and mountain views from the bell tower in the Basilica are beautiful.

Option 2 - Annecy, The Basilica And The Chateau

Distance: 6.5 miles (10.5km)

Total ascent: 675 feet (200m)

In summary: We'll follow a similar itinerary to the Option 1 walk, but continuing further beyond the basilica of Visitation to a higher view point and Annecy Chateau.

Highlight: The amazing views from the belfry in the Basilica.

Day 4: The Bauges Mountains

Option 1 - Tamié Abbey And Valley

Distance: 3.5 miles (5.5km)

Total ascent: 575 feet (175m)

In summary: We'll start today's walk at the Abbey of Tamié, the Cistercian abbey founded in 1132, monks are still living here and make cheese of the same name - "Tamié". We will follow the valley of Tamié which was used by the Romans. During the Middle Ages, because of the presence of the abbey, the valley was a frequent route to bring iron ore from the Maurienne Valley to the town of Faverges, where iron was processed.

Highlight: Views of the surrounding mountains throughout this walk.

Option 2 - Tamié Fort

Distance: 5miles (8km)

Total ascent: 1,075 feet (330m)

In summary: After following the same track as the easy walk track, we will extend our walk up to the fort of Tamié and its view points. Built between 1876 and 1881, the Tamié fort aimed to protect France from possible Italian invasion. It could host as many as 400 men at a time.

Highlight: On a clear day, the views from the fort are breathtaking.

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. Options include:

Visit Château d'Annecy – overlooking Annecy, this grand building was the home of the Counts of Geneva in the 13th and 14th centuries. The castle had many extensions and alterations over the next few centuries with large parts built in Renaissance style. The building was later used as a military barracks. Today the castle is a museum; visitors can explore its corridors, towers and terraces and admire its many fine examples of period art and furniture. The views from the castle are another reason to visit.

Cycle around Lake Annecy – you could hire a bike and cycle all the way around Lake Annecy on the 42km bike path. There are several bike hire shops in the town.

Lunch cruise – board the MS Libellule – a floating restaurant - to enjoy lunch as you cruise across Lake Annecy.

Explore Annecy's Old Town – wander the winding cobbled streets of Annecy's old town passing through stone arches and walking alongside its canals. The town is known as the 'Venice of the Alps' and has many interesting shops and restaurants. In summer, many of the canal sides are adorned with colourful displays of flowers; the display on the Thiou lock is particularly beautiful. Look out for the Glacier des Alpes ice cream shop which is said to serve the best ice cream in France!

Day 6: Gorges Du Fier

Option 1 - Fier Gorge

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Total ascent: 550 feet (540m)

In summary: Our walk will start from the village of Chavanod and walk down the gorges in the beautiful Annecy countryside. We'll brave our way through a spectacular narrow canyon on a footbridge affixed to the rock face 25 metres above the river. While venturing deep into the giant gorge with the River Fier flowing at its base we can stop to admire the boulders stacked up high in all their shapes and forms. The play of light and shadow makes extraordinary faces appear along the length of the rock face. Halfway along the

footbridge, a measuring scale on the rock face indicates the water levels reached in times of flood. We'll then walk back to the scenic village of Chavanod.

Highlight: Discover a multitude of Giants' Kettles carved out by the river over thousands of years.

Option 2 - The River Fier

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

In summary: Our walk will start from the village of Chavanod and walk down the gorges in the beautiful Annecy countryside. We'll brave our way through a spectacular narrow canyon on a footbridge affixed to the rock face 25 metres above the river. While venturing deep into the giant gorge with the River Fier flowing at its base we can stop to admire the boulders stacked up high in all their shapes and forms. The play of light and shadow makes extraordinary faces appear along the length of the rock face. We'll then add an extra loop on the compestale trail to the village of Lovagny.

Highlight: Halfway along the footbridge, a measuring scale on the rock face indicates the water levels reached in times of flood.

Day 7: Eastern Shore

Option 1 - Talloire And Menthon Saint Bernard

Distance: 3½ miles (5.5km)

Total ascent: 675 feet (200m)

In summary: Our walk today takes us from Talloire to Menthon Saint Bernard. We'll visit the beautiful village of Talloire, located on the eastern shore of Lake Annecy. The population has long lived on agriculture and the influence of the Abbey of Talloires, a Benedictine priory founded in the eleventh century and which became a royal abbey in the seventeenth, the site having been transformed into an upscale hotel from the late nineteenth century. Walking through Talloire, we will discover the church and some ancient houses in the village. Roc de Cher is a little rocky peninsula going into Annecy, a natural reserve and protected area since 1977. There are plenty of panels along the peninsula explaining the local geography, history, fauna and flora.

Highlight: The view to the Tournette mountain, Talloire bay, and the south side of the lake, where we walked on Day 1.

Option 2 - Angon Gorges

Distance: 5½ miles (9km)

Total ascent: 750 feet (230m)

In summary: We'll start today's walk above the village of Talloire and walk down the Angon Gorges and past the waterfalls (Cascades d'Angon). This is an ideal start to any walk. The site of the Cascades d'Angon is very well-equipped with barriers and chains along the trail, allowing us to discover a vast canyon. The large waterfall of 35 m at the bottom of the canyon is a renowned spot for canyoning enthusiasts. We will get to Talloire around lunchtime before continuing to Menthon Saint Bernard using the same path as Option 1.

Highlight: The view to the Tournette mountains, Talloire bay, and the south side of the lake where the first walk

took place.

Day 8: Departure Day

We hope to see you again soon.

ACCOMMODATION

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 floors with views to the lake or overlooking the old town. The hotel has 47 en-suite 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 two free bottles of water in their rooms.

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. 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; all dietary requirements are catered for.

TRAVEL DETAILS

THE HASSLE-FREE OPTION

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

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

Essential Information

Passport Requirements

You may need to renew your British passport if you're travelling from 1 January 2021.

On the day you travel, you'll need your passport to both:

- have at least 6 months left
- be less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left)

Use the [government website](#) to see if your passport is valid for this holiday

EHIC Cards

The UK government has officially launched the Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC), which will replace the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). UK residents can now apply for one of the GHIC cards, which will gradually replace the EHIC cards as they reach their expiry dates. Every family member travelling requires a GHIC. You can make an application for yourself and on behalf of your partner and any dependent children under the age of 16. Both cards will offer equivalent protection for emergency and medically necessary healthcare needs when in the EU on a temporary stay, which includes holiday, study and business travel. Necessary healthcare includes things like

- emergency treatment and visits to A&E
- treatment for long-term or pre-existing medical conditions
- routine medical care for pre-existing conditions that need monitoring
- oxygen and kidney dialysis

The public only need to apply for their free GHIC cards when their current EHIC expires. The process is likely to take two weeks. For more information visit <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>.

The GHIC is not an alternative to travel insurance. We advise all holidaymakers to also invest in travel insurance that covers healthcare, so they are covered for other issues that may arise, as well as cancellations and lost luggage.

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

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: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

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.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: National Westminster Bank, Account Name: HF Holidays Limited, Account Number: 48904805, Sort Code: 60-00-01, IBAN: GB90NWBK60000148904805

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

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

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

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.

Document produced: 24-10-2021

