



TRIP ITINERARY

SWITZERLAND: CLOUDRAKER

TYPE: ALL-MOUNTAIN

THE PREMIER EUROPEAN ALPS' ALL-MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE WITH PROFESSIONAL GUIDES – 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

TRIP DETAILS

An all-mountain trip like no other using a network of lifts, trains and roads – big climbs and even bigger descents with fantastic scenery. Led by North American guides. The trip of a lifetime!

2012 DATES

Friday, July 13 to Saturday, July 21

Saturday, July 21 to Sunday, July 29

2012 LAND COST \$2995 CAD

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$300 CAD

JOINING IN *Geneva, Switzerland*

This trip has quickly become a classic that leaves its participants blown away. Don't be deceived by the big descents and lifts, Cloudraker's daily schedule is jam packed and requires a high level of fitness, technical ability and ability to ride your bike with some exposure at times. This trip is for those who like to pedal up and descend, on one epic trail after another. Fasten your seatbelts, this is going to be fun!

WHAT SETS US APART IN SWITZERLAND?

Our guides are skilled professionals. They have spent years riding and exploring the best trails in the region. They'll fix and tune your bike for you. They are coaches and trained in first aid. They are courteous, helpful and professional.

We know good singletrack. We design our trips with the ultimate riding experience in mind. You'll never get tired of the same trails or ever have to wait in a lift line with 50 other people at a bike park.

We are pioneers in the Alps. We are proud to say that we are the first to explore some of the best rides in the Alps. Even most locals don't know about the trails that we ride – many are untouched, unmarked and unmapped.

We take care of the little things. There is almost nothing that we won't do to make sure that your trip runs smoothly.

ITINERARY

The following is a general outline for Cloudraker trip.

Big Mountain reserves the right to make alterations and substitutions to the itinerary as weather or terrain conditions dictate or as necessary to improve the trip quality or to accommodate the comfort, convenience, and well-being of our guests.

DAY 1 – ARRIVE IN GENEVA, TRANSFER TO VERBIER, RIDE BACKYARD BOOTY

This morning you'll be met by your Big Mountain guides and meet the rest of your group at 10 AM at your Geneva hotel or by 11 AM at the Geneva Airport. Please ensure that your flights arrive no later than 11 AM. Then we'll drive along the beautiful Lake Geneva and into the heart of the Alps. This

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afternoon we'll set up our bikes, review riding skills and go for a ride. Tonight we stay at a family-run hotel in the small hamlet of Lourtier.

DAY 2 – RIDE VERBIER

We'll descend 12,500 feet today via a series of lifts in the Verbier ski resort lift network. Eventhough that's a lot of downhill we'll also be pedalling and climbing for several hours. This ride is a great intro of what's to come this week. Before the last 5000-foot descent back to the hotel we'll stop for a cappuccino at an epic stone hut overlooking the Mont Blanc Massif, Europe's highest mountain. Tonight, we're back in our hotel in Lourtier.

DAY 3 – RIDE TO ITALY

Today is big and beautiful. After a short shuttle we'll climb up (pedal & hike) and over a high pass that marks the border between Switzerland and Italy. The views are unreal! Then, it's downhill and XC for a few hours to a small Italian town where we finish the ride off with a few cold beers before we shuttle back to Switzerland and our hotel in Lourtier. Don't forget your passport!

DAY 4 – R & R IN THE MORNING, RIDE COL DES PLANCHES

This morning we can sleep in, work on our bikes and rest up. Mid-morning we'll hop in the van and do a few shuttles on a local pass with absolutely unreal trails. Then it's off to Brusson for another head-spinning shuttle in the afternoon. Back to Lourtier we sleep tonight.

DAY 5 – RIDE GOLDBLOCKS, TRANSFER TO ZERMATT

Today's ride is 50 kms (31 miles) and one of the most spectacular rides of the trip. Highlights include riding to the picturesque town of Grimenz, beautiful singletrack through old growth forests and high alpine meadows, a funicular (monorail) ride and a grand descent past a spectacularly big, eroded valley, a high speed rip on double track ending with a dip in the lake in Sierre. We'll descend a total of 3200 meters (10,470 feet). Then we pack the van and continue to Zermatt.

DAY 6 – RIDE ZERMATT

Today we'll take you on a big mountain loop that will open up your mountain biking mind. The last descent is like a fairy-tale, ending in the quintessential bustling town teaming with sightseers, mountain climbers and electric cars. Tonight we sleep in Zermatt.

DAY 7 – RIDE ZERMATT

Up early this morning to board the famous Gornergrat cog railway that chugs its way to 3100 meters with views of Monte Rosa, Switzerland's highest peak, and of course the Matterhorn. Today we'll aim to log 3 big descents if we can pull it off. Today might just be the best day of riding ever. Tonight we sleep in Zermatt.

DAY 8 – RIDE ZERMATT, TRANSFER TO VERBIER AREA

It will continue to be apparent why this is one of our favourite places to ride when you get off the lift to head-shaking 1 hour-plus long descents with views to die for. Zermatt is surrounded by 29 peaks the reach above 4000 meters. Then we load the van and drive back to Lourtier.

DAY 9 – TRANSFER TO GENEVA, GOOD BYE!

This morning we will pack our bikes and drive to Geneva. Please make sure that your flights don't depart before 12 noon.

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DETAILS

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert Leadership
- 3 star hotel accommodation
- All meals except lunches & three dinners
- Geneva airport transfers
- Private transportation & all lifts and trains
- Detailed pre-departure information and trip extension assistance
- Big Mountain t-shirt

MAX GROUP SIZE: 11

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

Airfare, airport taxes and excess baggage charges, personal travel and medical insurance, optional tipping to guides, your bike and related equipment needed to ride; alcohol, personal items like drinks and snacks. We recommend \$25-35 USD per day for lunches and extras.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

The **technical ability** required for Cloudraker is rated as 'strong intermediate and above.' In other words, the trails are technically challenging, with hiking sections and exposure. There are long descents each day. For **fitness level**, participants must be fit to very fit. All participants must train accordingly to fully enjoy this trip. Even though we will be riding many lifts and stopping quite often (to enjoy the view, eat and drink, wait for others, repair our bikes etc) – the altitude, jet lag recovery and accumulation of multiple, long days of riding will add up. This trip is a true all mountain adventure – the rewards are FANTASTIC.

BIKE AND EQUIPMENT

The perfect bike for this trip is a 6 inch all-mountain dual suspension with disk brakes. As we are doing lots of descending, make sure to ask us about tips on customizing your bike for this type of riding (shorter stem, fat tires etc). All participants are required to have their **bikes in excellent working order** before the trip begins. We will send you a detailed list of required equipment and clothing before departure. A local shop rents all-mountain bikes for approx \$50 USD per day. Please let us know if this interests you and we can give you more information.

LODGING AND FOOD

We spend 5 nights at a small family-run hotel in the quaint farming village of Lourtier at the base of Verbier. This hotel is warm and cozy with typical Swiss food, a small bar and fantastic Swiss hospitality. At night keep the window open and hear nothing but a rushing river outside while you cosy up under a big duvet. In Zermatt we're at a simple hotel that's located steps from the center of town. The food is typical of the area. Please let us know if you have any dietary needs.

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YOUR SAFETY

Our trips take place in remote to very remote regions with limited evacuation options available and there are always risks and hazards on the trails that we ride. If you choose to participate in our trips, it is up to you to ride well within your limits, to ride conservatively and to be safe as mountain biking is a dangerous sport. Participants must keep their bikes in good working condition, they must be hydrated and rested and alcohol and drugs are not permitted while riding. Our guides have basic first aid training and if a serious injury is suspected they will call helicopter search and rescue at the cost of the participant. Personal medical travel insurance is mandatory.

CLIMATE

In big mountains, weather can change quickly and drastically - it could be 30 degrees celcius one day and then freezing on a mountain top the next day. Even though the Valais is considered to be the 'California of Switzerland' and it receives lots of sun, it can rain and we all need to be prepared. Generally though the weather during the summer in the Valais is hot and sunny.

THE NEXT STEP

Call us toll free at 1.866.894.0220, or email at info@ridebig.com to confirm that there is space on this trip. Then, fill out our secure online registration form on our website. Make sure that you have read and understand our Terms and Conditions and Waiver. Upon booking, we will send you detailed pre-departure information to make sure that you are well prepared for the adventure ahead.

WHY BIG MOUNTAIN IS YOUR CHOICE

Big Mountain Bike Adventures is the pioneer for performance XC, all-mountain, DH and freeride mountain biking adventures. We know that to find the very best trails, you have to ride with locals. All of our trips are designed in part by local riders and often guided with local riders and professional Big Mountain guides. We aim to provide safe, quality trips and the best customer service to our participants.

REFERENCES

We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travellers.

QUESTIONS

Feel free to call us at 1.604.902.1807 or email info@ridebig.com if you have any questions. We are here to help!

CONTACT US

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