



TRIP ITINERARY

SWITZERLAND: CLOUDRAKER

TYPE: ALL-MOUNTAIN

ALL YOU CAN EAT ALL-MOUNTAIN SINGLETRACK – 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

TRIP DETAILS

Multiple lifts each day, long hours in the saddle – big climbs and even bigger descents with fantastic scenery. The trip of a lifetime!

2008 DATES

Friday, July 18 to Saturday, July 26, 2008

Saturday, July 26 to Sunday, August 3, 2008

LAND COST \$2875 Canadian

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'll fix your bike and tune your bike and chat with locals along the way. 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, especially big bike descents. 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.

Trek Remedy 66 bike rentals. Don't feel like lugging your bike across the pond? Grab one of our rides, the perfect bike for our all-mountain trips.

Cloudraker: Extra large mountains and old-world encounters.

ITINERARY

The following is a general outline for Cloudraker trip.

DAY 1 – ARRIVE IN GENEVA, TRANSFER TO VERBIER AREA, SHORT RIDE

Upon arrival in Geneva Switzerland you'll be greeted by your Big Mountain guides and meet the rest of your group. Then we'll drive along the beautiful Lake Geneva, through Lausanne, Montreux, up the Rhone Valley and into the heart of the Alps. This afternoon we'll set up our bikes, review riding skills and go for a short warm-up ride. Tonight we stay at a family-run hotel in the small hamlet of Lourtier.

DAY 2 – RIDE MEDIEVAL FLOW

We'll leave early this morning and head up the Verbier lift network for a few warm-up laps. After lunch we'll traverse the mountainside with Verbier far below, hike our bikes up for 45 minutes to the Pierre Avoi, and begin the 15 kilometer (10 mile), 1828 meter (6000 foot) descent on the most amazing singletrack – littered with natural jumps and berms, to the Rhone Valley. 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 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 – RIDE GOLDBLOCKS

Today's ride is 50 kms (31 miles) and one of the most spectacular rides of the trip. Highlights include riding to the well-preserved 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) today. Back to Lourtier we sleep tonight.

DAY 5 – RIDE GRAND ST. BERNARD

Back to Italy we go, this time you'll definitely need your passport as we cross the border (with guards!) on our bikes, then hike a bike for 40 mins to a high pass and the border back into Switzerland. From there it's mostly downhill on a sweet, technical at times, singletrack. Expect jaw-dropping views of Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain, as it sits directly in front of you. Back to Lourtier we sleep tonight.

DAY 6 - RIDE THE BRAZILIAN, TRANSFER TO ZERMATT

After a 1 hour transfer it's up two lifts where we begin the ride with a 2 hour traverse, climb and hike-a-bike in a landscape straight out of Lord of the Rings. Then, from a high col we begin The Brazilian, a descent that's quite possibly the best in Europe. Few people know about it and we can take you there. Starting in the high alpine, we'll ride past cows, diving into the sub-alpine on super buffed, fast, singletrack, onto a summer bobsled track through the forest, ending with a sloped vineyard track to the valley below. Then we hop in the van and drive to our Zermatt hotel, in the heart of town.

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DAY 7 – RIDE ZERMATT

You'll quickly learn 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 that reach above 4000 meters. Tonight we sleep in Zermatt.

DAY 8 – RIDE ZERMATT, TRANSFER TO VERBIER AREA

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! 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.

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DETAILS

LAND COST

\$2875 Canadian

A single supplement is available: \$280 Canadian

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert Leadership
- Hotel accommodation
- All meals except lunches and one dinner
- Airport pick-up / drop-off
- All transportation including: shuttle vehicle, lifts and trains
- Detailed pre-departure information
- Big Mountain t-shirt

MAX GROUP SIZE: 12

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

Airfare; personal travel and medical insurance; tipping to guides; airport taxes and excess baggage charges (if any); your bike and related equipment needed to ride; personal items like drinks and snacks. We recommend \$30-\$50 CAD 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. Eventhough 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 'freeride challenge' – the rewards are FANTASTIC.

BIKE AND EQUIPMENT

The perfect bike for this trip is a 5 or 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. **Trek Remedy 66 all-mountain bikes are available for rent for \$45 Canadian per day.**

LODGING AND FOOD

We spend 6 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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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 1.866.894.0220 or email info@ridebig.com if you have any questions. We are here to help!

CONTACT US

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