

CLOUDRAKER SWITZERLAND



**MAKE THIS
AN E-BIKE TRIP!**
PRIVATE DEPARTURES ONLY.
CONTACT US FOR
DETAILS.

GROUP SIZE 4-12

DURATION 8 nights, 9 days

SKILL LEVEL Level 2-3

FITNESS LEVEL Level 3

A SPECTACULAR ALL-MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE USING LIFTS, TRAINS AND ROADS. BIG CLIMBS AND EVEN BIGGER DESCENTS IN STUNNING SCENERY. THE ALPS TRIP OF A LIFETIME.

WHY BIG MOUNTAIN?

Professional Leaders. Mountain bike trips to far-away places requires local knowledge. We work with the best guides in all destinations, many since 2001.

Your Safety. Our guides have first-aid certification, our trips have safety management plans and our riders' wellbeing is the number one priority on all of our trips.

Groups that Work. All riders complete a detailed Rider Questionnaire to ensure that they are well matched for the trip physically and technically and with the rest of the group. We almost always have optional rides just in case.

Preparation is Key. We offer excellent pre-trip support and all departures include a detailed Preparation Guide specific to the destination. Of course we've been on every trip that we offer.

Expert Trip Design. We know how to create exceptional mountain bike trips. And, we're constantly reviewing and improving itineraries if we feel that it's needed.

Piece of Mind. Travel & Medical Insurance is mandatory on our trips and Big Mountain Bike Adventures Ltd. has commercial general liability insurance.



OUR GUIDES

Our lead guide is celebrated rider, professional guide and mountain bike coach Myriam Saugy. Highly organized, a certified mtb skills trainer and most importantly she's fun; there's no one better than Lausanne-based Saugy to lead you through the Alps.

CHROMAG

EVOC

TREK

**BIG MOUNTAIN
BIKE ADVENTURES**

ITINERARY CLOUDRAKER

The following is a general outline for the Swiss 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.

This trip has 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 being 'OK' with bit of exposure at times. This trip is for those who like to pedal up and descend, one epic trail after another. Fasten your seatbelts; this is going to be fun!



DAY 1

Welcome to Geneva, transfer to Martigny.

Arrive anytime today and transfer on the train to Martigny (or Le Chable) where you'll be picked up and transferred 20 minutes to our hotel. Build bikes and perhaps hit the spa for a soak and chill session. Tonight we're at our hotel in Lourtier: www.vallee.ch

DAY 2

Ride Verbier.

Meet the group at 8:30 AM this morning in front of our hotel. Today's ride is over 10,000 feet of descent via a series of lifts in the Verbier ski resort lift network. Even though 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 at our hotel in Lourtier: www.vallee.ch.

Distance: 29 km, 691m / 3138 m

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 and dinner before we shuttle back to Switzerland and our hotel in Lourtier: www.vallee.ch. Don't forget your passport!

Distance: 27 km, 1332 m / 1995 m

DAY 4

Ride Col des Planches or Barrage d'Émosson.

We've got a few options on the roster this morning, depending on how we're feeling and the weather today. Option one is a few shuttles on a local pass with absolutely unreal trails, or we'll opt for a longer shuttle and longer ride that'll be sure to blow your mind. Back to Lourtier for the night: www.vallee.ch.

Distance: 28 km, 136 m / 3270 m

DAY 5

Transfer to Val D'Anniviers. Ride to Zinal.

After a forty-minute transfer down the Rhone Valley we'll turn right and into a spectacular mountain valley, the Val

D'Anniviers. We'll transfer up to the town of St. Luc, ride a monorail to the alpine and spin a super lap on a spectacular traversing and descending trail to Zinal. Back up to the alpine we go, and tonight we bed down in our historic hotel perched at 2337 m (7667 ft), built in 1882. Sleep at the Weissshorn Hotel: www.weissshorn.ch/en/

Distance: 22 km, 975 m / 1847 m

DAY 6

Ride Goldielocks. Transfer to Zermatt.

Awake to amazing views of the valley below. This morning we'll head over to Chandolin and onto an epic route that we've recently discovered. We'll drop nearly 10,470 feet back to the van before we load up and drive to Zermatt. Tonight we sleep in Zermatt: www.lepetit-hotel.ch.

Distance: 17 km, 695 m / 3191 m

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 pull off three big descents – potentially the best day of riding ever. Tonight we sleep in Zermatt: www.lepetit-hotel.ch.

Distance: 43 km, 210 m / 4548 m

DAY 8

Day 7 Ride Zermatt.

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 that reach above 4000 meters. Tonight we sleep in Zermatt: www.lepetit-hotel.ch.

Distance: 27 km, 151 m / 2959 m

DAY 9

Train transfer to Geneva Airport.

Board the train for the easy 3 hr. 45 minute journey to Geneva Airport. Flights should not depart earlier than 12 noon today.

**Note: Riders are required to travel from the Geneva Airport to the small town of Le Chable on the train on their own upon arrival (where we pick you up). We will send you a detailed PDF with these instructions, it is very easy.

DETAILS

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). Knee pads and eye protection are mandatory and shoes that are good for hiking are very important. 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 approximately 60-80 CHF per day.

SUGGESTED BIKE FOR THIS TRIP:

TREK REMEDY



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert Leadership.
- Eight nights 3-star hotel accommodation.
- All breakfasts & three dinners.
- Private shuttle van transportation, all lift & train passes (excluding train transfers to/from Geneva Airport).
- Detailed pre-departure information and trip extension assistance.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- Airfare, airport taxes and excess baggage charges.
- Lunches & four dinners.
- Personal travel and medical insurance.
- Optional tipping to guides.
- Your bike and related equipment needed to ride.
- Personal items like drinks, alcohol and snacks.
- We recommend \$25-35 USD per day for lunches and extras.

TRAVEL INSURANCE



Medical Insurance is mandatory on all Big Mountain Bike Adventures' trips and Travel Insurance is strongly recommended. Please [visit our recommended insurance provider](#) World Nomads to learn more.

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 and technical 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.

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.



CLIMATE

In big mountains, weather can change quickly and drastically – it could be 30 degrees Celsius one day and then freezing on a mountaintop 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.

DETAILS cont.



YOUR SAFETY

All participants must ride safely and within their limits daily as mountain biking is a dangerous sport with risks and hazards. Most accidents occur at the beginning of a trip due to jet lag, fatigue and unfamiliarity of trail conditions and obstacles; it is imperative that riders especially take it easy at the beginning of the trip. Alcohol and drugs are not permitted while riding. Participants will remain hydrated and rested throughout the trip. Riders will be responsible for their daily bike checks and keeping bikes in good working condition. Everyone is ultimately responsible for their own well being on our trips. Our guides have basic first aid training and if a serious injury is suspected, will call local search and rescue and/or an evacuation helicopter at the cost of the participant. The majority of our trips take place in remote regions with limited evacuation options. Personal medical travel insurance is mandatory on all trips.

THE NEXT STEPS

Call us toll free at 1-866-894-0220, or +1-604-902-1807 for international guests or email at info@ridebig.com to confirm there's space on this trip. If Skype is preferred please send us an email to arrange a meeting. We like to speak to everyone interested in joining our trips. This helps ensure everyone signing up is well matched for the group!

Make sure you have read and understand our [Terms and Conditions](#) and also our [Waiver](#). Both found on our website under registration.

To confirm your spot please complete our secure online [Booking Form](#) found on our website.

Once your online registration form has been received, we'll send you detailed pre-departure information, for review, to ensure you're well prepared for the adventure ahead.

PAYMENT

Once you've completed our online registration form and we've confirmed that we have the needed number of riders to proceed, we'll collect a \$750.00 CAD deposit that is refundable up to 14 days after registering (outside of 90 days before the trip departure), afterwards your deposit becomes non-refundable. At 90 days prior to the departure, the full trip balance will be collected. Please review our [Terms & Conditions](#) for full details on payment, cancellation and refund policies. Please note that while our land costs are quoted in the destination country's preferred currency, the balance and deposit are processed in Canadian dollars. The exchange rate is based on the daily rate quoted using the Bank of Canada. If you are paying with credit card and reside outside of Canada, you may incur a foreign transaction fee. If you wish, there's the option of paying with a wire transfer or you can also send us a cheque. Please contact us anytime to discuss your options.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

The single supplement of 640 CHF is an additional fee for solo travellers who wish to have their own rooms during the trip. If riders agree to share a room with someone of the same gender BM will pair you up. If there isn't another single participant of the same gender available, you will automatically have your own room and incur the additional single supplement fee.



WHY BIG MOUNTAIN IS YOUR CHOICE

Since 2001 Big Mountain Bike Adventures is the pioneer of performance mountain bike adventures to destinations worldwide. Our itineraries are designed by local professional guides and Big Mountain travel experts and lead by the very best local leaders available. Our mission is to deliver safe, quality trips with the best customer service - ensuring a trip of a lifetime.

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 or need any additional information. We are here to help!

CONTACT US

Big Mountain Bike Adventures Ltd. Box 922, Whistler BC, V0N 1B0 CANADA
Facebook | Instagram | Trip Advisor | Vimeo | Pinkbike