



RIDE EUROPE

ROUTE 1. STAGE 2. DAY 2.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE TO GAP FRANCE

APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES (320KM)

Leaving Aix-en-Provence, the road begins to wind through picturesque towns and villages, past ancient churches and the ruins of a châteaux, before climbing towards one of France's most spectacular natural wonders: the breathtaking Gorges du Verdon. Riders can expect a thrilling 17-mile (23km) stretch with a succession of tight twists, blind bends and dramatic drop-offs. In places, the cliff edge drops to a depth of up to 700m into the turquoise waters below. Continue from here to Castellane for your rest stop.

Leaving Castellane, you'll climb onto Route Napoléon and the beautiful mountain pass of Col des Lèques (1,148m). Spanning 200 miles (325km), Route Napoléon is filled with sweeping curves, dramatic switchbacks and stunning alpine scenery. The highway is so named because it closely follows the route taken by Napoléon Bonaparte to reclaim his throne in 1815.

Your journey continues to Digne-les-Bains, in the heart of the UNESCO Haute-Provence Geopark. This area is renowned for its mineral-rich thermal spas and is surrounded by vast, fragrant lavender fields. It's the ideal place to stretch your legs, just bear in mind that many places close during lunchtime hours, so plan your stop accordingly.

The final stretch takes you to Gap, where you'll spend the night. At 735m above sea level, Gap is France's highest préfecture. Wander through the bustling pedestrian lanes of its attractive historic centre, discover the lively Place Jean Marcellin and enjoy an alfresco meal in the main square.

WHERE TO STAY

Not many campsites around Gap

Camping Napoléon and Alpes Dauphiné – (Located next to each other.) Approx. 2.5 miles (4km) north of Gap off the N85.

Recommended hotels:

Gap has more than 100 hotels to suit every budget.

ibis Gap Centre

5/7 Bd Georges
Pompidou, 05000
Gap, France
all.accor.com



HIGHLIGHTS

- Gorges du Verdon (D71: Corniche Sublime)
- Route Napoléon
- Castellane – Chapelle Notre-Dame du Roc perched above the town
- Col des Lèques
- Digne-les-Bains: thermal baths and lavender fields
- Gap, France's highest préfecture



ROUTE MAP



Scan the QR code or click here to view the route

DEPART FROM AIX-EN-PROVENCE

	Road	Direction
Pick up and follow	D7N/DN7	Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume
Then, pick up and follow	D560	Barjols
In Barjols, pick up and follow	D554	Tavernes
In Tavernes, pick up and follow	D71/D13	Montmeyan
In Montmeyan, pick up and follow	D30/D9	Aups
In Aups, pick up and follow	D957	Moustiers-Sainte-Marie
Just after Les Salles sur Verdon and lake pick up and follow	D19/D71	Corniche Sublime/ Comps-sur-Artuby
Verdon Gorge – D71 Corniche Sublime		
Then pick up and follow	D90	Trigance
After Pont de l'Artuby and end of the gorge		
Then pick up and follow	D955/D952	Castellane
In Castellane, pick up and follow	D4085/N85	Digne-les-Bains
N85 Route Napoléon		
In Digne-les-Baine, pick up and follow	D900	Gap
Then follow	D900B	Gap

Disclaimer: These are suggested routes only and we cannot be held responsible for the condition of the roads, the weight of traffic or any detours. Fuel stations can be few and far between in some rural areas of France. Make sure you start each day with a full tank and top up when you can.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY **call 112** from any mobile phone