

Explore Lake Annecy Member Breaks

Trip style: Member breaks

Destination:  France

Trip code: ANY07-LML09

Grades: .il 1&2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Experience the mighty mountain backdrops and rich culture of the Haute-Savoie region with a holiday to Lake Annecy – a glittering jewel on the edge of the French Alps. With a hotel in the heart of Annecy’s historic old quarter, our holidays here line-up lakeside strolls, footbridge walks through the spectacular Gorge de Fier, plus a visit to the Abbey of Tamié – home to an order of Cistercian monks that have made the abbey’s namesake cheese since the 12th century.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Reliving the golden age of rail travel
- Exploring the medieval streets of Annecy
- Enjoying walks with views of the beautiful Lake Annecy
- Experiencing the rich culture of Haute-Savoie
- Discovering a multitude of Giants Kettles carved out by the river Fier
- Soaking up views of Tournette Mountain and Talloire Bay

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London Heathrow, including baggage and transfers
- A choice of 2 guided walks per day with local leaders (on walking days)
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- 7 nights' accommodation in Gréoux-les-Bains
- 7 breakfasts and 7 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees (as per itinerary)
- All in-destination transport

TRIP SUITABILITY

This is a level 1 and level 2 graded Activity, Easier walks: 4 to 6 miles (6 to 9km) with rough paths in places. Up to 1,150ft (350m) of ascent in a day. Harder walks: 6 to 8½ miles (9 to 13km) with some steep ascents and rough scramble terrain. Up to 2,000ft (600m) of ascent in a day.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival day

Welcome to Hotel Catalpa. Unpack and settle in.

Day 2: Lake Annecy

Day 3: Exploring Annecy

Day 4: The Bauges Mountains

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

Day 7: Eastern shore

Day 8: Departure day

We hope to see you again soon.

Hotel Catalpa - Annecy

Boasting an enviable location on the shores of Lake Annecy, the 3-star Hotel Catalpa offers comfortable well-appointed rooms with modern touches throughout. You'll find alfresco seating areas ideal for soaking up the sunshine or enjoying an evening drink, plus a chic little restaurant serving French classics and international dishes. What's more, you'll be in strolling distance of Annecy's charming old town.

- Very near the lake (100 m), residential area, nice and clean.
- 53 rooms. the hotel has a restaurant.
- This hotel got renovated relatively recently (about 4 years ago).
- Short transfer from train station for rail guests
- 20 min walk from the city centre along a nice walk by the lake.
- Shops, pharmacy, bars and restaurants near the hotel.