

The Tour of Jura Without Borders! 2018 Season

**Guided cross-country ski touring in stages with transportation for your luggage
Classic or Skating in 8 days and 7 nights**



The Jura Mountain chain in France and Switzerland is perhaps one of the biggest networks of continuous cross-country skiing trails that exist. They are well marked and groomed regularly. In this centralized part of Europe, the countryside makes these spectacular trails perfect for point-to-point Nordic skiing in six stages measuring from 180 km to 220 km (depending on which you decide to choose).

So, you already know about how Sandoz Concept runs its point-to-point system and we presume that you like it. Here, right in time for the 2018 upcoming season, we have developed something new to equally enthrall you. The Tour of Jura Without Borders will allow you to discover more fascinating and varied terrain. In one week, you will go through the Jura Mountains, cross into the National Regional Park of the Haut-Jura, and also make excursions into Switzerland. You will do this on well-signed cross-country trails that work for every style of Nordic skiing and every level. Do you want vistas that take your breath away? That is what you will have. You will start and return very close to the winter ski resort called Rousses in the town of Lajoux.

The route we will take should be considered as part of an overall discovery stay. The route will take you through spectacular winter landscapes. At certain times, you will be cross-country skiing on the actual course for the Transjurassienne. You will go through villages and typical spots with names that sing to you, such as Chapelle-des-bois, Bellefontaine, Le Pré-Poncet, la Baronne, and the Chalet Brûlé. You will fearlessly traverse a delightful spot called the Carrefour du Massacre, or the Crossroads of a Massacre. As always, you will be skiing at a speed that is appropriate for you. None of you will be looking to break records, but rather to discover the nature and the culture of a country.



The Week's Program:

Sunday: Travel and Transfer

You will be on your own in terms of getting to the village of Lajoux, which is 20 minutes from La Cure train station and 40 minutes from the Bellegarde train station. You will check in at the Hotel La Haute Montagne, which is located in Lajoux. That first evening we will have a welcoming aperitif and you will find about how the following week is planned, followed by a dinner together with the whole group. You will prepare your skis for the next morning.

Monday: Going from the Village of La Pesse to Lajoux, 32 to 34 km

After a hearty breakfast, your mini bus will take you to La Pesse, which is about 20 minutes away. During the day, you will pass near the Crêt au Merle, where you will see some magnificent vistas of the highest summits of the Jurassienne Mountains-- Le Crêt de la Neige—which rises to 1,720 meters. Then you go toward Molunes, where you will have lunch at the “Collège” which is a superb restaurant situated right along the cross-country ski trail. You will have two choices for returning to Lajoux. You can go through the small Laisia Valley or directly through the Platières. Either way you will do between 32 km and 34 km for this first day. At the Haute Montagne, take a beer, but remember to prepare your skis for the next morning. Then dinner.

Tuesday: Lajoux to Les Rousses to La Cure, 30 to 35 km

After a copious breakfast, you will go out for your second day of skiing. You will be headed toward the Massacre Forrest. There will be a short coffee break at the Frasse Chalet before you continue toward Darbella for lunch. In the afternoon, you will go through the Village of Prémanon as far as La Cure, quite close to the well-known ski resort of les Rousses. There you will stay at the French/Swiss hotel of L'Arbezvie. The hotel lies directly on the border—one side you come in is French; the other side is Swiss. So, take your pick—eat in France or eat in Switzerland, in the same dining room! The same is true for the bedrooms that you choose to sleep in. This is a unique establishment, symbolizing in and of itself why we call this trip “without borders.” Bérénice and her staff will offer you her locally famous cuisine.



Wednesday: La Cure to Foncine-le-Haut, 30 to 40 km

The third leg of your trip will be mainly on the famous Transjurassienne trail, which is the only French race that is part of the Worldloppet. For those of you who don't know, the Worldloppet unites 16 of the best cross-country courses in the world. As you leave the Rousses village, you will see scenery all around you as you move on toward the village of Bois d'Amont (first 10 km by bus possible). This is truly a Nordic ski town which is famous for having been the home of a number of Nordic ski champions in France as well as those who have won races in the category combined Nordic skiing. A long uphill goes towards the Risoux Forest where you will have lunch at the Gaillard chalet, which is right before the Chalet des Ministres in the middle of the forest. You won't be far from the summit of this imposing place. Then a long downhill into the Bellefontaine Valley during the afternoon where you will arrive at Chapelle-des-Bois. All the while you will be moving through sections of bogs and lakes before you get to Foncine-le-Haut where we will stay for two nights at the Grand Chalet Hotel in Foncine-le-Haut. There is a sauna and an indoor pool waiting for you to help you recover. In the evening, dinner will consist of local specialties.

Thursday: A tour around Foncine-le-Haut, about 20 to 30 km

One good point to remember for this day is that you don't have to pack in the morning because we are going to spend a second night at the same hotel. The route this Thursday goes in the direction of Chapelle-des-Bois before you cross the Combe des Cives to Pré-Poncet where there is an overhead bridge that allows you to cross the highway. Lunch is planned at la Jaique which is situated at 1,380 meters where you will be able to see the Mouthe Valley. The return in the afternoon we will pass by Chez Liadet in Chaux-Neuve, a small village known for its ski jump that has been used for many World Cup competitions for the combined Nordic cup races. In the afternoon, you will have skied 20 to 30 km depending on which return route you took. Sauna, indoor pool, and dinner.

Friday: Col du Mollendruz to La Cure, about 25 or 41 km

You will start this glorious day at the Col du Mollendruz in Switzerland after having been driven in a mini bus from your hotel in Foncine-le-Haut. Plan on about a 40-minute drive. The magnificent itinerary today will allow you to explore wonderful terrain starting from the foot of the Tendre Mountain whose peak is at 1,673 meters. You will pass through the Bon Accueil refuge and go all the way to the Col du Marchairuz that you will discover after about 18 km of skiing. The track cross the road and continue in the general direction of la Cure where on the way you will stop at La Buvette des Pralets where we will take a break for lunch. Only 13 km to go in the afternoon to get to our hotel L'Arbez, the same French/Swiss hotel that you were in on Tuesday. Before arriving at the hotel you will go through Baronne. Start at Col du Marchairuz for the short distance of 25 km.

Saturday: La Cure to les Rousses to Lajoux, about 25 to 30 km

Another hearty breakfast in the morning before the last stage of your trip. You will be going toward Lamoura, well-known for those who participate in the Transjurassienne races. You will go through the superb Combe Sambine. Lunch break at La Serra before you continue on to Combe du Lac and finally back to the village of Lajoux. There you will stay in the same hotel La Haute Montagne as the first two evening. Last meal together.



Your Accommodations:

Sunday, Monday, and Saturday evening:

Hotel La Haute Montagne in Lajoux

Your hotel is situated in Lajoux Village; it is not far from many Nordic ski trails and less than 2.5 kms from the start of one of the races. This 3-star hotel is owned by the Mermet family, whose patriarch participated in three Olympic games during the 1950s. There are 20 rooms with two, three, and four beds, each with a complete bathroom. The ambiance is comfortable and typically jurassienne. The hotel has a dining room with a panoramic view, a bar, a salon, a library, free Wi-Fi, boot warmers, and clothes warmers. In addition, there is a wax room and parking for private cars around the building. The “boss,” Gilles, will spoil you with great meals.



Tuesday and Friday Evenings:

Hôtel L'Arbez in la Cure

Apparently, because Napoléon III walked the extra kilometer, two countries can sleep in the same room and eat at the same table. This no man's land is where the hotel owners chose to build.

Copious meals with a variety of food choices indeed, you will be enchanted by what you get to eat. It is a gourmet table from Gex countryside elaborated with local products and a passionate chef who adds to the warm French/Swiss atmosphere.



Wednesday and Thursday Evenings:

Hôtel Le Grand Chalet in Foncine-le-Haut

In the heart of the Jura mountain range, this hotel is authentic with a warm atmosphere of a real chalet. The mood, the food, and the welcome are second to none. There are 52 rooms with all comforts included—each has a complete bathroom. The restaurant is on the ground floor right next to a bar, a fireplace, and a piano. There is an indoor swimming pool and a sauna at your disposal. WiFi is free.



Date 2018:

January 28 to February 4, 2018 (Sunday to Sunday)

Here is what is included in your package deal:

- ✓ 7 nights of lodging in the hotels previous described
- ✓ 7 copious breakfasts
- ✓ 7 dinners
- ✓ All hotel taxes included
- ✓ Transfer of your luggage from hotel to hotel (attention: 2 bags per person only)
- ✓ One week pass for cross country skiing in the area
- ✓ Detailed information for your entire trip, including maps of the cross country ski trails and a description of all terrain.
- ✓ If you drive, free parking in front of or near the first hotel in Lajoux
- ✓ All mini bus rides
- ✓ The sauna where available
- ✓ A well versed, professional guide from Team Sandoz Concept for your entire stay

The price for all of this in a double bedroom is 1050 euros or 1180 Swiss francs

The price for individual rooms is 230 euros or 260 Swiss francs for the week

Important information! Reserve your place quickly because there are a limited number of available slots

Additional choices (not part of the above)—just ask us

- ✓ Rental of all ski equipment
- ✓ Transfer to and from one of the local train stations
- ✓ Trip cancellation insurance



General Information:

Type of Trip:

Guided itinerary with luggage transportation by Team Sandoz Concept

Length:

8 days / 7 nights

Level of Skiing:

The Jura region is reputed to be accessible to all level especially in classic ski style. Nevertheless, you should be, at a minimum, an advanced Nordic skier and capable of doing at least 30 km with 600 to 800 meters elevation per day and 7 days in a row. You can also do this skate skiing.

Accommodations:

Three star hotels with sauna in Foncine Le Haut.

Total Distance Covered in One Week:

From 180 to 220 km

You will be able to choose the length throughout the week.

Starting and Ending Village:

Lajoux

Renting Your Skiing Equipment:

You can rent it in Lajoux, either classic or skating (in the Mermet EQUIP FOND shop in front of the Hotel) for the entire week.

The Trip There:

If You Come by Train:

Pick you up at the la Cure train station on the Swiss frontier and bring you back by mini bus. On request.

How to Get to Lajoux by Car

- ✓ From Lyon: Take Lyon-Oyonnax by using the A 42 and then to St. Claude, Septmoncel, and Lajoux
- ✓ From Paris: Paris-Poligny by the A 39 and then Champagnole, Morez, Les Rousses, and Lajoux
- ✓ From Switzerland: Take the expressway to Nyon and then follow the directions to St-Cergue, la Cure, and Lajoux

Coming by Plane: The closest airport is Genève where you would rent a car. Then you would drive to Nyon, St-Cergue, la Cure, and Lajoux.

Parking:

You will be able to park near the Hotel La Haute Montagne without any payment.