

Guided JURA ROUTE	Riding Day 5
Basel to	Kilometers: 80
St. Hippolyte	Meters of climbing: 800
DAY 07	

OK. Enough city shenanigans. Back into the wild !

The route that we're taking out of Basel was recommended to us by a local cyclist. We'll begin by heading south and getting on the D16 and then eventually the D12.

We're going to be crossing borders a lot in this first part of the day. The goal is to connect with the "GTJ: *La Grande Traversée de Jura*", which is a cycling route on the French side through the Jura. However, don't expect to see lots of signposts and small bike-only paths as in Switzerland: we're in France and the infrastructure (in all areas) is not as developed nor as systematic.

If you look at a map of Switzerland, you'll see lots of little peninsulas of territory jutting out into France and so we'll be cutting through a few of those: Switzerland, France, Switzerland, France. You may get dizzy.

You'll pass through Porrentruy and it should be obvious that you're once again in Switzerland. France was my first love. I don't mean to pick on her. It's just that Switzerland has a lot more financial resources at her disposition and you can see them here in Porrentruy which has an extremely well-preserved city center. Take a walk-about, please. Enjoy your last taste of "city life". You won't see anything as big as Porrentruy again until you're back in Geneva.

It's lots of twists and turns and then a long descent to St. Hippolyte, a town which should remind you a bit of St. Ursanne: both well-preserved medieval villages in a narrow valley with the River Doubs at the bottom. St. Ursanne is, in fact, just 20 km down the river.

We'll be staying at the best place in town, (you should hope so). Although the restaurant at the hotel is fine, there is the much better "Le Hippolyte" by the river. We plan on eating here.

Specialties here in this region include "concoillotte", (a smelly, runny cheese) and the "Saucisse de Montebeliard", (a locally made smoked pork sausage). Wish I were there with you, I truly do. Sleep well, you've got a very long and hard day tomorrow.