



INDEPENDENT JURA TOUR



📍 Get used to the traffic jams !



Day 2:

Geneva → Lac de Joux



Distance:

80 Kilometers



Climbing:

1428 Meters

The first day of the Jura tour was my first-ever overnight bicycle trip in Europe. That was back in 2001. So, it's really this day that inspired me to create Bike Switzerland.

RideWithGPS is going to take you out of town and put you on the lake road. From Nyon, you'll begin heading North. Best to make sure you've got water and energy food before leaving Nyon as you will not find much once you leave.

Here is where things start getting hard. Once you leave Nyon, you will be on Route #7 (Jura Route). You've got about 15km at a 10% grade. You'll be ascending approximately 900 meters. But once that's done, you're up. Then you will be on a wide crest of pastureland and forest that is officially called (no joke) the Canton of Vaud Jurassic Park. So watch out ! Nay...but you could very well see a falcon on a fence post or a lynx on a tree branch.



Quiet, isn't it ? Hardly anyone lives up here. That said, this landscape has been profoundly shaped by civilization for thousands of years. People have been harvesting the forests and grazing animals up here for a long time. Notice all the pastureland ? See all of those stone walls and mysterious livestock pens ? But where is everyone ? If it's a foggy day, things can be downright spooky. Soon you'll be coasting down into the Valley de Joux (named after the lake you'll soon see). It's an unassuming valley. The towns are small and sleepy: *Le Brassus*, *Le Sentier*, *Le Lieu*, *l'Abbaye*. Unless there is a village party going on, these places might seem like ghost towns. Then, you may be sipping a beer on a rickety terrace in Le Sentier and see a Bentley or some similarly exotic car. You'll then wonder aloud: "What do they do up here ?" I was hoping you'd ask. They make watches ! Expensive watches !

Audemars Piguet, Blancpain, PatekPhillipe, Vacheron Constantin: they are all up here . And yes, some people do come up here just to buy a watch on the premises. A client might fly in from an oil-rich country, visit workshops and their craftsmen, examine diamonds and gold, and then if all goes well, a work-order for 500,000 Chf or more is placed. That's about the starting price for something unique.

So, don't try to impress the waiter with your Rolex at supper ! :)

Speaking of supper...you'll likely want to eat at your hotel, as there is nothing else nearby. It's a lovely 3-star hotel directly on the lake.