



 Heading to Chatel-St-Denis



Day 2:

Chexbres → Saanen-Gstaad



Distance:

79 Kilometers



Climbing:

1174 Meters

Points of Interest:

- ★ Gruyère cheese factory (below town)
- ★ Alien Bar (in old Gruyère)
- ★ Gruyère Castle

Take the road that you came in on (Route de Chardonne) and continue all the way to Chatel St. Denis. Or, if you prefer to stay off the main road, look for the Information marker on RideWithGPS at around 7.5 kilometers. The marker is called “**Take Route 9 Here**”. This is a “high road” that is parallel to the main road and is more scenic, but more difficult. These two roads will then meet just before Chatel St. Denis.

You’ll be climbing all the way to town, but once there you’ll find good cafés and public toilets. When leaving Chatel St. Denis, keep your eyes open for Route #9. It will be on the right.

Make a habit of checking signs at each intersection. The paths are well marked so long as you are looking. Note: you will also encounter “Route 4” signs today. No worries, Route 4 and Route 9 run together at certain points.

Buy picnic supplies in Bulle and make your picnic at one of the tables behind the Cheese Museum in Gruyère.

The restaurant at the cheese museum is also reasonably priced and offers a good choice of local specialties. You’ve probably noticed the medieval village on top of the hill ? This is the “real” (old) Gruyère, and is definitely worth the visit. Leave the bikes locked behind the cheese museum restaurant (next to the wall with the cow mural) and walk up the path to the village. It’s worth spending an hour or so wandering around old Gruyère.



Very quiet roads to Montbovon

After Gruyère, you'll hit some villages: Grand Villard & Lessoc. You'll be on a busier road once out of Lessoc and soon reach Montbovon. There is a train that stops in Montbovon if you're experiencing problems.

At kilometer 56 you will see a Route #9 sign on your right. Look at the GPS. This is easy to miss. No worries if you do miss it...just follow the main road into Chateau d'Oex.



Make time for Gruyère

Our hotel is above Saanen (the town before Gstaad). Make it to the hotel by 5pm, so that you can enjoy all the facilities: a spa, swimming pool and great views. Yes, the climb is steep. If you're having problems, call the hotel and they may be able to pick you up in Saanen. If so, lock your bikes somewhere safe.

Gstaad is world renown for its skiing and for its famous residents. The town itself is worth a visit, if only to answer the question: what would an isolated mountain town full of multi-millionaires look like? Take your bikes...its just 2 km. The town has a few regular supermarkets (Migros, Coop), so it's also a good place to buy groceries if you're planning to picnic.

Restaurants in Gstaad are all pricey without exception and are almost all associated with a hotel, so dinner at your own hotel or someplace in Saanen is your best option unless you find a restaurant in Gstaad that is calling out your name.