



 We're now in France !



Day 7:

Basel → St. Hippolyte



Distance:

79 Kilometers



Climbing:

900 Meters

Enough city shenanigans. Back into the wild !

Designing a route out of Basel is difficult at the moment as construction is currently underway. So, although there is a track leading from your hotel, please understand that the street might now be closed or you may be going the wrong way down a street. My advice is to zoom out on the RWGPS application and then head in the general direction of the track without worrying about being spot-on.

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 through the Jura on the French side. 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.

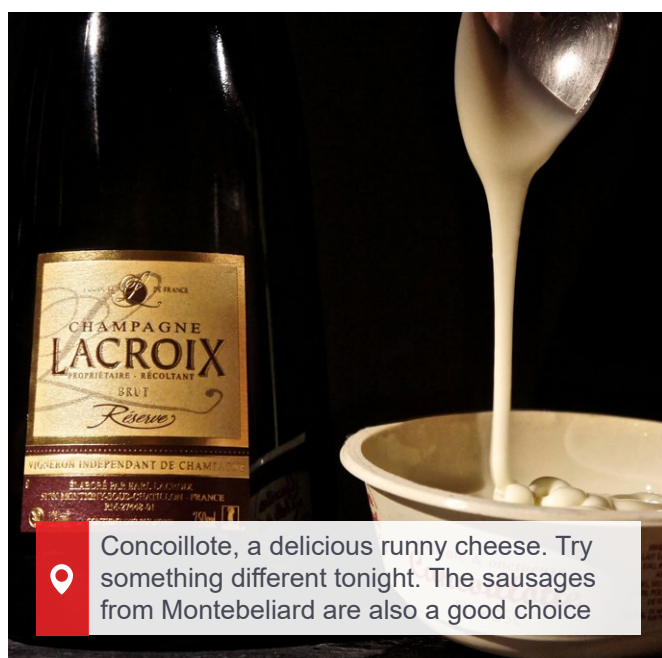
If you look at a map of Switzerland, you'll see lots of little peninsulas of territory jutting out into France and so we'll be cutting through a few of those: Switzerland, France, Switzerland, France. You may get dizzy.

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 a very well-preserved city center.



📍 St. Hippolyte is our destination

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 are 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.



📍 Concoillote, a delicious runny cheese. Try something different tonight. The sausages from Montebeliard are also a good choice

We'll be staying at the best place in town, but that doesn't mean so much. The rooms can be a bit dreary. Apologies, but there really are not a lot of choices nearby. Although the restaurant at the hotel is fine, there is a better choice, *Le Hippolyte* by the river. Try to get a table there.

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