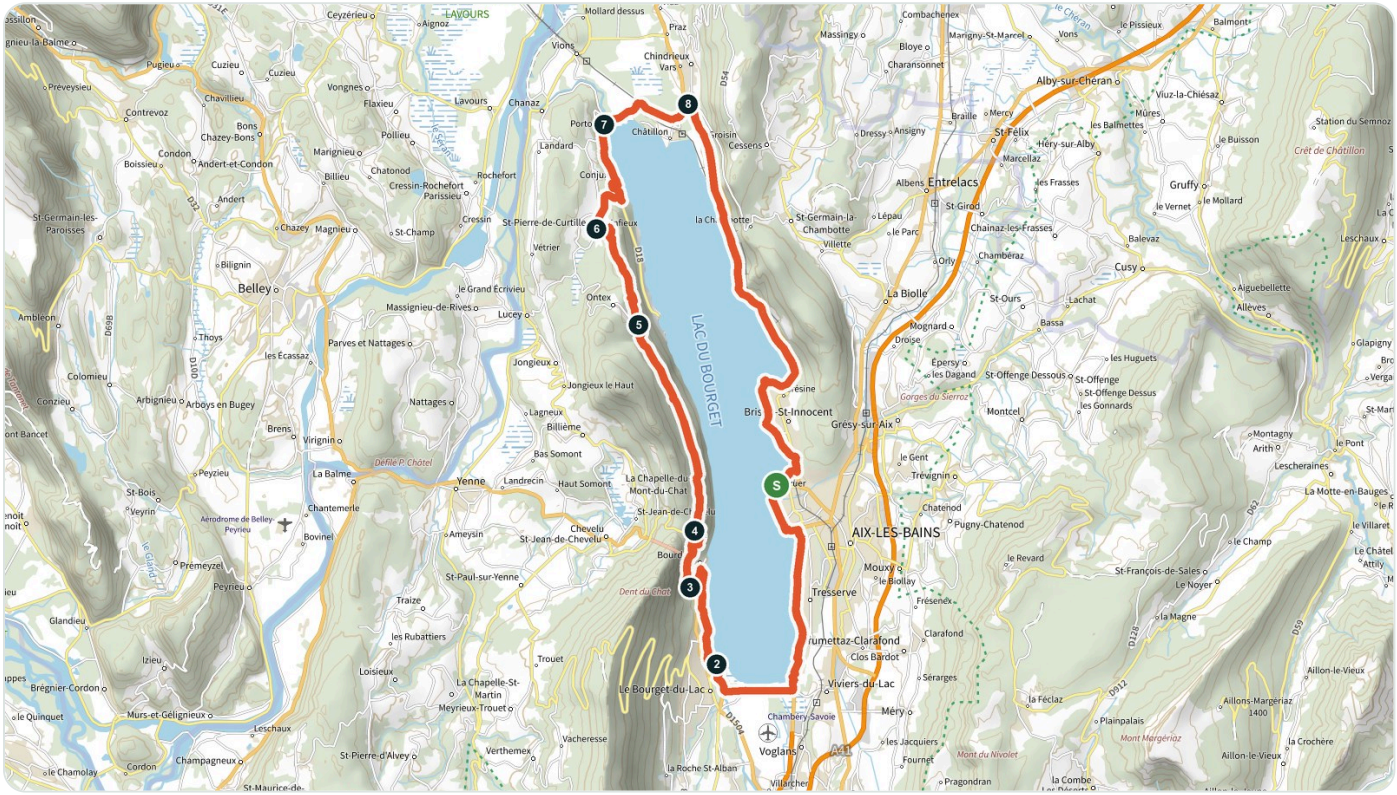
Le Patio
4-star holiday apartment · Aix-les-Bains

CYCLING ROUTE

The full loop of Lake Bourget

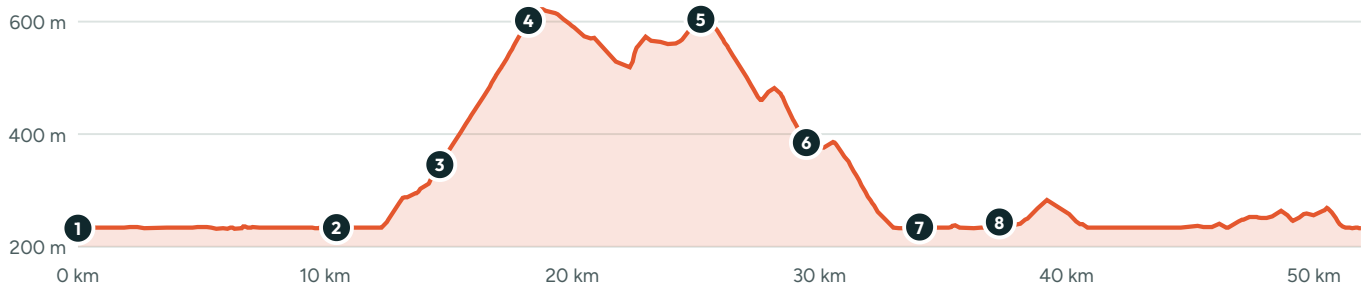
The great classic for local cyclists: 51 km around the largest natural lake in France, with the RD 914 climb towards the Col du Chat, the balcony road along the west shore above Hautecombe Abbey, the Portout bridge over the Savière canal and the return along the east shore. Allow about 3 hr on a road bike, for trained cyclists.

51 km	+631 m	3 hr	Difficult difficulty
loop	total climb	riding time, without breaks	



S: start 1, 2, 3: steps route

Elevation profile



Why we love it

- The real lake loop, 51 km in one go
- The balcony road along the west shore, with Hautecombe Abbey below you from the Ontex viewpoint
- The hairpin climb of the RD 914 towards the Col du Chat, above Bourdeau
- The Portout bridge over the Savière canal, gateway to the Chautagne

The full loop of Lake Bourget

51 km · +631 m · 3 hr · Difficult

STEP BY STEP

1. **The Grand Port** km 0
   Start from the landing stage and head south on the lakeside path, the Esplanade and the Petit Port, then the greenway to Le Bourget-du-Lac. Sporty cyclists may prefer the cycle lane on the lakeside road, as the official route page suggests.

2. **Le Bourget-du-Lac, Charpignat and Bourdeau** km 10.5
   At Le Bourget-du-Lac beach (km 10.5), take the RD 14, which runs along the lake past the port of Charpignat to the village of Bourdeau. As far as Charpignat there is no cycle path: you ride on the road.

3. **The roundabout and the RD 914 climb** km 14.6
   After Bourdeau, at the RD 1504 roundabout (km 14.7), turn onto the RD 914, which climbs towards the Col du Chat: about 3.5 km of hairpins above Bourdeau, from 350 m to nearly 600 m above sea level.

4. **The hamlet of Le Col** km 18.2
   You are at the hamlet of Le Col (km 18), very close to the high point of the loop, at about 620 m. The Col du Chat itself is 500 m to the left on the RD 914a; the loop carries on north on the RD 914, the Hautecombe road.

5. **The west shore balcony and the Ontex viewpoint** km 25.2
   The road runs like a balcony between 500 and 600 m above sea level, with views plunging down to the lake and Aix-les-Bains. At the Ontex viewpoint (km 25), Hautecombe Abbey appears below you, facing La Chambotte.

6. **Saint-Pierre-de-Curtille and the descent to Conjux** km 29.5
   The RD 914 goes through Saint-Pierre-de-Curtille (km 29.5), then drops in hairpins to Conjux and its port. In July and August, you can finish there by boat with your bike, booking compulsory.

7. **Portout and the Savière canal** km 34
   At the hamlet of Portout (km 34), the RD 914 crosses the Savière canal, which links the lake to the Rhône, then runs straight across the Chautagne marshes to Chindrieux. Chanaz is about 3 km to the left on the RD 18 if you fancy a detour.

8. **Chindrieux and the return on the RD 991** km 37.3
   The RD 914 joins the RD 991 at Chindrieux (km 37.3): head due south along the east shore, through Brison-Saint-Innocent and along the lakeside boulevard, back to the Grand Port. Heavy traffic and only partial cycling facilities: ride in single file, well to the right.

Practical information

Start	Grand Port, Aix-les-Bains, Compagnie des Bateaux landing stage (233 m)
From Le Patio	10 min by bike from Le Patio
Without a car	The Grand Port (Mémard beach) is served by the Ondéa bus network according to Grand Lac: lines and timetables on the Ondéa website.
Parking	Car parks around the Grand Port, most of them paying according to the Compagnie des Bateaux.
Season	No seasonal closure announced: the ride depends on the weather and the state of the roads.
Waymarking	Savoie Mont Blanc cycle loop no. 52 "Tour du lac du Bourget"; in Bourdeau, follow the "Tour du Lac" signs.
Water	No sourced drinking water point: set off with at least 1.5 l per person.
With children	No: the RD 991 between Chindrieux and Aix-les-Bains, with heavy traffic and only partly equipped for cyclists, is strongly discouraged for children and inexperienced cyclists by the tourist office.
Dogs	No rule specific to the route, but it is almost entirely on roads; dogs are banned from Grand Lac beaches, even on a lead, during the summer season.
In your bag	Helmet, a well-serviced road bike or e-bike, lights and high-visibility clothing for the RD 991, inner tube.

Before you go

- Between Chindrieux and Aix-les-Bains, the RD 991 has heavy traffic and is only partly equipped for cyclists: the tourist office strongly advises children and inexperienced cyclists against it.
- The RD 914 (access to the Col du Chat) was closed from 23 March to 19 June 2026 for works: check savoie-route.fr before you set off.
- If the RD 914 is closed, the official diversion for cyclists goes through the bike gallery of the Chat tunnel, then over the Col du Chat (RD 210a and RD 914a).
- After Le Bourget-du-Lac, the loop follows departmental roads open to traffic: helmet, lights and visible clothing.
- Long hairpin descent from Saint-Pierre-de-Curtille to Conjux: check your brakes before you set off.

Our tip

Ride the loop in the direction of the official route page, west shore first, to climb the Col du Chat on fresh legs; and if you are tiring at Conjux in July or August, the bike boat will take you back to the Grand Port.

In an emergency

Call 112, the European emergency number, which works even without your own network.

Interactive map and GPX

Follow your position on the route, on your phone.

Le Patio, in central Aix-les-Bains

Air-conditioned apartment with a terrace, for 4.

Concierge: +33 6 16 86 04 34.

Information checked on 22 October 2026 against official sources. Indicative route (OpenStreetMap contributors, ODbL), IGN RGE ALTI elevations, IGN base map: always follow the waymarks and check the weather before you set off. https://lepatio-aixlesbains.fr/en/cycling-lake-bourget/tour-complet-du-lac/