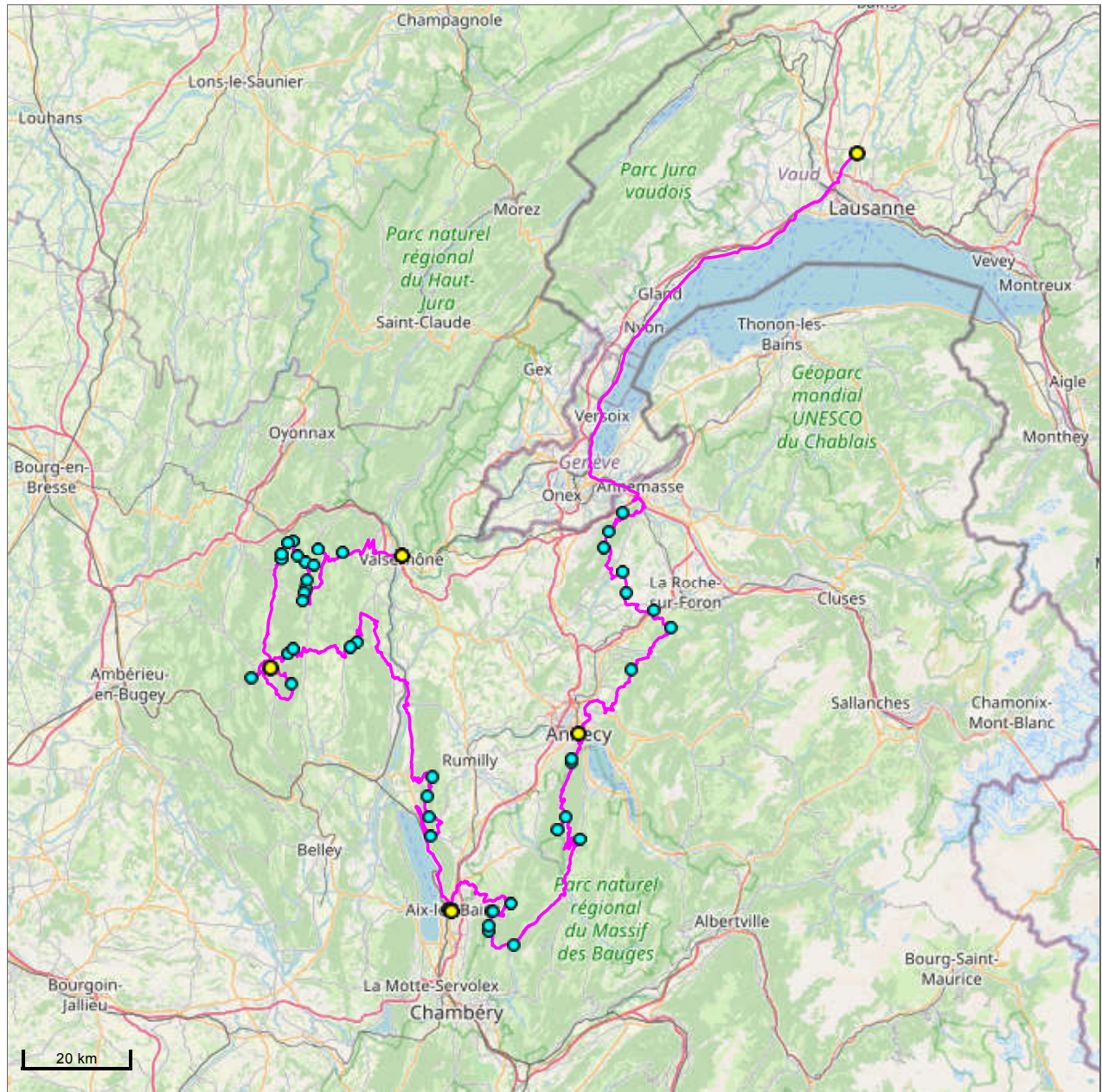
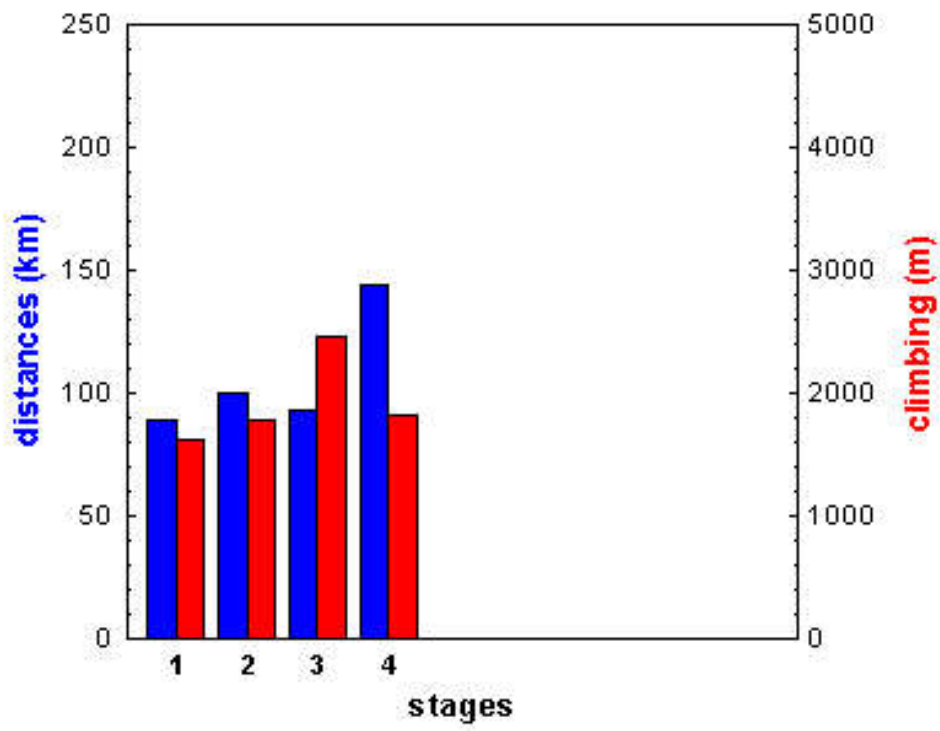


Bicycle tour 2018, 08 - 11 August

Patrick Schleppe

stage	distance (km)	climbing (m)
Bellegarde - Cuvéry - Brénod - Hauteville	89	1680
Hauteville - Seyssel - La Chambotte - Aix-les-Bains	102	1770
Aix-les-Bains - Le Revard - Le Semnoz - Annecy	91	2450
Annecy - Genève - Chaux-de-Fonds	144	1810
total	426	7710





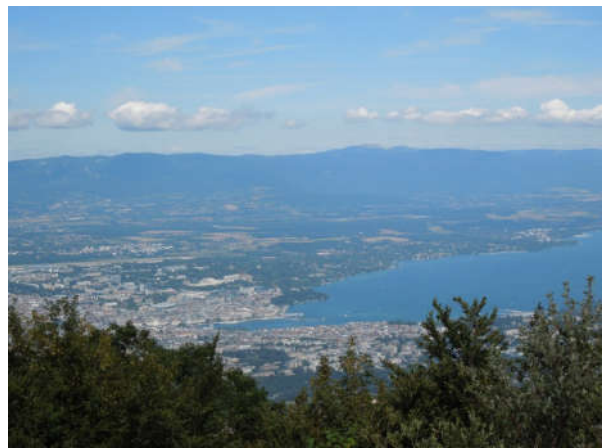
Col de Colliard



View from Ruffieu towards Hotonnes



Aix-les-Bains and the Bourget lake as seen from the Revard mountain

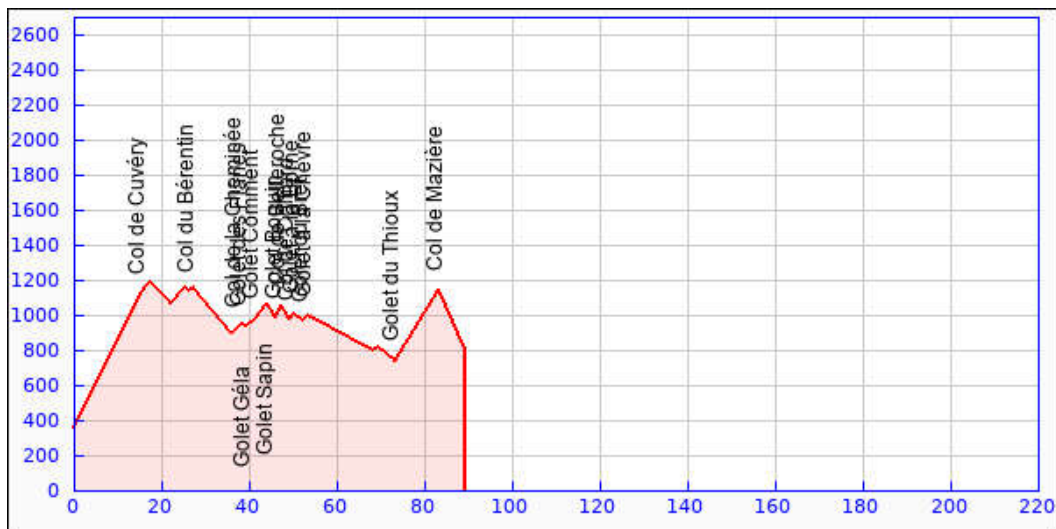


View over Geneva from the Grande Gorge pass, with the Dôle mountain in the background

Stage 1 (8 August 2018): Bellegarde - Cuvéry - Brénod - Hauteville

I woke up early to ride to Zurich, take a train to Geneva, and further to Bellegarde. This town is in a narrow valley, and my first task was to climb on its western flank. Fortunately, after many very hot days, it had rained a bit and the air was somewhat cooler. I was going up to the [Cuvéry pass](#), quite a long climb but not difficult at all and very quiet. Then I wanted to go to the [Bérentin pass](#), but at a crossing I took the wrong road. I had to ride back for 3 km. After reaching finally the Bérentin, I went south, which on this day meant against the wind. The roads were all going gently up and down and brought me to the next passes: [col de la Cheminée](#), [Golet des Plânes](#), [Golet Géla](#), [Golet Comment](#) and [Golet Sapin](#), but this was again to the north. Then came another challenge, a small pass on unpaved forest tracks, [Golet Boquin](#). After another stretch on paved roads with the [Belleruche](#) and [Colliard](#) passes, there was a part on a gravel road, with two small passes in the forest close to this road: [Golet du Bret](#) and [Golet à la Chèvre](#). It was quite hot by the time I was again on paved roads. So far, I hadn't seen any single fountain (or only some with a "non drinkable" sign). Before getting too dehydrated, I made a stop at a bar in Brénod. From there to Hauteville, my goal of the day, it was not long. However, I made it longer by adding a loop, first down to the [Thioux](#) pass, then up to the [Mazière](#) pass, which was quite steep and thus harder. After almost 6 h in saddle, I reached Hauteville.

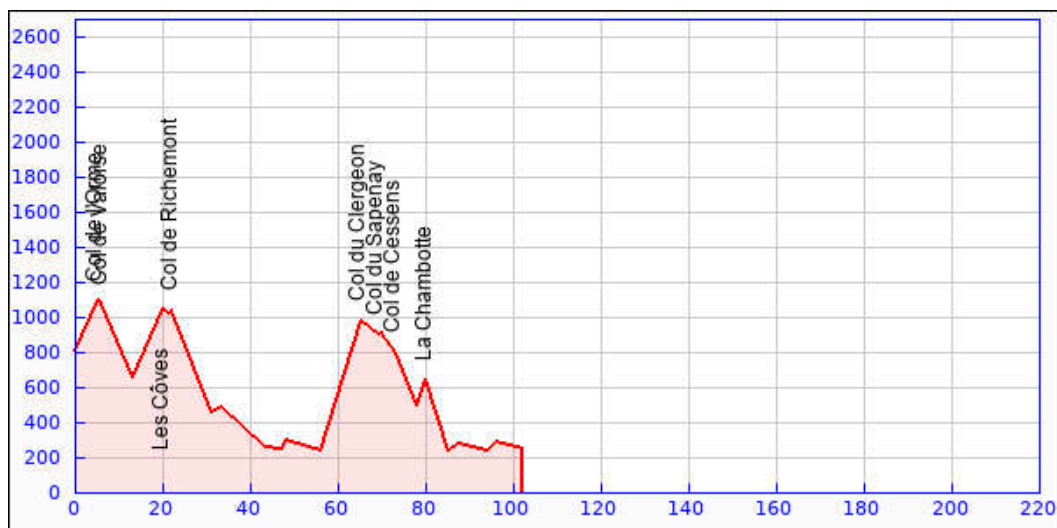
	distance (km)	altitude (m)	climbing (m)
Bellegarde	0	360	
Col de Cuvéry	15	1130	770
La Crotta	17	1190	60
Sur la Roche	22	1070	
Sur les Pièces	25	1160	90
Col du Bérentin	26	1140	
Sur les Pièces	27	1160	20
Pont de Gapin	36	900	
Col de la Cheminée	37	930	30
Golet des Plânes	38	950	20
Golet Géla	39	940	
Golet Comment	41	980	40
Golet Sapin	44	1070	90
Golet Boquin	46	990	
Col de Belleruche	47	1060	70
Col de Colliard	49	980	
Golet à la Borne	50	1010	30
Golet du Bret	52	970	
Golet à la Chèvre	53	1000	30
Les Ollières	68	800	
La Maladière (Lompnes)	69	820	20
Golet du Thioux	73	740	
Col de Mazière	83	1150	410
Hauteville	89	810	
total	89		1680



Stage 2 (9 August 2018): Hauteville - Seyssel - La Chambotte - Aix-les-Bains

The weather forecasts for this second day were for some local showers. I did not worry too much about it and started to climb to the [Croix de l'Orme](#) and [Valorse](#) passes, a small and quiet road largely in the forest, with a small part unpaved (between both passes), where i got a few rain drops. The rain never became strong but it would last the whole day. I had to be careful in the descent because of the wet road. I crossed the Valromey valley, with Ruffieu in the descent, the river Séran at the bottom and Hotonnes on the other side. I went further to the [Richemont pass](#). It was also a quiet climb followed by a wet descent. This brought me to the valley of the Rhône river, which i crossed in the little town of Seyssel. From there to the south, i found i bicycle path. It would have been nice, but it was full of bumps because of tree roots growing under the macadam. Anyway, it ended where the Fier valley comes down. I continued towards another Ruffieux, this one with an X at the end. There, i turned left to climb towards the [Clergeon](#) pass. The climb was a bit long but easy. It was still raining, but really not much and my feet were still dry in my shoes. From the Clergeon, i thought that i could ride along the crest to reach the next pass. First it was an easy dirt road, but then it became a path that disappeared more and more in the vegetation. I had to search and try several passages between trees and shrubs, knowing only that there would be a track, at least on the map. I was finally able to find my way, including a very steep and slippery slope cut by a fallen tree. Useless to tell that i was glad to find a proper road further south and to finally reach the [Sapenay](#) pass. From there, the road went further south until it crossed again the mountain ridge at the [Cessens](#) pass. It was all downhill until i reached St-Germain. It was then time to climb again, to [La Chambotte](#), a village and a pass at the same time. The other side was above the Bourget lake. To go down, the road went a long way to the north, which means that i had later to go a long way south along the lake shore. This was a main road with much traffic and thus no fun. Finally, i reached Aix-les-Bains. Wet and dirty.

	distance (km)	altitude (m)	climbing (m)
Hauteville	0	810	
Col de l'Orme	5	1100	290
Col de Valorse	6	1080	
Vendrolière	13	660	
Les Côves	20	1050	390
Combe à la Done	21	1020	
Col de Richemont	22	1040	20
En Zénémian	31	460	
Sous les Traz	33	490	30
Seyssel	43	260	
Chez Janin	47	250	
Châteaufort	48	300	50
Crozan (Ruffieux)	56	240	
Col du Clergeon	65	980	740
Col du Sapenay	69	900	
Champ Collomb	70	910	10
Col de Cessens	73	800	
St-Germain	78	500	
La Chambotte	80	650	150
Vars	85	240	
Groisin	87	280	40
Le Bachet (Grésine)	94	240	
Brison-St-Innocent	96	290	50
Aix-les-Bains	102	250	
total	102		1770



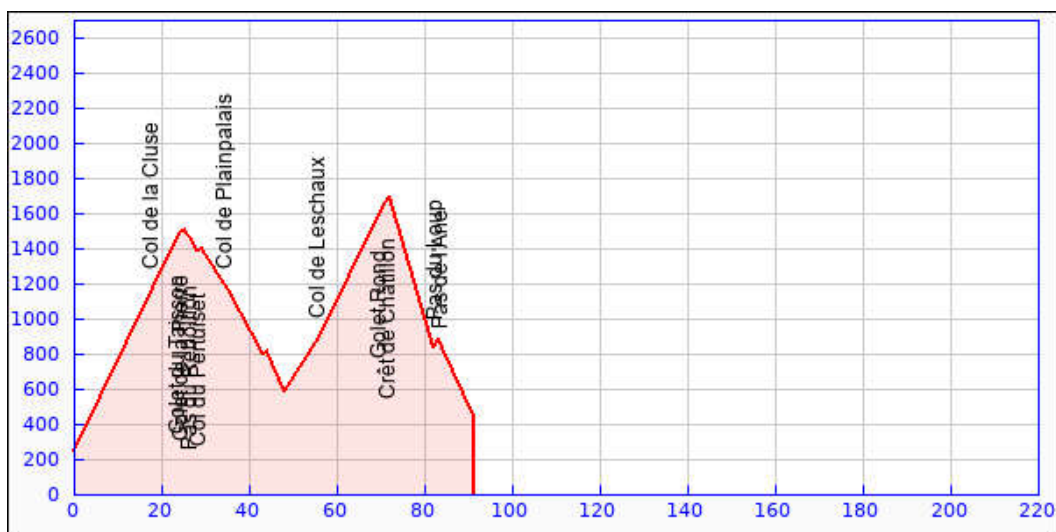
Stage 3 (10 August 2018): Aix-les-Bains - Le Revard - Le Semnoz - Annecy

From Aix-les-Bains, i wanted to climb to the mountain that dominates the city, Le Revard. By bicycle, this does not go directly, would be too steep. The road climbs around the mountain, making a loop to the north and goes over the [Cluse](#). It was a long but nice ascent. Near the Revard summit, there were vacations houses and other buildings. The road made there several loops and went over two passes, [Golet du Taisson](#) and [Golet de la Pierre](#). From the second one, there was a grand view over the Bourget lake. I took advantage of a bank to take time enjoying the landscape. Descending from there to the south, i came across the [Rebollion](#) pass without having to climb at all. A bit further down, i turned right on a forest track towards the [Pertuisset](#) pass. Mud was sticking to the wheels, but the main question was to find out where the pass really was because some maps locate it at a view pointer further than the highest point across the crest. After deciding that i had been at the pass and coming back the the road, there was a long descent. It went first to the [Plainpalais](#) pass, then all the way down the valley to the bridge of Lescheraines.

There was then a bit more than 300 m to climb before reaching the [Leschaux](#) pass. I had been over these last two passes during my [1996 tour](#), but this gave me the opportunity to have them now also on photographs. From Leschaux, i did not ride

directly down to the lake of Annecy. Instead, i made a détour over the Semnoz mountain. And from this large détours event two smaller détours. What for? For passes, what else. The first was on a gravel road branching close to the Crêt de Châtillon summit, to the [Goléron](#) (Golet Rond) pass. The second was a small loop in the middle of the descent to Annecy, to find two small passes on a forest trail, both named after animals: [Pas du Loup](#) and [Pas de l'Âne](#) (wolf and donkey). I finished this ride in Annecy, in the historical town that is too nice no to be fully overcrowded by tourists, especially in the middle of the summer!

	distance (km)	altitude (m)	climbing (m)
Aix-les-Bains	0	250	
Col de la Cluse	18	1180	930
Golet du Taisson	24	1490	310
Golet de la Pierre	25	1510	20
Pas du Rebollion	27	1440	
Bois de Retiède	28	1390	
Col du Pertuiset	29	1400	10
Col de Plainpalais	35	1170	
Le Buisson	43	800	
Le Mont	44	820	20
Le Pont	48	590	
Col de Leschaux	56	900	310
Golet Rond	70	1620	720
Crêt de Châtillon	72	1700	80
Pt. 844	82	840	
Pas du Loup	83	890	50
Pas de l'Âne	84	840	
Annecy	91	450	
total	91		2450



Stage 4 (11 August 2018): Annecy - Genève - Chesaux

Annecy was much quieter when i left for the fourth and already last stage of this tour. I went roughly to the north-east. I probably did not take the easiest road because after climbing to Le Bulloz i had to ride down again to cross the Fier river and up again to Nâves-Parmelan. I continued up the gentle climb towards [Aviernoz](#) and then down to Thorens. The next pass was not steep either, [Col des Fleuries](#), which i had already climbed from the other side in [2006](#). Turning left in the descent from this pass allowed me to reach the [Évires](#) pass, on a large road running parallel to a highway. I continued roughly in north-west direction, going always a bit up and down in this hilly region, crossing [Pas de Cheval](#) and [Col le Parc](#). Nothing special to mention about these quite insignificant passes. A bit a more serious climb was then up the Salève mountain, more precisely to the [Croisette](#) and then along the crest to the [Grande Gorge](#) pass. Then it was all downhill, with just a small detour in Monettier to see the [Pas de l'Échelle](#). At the north-eastern foot of the Salève, i crossed the Arve river between Étrembières and Annemasse.

Then it was no longer far to reach the border, entering Switzerland and Geneva. In spite of the traffic and some construction work, crossing this big city was not too difficult. Crossing Versoix, a suburb of Geneva, was much more difficult. Cyclists were diverted away from the road along the lake because of construction works, but then there were no signposts any more. Several cyclists were turning around searching their way. Apart from this, i followed the main road along the lake because the bicycle itinerary makes too many detours. It was long enough like this to reach Morges, where i made a stop at the terrace of a restaurant. In Morges, i left the road along the lake, came in the suburbs of Lausanne and finally climbed up to Chesaux where i would meet my girlfriend Angelika and stay for the weekend. Well, not just staying there because other bicycle or mountain bike tours were planned...

	distance (km)	altitude (m)	climbing (m)
Annecy	0	450	
Frontenex	5	530	80
Bois de Frontenex	7	460	
Le Bulloz	10	580	120
Pont de Nâves	11	500	
Aviernoz	20	780	280
La Vuaz	23	640	
Col des Fleuries	30	920	280
Col d'Évires	35	800	
La Glacière (Évires)	36	770	
Pas de Cheval	42	930	160
Chez Dolliot (Arbusigny)	44	900	
Col du Parc	45	920	20
Les Mouilles	48	800	
Chez le Tournier	52	940	140
La Croisette	55	1180	240
Col de Grande Gorge	58	1290	110
Pas de Échelle	66	690	
Étrembières	73	400	
Chêne-Bougeries	78	420	20
Genève	81	370	
Versoix	92	390	20
Coppet	96	370	
Colovray	103	390	20
Nyon	104	370	
Les Ages	107	410	40
Rolle	116	370	
Allaman	122	410	40
Morges	131	370	
Crissier	139	450	80
Cheseaux	144	610	160
total	144		1810

