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The best cycling holidays in France











Mont St Michel CREDIT: GETTY

he Tour de France is upon us, with professional cyclists including British stars Chris Froome, Mark Cavendish and Geraint Thomas currently tackling the Alps. The world's most famous bike race offers the chance to marvel at the physiology of abnormally skinny athletes, titter at die-hard fans running up the side of a mountain in fancy dress, and - best of all - admire the landscapes of the most visited country on the planet.

The sight of the magnificent Alps, the rugged Breton coastline, or beautiful Carcassonne, all of which feature in the 2018 route, are sure to inspire wanderlust. So here are some of our favourite cycling holidays in France.

Uncrowded Corsica

For something a little more serious, take the advice of David Millar - the former pro - and try Corsica.

"I've raced here a couple of times and was blown away by how perfect it was for cycling," he says. "Much of the interior of the island is unpopulated, with the coastal areas being the main attraction for obvious reasons. This is a blessing for cyclists as it means much of the inland part is untouched and unbothered by people. Don't be tricked into thinking it will be easy riding, though - there are proper mountains, the tallest of which peaks at 2,706m."

Marmot Tours runs a Classic Cols of Corsica itinerary.



Mountainous Corsica credit: GETTY