

ALPINE ROUTE

Gruyère

Distance: 85 kilometers

→ Thun

Climbing: 910 meters

DAY

4

Towns: Corbières, La Roche, Tifers, Schwarzenburg, Wattenwil

Highlights

Swiss German architecture and food

Rolling hills and meadows in Gantrich Nature Park

The pristine medieval city of Thun and its lakeside

The grass is wet, the cows are out and so is the sun...hopefully.

We're back on Route #4 and this first flat stretch will take you past the dairy farms that have made the region and its cheese legendary. You will then turn onto National Route 59 and follow it northward on the east side of Gruyère's Lake. You will not always be on a National Route or even a Regional Route the first part of today as most of those roads lead to Fribourg and we want to avoid that agglomeration.

You will eventually make it to the town of Tifers and the silhouette of Fribourg will be to the west. We are now back on Route #4 for a short period. If you follow the Route #4 signs you will be fine, but follow the GPS and you will avoid some gravel sections.

We will then bike through the deep cut ravines of the "Sensegraben" and into the Gantrich nature park before stopping at the Sense river for lunch. We then reach Schwarzenburg, a medium-size village of around 7000 inhabitants in the middle of this park and approximately the half-way point of today's ride.

Turn your ear to hear the sing-song calls to the cows in Schwyzerdütsch and see the cabbages growing. You've passed into the Swiss-german side of Switzerland.

We will be doing gentle climbs the rest of the day until we see the city of Thun. It's castle and lake shine in the distance and you will coast down to our 4-star hotel situated directly on the water.

The city of Thun deserves to be explored. There is a long and stunning lakeside promenade, an interesting old town with cobbled streets and a castle from the 12th century towers over the city.