

Travel Journal – Day 8: Leisure Day in Annecy

Today was a well-deserved break, and the sun shone brightly over Annecy, offering the perfect setting for a day of leisure and personal discovery in this lakeside gem.

Everyone chose their own rhythm. Some of us strolled through town, taking our time wandering in and out of local boutiques, browsing artisanal shops, and enjoying a glass of wine or a plate of something delicious in a sunny café. It was a chance to watch local life unfold, chat with shopkeepers, and maybe pick out a new outfit or a special gift.

Others took to the water, joining a cruise on Lake Annecy, soaking in views of its crystal-clear waters and the mountain backdrop. From the deck, they spotted the castles lining the lake:

- Château de Duingt, a striking lakeside fortress on a peninsula,
- Château de Menthon-Saint-Bernard, perched dramatically above the eastern shore,
- Château de Ruphy in Duingt,
- and Château d'Annecy itself, keeping watch over the old town.

Another group followed their appetites on a gourmet food tour, guided by an excellent local expert—with a haircut that was as memorable as his stories. Along the way, they sampled:

- Local charcuterie: thinly sliced cured meats, often flavored with mountain herbs,
- Cheeses like Reblochon, Tomme de Savoie, and Beaufort,
- Tartiflette, a rich and warming dish of potatoes, reblochon cheese, lardons, and onions, baked until golden and bubbling,
- and, of course, pâtisseries and chocolates—flaky tarts, praline delights, and melt-in-your-mouth truffles from Annecy's finest chocolate artisans.

In the late afternoon, we reconvened by the canal at a relaxed café terrace, swapping stories over drinks, laughter rising with the clinking of glasses. It was the perfect ending to a gentle and enriching day, and a lovely pause before our journey over the mountains into the Baronnies Provençales tomorrow.