



Continental
car tours

Pyrenees - Circuit des Remparts in Angouleme - Loire Valley

Dates ~ 13th to 22nd September 2010 ~ Proposed Itinerary

Tour Leaders : Ray & Barbara Guiver.

Journey from Portsmouth to Spain and travel through the Pyrenees and on to Angouleme for the Race des Remparts, return along the byways of the Loire Valley home to England.

Monday 13th September: Join the ferry at Portsmouth to Bilbao in Spain. The ferry leaves at 21:15 hrs, participants to be at the ferry terminal at least one hour before departure.

Tuesday 14th September: Cruise across the Bay of Biscay and sample the delights of the impressive Pride of Bilbao, the perfect ship on which to enjoy this trip to Spain. With live cabaret entertainment, restaurants, bars, two cinemas and even a plunge pool and health spa there is plenty to do before relaxing for the evening in your own en suite cabin.

Wednesday 15th September

Arrive at Bilbao at 08:00hrs, clear passport and customs and prepare for a full day's motoring. Drive to Luz Saint Sauveur and stay for two nights at hotel La Montaigu (half board), Travel a scenic route and traverse the Col d' Aubisque. This route also passes through the Col du Soulor.

Today's mileage ~ 250 (100 miles on motorway).



Thursday 16th September: Travel to the Cirque de Gavarnie (30 miles) the most visited location in the Pyrenees. Return to Luz St Sauveur and journey on the Col du Tourmalet (as used on Tour de France) and on to Saint Marie de Campan. Travel on the cable car to The Pic du Midi de Bigorre.

Option One: return via Bagneres and visit Lourdes, return to the hotel. Today's miles ~ route one 85.

Option two: continue on to the Col d' Aspin to Arreau and follow a route back to Lourdes and the hotel. Today's miles ~ route two 129.

Pau, on a slight elevation overlooking the river called the Gave de Pau, was the capital of the former province of Béarn.

Lourdes (*Lorda* in Occitan) is a town in the Hautes-Pyrénées *département* in France. It is the largest Catholic religious pilgrimage location in France. It is situated in the southwest of the country in the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains, and has about 17,000 inhabitants. Today's miles ~ 100.

Friday 17th September: Travel to Angouleme this journey is 240 miles on the N10 route which is a very good road but with lots of interesting villages. Stay at La Vieille Etable hotel, for three nights B & B.

The famous Circuit Des Remparts Concours D'Elegance takes place at 21:30hrs under floodlights. Today's miles 240 giving the option to visit Angouleme for the Concours D'Elegance.



Saturday 18th September

In 2009 Le Rallye Charente International, open to cars of the correct age or interest at a fee of about £300 for a car and two people, took place on the Saturday. A similar rally is to be staged in 2010. Early booking is advisable for this Saturday rally which includes a special lunch and dinner for participants. The 2009 mileage covered was 120.

Angouleme has a party atmosphere with many different classic cars driving around. Le Concourse D'Etat cars are displayed in the Angouleme gardens. Many of the classic cars taking part are arriving on the Saturday, also being driven on the race course which is still open to the public for anybody to drive their car around on that day. Today's miles ~ 10.



Sunday 19th September ~ Race Day

In 2009 there were nine different classes of race including Bugatti, Lagonda vintage sports cars and Frazer Nash together with six other groups. These nine groups each have a practice/qualifying session of twenty minutes in the morning between 08:00hrs and 12:00hrs and after lunch the nine different races take place finishing by about 18:00hrs.

The entrance tickets are 23 Euro per person and give access to the paddock area on Saturday and the grandstand and paddock on Sunday (Race Day). Today's miles ~ 10.

Monday 20th September: Travel to the Loire Valley through the Touraine Region (Tours is the hub) via Poitiers, Tours and on to Blois for two nights half board accommodation at the Manoir Bel Air. The Blesois and Orleanais Regions offer the marvellous Loire River and the many Chateaux to investigate.

The direct route is 170 miles of which the N10 ('A' road) is 70 miles and the motorway is 100 miles. Route options will be available to allow visits to the wonderful Chateaux and their gardens. We will pass through the Chinon wine growing area (bright ruby red wine made from Cabernet Franc grapes) with visits to vineyards possible. Today's miles ~ 170 to 200.



Tuesday 21st September: Drive a scenic route around the Blois area taking in Chateaux and the wine growing area of Vouvray (sparkling white wine, aged in chalk caves). There will be route options to explore the Chateaux or the wine area and the wonderful river. Today's miles ~ 75 to 125.

Wednesday 22nd September: Travel to Calais for the return ferry crossing at 16:45hrs. Today's miles ~ 300.

There will be an option to travel home via Le Havre to Portsmouth with another ferry operator; this will incur an extra cost for each car. The mileage to Le Havre is 194.

Price: £899 per person (based on two people per car and sharing a Twin/Double room). Following the unpredictable nature of currency in 2009 a small contingency is built into this amount and will be donated to Prostrate Cancer and Breast Cancer charities if the exchange rate does not go against us in 2009.

Tour Mileage: From leaving Portsmouth to arriving back at Calais is about 1000 or 1350 miles (all options completed); over 8 days, this is an average of 125/160 miles per day.

Motoring information: Both Spain and France are EU countries and their traffic rules apply. Travelling in Spain requires **two** warning triangles per car, and reflective jackets for the occupants. Petrol is cheaper in Spain than France (about 90p a litre in 2008)

What is included:

- Ferry from Portsmouth to Bilbao for a car and two people sharing an inside cabin with shower and toilet (two nights). Return ferry from Calais to Dover (day crossing).
- Seven nights' accommodation (two nights close to Lourdes) at three star hotels in the Pyrenees, Angouleme and at Blois in the Loire Valley.
- Dinners on four evenings.
- Monte Carlo style rally board and 80 page comprehensive route book including information on the local tourist attractions.
- Group leaders available throughout the tour.

What is not included:

- Meals on the ferry.
- Dinners at Angouleme.
- Breakdown insurance.
- Personal travel insurance.
- Le Havre/Portsmouth return ferry (day crossing).

Options:

- Breakdown recovery service and personal insurance, available from Norton Insurance Broker, please telephone 0121 246 5050 for more details.
- Cabin upgrades.

To Book:

A fully bonded tour operator, Continental Car Tours at Enterprise Centre, Western Road, Deal, Kent, CT14 6PJ, holds all payments. Telephone 01304 380244.

Please send £500 deposit (refundable) per car (two people) to Continental Car Tours.

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