



TOUR 310 - SPAIN - Coast & Pyrenees Mountains

7th - 18th June 2010

25 million years ago the Iberian plate collided with the European plate and created a paradise for motorcycles, the Pyrenees.

**At one end lies the Mediterranean Sea
at the other the North Atlantic Ocean.
So we ride to the Mediterranean cross the Pyrenees
and return via the North Atlantic... Perfect!**

Our route takes us from Northern France to the Mediterranean, through the Pyrenees Mountains and across to the plains of Navarra. Finally an overnight sailing back to Portsmouth rounds off a truly incredible trip.

Following our early morning Euro Tunnel crossing we make our way to the capital of the **Loire Valley**, Orleans. The old town really is too good to miss so tonight we eat in one of the many restaurants which line the narrow streets. There are plenty of bars in the area and of course if you want to take in a few sights why not visit the Sainte Croix cathedral, comparable only to Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Leaving Orleans behind, we head for the **Auvergne** region of France. Although the route incorporates 'A' roads the landscape is surprisingly scenic especially as we move further south. Our hotel tonight is located on a magnificent site overlooking the Garabit Grandval Lake.

Our third day takes us over the famous **Millau Bridge** which is the tallest vehicular bridge in the world and affords a dramatic view of the surrounding countryside. The day ends with us riding along the Mediterranean coast and over an incredible pass to the beautiful town of **Cadaques** where we will spend the next three nights. Our four star hotel overlooks the harbour and is equipped with indoor and outdoor **swimming pools** tennis courts, hydro massage and sauna and is the perfect place to unwind and relax.

A small town on the Mediterranean, Cadaqués sits on the far North-East of Spain, in Catalonia where the **Pyrenees Mountains** meet the sea. **Salvador Dalí** once famously said: *"I have spent a delightful summer, as always, in the perfect and dreamy town of Cadaqués. There, alongside the Latin sea, I have been quenched by light and colour"*. Although we take time to relax here we don't forget the bike. For anyone wanting to join us we ride along the dramatic coast road which many bikers voted as *"The best road they have ever ridden"*.

The Pyrenees are some 300 miles long and form one of the world's great mountain chains, stretching from the Catalan Mediterranean in the south, to the Basque Atlantic in the north. Our journey today will take us through some of the most incredible scenery you have ever seen. Although the twists and turns are reminiscent of other places in Europe, Austria or the Dolomites, this is different, it is just brilliant.

From our hotel base high in the mountains we ride the famous Col Du Tourmalet, the Col D'Aspin and Col De Portillon some of which form sections of the **Tour De France** route. We also take time to visit the holy town of **Lourdes** in France.

As we move further west to the plains of Navarra in the Basque region of Spain the landscape changes dramatically. Gone are the towering mountains to be replaced by long sweeping bends and open vistas. Although not as challenging as the mountains, you can now take time to relax on the bike and take in the dramatic scenery of this region.

For our last night we stay in a splendid **Parador hotel**, situated in the Rioja region of Spain. This hotel was built in the 12th century to give medical care for pilgrims on their way to Santiago do Compostela. We arrive in time for you to enjoy the town and to perhaps sample some of the famous local wine.

The next day sees us reluctantly head north for our overnight ferry back to Portsmouth. On board you can eat in the Four Seasons restaurant with its carvery and buffet-style dining, the less formal International food court, or if you prefer to dine in style the famous Langan's Brasserie. Either way we will all meet up in the Cabaret lounge to enjoy our last night together as we head back across the Bay of Biscay.

Daily Mileage: 90 - 265 miles

- Couples 2 berth Cabin
- Singles shared 2 berth Cabin
- Other configurations available on request



INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE

Euro Tunnel outbound
Bilbao - Portsmouth return with Shared Cabin
Ten nights B&B + Five Evening Meals
One night cabin only on ferry (*food not included*)
Route Plans and Maps
Full Daily itinerary
GPS coordinates (Garmin)
Fully supported by Tour Guide
Fully edited DVD of your tour

TOUR PRICE

One Person One Bike Shared Room	£1090
One Person One Bike Single Room	£1395
Two Persons One Bike Shared Room	£1998