

2019 ALPINE-ALPINE TOUR



CLASSIC CAR TOURS (MK) will be organising a circular tour of the French Alps in September 2019. As an SAOC member myself I would like to invite the club to participate. I will be able to offer a preferential rate for SAOC Members.

We have organised several tours in similar areas in the past so have driven most of the roads and stayed in many of the hotels. However, as Eric Morecambe would have said; “We have driven all the right roads, but maybe not in the right order”, therefore we will be visiting the area this summer and driving the roads ‘in the right order’ to iron out any potential problems and re-visit the hotels to ensure they are upto standard. We tend to use 4 star hotels where possible but in more remote areas it may be a case of taking what is available. The planned itinerary is below but is subject to amendment after our summer recce. The exact dates may also be subject to the availability of the hotels.

The mileage each day will be between 150 and 200 miles on all types of road. There will be numerous mountain passes with steep climbs and hairpin bends. On the days where there are lots of passes, the mileage will be less, but on days where major roads are used and we need just to get from A to B, the mileage may slightly exceed 200. This is purely a tour so there will be no fixed time schedule, participants are free to drive at their own pace. A guide ‘timetable’ will be issued each day just to help you plan your day and for us to keep account of everyone. We will accompany the tour but it may depend on the numbers involved as to whether it is viable for us to provide a ‘back up’ service. We will try to ensure that nobody is left by the wayside but continental breakdown insurance is a must!

The itinerary will be confirmed in mid 2018, but the proposed plan is something like this;

DAY 1 Cross Channel – Portsmouth –St Malo.

DAY 2 Dinan – Loire Valley o/n Saumur (Anne d’Anjou)

DAY 3 South through Vienne valley to Brantome o/n Chabanol

DAY 4 Dordogne, Rocamadour, Millau o/n Cevenol

DAY 5 Millau Bridge, North through Gorge de Tarn and Ardeche to Valence tba

DAY 6 Col de Rousset, Sisteron, Digne les Bains o/n Chateau de Tregance TBC

DAY 7 Gorge de Verdun

DAY 8 Rest day (Optional Train Ride?)

DAY 9 Col de Bonnette, Col de Vars, Col d’Izoard o/n Briancon (Park Hotel?)

DAY 10 Col de Mt Cenis, Col de la Gabier, Col de Lauteret o/n Grenoble tba

DAY 11 Aix les Bains. Haut Jura o/n Poligny

DAY 12 North through Dole and Gray to Troyes o/n Foret d’Orient

DAY 13 Champagne country Epernay and Reims, Reims GP Circuit o/n nr Fismes

DAY 14 Choice of return channel crossings

APPROXIMATE COSTS;

12 nights dinner, bed and breakfast for 2 people sharing, plus outward ferry to St Malo (large cabin) - £3600 subject to exchange rates and final costings.

10% discount to SAOC members = £3240

If you would like to see how we operate before committing to such a big event, why not try something smaller such as our;

BARBON, BAY WATCH AND LITTLE DEVILS TOURS

SATURDAY JULY 7TH BARBON HILLCLIMB

We meet at Barbon Hillclimb before lunch and then park our cars on display in the ‘infield’ of the picturesque hill climb course overlooking the Lune Valley. We can then spend the afternoon watching competitors tackling the hill climb course up the drive of Barbon Manor. This year we are attending the National Championship event which will include ‘full blown’ single seater racing cars as well as historic and club cars.

SUNDAY JULY 8TH THE LITTLE DEVILS TOUR

We will start from the Station Inn at Oxenholme (less than 10 miles from Barbon where accommodation can be arranged), and head straight to the picturesque Killington Lake with a back drop of the Howgill Fells. From here we follow the railway and motorway through the Lune Gorge, to Shap Fell, where we actually drive between the carriageways of the M6 motorway. We then make a detour into the edge of the Lake District for a stop for coffee at the isolated Haweswater Hotel perched spectacularly above the Lake (reservoir) of that name.

From Haweswater we will head east via Eamont Bridge, Lazonby, Culgaith and onto Appleby for lunch. After lunch we have the meat of the ‘rally’, back into real

Cumbrian rally country with gravel roads (2 miles, non-damaging!), fords, narrow bridges and farmyards to finish back at the Station Inn where bar-snacks will be available.

The entry fee for the BARBON AND LITTLE DEVILS TOUR is £49 per car. This includes entry to Barbon Hillclimb for car and crew (if displaying), lunch and coffee on Sunday, but not accommodation. As stated above, accommodation will be available at The Station Inn or The Glen B+B opposite. P.O.A.

For those intending to stay on for the Bay Watch Tour, hotel accommodation will be included for Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

MONDAY/TUESDAY JULY 9/10TH THE BAY WATCH TOUR

MONDAY

Today we start from the Station Inn and head straight through Kendal into the picturesque Lythe Valley, famous for its Damson Blossom (in season) and then head across country to Gummers How. Here there is a splendid view down the length of Windermere and over the 'steamer' terminal at Lake Side. We then cross the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Steam Railway as we loop around the southern lakes and into the infamous Grizedale Forest. From the forest we descend to the shores of tranquil Esthwaite Water and into Beatrix Potter country. We go around the Lake and by-pass Hawkshead before climbing over the hill to Coniston Water, where we stop for coffee above the lake at Jumping Jenny's café next to Brantwood House.

From coffee we follow the shores of Coniston Water and then cut across to Grizebeck Hill which provides spectacular views of the Duddon Valley and Black Combe. Avoiding Barrow in Furness we cut across inland to the impressive Furness Abbey Hotel for lunch.

From lunch we actually drive through the Abbey grounds as we make our way across to Morecambe Bay and follow the coast road inland again. As you would expect we don't stay on the main road for long as we take to the quiet 'back' lanes which drop us down to Cartmel racecourse. We will stop for tea in the quaint little village famous for its 'Sticky Toffee Pudding'.

Mindful of the fact that you may now be full of pudding, the final leg is a very short run back to the hotel. However, there is a little sting in the tail as we climb over Cartmel Fell and make the steep descent of Tow Tops – a series of hairpin bends overlooking the Winster Valley.

TUESDAY

We continue the Bay Watch theme but first head inland via the Lune Valley and past Barbon Manor again, before heading south to Ingleton, and then on minor roads overlooking the Bowland Hills and a stop for coffee at Goat Gap near Clapham.

From here we cross the busy A65 and head south onto quiet roads towards the Ribble Valley and pass through Gisburn Forest and cross Stocks Reservoir. More little back roads with fabulous views of the surrounding hills bring us to the secluded Whitwell Inn for lunch.

The Trough of Bowland is actually a valley through the Lancashire Hills and from the Jubilee Tower at the summit we get more spectacular views over Morecambe Bay. We then drop down into the Lune Valley and cut across country back to the Kent Estuary, still part of Morecambe Bay. As we descend the hill into Arnside we get a surprise view of the impressive viaduct crossing the estuary with the Lakes Hills in the background. Following the estuary back to towards our hotel we make a final stop for tea at Levens Hall, with its famous topiary gardens and traction engine collection. The hotel is just a few minutes up the road.

BARBON AND LITTLE DEVILS TOUR ONLY = £49 Accommodation NOT included. Lunch and coffee included on Sunday.

BAY WATCH TOUR

THREE NIGHTS DINNER BED AND BREAKFAST £475 (Not including Barbon or Little Devils Tour) Options for 2 or 1 night available on request.

Total for Barbon, Little Devils and Baywatch Tours (FOUR NIGHTS) = £648

Lunch only provided Monday. Lunch and entry to Levens Hall included on Tuesday. All prices are per car i.e. 2 people sharing.

(I am afraid I cannot do a SAOC discount on these tours).

OR

AUTUMN IN BOWLAND

MONDAY 15TH OCTOBER

Meet for dinner at Gibbon Bridge.

OVERNIGHT – GIBBON BRIDGE HOTEL

TUESDAY 16TH

As soon as we leave the hotel we are into spectacular scenery as we climb the flanks of Longridge Fell. As we drive along the ridge we have panoramic views of the Fylde plain ahead of us before we loop around the reservoir and back along the eastern side of the fell. We then drop down into the Ribble Valley and cross Ribchester Bridge. Then we make our way out onto the moors and surprise views over Anglezarke reservoir and onto Rivington Reservoir. We cross this reservoir and stop for coffee at the Great House Barn

After coffee we return to the Ribble Valley. Running along the edge of the valley we reach Sabden and climb to the 'Nick of Pendle'. This is literally a 'nick' or gap through the side of Pendle Hill and gives uninterrupted views over the Ribble Valley

and Clitheroe below. We loop around the imposing mass of Pendle Hill to have lunch in its shadow at the little village of Barley.

We then do another loop back to the Ribble Valley and the pretty village of Bolton by Bowland and follow the northern side of the valley through more villages such as Grindleton, Waddington and High Hodder on our way back to Gibbon Bridge.

OVERNIGHT – GIBBON BRIDGE

WEDNESDAY 17TH

Much of today's route is completely new and could be described as 'Fall in the Fylde'. However we start with reasonably familiar scenery as we head straight out to the Trough of Bowland, as we go over 'the Trough' we get spectacular views over Morecambe Bay. We then turn north and into even smaller country lanes as we negotiate the hairpin bends of Littledale before descending to the village of Caton and a stop for coffee at the Crook o' Lune.

After coffee we return to the hills overlooking Lancaster and make our way south to Galgate where we cross the A6 and enter much flatter countryside. We make a little detour around Glasson Dock, once a busy port at the end of the Lancaster-Kendal canal. Quiet, flat lanes bring us to Pilling and the heart of the Fylde before we take the main road into Knott End for lunch. Lunch will be at a hotel on the banks of the Wyre estuary near the foot passenger only ferry across to Fleetwood.

After lunch we follow the Wyre through Hambleton, St Michaels on Wyre, and Catterall, where we cross the A6 again and head into more hilly country as we climb upto Oakenclough Fell. We follow the fellside road south with more views over the Fylde and make a loop around the picturesque country park at Beacon Fell. There is just a short run through the little village of Chipping on our way back to the hotel.

OVERNIGHT – GIBBON BRIDGE

THURSDAY 18TH AUTUMN IN EDEN

We say goodbye to Gibbon Bridge and make our way to another of our favourite hotels, the Crooklands. First we head out into the Forest of Bowland again via the strangely named but very scenic, Cow Ark, where the surrounding hills and forests could be mistaken for Scotland. Some roads actually designated as 'Quiet Lanes' take us to the little village of Slaidburn where we can stop for coffee by the river.

We then climb over the remote Lythe Fell which gives excellent views of the Three Yorkshire Peaks and on a clear day as far as the Lakeland Hills. From here we double back over the fells and descend through Gisburn Forest, with views over Stocks reservoir and Pendle Hill in the distance. The afternoon run takes us over spectacular Kingsdale with its breathtaking descent into Deepdale and the pretty village of Dent. The next Dale, partly in Cumbria, Barbondale, brings us equally dramatically into the Lune Valley. The drystone walls defy gravity as they hang on to the almost vertical hillside. A short run across the Lune brings us to Crooklands

OVERNIGHT – CROOKLANDS HOTEL

3 NIGHTS DINNER B+B £599 WITH SAOC DISCOUNT = £440

FRIDAY 19TH

Today is spent entirely in Cumbria and in particular the lovely un-spoilt Eden Valley. We start by going immediately into quiet back lanes which soon give views across to the Lakeland Mountains and then onto Killington Lake with fabulous views over the Lake to the Howgill Fells. All this within less than ten miles of leaving the hotel. We will then stop for coffee at a charming little garden centre.

After coffee we go straight back into the hills and the wild open countryside around Sunbiggin Tarn, before crossing over the hill to Great Asby where we get wonderful views down into the Eden Valley. As we follow the river north to Langwathby and Lazonby the road runs through gently rolling wooded hills on the way to Armathwaite where we cross the river and the Settle - Carlisle railway. We by-pass Penrith by going along Beacon Edge which affords views over the town to the Lake District Hills. We then stop for a late lunch at the impressive Lowther Castle and gardens.

The afternoon run then takes us back into the Eden Valley, before climbing out of the valley to Shap village and over the infamous Shap Fell and down towards Kendal. We circumnavigate Kendal and a final little detour takes us through some more lanes over the River Kent and back to the Crooklands.

2 NIGHTS DINNER B+B £399 WITH SAOC DISCOUNT = £360
(Can include Thursday i.e. start at Gibbon Bridge)

Contact:

Mike Kirk Email: mikekirk rallying@aol.com