

Our Aug/Sept 2019 Newsletter

Fellow Velo 
Cycle... Friendly... France

Newsletter Issue: Aug/Sept 2019

Summer Newsletter ... including Fellow Velo on 'the Tour'



In July we had the great fortune and real pleasure of sharing two days following the 'Tour de France', with some lovely weather. The weather was a little different to our usual golden and soft-gilded days, in fact for us and three, relatively, better treated a couple of my friends.

The more than usual compensation was that we got to see some of the world's best cyclists in their personal challenge to the world's greatest bike race - they were in shocking condition at times but we thought better of it!

The holiday was booked by the daughter of her lovely (aged) father as a birthday present, a very keen cyclist, in a family of avid cycling fans, who all looked and sounded like he had all the energy and inclination to climb on his bike and join in. In truth, we'd have got Tony at around sixty years of age and, would have been happy at him dropping in on the climb!

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Over the course of two days, we experienced the Full Tour Causse valley, in two different beautiful towns of Provence, we applauded the entire field of teams for a Depart FICE, we saw the riders in the peloton and in breakaways and, ended one stage just metres away from the Stage Finish for a classic sprint to the line, at Cléves.

For France, the 'Tour' is so much more than just a bike race; its approach for weeks ahead of its arrival becomes the focal point of towns and villages along the route.



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The Breaks from our Distances
Andy and Jane were our personal guide for two days of the Tour de France. The race arranged by my daughter as a birthday gift. We were impressed by the family professionalism and the in-depth knowledge of and logical expertise relating to this prestigious race. Andy and Jane are passionate about all related cycling matters and I can wholeheartedly recommend them to anyone contemplating a cycling experience.



Next year the Tour de France is scheduled to start in Alize, the full race calendar will be published later in the autumn. If you would like us to help you plan the experience then we need to start to working from you soon.

Bespoke Cycle Tours

It is not unusual for us to have unusual requests for cycle tour itineraries and, as a small family company, we aim to be as flexible as possible to help bring people's holiday plans together. So, if you have an idea about a cycling holiday in France but you aren't quite sure how to make it happen then, please feel free to ask – we would love to help you realise your dreams. Below is just one example of a bespoke booking from this year's calendar.

Canal du Nivernais



We were contacted by a group of seasoned cycle tourists with decades of cycle-creating experience, who now wanted to revisit a trail that'd ridden years ago but like time, with the comfort of a bed and a solid roof over their heads at the end of each day.

Though they knew the route very well, they were looking for someone to take the heavy out of planning and booking their series of accommodations along the way.

The conversation that followed as from the initial enquiry now means that they have a plan that includes just a little new adventure linked to the comfort of places to be revisited.



Their accommodations are now all booked ready for their tour next month and, when the route has been taken away from familiar territory, we will be providing detailed navigation notes to supplement the route knowledge that they already have.

A little more unusual for us with this booking is the fact that we may never meet our customers. They have bikes stored with family in Paris and so, all of the arrangements and information for their tour can be covered remotely.

They sound like really lovely people and it's a shame that we can't be there with them to share a celebratory glass of Chablis at their journey's end.

Whether you are looking for a fully-guided, self-guided tour or more remote touring adventures, we enjoy the challenge of building a cycling holiday plan that really does meet your individual needs and wishes.

Have you booked your 2020 holiday yet? Even people here, and thank you.

If you fancy a cycling holiday next year then do contact us, the earlier the better for the best prices, best accommodation and time for careful route planning.

If you are still to go on your 2019 holiday, then have fun wherever you are doing and, we can't wait to meet the rest of this year's customers and to see some familiar faces from last year.

Outstanding Poetry of Prose
General Thomas on Joan Dornal of the Tour de France 2012

"It's the first of many," Thomas said "Joan's just been improving all the time and she's born to go uphill fast. Not a female guy with a very bright future."

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