

Our Spring Newsletter – Happy Cycling

Fellow Velo 
Cycle... Friendly... France

Spring is in the air . . . Newsletter Issue: Spring 2024



In our little part of the world, Spring is definitely in the air again and for us, that also means that bikes start to get a little more attention than they've had through the winter months. We'll soon be back in France for the start of the season and the Fellow Velo bikers sadly don't just look after themselves so, we're now into that busier bike maintenance mode – if your 'steed' has been resting for a while too then, perhaps this is sounding quite familiar.

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A Little Getaway . . . close to home



One of us managed to fill the annual cycling target for last year . . . sadly, as we often explain to our customers, running a small cycle touring company means that we don't get to cycle quite as much for ourselves as they may think and we might like to do! As a small reward, we managed to squeeze in a two day mini-tour from home (not even leaving the county of Warwickshire).

The weather wasn't spectacular but, was certainly kinder than of late here so, despite the night jacket, we remained dry throughout. Though most of the tracks and lanes were familiar, we managed to procure some that were new – that's also one of the fun aspects of planning bespoke tours for our customers – blending something of a well-trodden wider network with hidden gems that can really add value to a cycling adventure.

It was around this time last year that we filled in a cycling trip to Portugal and, though nothing like the same scale, there was a subtle link to this trip with our overnight stay in Pinos, hardwood. We had a superb meal at the Butcher's Arms in the village, where its long tradition of friendship with Portugal is being admirably maintained by Nishi and Alison.

We'll be very happy to get back to France for the start of the cycling season soon (with a little more certainty for good weather and spectacular scenery) but, our 'backyard' cycling landscape definitely keeps us engaged through the winter and the spring. It has also been a great location for the occasional weekend/raster tour that we have run for UK customers who aren't yet sure about committing to a fuller tour through France.

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Liberation 2024



2024 marks the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Spain towards the end of WWII. There are still so many moving pieces and events that culminate the story in the country's history.

It will be a unique part of tour in the Toledo V&V custom calendar, both in November with its famous D-Day Landings beaches and, the perhaps less well known, Campaign of France in August 1944.



New Season and New Customers



Every season we see new customers and have the opportunity to develop new bespoke tours for them. We have already had lots of customers from the USA but, over the next several years will see our first from Alaska. Don't be so well known that through Barcelona for the historic, plenty of coastal riding and we have whooping opportunities to make the ideal of easy. There's also a good the new to do, both for us as we can report on some of those later in the season.

Cycling Prose or Poetry . . .

The feeling you have when you first get the hang of riding a bicycle never really goes. It doesn't matter how long you've learned - with your parents, siblings, or arrangements out on the street, or by making your side to their take on the highway, or solitary sojourns, sometimes when no one could see you yet.

There's something about the rhythm of wheels that your body recognizes, whatever age you are. It recognizes something that your mind may not, that takes an really good about how things - simply by nature.

An attraction:

The Bicycle Book by Felix Belloni

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