

# The Pyrenean Raid

## The legendary challenge by road bike

**6 days - 5 nights including 5 days of cycling, Transfer there and back included, Option: Self-guided cycling with assistance vehicule**

Level: 3/5



The Pyrenean Raid is a legendary circuit, crossing the Pyrénées by road bike. Established in 1952, this route of 5 stages, climbing 11000m and linking the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean through beautiful landscapes, has become an internationally renowned challenge for amateur cyclists.

Starting in Hendaye, the challenge is to reach Cerbère in less than 100 hours of cycling, covering 710km and conquering 18 acclaimed mountain passes (cols). You will follow legendary Tour de France routes and pass over notable mountain passes to cross 5 Pyrenean departments. Ride from the lush, green summits of the Basque Country to the peaks of the Hautes-Pyrénées, crossing vast forests in Ariège, weaving between the Corbières' vineyards before finally arriving at the beaches of the Mediterranean coast.

After validating your race, your medal and certificate await you; a just reward for this unmissable cyclo-sporting feat!

## Strengths

- Fabled cols of the Tour de France
- Certificate and official medal following a triumphant challenge

- The most beautiful landscapes of the Pyrénées: cols, forests, gorges, plateaus
- Accommodation on a half-board basis with transfer (there and back) included

# SCHEDULE

## **Day 1 : Cerbère :**

Meeting at Cerbère and immediate transfer to Hendaye in the assistance vehicle.

Preparation of the bikes and equipment. Dinner and night in Hendaye.

For arrivals by train or plane: meet directly in Hendaye or at Biarritz airport.

## **Day 2 : From Hendaye to Lurbe-Saint-Christau : 165 km - Elevation: + 2500 m**

Departure at 9am for the first stage of cycling. Leave the Atlantic Coast and head through typical Basque landscapes to reach the Pyrenean foothills. The Raid route encourages you to stretch your legs by passing first over the Col de St-Ignace (169m), then the Col de Pinodieta (176m), the Col d'Ipharlatze (328m) and, finally, the Col d'Osquich (392m). You are required to pass through control points in Espelette and Tardets.

Night on a half-board basis in Lurbe Saint Christau.

## **Day 3 : From Lurbe-Saint-Christau to Sainte-Marie-de-Campan : 131 km - Elevation: + 3550 m**

Start the day with a quick warm up of your thighs and a climb to Arudy. During the descent, you'll be able to take in views over the countryside around Laruns before starting your climb up the Col d'Aubisque (1709m) and refuelling with a lunch break. The spectacular descent takes you on to the Col de Soulor (1466m), before reaching the station at Argelès-Gazost. Next, it is on to the legendary Tour de France stage of the Col du Tourmalet (2115m), your final climb for the day, and with a well-earned break at the top. Descend to Saint Marie de Campan where you will spend the night on a half-board basis.

## **Day 4 : From Sainte-Marie-de-Campan to Massat : 163 km - Elevation: + 2000 m**

This stage starts with a climb of the Col d'Aspin (1489m), followed by the Col de Peyresourde (1569m). You then cross over a series of linked peaks starting with the Col des Ares (797m), then the Col de Buret (599m) before climbing the Col de Portet d'Aspet (1069m) where you can take a moment at the memorial to cyclist Fabio Casartelli. The end of the stage involves a descent towards Saint-Girons, through the Gorges de Ribaouto, to arrive at your accommodation. Night on a half-board basis in Massat.

## **Day 5 : From Massat to Prades : 168 km - Elevation: + 2650 m**

A beautiful stage tackling the famous Col de Port (1249m), before a ride through the thermal valley of Ax-les-Thermes to start your ascent of the Col du Puymorens, which sits right on border with Andorra. The return through the valley includes two climbs - the Col de Rigat (1485m) and Col de Perche (1581m). A fantastic descent takes you straight to the entrance of the hotel. Night on a half-board basis in Prades.

## **Day 6 : From Prades to Cerbère : 82 km - Elevation: + 300 m**

Last stage on the Pyrenean Raid - with no more cols to tackle, the roads wind through the hills. The challenge has to be finished before 1pm by reaching the Mediterranean and crossing the beautiful village of Collioure. Having completed the Raid in less than 100 hours, and having successfully collected all of the control point stamps, you receive your medal and official certificate ! You then have a free afternoon to relax and recover on the Mediterranean beaches.  
End of trip.

# TRAVEL CONDITIONS

## Formalities :

- A valid official ID
- We recommend travel insurance with repatriation included

## Accommodation :

5 nights half board with two options:

Double room formula: you sleep in comfortable rooms for 2 people in hotels, guest rooms and sometimes cottages. Sheets and towels are provided. A bathroom is reserved for you. Single room option.

Formula lodging stage: selected in particular for the quality of their reception, you find in the cottages a friendly atmosphere.

Most often you share dormitories of 4/6 places with other people. Sheets and towels are not provided.

## Accompanying :

Free Riding Bike with Assistance Vehicle:

The assistance vehicle reaches you at different times during the day's stage, often at the top of the passes and carries your picnic, water, extra clothes and a complete toolbox in case of mechanical problems. You enjoy your day with a light bag or no bag. The driver of the vehicle also gives you advice for each step, helps you manage your effort, and can most of the time answer your questions about the region visited.

## Attendees :

Departure for group of 6 people.

## Bike transport :

You only carry the items of the day and the picnic. Luggage is carried by assistance vehicle. 1 piece/person and limited to 15kg/piece.

Transport of bike boxes/boxes/boxes and hard bottom bags is not included: option possible on request and subject to availability.

## Food :

No question of dieting during your stay but it is rather an opportunity to taste the local cuisine. We attach great importance to the quality of food: dietary balance, energy intake and specialty of the country are the ingredients of each meal.

Picnics are not included in the price. Every day, you have the opportunity to prepare your picnics. Either you (or the logistician) buy everything you need at each step, or you order your picnic the day before from the host (subject to availability).

Picnic option provided during the Raid possible (5 meals provided): +50€/person.

## DEPARTURE AND MEETING POINT :

Departure from Cerbère (66) at 12h or Perpignan train station at 13h and immediate transfer to Hendaye.

For groups or if the majority of participants is from the west of France, we can make the appointment in Hendaye and make the transfer Cerbères/ Hendaye at the end of the stay.

For arrivals by train or plane: appointment directly at Hendaye or Biarritz airport and transfer at the end of your stay to Perpignan or Carcassonne.

Transfer to Toulouse optional.

How to get there:

By car: A9 Perpignan, then N114 or A63 Saint Jean de Luz exits 2 or 3.

By train: Train station of Cerbère or Hendaye.

By plane: Perpignan, Carcassonne or Biarritz airport.

### **Difficulty level :**

You have a very excellent physical condition and practice a high level of training. Stages from 85 to 170km per day with positive gradients from 900 to 3200 m per day.

### **Options :**

- +1 day or -1 day,
- 5 picnics (+75€/person)
- Customized program from the steps you choose yourself,
- Additional accommodation before or after the stay,
- Single room supplement : 260/pers
- High-end bike rental,
- Transfer to Toulouse.

### **The Pyrenean Raid in details :**

Touring the Pyrenean Raid is an essential challenge for road bike specialists. This legendary raid joins the Atlantic to the Mediterranean by covering 710 km and 18 passes, and offers the challenge of doing this course in 100 hours maximum! LaRébenne, in collaboration with the Béarnais cyclo-club, provides each participant with an official logbook to be stamped at specific points. To mark your success, a diploma and a medal will be given to you afterwards, after validation by the Béarnais cyclo-club, to formalize this sporting feat. The raid is accessible to both licensed and non-licensed users and can be run from west to east or vice versa. To be validated, the raid must be carried out between June 1 and September 30.

More information: [http://www.ccb-cyclo.fr/raid\\_pyreneen.html](http://www.ccb-cyclo.fr/raid_pyreneen.html)

# RATES

## Formula with assistance vehicle

Registration for 8 people	910€
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## Package with assistance vehicle and luggage storage - hotel

Registration for 8 people	1290€
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### The price includes :

- The reservation of accommodation in half board from the dinner of day 1 until the breakfast of day 6,
- Maps, map holder, and GPS tracks,
- The detailed daily topoguide,
- The transport of luggage,
- The transfer Cerbère-Hendaye (or return),
- 1 vehicle 9 places (+ bike trailer according to availability) during the whole stay,
- The official road book, the diploma and the medal of the Béarn cyclo club.

### The price does not include :

- Drinks,
- Personal expenses,
- Picnics (unless option chosen),
- Personal bike equipment (helmets, gloves),
- Bicycles,
- Transportation to the meeting point,
- Insurance,
- Transport and storage of boxes/ cartons/ hard bottom covers.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## How to subscribe ? :

No, no automatic forms!

At LaRébenne, we prefer to keep in touch with our travelers. We like to talk to you about our travels, and we want to maintain this relationship with you. Exchange, sharing and pleasure remain our ambition for LaRébenne travels.

Don't hesitate to contact us directly to talk about hiking or biking.

[contact@larebenne.com](mailto:contact@larebenne.com)

+33 561 652 093

+33 681 537 775

## Registration, deposit and validation

Once you've chosen your trip, it's quick and easy to register!

\* Either go directly to your tour's page on our website and click on registration.

\* Or we can work with you to create a tailor-made tour, and send you a personalized link to your registration form.

The registration is effective when we receive your registration form with your acceptance of the general terms and conditions of sale, accompanied by the deposit of 30% of the tour price. You will then receive an acknowledgement of receipt of your registration.

### 100% secure payment

You can pay by credit card (faster) or bank transfer.



## Payment of balance

The balance must be paid one month before the departure date. You will find your invoice on your My LaRébenne space, as well as a payment link to the balance of your stay.

## Invitation to depart

On receipt of payment of the balance, your travel diary will be available in your customer area on My LaRébenne, where you will find all the information you need for your trip, as well as your invoice.

## Insurance :

In accordance with regulations, each participant in a LaRébenne trip must hold individual civil liability as well as individual multi-risk cover to protect themselves against incidents or accidents that may occur before or during the tour or bike trip.

Assistance mainly covers search and rescue, repatriation and medical expenses. It comes into play as soon as a medical report makes it possible to decide on repatriation. Repatriation, known as "premature return", can also be arranged for reasons other than the insured's own, such as the death of a family member (see cases in the insurance booklet). Beforehand, in regions far from medical facilities and difficult to access, you must agree to the organization of first aid using local resources (4X4, porters, horses, etc.).

This contract also covers loss, theft or delayed delivery of baggage, as well as interruption of stay.

The insurance protects against the financial risk of cancellation. It is very important to have this type of insurance in case of cancellation due to a health problem or for professional reasons.

We suggest you take out one of the three policies we have selected, bearing in mind that we only act as an intermediary

between you and the insurer. Any additional insurance is invoiced per person and must be taken out on the day of booking:

- "Multirisque" contract (4.5%), minimum premium 15 euros:  
Repatriation assistance + tour interruption + luggage + cancellation.

[See the complete contract](#)

- "Cancellation" contract (2.5%), minimum premium 10 euros:  
Cancellation only.

[See the complete contract](#)

- "Repatriation assistance" contract (1.6%), minimum premium of 10 euros:  
Repatriation assistance + tour interruption + luggage.

[See the complete contract](#)

As far as "civil liability abroad" is concerned, only French residents are covered.

### **Informations :**

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