



Spain 2012



Ladies and Gents, you all know how organised I like to be, I think after successful tours around Ireland and The Alps under my belt, you can rest assured I will find the best that is out there and at a reasonable price. So here it is for next year. This is the plan for the Spain tour 2012, I have considered several options, riding down through France and sailing back or vice versa or riding both ways or sailing both ways.

The best AND cheapest solution appears to be sailing both ways (£248).

A single trip on the tunnel, plus petrol for 700 miles, plus two overnight stops to get to Spain is roughly £200. Add to that a single Ferry ride of £124 one way to get home. Total £324.

Riding both ways would be £400 to get to Spain and back.

As the Ferry is £124 pounds each way and includes you, your bike and a bed in an outside 2 berth cabin. Return trip is £248. An added bonus here being you arrive relaxed and ready to go.

So the schedule is as follows.



Sunday 30th September Depart **Plymouth** for Santander sailing at 15:30, this arrives in Santander the next day Monday October 1st at 12:00.

The return Sailing sees us depart Santander on Thursday 11th October 2012 at 15:00, arriving back in **Portsmouth** (note the change) on Friday 12th October at 14:00.

Sandwiched in between the sailings will be a selection of hopefully some of the finest roads you have ever ridden or ever likely to ride.



The format is likely to be a half rolling half location based tour, with probably 4-6 single night locations and 2-3 double night stops depending on the final route and where loops are potentially useable. At this stage its variable, but it will allow, should you choose, a day out of the saddle to rest your butt and

maybe soak in some sunshine and sangria. I am hoping to fit in a winery visit as we will be based in the most blessed Rioja wine region of Spain.

So there you have it, the basis of the tour for 2012.

Costs: This is **NOT** a cheap holiday, if you are easily offended please don't read on !! (Please DO NOT hold me to these prices as it will depend on a number of things including your wrist economy when it comes to petrol consumption, your stomach capacity when it comes to food and wine/beer and anything else you



may pick up along the way – like punctures etc, that will all add to the final costs.

Bends for 30km, hmmmmm, shall we take another route guys/gals?

1/ Your tour should start with a full service and new rubber front and rear, check you have enough front/rear brake pad life left for the best part of 3,000 miles. Remember you will be harder on the brakes in the mountains. **SO please factor this into your final costs.**

2/ Not forgetting any additional cost in insuring your bike for European Travel and obtaining European Breakdown cover. If you insure with someone like Carole Nash, you'll find all of the above is already included in your premium.

3/ Some may wish to break up the journey to/from Plymouth/Portsmouth, please remember this when estimating your costs and remember to add the cost of petrol to/from the ports to your estimates.

Travel to/from Spain via Ferry£248

Approx mileage in Spain 10 days @ max 250 miles per day based
On average of 38mpg and current UK petrol prices, Spain is currently
slightly cheaper @ £1.20 a litre –400 litres.....£300

10 nights accommodation @ approx 35 Euro per night.....£325

£873

We may get slightly cheaper Accommodation, the petrol may be slightly cheaper, we may not cover that amount of mileage. Booking a 4 berth cabin on the boat instead of a two berth would also reduce costs slightly (by £25 return), but the above is worst case scenario and the amount you should be considering as being needed.

Don't forget, food/drink needs adding to the above, plus points 1 to 3 above (breakdown, European insurance cover, tyres/service and costs to/from ports.

Still interested.....??????????

So this is a riding holiday, it is not a beach holiday, it will be arranged as such, taking in wonderful roads and scenery, but as mentioned earlier, where the tour stops rolling for a day or two, you are most welcome to reduce costs by chilling out in the hotel or staying locally to see the sights, rather than riding out that day, the choice is yours, but when its time to move on, move on we will.

The maximum number for the trip is 12, first come first served. I will probably split the riding groups into 2 x 6 with a leader with each (volunteer required !!).

So what should you do now?

Easy, fill out the last page, print it out and post it to me as soon as possible with a deposit of £100 for the ferry and to secure your place – Ferry balance is due July 1st 2012 - simples init ☺ **The closing date for all applications is 31st March 2012**, only then shall I start booking accommodation. A further deposit maybe required once this has begun. All final payments are due prior to the holiday commencing. Deposits are **non Refundable once bookings have been made (unless you can find a replacement)**.

The rules may sound hard, they are, organising tours like this takes commitment from me and from you, this is not a pop up the road to Scotland, it does require careful planning well in advance with definite numbers for it to work. As always I will do my best to accommodate latecomers (subject to the 12 limit not being reached, but this will be on an availability basis).

DON'T FORGET YOU NEED A PASSPORT !!



Spain Tour 2012



Please book me a place on the 2012 "STMC Tour of Spain".

1/ Answer **one** of the following with a tick for your Ferry accommodation

I would prefer sharing a 2 berth cabin.....

I would prefer sharing a 4 berth cabin.....

2/ Answer **one** of the following with a tick for your Tour accommodation

I would prefer a single room (if available at probable extra cost).....

I would prefer a twin room.....

I don't mind I will accept whatever is available.....

If you have already discussed sharing with another club member, please indicate their name alongside your answers above

Please complete but write you name below AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT

First Name..... Surname.....

Vehicle REG

Address.....

.....

Post Code..... Phone.....

Email.....

I confirm I have or I will have a valid passport for the duration of the trip and I enclose a payment of £100 as deposit for the Ferry payable to: "R Braithwaite".

I understand this is **non refundable** unless a replacement is found and approved by the other tour members.

Signed:.....