



Tour de Europe 2018—Amsterdam to Barcelona 3rd June to 25th June

ITINERARY:

Pre-Start—3rd June—Amsterdam—Today is the day for getting ready to leave on the trip. Picking up cars, final briefing and team dinner at a convenient restaurant.

Hotel: - Radisson Blu Centre Amsterdam—Centrally located 4 star hotel, close to the major attractions including Ann Frank house.

Day 1—4th June 2018—Amsterdam to Amiens— Day 1 dawns over the canals of Amsterdam and we take off from our hotel towards the south. A few hours through the flat countryside south of *Amsterdam* and past windmills and dykes and crossing into Belgium brings us to the seaside town of Dunkirk. The town is renowned as the location of the evacuation of the British army towards the start of WWII (and the subject of the recent movie).

After leaving Dunkirk, we proceed to the French border and the port of Calais, before heading in a south-easterly direction towards the town of Amiens.



Hotel: Mercure Amiens Cathedrale—A 4 star centrally located hotel near the Amiens Cathedral and the centre of town.

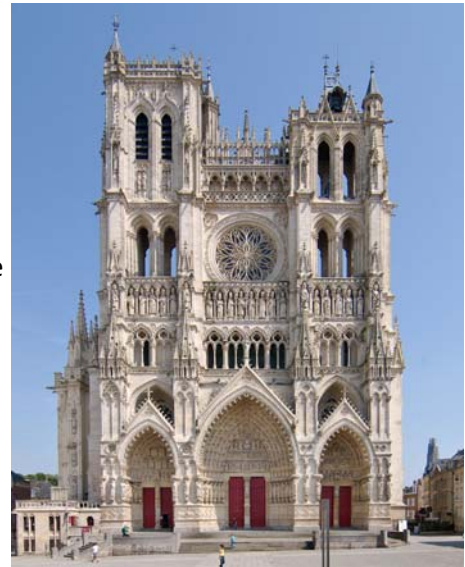
Day 2—5th June 2018—Amiens to Le Mans – The route for today allows for a visit to the WW1 memorial at Villers Bretonneux. After the memorial we head towards Le Mans through the town of Rouen. Rouen is known for its connection to the English occupation of France in the 11th to 15th centuries

and for the resting place of Joan of Arc. Le Mans is famous for the 24 hour sports car race (for which there is a museum at the track) as well as the 12th century cathedral in the centre of town.

Hotel: Mercure Le Mans Centrale—Centrally positioned near the shopping precinct and the Place de Plantagenet (where a large selection of restaurants are located). 4 star rated.



Day 3—6th June 2018—Le Mans to Bordeaux — Today is a day through the French countryside to La Rochelle, an important sea port in the 14th to 17th centuries. It is also well known for its old village and tourist seaport as well as a large U-Boat bunker built during WWII. After La Rochelle, its back on the road to Bordeaux, where our hotel is located in the old part of town near the river and next to Rue Sainte Catharine, the restaurant





mecca of Bordeaux.

Hotel: Hotel Best Western Premier Bayonne a 4 star hotel in the centre of town and close to the river.

Day 4—7th June 2018—Bordeaux Layday – A full day available to explore Bordeaux and the surrounding area and maybe take in a wine tasting or two. The wine growing area around Bordeaux has many delights, from cellar door tastings to wine making classes and trips down the river. You can even get helicopter rides over the vineyards and check out the villages of Medoc and Pauillac.

Day 5—8th June 2018—Bordeaux to Bilbao — Our next driving day crosses the Parc National Gascognes before hitting the coast at Bayonne. From there is a crossing into Spain and a short drive into Bilbao through Basque country. Once the home of the Basque separatists, ETA, it is now a major tourist destination with fantastic beaches and a historical connection to the Camino Real pilgrimage. A detour off the route can take you to Guernica, which has the dubious claim of being the first town to be carpet bombed in history (and the subject of a famous Picasso painting).

Hotel: Hotel NH Zubiale—Our 4 star hotel is right on the edge of the old town near the river. Well positioned to check out the Guggenheim museum and the Basque museum of Fine arts.

Day 6—9th June 2018—Bilbao layday— The Guggenheim museum is renowned the world over for its collection of art, plus the spectacular architecture. There are however, many more attractions to Bilbao. They include Vitoria and Rioja wine regions that can be explored in a day trip from Bilbao.



Day 7—10th June 2018—Bilbao to Santiago de Campostella— Today we spend our day travelling along the coast of Northern Spain more or less following the route of the Camino real, a Christian pilgrimage daring back to the 9th century. The pilgrimage was for devout Christians to visit the tomb of the Apostle St. James in Santiago de Campostella. At the time of the 9th Century, the western coast of Spain was the edge of the known world.

Hotel: Hotel Monumento San Francisco—A 4 star hotel, the Monumento is housed in a building that was originally a monastery. Located close to the centre of town and close to the Cathedral of Santiago de Campostella.



Day 8—11th June 2018—Santiago de Campostella to Lisbon— Today is a day to explore coastline of Portugal and some of the wine growing areas around Porto (the original source of Port wine). Most of the Port wineries are located in the Gaia part of Porto. The rest of the trip has stunning scenery and picturesque villages. The route also takes us through Coimbra, the medieval capital of Portugal.

Hotel: Hotel H10 Duque de Louie—A 4 star hotel, the Duque is located close to the centre of town and close to the main shopping precinct of Lisbon.

Day 9—12th June 2018—Lisbon Layday—There are a number of attractions in and around Lisbon. The old town area of Alfama has centuries old buildings and the winding streets lead up to the 9th Century Castelo Sao Jorge at the pinnacle of the hill. The castle is of Moorish construction and has views over the whole city. Within the city is also Tram 28. It is an old wooden Tram rumbling from Barrio Alto, through some of the most visually appealing neighbourhoods in Lisbon. Think of the cable trams in San Francisco and you've got the idea. Further away on a day trip is the village of Sintra, known as one of Portugal's most stunning. It's accessed by a 40 minute train ride from Rossio station.



Day 10 —13th June 2018—Lisbon to Seville—Our next road day brings us down through Portugals playground, the Argave and across the Spanish border. Along the way is the tourist resort town of Faro.

Hotel: Hotel Monte Carmelo—A 4 star hotel, the hotel is located next to the historic old part of Seville. One of Sevilles most famous occupants is Christopher Columbus, buried at Seville Cathedral.

Day 11 —14th June 2018—Seville to Granada

A short day of only 250 kms takes us from Seville into Granada. You can use the time to check out Seville or get in early to see Granada.

Hotel: Hotel Granada Victoria—A 4 star hotel, the Granada Victoria is located near the old town but has good access to the Alhambra.

Day 12—15th June 2018—Granada Layday—One of Spain's top tourist attractions is the Alhambra in Granada. The Alhambra dates back to the 9th century and was originally constructed as a palace for the Sultan of Granada. Thus the architecture of the main part is Islamic in its influence. After Christians took over the last part of Spain from the Moors, other parts were added with more Christian architecture.

Day 13—16th June 2018—Granada to Madrid—After leaving Granada we cross central Spain and Don Quixote territory as the road crosses the province of La Mancha. Miguel Cervantes character in the book Man of La Mancha is based on a fictitious nobleman who is fixated on the chivalrous behaviour of the knights of old that he'd read about in books.

Hotel: Hotel Atlantico—A 4 star hotel, the Atlantico is a neoclassical design located on the Gran Via. It is 1.6 km from the Museo del Prado and is in the main shopping and dining precinct.



Day 14 & 18—17th & 21st June 2018—Madrid layday—Madrid has a lot to offer from the shopping and entertainment of Gran Via to the Plaza Mayor and the Museo Nationale del Prado. In the afternoon, take a stroll along the river in the gardens Madrid Rio, then find a Flamenco performance during the night. On the 18th we take a 2 hour flight to Marrakech to absorb the experiences in North Africa and see if we can really find the spirit of Crosby, Stills, & Nash 'Marrakech Express'.

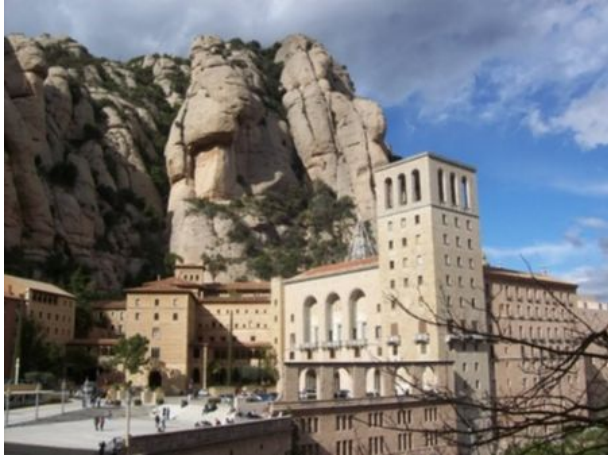
Day 15, 16 & 17—18th , 19th & 20th June 2018—Marrakech laydays— Three nights in Marrakech will give us plenty of time to explore and maybe do a day trip out to the Atlas mountains. Marrakech has a bustling market only a short walk away from the hotel. The Souks and Medina are bustling, colourful and jam packed with various traders selling clothing, jewellery and hand crafts. South of Marrakech are scenic landscapes that can be seen through coach trips or from a hot air balloon.

Hotel: Novotel Marrakech Hivernage—The 4 star Novotel Marrakech Hivernage hotel is in the middle of the trendiest part of Marrakech, where you can unwind and have fun in the many restaurants, casinos and Jet set clubs. Take a stroll and discover the Koutoubia Mosque and the famous Jemaa el-Fna square. After a walk through the souks, relax in the outdoor swimming pool, and savor local delicacies in the casual, one-of-a-kind restaurant, Bazz'art. .



TOUR de EUROPE

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Day 19—22nd June 2018—Madrid to Valencia— We finally leave Madrid and head south east to the coast at Valencia. It's a drive through rolling plains past lakes and vineyards: a relaxing drive to Valencia.

Hotel: Hotel Zenit—A 4 star hotel, the Zenit is close to the centre of town and the main restaurant area.

Day 20—23rd June 2018—Valencia layday— Valencia is known for its City of Arts and Sciences, with futuristic structures including a planetarium, an oceanarium and an interactive museum. Valencia also has several beaches, including some within nearby Albufera Park, a wetlands reserve with a lake and walking trails.

Day 21—24th June 2018—Valencia to Barcelona —A day of driving

along the coast from Valencia to Barcelona. We travel through the old port of Tarragona. Originally built by the Romans in the 2nd Century, Tarragona has many ruins from that time. North of Tarragona, there is the villages and fishing ports of Catalonia, where fresh seafood can be obtained at the local eateries.

Hotel: Hotel Eurostars Ramblas—A 4 star hotel, the Eurostars Ramblas is situated right on the tourist thoroughfare of La Rambla. The hotel is right there, with quick access to all the renowned attractions in Barcelona.

Day 22—25th June 2018—Barcelona Layday —A day off, allowing time to see Barcelona and the other delights in the area, such as the monastery on a mountain top at Montserrat. What makes Barcelona so special could be attributed to the architectural work of Antoni Gaudi, from the Sagrada Familia to other buildings around Barcelona. After dark, the nightlife along La Rambla is also enticing. Our Tour will end tonight at a farewell party at a local restaurant.

Safe Driving!

HARRY CADLE

