

## **GREAT BEAR – ROTTERDAM TO VENICE 2020**

**The 12 day ride is 12<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**The price for this trip is £1950**

### **WHAT THE PRICE INCLUDES**

- \* Transport to Harwich from Milton Keynes
- \* Overnight ferry crossing in twin cabins
- \* 12 nights' accommodation in twin rooms in hotels
- \* Breakfasts
- \* Baggage transfers for the duration of the trip
- \* Vehicular support for the entire cycle including back up vehicle carrying spares, mechanical support and use of spare bike should you need it (including lubricants for your bike)
- \* Overnight bike storage
- \* Photos of your trip

### **WHAT THE PRICE EXCLUDES**

- \* Bike and helmet hire
- \* Personal clothing and equipment
- \* Insurance – **you must have your own holiday insurance**
- \* Evening meals

### **DAY TO DAY**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>** - Afternoon transport to Harwich – Overnight ferry crossing

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>** – Rotterdam to Oisterwijk – near Tilburg – 71 miles

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup>** –Oisterwijk to Maastricht – 68 miles

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>** – Maastricht to Vielsalm– 54 miles

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>** – Vielsalm to Luxembourg – 66 miles

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>** – Luxembourg to Saarbrücken – 63 miles

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup>** – Saarbrücken to Strasbourg – 78 miles

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>** – Strasbourg to Bad Dürkheim – 69 miles

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>** - Bad Dürkheim to Bregenz – 82 miles

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup>**– Bregenz to Klosters – 65 miles

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Klosters to Malles Venosta – 55 miles

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Malles Venosta to Levico Terme – 97 miles

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>** – Levico Terme to Venice – 86 miles

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup>** – Tour end

\*Hotels and overnight stops are subject to change to suit the group size. These mileages are based on the routes I have planned and are purely there to get you from one hotel to another, you do not have to follow these routes and can take any roads you desire to get to the hotel.

### **TRANSPORT**

Transport to Harwich docks will be on the Saturday afternoon leaving from Milton Keynes at around 15.00pm.

We will travel on the overnight ferry to Rotterdam then unload the bikes at the docks on arrival and off you go!

The trip terminates in Venice and we stay on the mainland for the final night, you can then stay on and explore the traditional Venice or fly straight back it is up to you.

Bikes will be brought back to the UK in the van where you can collect them from me or have them couriered to you.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

The accommodation provided on the trip is in hotels. They vary due to nature of our locations each night and are based on 2 people sharing a twin room. Accommodation has food and a bar available on site or nearby as well as Wi-Fi.

### **BIKES AND EQUIPMENT**

We strongly recommend that you ride a road or touring bike for the tour. Whatever you choose make sure the bike has a suitable range of gears as you will be climbing steep hills in places and if you are not familiar with the mechanics of your bike it would pay to take it to a cycle shop for a service prior to the trip.

You are responsible for your own routine maintenance throughout the trip but I will help out in any way that we can and there will be a spare bike and spare wheels available.

If you don't already own a pair prior to the ride you may want to get hold of some waterproof overshoes. These are often overlooked but can make a ride like this a lot more pleasurable should the weather turn.

Lights, you may think well 'I won't be riding at night', but in heavy rain, fog and under tree cover you need to give that vehicle approaching you from behind at 60mph every chance they can get to see you. Some people turn up with lights that can barely be seen halfway down a lay-by and I would only recommend a high output LED pulsating rear light. Better safe than sorry.

Gloves, you can never have too many pairs.

Helmets – we used to give you the option but from 2014 it is mandatory to be wearing a helmet while on one of our rides.

It is recommended that you bring a range of spares for your bike but we do have a certain amount for sale on board the support vehicle, please understand however that it is not possible to stock for every single bicycle. We have tyres, tubes, bar tape, cleats, brake pads, gear and brake cables, chains and much more.

### **BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE**

Your baggage allowance for this trip is just the one bag, suitcase or holdall, Space is limited so please don't turn up with 4 bags, 2 spare wheels and a track pump. The bags will be with the support van for the whole trip.

### **SUPPORT**

The support vehicle will always be on hand should you need assistance at any time during the trip. In the van is a tool kit, spare wheels and even a spare bike. We will always be close to the riding group and will get ahead of you now and again for you to fill up water bottles and have a sit down. Whether you need a break, have bike trouble or just need emotional support getting up a big hill, we will do what we can to keep you going.

### **FOOD**

Breakfast is provided by your accommodation and is almost everyday a continental buffet.

Lunches – You're on holiday - cafes, restaurants, bistros and bakeries are there for you to sample, feel free to stop where you wish. Due to where we will be travelling there will be a small fridge on the van and it is recommended that you keep some food with the vehicle should you not be able to get any on route in areas such as the Alps.

Evening meals and drinks are not included in the price. Evening meals are available at most accommodations or we are close to pubs/towns with selections of eating places.

### **LAUNDRY**

Due to the fact that we are constantly moving on during the cycle trips it is not practical to be using commercial washing services and it is recommended that you bring enough cycle clothing to rotate and wash in your accommodation by bringing some detergent with you. Due to the material that most bibs are made from people find they are normally dry by the next morning's ride anyway.

### **DOCUMENTS**

You will need to have full travel insurance including repatriation, an up to date passport and if they are still available by the date of the trip an E111 card would be helpful.

Any further queries or questions please contact me on – Carl – 07860 563810

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Or through the website at [www.great-bear-tours.co.uk](http://www.great-bear-tours.co.uk)