

Bike Trips to Europe

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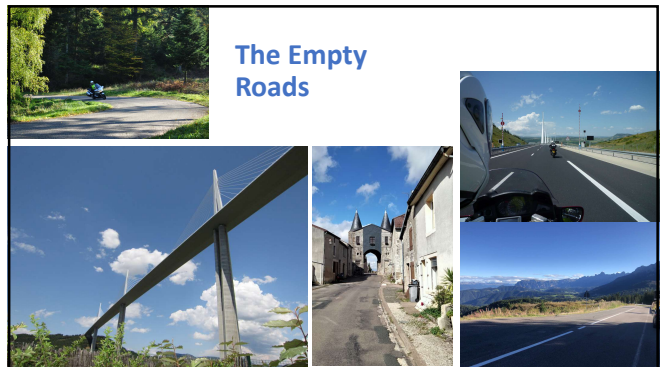
Talk

- Why go?
- Where to go?
- How to go?
- Type of trip
- Paperwork
- Personal Approach - Keith

Why go?

- The Roads
- The Experience and Different Culture
- The Destination
- The Fun

The Empty Roads



The Exciting Roads



The Experience & Different Culture



Hotel and Local Towns



The Destination



Attractions



Attractions



**The
Fun**

Where to go?

- France
- Spain / Portugal
- Benelux
- Italy
- And beyond!
- Magazine articles, books, web
- SR mates' ideas and suggestions

How to get there

- Harwich ferry
- Dover – Calais
 - Ferry or Train
- Portsmouth or Plymouth to Santander or Bilbao

Type of Trip

- Pre-planned – Hotels booked, routes in GPS
 - Road trip – one-night stands
 - Destination – one or two bases with day trips
- On the fly
 - General area identified, first night and last night hotels booked
 - A new day, a new plan
 - Number of hotel rooms/riders limitation

OR

- Organised commercial trip – eg Magellan, Smith battle sites, BMW, et al



The Legal Bits

- Driving Licence
- Bike
 - Insurance - covers destination countries
 - V5 registration; MoT certificate
 - UK sticker
- Hi-Viz
- Breakdown and recovery - covers destination countries
 - Highly Recommended

Paperwork

- You – The Usual
 - Money – Euros, enough for coffee and a bun every day
 - Credit cards (tell bank countries)
 - Holiday insurance - covers destination countries
 - UKGHIC (formerly E1111)
 - ICE
- Maps, guide to location, Logis hotels, Sawday's; Chambres d'hôte, etc
- Phrase book / mobile translate app

My Approach to European Touring

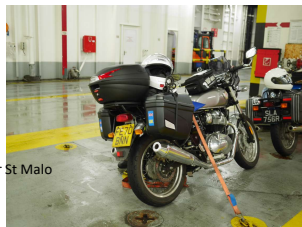
Keith

The Plan

- Decide on date, duration and destination
 - I would avoid July and August
- Destination will help decide on which crossing you use
- Channel Crossing from Dover, ferry or train
 - 130 miles journey from Ipswich
 - Allow 2.5 hours from Stowmarket to Dover Eastern docks
 - Fill-up before checking-in
 - Must arrive in good time to clear French Customs before boarding
 - Ferry operators - 2 hours.
 - Eurotunnel - 1 hour

The Plan – Crossing The Channel

- Ferry crossing is my preference
 - Relaxed, comfortable, meal, ready for ride on disembarkation
- DFDS - my choice is ferry operator
 - Crew secure your bike on the car deck
 - Restaurant serving breakfast or lunch
- Crossings
 - Dover – Calais – 1½ hour crossing
 - Dover - Dunkerque – 2 hour crossing
 - Newhaven – Dieppe
- Brittany Ferries
 - Portsmouth - Le Harve/Cherbourg, Caen or St Malo



The Plan – Going Further

- **Spain**
 - Brittany Ferries - Portsmouth or Plymouth to Santander or Bilbao
- **Scandinavia or north Europe**
 - Stena line - Harwich to Hook of Holland
- All have the option of a night crossing.
- Cabin cost is additional to the ferry crossing cost
- Remember European time 1 hour ahead of UK

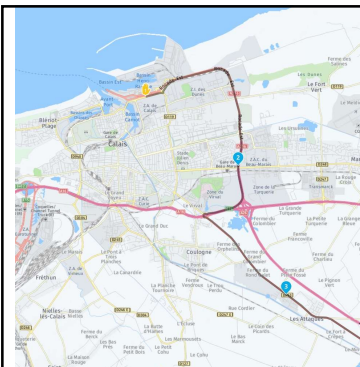
Practicalities for solo rider

- Expanding Tank-bag
 - Passport; autoroute tickets; credit card; wallet
- Decent size top box for *necessary* clothing
 - I take as little as possible, often sometimes still too much
 - Walker's tee shirts which will wash out and dry overnight
 - Old tee shirts and ditch them at the end of the day
- Map even if have GPS
 - North Eastern France will cover the entire route
- Bike Bits
 - Can chain lub; Basic tools; Spare bulbs; Cable ties; Roll strong tape

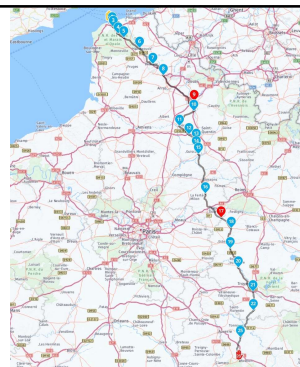
A Possible Trip for First Timers



- 7 nights in France
- Avallon
 - 320 miles from Calais; 160 miles SE of Paris
 - Interesting old town with numerous bars and restaurants
 - Access to the Morvan National Park; Many places of interest close by
- Either arrive in a day
 - Overnight stay at Dover; Early ferry; Main roads
- Or 2 overnight stops each way
 - 'D' roads; enjoy rural France; see GPX routes later
- And 3 nights in Avallon
- Recommend pre-book all hotels, especially those *en route*
 - Or *there's always booking.com*

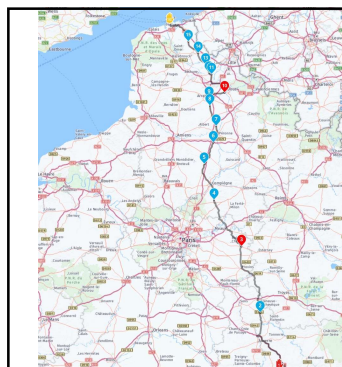


- Leaving Calais Docks



Route to Avallon

- 9 – First night, 94 miles
- 17 - Second night, 112 miles
- 26 - Destination, 128 miles



Return route to Calais

- 3 – First night, 120 miles
- 10 - Second night, 130 miles

Memories

