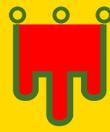




## AUVERGNE CHALLENGE



# 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018

The 2018 Extra Mile Auvergne Cycle Challenge takes us to some stunning National Park and Riverside locations – sure to provide an interesting and varied route and scenic splendour – stretching through the very centre of France!

Teams of four can split the maximum 180 mile daily cycle across team members as they choose.

The entry fee covers the organisation of the event (which includes our excellent marshal team arrowing the entire cycle route), channel crossing for the team car and four team members, four nights' accommodation (including breakfast) at a Novotel (or similar hotel) and evening meals on two nights as a group to share experiences, stories and camaraderie. Of course the entry fee also includes our renowned grand gala dinner which we are planning at a chateau near Dijon. All you have to do is arrive and cycle (and eat and drink and raise that so very worthwhile sponsorship).

## THE ROUTE:

Our start location is at Orleans – set at the northernmost bend of the Loire. Our first day cycling heads south skirting the Loire valley and vineyards – detouring to the odd gradient to allow views across the valley and takes us through familiar French rural agriculture and climbing to the Massif Central towards a 2 night stop at Clermont Ferrand.

**Clermont Ferrand** sits on the Plain of Limagne, circled by the 'Chaîne de Puys' – a set of dormant volcanoes rising spectacularly from the landscape. The 2 night stay allows us to head into more adventurous territory – through the Auvergne National Park and always in sight of one of the Chaîne volcanoes or a hidden Chateau amongst the lakes and forests – but not up any volcanoes this year!

Time to take in the sights of the Town for a second night, and then heading North East through the Burgundy region – skirting the Allier and Saone rivers and a grandstand finish through the Morvan region to our finish destination of **Dijon**, where we plan to celebrate completion of the challenge at a grand gala dinner with selected local wines at a small Chateau/winery.



I loved the experience, lovely scenery, great fun and quiet roads to cycle along. Very well organised, perfect for any level of cyclist!

**LISA M**



The planning and arrowing of the route are always excellent. Eating together in the evenings adds to the atmosphere of friendliness...

**PAUL H**



## COST

Thanks to our generous commercial supporters, the standard team entry fee is just £1,596 (£399 per person for a team of 4!). To reserve your place, you can either pay a £200 deposit or the balance in full! Places fill fast so make sure you sign up as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!

**Note** – Completion of the team reservation form and payment of deposit reserves a team place on first come, first served basis. Procedures are shown on our website.

## RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR FAVOURITE CHARITY

75% of your team's sponsorship goes to the charity of your choice. The remainder (plus all gift aid claimed) goes to three others chosen by the Organisers and to Rotary charitable funds. Our first 14 challenges have raised over £1.4m for charities. As in prior years, each team must raise a minimum of £1,200 sponsorship by 20 December 2018 as a condition of entry.

This year's Extra Mile Charities are:

**Willen Hospice** - Registered Charity No. 270194 - [www.willen-hospice.org.uk](http://www.willen-hospice.org.uk)

**Wheel Power** - Registered Charity No. 265498 - [www.wheelpower.org.uk](http://www.wheelpower.org.uk)

**Bedford Hospitals Charities** - Registered Charity No. 299250 - [www.bedfordhospitalcharity.org.uk](http://www.bedfordhospitalcharity.org.uk)

[www.extra-mile.org.uk](http://www.extra-mile.org.uk)

[brendan@extra-mile.org.uk](mailto:brendan@extra-mile.org.uk)

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