



Dates

From June 13th to 18th, 2022

From June 27th to July 02th, 2022

From August 29th to September 03rd, 2022

Informations

1 035 km (643 miles)

6 days – 5 nights

Riding level: Confirmed

Full board accommodation (and luggage carrying in our support vehicles).

English-speaking tour leader

Fares

2 990€ (\$3.390) per customer (with your motorcycle)

3 980€ (\$4.490) per customer (BAAK Interceptor Trail motorbike included)

Trip itinerary

On dirt tracks and asphalt roads, discover the Alpes-Maritimes, Alpes de Haute Provence and Hautes-Alpes, departing from Nice. This adventure is great if you're a confident rider and want to discover the joys of off-road riding on your own trail bike or a hire one. Together with your expedition leader, you'll follow the GPS routes sent at the beginning of the trip. You'll ride across southern Alp passes on narrow roads and rocky tracks crossing the Mercantour National Park until Serre-Ponçon Lake. During the day, you will either dine in restaurants selected by the team or enjoy a packed lunch picnic, prepared by our chef, in the countryside. As evening falls, expect a well-deserved rest in exceptional natural settings thanks to our portable campsite. Our private chef will serve delicious meals that we'll enjoy together around the campfire as we watch the sun set. We'll sleep under the stars in the comfort of our cotton tents heated by wood burners.

STAGE 1:

From Nice to Sospel – 175 km / 30% offroad, 70% tarmac / 4h ride – RDV at the camping Les Cents Chênes at 9am

After meeting at Les Cent Chênes campsite, Nice, at 9 am, you'll be given your rental trail bikes prepared by BAAK and be briefed on the rules of off-roading in nature. We set off at 10 am and leave the Niçois hinterland behind us and head for Vésubie Valley to get to grips with our bikes in this new setting on picture-perfect roads made for trail bikes. In the afternoon, we hit our first tracks leaving L'Escarène and arriving in Sospel. We enter Mercantour National Park through Bévéra Valley and discover a typically Mediterranean arid and rocky landscape until we climb the Col de Turini. We end the day on tracks overlooked by L'Authion until we reach our camp just outside the national park.

STAGE 2:

From Sospel to Ilonse – 210 km / 65% offroad, 35% tarmac / 6h30 ride

We leave at the crack of dawn to embark on the longest day of our adventure: 130 miles await. We reach the Col de Brouis via tracks and start our descent into the Roya Valley. Leaving Tende, we join the Road of the Fortresses via small trails until we arrive at Forte Colle Alto late in the morning. Leaving the fortresses behind us, we have lunch in a local Italian restaurant not far from Demonte. Rested and fed, we end our day returning to France via the Santa Anna track to the French-Italian border and the Isola pass. The last stretch proves to be a lot easier as we descend along Tinée River until Ilonse.

STAGE 3:

From Ilonse to Parpaillon – 160 km / 30% offroad, 70% tarmac / 5h ride

We start the third day heading to Pierlas via narrow cliffside roads in the Cians Valley. Around six miles later, we enter the Daluis gorges on steep roads along the Roudoule River. The Daluis gorges carved out in red schist open out onto the 2-km long Var bridge. We climb the gorges by a cliffside road until the legendary Pont de la Mariée and take in the stunning views from its 80 m height. We mount our trail bikes after lunch in Guillaumes and head to the Col de la Cayolle in the heart of the Mercantour surrounded by larch forests. The hardest track of our adventure stands before us: a mighty 950 m ascent via rocky tracks that take us up to the Col de la Bonette, the highest road in Europe at 2,800 m altitude at its highest point. Expect a spectacular 360° view of a wonderful lunar landscape! We go back down to Lauziers via the Route de la Bonette and take a few tracks to end the day at our camp nestled at the foot of the Parpaillon Massif (2,000 m altitude).

STAGE 4:

From Parpaillon to Aspres sur Buëch – 155 km / 40% offroad, 60% tarmac / 5h ride

After a night in the mountains next to a river, we tackle the colossal Col de Parpaillon. Being around 30 miles long and culminating at 2,780 m, this pass is a must-visit spot in the French Alps with its 520 m long tunnel at the top. Skill is needed on the way up and the descent is much smoother on the Hautes-Alpes side. We continue on tracks until we reach Serre-Ponçon Lake for lunch. We can enjoy a rest next to the lake before finishing the day touring some of the villages nestled among Col d'Espréaux's black peaks. If you want to take your adventure up a notch, in partnership with Alpine Flying School, you can book a microlight in the evening to get a bird's-eye view of our route.

STAGE 5:

From Aspres to Buëch to Barrême – 180 km / 20% offroad – 80% tarmac / 5h ride

Today, we explore the black peaks during a long stretch towards Barrême. This lunar landscape was formed under the sea during the Jurassic period when clay-limestone sediments, also known as marl, were deposited. We continue our route southbound via a track that links Valavoire and Authon along the Col de l'Hysope, which takes us to Digne-les-Bains. We leave the département's administrative centre behind us and continue on the D20 to the Col de Pierre Basse and Col de Corobin. We ride tracks that climb La Sapet and arrive at our camp by the end of the day.

ÉTAPE 6 :

From Barrême to Nice – 155 km / 35% offroad, 65% tarmac / 5h30 ride

We set off mid-morning for our last day of riding. We head directly onto white tracks lined by grasses and thyme bushes all the way up to Thorame. We take our last tracks of the adventure towards Saint-André-les-Bains and onto the Col de Saint-Barnabé. We enjoy an alfresco lunch surrounded by nature at the top of La Bernarde. We end our week-long adventure on windy roads with a spot of wild swimming in Aiglun and Riolan's natural pools. We return to the Niçois hinterland and Les Cents Chênes campsite, where our adventure ends.