



Dates

From 25th to 30th July, 2022

Informations

1 050 km (650 miles)

6 days, 5 nights

4x4 road-trip

Bivouacs, all inclusive

Tarifs

1 590€ (\$1.750) per customer, all inclusive

Free for children under 12

An adventure for friends or family (only 5 crews)

Your journey in details

Discover the French Riviera and her rich countryside starting from the beautiful city of Nice. A true adventure on a 4x4 vehicle you can do with your family or your friends! Guided by your expedition leader, you'll follow the GPS track given to each crew. You'll drive the most beautiful mountain passes of the southern Alps through some tortuous and narrow trails all the way to the Serre Ponçon lake. Lunch will either be accommodated in restaurant we chose for their testimony to the local cuisine or our chef will prepare some picnic you'll enjoy in astonishing spots. When night comes, camp will be set up in breathtaking locations so you can enjoy a delightful camp fire, an exquisite diner and later some rest thanks to the luxurious bedding.

1st Leg:

Nice to Sospel - 110 miles - 30% trails / 70% road - 4h drive time

Meeting at the Les Cents Chenes camping at 9:00 am

Bring your crew and meet the others for a quick briefing to remind you the basics of off road driving. 10am will sound the start of your adventure as you start to head towards the Vésubie Valley. After lunch, we'll see our first trail from L'Escarene going up to Sospel. We'll then enter the Mercantour National Park through the Bévéra Valley and discover a very Mediterranean landscape (dry and mineral) all the way to the Col de Turini (a true landmark of the famous Monte Carlo Rally). The last part of the day will lead us to our Campsite outside of the Mercantour National Park via the Authion trails.

2nd Leg:

Sospel to Ilonse - 130 miles - 65% trails / 35% road - 6h30 drive time

We'll leave at dawn for the longest day of the trip with 130 miles. We'll start by the Col de Brouis and its fantastic track then going down the mountain to the Royal Valley. We'll then head to the route des Forts from the village of Tende and get to the Forte Colle Alto by end of the morning. With that in the rearview mirror we'll have lunch on the Italian side of the border. The afternoon will be spent off roading the Santa Anna trail winding and flirting with the old borders. We'll appreciate the breathtaking views on top of the Col de la Lombarde before heading down to Ilonse for the night.

3rd Leg:

Ilonse to Parpaillon - 100 miles - 30% trails / 70% road - 5h drive time

We'll start this 3rd day by driving to Pierlas through the winding road hanging to the cliff of the Cians Valley. Few dozens miles later we'll reach the Daluis gorge along the Roudoule river. The Daluis gorge have carved in the Schist for thousands of years and we'll cross the narrow (only 79 inches wide!) Pont du Var on our way up the gorges to the iconic Pont de la Mariée and the amazing view 260 feet above the river. After our lunch in Guillaumes, we'll head up to the Col de la Cayolle at the heart of the Mercantour and its fantastic fir and larch forest. From there, we'll have the pleasure to drive our most difficult trail with more than 3,000 feet of elevation gain in just a few miles of rocky trail leading up to the top of the Col de la Bonette, the highest road in the Alps at 9,200 feet above sea level. You'll enjoy a 360° view in a moon like landscape. We'll then drive down to Jausiers (A CORRIGER SUR LA PAGE FRANCAISE) to our bivouac set at 6,500 feet just at the bottom of the Parpaillon.

4th Leg:

Parpaillon to Aspres sur Buech - 95 miles - 40% trails / 60% road - 5h drive time

After this night in high mountain range with our camp set right by a river, we'll tackle the colossal Col du Parpaillon. 30 miles of road leading to the col at 9,120 feet above sea level, the Parpaillon is one of the most iconic mountain pass in the French Alps and feature a 1,500 feet tunnel just before the top. The climb is the most technical parts so you can relax a little on the way down. We'll have lunch on the banks of the Serre Ponçon lake. We'll have some time during the afternoon to relax by the water before heading up to the Col d'Es-préaux to finish our daily drive through wiring mountain road and perched villages.

5th Leg:

Aspres sur Buech to Barreme - 20% trails / 80% road - 5h drive time

This 5th day will be spent driving through the Dark Lands to reach Barreme. This dry and arid landscape was once upon a time the bottom of a sea during the Jurassic period, witness of this very distant past you'll be able to spot what is now known as Marl minerals. As we're heading south via a fire road between Valavoire and Authon and then later the Col de l'Hysope to Digne Les Bains. After we'll drive through the county seat, we'll drive along the D20 through the Col de Pierre Basse and the Col de Corobin before the final trails of the day leading up to the campsite located on top of the Sapet.

6th Leg:

Barreme to Nice - 35% trails / 65% road - 5h30 drive time

After a late morning start for this final day we'll climb the trails to the Col du Diable wrapping around the top of the Sapet mountain. We'll then drive through the white trails surrounded by spices trees all the way to Thorame. Then we'll set our course towards Saint-André-Les-Alpes (A CORRIGER SUR LA PAGE FRANCAISE) to catch the last trails of the journey to the Col de Saint Barnabé. We'll picnic surrounded by Mother Nature at the bottom of the Bernade mountain before finally heading back to Nice. The last road will be through the beautiful natural swimming pools of Aiglun and Riolan where we'll get a chance to take a quick dip before returning to the Les cents Chinese camping from which we started and this will be the end of an unforgettable journey.