



France/Italy - Alpitrail

4 days / 3 nights / 4 stages / 800 km

Everyone thinks they know the Alps. However, this motorbike trip allows you to discover the Franco-Italian mountain range from new unexpected angles. It skirts the summits of Europe's roof-top, driving through untouched areas and offering the most stunning views.

A huge bowl of fresh air...

In winter, the Alps offer an immense snow covered territory coveted by many a lover of winter sports. However, once the mountains have shed their white winter coats, they offer an endless source of activities of all kinds, including a network of tracks suitable for motor vehicles.

The harsh relief and changing weather conditions have often isolated this region located between France, the Piémont and Ligurie, allowing it to offer such unspoiled beauty.

Italy is also renowned for its gastronomy and each meal is a delight! Pickled mushrooms, garlic stuffed bell-peppers, roasted boar, a dish of local cold-cuts such as salami, mortadella and of course, a plateau of local cheese! And to wash it all down, a glass of Barolo, the "king of red wine"... Buon appetito!

YOUR PROGRAM

Day 1 - Day 1 / Stage 1 – Crévoux – Marmora: 225 km

From the very start, the climb towards the heights has begun and with it the breathtaking views around you! You will be heading towards Risoul and then towards Agnel pass, from where you can catch a panoramic view of the mountain range and three of its main peaks: Font Sancte (3 387 m), Saume (3 035 m) and Péouvou (3 233m). You will have left behind the bucolic prairies and grazing animals and are now surrounded by a much harsher aspect of nature, in all its grandeur and immensity! Here and there, however, you might catch a sight of a groundhog observing his surroundings!

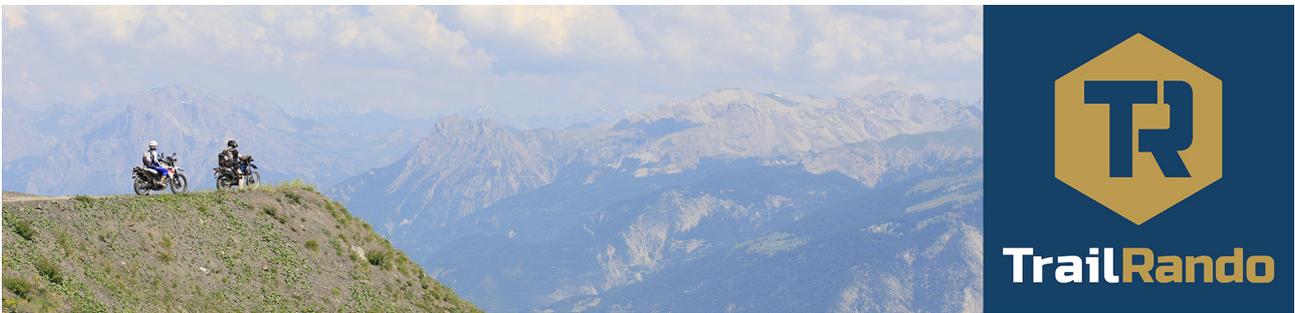
Your trip will take close to Saint-Véran, located at 2 040 m and at the very gates of the Queyras National Park, the highest inhabited town in Europe!

A stretch of winding paved road will take you down to the valley from where you will take a very pleasant earth track into Val Mayra at the foot of the Piedmontese mountain.

Day 2 - Day 2 / Stage 2 – Marmora – Pornossio: 205 km

Your itinerary will continue to the south towards the province of Cuneo.

Certain stretches of the road might get your adrenaline pumping as you drive on unstable and wobbling paving stones. More than ever, you must keep you calm and concentrate! This is the start of the famous "Real Strata". It took more than a century, from 1650 to 1780, to turn this mule track into a proper road suitable for vehicles, now called "Route du Sel"; it would become an important commercial route uniting both sides of the Alps.



After an exhilarating ride, today's stage ends in Nava, a region close to the sea which offers the traveler a well-deserved rise in temperatures.

Day 3 - Day 3 / Stage 3 – Pornossio - Limone Piemonte: 150 km

You will be leaving Ligurie behind and heading west towards the "Route de Sel" and the wonders of the Tende pass. The track will take you to Fort Central, one of the six military constructions de Italian army built between 1800 and 1900, still in use during the Second World War.

Further down, a spectacularly winding road featuring 41 curbs takes you to Fort Marguerite in just a few kilometers.

Day 4 - Day 4 / Stage 4 – Limone Piemonte - Crévoux: 220 km

Today's road joins the Italian and French Alps and will take you to the Lombard pass, driving through the Stura valley and under the pine trees of the Northern slopes. From these heights, the panoramic view takes in the red slate roofs of the tiny towns built around their churches and their belfries. You will continue towards the Col de la Lombarde, a green mountain offering flat and almost lunar landscapes until you reach the famous ski station, Isola 2000.

The gates of the Mercantour National Park seem to open for you by magic as the century old twisted pine trees seem to murmur their welcome!

You will then leave these surreal surroundings behind as you drive towards the Bonnette pass (2 860 m), the highest pass in Europe, and start your descent towards the Ubaye valley. The track takes you through a pine-covered forest and to the Parpaillon pass.

The mountain tunnel seems to swallow the traveler up into its dark and damp recesses. The bikes focus on the light at the end of the tunnel, as they drive through puddles and make slow progress. This is the legendary Parpaillon pass! It's located on the border between the Alpes de Haute-Provence and the Hautes Alpes, and rises to 2 780 m.

At this point, the atmosphere is typically Alpine with its pasture lands, rocks and scree, and no one in sight, until you reach the town of Chalp.

Additional information

TARIFFS

995 € per pilot, 995 € per passenger

Single room supplement

(If the group is an uneven number, a single room supplement will be invoiced to one of you or split between the group.) : 125 €.

INCLUDED

• Lodging

o hotels, in twin rooms,



(If the group is an uneven number, a single room supplement will be invoiced to one of you or split between the group.)

- o from the evening of the first stage, to the morning of the last stage

Food :

- o Breakfast

- o from the morning of the first stage to midday of the last stage,

- The GPS device with the trip's complete track and handlebar support, the user's manual and a phone briefing for its proper use.

NOT INCLUDED

- Transportation :

- o To and from tour start,

- o Vehicle transportation to and from tour start,

- o tolls

- Lunch, dinners and beverages

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

The itinerary consists mainly of earth tracks interrupted here and there by paved sections which makes it the perfect trip for a light vehicle. A pilot with little off-road experience can embark upon this trip without major difficulties. If you are driving a 1200 cm3 maxitrail bike, off-road experience is mandatory.

TWO UP? It could of course be considered, provided that both rider and passenger are fit and have the adequate off-road experience.

GUIDE AND LUGGAGE

You wish to be independent and have therefore chosen an unguided tour. There will be no tour leader or chase vehicle and you will chose your own departure dates.

However, all lodging will be booked and confirmed by us.

All hotels and restaurants will be waiting for you!

ACCOMMODATION



We've sourced some wonderfully charming accommodation, in the very nook and crannies of the Alps, for when it's time to rest and relax. As is often the case in the world's remotest places, you can be sure of a very warm welcome!

Italy is also renowned for its gastronomy and each meal is a delight! Other than the ever-present pasta, you will also enjoy a plate of agnolotties or pickled mushrooms, garlic stuffed bell-peppers, roasted boar, a dish of local cold-cuts such as salami, mortadella and of course, a plateau of local cheese! And to wash it all down, a glass of Barolo, the "king of red wine"... Buon appetito!

A couple of examples of lodgings:

> www.loupitavin.it

> www.grandhotelprincipe.com

SIZE OF GROUP

Even if we recommend always riding in pairs, on self-guided tours, this trip can be undertaken on one's own.

DEPARTURES

From June to September.

DEPARTURE

Crévoux (at the foot of the Parpaillon pass)

ARRIVAL

Crévoux

EQUIPMENT TO TAKE

RIDER'S EQUIPMENT

You should think carefully about saving space and reducing weight.

For riding

In addition to the normal motorcycle gear:

- Helmet
- Goggles (clear and tinted)
- Gloves
- Leather boots



- Motorcycle trousers and jacket
- Any protective equipment required to ride a motorcycle on any type of track

When riding, we advise you to carry a small backpack containing the following:

- Sun cream
- Lip balm
- Baby-wipes
- Scarf
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Waterproofs, to keep up morale during bad weather
- A change of gloves, to set off in a good mood after a rain shower
- A sweet snack tucked into a pocket (a life saver) will give you energy and takes up less room than a tin of spinach
- Water, vital to quench your thirst
- Survival blanket
- Swiss Army knife
- Pocket torch or head torch
- Optional camera
- Mobile phone (and charger!)

When you're dressed for riding, there should only be a few things remaining in your bag (please do not bring suitcases but rather a duffel bag, sports bag or rucksack without a frame).

For the evening

- Tee-shirts
- Socks
- Long-sleeved shirt
- Jumper or sweatshirt
- A change of trousers and shorts
- Swimwear
- Lightweight shoes
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Personal medication

A concentrated miracle: travel light, choose a tube of detergent!

For navigating

- Small notebook and pen to note down the briefing instructions each day
- Batteries for the GPS

Tools and spare parts



Carry basic tools and spare parts in your rucksack (levers, quick-release clips, clamps...) to remain self-sufficient along the route.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- Valid Driving license
- Insurance policy
- Vehicle Registration documents and insurance

Mandatory !!!

REPATRIATION INSURANCE

If you are already insured, check with your provider to ensure your policy is valid:

- In the country in question
- For the type of activity you will be undertaking

If required, we can provide you with repatriation insurance

ON ROAD CONDUCT

Each participant should act as an ambassador to France's motorcycling community. This trip is a result of many months of scouting, during which we have made many friends. Please be always respectful and courteous.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Country telephone code: + 39
- Time difference: none (GMT +1)
- Voltage/Frequency: 230V- 50 Hz (you'll need an adapter)

ITALY

- Capital City: Rome
- Surface area: 301 336 km²
- Population: 61 306 000 inhabitants
- Language: Italian (official), regional dialects
- Religion: Catholicism
- Currency: Euro (EUR)