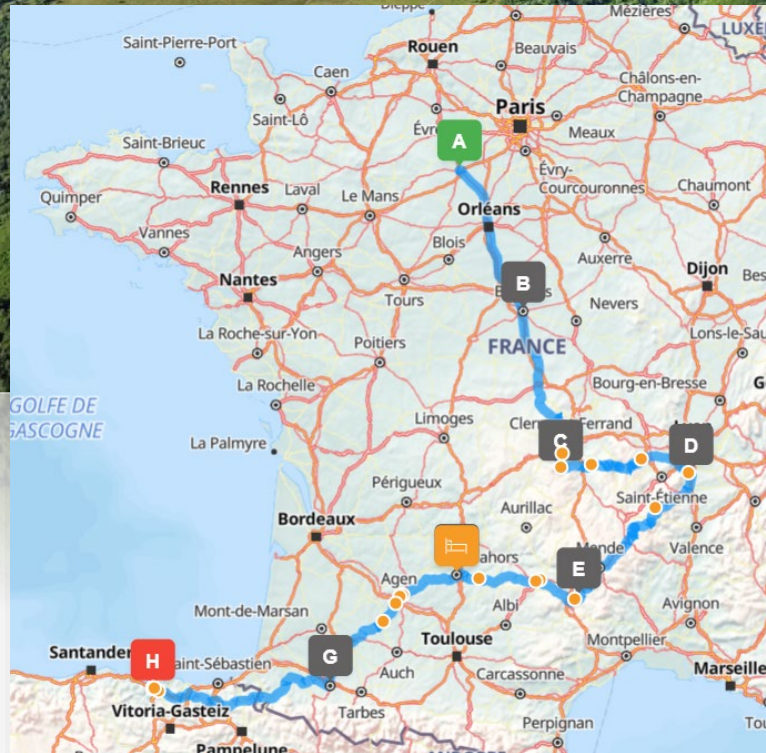


The Auvergne and beyond

13th September to 1st October 2024



- All hotels have parking.
- Hotels are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- The price of this rally cannot be calculated at present but will, as always, be at cost and any discounts will be passed on to participants.
- 17 nights in hotels plus two nights on ferries.
- Dates subject to the ferries being scheduled to leave on the same days as at present.
- Dinners on the first night at each hotel (except in Cahors as the hotel hasn't got a restaurant, apart from the breakfast restaurant). Half board in hotels not close to restaurants, such as the Mildass in Besse-et-saint-Anastaise, Domaine de Clairefontaine, Chonas l'Amballan and the Hotel de la Muse, Mostuejous, Gorges du Tarn. Welcome and Farewell Dinners

Save the dates! Further information in September, when deposits will be required.

Friday 13th September

Overnight ferry Portsmouth to Ousitraham - or other ports to suit participants.

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September

Meet in **Chartres** at the

[B W Hotel le Grand Monarque****](#)

for a **two night** stay. Welcome Dinner first night. I will book the hotel's restaurant on Sunday night to save searching for places that are open. Chartres is about **125 miles** from Ouistraham. A chance to visit the picturesque old town which has buildings dating back to the 12c. and the Cathedrale Notre-Dame which took 25 years to rebuild after a fire in 1194. Famous light show every evening.



Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th September

Scenic drive to **Bourges** to the

[Grand Hotel de Bourbon****](#)

for a **two night** stay. A drive of **120 miles**. A chance to visit Bourges medieval centre and the magnificent Cathedrale St-Etienne, which is a striking symbol of the town's rich past.



Wednesday 18th Thursday 19th and Friday 20th September

Scenic drive via the ancient [Foret de Tronçais](#), a splendid oak forest which covers over 27,000 acres to the north east of Moulins, visit Moulins. Then skirt around Clermont-Ferrand via Puy St-Ambroise, Lapalisse and Vichy to the

[Mildiss Hotel****](#)

at **Besse-et-saint-Anastaise** for a **three night** stay. The Mildass Hotel is in the countryside, centrally located in the lakes and volcanoes area. Two day drive routes will be suggested to cover the surrounding scenic areas and possibly Clermont-Ferrand to visit the Basilique Notre-Dame and the unique old town much of which is built from black volcanic stone. **170 miles**.



Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September

Continue east on a scenic route via Issoire, La Chaise Dieu, Gouffre d'Enfer, Crêt de la Perdrix and maybe drive up Crêt de l'Oeillon, listed as one of the world's most dangerous roads! Our next hotel is the hotel

[Domaine de Clairefontaine](#)****

at Chonas l'Amballan. **Stay for two nights.** This is the heart of the Rhone Valley vineyards, very near the interesting town of Vienne (a Gallo-Roman town), and the confluence of the River Rhone and River Gere. Lyon is not far away, there is an hourly train which takes under half an hour and leaves from Saint-Clair-du-Rhône, which is a short taxi ride away from the hotel. Although I am looking into hiring a coach to take us all to Lyon. **134 miles today.**



Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th September

Travel on a scenic route to visit Le Puy en Velay, one of the most amazing sites in France. Situated on a tall column of volcanic rock topped by a huge statue of the Virgin Mary. Then continue on to stay at the

[Hotel de la Muse](#)****

Luxury 4* hotel Gorges du Tarn - Aveyron **for two nights. 140 miles.** This hotel is in the centre of the Gorges du Tarn area, situated on the banks of the River Tarn.



Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th September

Then on to Cahors to stay at the

[BW Hotel Divona](#)****

which is on the banks of the Lot with views of the Pont Valentre. Cahors is on a promontory almost completely surrounded by the River Lot. A city which enjoyed fame and fortune in the Middle Ages, reflected in the many buildings which still exist today. Famous for its "Black Wine" - Malbec. A chance to visit the most beautiful village in France (allegedly!), **Saint Cirq-Lapopie** and visit the famous caves of **Pech Merle** to see the cave paintings (which must be booked in advance) and to explore the surrounding area. **126 miles. Stay for two nights.**

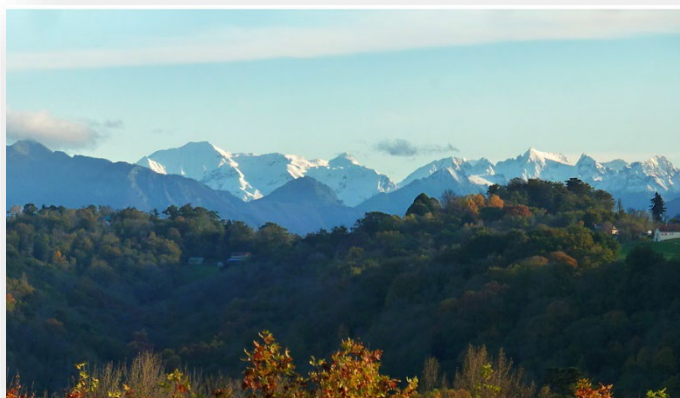


Friday 27th and Saturday 28th September

Further stop in **Pau** at the

Parc Beaumont Hotel ****

for two nights, 152 miles via Agen, Nogaro and Condom. Overlooking the Gave de Pau torrent, the town has guarded an important route to Spain since Roman times. From the Boulevard des Pyrenees, which runs along a high ridge between the chateau and the park, there is a magnificent view over the valley to the Pyrenean foothills. In clear weather far beyond to the Pic du Midi de Bigorre and the Pic d'Anie.



Sunday 29th and Monday 30th September -

Then via a scenic route over the Roncevaux Pass in the Pyrenees near Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, a good stop for lunch and a place which also lays claim to being the most beautiful village in France! **Bilbao** is our next stop where we leave for the ferry home which leaves at 13.00hrs - meaning that we need to be at the port by 12.00 noon at the latest. We will stay at

The Gran Hotel Domine de Bilbao*****

for two nights, in Bilbao itself with views of the Guggenheim Museum. Normally somewhere which is usually driven straight through!. A chance to visit the town and the Guggenheim Museum. **177 miles**. Farewell dinner on the last night.



Tuesday 1st October

Drive to the docks which are approximately 13 miles and less than half an hour away. Arriving back in the UK the following day, the 2nd October.

