

LA RIOJA AND CANTABRIA.

7TH - 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2012



TOUR PROPOSAL FOR THE AUSTIN HEALEY CLUB



December 2011



PLANNING

In this proposal you will find an outline of the tour and a suggestion for the most appropriate ferry option. The cost of the ferry crossing from the UK to Spain is not included in the quotation to give you the option to buy the ferry crossings in the UK. However, Classics on the Road can arrange this if preferred.

This 6 day - 5 night tour will drive across the communities of La Rioja and Cantabria, but it will also enter other regions, like Castilla-León and the Basque country that are very attractive, from a landscape and cultural perspective, as well of course, gastronomically!

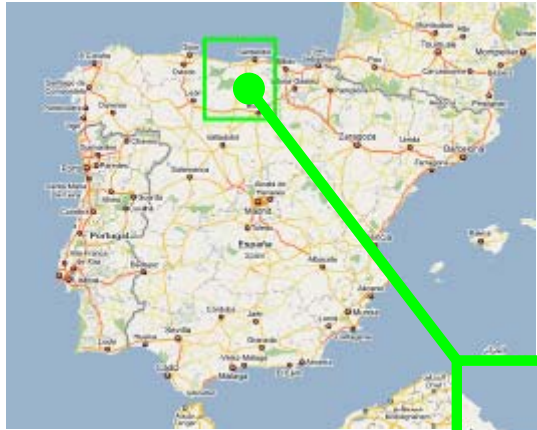
The first part of the trip will take us to **La Rioja**, where we will enjoy fantastic landscapes, but we will not neglect the reason that this area is so well known inside and outside of Spain: the wine cellars and the good wine. The place chosen to stay on this first part of the tour is an ancient monastery, just a short walk away from the place where the Spanish language was born.

The second stage will drive us across the province of Cantabria, with exciting roads on which to drive your classic car. From our 4 star hotel in the middle of a natural reserve we will visit some of

Cantabria's most spectacular towns and drive through impressive mountain passes and gorges.



The Austin Healey Club La Rioja and Cantabria Tour



CLASSICS ON THE ROAD

**FIRST DAY –SATURDAY, 8TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2012-
ARRIVAL AT BILBAO AND DRIVE TO LA RIOJA**

Having left Portsmouth on the Friday at 16:30, the ferry arrives in Bilbao at 17:30 on Saturday, and there is still time to drive all the way to La Rioja during daylight enjoying the fantastic landscapes and forests. Arrival at the hotel will be at 20:30 approximately. The hotel is charming hotel situated in one of the wings of an ancient monastery.

At 22:00 dinner will be served in the hotel's restaurant. We have prepared a local menu served with a nice Rioja wine.



Total Mileage: 90 miles

**SECOND DAY –SUNDAY, 9TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2012-
MOUNTAIN ROADS AND ANCIENT MONASTERIES**

Our first day in Rioja begins with a guided visit to the Suso Monastery, which together with the Yuso Monastery form an important Patrimony of the Humanity. It is located in the River Cárdenas Valley, in the surroundings of the Sierra de la Demanda and just under the peaks of mount San Lorenzo, the highest in La Rioja (2.262 meters).

The Suso Monastery is the highest and the oldest one. It was created from the caves inhabited by hermit disciples of San Millán in the sixth century. Following extensions across the centuries turned the caves into a monastery. The cultural importance of Suso shows in the collection of manuscripts and codices created there, which makes Suso one of the principal scriptoriums, if not the most notable, of the Spanish Middle Ages. It is also the place in which it appeared the first written manifestation of the Spanish Language.

Back in our cars, we will head for the Cameros National Reservoir, with impressive roads such as the Montenegro Pass, at over 5000 feet. The vultures are always easy to see in these mountains, as well as deer, wild boars... and even wolves

After this 75 mile drive, we will arrive to Valvanera, where we will have lunch.

In the afternoon we have scheduled a guided visit of the Yuso Monastery, constructed to extend that of Suso in the 11th century.

Dinner is at the hotel's restaurant at 21:30 h.



Total Mileage in the Morning: 72 miles
Total Mileage in the afternoon: 21 miles

**THIRD DAY –MONDAY, 10TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2012-
VINEYARDS AND WINERIES**

On Monday we will head to the north, which is the most renowned part of La Rioja. Our first stop is an ancient winery that still produces high quality wines in a totally handcrafted way. The estate covers an area of 53,076 square meters, 3,433 square meters of which are underground cellars up to 200 meters long. Some 13,000 Bordeaux oak barrels are stored in the heart of a mountain within their cellars.



After the guided visit and the wine tasting we will drive to Laguardia, a city with a centenary wine tradition. Our restaurant here has its own cellar, in which we will have a glass of wine and tapas before

lunch. After lunch enjoy a relaxing walk on the narrow streets of this ancient walled city before going back to the cars and drive through endless vineyards on the way to our hotel. We can stop at the Marques de Riscal winery to take a close look at the impressive building designed by the architect Frank Gehry and maybe buy some wine at the winery shop.

Dinner will be served at the hotel's restaurant.

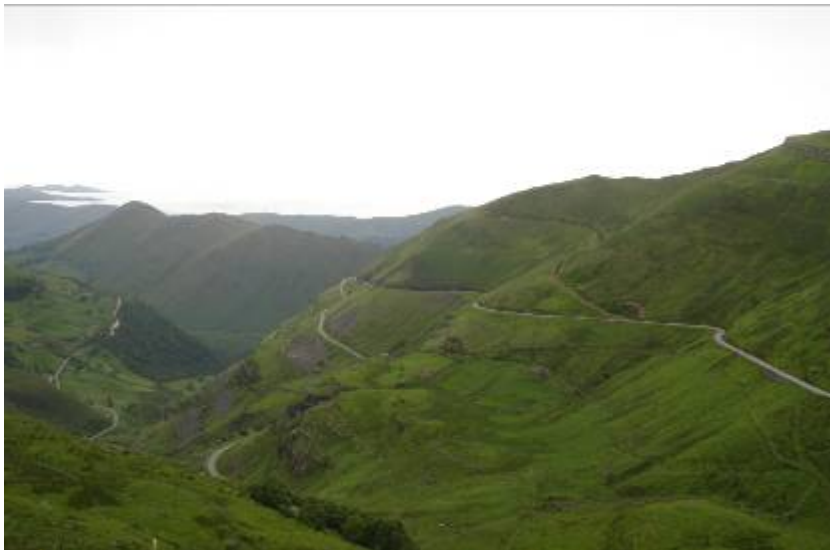


Total Mileage in the Morning: 50 miles
Total Mileage in the afternoon: 28 miles

**FOURTH DAY –TUESDAY, 11TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2012-
MOUNTAIN PASSES**

From La Rioja to Cantabria we have chosen an itinerary through some of the most beautiful mountain passes of northern Spain, including the Lunada Pass and Palombera. This is a beautiful drive across protected areas of forests and natural parks with very little traffic.

For lunch we have selected a nice restaurant in Villacarriedo, inside a beautiful Baroque Palace.



After lunch we will cross the mountains and find ourselves surrounded by nature on one of Cantabria's best preserved forests.

Arrival to our hotel is scheduled at about 18:00, and dinner is scheduled at 21:30 in the hotel.

Mileage in the morning: 146 miles
Mileage in the afternoon: 22 miles

FIFTH DAY –WEDNESDAY, 12TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2012-

PICOS DE EUROPA

Picos de Europa is a national park with peaks as high as 8000 feet. Driving across the mountain roads and gorges of this area is a great experience. In the morning we will visit a natural cave with impressive stalagmites and other formations that make it a must in the area. And then, following our route we will get to Fuente De. The stone walls show that this place was a mountain glacier. Those who wish to have a different view of the Picos may wish to take the cable car that raises 750 meters over the valley.

After this visit we will drive to a nearby restaurant, where the local dish cocido lebaniego will be served.

On the way back to the hotel, our itinerary will take us across other fun and twisty roads.

Dinner is again at the hotel's restaurant.



Mileage in the morning: 72 miles
Mileage in the afternoon: 60 miles

**SIXTH DAY –THURSDAY, 13TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2012-
SANTANDER AND FERRY**

On this sixth day, the route will take you directly to Santander. Classics on the Road will obtain special permission from the local authorities to take the cars into the Magdalena Palace's Gardens. The Palace was built as a summer house for King Alfonso XIII and his family but now it hosts official functions.

The palace property is on a peninsula and the views over the bay of Santander are beautiful.

After this visit, we can go to the ferry terminal and leave the cars safely so we can enjoy a walk in Santander. We have not scheduled a group lunch on this day so you can walk around, shop and be back by 13:30 for boarding, as the ferry leaves at 15:00.

Classics on the Road Staff will make sure everyone is onboard.

The arrival time at Portsmouth is on Friday, 14th of September at 14:00.



Total Mileage in the Morning: 40 miles

ESTIMATED PRICE**

- **GBP 695 /person*** VAT Included (twin room occupancy).

*Based on present currency exchange rate 1 £ = 1.19 €

** Ferry Crossings Excluded

THE TRIP INCLUDES:

- Detailed itinerary previously driven by Classics on the Road
- 3 Nights at Monastery-hotel in La Rioja
- Visits to Suso and Yuso Monasteries
- Lunch in Valvanera
- Lunch in Laguardia
- Guided Tour and wine tasting at a traditional Winery
- Lunch in Villacarriedo
- Ticket to Cueva del Soplao (Cave)
- Lunch in Fuente De
- 2 Nights at a luxury rural palace in the Saja-Besaya Natural Park
- Dinner every night
- Wine is included on every lunch and dinner
- CD with complete tour's photo album

ALSO INCLUDED

- Negotiations with town halls and local authorities to get permission to park the cars in representative places of each town.
- Management of permissions to be able to circulate in group
- Road book with detailed indications of the proposed routes and additional information of interest on the way.
- Presence of Classics on the Road staff and an assistance car every day of the trip

Payment Terms:

- 25% of total payment 3 months before arrival date.
- Balance due 1 month prior to arrival.

REGISTER

Send an e-mail to Register your interest by 31st May 2012 **LATEST:**
info@classicsontheroad.com with: name, model of car, number of
people, email address, phone.

Or alternatively call Stewart Cusden at

Tel: +34 619 722 185
stewart@classicsontheroad.com