

“Sleaford to Paris” Cycling Adventure 2012

Tuesday 17th July – Monday 23rd July 2012

Preliminary Information Sheet

The Plan

A small group of cyclists from Sleaford Wheelers intend to cycle from Sleaford to Paris to raise funds for a chosen charity. The distance is approximately 300 miles and will take 4 days supported by a man in a van. Arriving in Paris on the Friday afternoon, this gives you time for some sightseeing on the Saturday and then on the Sunday enjoy the spectacle of the finish to the “Tour-de-France” on the Champs Elysées. Return travel to Sleaford can be on the Sunday or Monday by Eurostar to London then rail travel back to Sleaford, our bikes being returned in the van possibly by ferry from Dunkirk to Dover and then return to Sleaford.

Itinerary

Tuesday 17th

Leave Sleaford Market Square for Hull and meet the P & O ferry for an overnight crossing to Zeebrugge. Distance 75 miles.

Wednesday 18th

Zeebrugge to Lens. The route will be through Sleaford’s twin town of Marquette-lez-Lille where a civic reception is hoped to be arranged through the Twining Association. The overnight stop is intended to be the Campanile, Lens. Distance 75 miles.

Thursday 19th

Lens to Péronne. Overnight stop at the Campanile, Péronne. Distance 65 miles.

Friday 20th

Péronne to Paris (Eiffel Tower). Distance 85 miles.

Saturday 21st

Free day for sightseeing in Paris.

Sunday 22nd

Final Stage of “Le Tour” on the Champs Elysées.

Monday 23rd

Travel back to UK arriving in Sleaford early evening.

Cost

The costing is based on 4 definite participants and the realistic maximum of 7 cyclists. Food etc. has not been taken into account, and some of the costs to the driver have been adjusted to take into account the part they will be playing in this.

It is intended to hire a SWB Transit van; this limits the number of cycles that can be stored inside overnight and on the ferry to 7 at most. The cost of this hire has been met. Fuel use is estimated to be around 20 gallons.

The ferry from Hull to Zeebrugge will cost £460.00 for 5 travellers and the van, £573.00 for 8. Richard is in contact with P&O to try and get this reduced.

The Campanile at Lens is €52 per room; these are available in single, twin and triple sleeping.

The Campanile at Péronne is €56.80 per room.

Eurostar travel from Paris to London St. Pancras is from £45.50 per person if booked in advance and the travel times are quite reasonable; forward travel from London Kings X to Sleaford is £18.00 per person again if booked in advance. Ferry travel for the van and driver from Dunkirk to Dover (Norfolk Line) is £105.

Looking at hotels in the outskirts of Paris and many can be found between £300 and £800 for 8 for the 3 nights, again these need to be booked well in advance. An Etap hotel on the outskirts of Paris has been found offering 4 twin rooms for £440 (3 nights)

From the above the costs are going to be between £270 and £350 per person although it is hoped that some additional funding can be obtained from local business through sponsorship and press coverage.

Summary

Obviously this is only a rough guide at the moment, and is subject to change dependent on whether the hotels that have been planned are not booked up. There will be other groups attempting the same ride; you only have to look in the cycling rags to see charity attempts advertised.

Booking for hotels can be made now; the train travel can be booked from around March/April to get the best prices. An account will be organised to hold deposits which can be used to secure hotel rooms etc.

If there is a large interest in people wanting to take part, a larger or second van could be booked and it is envisaged the costs would remain similar to the above.

What we need from you...

If you really fancy a challenge and hopefully a week of excellent cycling then please get in touch. Numbers need to be finalised fairly quickly, ideally by the middle of February and the first deposits need to be collected in the first week of March so hotel rooms can be booked. Realistically the balance needs to be paid by the end of April so the travel arrangements can be made to ensure the best prices. Any overpayment that is made will be refunded. Ideas for routes and really anything else that people think would be a good idea are always welcome. I'm sure that not everything has been covered in this brief guide, so feel free to contact us if you have any questions and ideas.

Contacts

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