

## **2012 Western Alps to the Mediterranean Tour –FAQS**

### **Dates:**

June 13 – 27, 2012

### **What is the appropriate Rider level/Experience?**

Expert – this is a tremendously technical and physically challenging tour.

### **What are the roads like?**

**Extremely** curvy, with switchbacks.

### **How large is the tour group?**

Between 6-12 riders, 1 tour guide and 1 sweeper

### **Is there a Chase Vehicle?**

No

### **Are heated grips standard?**

Yes

### **Are there connections for Heated Gear?**

No, but if you want to bring heated gear, bring your own connections, and you can install it yourself when you receive your rental motorcycle.

### **Can I hook up my GPS unit?**

Yes

### **Can I ride my own motorcycle?**

Yes, but you would be responsible for shipping it and/or arranging to get it to Munich.

### **Can I bring a friend who would be following us in a car?**

No, this is a motorcycle only tour.

### **Motorcycle Luggage System**

650GS, 800GS and R – 2 Side Cases

R1200GS and RT – Topcase, 2 side cases (backrest available upon request)

*\*We recommend bringing a roll bag or duffel to secure on to the passenger seat (if single rider) for extra storage*

### **Will Internet be available during the tour?**

Internet will be available in some locations, usually for an additional cost, which varies from hotel to hotel. Mobile hotspots will **not** likely be found in the areas in which we will be touring.

# RoadRUNNER<sup>®</sup>

MOTORCYCLE TOURING & TRAVEL

## The Western Alps to the Mediterranean

France – Switzerland – Germany – Italy – Austria

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Accompany our author and world-traveler Uwe Krauss to his favorite places in Europe! With his knowledge of almost every corner of the old world, we convinced him to show our readers his choice of the grandest tour imaginable. Journey through the Western Alps and discover fascinating landscapes in Europe, such as Provence and the Grand Canyon du Verdon while riding over the most famous and highest passes of the Alps, such as Gotthard and Cime de la Bonette. Experience five countries and cultures, and such geographical extremes as glaciers, blossoming lavender fields, and the Mediterranean shore of one of the most beautiful lakes in Europe, Lago Maggiore, and more.

This tour is not for beginners. We will encounter technically demanding roads with never ending curves and switchback each day. Of course there will be enough moments and time to enjoy the beauty along our way, but this still is rather an exciting and adrenaline filled trip than a cruising trip.

**Dates:** June 13–27, 2012

Arrival/Departure: Munich, Germany

**Duration:** 14 day vacation, 12 riding days with 2 optional rest days in between

**Total distance:** 2930 km; 1820 miles

**Highlights:** Matterhorn (one of the most beautiful mountains in the world), Mont Blanc (highest of Europe), Cime de la Bonette (highest pass of the Alps), Grand Canyon de Verdon, Provence and Cote d'Azur, Lake Maggiore, many other passes and attractions

**Tour Prices Include:** airport shuttle service, accommodations, breakfast and dinner, multilingual guide, BMW motorcycle, tour information package, safety tips, road map, all entrance and park fees, tolls

## RIDING EXPERIENCE

This tour is for experienced riders only. The roads are very technical, curvy, and frequently steep and narrow.

## ITINERARY

Wednesday June 13, 2012	Flight to Munich
Thursday June 14, 2012	Arrive in Munich – transfer to Lenggries
Friday June 15, 2012	Lenggries - Berggruen
Saturday June 16, 2012	Berggruen - Muenster
Sunday June 17, 2012	Muenster – St.Gervais les Bains
Monday June 18, 2012	St.Gervais les Bains - Briancon
Tuesday June 19, 2012	Briancon - Sisteron
Wednesday June 20, 2012	Sisteron (Lago Maggiore)
Thursday June 21, 2012	Sisteron - Castellane
Friday June 22, 2012	Castellane – Elva
Saturday June 23, 2012	Elva - Brissago
Sunday June 24, 2012	Brissago (Tessin)
Monday June 25, 2012	Brissago - Serfaus
Tuesday June 26, 2012	Serfaus - Lenggries
Wednesday June 27, 2012	Flight home

## TOUR PRICE

Tour price per person

	1 rider / double occupancy	1 rider / single occupancy	two-up / double occupancy
<b>F650GS</b>	\$4,870	\$5,270	\$4135
<b>F800R</b>	\$4,965	\$5,370	\$4180
<b>F800GS</b>	\$5,065	\$5,465	\$4230
<b>R1200R/ R1200GS</b>	\$5,460	\$5,560	\$4430
<b>R1200RT</b>	\$5,750	\$6,150	\$4575
<b>K1300GT/K1300R/K1300S</b>	\$5,850	\$6,250	\$4625

## INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

Airport shuttle service, accommodations, all breakfasts and dinners, two multilingual guides, BMW motorcycles, tour information package and safety tips, road map.

*Please note: early arrivals and late departures are responsible for their own transportation*

## NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

Not included in the tour price are: international or other airfare to/from Europe, personal items, beverages, passport, fuel, speeding tickets and other fines, laundry and dry cleaning, telephone calls, lunches, additional and personal hotel room charges, and medical and accident insurance.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

The hotels are mostly family-owned and operated, and have a wonderful local flavor. They are three- and four-star category establishments, and all provide breakfast and dinner. You will feel welcome and at home right away. Some hotels have a pool or sauna, so bring your bathing suit, and all provide hair dryers. If you bring any electrical devices, remember that Europe has different voltage (220V) and electrical outlets, so make sure you have the right converters and plugs, and that your appliances work on both voltages. Casual clothes for evenings are fine, there's no need for formal wear.

## **INTERNET ACCESS AND PHONE SERVICE**

Most hotels on the tour offer internet for an additional fee. (not included in your tour package). Also keep in mind that purchased internet access for hot spots in Europe only works in large cities, and in areas which we **will not** cover on our tour.

Ask your cell phone provider about their international calling plan and data package options available for trips and traveling abroad.

## **LUGGAGE STORAGE**

Tour members will be able to store extra luggage in the hotel in Lenggries securely while on tour.

## **MOTORCYCLES**

For our tours, we use BMWs: F650GS, F800GS, R1200R, R1200GS, and R1200RT. Motorcycles are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis, depending upon availability, and are not guaranteed.

Keep in mind that smaller bikes handle much better on alpine roads! A great choice for a carefree, leisurely ride is the F650GS, F 800 R or F800GS . They handle very easily on the numerous hairpins and still have enough power to keep up with anybody else on the mountain roads. If you are a very capable rider and want to experience the ultimate challenge in riding, then the R1200GS, because of its size and seat height (33.1"), is the bike for you. This would also be a good choice for two-up riding. Anything bigger (and heavier) takes away the pleasure of riding in the Alps. And a race bike is useless in these conditions - there are not many high-speed or straight sections on our tours. (You might want to check out these bikes at your local dealer, to see which one feels the most comfortable for you.)

## **LUGGAGE SYSTEM**

Whatever luggage you bring must fit on your bike. The BMWs we provide for our tours are equipped with a luggage system. The volume of the hard side cases varies, depending on the motorcycle. Generally, you can count on a total of between 60-70 liters (2.4 cu ft) of storage for both cases total.

The F650GS, F800GS, and R comes with two side cases, and the R1200GS and R1200RT come with two side cases, a topcase, and a backrest (available upon request). The cases are easy to remove from the motorcycle. It's not necessary to bring interior bags although they are lighter, and less weight to carry.

Dry duffels or waterproof roll bags strapped to the back seat can provide extra luggage capacity.

## **TANKBAGS**

The rental motorcycles are not equipped with tankbags. Bring a tankbag with straps to mount on the tank.

## **INSURANCE**

The motorcycle insurance for this tour requires a pre-paid deductible of €1,150 (approximately \$1,654, depending on the exchange rate at the time). It can be paid in cash or by credit card. Following a damage-free or accident-free tour, the money will be refunded to you. In case of minor damage to your motorcycle, an appraisal of the repair cost is made, based on the dealer's cost, and paid from your deductible. The remainder is returned to you. In case the cost of any damage to the motorcycle is higher than the deductible, or if the bike is stolen, the deductible is forfeited entirely. The insurance company will cover the rest of the cost.

## **GROUP SIZE**

The group will contain between six to twelve riders and will be led by two tour guides.

## **REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

Deadline for reservation is Friday March 23, 2012.

## **DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT**

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to reserve your place on the tour. All deposits are non-refundable although they are transferable to another party. The balance for the tour is due before or on May 10, 2012. We accept personal check, Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express and money orders.

*In the event the minimum amount of riders is not met, and the trip is canceled, your deposit will be refunded to you.*

## **CANCELLATION POLICY**

If you cancel your Tour (June 13-June 27, 2012) between April 20 and May 30, 2012 (in writing), you forfeit 50% of the total tour price. After May 30, 2012, the total tour price is non-refundable. We strongly recommend trip cancellation insurance.

## **ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT MUNICH**

We will pick you up at the airport in Munich (MUC) on Thursday June 14, 2012 and shuttle you and your belongings to the first hotel.

## **ARRIVE EARLY**

It's a good idea to arrive early in order to overcome the effects of jetlag and to acclimate yourself to the area. Please let us know your arrival plans in advance, so that we can make arrangements accordingly.

*Please note: early arrivals and late departures are responsible for their own transportation to and from the airport.*

## **EQUIPMENT**

Proper riding gear (leather, GORE-TEX®, Cordura®) is essential to cope with the temperature changes due to altitude and weather conditions, and to help protect you in

case of injury. Jeans and chaps are not considered suitable riding gear. Bring your full-face helmet and riding boots, and pack your raingear. Bring two pairs of gloves (a warmer and a lighter pair).

## **ROADS AND TRAFFIC**

Note, though riding an average of only 170 miles / 280 km per day may seem easy, don't be deceived. Riding in the Alps on the backroads where the locals ride, you'll encounter many challenges; the roads are technical, narrow and curvy. This is not a tour for beginners.

## **MONEY**

The currency is the Euro. It's **important** to get your credit card **validated** for Europe. You need it both to rent the bike and for the deposit. Call your credit card company before you leave and notify them to avoid any delays and hassles. Europe has switched from magnetic strips to chipped credit cards for better security. Contact your bank or credit card company to find out if your card is chipped or if you have that option with your card.

The cheapest and easiest way to get money is via a bankcard carrying a CIRRUS or MAESTRO symbol, and for which you have a PIN (personal identification number). Please ask your bank if you have any questions. Credit cards are also useful for getting cash, again, provided you have a PIN. Paying for services, such as gas and food with a credit card is still rather uncommon in most places, so make sure you have cash as a backup. You can exchange money at the airport or in most European banks. Travelers' checks are outdated and hard to exchange. You can estimate spending about 50 Euros per day - 20 for gas and 30 for lunch, snacks, and drinks. **Cash is still the preferred and most accepted payment method in Europe.**

## **Tips**

In Europe, tips are welcome, but are not the standard 15-18% like they are in the US. Rounding up to the next Euro, or adding a Euro is perfectly acceptable.

## **WEATHER**

Temperatures will range between 40 and 90 degrees. The altitude changes during the day's ride as you go up and down the Alps, and the temperature changes accordingly. It can rain and be freezing on the mountain road, yet be warm when you come down into the valley. Dress in several layers so you can easily adjust to the weather conditions. Don't forget to bring rain gear! In case of heavy rain or other bad weather, we will choose the shortest route to the next hotel, and avoid pass roads wherever possible.

## **TIME DIFFERENCE**

There is a time difference of 6 hours to Eastern Standard Time.

## **RESERVATIONS**

**For detailed information and reservations contact us at:**

(866) 343-7623

[tour@roadrunner.travel](mailto:tour@roadrunner.travel)

RoadRUNNER Motorcycle Touring & Travel  
1400 Old Mill Circle, Ste C, Winston Salem NC 27103

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<i>Day</i>	<i>Distance average 170 miles / 270 km</i>	<b>Highlights</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>June 13</b>	Departure from USA (overnight flight)	
<b>Thursday</b> <b>June 14</b>	Arrival in Munich – shuttle to Lenggries	Pick up Motorcycles
<b>Friday</b> <b>June 15</b>	Bad Tölz, Germany – Bergün, Switzerland	Germany's highest mountain, Zugspitze, Piller Hights, and the demanding Albula Pass
<b>Saturday</b> <b>June 16</b>	Bergün, Switzerland – Münster	cross all four differnt language speaking parts of Switzerland, Oberalppass, Gotthard – the most famous Swiss pass, Termola Vally, famous Matterhorn
<b>Sunday</b> <b>June 17</b>	Münster – St Gervais les Bains	Chamonix, site of Olympic Winter Games, , cable car or tramway ride up Mont Blac.
<b>Monday</b> <b>June 18</b>	St. Gervais le Bains – Briancon	Route of the Grand Alps, crossing 5 high passes, including Col de Iseran pass.
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>June 19</b>	Briancon – Sisteron	Col de Izoard, Col de Vars and Cime de la Bonette – the highest pass in the Alps
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>June 20</b>	Sisteron	Stay in 500-year old lodge, a loop through Provence, colorful canyons and lavender fields.
<b>Thursday</b> <b>June 21</b>	Sisteron-Castellane	Through upper Provence, and visit the natural wonder Grand Canyon de Verdun
<b>Friday</b> <b>June 22</b>	Castellane – Elva, Italy	Ride some of the famous roads of the Rally of Monaco
<b>Saturday</b> <b>June 23</b>	Elva – Brissago, Switzerland	From beautiful passes to the plains of Itay's biggest river, Po, and beautiful Lake Maggiore.
<b>Sunday</b> <b>June 24</b>	Brissago, Switzerland	Optional rest day in famous resort town of Locarno, or ride into spectacular valleys
<b>Monday</b> <b>June 25</b>	Brissago – Serfaus, Austria	Visit an old roman bridge in Vercasca Valley, and ride two passes over th Swiss Alps
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>June 26</b>	Serfaus – Bad Tölz	Ride one last pass and experience delightful backroads before returning to Bad Tölz
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>June 27</b>	Departure	

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Dates	June 13 – June 27, 2012	
<b>Registration Deadline</b>	March 23, 2012	
<b>Personal Information</b>	Rider	Passenger
First Name		
Last Name		
Address		
City		
State, ZIP Code		
Age		
Height		
Year/Make/Model of your Bike		
Driver's License Number		
T-Shirt Size		
Contact	Work Phone Number: (     ) Home Phone Number: (     ) Email:	
Rental Motorcycle	F650GS - F800R - F800GS - R1200R - R1200GS - R1200RT first choice _____ second choice _____	
<b>Total Tour Costs</b>	\$ _____ please insert amount according rate sheet	
Deposit	\$500.00 per person (non refundable)	
Balance Due 6 weeks prior to arrival	April 9, 2012 Automatically charge my card the balance due Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Will pay by check <input type="checkbox"/>	
Credit Card Number	<input type="radio"/> VISA <input type="radio"/> MasterCard <input type="radio"/> Discover <input type="radio"/> Amex _____ exp: ____ / ____ V-Code _____ (3 additional digits in signature field, or 4-digit code on front of AMEX card) Signature _____ Date _____	