



2016 French Sunshine Tour and Concours Tuesday 17th May to Sunday 29th May 2016



Theme

This tour replicates some of the Grand Tours and Rallies undertaken by owners of our cars in the 1920's and 30's. Typically they started from a variety of starting points across Europe and then converged on a common route through France before ending up at a splendid venue where the cars were judged on elegance and on the condition in which they had survived the tour.

We aim to join the common route when we explore the beautiful Loire region before dropping down to the Limoges and the Correze, and then exploring the wonderful rivers, gorges, hills and mountains of the Dordogne, the Tarn and the Lot before eventually arriving beside the Atlantic in Biarritz. Return is either back through France to northern Europe or for the UK entrants via Bilbao and the ferry to Portsmouth.

Overview

The tour starts either with an overnight crossing from Portsmouth to St Malo or from wherever you are based on the Continent. We all converge at the Chateau de Marçay, south of Chinon



Chateau de Marçay

The route to the Chateau from St Malo takes us across Brittany on minor roads to the centre of the Loire just south of Chinon. Members joining from other parts of Europe will join us at the Chateau, which is approximately 250 kms from Paris. We will spend 3 nights at the Chateau exploring the wonderful Loire.

The Loire valley has a very mild climate and is famous for its wines and beautiful gardens growing the best roses in France. It has some amazing chateau, including Chambord, Chaumont, Chenonceaux and Azay-le-Rideau. We plan to visit the Chateau du Lude which has a wonderful lower garden along the river bank and a magnificent Kitchen Garden and is owned by a friend of a member. The nearby Chateau de Villandry is one of the last renaissance chateau to be built on the Loire and has absolutely exquisite gardens. During our stay we can also visit the huge wine cellars in Saumur, where there is also the famous Cadre Noir riding school, stables and magnificent horses. At nearby Fontevraud Abbey, Henry II, Queen Eleanor and Richard the Lionheart are buried.



Chateau de Villandry and Gardens

On day four we go south for 180 miles, a relatively long but leisurely drive on some very beautiful country roads through the Limousin region to the Chateau de Castel Novel. We will stay here for two nights. Nearby is **Brantôme**, known as the Venice of the Dordogne. The River Dronne encircles the small town, linked to the outside world by five bridges and is an excellent spot for a leisurely lunch in one of the many excellent restaurants,



Brantome

We then move on south through the vineyards of Bergerac that produce magnificent purple-red wines. On our way through Rocamadour there are some spectacular views and climbs and then we have a wonderful driving day through twisting gorges and along river valleys to Millau with its high level suspension bridge spanning the Gorge du Tarn.

This whole area is just full of the most magnificent gorges and after a night in the Chateau d'Ayres, we will then wind our way through the National Park south and then west until we reach Carcassonne. This hilltop fortified town is a World Heritage site and we will spend two nights in the Hotel de la Cité a traditional hotel inside the city walls. There is much to do and see in this wonderful old town where we spend two nights.



The fortified city of Carcassonne

We then have another wonderful driving day first over the Montagne Noire in the Massif Centrale before heading through the Forêt de Gresigne until we arrive just north of Cahors in the spectacular **Chateau de Marcues**, on the edge of a gorge overlooking the river.



Chateau de Marcues

We spend two nights here, at the former summer residence of the Bishops of Cahors, and can explore more of this beautiful region, with Cahors and its magnificent castle close by. We then set off on the last leg of our journey going south west via an overnight stop near Marmande and then on to the **Hotel du Palais** in Biarritz where we can relax and soak up the sun beside the ocean.

After a night to refresh ourselves and after a wash and polish we will present the cars for an inspection and Concours to decide which car has performed the best on tour and which is the most elegant before retiring for our final dinner of the tour on Sunday night.



Hotel du Palais, Biarritz

The Hotel du Palais was originally built for the [Empress Eugénie](#) around 1855 as a summer villa. It was due to the visits of the imperial couple that the village of Biarritz developed into a fashionable resort. It is in a wonderful setting and perfect for the Concours D'Elegance

The Tour ends in Biarritz. Options are then to return to England via the Bilbao to Portsmouth Ferry, explore the Basque region or return to Northern Europe by road.

This tour is suitable for any pre 1939 Rolls-Royce and we hope that as many as possible of all models will come on the tour.

The intention is that everyone should do the whole tour. However depending on numbers, it may be possible for a few members to come on part of the tour only. If you would like to do this please contact the organiser, Tim Forrest at forresttim@aol.com

This is one of our High End Tours that we aim to organise on alternate years with less expensive tours. The Chateau and Hotels are in the main 4 or 5 Star and the price includes dinner bed and breakfast, not including wines or drinks. These and all costs of getting to the start in Tours and the return from Biarritz are for your account.

Based on the reservations made at the hotels to date the estimated cost for the Tour is £5,000.00. This may vary slightly depending on the final number of participants and possible sponsorship for the final stay in Biarritz from Rolls-Royce Motor cars, who may bring one of their new convertibles to the Concours.

If you wish to participate in this tour please complete the attached entry Form **as soon as possible** as spaces in some of the hotels **are limited** and we need to notify the Hotels in the **next few weeks to confirm the reservations**.

Please also email the organiser Tim Forrest at forresttim@aol.com directly you have decided you wish to come, so that we can get an early indication of the numbers of rooms required.



2016 French Sunshine Tour and Concours
Tuesday 17th May to Sunday 29th May 2016

To: Tim Forrest, Botley House, The Green, Chiddingfold, Surrey, GU8 4TT

Names.....

Address.....

.....

E-mail..... Postcode..... Phone.....

Dietary Requirements (if applicable)

Mobility restraints (if applicable)

Please include us and our car in the 2016 French Sunshine Tour. Please reserve

---- Double room /Twin room*

---- Single rooms

* delete as appropriate

I enclose a cheque for £2,000 made out to “20-Ghost Club Limited” as a non-refundable deposit to secure my place on this tour, or

I have transferred funds of the same amount to the Club’s bank account.

Sterling payments £2,000 to BIC LOYDGB21023 - IBAN GB69 LOYD 3096 3500 0668 03

Or Euro payments €2,700 to BIC LOYDGB21023 - IBAN GB21 LOYD 3096 3586 4240 51

Car.....Chassis.....Reg.....Colour.....

Body style.....Coachbuilder.....Year.....

As a participant in the 20-Ghost Club French Sunshine Tour and in consideration of the right and privilege to enter and participate in this tour and intending to be legally bound, I agree to release the 20-Ghost Club and all committee members and its representatives from any and all liability and injuries, damage or loss or consequential loss arising from my entry and participation in the event

Signed.....Date.....