

Tomme Rider: Cheese and Motorbikes

6 days / 5 nights

For 6 days, starting from Bayonne, set off on an unforgettable adventure with Christophe, World Vice-Champion Cheesemonger, and Antoine, a passionate motorcycle guide, as you explore some of the most beautiful cheese-producing regions by motorbike.

Become a Tomme Rider for a few days as you ride through stunning landscapes, stay in exceptional accommodation, and meet artisans behind rare and traditional cheeses. A unique journey combining riding pleasure, local encounters, and gastronomic discovery.

YOUR PROGRAMME

Day 1 - Ossau Iraty AOP

Meet at 08:00 in Bayonne, before setting off on a 6-day gourmet motorcycle adventure to discover some of the finest cheese-producing regions of the Basque Country and the Pyrenees.

The first day begins with an immersion into the world of Ossau-Iraty at the Bergers de Saint Michel dairy, including tastings and a visit to the ageing cellars. The journey continues with a stroll through the picturesque streets of Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, followed by a convivial lunch at a local inn in Lecumberry.

Accompanied by Antoine, your motorcycle guide, you will then ride through the Iraty Pass, Col de la Pierre Saint-Martin and the village of Lescun, combining mountain roads, winding curves and spectacular panoramic views on the way to your gîte.

Designed for a small group, this trip blends scenic riding routes, encounters with passionate local producers, private tastings, and participation in the Cheese Festival, along with stays in exceptional gîtes. It is a full immersion into the landscapes, flavours and spirit of the region, allowing you to truly become a Tomme Rider.

Dinner is not included but can be shared in a friendly atmosphere at the gîte or in a nearby restaurant with the whole group and team.

Day 2 - Basque Vs Bearn

Departure from the gîte at 08:00 to begin the second day. The morning is spent at the Lanset Farm in Aydius, where you will discover the production of traditional farmhouse goat's cheese. You will visit the ageing cellars and take part in daily farm life, including helping to lead the goats out to pasture and feeding them, for a truly authentic immersion experience.

Lunch will be served at the Auberge des Isards, featuring dishes prepared using cheese from the farm.

In the afternoon, you will continue the journey along a spectacular route crossing the Col de Marie Blanque, Laruns, Arrette and Asson, before returning to the gîte in Lescun. With open landscapes, winding mountain roads and stunning valley views, this day offers a full immersion into the Béarn terroirs, offering a beautiful contrast with the Basque regions explored the

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previous day.

Day 3 - Ascent to the mountain pastures (Estives)

Departure from the gîte at 08:00 for the third riding day, heading towards the high mountain pastures.

The morning begins with a climb into altitude to the Espélunguère mountain huts and the Ossiniri Farm in Borce, where you will discover the traditional production of sheep's cheese made in the summer pastures. A short walk will also take you to spectacular and rarely accessible viewpoints, offering an authentic mountain immersion.

Lunch will be shared with the shepherds, featuring a convivial meal based around a lamb barbecue in this unique alpine setting.

In the afternoon, the route continues on the Spanish side through the Somport Pass and Canfranc, before returning to the gîte in Lescun. Between dramatic mountain landscapes, gourmet discoveries and winding roads, this day offers a full immersion into local traditions, with a few surprises along the way to make the experience even more memorable.

Day 4 - The Milky Way

Departure from the gîte at 08:30 for the fourth day, beginning with a morning visit to the Caprices de Lescun Farm. Camille, your guide and producer, will introduce you to the full process of making farmhouse lactic goat cheeses. You will also discover the traditional Béarnaise sheep shearing method using hand scissors, with the opportunity to take part in this unique experience for those who wish.

Lunch will be enjoyed at Transhumance Pyrénées, a restaurant located in a former train station in Accous, before setting off again on a spectacular riding loop through the Col de Marie Blanque, Laruns, Col du Portalet, Lanuza, Sabiñánigo, Jaca, and the Col du Somport, returning to the gîte in Lescun.

Between winding mountain roads, breathtaking panoramas and meaningful encounters with local producers, this day offers a perfect blend of gastronomy, landscapes and adventure, with the added possibility of hands-on immersion in local traditions.

Day 5 - Cheese Competition Day

Departure from the gîte at 08:30 for the fifth day, featuring a special morning at the Lées-Athas Cheese Festival.

Each participant becomes a jury member, tasting and evaluating cheeses from across the Aspe Valley, a unique experience usually reserved for professionals. Between tastings, meetings with local producers and village festivities, the lively atmosphere promises an unforgettable moment in the heart of the mountains.

After lunch on site, the journey continues on a scenic loop through La Pierre Saint-Martin, Isaba and Ansó, before returning to the gîte in Lescun. Blending gourmet discoveries with mountain landscapes, this day offers a perfect mix of celebration, gastronomy and motorbike adventure along the winding roads of the Pyrenees.

Day 6 - Cheese and Sake

Departure from the gîte at 08:00 for the final day of the adventure. The morning begins with an exceptional stop in

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Castetnau-Camblong, where you will visit a small sake brewery and discover the production of traditional mountain sheep's cheese. You will be guided by Mr Tanaka, who passionately shares a rare and precious Japanese craftsmanship combined with local pastoral know-how.

The journey then continues towards Sauveterre-de-Béarn for a convivial lunch at La Guinguette Sud, before a relaxed ride back to Bayonne.

The adventure concludes at Christophe's cheese shop, where each participant will receive a small thank-you gift, a souvenir of these unforgettable days spent riding through winding roads, spectacular landscapes and gourmet encounters.

End of the trip.

Additional information

TARIFFS
Price from 650 euros per person.

OPTIONS
Bivouac discount (you must bring your own camping equipment and gear). : -150 euros per person.

INCLUDED
Accommodation in a gîte for the entire duration of the stay
Full organisation and guidance of the motorcycle routes by an experienced tour guide
Accompaniment of Christophe, World Vice-Champion Cheesemonger, throughout the trip
Access to all scheduled visits of cheese dairies and ageing cellars
Meetings and exchanges with local cheese producers
Participation in the cheese festival in Lées-Athas, including joining the tasting jury
Two lunches: one meal hosted by a producer during the trip and one meal in the mountain pastures (estives)
Cheese tasting experience as part of the festival jury
Full organisation of the trip and support from the Tomme Rider team
Photo and video souvenirs of the experience

NOT INCLUDED
Motorcycle rental (pricing upon request)
Fuel (petrol)
Any tolls
Breakfasts, lunches not mentioned, and dinners
Personal expenses, purchases, or souvenirs
Optional additional insurance or supplementary coverage

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

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The itineraries are designed for a moderate level, with a few short walks possibly included during visits.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is in a gîte located in a former shepherd's hut (bergerie).
The gîte features 4 bedrooms with double beds and can accommodate up to 2 additional single beds in some rooms if needed.
There are also 2 bivouac spots available for guests who prefer to camp (camping equipment must be brought).
The property includes 2 bathrooms and 2 toilets shared by all participants.

SIZE OF GROUP

From 8

DEPARTURE

Bayonne

DISPERSION

Bayonne

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The programme may be adapted depending on weather conditions, constraints related to producers, or safety and logistical requirements.

The event will be partially filmed and photographed, and these images may be used for communication purposes related to the Tomme Rider project. Any specific request regarding image rights must be communicated to the organisation in advance.

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