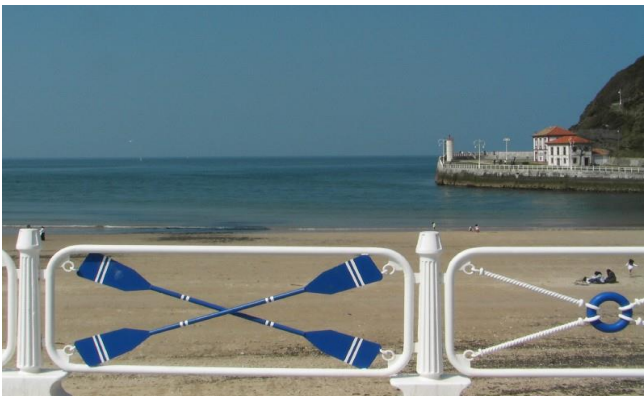




ESCAPE TO STUNNING SPAIN! Picos Plans ...!! October 2018 12 days away - a trip designed for the Historic Car enthusiast

My conclusion to the MG EEOY in Porto in August 2017 entailed a journey north-east from Portugal to Santander where I was to board a homeward ferry.

Quite by chance & good fortune I found a delightful hotel, with safe off-road car-parking, on the north coast of Spain, just 25 miles or so from the acclaimed Picos de Europa (National Park) – a beautiful & dramatic mountain wilderness area. “Mavis” (my 1961 1600 MGA coupé) & I tackled the exhilarating & stunning serpentine roads, through spectacular gorges & awesome scenery, climbing up over traffic-free passes. I came away determined to re-visit & explore further this amazing region.



My hotel in Ribadesella overlooked a beautiful bay & offered a flavour of Spain. There was sand, sailing-boats, sea & surf – for me, essential “holiday” ingredients imbibed from childhood memories! My beach-front sea-facing room had a balcony & there were good opportunities for walks (even with a wheelchair) & to discover what this vibrant town had to offer.

It will NOT BE CHEAP !!! My outline scheme is as follows & determined by dates & times of ferry sailings. I propose a relaxing start by omitting to drive through the length of France: reservations & bookings for best rates need to be made before the close of 2017 so please get in touch asap if you are interested.

Day 1: 3.45pm Sunday 7th October 2018 – depart Plymouth on Brittany Ferries “Pont Aven” Cruise ship (£209 fare for Car with 2 persons + £100 approx for overnight 2-berth cabin = total £320)

Day 2: 1pm Monday 8th – arrive Santander. Drive coast road west to 4* hotel in Ribadesella (approx 100 miles) price for double room B+B = 70€/£65 per night for 2 **night 1 Ribadesella**

Day 3: Tuesday 9th – drive/explore Picos **night 2 in Ribadesella**



Day 4: Wednesday 10th - drive/explore Picos possible cable-car ride @ Fuente De (16€ return ticket pp) **night 3 Ribadesella**

Day 5: Thurs 11th - drive/explore Picos **night 4 in Ribadesella**

Day 6: Friday 12th - drive/explore Picos **night 5 in Ribadesella**

Day 7: Sat 13th October: drive/explore Picos **night 6 Ribadesella**

Day 8: Sunday 14th October **night 7 in Ribadesella**

Day 9: Mon 15th October - depart Ribadesella & drive east to Santillana del Mar (60 miles) to 4* Gil Blas Parador hotel (currently awaiting price quote but suggest you allow @ least £100 for a twin room for 2 people per night) Plenty of time to explore this famous, ancient & historic town (popular with tourists) &/or nearby caves of Altamira

Day 10: Tues 16th October - Santillana del Mar, Parador hotel

Day 11: Weds 17th October – depart Santillana del Mar & drive east to Santander (20 miles) to board cruise ferry “Pont Aven” @ 21.15 (9.15pm) fare £209 per car + overnight double cabin approx £100 = £320

Day 12: Thurs 18th Oct - arrive 20.45/8.45pm at Plymouth

That little lot of figures above adds up to best part of **£1200 for 2 people**, but on top of that there will be the cost of fuel for yourself & car: petrol, & meals (breakfast is not always included) drinks & incidentals, shopping, tourist attractions with entry fees & possible car-parking charges, etc.

You must bear these extra expenses in mind & budget for them!!



Brittany Ferries will offer a 10% discount on the published fare (not cabins) for a group of 10 cars. To keep any group “intimate” I would not wish to prepare the trip for more than 10 cars/20 people anyway. Participants must not be nervous of stimulating & challenging driving! – though of course you will be free to alter my suggested programme & any outlined routes to suit your own preferences. Be aware that the weather on the north coast of Spain is not like that on the Costa Brava – it’s cooler & it can be rainy!

If you think you might be interested in joining my select group, **please email me** & I will then forward you more precise details of the plans. My trip will be informal & run on a “first-come-first-served basis” with a possible waiting list & will be non-profit-making. There will be (written) suggested Daily Drives & Places to Visit, but no tulip directions.



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