



Norton
owners club
FOUNDED 1959

SPANISH BRANCH RALLY 15-18.6.2023

We will meet Thursday from 2 p.m. in Villava – Pamplona Hotel Villava



There is an underground parking for the bikes and

In the street behind the Hotel there is usually space for cars and trailers.

Dinner will be in the Hotel in order being able attending the arriving participants.

Breakfast starts at ...h in order being ready to start short after 9 a.m.

Route Olite (approx.. 166 miles)

On Friday we will pass through the port of Erro, with many curves and good tarmac, you are going to love it.

Then we will pass through the valley of Aezkoa, with the town of Abaurrea Alta being the highest altitude in Navarra with 1039 meters.



We can take a little detour from Ezcaroz to Ochagavía. It is a very pretty town and head of the Salazar Valley. It was totally burned by the Napoleonic troops, in their retreat to France in the war of independence in 1814.



On a mountain that dominates the population, we will find the hermitage of our lady of Muskilda famous throughout the valley and of a very curious construction.





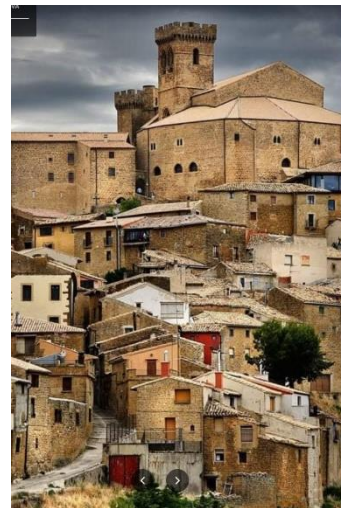
If you don't want to make a detour to Ochagavía, you can also stop in Jaurrieta beforehand. There are bars where you can have a drink and it is also very pretty, with the typical sloping roofs so that the snow falls off.

We will pass through the town of Navascues, where a Romanesque hermitage, called Santa Maria del Campo is located.



We deviate a little to the viewpoint of Iso over the Arbayun gorge, we will pass through the port of Iso, to enjoy the view.

If we're on time, we can take a detour from San Martín de Unx, to Ujué, a very famous church-fortress which is known throughout Navarre.



Arriving at Olite, with its amazing castle and a very beautiful town centre.





We will surely find a good place to have lunch.

After eating in Olite, we pass through the Alto de la Txapela and through Artajona, which has a walled enclosure called "El Cerco". Several films have been filmed within this fortress, and they are proud to have housed Sean Connery and Audrey Hepburn when they were recording the film "Robin and Marian" in 1975.



We climb the port of Guembe. We are going to get bored of making curves. If you want to stop for a drink, there are usually no bars in these small villages, but with a small change in the route, we might go through Aizpún, where we might take our tee or coffee.

Return to the hotel, welcome of the participants that arrived on Friday and dinner.

Route Roncesvalles

(approx.. 179 miles)

Saturday morning, we will pass through Salinas de Oro, which in the past was very rich due to the production of salt.



We cross the port of Lizarraga and although there is a section of highway on the route, we will take the secondary road without touching the highway.

Later we will go up to the sanctuary of San Miguel Excelsis. There is the Romanesque church San Miguel de Aralar, where the image of the archangel San Miguel is located. This is a place of legend

This is the legend:

The protagonist of the legend is Teodosio, a Navarrese knight who lived in the times of King Witiza, in the eighth century. Descendant of the Goñi lineage, when he married Doña Constanza de Butrón y Vianda, he went from living in his parents' house or old palace, to his wife's house called Larrañarenetxea (house of the threshing floor), both in the town of Goñi, a small town nestled in the mountains that separate the Araquil valley from the Pamplona basin and the land of Estella, dominating from a high slope -Goñi, in Basque means on top- a landscape shared by forests and labor camps.

In times of war in which the towns of the north of the Iberian Peninsula defended themselves from the Muslim invasion, Theodosius had to abandon his home and go to war. After a long absence he was able to return to his native valley and shortly before sighting his town, in the term known as Errotabidea (path to the mill, in Basque) he crossed paths with a pilgrim, who was actually the devil in disguise, who told him that his wife Constanza was unfaithful to him with a servant and that he shared the bed with her in the conjugal house.

Blind with rage at this insult, Theodosius arrived home, entered his bedroom, and caught a glimpse of two bodies lying on the bed. Certain of his dishonor, he drew his sword and lashed out at them again and again with all his might, until his hands were covered in blood. He left the house and, with great astonishment, saw his wife Constanza in the square, who was returning from the church. The joy that she showed at the return of her husband soon turned into horror and desolation for both of them when they realized that the ones Teodosio had murdered were their own parents, whom Constanza had invited to live in her house during their absence. of Theodosius.

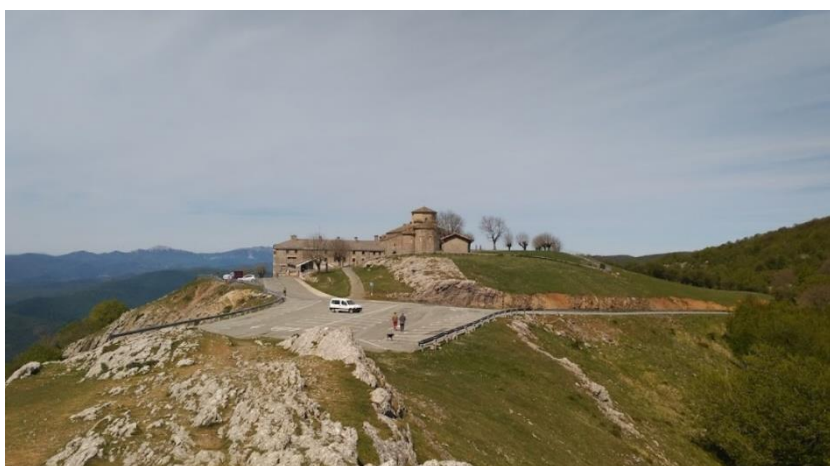


Teodosio confessed his horrendous crime to the parish priest Juan de Vergara and to the Bishop of Pamplona, Marcial, who ordered him to go to Rome as a pilgrim to request absolution from Pope John VII. He imposed the penance of living outside of any town, wearing a thick chain around his neck and waist and a wooden cross on his back, until the day the chain broke due to wear and tear.

Teodosio wandered through the mountains of beech forests, Andía and later Aralar for seven long years. One day in the year 714, he was on one of the summits of this mountain range, close, without knowing it, to the mouth of a chasm in whose depths, according to the residents of the place, lived a dragon that killed people and cattle by striking them with its tongue of fire. Suddenly the monster emerged from the cave and Teodosio entrusted himself to San Miguel. The archangel descended from heaven in a great splendor, carrying a cross on his head, killed the dragon and broke Theodosius' chains.

Released from his penance, Teodosio returned to Goñi and after embracing his wife and son Miguel, he later returned to the summit of Aralar, where he devoted the rest of his life to the cult of San Miguel, building a temple in his honor.

The popular tradition that arises as a result of the legend maintains that the wooden effigy of the Archangel –today covered in gilded silver- that is currently venerated in the Sanctuary, was left by Saint Michael at his appearance. This tradition also maintains that the chains that remain hanging outside the chapel are those that Theodosius wore until his liberation and that the whole of the Sanctuary is raised over the very chasm where the annihilated dragon dwelt, which only communicates with the temple, through a small hole to the right of the altar of the interior chapel, through which visitors have the habit of sticking their heads out or throwing coins to check, through the successive blows they make on the falling rocks, the great depth from the chasm.



Alvaro lives just below, in Irañeta where the legend and vocation towards San Miguel is very strong. His mother, without going any further, always wears a pendant with the Archangel Saint Michael.

After the sanctuary, through beech forests, We will arrive at Lekunberri.



We will traverse the ports of Uitz, Leiza, and the port of Ezkurra. The road is beautiful and we pass through Zubietta and Ituren, towns famous for the "Zampanzar" dance during carnivals.

We will stop in Santeesteban to eat at the restaurant Santa María, which is not disappoint no one.



After lunch, we will go through Elizondo and the Baztán valley, zone which has become very famous the "Invisible Guardian" books of Dolores Redondo, which has been taken to the cinema.



We will go up the port of Izpegi, in which high is the border with France. We can stop to admire the landscape and take something in the Restaurant beside.



Once in France, we will drive down downwards and arrive at the town of Baigorri, where the palace of the Kings of Navarre is located.

From Baigorri or St Etienne de Baigorri, as say the French, we will arrive in San Juan de Pie de Port or St. Jean de Pie de Port, It is a very nice fortified town.



Then we will enter again to Spain and climb the Ibañeta pass, long, full of curves, with good tarmac and little traffic.

Next is Roncesvalles, another emblematic place of Navarre. Door of the way of Santiago and place where the king of Navarre Sancho VII the strong, winner of the battle of Las Navas of Tolosa against the Muslims, is buried.



Driving towards the height of Mezquiriz with sun, Fog or rain? Who knows.

The weather in Navarre is unpredictable It can be hot, rainy or thunderstorm. **You better prepare and wear the necessary clothing and protection with you.**



This time we skirt below the port of Erro and will arrive at Villava.

Dinner in a typical place in Pamplona.

SUNDAY'S ROUTE (approx. 80 Miles)

We will traverse the port of Belate. A strategic Place that connects Pamplona with France, where important historical events, such as the battle between the troops from Gipuzkoa of Ferdinand the Catholic and the Navarres by Juan de Albret in 1512, during the Castilian invasion of the kingdom of Navarre, have taken place

It was also a highly disputed step in the carlist wars, so in 1872, Alfonso XII authorized the construction of a fort, today in ruins, can be guessed between the trees from the road.



Belate is also the watershed; from Belate to the north, the waters go to the Cantabrian Sea, from Belate to the south, the waters go to the Mediterranean. Near the top of Belate is the old monastery. (1160 A.D.) partly destroyed by wars and looting.



Then we will arrive at the town of Santesteban, where we will turn off towards Saldias. The road is narrow but in good condition and with little traffic. The landscape is beautiful.



Following the road, between beech trees We will arrive at the town of Orokieta. Here was the first performance in Spain of the Red Cross, in the course of the battle of Orokieta within the III Carlist War, in 1872.

Next we will pass through the Ulzama valley, famous for its mushrooms.



We will drive through the Atez valley and skirting Mount Ezkaba to arrive back to Villava.

Those who can afford to stay for the lunch will enjoy a little more in good company before taking the way home.

This is the basic idea for our Rally and there may be slight modifications, due to road works or other causes.