



## Eurofestival 2017 - The Long Way Down

By Mike Watling

Having spent a lot of time riding motorways in 2016 I decided that on my trip from Calais down to the Eurofestival in Grimaud this year I would avoid them completely and take in some scenery.

The first day took me from Norwich down to the Eurotunnel and on to Amiens and on the second day I had a fairly short ride to a place South East of Paris to visit a retired work colleague who now lives in an old farmhouse he has refurbished.



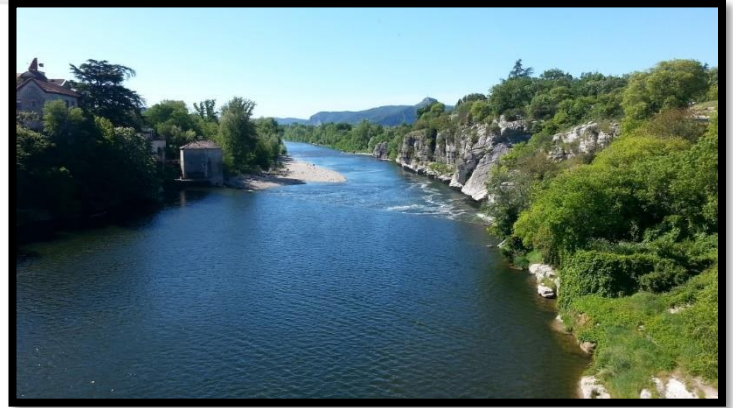
The scenery in Northern France is fairly mundane, mostly arable farmland but still a relaxed ride. The "N" roads are all very good but a couple of the "D" roads turned out to be muddy tracks so I will make more use of Google street view in the future.

The third day I followed the river Loire down to the Rhone Alps and into Aubenas which was a much more scenic ride. I wanted to re-visit the Ardeche area where I had done some white water canoeing on a school trip with my children many years ago.



The following day did not disappoint, it was warm and sunny and I had plenty of time to make stops for photos and take in the beauty of the Ardeche Gorge and villages along the way finally arriving at Avignon and spending a few hours looking around that picturesque city.

The next day I had another short ride down to Grimaud along



winding roads and on to the Eurocamp where I would spend the next four days visiting the Eurofestival.



Route Napoleon

I had spent five days on a journey that I could have made in two if I had taken the Motorways but despite the frequent slowing down to 30Kph through villages and towns the ride had been much more enjoyable and relaxed and I had visited old friends and revived good memories.



Colin and I after the Parade