

**PARIS ROUBAIX CHALLENGE 2012**  
**BY RONAN PENSEC TRAVEL**  
**Wednesday, March 28th to Monday, April 2nd 2012**  
**6 days and 5 nights in 3\* & 2\* hotels close to the Stage start**

Welcome to the Etape du Tour Paris-Roubaix Challenge program produced by Ronan Pensec.

This is the second edition of this event produced by ASO, the organizers of the Tour de France and other events. We have designed this program to provide you with the most enjoyable experience while you discover the pleasures and challenges of riding the Paris-Roubaix Challenge.

Paris Roubaix is a legendary cycling event and one of the oldest races having first run in 1896, as a warm up for Bordeaux – Paris.

Riders fear and love this race which is why it is called either the “Queen of the Classics”, or the “Hell of the North”. These two quotes below describe how riders feel about Paris-Roubaix.

*“The best I could do would be to describe it like this - they plowed a dirt road, flew over it with a helicopter, and then just dropped a bunch of rocks out of the helicopter! That’s Paris–Roubaix. It’s that bad - it’s ridiculous.”*

**Chris Horner**

*“When I stand in the showers in Roubaix, I actually start the preparation for next year”*

**Tom Boonen**

This will be a richly rewarding experience as you will not only challenge yourself, but you will meet and share this unique event with hundreds of other well-motivated riders. During this event you will ride the legendary cobbles of the Paris-Roubaix race.

By booking your Paris-Roubaix Challenge with us, you will benefit from our years of experience in organizing tours. We hope that the following information is helpful and we look forward to seeing you

## YOUR TRAVEL :

Please arrange your flights to arrive before noon into Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport.  
(<http://www.aeroportsdeparis.fr/ADP/en-gb/passagers/home/>)

## Wednesday, March 28th

Day

1

Today you will arrive at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport before 12:00 when your bus is scheduled to depart.

Your guides will welcome you at the airport and your private coach will take you to your hotel.

For your comfort, you will be spending the next 2 nights in a 3\* hotel.

Your hotel has been booked for you on a half-board basis (bed and breakfast with dinner - wine and water included).

This hotel is conveniently located in a strategic section of the race, the exit of cobblestone # 12.

When you arrive at your hotel, you will be free to prepare your bike and/or relax. In the evening, you will have your first dinner with the group and enjoy local wines and traditional dishes from the region. You will enjoy meeting other riders participating in this challenge.

## Thursday, March 29th

Day

2

You will today do some reconnaissance on 7 cobbled sections, starting from the town of Denain to Orchies, among which are the legendary Wallers Arenberg cobbles. A 26 kilometers circuit (16 miles) will be suggested to those who wish to train and ride. This circuit will be made of 5 cobbled sectors, one of them being Mons en Pevèle, known as one of the hardest.

You will then get back to your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day while your bike is checked by our mechanics.

A massage will be provided to people who will have made the request.

Dinner will be served in your hotel.

2012

Paris - Roubaix

Reconnaissance and Saint Quentin hotels

Friday, March 30th

Day

3

In the morning, you will have time to go for an easy ride. For those who wish, possibility to do some more reconnaissance on the cobbled sections located near the hotel. Lunch will be served in the hotel. Our coach will then take you to your new hotel.

Because you have chosen Ronan Pensec Travel, you are one of the privileged riders who will be provided with the most convenient hotel accommodation possible. For your comfort, you will be spending the next 3 nights in a 2\* hotel located in Saint Quentin, near the Start. Your hotel has been booked for you on a half-board basis (bed and breakfast with dinner - wine and water included).

We have chosen your hotel to be only a short distance away from the start area. You won't have to worry about bus schedules. This makes it very convenient to be at the start on the day of the event. (April 1st).

A massage will be provided to people who will have made the request.  
Dinner will be served in a restaurant only at a stone's throw from the hotel.

Saturday, March 31st

Day

4

You will start the day with a plentiful breakfast that will give you energy for this last preparation day. After breakfast, you will be given the opportunity to go for an easy ride to warm up and get your legs ready for the ultimate day on the cobbles.

In the afternoon, you will be able to ride to the Paris-Roubaix Challenge start village with its bicycle exhibition, where all the major European manufacturers will be present. This is also where you will sign in and pick up your bib number.

After picking up your bib number and spending time at the village, enjoying the atmosphere and perhaps meeting other riders, it will be time to head back to your hotel. Later on, you will relax over a dinner especially prepared to give you all the energy you need for the upcoming challenge.

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**Sunday, April 1st**

Day

5

D-day, the Paris-Roubaix Challenge!

Today is the day! This is your opportunity to live up to the same challenge as the professionals, by riding a part of the legendary Paris-Roubaix.

You will be riding the last 135 km (84 miles) of this famous Course. Because your hotel is located nearby, you will be able to ride directly to the start area in Saint Quentin.

The race start time is 7.00am. After an early breakfast you will ride to the start village and prepare for the challenge. There you'll take your place among the thousands of other contestants coming from all over the world and competing in this great cycling event.

Your ride will begin in Saint Quentin. The course will take you to the same roads as the pro riders on the next day. You will enjoy the sensation and excitement of being on this course, among your fellow riders.

When you are finished with your race, your coach will take you back to your hotel in Saint Quentin. There you will be able to have dinner with your friends, compare notes, and celebrate your glorious ride.

**Monday, April 2nd**

Day

6

Group: Departure

On this last morning, you will enjoy breakfast with a multitude of images in your mind. Feel proud of your personal accomplishments!

Finally, it will be time to say goodbye to this year's Paris-Roubaix. Your guides will be available to help you, should you have any question or request, and to wish you a nice trip back home. Alternatively, if you would like to enjoy Paris/France just a little longer, we will be happy to make arrangements for you.

## RATES:

6 days / 5 nights in 3\* & 2\* hotels (Room sharing in twin or double): **720.00€**

6 days / 5 nights in 3\* & 2\* hotels (Single room): **870.00€**

In order to secure your package, a deposit of 40% will be required at time of registration; the outstanding balance will then be due between February 13th and February 29th, 2012.

## THE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Entry to the Paris-Roubaix Challenge
- Accommodation for 5 nights: 2 nights in a 3\* hotel and 3 nights in a 2\* hotel.
- 5 Breakfasts, and 5 dinners, drinks (wine and water) included.
- Transfer in a private coach from the airport to your hotel on the first day, and transfer from your hotel back to the airport on the last day.
- Box trailer / van for the safe keeping and transport of your bike in our bike bags/ boxes.
- Ronan Pensec Travel Welcome Package.
- Local taxes
- Services of our guide.

## THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Lunches.
- Personal hotel expenses, mini bar, telephone, room service.
- Travel and personal insurance.

**In December, we will email you the official application form as well as guidelines on how to fill it out. Each participant to the Paris-Roubaix Challenge is required to provide a medical certificate from his/her physician stating that he/she is in good physical condition and that he/she can take part in a cycling competition. We will need to receive this application form/medical certificate no later than on January 31st, 2012.**