



Paris - Auckland by bike

On The Road To Eden Park

Presentation of the project

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THE GOAL

The goal of our trip is to link the field that hosted our first steps as rugby players to the mythic Auckland Stadium, Eden Park, the All Blacks private garden. On our way to New Zealand we will convey the values of rugby by sharing our experiences with the populations we will encounter, and achieve a real journey in the World of Rugby.

Aiming at visiting at least one rugby club in each country, with the assistance of the French Rugby Federation, we will at the same time promote our sport and experience its differences throughout the world.

We want to discover the traditions and passions of the local rugby scene from the inside. To accomplish this, we will join local rugby clubs for a friendly game and provide a ball especially designed with the mission of our trip in mind. Of course, the off-field post-game celebration known in France as the "3rd half time" will give us the opportunity to share our views on rugby and sport in general and understand better the place that it holds in their lives. Knowing the importance and the cultural attachment of rugby in France, we are eager to see what it stands for in countries where rugby is barely known and still in a developing process.

We will chronicle the journey, providing updates at each stop along the way. Regularly updated online on our website WWW.VELOVALIE.COM and supplemented with pictures and movies, our writings will convey the true essence of our trip.

This truly human and physical challenge is symbolic of the values that united us in this sport, and will be a unique opportunity to share them with people all over the world.

THE TEAM



Philippe COUM, 27 years old

EDUCATION : Engineer Centrale Lille
CURRENT OCCUPATION : Engineering consultant in Paris
LANGUAGES : English, Spanish
HOBBIES : Sailing, reading, travels
SPORT : Biking, rugby
IN-FIELD POSITION : Fly half
ASSOCIATION : Secretary
WHAT WE EXPECT OF HIM :
Managing administrative tasks,
Keeping daily records of the journey
Pedaling



François BOULART, 25 years old

EDUCATION : Engineer Centrale Lille
CURRENT OCCUPATION : Management consultant in Paris
LANGUAGES : English, Italian
HOBBIES : Drawing, drums, travels
SPORT : Biking, rugby, squash
IN-FIELD POSITION : Flanker
ASSOCIATION : President
WHAT WE EXPECT OF HIM :
Prospecting sponsors
Managing the web site
Pedaling



François CAILLE, 25 years old

EDUCATION : Engineer Ensam
CURRENT OCCUPATION : Trading assistant in New York
LANGUAGES : English, Russian
HOBBIES : Chess, saxophone, travels
SPORT : Biking, rugby
IN-FIELD POSITION : Eight man
ASSOCIATION : HONORARY MEMBER
WHAT WE EXPECT OF HIM :
Fixing our bikes



Charles BINETRUY, 26 years old

EDUCATION : Medical doctor
CURRENT OCCUPATION : Intern at Bécclère hospital
LANGUAGES : English, Spanish
HOBBIES : Cinema, medical practice, travels
SPORT : Biking, rugby
IN-FIELD POSITION : Lock
ASSOCIATION : Treasurer
WHAT WE EXPECT OF HIM :
Taking care of his teammates health and shape
Prospecting sponsors

THE TRANSPORTATION

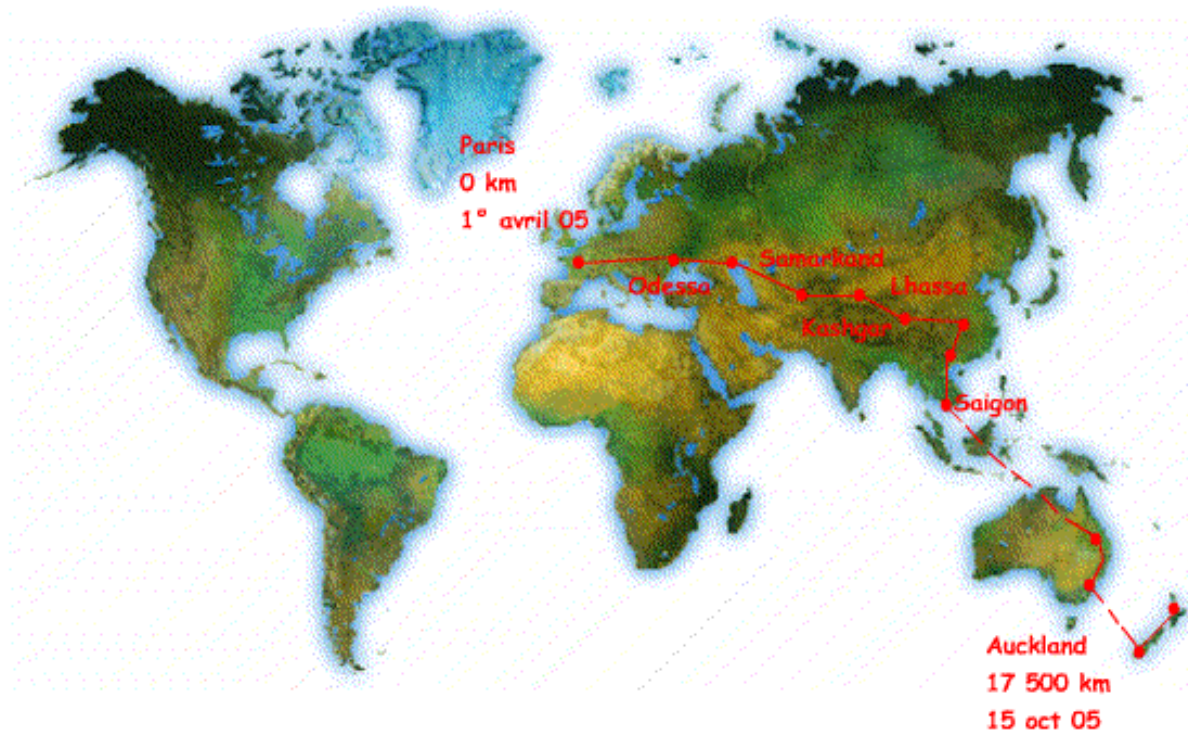
The bike has quickly come to the forefront as our optimal means of transportation. Efficient, easy to fix and rugged, it is the ideal solution for the combination of our thirst for adventure, physical challenge and exchange, and also environmentally friendly and respectful of the communities we will navigate through.

THE ITINERARY : *TO THE PROMISED LAND OF RUGBY...*

The journey has been designed in such a way that we would go to places that would in themselves justify a journey.

It is divided into three major stages :

- **Paris - Odessa - Samarkand** : 2 months
Parting from age-defined Europe to reach the gates of the East, we aim at approaching the Himalayan Mountains as fast as possible.
- **Samarkand - Lhasa - Saigon** : 3 months
The heart of the journey, riding from the top of the world to the Sea of China.
- **Saigon - Darwin - Auckland** : 1 month
Between sea and sky, our journey will end in the garden of Eden Park.



Itinerary

Paris Auckland by bike...on the road to Eden Park

Detailed Itinerary

| Country | City | Notes | Distance |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| France | Paris, Reims, Strasbourg | Warm up | 400km |
| Germany | Nurnberg, Munchen | Bavaria and meeting again with the XV of the Studentenstadt of Munich | 400km (800km) |
| Austria | Salzburg, Vienna | Following the blue track of the Danube | 300km (1 100km) |
| Hungary | Budapest | Budapest the pearl of Danube | 500km (1 600km) |
| Romania | Oradea, Tazlau | Transylvania and Carpathians crossing the path of Dracula | 500km (2 100km) |
| Moldavia | Chisinau | First steps in former URSS | 200km (2 300km) |
| Ukraine | Odessa | Along the Black Sea coast, the "windows toward the Southern seas" | 500km (2 800km) |
| Russia | Volgograd, Astrachan | From the banks of the Volga to the shores of the Caspian Sea | 1100km (3 200km) |
| Kazakhstan | Atyrau | Wandering in the Kazakh vastness | 700km (4600km) |
| Uzbekistan | Nukus, Kungrad, Samarkand | Opening the gates of the East | 1 300km (5 900km) |
| Kyrgyzstan | Tashkent, Andizhan, Osh, Kashi | On Himalayan's slopes | 1 000km (6 900km) |
| China | Kashgar, Lhasa, Kuming | The longest and toughest part of the journey. Also the most intriguing and thrilling... | 4800km (11 500km) |
| Vietnam | Hanoi, Vinh, Da Nag, Saigon | Jewel of South-east Asia along the Bay Hot and humid tropical climate | 1 600km (13 100km) |
| Cambodia | Pnom Penh, Siem rep, Sisophon | Ancient temples, empty beaches, mighty rivers, remote forests... | 600km (13 700km) |
| Thailand | Bangkok, Phuket, Phatthalong | Laughing around in the "land of smiles" | 300km (14 000km) |
| Malaysia | Kuala Lumpur, Singapour | Between modernism and history... | 700km (14 700km) |
| Australia | Brisbane, Sydney | Across the desert to the shores and their surfers | 3 000km (17 700km) |
| New Zealand | Christchurch Wellington, Auckland | Land of Rugby and goal of the journey | 1 200km (18 900km) |
| TOTAL | | | 18 900km |

THE SCHEDULE

The schedule of the administrative and physical preparations:

| | Juil. | Août | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Déc. | Janv. | Fév. | Mars | Avril |
|----------------------|--|------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------|------|------|-------|
| Site Web | Création | | | Maintenance | | | | | | |
| Administratif | Réservation (avion..), assurance, association | | | | | Visa | | | | |
| Médical | | | | | Visite, vaccins | | | | | |
| Sportif | Paris-Bayonne | | Paris-Brest | | | | | | | |
| | | | Toulouse-Perpignan | | | | | | | |
| | Vélo, squash, rugby.. | | | | | | | | | |
| Partenariat | Recherche et développement | | | | | | | | | |

FORMALITIES AND HURDLES

Acquiring a visa will be mandatory for each country we travel through once we leave Romania.

Please note that the journey through Tibet requires a specific permit. This permit is inexpensive and will enable us to cycle to Lhasa.

THE BUDGET

The prospective budget shows a breakdown of all expenses.

| Category | Detail | Amount |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Equipment | Bike (x4), | 11 250 € |
| | Fixing tools | |
| | Clothes (x4) | |
| | Guides and maps | |
| | Camping material | |
| Nourriture, hébergement | 20€ (x4) per days during 200 days | 15 600 € |
| | 14€ intendance | |
| | 6€ accomodation | |
| Voyage | Visas | 9 000 € |
| | Flights : | |
| | - Saigon / Bisbane, | |
| | - Sydney / Wellington | |
| | - Auckland / Paris | |
| Hygiène | Medical kit | 2 200 € |
| | Vaccines | |
| | Preventive medicine (paludisme) | |
| Assurance | Personnal insurance (x4) | 4 000 € |
| | Equipment insurance | |
| Association | Communication : web cafes, website hosting | 9 700 € |
| | Reports : cameras and numeric equipment | |
| | Management fees | |
| Total | | 51 750 € |

Hereunder the current sources of financing:

| Personal investment : | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Team personal financing | 17 000 € |
| Goods sale (T-shirts, balls ...) | 3 000 € |
| Website creation | 2 000 € |
| Partners : | |
| Europ Assistance | 3 200 € |
| Eden Park | 3 000€ |
| SPMO | 1 000 € |
| Randocycle | 1 000 € |
| Bourg la Reine city hall | 800 |
| Pending partnership : | |
| Equipment | 6 000 € |
| Financings | 12 800 € |
| Laboratories | 2 200 € |
| TOTAL | 52 000 € |

EXPERIENCES

To assess our current level of strength and motivation, we went on a bicycle tour from Paris (75) to Marvejols (48), passing through Bayonne (64) on the way. Within two weeks, from July 26 to August 7, 2004, we finished our 1 500 km ride very strong.

On the way, our team took part in one of the stages of the « Beach Rugby Tour » organized by the French Rugby Federation, at Montalivet les bains (33), on July 30, 2004. Our Team managed its way to the Final in this tournament that gathered over fifteen teams.



The easy side of the hill



Quarter final of the Beach Rugby Tour 04 in Montalivet (33)



Resting in Chambord (41)



Lunch break at Châtillon du Indre (36)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

- ✓ « On a roulé sur la Terre »
S. Tesson et A. Poussin
- ✓ « Tashi Deleks »
C. Dérieux
- ✓ « Les aventures de Rossinante, bicyclette transcontinentale »
B. Magnouloux
- ✓ « Le tour du monde à vélo en 14 ans »
F. et C. Hervé
- ✓ « La chevauchée des steppes »
S. Tesson et P. Telman

Web Site

WWW.PING.BE/~PPOLET/DEFAULT.HTML

WWW.ABM.FR

WWW.CONNAISSEURSVOYAGE.FR

WWW.LAMAISONDUVELO.BE/FR/VACANCES.HTML

[HTTP://2VELOS.FREE.FR](http://2VELOS.FREE.FR)

References / Sponsor

Mathieu Blin : Rugby player for the Stade Français and the French national team,) . Winner of the French National Championship of Rugby (2000/2003/2004)

(WWW.STADE.FR)

Nicolas Sirot : author of a journey around the globe on a bike in 98-99, and around the Titicaca Lake on a Kitesurf.

([HTTP://2VELOS.FREE.FR](http://2VELOS.FREE.FR))

« The thirst for travel is one the most encouraging symptoms of life. »

Agnès Replier

« Exchanges and travels across the world implies that we bear responsibility to preserve our characteristics, and not to destroy them »

Helen Fiedling

« The most beautiful journey is to prove to oneself one's freedom »