



12000km of fascination:

Taking part of such an event, is a dream and a great challenge for the FFCT. The goal is to lead in safety 115 cyclists (participants and organizers) on 12 000 km across Europe, Asia and China while being the ambassadors of France.

The choice of the route was carried out 3 criteria: distance, access facility and safety.

The route has been validated by the authorities of the 12 crossed countries after being tested by members of the organization committee.

After studying the various options, the route was deliberately designed around 3 rivers among the longest in the world: The Danube, Volga River and the Yellow River.

After the departure from Paris, the participants will take the direction of east towards the Champagne, Franche-Comté and Alsace via Provins, Troyes, Langres, Vesoul and Mulhouse crossing of the Rhin.

The driver Danube

The first German town will be Fribourg and then we will pass by the Black Forest; we will aim to go to the Danube's sources in Donaueschingen. We will take the Eurovélo 6 for a while, marked until Passau, then we will go on to Linz, Melk and Vienna in Austria (still along the Danube). Hungary will receive the bicycle tourists in Györ and Budapest. Belgrade, capital of Serbia, will be reached after one month of race. Drobeta, Craiova, Bucarest, towns of the welcoming Romania, will lead us to the Black sea through Galati. We will not miss to pass by Moldova for a short incursion. After that change of scenery! The huge Ukraine will wait us for crossing Odessa, Melitopol, Mariupol. The following of the race will be located in Russia through Rostov and Volgorad (former Stalingrad). We will go along the wonderful Volga until Astrakhan.

Until the Steppe

We will set off on a long trip across Kazakhstan's steppe, the opportunity to set up the first bivouacs and experience life in isolation. A rail link is planned between Atiraw and Toré-tam before reaching the test Soviet Baïkonour space test centre. The trip continues in the direction of Kyrgyzstan and the capital Bishkek.

In the land of yurts and horses, landscapes are beautiful, mysterious and mountainous, 8000km will be done!

Roof of the expedition, we must then pass over 3000 m in sumptuous landscapes bypassing Lake Isik-köl (2nd natural lake in the world). A second incursion in Kazakhstan before moving on the Chinese border on June 16.

Reaching the Middle Kingdom

Already 3 months of adventures and the Middle Kingdom is reached. A stopover is made at the Hu's lake, 2000 m high. Life is organized. Aren't the biggest "nomadisations" the ones leading from a bivouac to another? The course leads to the biggest Chinese city Urumqi (pronounce it Oulmoutchi !). A deserted part will be done by a night train, until the Minghoshan's cave. The Heat is ubiquitous on this deserted part of "the Gobi". Then will come the long downhill until X'ian, historical town famous for its rampart, its army buried and its great pagoda. From there, there is only 13000 km left and 2 weeks in order to reach the goal. A second group, composed by 200 riders and 23 young riders representing the French regions and the Reunion Island that have left France mid July will join us in X'ian to finish the 'great trip'. The yellow river has lined its bed in the arid canyons of the Loos region. We will follow it and the climate will be very hot. Every night, we will stop to rest in a "small town" of... 2 millions inhabitants: Xinxiang, Anyang, Xintai, Shijiazhuang. Is China, a country where bikes are ubiquitous? It is of course but we have to admit that cars are substituting bikes. But it is not important; the 300 riders from the FFCT will only have one goal in mind: reaching the great wall in Beijing while remembering Antoine de Saint Exupery's words "make your life a dream and this dream a reality"