



FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT CENTRE TRAIL

ABOUT US

Your hosts, Julie and Tom Fitzsimons, first discovered the South Eastern Creuse some 16 years ago and immediately realised its off-road potential. Within 18 months they had bought the old farmhouse where **Centre Trail** has its base and had started its restoration. In the spring of 2010 they made it their full time permanent home.

Before the move Julie enjoyed a successful career in aviation, spending some 25 years at 37,000 feet in the role of Cabin Services Director. Her subsequent understanding of customer service is vital to enhancing the **Centre Trail** experience.

Aircraft engineering has kept Tom gainfully employed since 1990. Prior to that it was flying machines of a different kind as mechanic for 1981 250cc motocross world champion Neil Hudson and other private teams at 125cc Grand Prix level. He is available every evening to assist guests with the maintenance of their motorcycles.

Tom, your principle guide, whose involvement with 'motos toutes terrains' spans 4 decades, has attained all the qualifications necessary to offer guided tours in France. Fully authorised by the country's motorcycling federation (the FFM) and holder of the diploma CQP Option Moto Verte, he is currently **the only** foreign national to be so qualified and as a result is fully insured—a legal requirement in France—giving clients a measure of security unavailable to unauthorised tour operators.

THE TRAILS

Choosing superlatives to describe what this part of central France has to offer is no simple task as the eastern Limousin is home to some of Europe's finest off-road terrain. The sheer number of legally accessible trails and green lanes is almost unimaginable and should more than satisfy most participants. If, for some obscure reason, there are those with energy to spare we have a 5km enduro loop on our own land featuring easy, medium and difficult options, perfect for honing your skills.

Boasting three French championship events plus the extreme En-Duo du Limousin whilst remaining the spiritual home of—arguably the most famous enduro of them all—the Gilles Lalay Classic, it's not difficult to understand why many consider this region to be off-road riding at its best.

'...The trails start, literally, from the back door—within seconds we were in deep countryside...Most definitely something to put on your "must do" list!'

— Chris Cope, **Centre-Trail** client, October, 2010

We use the D system when out on the trail, with riders acting as route markers in rotation. This not only ensures (hopefully!) no one gets lost but also that everyone gets an opportunity to ride upfront.

Fiercely supportive of their off-road heritage the locals give an incredibly genuine and warm welcome to visiting riders.

So join us at **Centre Trail** and experience that welcome for your self.



THE BASE

Constructed in 1846 the granite farmhouse has been renovated by Julie and Tom to offer a blend of original features and modern comforts. All bedrooms have en-suite bathroom facilities and hotel quality mattresses for their occupants.

The kitchen, which retains its original flagstone floor and enormous Creusois fireplace, is the focal point for all non riding activities when at base. With the wood burning stove providing heat for warming limbs weary from a hard day in the saddle it's the perfect place to relax and 'analyse' the day's exploits—with the help of a refreshing beer naturally!

Our dedicated rider centre with its heated changing rooms, gear drying facility and ultra secure bike storage also features a well equipped workshop and stock of high wear consumable items allowing clients to be able to prepare motorcycles and riding clothing for their next day's adventure.

Centre Trail's base is part of a typical Creusois hamlet where it's all too easy to forget the pressure and pace of more populated regions. With little changing since the 1800s the impression that the 'modern world' has somehow by-passed the area is very strong. We consider that to be a positive attribute and hope you will agree.

We share our home and land with a range of animals including dogs, cats and horses so please be aware if you have any allergies.

FOOD AND DRINK

The gastronomes amongst you should not be disappointed with their stay at **Centre Trail**. The region's restaurants, auberges and cafes provide nutrition, refreshment and an unparalleled reception to the muddy off-roader.

To enhance the experience of your visit **Centre Trail** has negotiated with a selection of the region's more established restaurants to provide meals for the duration of each tour (*See note below*).

Lunch, taken on the trail, will consist of the 'Plat du Jour'—literally plate of the day—and as such will be what is available to the local artisans dining with you. Dinner will be a choice from the fixed price or à la carte menu and will feature specialties of the area. Please refer to Prices section for additional details.

Back at base we are licensed to provide and sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises. We maintain a well-stocked cellar with a selection of quality European beers. Wine lovers wont be neglected either with the best known regions of France represented.

Riders with specific dietary requirements (vegetarian, celiac etc) must ensure they inform us at the time of booking confirmation so the necessary adjustments can be made to the catering.

Please Note

- With the exception of all breakfasts and those dinners of the first and last evenings which will be taken at base for logistical reasons.



WHERE ARE WE?

Centre-Trail is situated just south of the official centre of France, in the eastern corner of the Limousin region, which means we are also very central to the rest of Western Europe. The French Autoroute system is just 40 minutes from St Avit de Tardes (A89) resulting in very efficient journey times.

Please refer to the interactive map for GPS co-ordinates.

DISTANCES TO CENTRE TRAIL BY ROAD (KM)*

CITY	DISTANCE	TIME
Amsterdam	911	9h:09m
Barcelona	727	7h:15m
Brussels	716	7h:13m
Calais	697	7h:05m
Eindhoven	837	8h:25m
Frankfurt	859	8h:32m
Innsbruck	951	8h:50m
London	859	9h:26m**
Milan	703	7h:36m
Rotterdam	852	8h:30m
Zurich	664	6h:59m

*Source Multimap.com | **Channel crossing times can vary.