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CASTLES OF THE LOIRE: AN ADVENTURE AROUND VALENÇAY

INTREPID MEMBERS OF THE UK PEUGEOT 406 COUPÉ CLUB ENJOY
A FIVE-DAY JAUNT AROUND THE PICTURESQUE LOIRE VALLEY

WORDS & PICS: TIM COLLINS

Regular readers may recall when several members of the UK Peugeot 406 Coupé Club made a one-day visit to France in 2008 to attend the International Coupé Club meet in Douai (PFC January 2009).

For the October 2009 International Coupé Club meet in October 2009 at Valençay the decision was taken to opt for a much more ambitious plan involving full participation at all three days of the meet. The logistics involved an

overnight ferry from Portsmouth to Caen, three days in France and an overnight ferry back. Michael, Anne, Dave and Tim met the challenge with Michael and Anne heading over a day early with Dave and Tim travelling to France the evening of Friday 23 October.

Show visitors can pick and choose the elements they wish to participate in during the three-day event and as you can see from photos, Dave Browett and Tim Collins opted for a pretty full-on programme, as Tim explains...

The optimum route for us was Portsmouth to Caen so the endurance test started (Day 1) with a 9pm rendezvous and check-in for the overnight crossing. An early Saturday morning arrival in France was into the blackness of pre-dawn and light rain, this was a foretaste of what was to come. The journey south from 7am to 11am didn't give us time to stop as we sped

through the French countryside, passing Le Mans and Tours.

After the Chambord line-up we were on the road again for a convoy through the French countryside to a number of locations. The convoy caused quite a stir although through excellent marshalling and assistance from the local Gendarme it kept moving and parked up without incident. The day continued with lunch and then it was over to the Chateau de Cheverny for a forest drive, a canal trip and more culture.

Monday (Day 4) was the final day and after a 06:30 breakfast for the 31 diehard Coupés it was off to the Matra Museum at Romorantin. The Matra museum is well worth a visit with cars available for very close inspection.

Then it was off to lunch and wine tasting at the Cave de la Grande Brosse where we walked into the tunnels of a former quarry to eat, at



This October 2009 adventure was around the Loire valley and started in Valençay, otherwise known as the land of Chateaus and wine...



At Valençay we met with some old friends and new. A total of 58 Peugeot 406 Coupés from all across Europe were scheduled to take part and form up in a classic circle in front of the Chateau gates



Dawn in France, Saturday 24th October with typical French countryside and a Satellite Grey 406 Coupé leading the way



After lunch, a tour of the Chateau, followed by some outdoor entertainment, it was time to move off to the hotel. The hotel had a secure car park and the sight of 58 Coupés was amazing



To see the complete version of this document please consider becoming a Full Club Member. To learn how to do this and the benefits of joining the club, please visit the Club section of the website.

If you are already a Full Club Member, please sign in using the login link.