

EDITORIAL

This will be the 18th edition which will welcome you to Saint-Lary-Soulan, always in rotation with the two other towns Argelès-Gazost and Bagnères-de-Bigorre.

This will be an opportunity to celebrate the victory of Raymond Poulidor during the first arrival of the Tour De France in these places 50 years earlier, almost to the day.

It was a great moment in cycling, him, "Poupou", the elder (38 years old at the time) who attacked and released the great Eddy Merckx known as the "Cannibale."

Some will remember, others will learn as they pass in front of the plaque which forever marks this fact of racing in this hairpin at more than 10%, the place of the attack, from the start of the climb.

Higher up (at the exit of the Espiaube bend) you will be among the first to pass in front of the sculpture of Raymond on his bike which will have been recently installed and as a preview of the arrival of the future TDF also at Pla d'Adet.

The Pyrénéenne sports offer is aimed at a wide range of practitioners, although it takes place in the high mountains. Distances, elevation changes and deadlines are planned accordingly. However, it is advisable to have a minimum of preparation in order to allow for the pleasure and good suffering that go hand in hand when you take all these roads which have made the legend of the Tour De France.

The two-timed circuits, with their common option of Pla d'Adet, will return to the starting line. They will take the same finale from St Marie de Campan as the 14th stage of the TDF Pau / Saint-Lary-Soulan Pla d'Adet (Saturday July 13) via Hourquette d'Ancizan, i.e. the last 40 kilometers.

The Pyrénéenne Cyclosportive will always be at the TLO and official event of the FFC, as well as at the Trophée des Cyclosportives d'Occitanie.

The non-timed CycloRando will take you towards the Col d'Aspin and the Hourquette d'Ancizan with the free choice of heading towards the Pla d'Adet on the return to St Lary-Soulan. This way you will be involved in the general atmosphere of the test, without time constraints. This will be a simple formality with a VAE.

The event will be broadcast and commented live on the big screen, thus contributing to the entertainment in the town center on Sunday.

From Saturday Saint Lary-Soulan will be celebrating with various activities dedicated in particular to families.

For those accompanying you, you can go to meet the "finishers" by the cable car from St Lary Center and enjoy a magnificent panorama as long as the weather cooperates.

Sufficient parking will be at your disposal.

The organizing team, helped by all the volunteers, will be at your service so that the Pyrénéenne is among the most beautiful events on the calendar, served by a territory as if invented for cycling!

It is said that the cheers of the crowd still resonate since this historic July 15, 1974, which has become legendary: perhaps you will hear them too!!!