



## Barcelona to Madrid in 2016 by Stuart Bonning

On September 15, 2016, four amigos began a bike journey from Barcelona Spain to Madrid. We are Lean Larry (Montana), Banker John (Wisconsin), Long Shanks Steve (Maryland) and Weird Beard Stuart (Maryland). Steve was new to touring, but Larry, John and I had cycled together a number of times. We arrived in Spain at different times and all met up to begin the trip in Sitges, a seaside town a little south of Barcelona. On these trips there are no set routes or agendas other than bike to the west and visit wherever the spirit moves us. (It should be noted Larry is the trip's "sommelier" and kept us supplied with good Spanish wine.)

The first stop was Tarragona, capital of the Roman province 2000 years ago. The amphitheater and some of the aqueduct are still intact. From there we cycled to the walled city of Moutblanc. (Many mountains, much climbing)

The days went by as we cycled to Caspe, Calatayud, Siguenza, Segovia, and Avila as well as many other towns, repeatedly climbing up mountains and down the other sides. Our final destination was Madrid. We stayed in small hotels and B&B's, but otherwise were self contained. Occasionally we took a train, usually to avoid some mountains.

The people were friendly and very helpful to 4 "gringo" cyclists. The food was good, as was the wine and beer. The mountains made the biking "interesting" and fortunately the weather was mild and there was no rain. The bikes were no problem and we only had one flat on Stuart's bike and one flat on Larry's trailer. Larry uses a folding "Bike Friday" and trailer, while we 3 use conventional touring bikes.

Attached is a link to Larry's blog of our trip, including the famous "dog of the day" pictures. If you are interested in more information, feel free to contact me.

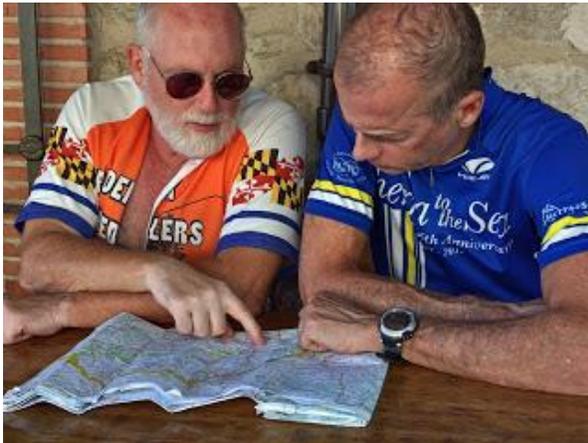
<http://barcelona2madrid.blogspot.com/>



The whole gang



On the road



Which way?



Larry and a dog of the day



Steve and his bike



Castles, one of the reasons to go to Spain