

# LAOS

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SUPPORTED BIKEPACKING

6 - 23 January 2027

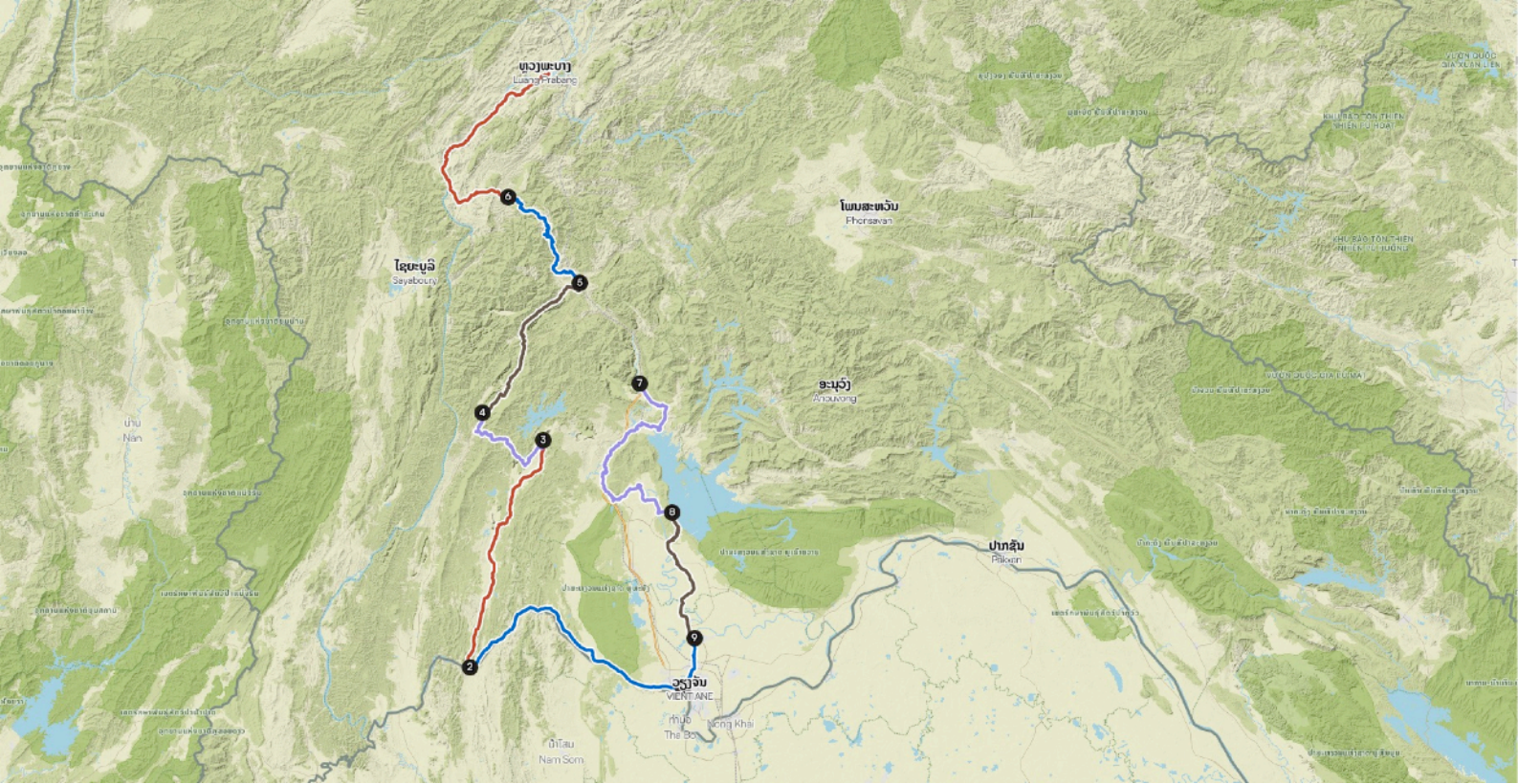




# CONTENTS

## What you will find in this guide

1. Foreword
2. Description of stages and itinerary
3. Arrival & departure information
4. Price
  - 4.1. Included & not included
5. How to book and pay
6. Information
7. Basic Rules
  - 7.1. Equipment needed
  - 7.2. Environment
  - 7.3. Safety
  - 7.4. Right of the organization
8. Organization & contact



LAOS DISCOVERY BIKEPACKING  
(with support vehicle)  
6 - 23 JANUARY, 2027  
9 STAGES  
685 KM & 7350 METERS



# 1. FOREWORD

## A brief description of the trip

This 700-kilometre gravel loop through Northern Laos is born from the meeting of two worlds. The route stems from the exploratory vision of 'Esco a fare un giro', designed for those who seek pure authenticity over comfort zones. This vision is seamlessly paired with the organizational expertise of PA-Cycling, ensuring that while the adventure remains raw and transformative, it is backed by unwavering operational reliability.

You will navigate red-earth tracks and mountain ridges where the landscape is not a backdrop, but a living reality. This is a journey that values team spirit and cultural adaptability, moving through tribal villages at a pace far removed from Western norms. The bicycle serves as a respectful bridge, allowing for a discreet and silent immersion into a world that is extraordinarily rich in human value.

By combining exploratory spirit with professional support, we offer a journey that does not sugar-coat the experience but makes it possible. It is a trip for those willing to trade fleeting comforts for a deeply moving, transformative adventure—designed by explorers and executed by experts.



## 2. DESCRIPTION OF STAGES & ITINERARY

6 January  
Departure from home.

7 January  
Arrival in Vientiane. Transfer to hotel. Bike preparation and briefing.

Vientiane is a uniquely laid-back capital that feels more like a charming riverside town than a bustling metropolis. Nestled along the banks of the Mekong, the city blends French colonial architecture with stunning Buddhist heritage, characterized by its wide boulevards and golden-roofed temples. Key landmarks like the sacred **Pha That Luang** stupa and the **Patuxai** Victory Monument define its skyline, while the vibrant night market and riverside cafes offer a perfect introduction to the local pace of life. It is an ideal setting for travelers to acclimatize, offering a sophisticated yet tranquil atmosphere before heading into the rugged landscapes of rural Laos.

## 8 January

### Free day in Vientiane

Upon arrival in the capital, the day is dedicated to assembling and fine-tuning the bicycles to ensure all gear is ready for the journey. After a technical fitting and a short test ride along the Mekong promenade, there will be free time for last-minute supplies at the local markets or visiting the city's landmarks. The day concludes with a safety briefing and a welcome dinner to prepare for the upcoming stages.

## 9 January

### STAGE 1

#### Vientiane to Ban Namhi — 102 km | 530 m

Leaving the capital behind, this first stage follows the course of the Mekong River heading west toward the Thai border. The route is characterized by mostly flat terrain and smooth pavement, making it an ideal warm-up to find your rhythm while cycling through a landscape of traditional riverside villages and lush agricultural plains. As you approach Pak Chom, the scenery becomes more rolling and scenic, offering a first glimpse of the quiet, rural life that defines the heart of Laos.





10 January

## STAGE 2

Ban Namhi to Nam Lik River — 94,8 km | 530 m

This second stage continues to the north, offering a relatively gentle day of cycling with rolling terrain and moderate climbs. The route meanders through a tapestry of remote settlements and local farms, providing an authentic look at the daily rhythms of the riverside communities. With a total ascent that matches the previous day but over a shorter distance, it serves as a steady transition toward the more rugged interior, ending in the quiet atmosphere of Nam Lik River.



## 11 January

### Excursion to Nam Lik Lake

This excursion offers a refreshing change of pace as you head toward the serene Nam Lik Lake. The day features a **boat trip across the reservoir**, allowing you to navigate its tranquil waters and take in the stunning karst formations and lush tropical greenery from a unique perspective. It is a perfect recovery day to enjoy the peaceful scenery, explore the hidden corners of the lake, and immerse yourself in the natural beauty of the region before returning to the saddle.



# 12 January

## STAGE 3

Nam Lik River to Ban Napho — 51 km | 1130 m

The third stage marks a significant change in pace as the terrain becomes considerably more demanding and mountainous. Despite the shorter distance, the route features a series of challenging climbs through the rugged highlands, rewarding your efforts with breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding ridges. This is a pure mountain stage that leaves the river plains behind, taking you deep into the heart of the countryside before finishing in the remote outpost of Ban Napho.



# 13 January

## STAGE 4

Ban Napho to Kasi— 71,6 km | 900 m

The fourth stage takes you through the heart of the Lao highlands, balancing demanding climbs with rewarding vistas. The route winds through vibrant green valleys and remote hill-tribe villages, offering an intimate look at rural life far off the beaten path. With a steady profile of rolling hills and significant elevation gain, the journey culminates in Kasi, a town dramatically framed by towering limestone karsts and jagged mountain peaks.

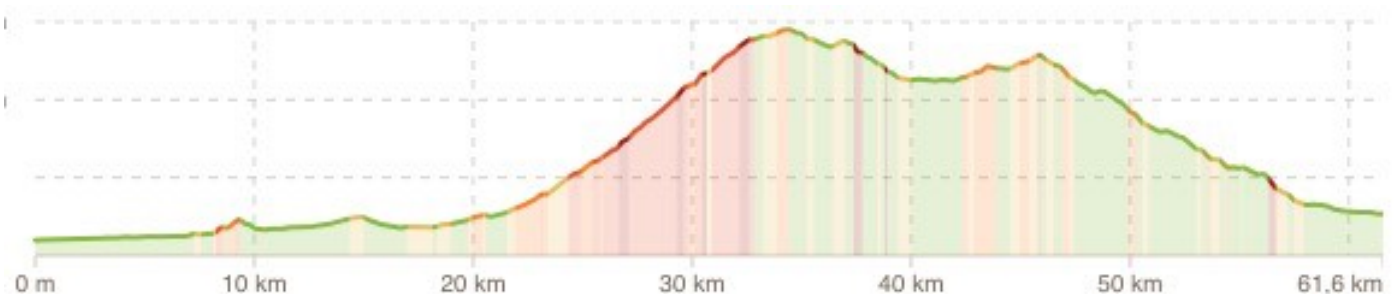


# 14 January

## STAGE 5

Kasi to Namuang-Gnai — 61,5 km | 1990 m

This fifth stage is the true Queen Stage of the journey, characterized by a formidable and relentless climb into the high mountains. With nearly 2,000 meters of vertical gain packed into just over 60 kilometers, the route demands endurance but rewards riders with some of the most spectacular alpine scenery in Southeast Asia. As you conquer the steep gradients and winding hairpins, you will be treated to breathtaking views of serrated limestone peaks and deep valleys before reaching the remote mountain settlement of Namuang-Gnai.



# 15 January

## STAGE 6

Namuang-Gnai to Luang Prabang — 95 km | 980 m

The final stretch into the cultural heart of Laos offers a spectacular descent from the highlands toward the valleys of the Mekong and Nam Khan rivers. While the day features significant rolling climbs through lush jungle and traditional Hmong villages, the overall profile trends downward, allowing for a fluid and scenic ride. The stage concludes as you enter the UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang, where the stunning mix of golden temples and French colonial charm marks a triumphant finish to the expedition.





# 16 January

## Day off at Luang Prabang

This is a dedicated rest day to recover and enjoy the spiritual heart of Laos through two organized off-bike excursions. We will visit the **National Museum**, housed in the former Royal Palace, to delve into the country's rich history and regal heritage. In the afternoon, we will head to the famous **Kuang Si Falls** to witness its spectacular multi-tiered turquoise pools and lush jungle surroundings.

It is the perfect balance of physical recovery and cultural immersion, allowing you to experience the best of Luang Prabang without the saddle.

# 17 January

## Day of travel by train from Luang Prabang to Vang Vieng

Today we trade the saddle for the rails on a high-speed journey through the heart of the Lao mountains. While the support vehicles transport the bicycles by road, we will board a nice train for a stunning scenic transfer to Vang Vieng. This journey offers a unique perspective of the landscape, passing through dramatic tunnels and over high viaducts that reveal hidden valleys and jagged limestone peaks.

Upon arrival, you will have the afternoon to relax and take in the iconic karst scenery of Vang Vieng, resting your legs for the final stages of the adventure.





# 18 January

## STAGE 7

Vang Vieng to Thinkeo — 111 km | 800 m

This seventh stage takes us through one of the most iconic landscapes in Southeast Asia, starting amidst the dramatic limestone karsts of Vang Vieng. The route features a long but manageable distance with a relatively gentle elevation profile, following a mix of rolling hills and scenic valley floors.

As we head toward Thinkeo, the jagged peaks give way to vast agricultural plains and rural villages, offering a smooth and rhythmic ride that showcases the transition from the rugged highlands back toward the serene lowlands.



19 January

## STAGE 8

Thinkeo to Thangon — 73,6 km | 420 m

The eighth stage offers a smoother, more relaxed pace as we continue our journey south. The terrain becomes significantly flatter, with gentle undulations that allow for a steady and comfortable cadence through the lush Lao countryside. This leg of the route passes through quiet rural landscapes and traditional farming communities, providing a serene backdrop as we approach the Nam Ngum River. The day ends in Thangon, a peaceful riverside town known for its floating restaurants and tranquil atmosphere, perfect for a relaxing evening before the final stretch.





## 20 January

### STAGE 9

Thangon to Viantine — 25 km | 90 m

The final leg is a short celebratory ride that takes us back to where it all began. This flat, easy stretch allows the group to cycle together at a leisurely pace, passing from the tranquil banks of the Thangon River to the familiar streets of the capital.

We won't set off for Vientiane until we've visited the incredible Lao Art Museum, a must-see in the country, a treasure trove of Buddhist sculptures of the highest quality. It's the perfect end to the journey: a stress-free ride that leaves plenty of time for a final group lunch and a celebratory toast to the success of this extraordinary expedition into the heart of Laos.

Dinner on the Mekong, where it all began, will be a sweet farewell to this wonderful corner of Indochina.





## 21 January

### Free day in Vientiane

The final day in the capital is yours to enjoy at a relaxed pace. It is the perfect opportunity for some last-minute gift shopping, whether exploring the local silk boutiques or the vibrant stalls of the night market for traditional handicrafts. After a morning of leisure, we will gather for a final farewell to share memories of the road and celebrate the completion of our journey across Laos.

The day concludes with a transfer to the airport or your next destination, marking the end of an unforgettable expedition.

## 22 January

### Departure day

The PA Cycling team will take care of all airport transfers, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free conclusion to your journey.

With that, our services come to an end, leaving you with unforgettable memories and the satisfaction of an incredible adventure completed.

**Services end here.**





# 3. ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE INFORMATION

## Dates for your flights

- Arrival at Vientiane Airport (VTE) on 6 of January 2027\*.
- Departure from Vientiane Airport (VTE) on the morning of 22 of January 2027\*.

\*Departure and arrival times to be verified based on flights.

# 4. PRICE

Cost of the trip and what is included and what is not included

The individual cost of participation is **€ 3150**

Minimum number of participants: **5** people

Maximum number of participants: **10** people

## **The price includes**

- Guides from Esco a fare un giro and PA Cycling.
- Excursion to Nam Lik Lake
- Transfer from Luang Prabang to Vang Vieng
- Transfer by boat at stage 7
- Museum entry
- All accommodation during the adventure.
- Luggage transfer between stages.
- Airport transfers.
- Trip souvenir gadgets.
- Travel insurance coverage.
- **Support vehicle**

## **The price does not include**

- Flight ticket and baggage
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks
- Excursions, extra activities





# 5. BOOK & PAY

## How to book your place and pay for the trip

1. Secure your place with a deposit of €1000
2. Pay the total amount of the tour using your credit card
  - OR Pay the total amount of the tour via bank transfer
  - OR Split the payment: First, a deposit of €1,000 is required to secure your place; the remaining balance will then be split into two payments, the first due 30 days after booking and the second 30 days before the start of the trip. (see T&Cs below regarding refunds).

### METHODS OF PAYMENT

#### WeTravel

We recommend using our WeTravel payment platform via our website. It accepts multiple currencies, cards, and payment systems.

#### Bank Transfer

You can make SEPA bank transfers through the WeTravel platform, but if you prefer, you can send us the cost of the trip by:

Beneficiary: "Caixa Bank"

- Account n°: 2100-3897-89-0200079853

- IBAN: ES88-2100-3897-89-0200079853

- BIC/ SWIFT: CAIXESBBXXX

Payable to: PROJECTING ADVENTURE CYCLISM

- Paseo de la Castellana 121, Esc. Dcha 4ªA - Madrid - Spain

**We will not consider a person as booked onto the trip until we have received at least the down payment.**

## **Refund and cancellation**

Where, for whatever reason, one person is obliged to withdraw, the person must give written notice to Project Adventure Cycling.

Refund will be calculated with this penalty:

- In case of cancellation, an administrative fee of €300 will be charged.
- 30% of the total trip cost for cancellations up to 45 days before departure
- 40% of the total trip cost up to 30 days before departure
- 50% of the total trip cost up to 21 days before departure
- 75% of the total trip cost up to 14 days before departure
- After this date no refund will be given.

There will be no refunds for those who do not show up at the start of the trip or withdraw during the course of the tour.

There will be no refunds for those who are unable to start or complete the tour due to a lack or inaccuracy of personal travel documents (i.e Visa or Passport).

The traveller understands that some destinations pose more of a risk than other destinations due to weather conditions, socio-political situations and the geography of the region. The traveller acknowledges that factors such as, but not limited to, weather conditions, landslides, floods, flight cancellations or delays, strikes, labour issues, power failures, restrictive governmental laws or regulations, riots, insurrection, war or other (hereinafter called "Force Majeure Event") are not the fault of Project Adventure Cycling and may hinder, delay or even prevent the Traveller's ability to make or complete the trip.

The traveller acknowledges that the Project Adventure Cycling shall not be liable to the traveller for any delay or cancellation of the trip due to a Force Majeure Event. The traveler is neither entitled to a refund nor any other payment for damages from the Project Adventure Cycling in the event that the trip is cancelled or delayed due to a Force Majeure Event.



# 6. INFORMATION

## Useful travel information and facts

### **Footnote about the Stages:**

There will be a rough time schedule for every day but it, and the itinerary detailed above, may be subject to change. Contingencies (mechanical problems, bad weather, road closures, incidents etc.) happen and mean that the PA Cycling Guide Team may have to make decisions that change the itinerary, overnight plans cut or extend stages, or incur extra costs.

Participants should definitely expect long days in the saddle; there will not always the opportunity to to wash ourselves or take a hearty breakfast in the morning, but this is all part of the magic of the adventure: we will all adapt to the situations that we encounter kilometre after kilometre.

**Important Note!** The guides will use their experience and knowledge to try to ensure that all participants get the maximum of enjoyment from the expedition. They and the organization reserve the right to change the route for the safety and security of participants.

**Medical Assistance:** Throughout the trip we will have a basic first-aid bag but we ask that all participants bring their own stock of personal medicines and first-aid kits. All allergies and pre-existing conditions are to be communicated to both PA-Cycling ahead of the trip and to the Guide Team prior to the start of the trip. Please ensure you check with your doctor for medical advice around which vaccinations are required.

**Food:** Everyone will be in charge of their own food and water requirements which includes most meals and snacks as well water during the day. The guide team will keep participants informed as to where and when to expect food / water shops. There are however some sections of the expedition where we will have to be completely self-sufficient for in some cases more than a day. briefings.

**Water:** We have a support vehicle that will carry plenty of water and keep us hydrated throughout the stages. We recommend bringing a water system (water bottles or a CamelBak) with a capacity of at least 1 litre.

**Weather:** The weather will be dry and sunny during the day. The nights will be pretty cold with a large temperature range. It is mandatory to have good clothes and equipment for both hot temperatures during day and cold nights.

**Travel Documents:** Each participant must have a passport valid for six months from the date of departure. Project Adventure Cycling will not be held responsible for invalid passports, visas or other necessary documents as required by the Chilean Government.

**Mechanical Assistance:** Each of the participants will be asked to be as independent as possible when it comes to bike mechanics and the servicing and repairing of their bikes. Beyond equipment to deal with simple and common repairs (punctures, broken chain) and maintenance (chain cleaning kit, lube, a change of brake pads, brake and gear cables), we kindly ask that you come equipped with the following spare parts – spare derailleur hanger and a number of spokes– as any damage to these may mean you will have to abandon the trip which may also impact other participants.

**Before the trip** please (1) ensure that your bike has been fully serviced and that everything is not only in working order but ready for 1000km of riding; and (2) that you have tried and tested your bike-packing set up before packing up your bike.

Please note that none of the above is meant to interpreted as only experienced bike mechanics or bike-packers are welcome. Quite the contrary. However, we will each need to take responsibility for our kit and our safety. Due to the remote nature of our travels and the rarity of well provisioned bike shops, any breakages or bike related incidents will not be easily or quickly resolved.



**Which Kind of Bike:** The route is mainly on tarmac and unpaved road. There will be rocky and sandy sections. We suggest 29" bikes with fast rolling tyres or gravel bikes with at least 45cc wide tyres.

Ahead of the trip, the guide team will share their choice of bike and set-up so participants get an idea of the equipment you will also need and how you could pack it to your bike (warning: there are many different ways!). We will be at your disposal for all advice / answers you may need regarding bike and equipment.

During the last 22 years we have guided many people along this route. We have seen and helped participants with a variety of bikes and set-ups, from the classic panniers to the most recent bike-packing bags.

The key thing to all of this though is the following: try to bring just what is really necessary, especially in terms of clothing (we will all smell).

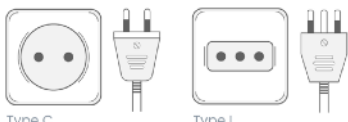
**Money:** The local currency is the Chilean Peso (CLP)

One Euro is changed approximately: 1 € = 738 CLP

In any "money exchange" shop, Euros and USD are accepted. In the airport you will find currency converting stalls and there will be more opportunity to change money in the city centres via banks or money exchange stalls. It will be necessary to carry CLP during the tour as credit cards are not always accepted.

**Visa:** Check Visa requirements before booking ticket airplanes.

**Electric Plug:** The most used are C Type (First Picture), and in some case in Chile L Type (Second Picture).



# 7. BASIC RULES

## Equipment and cooperation standards

We believe that some basic rules will help us achieve optimal team cooperation and spirit.

### a. Equipment needed

Each participant will be responsible for loading his bike with all deemed as necessary to the trip including but not limited to the following:

- Bicycle Bags
- Tent, sleeping bag (comfort -5°C) and sleeping mat.
- Camping Stove, pot, cutlery and fire-lighter
- Water bottle or camel-bag (Total capacity at least 1 litre)
- GPS
- Cycle wear (shortsleeved and long)
- Leggings / leg-warmers and arm-warmers
- Rain jacket and waterproof trousers
- Light wool cap
- Sunglasses
- Windproof Jacket
- Socks and shoes suitable for riding
- Sandals / flipflops for off the bike (e.g. shower / dinner)
- Rope & clothespins
- Moisturizers and appropriate sun protection
- Helmet (\*mandatory\*)
- Water bottle or camelbag (Total capacity at least 1 liter)
- Kit for puncture repair + 2 spare tubes + pump
- Spare sets of brake pads
- Chain tool and Chain Lube and Allen keys/Multitool
- A fleece or wool sweater
- Specific spare parts (spare derailleur hanger, spokes, brake and gear cables)

### b. Environment

Each participant is responsible for helping protect the local environment. What we take in we take out so you will be expected to take responsibility for all waste you create until we meet up with a support vehicle or find a bin / recycling bin. To protect the fauna and the flora, please help us stay on the main trails as much as possible.



### c. Safety

Without trying to limit your riding enjoyment, we ask that all participants ride responsibly, within their abilities and comfort zones, in order to reduce the likelihood of injuries to themselves and to others. Ride conservatively on technical sections and reduce speed when appropriate. Be aware of pedestrians and other vehicles. Helmets are mandatory at all times. Alert the guides if you notice any problems with your bicycle. It is compulsory to have a rear light.

### d. Right of the organization

Given the characteristics of the environment and of the journey, the organization reserves the right to change the route for the safety and security of participants.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** PLEASE, travel with your bike packed either in a disposable cardboard box (that will have to be dismantled for transport) or in a bike case that is foldable. They will be sent from Antofagasta to our final destination in San Pedro de Atacama. The space of the transport is limited. Thanks for your cooperation.

# 8. ORGANIZATION & CONTACT

## PA-CYCLING.CC

The technical and logistic organization of this tour is the responsibility of: **Project Adventure Cycling**. The Organization has solid experience in creation of events such as:

- ATLAS CROSS MOUNTAIN & MAROCCO GRAN TOUR (Morocco)
- ATACAMA BIKEPACKING (Chile)
- PATAGONIA BIKEPACKING (Argentina & Chile)
- PATAGONIA DELUXE (Argentina & Chile)
- AROUND ANNAPURNA BIKE (Nepal)
- MONGOLIA BIKE CHALLENGE & BIKING MONGOLIA (Mongolia)
- TRANS CANADA BIKE (British Columbia-Canada)
- BIKING CHINA (Sichuan Province & Tibetan Plateau)
- ARGENTINA NORTE (Argentina)
- ROME to FLORENCE & SICILY OFF ROAD (Italy)
- ETHIOPIA WILD BIKE (Etiopia)
- TENACE SARDEGNA EXPERIENCE (Italy)
- LA VIA DEI CAROVANIERI (Italy)
- ARABIA FELIX (Oman)
- EROICA HISPANIA (La Rioja)
- JAPAN Bikepacking (Japan)
- SIERRA DE GUADARRAMA (Spain)
- MONTAÑAS VACIAS (Spain)
- AL-ANDALUS (Spain)
- LA VIA DEI CAROVANIERI (Italy)
- ARGENTINA NORTE (Argentina)
- MONTAÑAS VACÍAS (Spain)
- ASIAGO (Italy)
- COSTA RICA (Costa Rica)
- CAMINO DE SANTIAGO (Spain)

## CONTACT



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