



THE CLUB DES CENT COLS®

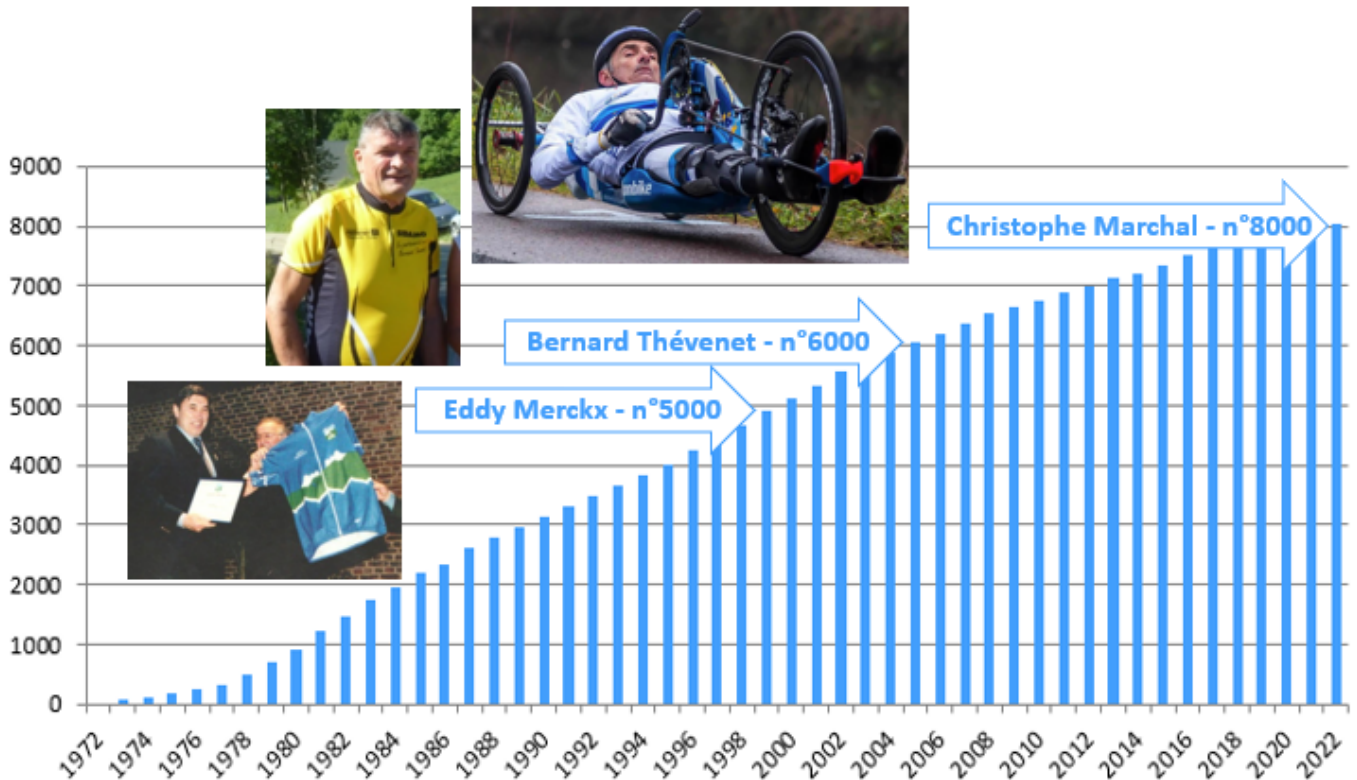
Press Pack

The concept

- **To share a passion for cycling in the mountains:** on road bike, gravel bike, mountain bike, tandem, tricycle, handbike.
- To bring together those who do it (men, women, the disabled, the blind...) by offering them **a simple challenge: count and collect the cols** that they climb.
- **The Club rule** for members: **to climb 100 passes**, of which 5 are more than 2000 m, using muscle-power alone.
- **The terrain:** the mountain ranges of the whole world.
- **The duration:** for some it stops with the “100 col diploma”, for others it will last a lifetime.

Participation

- **Established in 1972**

























































The evolution of total membership per year from 1972 to today

- More than **2000 active members** in 2022 (= having published each year their lists of cols climbed and paid their annual subscription) including **20 % of women**
- Members from **15 countries** in Europe and the USA, Canada, Australia....

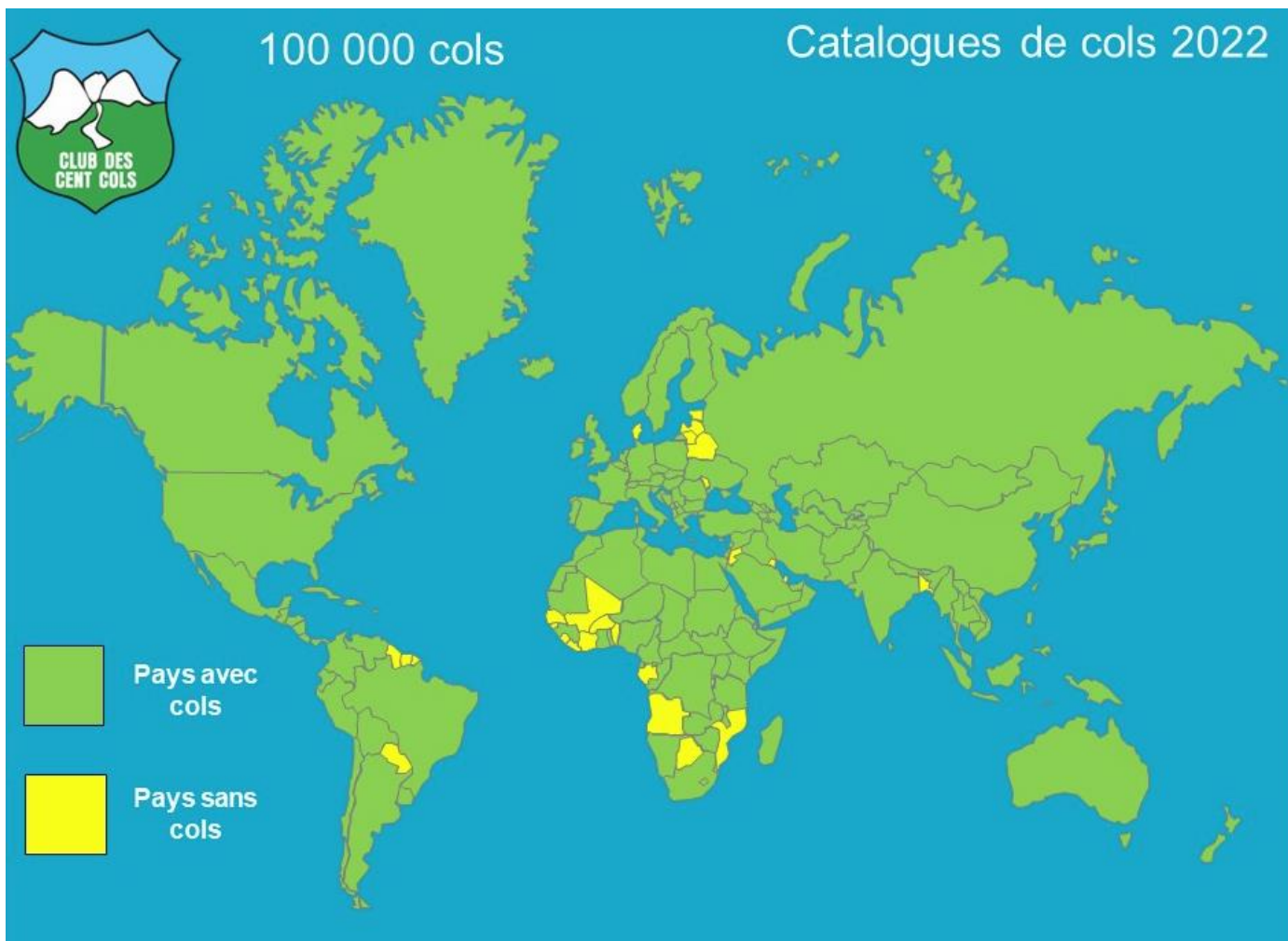
In practice

- **Members' passes** are declared "**on honour**": no documentation of climbs need be provided.
However, all passes must be recognised by the Club, being included in one of **129 catalogues** that it has published covering **166 countries** and territories.
- **Almost 100,000 cols** can be downloaded, in Excel, ODS and pdf formats, free of charge for members, and in pdf only by non-members.

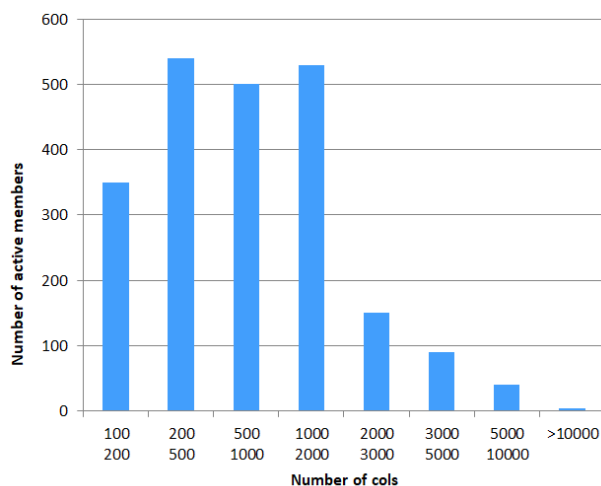
Europe	Africa	America	Asia	Oceania	Antartic
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					
					

in red, catalogues that have been updated this year.

- The world coverage of passes was completed by the club and its volunteers by the end of 2022. 93 countries and territories have no passes, some so small (Monaco...) that they are not visible on this map:



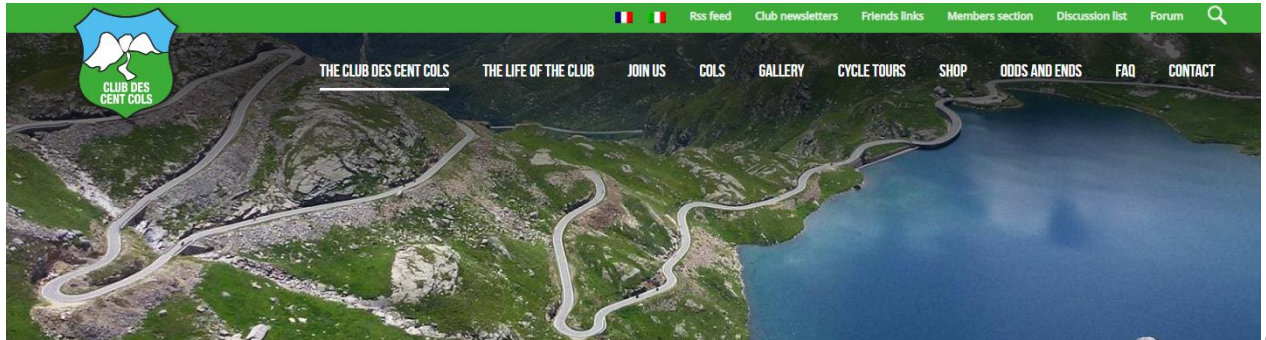
- Each year, the Club publishes its “**Roll of Honour**”, a list of all its active members, with the total number of cols they have climbed.



Good club communication

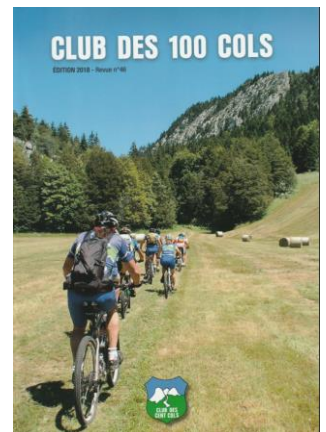
Modern communication methods are a godsend for the Club - to help it recruit, inspire, and listen to its more than 2000 active members. The Club has developed many such methods:

- An internet site : <https://www.centcols.org/en/>



The life of the Club revolves around its website, where all can be found. The site is also available in French and Italian.

- An **annual Revue** of almost 150 pages, written in French (though sometimes also including some English or Italian). It is sent out to all active members, and includes Members' tales and anecdotes, the annual "Roll of Honour", numerous suggestions for future "séjours", and all the year's news.



- A **Club shop**, where members can obtain a line of cycle clothing in Club colours, bringing members together around shared values and a common image. And, as well, catalogues of cols, Topo guides and accessories.



- A [discussion forum](#)



- An [e-mail discussion list](#), open to all members to send messages to each other (requests for advice or information, invitations etc)
- A [facebook](#) group, with more than **4.000 members**, not necessarily all members of the Club. Some of the Group may for example be those seeking to join the Club and building up their collection of 100 cols, or others simply interested in the discussions about cols and the general ambience of the Club.



Club des Cent Cols >

🔒 Groupe (Privé) · 4K members



- The Club des Cent Cols is also a club "verified" by **STRAVA**. The members of this network can group together (or not), and even if they do not all join the Club des Cent Cols, they are all very active. They record their journeys directly from their smartphones, they can publish them directly on the site with maps and relevant photos, and even share everything on Facebook. The group moderator liaises permanently with the Club; he relays key information, Club news, upcoming meetings, the publication of the annual review, etc.

Good club tools

Every year, the Club registers more than **100,000 cols** climbed by its members. An efficient organization is one of the keys to its success.

- The [Club's catalogues of cols](#) are available in **six languages** (French, German, English, Spanish, Italian, Dutch).

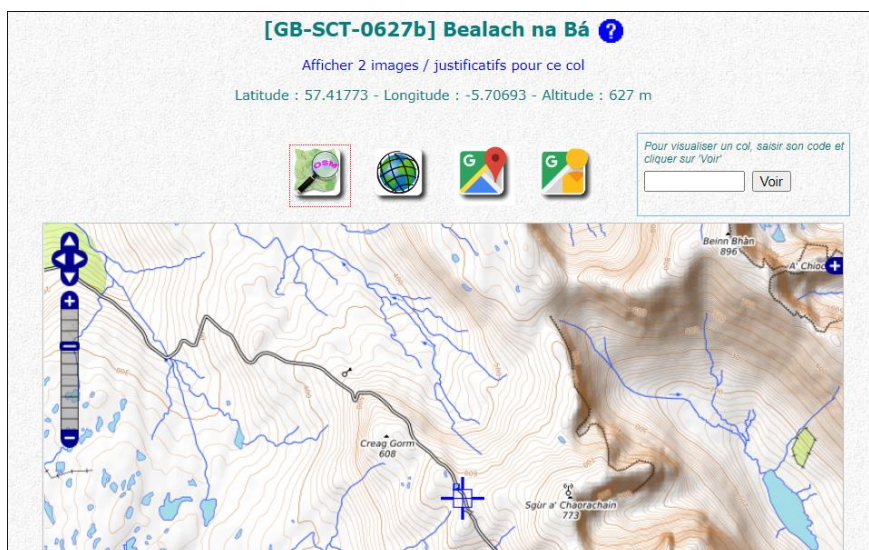
Below, for example, an extract of 6 columns (from 36 in total) from the catalogue of the **Cols of the British Isles**:

Code	Complete name	Documents	Type	OS Landranger 1:50000	OS Landranger Coord
GB-SCT-0625b	Garbh Bhealach	GB-SCT-0625b	20	50,56	NN352185
GB-SCT-0625c	Bealach an Dùin	GB-SCT-0625c	20	56	NS295972
GB-SCT-0625d	Bealach na Eas Bàn	GB-SCT-0625d	20	25,33	NG966243
GB-SCT-0627	Bealach an Easain	GB-SCT-0627	20	34	NN190941
GB-SCT-0627a	Bealach an Fhir-bhogha	GB-SCT-0627a	15	62,69	NR963415
GB-SCT-0627b	Bealach na Bá	GB-SCT-0627b	0	24	NG775424
GB-SCT-0627c	Nick of Carclach	GB-SCT-0627c	20	77	NX409898
GB-SCT-0627d	Bealach Clach nam Meirleach	GB-SCT-0627d	20	41	NN117512
GB-SCT-0631	Bealach a' Mhaim	GB-SCT-0631	20	51	NN459440
GB-SCT-0632	Làirig Dhochar	GB-SCT-0632	15	50	NN187459
GB-SCT-0635	Bealach a' Ghlas-choire	GB-SCT-0635	20	32	NG475242

The **“Type”** column allows one to differentiate the cols between: 0=road, 10=track, 15=path etc

The **cols** are **geolocated** according to 4 different systems, mainly the WGS84 decimal system. In this example, the Ordnance Survey system is used.

The **“Documents”** column provides an internet link to maps and other documents (photos, guides etc) linked to cols. For example, the [Bealach na Ba](#):



The icons allow you to choose the map on which to show the col from the following

range: OSM (Open Street Map), ESRI - a map of reference used worldwide, Google Maps, and, for road cols, the view on the ground from Google Streetview.

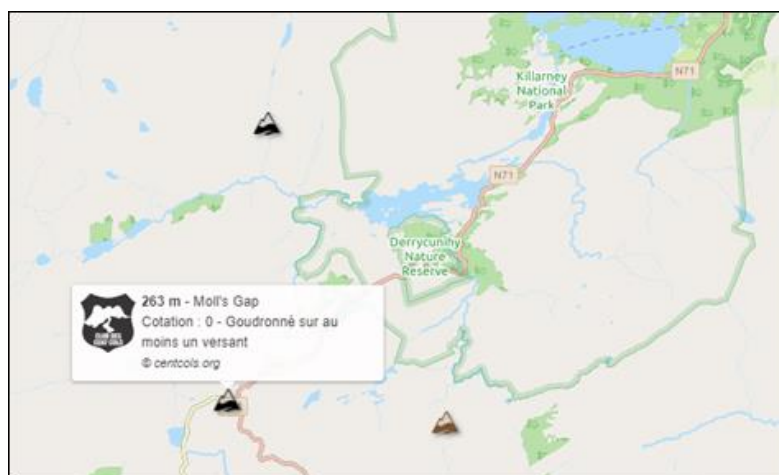


The link “Afficher 2 images/justificatifs” gives access to photos of the col (or other documents) as posted by the members.



OPENRUNNER

, is a French site that lets you plan your routes and obtain cartographic and topographic outlines for them, across the whole world. The Club catalogues have been integrated into the Openrunner maps of the countries concerned, as for example here for **Moll’s Gap** in Ireland:



This lets members download and visualise their lists of cols climbed as well as to optimise their objectives and their journeys.

- **A Waypoints generator : [ccWay](#)**

This allows members to select the passes in the region they choose (country, administrative region, department, area on a map) and by category (road and off-road, already climbed or not, etc):

The screenshot shows the ccWay waypoints generator interface. It is organized into three main sections:

- Sélections géographiques**: Contains radio buttons for "Sélection cartographique sur Google Maps" (selected), "Subdivision", "OS Landranger 1 :50000", "Michelin 1:400.000", and "Pays entier".
- Filtres**: Includes a "Choix d'un pays" dropdown menu set to "Grande-Bretagne" with a UK flag icon. Below it are radio buttons for "Europe" (selected), "Afrique", "Amérique", "Asie", and "Océanie". A note states "Ces filtres restreignent les sélections géographiques". There are input fields for "Altitudes : minimum" (0) and "maximum" (9999) m. Under "Catégories de cols : (Choix multiples)", there are checkboxes for "1 Routier" (checked), "2 Cyclable", "3 Poussage aisé", "4 Poussage difficile", "5 Portage", "7 Route non-cotée", and "8 Non-coté". Links for "Tout cocher" and "Tout décocher" are also present.
- Format de sortie**: Includes radio buttons for "GPX (universel)" (selected) and "KML (Google Earth)". A note says "Choisir le format voulu selon votre logiciel".

The resulting file allows one to integrate the cols with GPS applications, in Google Maps or Google Earth

- **The ["Topo" Guides](#)**

These guides describe **280 off-road circuits** in the principal **European mountain ranges**, with all the necessary details – distance, dénivelée, orientation, possible accommodation, predictable travel times etc.

All these **geographical tools** allow you to optimise your choice of destinations and consider all possible routes. The most experienced members may choose **high off-road mountain routes of considerable difficulty**, while others may instead settle for **quiet routes** on small deserted roads, such as the "Camino naturales" in Spain.

A club rich in ideas and activities

- Every year, the Club organises **3 annual "séjours"** in a mountain massif, bringing together about 250 members.

Duration: 3 to 7 days

Road and off-road rides for each day, open to all and with enough variations to suit all capabilities.

Last countries visited: France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany

- It publishes 24 "**randonnées permanentes**" (long distance trails, each with at least 100 cols). There are **Road** and **MTB** randonnées,
 - in **numerous mountain areas**, Black Forest, Vosges, Jura, Massif Central, Alps, Pyrénées, Corsica, Cordillère Cantabrique, Monts Ibériques and Sierra Nevada
 - and in **several countries**: Spain, Italy, Switzerland, France, Germany, Andorra, Austria.

These randonnées are organised in 3 concepts:

- the **linear randonnée**, from point A to point B, eg. l'Ultrèia from Barcelona to St Jacques de Compostelle,
- the **linear randonnée** returning to the starting point, eg. Cent Cols in the north of Corsica
- the **circular randonnée**, mini-circuits of 1 to 4 days that make for easier logistics (hotels, camp sites, companions etc...), eg Les Boucles de Provence,
- and from the point of view of **difficulty** : the easiest do less than 1000 km and 20000 m of climbing, the most difficult, Arc-en-Cimes, from Monaco to Salzburg, is 5000 km and 115000 m of climbing

ARC EN CIMES – 100 HIGHEST ROAD COLS IN THE ALPS



These **permanent trails** can be undertaken as you please, over one or more seasons, starting at any point on the itinerary. A gpx trace and a precise roadbook are provided for all participants.

Up to now, more than 1500 members have signed up for these randonnées permanentes, and more than 500 have completed them.

- The ["Brevets" for road cols](#)

They are selected by **country** (the brevet national covers all a country's cols) or by **administrative districts**, eg. French départements, Swiss cantons, provinces in Spain or Italy, Länder in Austria or Germany). They favour road cols, less numerous than off-road cols, and are **great objectives** and **inspirations** for club members : to climb **all the road cols** that a country or administrative district contains.

The Club offers its members more than **1100 such brevets** across the world, incorporating **20,000 cols**.

Members sign up themselves on the club website (more than 3000 have already done so), they organise on line the progress of their rides in their chosen administrative districts, the cols climbed as well as those to be climbed and when the ride is finished, an official diploma is issued to them.

There are **5 brevets** available in the **British Isles and Ireland**.

Despite the recent creation of these rides, more than 30 members have already completed a national brevet (all the road cols of a country).

- The [Challenges](#)

These challenges have been proposed by individual Club members and recognised officially by the Club. **They embody the Club's ethos to discover** new regions, new ways of cycling, new cols:

- Challenge "**The Hundred Passes of Jean Perdoux**" (the first 100 cols climbed by the Club's founder)
- Challenge of the road passes on "**The Alpine Watershed**"
- Challenge of the "**Septentrion**". 110 cols in regions where not many exist, to the north of a line from Hendaye (in France) to Devin Stralsund (in Germany)
- Challenges of the "**100, 150 and 200 most beautiful road passes of the Alps**"

A club with a European dimension

An Italian president, active volunteers in the organisation and life of the club who are English, German, Belgian, Dutch, Italian and Swiss, and a more and more international membership, have inspired the club to form active partnerships with several European federations. These partnerships are in course of being updated.



L'Union Européenne de cyclotourisme organises every year, in a different country, a **European week** of cycletouring.

In 2023, it will take place in [Plasencia](#) in Spain.

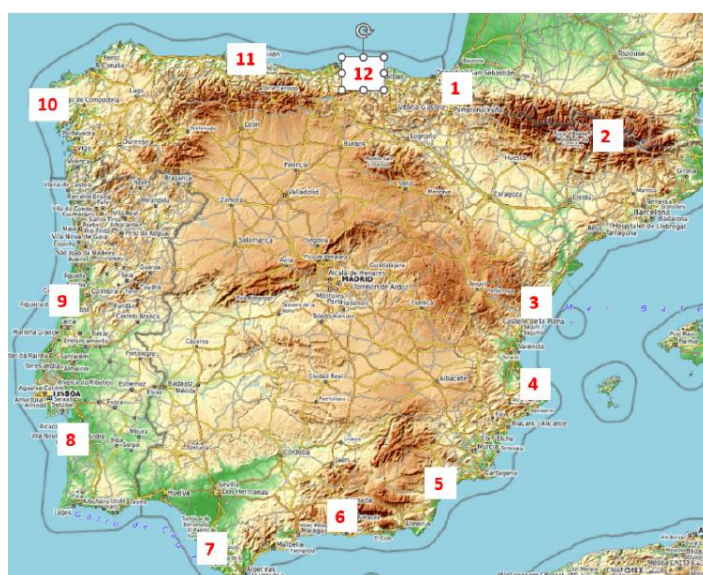
It also organises [Traits d'Union Européens](#) consisting of linking Paris by bike to other capitals in the European Union or of Europe and certain principalities and to link their capitals between themselves.

For these 2 projects the Club des Cent Cols has contributed its expertise in the creation and direction of mountain routes.



Spain is the country with the most cols in the world (18673), far ahead of France with 11190 cols. And yet, Spain of all the countries bordering France has the fewest members of our club. For that reason the Club des Cent Cols decided in 2022 to approach the Federacion de Cicloturismo.

As part of this collaboration, the club and the FECT are revisiting the 12 « [radiales ibéricas](#) », road itineraries starting from the Madrid region and joining the extremities of the Iberian polygon to reinforce the dimension « mountains and the collection of cols ».



Good Club Organisation

- Under the **association law of 1901**, the CCC is formally affiliated to the **FFCT (French Federation of Cyclotourism)**
- A “**Conseil d’Administration**” of 9 members
- **Territorial and national delegates**, to manage the Club at local level, and scrutinise and approve members’ col lists:
 - 9 DTs in France,
 - one DT per country in Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, the British Isles,
 - one DT for the rest of the world
- **Regional or national facilitators** who organise local Club gatherings each year
- **Working groups** to create, develop and maintain the database for all the Club catalogues
- A **computer technology group** of 4 specialists who run and maintain the Club’s computer platforms, and above all the col database
- In all, among some 2000 current Club members, more than **60 people**, all volunteers, contributing actively to its daily work.
- An annual **budget of 250k€**

Contacts

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*The Club des Cent Cols, a shared passion
for cycling and the mountains*

Updated February 2023

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