

Simon & Clare Hardy

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Dear Mandy, Mike and Mike,

We would just like to thank all three of you, plus the support crew of Dave and Lloyd, for giving us what has been the best holiday we've ever had!

Before the onslaught of kids, we were both sun-worshippers. You know the type; bottle of Factor 15, a few books and an uncrowded beach with good bars and good food nearby. A lot of swimming and a few walks into the hills and we were happy. You get the idea.

Post childbirth, tents became familiar to our vocabulary, but always UK-based. And invariably the odd British downpour... Still, we'd amassed a reasonable amount of stuff, were quite confident and pretty content when the weather was good.

So, we decided that some warm, foreign sun was needed again, but feared the beach holiday to be too restrictive.

And we'd moved on, with a healthy Land Rover obsession taking a very firm grip on the entire family. So, why not combine the three? Land Rovers, beautiful Mediterranean-ish sun and tents?

We toured with you in early August 2008 and weren't sure what to expect, other than being hot, dusty and fairly excited.

Our decision to drive to the Alps with Alpine Rovers was predominantly because of your reputation. We had heard, first-hand, of the excellent support you give and had seen both Alpine Rovers promotional DVD as well as reports from other satisfied customers.

Our 110 turned 14 years old a few days before we set out for the drive across France, so we really felt that we needed some of the comfort you provide in terms of spares and knowledge, should the unexpected happen. Well, we hoped it wouldn't, but better be safe.

As it turned out, we needn't have worried. We followed your advice and ensured that our 110 was mechanically OK before we departed. It sounded simple, but the extra effort we went to really paid off and it massively contributed towards our enjoyment!

We really appreciated Mike's suggestions to routes and a campsite along the way, as it made the journey much easier. That got things off to a good start. Happy people, good weather and a nice French campsite with fresh croissants and baguettes in the morning.

But the real fun started when we arrived at Gran Bosco. We felt welcomed, relaxed and really felt like we were having a huge adventure.

What helped further was that the entire group was so friendly and supportive of each other. It really was like travelling with one big family.

We were also impressed with your knowledge of the routes we took. There was always something to see – 540 photographs on our camera prove it; not that everyone stays awake when looking at them...

Edward, our 5 year-old son, thoroughly enjoyed his time in the Alps! That was the crux of the whole holiday. Happy kids.
We were concerned he'd find the journey there tedious, or the time in the 110 too much, but he absolutely loved each and every second! It was a pleasant, but massively welcome surprise.

Now we're home, the memories of the sights, tracks, people and the fun will stay with us for ever. You've really given us the bug to do more of this and we'd love to return again. The locations were spellbinding, but we know that your knowledge of the place made the most of our time there. Had we decided to find our way around ourselves, I honestly don't think we'd have had anywhere near as much time in the mountains, or anywhere near as much fun.

Since returning, we've talked about plans for more trips and a few more minor improvements to our 110. Well, it's hard not to lavish attention on Land Rovers...

We'd also like to help Alpine Rovers in any way we can. If you would like to pass our details to any potential customers, please feel free to do so.

We'll send you a CD of our pictures too.

Kind regards,

Simon, Clare and Edward
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