

PRUEBAS INTENSE Recluse Elite | KTM Scarp 29 Prestige

#46

# mtb **pro** magazine

## CICLOALPINISMO

OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA | TRANS-NOMAD | KROSS 2017 | BICIS INCOMPRENDIDAS: GT STS



# CICLOALPINISMO EN LOS PIRINEOS

Ponemos rumbo a los Pirineos para participar en una expedición especial, una aventura excepcional tanto por su dimensión física como por la paisajística. Orbea nos ha llevado a un viaje de seis jornadas de cicloalpinismo por los más bellos senderos del Pirineo.

POR MURIEL BOUHET  
FOTOS SAM NEEDHAM

We head to the Pyrenees to participate in this special expedition, an exceptional adventure both for its physical dimension and landscapes. Orbea took us on a 6 days trip through the best single track of the Pyrenees.

Every morning when I switch on my computer, emails pop into my inbox following a daily ritual but that day one subject in capital letters attracted my attention: “**EXPEDITION TO THE PYRENEES WITH ORBEA**” My heart started to accelerate, where are they taking me?



Reading the message, I discover the complete program of this all-mountain / enduro adventure that seems to be more than original, 6 days riding bikes in a grandiose area, going through some of the greatest scenery in the Pyrenees and meeting some pretty special people along the way.

An expedition that makes us discover the most emblematic places of the Huesca region of Spain, from the wild and low sparsely populated Pre-pyrenees to the high mountains, from the Sierra de Guara to Benasque, not missing Ainsa and Ordesa and the Monte Perdido Natural Park.



It's not easy to put my feet back on the ground after a this week when and my head is full of plenty of unforgettable memories, like a gift . Everything there was over dimensioned larger than life and I realize taking a look to the stats of the trip, the altitudes, lengths, time on the bikes and the higher summits, the landscapes surrounding us and of course, the complexiy of the organization so everything goes as planned. Everything has to be measured to the minute, precisely calibrated so it was a perfect experience for all 7 of us. The kindness and hospitality of the locals was the icing on the cake for a perfect week.  
**Congratulations to the Basquemtb team.**

The originality of this adventure belongs to Doug, founder and alma mater of the basqueMTB holidays company, who masterfully coordinates the logistics of the local suppliers (transfers, shuttles, outdoors camps...) without whom the trip could not have been possible.



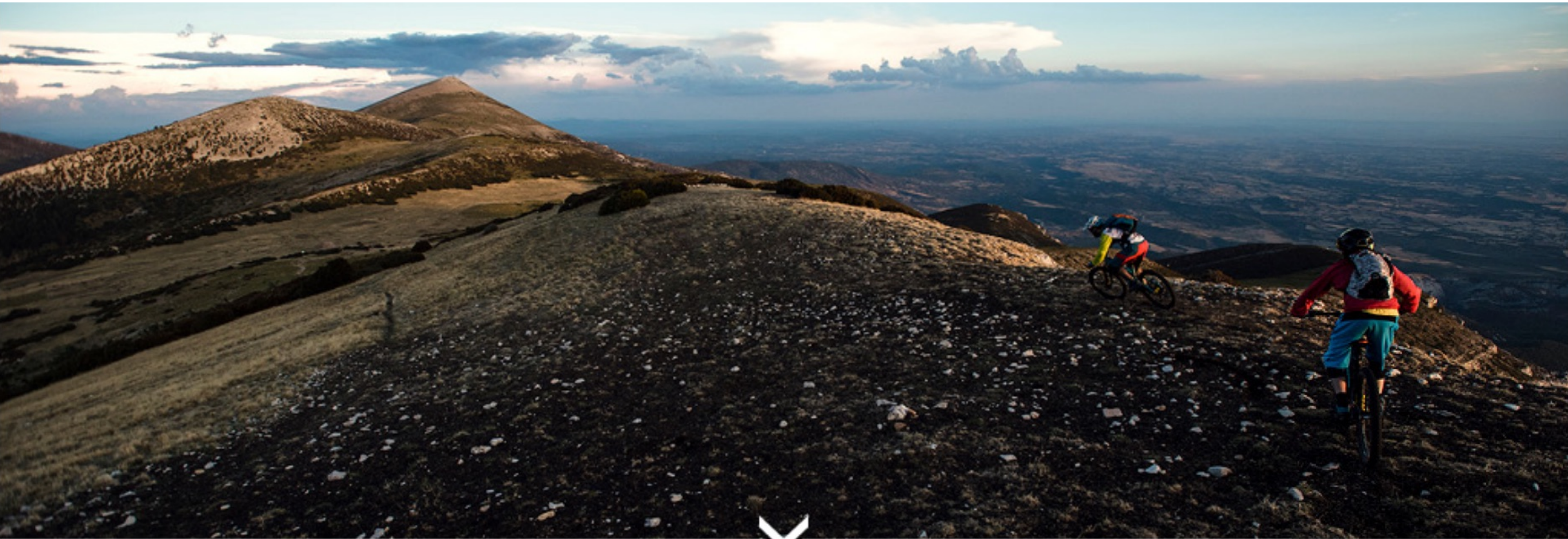
In terms of material, the **Orbea Occam AM with its 140mm of travel**, was the ideal bike, a perfect compromise between comfort on the descents and lightness on the climbs and the long carrying bits, with the help of a dropper post for the most technical and steep bits. I did not have any doubt about this bike's capacity to take us through the incredible trails that have made the Pyrenees their home, the home of the Orbea Occam.

The Pyrenees, a place where bike riding is still far from the resorts, and the masses where we can fully enjoy nature and the high mountains in its purest state. We discovered hidden treasures in those valleys: old churches, chapels and abandoned villages with their legends and ghosts... that's the great thing about bikes, they can take us to unexpected places, where our respect for the land we are riding in awakens every pedal stroke, making ourselves more aware of the pressures to which it is constantly subjected. An exciting personal experience.



If you want to enjoy this extreme territory without suffering too much you will need some physical preparation and to have good riding skills. It is definitely not a terrain for beginners and it is, of course, not the place for lonely adventures that could carry catastrophic consequences, I do not want to scare you but in the High mountains every precaution is needed. The local trail centers are a good starting point but the best idea is to book with local guides like ours that make easy the difficult.

That is how I was seduced by this unique trip which left a deep impression on me, indelible for life! Of course, I can only take a bow in front of our graphic reporters, the photographer Sam Needham and the film maker, Ian Baquerin that covered the whole trip carrying their stuff up and down all week. Now just enjoy the pics and descriptions and discover our great adventure.



 **OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA**



The Sierra de Guara traverse, starting in Nocito and ending in Enduro's capital Ainsa

(Zona Zero), was one of the longest days on top of our bikes. More than 8 hours pedaling for only 38kms. But don't be tricked by the statistics, here the terrain is really rugged and every inch has to be earned. It makes you remember how it is to mountain bike is through a rough territory. The route rails along hills and gorges with endless magnificent singletrack. Guara offers unforgettable and unrepeatable moments but there's not an easy inch, it's the price to pay to enjoy this mountain bike paradise.



OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



Every day our accommodation is a surprise. Today we sleep in this modest mountain refuge, with precarious but enough resources. It reminds us how comfortable we are at home with our heating when it's cold and light when it's dark. This trips went to back to basics some nights, no shower, no electricity and no phone signal, only bikes, friends and a good chat over the fire, what we really need to disconnect from our day to day concerns, a whole experience.



 OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



Among the journalists, Scottish Pete did not lose his sense of humor through the adventure. He was the group animator with his ability to make us laugh in any situation. Is it biodegradable? All the hygienic products used during the week like toilet paper and tooth paste were biodegradable so we don't contaminate environment.



○ OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



My quads still remember the steep slopes and the thousand vertical meters we had to climb to get to the Puerto de la Madera, that determines the natural border between France and Spain. the higher we were climbing, the absence of air was more obvious and the effort of carrying our bikes was pretty intense but each step was taking us closer to Paradise.



 OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



Here, the hike a bike is not an option but a necessity that allows you to enjoy incredible landscapes and the best natural descents of the Pyrenees. This way of biking is based on conquering the highest peaks with our bikes, enjoy those magic and unique moments and then go down, go down as you can, go down on your bike as long as your skills allow you.



OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



After an exhausting few hours climbing in the Pyrenees there is always an unforgettable descents, the effort is always worth it.



OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



It's still pretty hot in September so we decided to take a fresh break in San Urbez sanctuary. A nice place to refuel energies before the rough traverse through Guara. It goes along the GR-1, a strategic trail that joins the small villages of Nocito with Used an Bara



OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



To enjoy the trip to it's maximum, optimizing time, they only way is doing uplifts to gain altitude and link different areas. You will also need a proper bike, we used Orbeas Rallon and Occam AM, that we ideal bikes for this kind of trip, in particular I liked my Occam, 140mm of travel, really light an capable in the gnar where only my legs set the limits, it was awesome during the 6 days of the trip.

○ OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA

We practice a kind of biking where carrying is inevitable, if you are not used to, you'd better stay at home. It's worth the effort because what's coming next is amazing, endless single track.





OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



The path to happiness which every biker dreams of once in their lifetime. A dream singletrack we discovered during our trip, one of the unforgettable moments I would never change to any other moment lying on my couch. Here you can find real life, this “flow” state of mind when you lose the notion of time, a feeling on the bike that got me fulfilled and I will never forget.

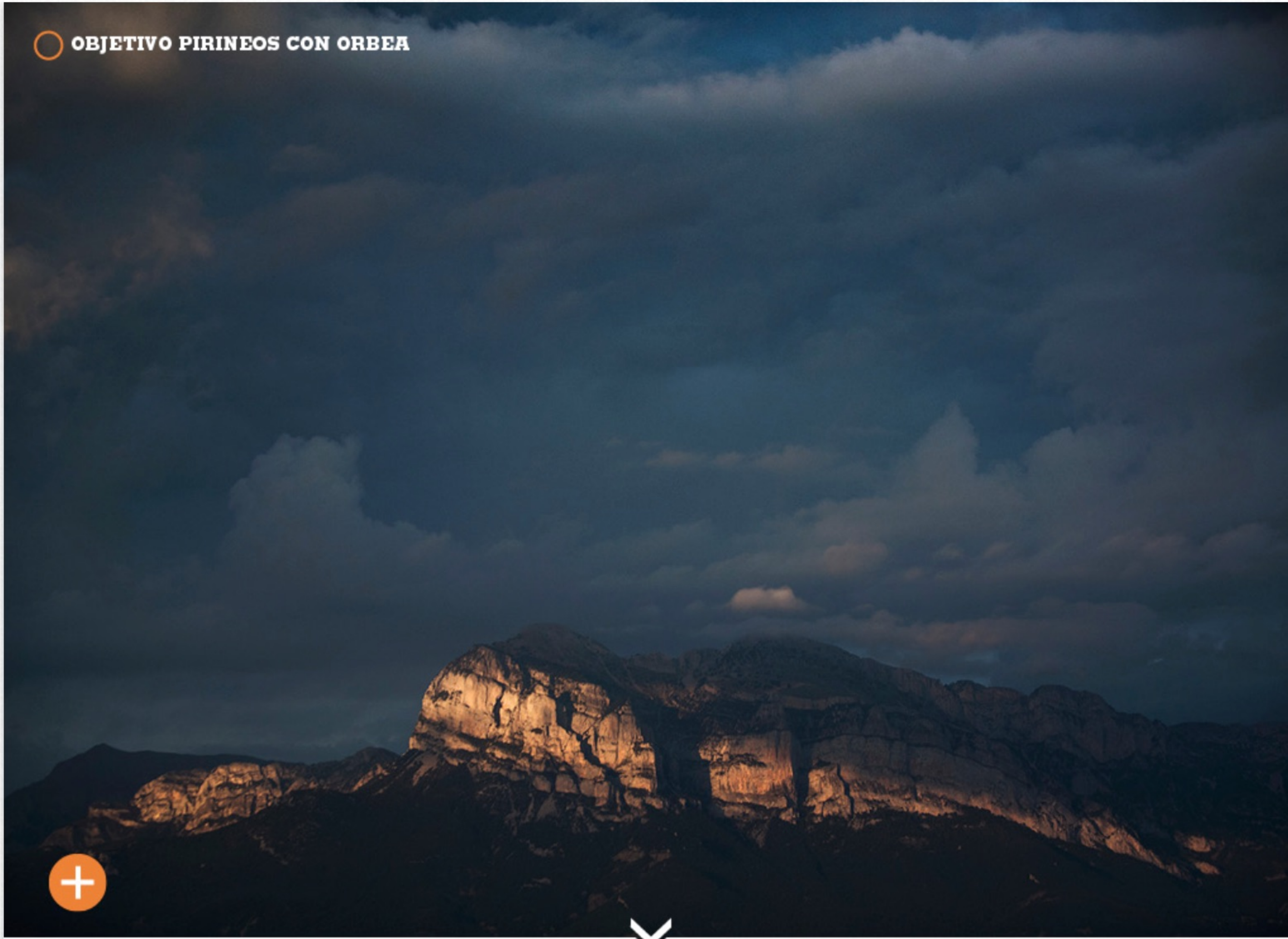
OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



Carlos, one of the members of the Basquemtb team, a nice guy that knows the territory like the palm of his hand. It was a perfect organization for this complex adventure where everything was calculated to detail.

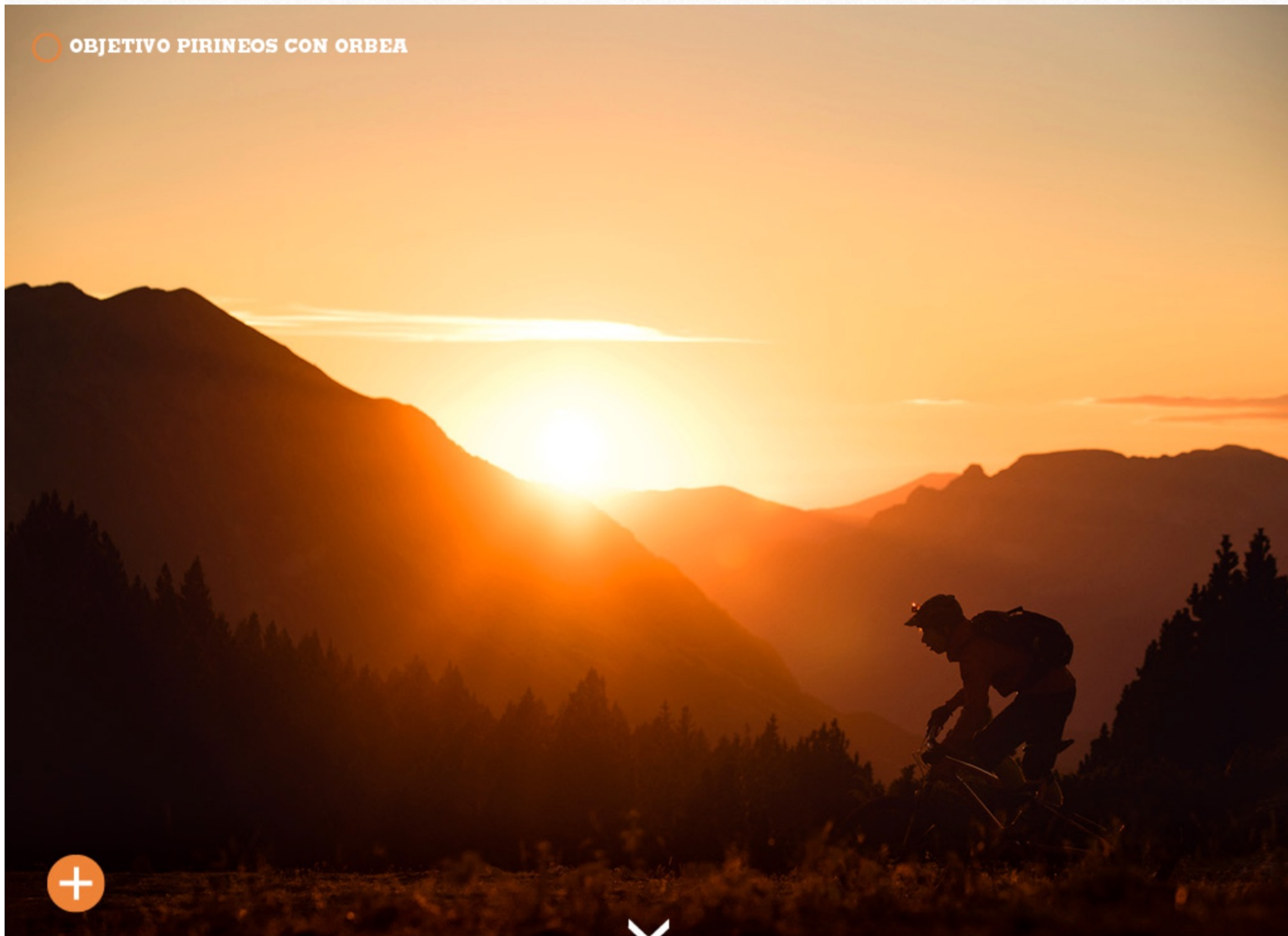


○ OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



Peña Montañesa is the first thing you see when you get close to Zona Zero. this rock giant that dominates the Ainsa Valley and its shire reminds us how tiny we are in the mountains.

○ OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



It was a privilege to spend some nights outside and to enjoy beautiful sunsets every day.



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One of the spectacles we could enjoy was the milky way, the sky was clear and we could observe its majesty, it was an unforgettable experience.



OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



We are not in a North Pole expedition but in the pyrenees in the Ibon de Plan to be precise. Who could imagine we were having breakfast at minus 2 degrees . We woke up from our tents with a thin layer of ice in its surface, it wasn't cold, no....we were freezing!



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It might sound adventurous to use animals instead of powered transport in the pyrenees? When it gets really hard to climb and you are exhausted this is the best option.



○ OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



And no, it is far from animal exploration. Trekking Mule is a company that organizes trips with mules, each one of them can carry up to 70Kg and the guys weighed everything so they did not load more than that, in fact, our bikes were a really light charge for them.





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Happiness has a price. To get the reward of a magnificent descent we are not always uplifted or climb on an easy fire road, sometimes you have to pedal up techy trails and sometimes walk more than expected.

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The first sun rays show off in the cozy Ibon de Plan also know as Basa de la Mora with the mountain reflection on the clear water, a really special place.

○ OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



Where are we conscious of what we do or maybe not.... The itinerary takes us through hostile trails and vertical and exposed off camber paths full of rocks and barely cyclable. A small crash or mechanic issue can ruin the adventure for us all. Are we crazy? Don't think so, it's more dangerous to commute to the office every day in a big city. We are sensations hunters in search of adrenaline and freedom.



○ OBJETIVO PIRINEOS CON ORBEA



Every day we had our reward, the best trophy to celebrate a long day on the bike, toasting with “tronzadora” the local craft beer, official Zona Zero beer.