

Hot chocolate and ice skating: enjoy the benefits of CNG on your Christmas holiday roadtrip

- A 2,611 kilometre road trip through four European countries in a cost-saving, compressed natural gas Arona TGI
- Christmas markets in France and Switzerland, white truffle in northern Italy and a dip in 37 °C hot springs in the Eastern Pyrenees
- €120.12 spent on gas for the entire trip, or 50% less than on petrol in a similar car

Martorell, 11/12/2019. How much does it cost to go ice skating in France's most festive village? And to buy a handmade glass ornament in Switzerland or enjoy homemade pasta and white truffle in a small village in northern Italy? And what's more, is it possible to enjoy all these experiences thanks to fuel savings with a compressed gas natural car? The answer lies in an unprecedented challenge: four European countries, an Arona TGI and a 2,611 kilometre road trip.

Barcelona (Spain) – Colmar (France): 1,045 km **Gliding on ice in a Christmas inspired backdrop.**

The journey begins in Barcelona. The first stop is to fill up the Arona TGI with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). A full tank for less than 16 euros, which allows a range with gas of 340 kilometres. In the navigator, a 1,045 kilometre route that will be covered by refuelling three times. The first destination, Colmar, the French city in the Alsace region with the most famous Christmas tradition. From the last week of November until the end of the year, its typical, quaint half-timbered houses are transformed with lights and impressive Christmas decorations. Besides its five small markets, another jewel is its skating rink. It is one of the most popular activities enjoyed by visitors and locals alike.

Cost of gas: €48.07

Savings: €49.96

Treats: €14.20 {€7.20 ice skating, €7 hot chocolate}

Colmar (France) – Zurich (Switzerland): 156 km **A Christmas tree standing 15 metres tall, covered with 5,000 glass balls.**

The Christmas route aboard a car fuelled with CNG continues to Zurich, 156 kilometres away, which requires just over a third of the gas in the tank. The Swiss city has several fairs, among which is Europe's largest covered Christmas market, located inside the central train station. It is impossible not to stop at many of the 160 booths surrounding a 15-metre tree decorated with 5,000 glass ornaments. A few small reindeer and a handmade glass ball join us on the journey.

Cost of gas: €7.18

Savings: €7.45

Treats: €31 (€21 reindeer ornaments, €10 glass ball)

Zurich (Switzerland) – La Morra (Italy): 438 km

Tagliatelle with white truffle in northern Italy.

The next destination of the Arona TGI is 438 kilometres away. We cross the Alps on snowy roads to get to La Morra, a small Italian village of 2,700 inhabitants surrounded by vineyards, which is reached with just over a full tank of gas. A special prize awaits us at the end of the journey: white truffle. The shops feature typical Christmas products such as hazelnut nougat, hazelnut cream cake and its famous candied chestnuts. €65 well spent to tantalise our tastebuds.

Cost of gas: €20.15

Savings: €20.94

Treats: €65 (€25 hazelnut nougat, hazelnut cream cake and candied chestnuts, €40 lunch with white truffle)

La Morra (Italy) – Les Bains de Saint Thomas (French Pyrenees): 781 km

37 degree hot springs in the Pyrenees.

On the way back we make one last stop 191 kilometres from Barcelona. In the heart of the Eastern Pyrenees, at an altitude of 1,150 metres and at the end of a small mountain road are the Saint Thomas hot springs. The outdoor temperature is 5 °C at this time of the year, but its sulphur rich waters are at 37 °C and have a healing, soothing effect. The ideal way to end an exciting TGI trip.

Cost of gas: €35.93

Savings: €37.34

Treats: €14 (dip in the hot springs)

Les Bains de Saint Thomas (French Pyrenees) – Barcelona (Spain): 191 km

2,611 kilometres with CNG: Including the return trip to Barcelona, we drove the Arona TGI more than 2,600 kilometres on European roads and motorways, refuelling at 8 gas filling stations of the close to 3,700 that can be found in Europe. We spent €120.12 on gas, which is half the amount with a similar petrol car. Thanks to this savings, we were able to treat ourselves to experiences and souvenirs along the way.

Cost of gas: €8.79

Savings: €9.13

Total cost of gas: €120.12

Total savings vs petrol: €124.82

Total spent on treats: €124.20 (€7.20 ice skating, €7 hot chocolate, €21 reindeer ornaments, €10 glass ball, €25 hazelnut nougat, hazelnut cream cake and candied chestnuts, €40 lunch with truffle, €14 dip in the hot springs)

Emission reduction: 52.22 kg of CO2

The Arona 1.0 TGI 90 CV FR facts and figures

Four fuel tanks: three primary for CNG / secondary for petrol
ECO label
25% fewer emissions compared to a petrol powered car
340 kilometre range with gas + 140 with petrol
13.8 kg gas tank
Consumption of 4.0 kilos/100 kilometres

SEAT is the only company that designs, develops, manufactures and markets cars in Spain. Member of the Volkswagen Group, the multinational has its headquarters in Martorell (Barcelona), exports the 80% of its vehicles, and is present in 80 countries on all five continents. In 2018, SEAT sold 517,600 cars, the highest figure in the 68-year history of the brand, posted a profit after tax of 294 million euros and a record turnover of close to 10 billion euros.

The SEAT Group employs over 15,000 professionals and has three production centres – Barcelona, El Prat de Llobregat and Martorell, where it manufactures the highly successful Ibiza, Arona and Leon. Additionally, the company produces the Ateca in the Czech Republic, the Tarraco in Germany, the Alhambra in Portugal and the Mii electric, SEAT's first 100% electric car, in Slovakia.

The multinational has a Technical Centre, which operates as a knowledge hub that brings together 1,000 engineers who are focused on developing innovation for Spain's largest industrial investor in R&D. SEAT already features the latest connectivity technology in its vehicle range and it is currently engaged in the company's global digitalisation process to promote the mobility of the future.

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