

Cycling Europe

LAND OF THE CONQUISTADORS 2020 Self-guided cycling in Spain - 7 days/ 6 nights



Sitting between Madrid and Portugal, Extremadura in central Spain is a stunningly beautiful region; a benign climate, unspoiled landscapes and a fascinating history to discover. This cycle tour takes you to villages hidden from the mainstream tourist, breathtaking views and the home of Spain's finest acorn fed Iberian ham.

It is the land of the Conquistadores, the men who pioneered the exploration of the Americas. The magnificent wealth generated by the victorious Conquistadores can be seen in the palaces and castles of towns like Trujillo and Caceres. At the end of the day's ride you will stay in magnificent centuries old

paradors – convents, monasteries or castles converted to superb hotel accommodation offering high end service, facilities and dining.

GRADE/TERRAIN

MODERATE+: Longer distances and hilly terrain, with perhaps four ascents per day. Ascent 459m.

ITINERARY

Day 1- OROPESA

Oropesa can be easily reached from Madrid by train. Explore this pretty medieval town, famous for its Castle turned Parador, being the former residence of the Toledo family of nobles! Enjoy an evening meal in one the towns many traditional restaurants.

Day 2- OROPESA – JARANDILLA DE LA VERA

This morning your bikes will be delivered to your hotel. Cycle on flat terrain, through Mediterranean woodlands towards the foothills of the towering Gredos Mountains. Your destination is Jarandilla de la Vera with its architectural wonders such as the churches of San Agustin and Ntra. Senora de la Torre. Stay the night in the restored castle that Emperor Charles V once spent time at. (55 or 67 Kms, Ascent 612m)



Day 3- JARANDILLA DE LA VERA – PLASENCIA

Today cycle through peaceful countryside to the walled market town of Plasencia.

Plasencia's strategic location on the bank of the river Jerta has ensured the city's status, and acted as a magnet for noblemen since the 15th century. The cathedral and historic quarter are a must see. Tonight's Parador is a gothic 15th century Monastery complete with thick stone walls and vaulted ceilings. (59 or 69 kms, Ascent 525m)



Day 4- PLASENCIA TO MONFRAGUE NATIONAL PARK

Cycle south towards the Tajo River and the National Park of Monfrague which is famous for its bird life. Cycle through open countryside dotted with cork and oak trees. The farms in the area are known for raising wild bulls and the famous black 'iberico' pigs. Tonight's accommodation is in the Hotel Palacio de las Corchuelas or Hospederia de

Monfrague. (44kms, Ascent 383m)

Day 5-MONGRAGUE TO TRUJILLO

another cycle through Mediterranean woodland to reach Trujillo. Trujillo is one of the area's most important historic and cultural towns and is certainly one of Spain's finest gems. The walled hilltop town, which overlooks the expansive countryside, dates back to 600 BC and is famed for its strategic involvement in the discovery of the Americas. Several of Spain's most famous conquistadors such as Hernan Cortes who conquered the Aztec empire, Francisco Pizarro who conquered the Inca Empire, and Diego Parades, all called this region home. On their return from the Americas to Trujillo, these Conquistadors built magnificent residences to celebrate their newfound wealth. The legacy of the conquest can be seen in much of Trujillo's perfectly preserved architecture and the impressive bronze statue of Francisco Pizarro, mounted on his horse, which dominates the town's main square. Stay tonight at the Parador de Trujillo, a former convent of Santa Clara.

(49kms, Ascent 427m)

Day 6-TRUJILLO – CACERES

The scenery on today's last ride is a beautiful mix of small villages and outstanding landscapes. The city of Caceres is impressive and the architecture reflects a blend of Roman, Islamic, Northern Gothic and Italian Renaissance influences. Explore the cobbled streets as they twist and climb amongst ancient stone walls, alongside palaces and mansions! Your Parador tonight is an exquisite former palace! (55kms, Ascent 350m)

Day 7 – Tour ends after breakfast in Caceres

2020 SCHEDULE

Start any day from March to end of June, and September to November. July and August not recommended due to the heat.

2020 TOUR COST PER PERSON IN EURO

Double/Twin room € 946

Single supplement €163

Solo traveller surcharge €296

6 Dinners (wine not included) € 160

Bike – Hybrid, 24 Speed € 100 – equipped with rear pannier, lock, repair kit, map holder and computer per couple.

E Bike € 150

Helmets Included with bike rental – must be pre-booked

GPS Hire € 30 (one per group)



2020 COST INCLUDES

- 6 nights accommodation
- 6 breakfasts
- Emergency support
- Luggage transfers between accommodations
- Detailed route notes and maps

GETTING THERE

- **From Madrid** – by train to Oropeso – 1.45 hrs
- Private transfer from Madrid Airport to Oropeso €175 (up to 6 people)
- **To Madrid** – by train from Caceres – 3.30 hrs

Private transfer Caceres to Madrid Airport € 355 (up to 6 people)

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Ph 09 4867473 Fax 09 484 0091

Email: info@walkworld.co.nz