

# Cycling Europe

## SPAIN – THE GEMS OF ANDALUCIA

### SEVILLE TO GRANADA

GUIDED CYCLE TOUR 8 Days/7 Nights - 280 KM- 2020



*Art, culture, history, scenery, food, wine, villages, cycling ... Seville to Granada is the dream tour for those who want a memorable holiday not just a workout in another country! Rides average 50km a day, and take you places cars and coaches can't.*

*Andalucia's big three - Seville, Cordoba and Granada - are monumental gems and riding between them you experience some of Spain's finest rural landscapes and backwaters where little has changed for hundreds of years. Peaceful rides through plantations of orange, avocado, olive, cotton and sunflowers allow a glimpse of rural life in Andalucia's colourful valleys bordering the Guadalquivir River. Your enthusiastic leader is on hand to guide you through Andalucia's secret delights and will introduce you to the true 'Andaluz' its eccentric people and vibrant customs! As a bonus, your trip leader offers nightly cultural/heritage tours of each destination.*



*A particular highlight is the culinary delights including the fresh nuts, berries and fruits growing wild throughout the region not to mention the wide range of local 'tapas', wines and sherries. Five van-supported day rides take us over quiet back roads. You are free to pedal at your own pace so there's no pressure to 'keep up' or finish on time. The support van sweeps the route every hour providing extra water and snacks which means all you have worry about are your camera and water bottle. And if you feel like getting off your bike for a while, you are welcome to ride in the support van at any time.*

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Sunday ~ Seville

At 7pm meet your tour leader at the hotel in Seville for an easy walking tour of central Seville and Barrio Santa Cruz before dinner. Give yourself plenty of time in Seville to explore its wonderful Cathedral housing the tomb of Columbus and an original Mosque tower; the charming Barrio Santa Cruz that inspired the opera Carmen; the sheer power of the Alcazar Fortress; and the labyrinth of lanes and alleys in the old town. Dinner tonight is included

### Day 2: Monday ~ Seville to Palma del Rio



After breakfast a short minibus transfer takes us away from the traffic of Seville to enchanting Carmona - a Roman/Arabic town dating back to Phoenician times. A wander through the medieval and Baroque quarters then it's on our bikes to Palma del Rio. We follow quiet back roads through fields of citrus, cotton, sunflowers and past traditional Spanish farmsteads. There is an optional 10km extension to the Baroque village of Peñafior. Tonight we stay in a 16<sup>th</sup> century Monastery adorned with courtyards, gardens and a

swimming pool. It was here in the 1500's that Franciscan monks gave California its modern names (Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego etc). This evening enjoy a guided evening walk to visit Palma's old quarter & fortress returning to the hotel for dinner.

**Cycling: Level: Easy/Mostly flat – Distance: 49km**

### Day 3: Tuesday ~ Palma del Rio to Cordoba



From Palma we ride to Cordoba through open countryside where poppies, cotton and avocados line the roadside. The historic Sierra Morena lowlands that of the Guadalquivir valley have provided much wealth and prosperity throughout Andalusia's turbulent history. Soon after passing the imposing Almodovar medieval castle, we arrive at the beautiful city of Cordoba, once capital of the Western world and home to the Moorish dynasty. This afternoon we take a guided walk of Cordoba's old Jewish quarter and throughout the famous 'patios' with their wonderful floral displays and ceramic tiles. . A must see is the 9<sup>th</sup> century Mezquita (Cathedral) that is one of the earth's most awe inspiring architectural feats!

Dine tonight in one of Cordoba's traditional patio restaurants (dinner not included)

**Cycling: Level: Easy/Moderate (some hills in the second half) - Distance: 58km**

### Day 4: Wednesday ~ Cordoba to Zuheros

Today's ride (the longest of the week) offers a variety of hilly landscapes as we approach *Subetica National Park* and its stunning green forests, waterfalls and unique limestone craggy peaks. Lunch stop is in the shaded park of Castro village – followed by a ride to the region's most famous olive producing center – Baena. Here we visit the family run organic cold olive press of Nuñez Prado before our final few kilometres to Zuheros. **Cycling: Level: Moderate/Challenging (a variety of terrain) – Distance: 61km**







### Day 5: Thursday ~ Rest Day

Your rest day is in one of Andalucia's most beautiful white villages – *Zuheros*. Famous in Moorish heritage as a small but important stronghold, it is surrounded by soaring mountain scenery and an exquisite cliff hugging fortress and mosque. This tiny hamlet offers unspoilt nature trails, quiet village lanes and options to explore the national park. Ride the famous *Via Verde* paths or simply relax in the serene village surroundings with a book, vino and tapas. (See end of itinerary for rest day options). Tonight dinner is not included but we recommend dining at the lovely plaza venta under the fortress where hearty, local meats, produce and cheese

are on offer.

### Day 6: Friday ~ Zuheros to Alcala la Real

Our ride today leads us through rambling olive groves into mountains surrounding the famous *Vega de Granada* – essentially foothills to the *Sierra Nevada*. A large portion of riding is on the *Via Verde* (a 19<sup>th</sup> century olive oil train line), with a perfect gradient. It is a famous cycle route in southern Spain. We then pass a series of small villages in *Jaen Province* before climbing a historic pass to what could be our first glimpse of the impending *Sierra Nevada* range that backdrops *Granada* itself. In *Alcala la Real* there is an optional visit of this once regal town's Moorish Fortress and a guided walk through the old town itself. Dinner tonight is included.



**Cycling: Level: Moderate (regular hill sections and a big climb towards the end)– Distance: 50km**

### Day 7: Saturday ~ Alcala to Granada

Today we pass through *Jaen Province*'s *Sierra* ranges and into the great valley (*vega*), that contains *Granada* itself. The beautiful countryside is distinguished by olive and almond groves perched on high valleys, cliff walls and pretty rivers and reservoirs. Our final ride to the heart of *Granada* provides inspiring views of the snowy *Sierra Nevada* peaks and with luck we capture a view of the *Alhambra Palace* set above the hustle and bustle of new *Granada*. Today we picnic near a pretty lake where a refreshing dip is on offer. This evening we are guided through the lanes of *Granada*'s brooding *Albaizan District* visiting

enchancing courtyards and capturing the beauty of the *Alhambra Palace* at night from one of the city's most spectacular *miradors*. Dinner is not included but your leader will normally accompany you on a *Tapas* style tour of some great local haunts! Later this evening your trip leader will say adios but not before he / she offers any onward travel advice, translations and further ideas for visiting *Granada*.

**Cycling: Level Moderate with some extended climbs on good gradient – Distance: 57km**



## Day 8: Sunday ~ Granada

Arrangements end after breakfast. Allow time to visit the Alhambra Palace before departing Granada. Easy transfers can be made to Malaga, Madrid and Seville.

### REST DAY OPTIONS

The following suggestions are self-guided but your tour leader will be on hand to assist and make recommendations.

- *Walks in the Subetica National Park (30 min to full days)*
- *Bird watching*
- *Cave visit (cave of the bat / 1 hour guided tour – excellent!)*
- *Organic Olive Press tour in Baena (if we don't do it on the bike tour day)*
- *Cycle the Via Verde routes (your bike is available to you on the rest day)*
- *Further visits to Cordoba for shopping, exploration (local bus trip)*
- *Relaxing in the village or surrounding countryside*
- *Guide treks, rock climbing, caving courses*
- *Day trips to surrounding towns*

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** You ride, we look after all other logistics and provide back up support too - including shuttles, repairs, and the extra push too!

Our routes are "unguided" in the sense that you are free to ride at your own pace. We provide the route information and have a daily support vehicle on the road but otherwise you're free to ride at your own pace. Our backup vehicle does a sweep nearly every hour so you don't have to worry. Groups vary from a minimum of 4 to a max of 16 - an ideal number for a riding party. Larger tour groups can be accommodated too.

You need only carry water (water bottle and holder provided), snacks and route information. We look after the baggage shuttles.

Worried about over-exerting yourself? No need, the support vehicle is available each day for periods you do not wish to cycle!

**GUIDE SERVICE:** We provide an experienced guide during the riding days who drives the support vehicle. With larger groups, two guides may be present – one driving and one cycling. The guide ensures that hotel, baggage transfers, meals, transport and the riding go smoothly. This person also deals with the general well being of our guests, their safety and looks after bike maintenance and keeps a close watch on road conditions and any route information / changes. Please note that the sag wagon / support vehicle is generally with the group throughout the day providing full mechanical support and back-up to the riding group.

**ACCOMMODATION:** 7 nights' quality en-suite accommodation in charming village or city hotels and guesthouses. Rooms are based on double sharing with single supplements available (single rooms can be small in comparison to doubles).

**MEALS:** Meals are generally taken within your hotel (and sometimes in the villages). Dinners (3 included) normally include a choice of starters, main courses, a light dessert and a drink of your choice. Breakfasts are traditionally Spanish, usually light buffets with a wide variety of choices. For lunch (not included), there are a number of village and countryside Inns on route where you can sample authentic Spanish cooking. Picnics on route can also be organised for the group with fresh local breads, produce, meats, cheese, etc.

**DINNERS:** (includes 3 total) The first night (*Seville*) is the welcome dinner, followed by dinner on day 4 in *Zuheros*), and one dinner in *Alcala la Real*.

**TRANSPORT:** A sag wagon is available on days (or part of days) if you do not wish to cycle. Our vehicles are modern vans with plenty of space for bikes, luggage and passengers if need be. Airport transfers are not included but our leaders are happy to assist with route advice and options.

## BIKE INFORMATION



Spanish made BH bicycles (model Silverlite). They are light weight aluminium hybrid bikes with Shimano components and disc brakes front and back. All bikes have a rear carry rack (without panniers) and a front waterproof carry bag that connects to the handlebars (not displayed).

Bike frames come in MALE and FEMALE designs. Unless indicated to us in advance, all women's bike requests will be the FEMALE frame (drop cross bar – example on left above).

**Helmets, Toe Clips (strap and strapless) and GEL seat pad covers** (not seats) are available free of charge - please ADVISE AT TIME OF BOOKING! Water bottles are provided & mounted on all bikes.

## ELECTRIC BIKES



E-Bikes are 24v and 36v battery bikes – hybrid style and they have a rear carry rack (no panniers) and a front carry bag. The batteries are rated for 60 km / day on economic power use and our tours cannot guarantee a spare battery during day riding for every person.

### NOTE

*Some bike models may be different on the tour – pending final number of participants and sizes available. Quality will always remain the same.*



## 2020 GROUP TOUR DATES

**Set date departures: 10-17 May** (later dates to follow)

(a minimum of 4 participants required to guarantee departure)

Group size: minimum 4, maximum 16 – for larger groups (over 14) two guides provided

*(If you are travelling on your own we can endeavour to find a room mate for you)*

**Other Dates: 4 or more people**, we can request other dates

from April - October for standard price, as below. (Subject to guide and hotel availability)

**Other Dates: 2 People:** Tour can be requested for 2 people - see price below.

## 2020 TOUR COST: per person in Euros (cost includes a 21-speed bike)

**Double / Twin Share** €1870 (Cost includes bike & helmet)

**Single Room Supplement** € 220

**Electric bike surcharge** € 110 (limited number)

Cost for 2 People (start any day, subject to guide & hotel availability) €2537 per person

### TOUR COST INCLUDES:

- 7 nights accommodation (2 & 3 star quality hotels and guesthouses)
- 21 Speed Hybrid bike hire including carry bag (on front handlebar), rear rack (without pannier bag), water bottle holder and bottle
- 7 breakfasts & 3 dinners
- Full time guide/driver and support van
- Daily riding notes route and map
- Daily baggage transfers
- Helmets, gel seats and toe clips available on request at no extra cost (Please indicate toe clips with or without strap model) – please request at time of booking
- Guide drives the Support van, with passenger space for ride-along moments
- All local taxes / service fees

### TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Airport transfers to Seville / from Granada
- Entry fees to monuments
- Lunches & 4 Dinners

### EXTRA NIGHT COSTS PER ROOM IN EUROS:

#### Seville

Double / Twin Share from € 110

Single Room from €90

#### Granada

Double / Twin Share from € 99

Single Room from €80

Book through:

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