



## Tour de Majorca, Spain

### The Mediterranean Cycling Dream

Majorca is one of the prime cycling destinations on this planet. If Disneyland had to invent a bicycle ride, they would take the roads of Majorca. Cycling the switch backing roads up and down the Cols (passes) of the Sierra Tramuntana will be an unforgettable experience and is must-do in the lifetime of any passionate cyclist. We have developed a tour with an itinerary that is suitable both to very experienced riders who are looking for a serious challenge, as well as to intermediate cyclists who want to smell the roses and take it easy. Two options are offered every day and our support van is also available.

Over the last couple of years, the island of Majorca, situated off the Spanish coast in the Mediterranean Sea, has developed into Europe's road-biking heaven. The perfect climate, an abundance of quiet little back roads, spectacular mountain vistas and secluded beaches make it easy to understand why many of the world's professional road-biking teams choose this island as their training ground. On the tour, you will be treated to awesome Mediterranean cuisine, fantastic architecture and a place rich in history. Come on this exciting bike journey and find out why the Spanish Kings still spend their holiday's here.

**Arrival day (Saturday):** Plan to arrive in Palma de Majorca on Saturday, the day before the tour. This allows you to acclimatize and spend some time in the old city of Palma. We can book you a hotel in Palma.

**Day One (Sunday):** Take a short taxi ride and meet us in a country hotel (Finca) near the village of Esporlas in the foothills of the Sierra Tramuntana. Here you will be fitted with your bike and will have a chance to get used to the climate on a short trip to the countryside. Blue skies and Mediterranean landscapes are awaiting you. We begin with a gradual ascent into the Sierra Tramuntana mountain range toward the village of Valdemossa. Here you have a chance to marvel at the historic architecture of the most beautiful village on Majorca. Many artists have made Valdemossa their home, among them Frederic Chopin! You will stay overnight in a beautifully restored country-style lodge (finca) and get to know each other during a tasteful welcome dinner. 27k / 17 mile, 1000ft of climbing.

**Day Two:!** An epic ride takes us through the Southern Tramuntana mountains. 5 passes with seemingly endless switchback climbs on moderate grades and exciting downhill await. You will experience Majorca's truly spectacular coastline for the first time. On your way to Deia, you will enjoy amazing views of the Mediterranean from high. We stay overnight in an exquisite Mallorquin mansion, Hotel Des Puig, in the heart of one of the most beautiful villages in the Mediterranean. Distance 50-82 km / 30-51 miles, up to 5500ft climbing. Shorter options available.

**Day Three:** Start the day with a long, winding and exhilarating downhill ride to the natural harbour of Soller and an optional climb to the lighthouse, before we climb the 31 switchbacks of famous Coll de Soller. Then we tackle Coll de Honor in the shadow of Mallorca's highest mountain, Puig Mayor, standing at 1445m / 4,800ft. From here we enjoy a fast descent to Alaro and then through olive fields and orchards on to our finca hotel in Moscarí. Dinner will be served from all local ingredients. Distance 60-80 km / 40-50 miles, up to 5000ft climbing, shorter options available.

**Day Four:** Today we ride on very quiet country roads through orchards, fields and small villages toward the agricultural center of the island. Wednesdays is market day in Sineu as it has been for 12 centuries. With a little imagination you are taken back to a medieval setting. You can buy anything from donkeys to silverware in the narrow walkways and plazas around the church. After the visit to the market we tackle the famous climbs to

to the mountain top monasteries of Cura and Sant Salvador. The first climb is optional, the second takes us to our mountain top retreat in the monastery of Sant Salvador, built in 1342. The monastery sits at an elevation of 500 m / 1650ft and offers sweeping views in all directions across the island and to the Mediterranean sea. 62 or 94 k / 40 or 57 miles, 3000 or 5000ft

**Day Five:** Today is recovery day and we will be riding 70k / 45 miles of mostly flat but scenic country roads through little towns and the wetland nature reserve Albufera. We will have enough time to visit the ancient roman city of Alcudia, with its many picturesque shops and restaurants hidden behind medieval city walls and narrow alleys. For those who like to ride more, there is another mountain top monastery worth visiting! For the remaining 3 nights we will be staying at a family run 100 year old hotel right in the old town of Pollenca for a really authentic experience. Our hotel is located right at the town square with its 13th century church built by the Knights Templar and the 365 steps up Calvary hill.  
70k / 45 miles flat or several optional climbs

**Day Six:** Big mountains and big mileage await as we cross the northern Sierra Tramuntana. After some fast warm up cycling into the foothills, we will tackle the extremely scenic climb of Coll de Sa Bataia. Here you have the option of keeping on going for a truly epic ride or to have lunch at the monastery at Lluc, followed by an exciting downhill back to Pollenca.

Those who are opting for the long version will climb up and descend down to Sa Calobra. This switchbacking and twisting road clings to the mountainside while descending into a steep canyon. You will feel like on a Disney ride. It is the Majorquin road builder's masterpiece and for many cycling greats, including Lance Armstrong, the climb back up was a favourite spring training ride. It is a great measuring stick for cyclists from all around the world. Distance 60-100 km / 37-60 miles. Up to 6000 ft of climbing.

**Day Seven:**

Cap Formentor, the very northern tip of the island, is our final tour on the island and what a way to finish. A narrow, winding road clinging to steep cliffs offers an entertaining ride with breathtaking views of the deep blue mediterranean. On today's stage we are certain you will agree with us, that road biking could not possibly be any better! The road to Formentor easily ranks among the world's most scenic rides. On the way back one final climb to the high point of the peninsula awaits and you have time to explore the beach resort of Porto Pollenca and possibly have lunch at the fishing village of Cala San Vicenc. Distance 55 or 70 k / 32 or 42+ miles, up to 1200m / 3800 ft

**Day Eight:** It is time to say goodbye. In the morning you will be shuttled to the airport. If you are staying in Palma make sure you visit the cathedral of Palma de Majorca, also known as the Cathedral of Light. It is the second largest cathedral in Spain and it took over 300 years to build. A walk through the narrow passages and pathways of Palma's old city is also a must.

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**Trip Dates and prices:**

As per our website. Please inquire for group and family rates. For groups of 8 guests or more we can arrange custom trip dates and itineraries.

**Includes:**

- 7 nights accommodation in traditional fincas, luxury resorts and a monastery
- All meals (7 breakfasts, 1 lunches, 4 dinners, refreshments and snacks)
- Professional guide services
- Support vehicle & luggage transport
- Admissions
- All transfers

<b>Reservations:</b> 1-800-661-BIKE (2453) / e-mail: <a href="mailto:res@rockymountaincycle.com">res@rockymountaincycle.com</a>
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