



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 downhills 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, the famous La Residencia. (selected in "100 places to go"). Distance 50-100 km / 30-60 miles, up to 7000ft climbing. Shorter options available.

Day Three: Start the day with a long, winding and exhilarating downhill ride into Soller, before we begin the climb over famous Coll de Soller. Then we tackle the Coll de Horno in the shadow of Mallorca's highest mountain, Puig Mayor, standing at 1445m / 4,800ft. After a well deserved rest in the mountain village of Orient we continue with a fast descent to Alaro and then through olive fields and orchards on to our luxurious finca at Monnaber. Here they produce their own olive oil from trees 500-1000 years old. Dinner will be an amazing experience. Distance 60-90 km / 40-55 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 and 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 on the island's largest market. After the visit to the market we tackle the famous

climbs to Santuari De Cura and Santuari de 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 across the island and to the Mediterranean sea. 62 or 93 km / 40 or 57 miles, 3000 or 5000ft

Day Five: Today your cycling muscles get a little bit of a break or not. You can choose the shortest distance possible across the island to the medieval town of Pollenca. Or you choose a detour and turn this day into another big one. There is another mountain top monastery worth visiting! For the remaining 3 nights we will be staying at a small family run hotel right in the old town of Pollenca for a really authentic experience. Our hotel is located close to the town square with its 13th century church built by the Knights Templar and the 365 steps up Calvary hill.

70-100km / 37- 60miles, climbing varies

Day Six: Cap Formentor, the very northern tip of the island, is our destination for today. A winding road along 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. Our return journey will allow us to explore the beach resort of Porto Pollenca and possibly do a side trip to the fishing village of Cala San Vicenc. Distance 70 km / 42+ miles and more.

Day Seven: On our last day of cycling we will 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. Have a coffee on the plaza at the base of the 365 stairs leading up to the church at Calvary Hill.

Those who are opting for the long version will 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. After you top out you will be rewarded with another fast descent to Pollenca. Distance 70-120 km / 40-72 miles. Up to 6600 ft of climbing.

Day Eight: It is time to say goodbye. In the morning you will be shuttled to the airport or your hotel in Palma for an extended stay. 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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2012 Trip Date:

Sep 30-Oct 7

Oct 7-14

Trip starts in Esporles near Palma and finishes with airport shuttle to Palma airport

2012 Prices:

Trip Cost	\$2,895 CAD per person in Four and Five Star accommodations
Single supplement	\$700 CAD
Bike Rental	\$240 CAD

Includes:

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

Reservations: 1-800-661-BIKE (2453) / e-mail: res@rockymountaincycle.com