SPAIN - MALLORCA, ISLAND TOUR - £930

5th October 2020 - 15th October 2020 (11 days)

Mallorca is a beautiful Spanish Mediterranean island. Although it is a popular package holiday destination, in October the roads away from the resorts should be fairly quiet. The cycling route meanders through rural villages, small towns and two national parks before heading into the Serra de Tramuntana mountains. In lowland areas patchworks of fields are dotted with almond, fig and olive trees, with occasional groves of orange and lemon trees; higher up is a maquis scrubland of rosemary, myrtle and broom. Road surfaces are generally very smooth and a joy to cycle on. Where roads climb into the mountains, they generally rise with a steady gradient, making the climbs gentle and ideal for cycling, and the scenery and downhills are rewarding. Distances are modest to permit time to take photos, admire the scenery and stop in some of the local cafes. To appreciate this tour you must have a reasonable level of fitness, and a 10km graded climb should be within your capabilities.

HOLIDAY TYPE: Guided
TOUR MANAGER: Martin Jamieson
GRADE: Moderate
BOOKING STATUS: Places Available
ACCOMMODATION: Hotel
BOARD BASIS: Some Meals
TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS: Land Only
ROAD / OFF ROAD: Road
HOLIDAY STYLE: Multi-centre
VEHICLE SUPPORT: Luggage Transfer
HOLIDAY REF NO: 03500

Holiday Itinerary

Monday 5th October
Meet at Hotel Apolo, C'an Pastilla, Palma, 3km from Palma airport, on the west side of the island. Stay 2 nights. Meals: D

Tuesday 6th October
Free day to enjoy the sights of Palma, perhaps exploring the cobbled streets of the old city, the impressive Gothic cathedral, or maybe relax by the pool or visit a café by the beach. Meals: B D

Wednesday 7th October
Cycle to C'Al Dor over relatively flat countryside. At this time of year the fields will be ploughed and dry stone walls run alongside the roads. Stop and explore Capacorb Vell, huge circular and rectangular structures, made of massive unhewn stones without mortar to hold them together, which formed part of a settlement dating from around 1000 BC. 74km. Stay 2 nights. Meals: B

Thursday 8th October
Circular ride to Sant Jordi through Parc Natural Mondrago where there are signed walks that take about an hour each. Cross about 30 metres of sandy beach at Mondrago where you may wish to sea bathe on the way back. Close to Colonia de San Jordi is an area known as “Ses Salines” – salt flats where around 15,000 tonnes of salt are harvested a year; as you near the town white mounds come in to view. Mallorcan sea salt has high
concentrations of micronutrients making it considered superior. Take a short detour, and you might spot flamingos on a distant salt lake. 62km. Meals: B

Friday 9th October
Cycle to San Baulo via Petra. The narrow streets of this mediaeval town are laid out in a grid pattern, with doors and shuttered windows of the tall stone houses opening straight on to the road. 75km. Stay 2 nights. Meals: B D

Saturday 10th October
Free day to take advantage of the hotel facilities, enjoy a walk along the beach to nearby San Real necropolis (free entry) or cycle a short distance to the Albufera nature reserve (free entry). The necropolis dates from the 7th century BC – a jumble of 100 tombs where about 300 people were buried. The nature reserve is rich in birdlife and has a visitor centre. Or perhaps the challenging 96km ride to Cap de Formentor in the far north east of the island or wander amongst the windmills further inland. Meals: B D

Sunday 11th October
Cycle to Lluc monastery. Situated In the mountains, this involves a 10km climb at the end of the day, though this follows a gradient of between 5 and 10% which makes cycling it (almost) a pleasure. 44km. Stay 1 night. Meals: B D

Monday 12th October
Cycle to Valldemossa. A rollercoaster ride through the mountains, with the view now and again opening up towards the sea. The hotel is 3km before Valldemossa and has commanding views over the sea. 50km (hilly). Stay 2 nights. Meals: B

Tuesday 13th October
Free day for sightseeing. A trip to Sóller by bus or bike will give you the opportunity to ride on the 100 year old wooden trams that were originally in use in San Francisco and now run the few miles to the beach at Port de Sóller. The electric trains are of a similar age and they still ply the route between the town and Palma, the journey is said to be very scenic. Or just stay at the hotel for a rest and a swim in the pool. Meals: B

Wednesday 14th October
Cycle back to Hotel Apolo at Palma. The route includes some climbs with steady gradients and rewarding views. 64km. Stay 1 night. Meals: B D

Thursday 15th October
Tour ends after breakfast. Meals: B

Meals: B = Breakfast D = Dinner

Holiday Summary

Accommodation & Meals
This includes 3-star apartments with swimming pool in Palma; a family-run hotel at C'al Dor, locally rated 2 3-stars; a large 3-star 'sport' hotel at San Baulo; an old monastery at Lluc; and a recently refurbished quality hotel at Valldemossa. Rooms are based on two people sharing and are ensuite. All breakfasts are included, as well as evening meals for 6 nights (all except for C'al Dor and Valldemossa). Vegetarian food beyond pizza and pasta can be difficult to find, although there will usually be a good range of fish and seafood.

Vehicle Support
Luggage will be transported on moving-on days.

Passports, Visa & Health
EU citizens must hold a passport that is still valid on the date of their return to their home country. Holders of non-EU passports are advised to check whether they require a visa. There are no compulsory health related requirements for UK residents, but you are strongly advised to check that your tetanus protection has not expired. You must also carry your European Health Insurance Card.

Travel Insurance
Our Booking Conditions stipulate that, for holidays outside the UK, travel Insurance is mandatory. Details of the level of cover needed and other conditions you should check are stated in the Booking Conditions. CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours Ltd cannot accept responsibility for any costs that may be incurred due to insufficient insurance cover.

Price
The price of £930 is based on a minimum number of 10 people taking part in the holiday; please note Booking Conditions, clause 3. If there are insufficient bookings by 27th July 2020, we will contact you and return all monies paid, although in certain circumstances the holiday may still run at below minimum numbers but at the same price.

Price Includes
- 10 nights apartment/hotel/inn, sharing room
- 10 breakfasts, 6 dinners
- Transfers of luggage
- CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours costs

Price Does Not Include
- Travel to and from Mallorca
- Travel between Palma Airport and Hotel Apolo
- 4 dinners
- Drinks with dinners
- Lunches or refreshments during the day
- Entry fees at any attractions visited
- Any other personal expenses
- Travel Insurance
- Single occupancy supplement (£320, subject to availability)

Payment Schedule
A deposit of £100 per person is payable upon booking, with the final balance of £830 per person to be paid ten weeks prior to departure, by 27th July 2020.

Cancellations
Should you be forced to cancel your booking for any reason you must notify us in writing. Cancellation charges are as follows:

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<th>Written notice received:</th>
<th>Cancellation charge:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Before 27th July 2020</td>
<td>Deposit (£100)</td>
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<td>From 27th July 2020 through to departure</td>
<td>100% (£930)</td>
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Additional Information

Area Covered By The Holiday
This is a clockwise circular tour of Mallorca. Starting in Palma, going north all the way to Cap de Formentor, and continuing south and east, before returning to Palma.

Rides & Rest Days
We will cycle, as far as possible, on scenic minor roads, away from traffic, with time to take photos and for refreshment stops. The route is on well-surfaced cycle tracks and tarmac roads except for 3.5 km along tracks in Albufera nature reserve (optional) which are rideable, though a bit stony, and we will need to push or carry the bikes about 30 metres across a sandy beach.

The last few days are over hilly terrain with climbs that go on for several kilometers, although the roads do rise with a gentle gradient, and sometimes there are switch-back turns on the descent. It is important that you are fit enough to undertake the cycling on this tour and that you are adept at climbing and descending hills. Although luggage will be transferred by vehicle, there will be no other vehicle support.

Participants can ride at their own pace but no one will be left to “drop off the back”. We will make suggestions for lunch stops and snack breaks where we can regroup, although on some days cafes will be sparse, in which case we can buy food for a picnic lunch. There are good pastellerias that sell a range of savoury filled pastries. Most days will be spent cycling, but as we stay two nights in Palma, C'al Dor, San Baulo and Valldemossa, the extra days there can be taken as rest days. Map-o-Meter routes will be made available for riders to printout or download to their satnavs.

Accommodation & Meals
The hotel in C'an Pastilla is on the east side of Palma. The old part of the city, cathedral and a beach are about 2 km away, but there is a good cycle track along the sea front to take you there, and local buses run fairly frequently. The hotels at C'al Dor, San Baulo and Valldemossa are near the sea. Lluc monastery has comfortable rooms, and we can enjoy a meal in their lovely restaurant. Sadly the monastery no longer has monks in residence, though it does have a small botanical garden, museum and ornate church. Accommodation in Mallorca can be relatively expensive so, to keep the tour at a reasonable price, in some places the rooms are quite simple. Some 'double' rooms are in fact two single beds pushed together. An attempt will be made to ensure that those who request them have doubles, but often there is no choice.

Travel
This tour is being run on a land only basis, giving you the opportunity to arrange your own flights from your preferred airport. There are flights from many regional airports.

As no travel is included it is very important to note that neither your Tour Manager nor CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours are responsible for you in any way until the appointed time at the designated meeting point. Should you fail to arrive at the appointed time for whatever reason, we will not be responsible for any additional expenses you may incur in order to meet up with the tour group. Before finalising travel arrangements to meet the tour, you should ensure that you have read and understood our booking conditions. Should this tour not attract sufficient bookings to reach the minimum operating size, we may cancel the tour at any time up to 10 weeks before departure. It is therefore recommended that you book fully flexible and refundable transport and accommodation or wait until you have been informed that the tour is going ahead, as in the event of the tour being cancelled, we will not be responsible for any losses incurred.

Group Information
The maximum number of participants will be 22 excluding the Tour Manager(s).

Weather & Clothing
This area has a Mediterranean climate, and early October should be warm and sunny, although there is always a chance of showers. Using sunscreen is strongly recommended. A jumper or fleece may be necessary in the evenings, and it is advisable to carry a lightweight waterproof jacket.

Cycles & Equipment
A touring bike is the most suitable, with a low bottom gear (eg the small chainring in the front being the same size as or smaller than the largest cog in the rear). Due to the hilly terrain, a mountain bike with fat tyres is not recommended unless you are a strong rider. Make sure your bike is in good working order, especially the brakes. It is advisable to fit a calibrated cycle computer; the route sheets are set out in kilometers. Due to the popularity of cycling on the island, most towns have bike shops. Each participant will be expected to bring/carry sufficient spares and tools to deal with punctures and minor repairs. It will be necessary to have lights as we cycle through two road tunnels which might not be well lit. It is possible to hire bikes in Mallorca instead of
taking your own.
At our accommodation bikes may be stored in a bike room or garage, or in an outside space, perhaps in a courtyard or besides a swimming pool, though behind a locked gate and away from view of a road. A good cycle lock is always necessary.

Maps & Guides
The KOMPASS Mallorca map, scale 1:75,000 is recommended. There are many guidebooks to the island. ‘Beloved Majorcans’ by Guy de Forestier is a light-hearted and revealing book about Mallorcan attitudes written by someone who grew up there.

Travel Insurance & Advice
In addition to travel insurance, EU nationals should carry a European Health Insurance Card, obtainable from www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/EHIC/. This enables you to take advantage of emergency medical services free or at a discount under a reciprocal provision that exists between EU member states. Your travel insurer may refuse to meet the extra costs of medical treatment if you do not carry this card.
Before booking you should check the latest travel advice from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office including security and local laws, plus passport and visa information, at www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice or on 0845 850 2829.

Tour Manager’s Contact Details
If you require any assistance, or have any queries, please don’t hesitate to contact the Tour Manager using the information provided below.

Martin Jamieson

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07981 100017