



Tour Prospectus

Former Railways of Spain



Inland Alicante region.

Saturday 4th to Saturday 11th September 2021

This tour explores some of the history behind the railway lines that once ran through this area. Most of the rides are on the former railway lines themselves so are relatively flat. Lights will be needed as we cycle through many tunnels. Based in the County town of Cocentaina, which has all the amenities you might need, we will be staying in either a comfortable guest house or hotel, depending on numbers. This week is graded 2, leisurely, with the longest day being 45kms. The pace will be very leisurely, with plenty of time for sightseeing, coffee breaks and lunch. We will also stop to talk about aspects of the railways from time to time.

Dates:- (provisional) Saturday 4th September – Saturday 11th September 2021

Price:- 545 Euros (plus 100 Euros single supplement) to include,

7 nights bed, breakfast and lunch, snacks in the evening. Transfers from/to Alicante airport, maps, GPS files, route sheets. Bikexplore and tour leaders' expenses.

N.B. No evening meals are included.

Maximum number of participants – 12. There is no minimum number, the holiday will go ahead regardless of numbers booked.



Former station at Agres.

Itinerary:-

Saturday 4th September 2021. Transfer from Alicante airport. If time after assembling bikes, short ride to Turballos. 18kms, 200 metres ascent.



Turballos village.

Sunday 5th September. We take the Via Verde (former railway line) through Alcoy, which affords spectacular views without any steep climbing. We pass through many tunnels along the way (lights required). 38kms, 482 metres ascent.



One of the many tunnels on the Alcoy Via Verde.

Monday 6th September. A different railway line, the Xixarra goes North before swinging West. We will go as far as Bocairent, a fascinating village with much to see, including its interesting window caves. 45kms, 486 metres ascent.



Bocairent.

Tuesday 7th September. The third of our railway lines, the Serpis, goes all the way to the coast at Gandia, but we will only cycle to Lorch. In fact we will reach Lorch by road, and return on the Serpis Via Verde. 45kms, 520 metres ascent.



The Serpis Via Verde.

Wednesday 8th September. Today we will take a different part of the Serpis Via Verde to Gaianes, then drop down to the where the river feeds the lake. 23kms, 260 metres ascent.



An old and new view of Muro station. The buildings on the right remain.

Thursday 9th September . Market day in Cocentaina. A day off the bike to wander around the market and explore the town. Or a walk up to the castle which overlooks Cocentaina. 6kms (walk) 317 metres ascent.



Cocentaina castle.

Friday 10th September. After yesterday's rest, a hillier ride today to complete a circuit of the lake at Beniarres. A hilly start, which gets easier as the day goes on. 36kms, 546 metres ascent.



The dam at Beniarres.

Saturday 11th September. Tour ends after breakfast. Return transfer to Alicante airport.

General information:-

Coronavirus. None of us can predict where we will be with this which is why the dates are provisional. We will make a decision whether to run or not on or before 1st July 2021 based on the prevailing situation in Spain and the UK.

Terrain and roads. Much of the cycling on this holiday will be on trails and former railway lines. A touring or hybrid cycle with at least 32mm tyres will suffice, although sometimes short parts may be in poor condition and may need to be walked. A mountain bike will also be suitable. You will need lights, as we go through many tunnels. Some of them have electric lighting but not always guaranteed to work! You should ensure that your bike is in good order, especially tyres and brakes. Carry a pump and simple tool kit in case of punctures. Spare inner tubes are recommended too.

Accommodation and meals. Accommodation will be either in a guest house or a hotel depending on numbers. Price is based on two people sharing a room (see single supplement above). A lunch will be included in the price at a bar or restaurant on the route. No evening meal is included, but snacks are. There are numerous bars in Cocentaina where food can be obtained, as well as several takeaway establishments. There are also several supermarkets.

Travel and transfers. Flights are not included in this holiday. Please see information under 'Booking and Payment' below. Transfers from and to Alicante airport are included. We shall endeavour to collect you as near as possible to your scheduled arrival time, but due to possible delays, you may have to wait a while at the airport.

Weather and clothing. September is usually pleasantly warm and dry, even hot sometimes, but rain is always possible. If you dress for a normal summer UK ride, and carry a light waterproof, that should be sufficient. It is compulsory to wear a hi-viz jacket in poor visibility, and helmets are compulsory in Spain.

Navigation. This is a guided holiday. The leader will ensure that nobody gets lost. We will provide maps, route sheets and GPS files however. It is not compulsory to follow the leader, if you wish to go ahead then that's fine. We will always meet up at coffee stops, points of interest etc. If you wish to have your own map, the Michelin Zoom Series, number 123, Costa Blanca is usually available at W.H.Smiths etc. in the UK.

Health and insurance. As well as an EHIC (or new GHIC) card, you must have travel insurance. It is strongly recommended that you take out insurance on booking your holiday, so that if you need to cancel, you may be able to claim the cancellation charges.

Passports. **N.B. Since Brexit passport requirements have changed. Please read the following carefully.** Your passport must have at least six months to run after the last day of your holiday, excluding extensions, i.e. no more than 9 and a half years since issue. Ensure that you apply for a new passport, if necessary, in good time.

Brexit. If you are a frequent traveller please be aware that UK citizens are now restricted to 90 days in a rolling 180 period in Schengen Zone countries. Make sure that your visit does not exceed this limit as the penalties can be severe, a fine, deportation or even a ban from entering a Schengen country again! UK passports are now being stamped on the way in and out.

Booking and Payment. This holiday is not covered by any package tour protection. We want you to trust us, and the best way we can build trust is to trust you. If you book this holiday, we do not require a deposit, or any payment until the day you arrive. On arrival we ask that you pay promptly via bank transfer or cash before we check you in to the accommodation. All we ask is that you confirm your flight details or other travel arrangements at least 10 days before you arrive. If we do not receive them your booking will be cancelled.

Please note the price is in EUROS not Sterling, therefore the price will not change due to currency fluctuations, although what you pay in Sterling will depend on the exchange rate at the time.

To book, please email peterssouth@hotmail.com for a booking form.