

# Bikexplore

## 20 Cols of Inland Costa Blanca

Tour number PM223



Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022



*Cocentaina*

This will be a very challenging week. Conquer 20 cols in 6 days, riding 620kms and ascending a total of 11,540 metres! You will receive a certificate if you complete all 20 cols. Not for the faint hearted! It is based on our long-standing El Comtat holidays, but picking out all the best climbs. There will be no leader on the road, this is a self-guided tour.

Once out of Cocentaina the roads we use will see very little traffic and are generally in very good condition. There are no flat roads, you will be either climbing or descending. Distances will be between 80 and 130kms and as we are collecting cols, there is a lot of climbing. Most of the climbs are well graded, but there are a few steep sections. There are long climbs to most of the cols, but of course that means long descents too with spectacular views. There are nevertheless plenty of opportunities to stop for a coffee and for lunch, with numerous bars along the way. It will be very important that you always have sufficient water, as it may be very warm or even hot. We will tell you where drinking water is available.

Each col has a sign at the top, we will need a photograph of you at each one in order to validate your certificate.

We will be staying in a comfortable, cycle friendly guest house in Cocentaina with safe storage for bikes.

**Price:-**

£475 (Single supplement, £85)

**Included:-**

7 nights' accommodation with breakfast and evening meals.

Transfers from and to Alicante airport.

Maps, route sheets, GPS files.

Bikexplore and Tour Leaders' expenses.

**Not included:-**

Lunches, drinks and snacks on the rides.

Flights to and from Alicante airport.

Travel Insurance.

Any other personal expenses.

Single occupancy.

Bike hire (if applicable). Please contact the leaders for details.

**Payment:-** Deposit on booking of £50. Balance of £425 by 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022, 10 weeks before the start date.

**Cancellations:-** Should you need to cancel your booking you must notify us in writing.

**Cancellation charges:-** Written notice received: Before 19th February 2022, Deposit (£50)

After 19th February 2022, 100%

Maximum number of participants – 8. There is no minimum number, the holiday will go ahead regardless of numbers booked.

**Itinerary:-**

- Saturday 30 April -** Arrive at Alicante airport and transfer to Cocentaina (about 1 hour). Assemble bikes and if you arrive early enough, take a short ride to get to know the area and check your bike out.
- Sunday 1 May -** Today you will cross the Mariola Natural Park then the Font Roja Natural Park to bag 2 cols. *'Portell and Canals del Onil'*. 88kms and 1300 metres of ascent.
- Monday 2 May -** A total of 5 cols today, *'Portitxol, Bosquet, Vallada, Paller and Benicadell'*. 122kms and 2128 metres of ascent.
- Tuesday 3 May -** Another 5 cols. *'Tollos, Val d'Ebo, Sorrell, Coll de Rates and Sa Creueta'*. A tough day but very rewarding. 130kms and 2663 metres.



- Wednesday 4 May** - Only 2 cols today as you go into the province of Valencia once more. '*Moro and Biar*'. 108kms and 1678 metres of ascent.
- Thursday 5 May** - 4 cols today and you will have to take a diversion to bag the 4th one. '*Benifallim, El Collao, Tudons, Confrides*'. 85kms and 1983 metres of ascent.
- Friday 6 May** - The famous Carrasqueta beckons, but you will have to tackle another one first. '*Tibi, Carrasqueta*'. 84kms and 1595 metres of ascent.
- Saturday 7 May** - Departures. Holiday ends after breakfast. Transfer to Alicante airport.

#### **General Information:-**

**Terrain and roads.** Most of the roads are good quality tarmac. Traffic will be light outside towns, at times almost non-existent. This is a hilly ride, there are no flat sections. Some of the climbs are very long, and some have short steep sections. There are many technical descents, and you should satisfy yourself that you have the skills to deal with these.

**Accommodation and meals.** Accommodation will be in a comfortable guest house. Price is based on two people sharing a room. All breakfasts and evening meals are included. There are numerous bars and restaurants throughout the area where lunch and coffees can be purchased. There are several supermarkets in Cocentaina should you wish to buy provisions.

**Travel and transfers.** Transfers will be arranged as soon as we know numbers and arrival/departure times. Your flight should be scheduled to arrive at Alicante by 16:00 at the latest on the Saturday. If your inward flight is delayed, we will endeavour to collect you when we can, but you may have to wait at the airport.

**Weather and clothing.** It will be warm at this time of year, and could be hot. But it could also be wet. If you carry clothing suitable for a typical British summer, that should suffice. It is compulsory to wear a hi-viz jacket in poor visibility, and helmets are compulsory in Spain.

**Navigation.** This is a self-led holiday, there will be no leader on the road. We will provide maps, route sheets and GPS files. 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.

**Bicycle and equipment.** Ensure that your bicycle is in good condition, especially tyres and brakes. You should carry spares, a pump and a simple tool kit to cope with punctures and minor repairs. A road bike will be most suitable for this holiday although could be done on a light tourer or hybrid.

**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, which includes Spain. 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, or scanned to record your entry and exit dates.

