

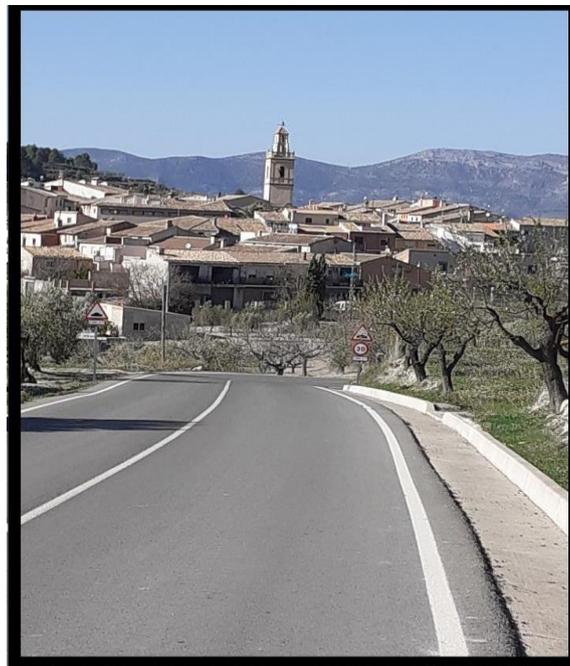
Bikexplore

El Comtat 2, Inland Costa Blanca

Tour number PM224



Saturday 7th May to Saturday 14th May 2022



A typical village in El Comtat

This guided tour is based on the El Comtat holidays we have been running for 10 years, but with all new routes. There are some completely new roads and destinations, particularly as a new cycle path through Alcoy has opened up territory to the West. Once out of Cocentaina the roads we use will see very little traffic and are generally in very good condition. There are few flat roads, we will be either climbing or descending most of the time. Distances will be between 50 and 100kms. Most of the climbs are well graded, but there are a few steep sections. There are long climbs, 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. In May the cherry harvest will be in full swing, and wild flowers should be abundant.

We will be staying in a hotel in Cocentaina which has secure bike storage.



Wednesday 11 May - A short ride today taking us through numerous local lanes and villages. We will see hardly any traffic. We will stop for lunch at Benilloba, leaving us just 9kms to return to Cocentaina. 48kms.

Thursday 12 May - A deceptively easy start to this ride before tackling the 'Casa Tarsan' road with sweeping views of the Serpis valley far below us. Through Villalonga where we will have lunch, which we will need to be able to climb the 'Almirante'. A very steep drop into Benissili then to Margarida to return. 81kms.

Friday 13 May - Through Alcoy, Ibi, Tibi and Xixona where the famous Carrasqueta awaits. Twisting hairpins lift us to Venta Teresa, an old coaching house where we can have lunch. More climbing awaits, but once again an easy, last few kilometres at the end. 80kms.

Saturday 14 May - 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 hotel. 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 guided tour. We will provide maps, route sheets and GPS files if you want them. 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.

