

Bike Mallorca – “La Isla de la Calma”

April 24 – May 4, 2024

This Mediterranean island off the coast of Spain is every cyclist’s dream destination. It also features a network of hiking trails, vineyards, traditional Mallorcan restaurants with local specialties, and significant historical sites. Art and culture are plentiful! Enjoy azure ocean vistas, small villages perched on hillsides, peaceful coves, lemon trees, and almond orchards. Excellent paved roads and bike paths traverse the island; the terrain varies from flat coastal paths and gentle hills to challenging mountain climbs.

The trip is designed for serious, independent cyclists, as well as those simply wishing to meander and relax in beautiful surroundings. High-quality carbon road bikes are available to rent, or you may bring your own bike and a professional bike mechanic will set it up for you. We’ll suggest daily routes or you may choose your own. Set your own distance and pace, or enjoy the camaraderie of group riding.

We’ll spend the first two nights near Palma and the airport, close to our local bike shop where we’ll pick up our rental bikes. We suggest a shake-down for the first ride.

On day three we’ll cycle around the central part of the island, and then stay 3 nights in Sineu, a centrally-located village. Known for its medieval streets, historic quarter, ancestral homes, and interesting monuments, Sineu is also home to the island’s oldest and most traditional market. We’ll ride through the rolling hills of the island’s interior, with pastoral settings, orchards, vineyards, and windmills.

Next, we’ll spend 3 days on the northeast coast of the island. Mediterranean cuisine, anyone? The iconic ride to the Cap de Formentor lighthouse is a favorite; we’ll also explore the coast from Port de Pollença to Alcudia. Inland just a few kilometers, we’ll stay in Pollença, an ancient town of attractive narrow streets and an impressive main square lined with cafes and restaurants. El Calvari, an 18th century monastery, is reached by climbing 365 steps lined with cypresses and gardens, with a stunning view from the top. Ponta Roma (a Roman bridge still in use) and Puig de Pollensa (a small mountain topped by a monastery) are nearby. If you want a real challenge, Sa Calobra is THE famous ride and the most impressive route on the island – simply breathtaking!



If you’re interested in a metric or standard century ride, the coastal road from Deià to Valldemossa and the Coll de Soller are epic rides! Soller is an authentic town situated in the Valley of Oranges, in the Tramuntana mountains. A tram meanders the 5 km to Port de Soller, both a working harbor and seaside resort.

Finally, we’ll return to the Palma area for our last 2 nights on the island. We suggest exploring central Palma de Mallorca, a bustling city with much to see and explore: La Seu (the cathedral, known as the symbol of Palma and a masterpiece of Catalan Gothic architecture), the Arab Baths, the Royal Palace, the fortress, and vibrant harbor. Miro and Gaudi both lived here and their influences are shown. The historic old town boasts medieval courtyards and alleyways, while the busy central area has art-nouveau buildings, 19th century townhouses, and cultural exhibits. Shopping? Mallorca is known for its pearls and leather (and great bike shops!).

Group leader: Mark Koepke has led numerous cycling trips to Mallorca as well as over 25 European bike trips. Mark is a retired university administrator and instructor (International Programs) with master’s degrees in Education, European History, and Art History. A former bike racer and mechanic, he has extensive travel experience worldwide.

Cost: Est. \$ 2,060 (based on 10 participants min.) Single supplement: est. \$500. Includes ten nights lodging with breakfasts, 3 group dinners, luggage transfers, & mechanical assistance. Note: Airfare and bike rentals are NOT included. We’ll provide recommendations. To register, complete the attached form and email it to kimslifetours@outlook.com. A **non-refundable deposit of \$400 (payable by check or Zelle) is required**. Register early as group size is limited! A payment schedule will be sent on receipt. See additional terms & conditions at Kim's LifeTours. For more information, call Mark at 715-252-1415 or Kim at 715-252-2672.

