SPICE ROADS
CYCLING



ROAD

MADRID TO LISBON BY ROAD BIKE

Tour Code
MCT-MLR

14 DAYS
13 NIGHTS

Destinations	
Tour Meets	Madrid, Spain
Tour Ends	Lisbon, Portugal
Fly in to	Adolfo Suárez Madrid–Barajas Airport (MAD)
Fly out of	Humberto Delgado Airport (LIS)
Group Size	4-16 riders
Minimum Age	18 (on scheduled departures)

ACTIVITY PROFILE

12 Cycling days	**1126** km Total cycling distance
94 km Avg distance / day	**1527** m Avg climbing / day

PRICING

Price	US$ 5,995
Bike Hire (E-Bike)	US$ 1,350
Bike Hire (Carbon Road Bike)	US$ 780
Single Supplement	US$ 1,450

**E-bikes are in limited supply, please enquire to reserve one.*

DEPARTURES

13 Jun - 26 Jun 2027
05 Sep - 18 Sep 2027

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ SpiceRoads jersey
- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ Support vehicle
- ✓ Guide(s)
- ✓ Meals (as indicated)
- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Snacks and drinks

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- ✗ International flights
- ✗ Domestic flights
- ✗ Airport pick up
- ✗ Airport drop off
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Alcohol
- ✗ Tips

TRIP PROFILE

Our average distance per day is 94 km (the maximum daily distance being Day 4, with up to 124 km), while the average elevation gain is +1527 m/day (the maximum gain is on Day 9, with +2400 m). On Day 1, we will transfer by vehicle a short distance out of Madrid's urban area. From here, we can continue our journey by bicycle all the way to Portugal! We ride a total of of 1126 km and climb +18600 m over 12 days of cycling, with a rest day on Day 6. . The ride difficulty steps up gradually over the first three days, varying from +800m to +1500m/day. Days 4 and 5 raise the bar for distance and elevation as we enter the heart of the Sierra. Day 6 is our well-deserved rest in La Alberca. We ease back into cycling on Day 7 with a more moderate day, followed by big rides on Days 8 to 11 as we make our way through the Portuguese mountains. Reaching the Atlantic, enjoy coastal joyrides of approx. 100 km and just over +1000m per day as we near our destination, Lisbon! We will transfer into the city at the end of the last ride and celebrate our achievement with a final dinner before saying goodbye on the morning of Day 14.

The trip is fully supported, and your guide's expert knowledge of the area and terrain means that you always know what is coming up in terms of distance and difficulty. This makes a tremendous difference, as does the constant supply of water and refreshments along the way.

Suitability: This is a challenging cycling tour that caters to experienced road cyclists with good physical fitness. You should be comfortable with daily climbing of +2000 m or more over consecutive days, and be able to handle your bicycle well on narrow roads with steep descents and hairpin turns. While the days vary in difficulty, and the tour includes a rest day, each day of riding will bring significant climbing challenges, potentially with extreme mountain conditions such as heat, cold, high winds, and rain along the way. Of course, we will always have support vehicles available in case you need a lift!

Biking conditions: The rides are chosen to be ideal for cycling, meaning heavy traffic will be rare, but it's always possible to encounter vehicles along the way. We will also ride into historic town centres and other settlements, which will mean navigating among numerous vehicles and other obstructions. Road surfaces are generally tarmac, but may include some rough broken asphalt, occasional gravel sections, and cobblestones. Steep, extended descents on mountain roads mean that control of the bike and ease with braking will be a must.

Riding in the mountains, we can expect a wide variety of climates and temperature swings from hot to cold, as well as sudden changes in the weather. Appropriate cycling gear for mountanis, including layers and waterproof apparel, will be essential.

We generally ride rain or shine, but based on the guide's discretion or your level of comfort, modifications to the planned route can be made. It's all part of the adventure!

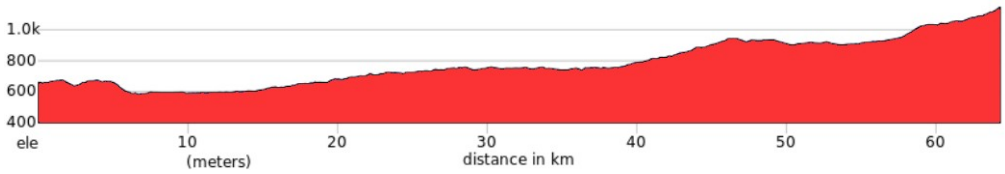
Hotels: We have carefully selected quality hotels to bring out the best in our surroundings while offering warm, welcoming Iberian hospitality after our demanding rides. Central locations in medieval towns and port villages allow us to engage in the local life, while swimming pools and spas give us the chance to rejuvenate in comfort. We will spend two nights, including our rest day, in La Alberca's Abadia de Los Templarios, which features a magnificent terrace and fine spa treatments, situated near the many activities of the town itself. Our final night hotel in Lisbon, The Marques de Pombal, is located within walking distance of the city's many attractions, including the cathedral and port area.



Day 1: Madrid to Miraflores de la Sierra

Begin your adventure in the heart of Madrid at Plaza del Sol, where we meet at a central location near the iconic km 0 marker where all roads of Spain begin. We transfer north out of the city a short distance to avoid traffic, then begin our epic point-to-point cycling journey across Spain and Portugal. You'll skirt the verdant Anillo Verde range, but the real challenge begins just a few kilometers in, as the road gets closer to the sharp climbs of the majestic Guadarrama Mountains. Conquering these climbs will be the exhilarating highlight of your day, setting the stage for a triumphant arrival at your first accommodation in the village of Miraflores de La Sierra.

Hotel la Munequila

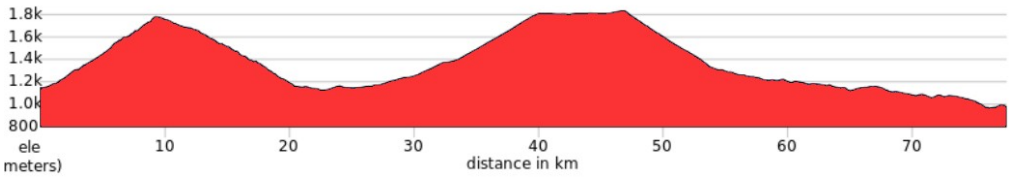


Ride 64km +900m -300m

Day 2: Miraflores de la Sierra to Segovia

Today, wake up in the charming mountain town of Miraflores de la Sierra, nestled in the foothills of the Guadarrama Mountains. After breakfast and coffee, start with a gentle warm-up through pine-scented roads and rolling terrain, heading toward the peaceful village of Rascafría, surrounded by alpine meadows and rivers and catching glimpses of high peaks and sweeping valleys. The subsequent descent is exhilarating, bringing you through the ski town of Navacerrada, where mountain energy and crisp air set the tone. Ride into the elegant San Ildefonso, home to the royal palace and beautifully-manicured gardens inspired by Versailles — a perfect place to pause and take in the history and grandeur of the Spanish monarchy. Your final stretch leads through San Cristóbal de Segovia, with panoramic views of the Castilian plains, before you arrive in the historic city of Segovia. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Segovia welcomes you with its magnificent Roman aqueduct, fairy-tale Alcázar, and charming cobbled streets — the perfect ending to a spectacular day of mountain and heritage on the bike.

Eurostars Plaza Acueducto

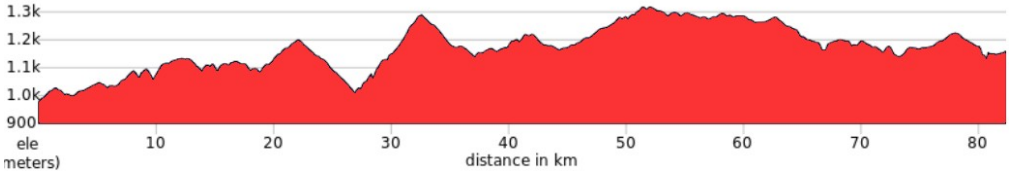


Ride 78km +1500m -1700m

Day 3: Segovia to Avila

Covering around 80 kilometers of captivating terrain, today's stage introduces you to the beautiful Guadarrama Mountains, home to wildlife including ibex, wild cats, and foxes, as well as gigantic Eurasian Black Vultures and eagles. The gentle climbs and smooth descents make the route both scenic and manageable. Starting in Segovia, perhaps with a walk around town to take in its beauty, you'll soon find yourself cycling a picturesque path through rolling hills and lush forests. The gradients are kind, offering a pleasant challenge without overwhelming your legs. The stage concludes with a smooth descent towards Ávila. Yet another UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ávila stands as one of the most fascinating stops on our route, making it a true highlight of this cycling and cultural adventure. Explore the many sights within its medieval walls, then gather once more for dinner!

Hotel Palacio de los Velada

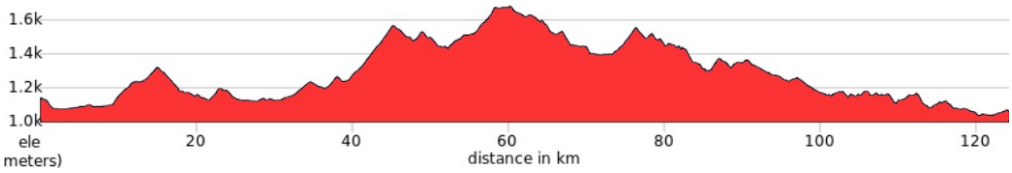


Ride 82km +1200m -1000m

Day 4: Avila to El Barco de Avila

Leaving Ávila along the city walls, we embark on another exhilarating day of cycling on high mountain roads. The breathtaking views along the Tormes River, with its Roman bridges, and the charming villages of the Zapatero massif will make the grueling 100 km ride seem almost effortless. This challenging stage offers a perfect blend of natural beauty and historical charm. Later in the day, the route will take us to the town of Barco d'Ávila, steeped in history and cultural depth, with the landscape dominated by its 12th century castle and city walls, as well as a medieval bridge across the Tormes. Enjoy the sweeping views over the surrounding mountains from the hotel terrace and pool.

Hotel Izán Puerta de Gredos



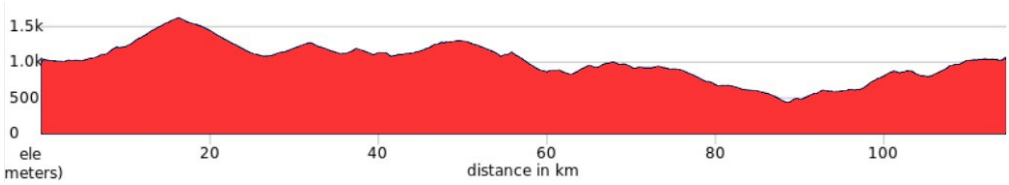
Ride 124km +2000m -2100m

Day 5: El Barco de Avila to La Alberca

This stage of our adventure begins with a daunting climb over the Puerto del Tremedal, a favourite pass on the Vuelta a España race. Taking us up to 1,600 meters, this is the opening to a day of intense climbs and remote roads. Along the way, you'll pedal through tranquil oak forests

and the quaint village of Candelário. After crossing the valley into the Hurdes region, prepare for another grueling climb of over an hour. This climb will take us to La Alberca, within the stunning Sierra de Francia Natural Park. The day is both challenging and exhilarating, combining the thrill of rugged terrain with the awe-inspiring beauty of the natural landscape. This ancient town is also rich in history and spirituality, the perfect place to linger a while; tomorrow will be a well-deserved day off the bike. Settle into our inviting hotel, with its spa and thermal baths, and make the most of your time in this gorgeous setting.

Abadia de Los Templarios



Ride 115km +2300m -2300m

Day 6: Rest day in La Alberca

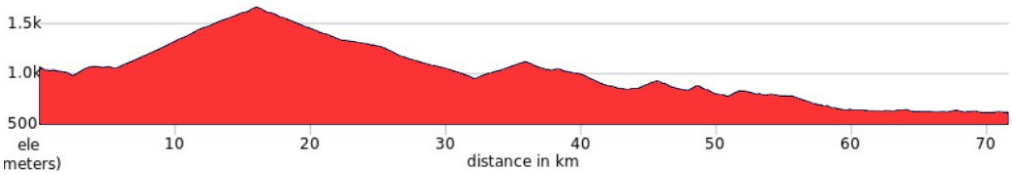
Today, we set our bikes aside to explore the town, relax at our hotel's spa and thermal baths, or both! A day in La Alberca offers an enchanting blend of tradition, nature, and flavor—an authentic Castilian village experience that lingers long after you leave. Wander narrow cobbled streets lined with centuries-old half-timbered and granite houses, with wooden balconies and colorful flowers. Relax in the Plaza Mayor, framed by arcade galleries and dotted with cafés—ideal for sipping coffee, people-watching, or enjoying local artisans' markets. Visit the Baroque Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción with its beautiful sacred art, or venture beyond the village on easy nature walks, such as the Chestnut Grove loop or trails through the Las Batuecas valley—and perhaps visit the serene Monastery of Las Batuecas hidden in the forest. Tonight, you are free to choose from the many dining options in the town, including succulent Jamón ibérico, hornazo meat pies, honey, turrón sweets, and hearty tapas in rustic taverns.

Abadia de Los Templarios

Day 7: Cycle La Alberca to Ciudad Rodrigo

Refreshed after our time in La Alberca, we begin with an epic climb up Peña de Francia, one of the most iconic and challenging ascents in western Spain, featuring a summit at over 1700 metres crowned by a monastery known for its wide-open mountain views. Your route will then wind gently downhill through the natural park, offering breathtaking panoramas as you descend into the village of Monsagro, known for its fossil-marked stone walls and peaceful mountain charm. Continue through Serradilla del Arroyo and La Atalaya across rolling hills and quiet farmlands dotted with sheep and fig trees — an idyllic slice of rural Spain. The road carries you west through Zamarra, then northward as you follow the meandering Río Águeda, riding alongside shimmering waters, lush meadows, and golden countryside. A stop in picturesque Sanjuanejo provides a rest before your final stretch, culminating in Ciudad Rodrigo, a magnificent walled town rich in medieval and Renaissance architecture. Enter through one of its historic gates and roll into a plaza where you can toast the day's adventure, replete with nature, culture, and the freedom of the open road!

Hotel Conde Rodrigo

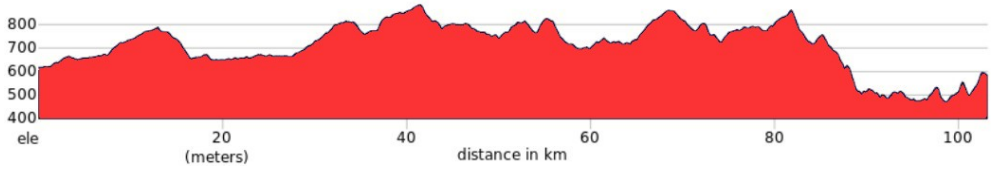


Ride 72km +1200m -1600m

Day 8: Ciudad Rodrigo to Belmonte

This morning, you'll roll out into the golden Castilian countryside, pedaling through quiet roads and gently-rolling farmland toward Ituero de Azaba and Puebla de Azaba. As you head south, the landscape shifts from green hills and oak groves to a more arid terrain with expansive horizons and the first glimpses of the distant Serra da Malcata. Crossing into Portugal, you'll enter a new world of granite villages and wild beauty, passing through Aldeia da Ribeira and Bismula, where cobbled streets and stone houses seem to hold stories spanning centuries. The ride continues through Vale das Éguas and Rapoula do Côa, offering peaceful river views and lush valleys that invite you to slow down and breathe it in. Climb gently through traditional villages where rural life continues at an unhurried pace, and every turn offers a postcard-perfect view. Your final stretch leads you through the scenic foothills of the Serra da Estrela and then into Belmonte, a picturesque town perched on a hillside. Here, Jewish heritage, medieval castles, and dynamic vistas of the Cova da Beira valley greet you at the end of an unforgettable day in the saddle. This is also the birthplace of Pedro Álvares Cabral, who claimed Brazil for Portugal in the year 1500.

Belmonte Sinai

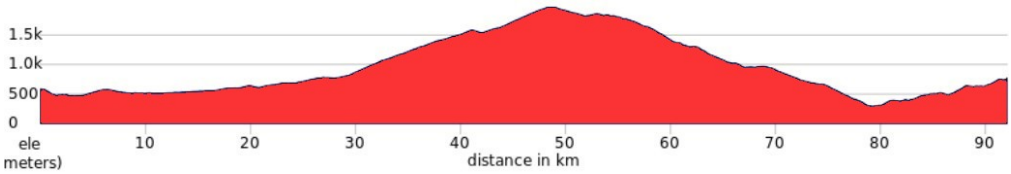


Ride 103km +1500m -1500m

Day 9: Belmonte to Piodao

After breakfast, leave these stone-paved streets behind as you descend toward the lush valley of the Zêzere River, tracing its winding course through central Portugal's most captivating landscapes. Pass through Valhelhas and Vale de Amoreira, riverside villages surrounded by chestnut forests and granite cliffs, with quiet roads offering gentle undulations and soothing views. As you continue, the route leads into Manteigas, nestled in the heart of the Serra da Estrela Natural Park, where the mountain air becomes crisper. From here, the climb begins — a long, steady ascent along the Zêzere Glacier Valley, one of the most striking glacial valleys in Europe. The road meanders past alpine meadows and granite formations, eventually reaching the Nascente do Rio Zêzere, the river's stunning mountain source. The highlight of your ride awaits at Torre, the highest point in mainland Portugal (1,993 m), offering panoramic views across the Serra da Estrela range — a true cyclist's milestone. The descent is pure joy: smooth, sweeping turns take you past the Miradouro do Vale de Loriga, where panoramic views of the picturesque glacial valley unfold below. You'll ride through terraced hillsides and schist hamlets before reaching the fairy-tale village of Piódão, a hidden gem nestled into the mountainside with its slate-roofed houses and cobbled lanes.

INATEL Piodão



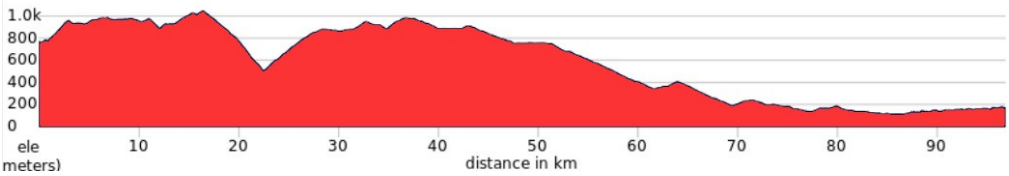
Ride 92km +2400m -2200m

Day 10: Piodao to Penela

Today's ride is a bit more relaxed, while still offering some challenges along the way., We ride through the soul of central Portugal, starting from the storybook village of Piódão, nestled in the Serra do Açor mountains, a picture-perfect starting point. As you start you will have a challenging ascent, then you will enjoy pedaling on the top of the mountains where breathtaking views unfold. From here, enjoy the fast descent, another demanding climb, then enjoy a smooth road descent until reaching Lousa. This town greets you with its historical charm, mountain air,

and views of ancient castles tucked into the hills. Nearby, Miranda do Corvo brings a mix of culture and countryside, where you can pause for a break in a lively town square or a local café. Your ride finishes in Penela, crowned by a medieval castle and offering sweeping views of the rolling landscape you've just conquered.

Duecitânia Design Hotel

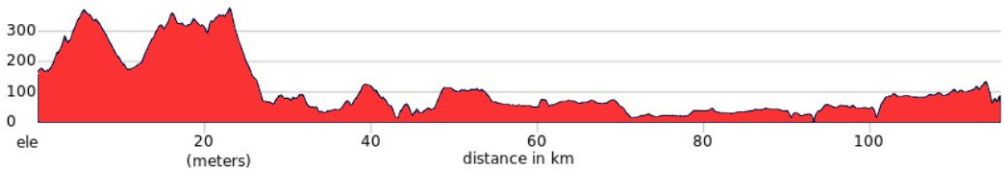


Ride 97km +1400m -2000m

Day 11: Penela to Nazare

Begin your cycling journey in Penela, a charming hilltop town crowned by a medieval castle and surrounded by peaceful countryside. As you set off, the road winds through the quiet beauty of central Portugal, passing through the ancient Roman ruins of Rabaçal, where olive groves and vineyards frame the landscape. You'll continue through the quaint villages of Degracias and Mogadouro, where traditional stone houses and sleepy town squares reflect a timeless rural rhythm. The ride then rolls toward Almagreira, offering open views of forested hills and wide valleys, perfect for a tranquil and scenic pedal. Approaching Pedrógão, the terrain gently shifts as you get closer to the Atlantic coast. You'll feel the fresh sea breeze as you ride toward the dramatic cliffs of Farol do Penedo da Saudade, a lighthouse perched above the ocean with stunning panoramic views — a perfect photo stop and rest point. From there, the road hugs the rugged coastline through São Pedro de Moel, a beautiful beach town framed by pine forests and crashing waves. This final stretch offers a mix of coastal vistas and forest-lined paths as you cruise into Nazaré, one of Portugal's most iconic seaside towns, known for its golden beaches, cliff-top views, and legendary waves.

Hotel Miramar Sul

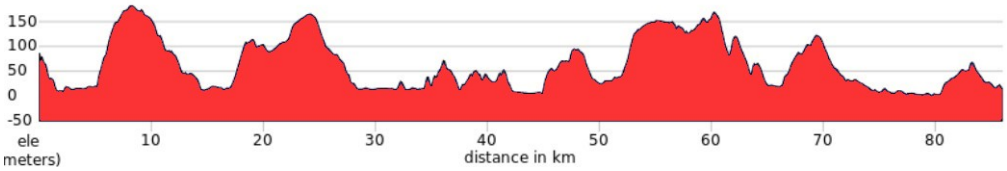


Ride 116km +1400m -1500m

Day 12: Nazare to Ericeira

This morning, set off along the coast, taking in the golden sands of Praia da Nazaré's and the vibrant energy of this historic fishing village turned surfer's paradise. Your journey continues south to the serene bay of São Martinho do Porto, a natural shell-shaped haven perfect for a short break. Just across the river lies Salir do Porto, where a gentle climb rewards you with expansive views over the ocean and the green hinterlands. From here, follow the scenic road to Foz do Arelho, where the calm waters of the Óbidos Lagoon meet the sea — a surreal landscape of shimmering water, dunes, and wind-blown trees. Ride along the lagoon's edge, surrounded by the peaceful rhythm of nature. Continue through quiet countryside roads to Vimeiro, where rolling hills and eucalyptus-scented air lead you into Porto Novo, a wild and untamed stretch of coastline with dramatic cliffs and crashing waves— a perfect backdrop for a quick photo or snack break. The final leg of our ride descends into the port villages of Santa Cruz and Ericeira with their cobbled streets, whitewashed houses, and breathtaking sunset views over the Atlantic.

VG Ericeira

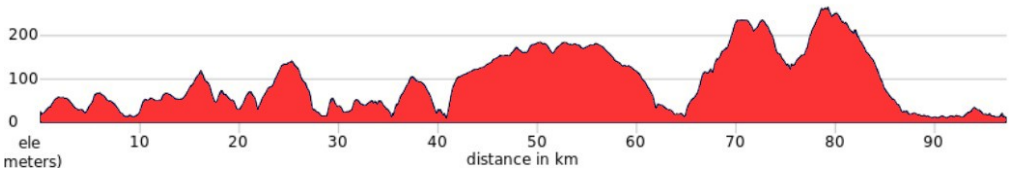


Ride 86km +1000m -1100m

Day 13: Ericeira - Cascais - Lisbon

Our last day of riding offers an unforgettable mix of inland and coastal cycling adventure from Ericaira to Cascais. Trace the coastline past Praia de São Julião, where cliffs tumble into wild waves, then climb gently toward the fairy-tale village of Azenhas do Mar — a cliff-perched gem with stunning views and iconic seaside pools. Next comes Praia das Maçãs, perfect for a relaxed pause to soak in the Atlantic air. The route then ascends toward Cabo da Roca, the westernmost point of mainland Europe. The windswept cliffs and dramatic views over the endless ocean are a true highlight and a powerful reminder of nature's scale. Finally, glide along the coast through pine forests and dunes to Praia do Guincho, a breathtaking beach framed by mountains and sea spray, before rolling into the vibrant seaside town of Cascais. Here, charming marinas, historic mansions, and waterfront promenades mark the perfect end to a truly spectacular ride. We toast to our adventure, then transfer some 30 minutes into the historic centre of Lisbon. Gather once more for a final night dinner to share memories and celebrate this truly grand Iberian voyage!

Hotel Marques de Pombal



Ride 97km +1300m -1300m

Day 14: Departure from Lisbon

This morning, you may choose to depart Lisbon, or stay a few days longer in this elegant and intriguing city.

Disclaimer: The adventure cycling tours we operate often go beyond the beaten track, and the countries where we ride are not always predictable. Due to these reasons, it is occasionally necessary to reroute or update itineraries. Our guarantee is that we will not change a trip unless for safety or to improve it. Our listed hotels are always accurate at the time of writing, but should we have to change any hotel, it will always be for a similar or better one.

NUTS & BOLTS

Bikes

Because some people can't imagine going on a trip without their own beloved bicycle, we do not provide them as part of this tour. However, you can hire bikes locally for the price listed in the tour pricing section.

If you bring your own bike, please make sure it is a road bike in good mechanical order, and that you bring any specialty/spare parts that might be needed for your model of bike.

Bike Repairs

Basic spares and tools are carried by the guide and on the support vehicle, though we cannot guarantee having spares for every conceivable problem. Carrying a basic tool kit, a spare tube and a pump while riding is recommended.

Safety

Wearing a helmet is required on all our biking adventures and is non negotiable. If you do not wear a helmet you will not be allowed to cycle. Your tour leader is trained in first aid and emergency rescue, but to a large degree you must be responsible for your own safety while riding. It is therefore compulsory that you take out travel insurance that will cover you for a mountain biking tour.

Guides

You will be led by a local English-speaking guide and if the group is 9 people or more we will add another guide to the tour. All our guides are well informed in the history, culture and religions of the area where you are biking and are skilled at passing that knowledge on to you. Your guide is also medically trained and an experienced cyclist, able to handle most minor repairs en route.

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SPAIN

Passports and Visas

Spain is a member of the Schengen Area. Citizens of the UK, US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand do not require a visa for short-term tourism. All visa-exempt travellers must obtain a valid ETIAS approval prior to arrival. This digital registration links to your passport and remains valid for three years. The Entry/Exit System (EES) operates at all borders, requiring a biometric registration of facial images and fingerprints upon entry into the Schengen zone. For citizens of the EU, Switzerland, and Norway, entry is permitted with a valid National ID card or passport. Ensure your passport remains valid for at least three months beyond your intended date of departure.

Health & Insurance

No specific vaccinations are mandatory for entry to Spain. We recommend remaining current on standard boosters such as Tetanus and Hepatitis A/B. When cycling in the northern "Green Spain" regions or the humid valleys of Andalusia, be mindful of ticks and mosquitoes. Comprehensive travel insurance is essential and must specifically cover cycling activities and medical evacuation. EU citizens should carry a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), while UK citizens should carry a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC).

Weather

The prime window for cycling in Spain varies by region.

- **The Best Window:** April, May, and September offer the most comfortable riding temperatures across the interior, typically ranging between 18°C and 26°C.
- **Summer Peak:** July and August bring intense heat, particularly in Andalusia and the central Meseta, where temperatures often exceed 35°C.
- **The North:** Galicia and the Basque Country remain cooler and greener but receive higher rainfall.
- **Gear:** Pack high-SPF sun protection and lightweight, breathable fabrics. A light windproof shell is essential for mountain descents in the Sierra Nevada or the Picos de Europa.

Food

Spanish cuisine celebrates the quality of raw ingredients and regional tradition. You must experience the *tapas* culture of the south and the *pintxos* bars of the north. Essential dishes include **Paella** in Valencia, **Gazpacho** in Andalusia, and **Tortilla de patatas** across the country. The ritual of the *sobremesa* means meals often last for hours, providing a slow and restorative finish to the day. All dietary needs are managed upon notification at the time of booking.

Drink

Spain possesses a legendary winemaking heritage, ranging from the bold reds of **Rioja** and **Ribera del Duero** to the crisp **Albariño** of the north. Sample a chilled **Fino** sherry in the south or a sparkling **Cava** in Catalonia. Coffee culture is prominent; a *café solo* or *cortado* provides a quick

caffeine hit at any local bar. Tap water is safe to drink in all major cities and towns, though it can have a mineral taste in coastal areas. Alcohol during meals is not included in the tour price.

Solo Travellers

SpiceRoads welcomes solo adventurers and does not charge a mandatory single supplement. We arrange for you to share a room with another traveller of the same gender in twin-share accommodation. If no match is available, you receive a single room at no additional cost. If you prefer to guarantee your own private room for the duration of the trip, a single supplement is available at the rate listed in the tour pricing.

Extra Expenses

Spain offers excellent value for money, though prices in major hubs like Madrid and Barcelona are higher than in the rural interior. Budget for personal incidentals such as artisanal leather goods, high-quality saffron, or traditional ceramics. Tipping is not strictly mandatory, but rounding up the bill or leaving a few euros for good service in restaurants is standard practice. Small gratuities for your support crew are also a common gesture of appreciation.

Money

The currency is the Euro (€).

- **Card Acceptance:** Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and shops throughout the country.
- **ATMs:** Cash machines (*cajeros*) are plentiful and accept most international cards.
- **Rural Cash:** In smaller mountain villages, remote *vías verdes* stops, and some local markets, a cash-based economy remains prevalent. It is essential to carry Euro notes for small purchases, coffee breaks, and for use in areas where digital payment terminals may be unavailable.

PORTUGAL

Passports and Visas

Portugal is a member of the **Schengen Area**. Citizens of the **UK, US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan** (among others) do not require a visa for tourism and are permitted to stay for up to **90 days within any 180-day period**.

All visa-exempt travellers are required to obtain a valid **ETIAS** (European Travel Information and Authorisation System) approval prior to arrival. This is a digital authorisation linked to your passport, valid for three years, and must be applied for online before you travel. Additionally, all non-EU/Schengen citizens are subject to the **Entry/Exit System (EES)**. This replaces manual passport stamping with a digital registration of your entry and exit, including a biometric scan (facial image and fingerprints) at the border.

For citizens of the EU, Switzerland, and Norway, entry is permitted with a valid National ID card or passport. If you are from a country that requires a Schengen Visa, you must apply through a Portuguese consulate or embassy. Please ensure your passport is valid for at least three months beyond your intended departure date.

Health & Insurance

No specific vaccinations are mandatory for entry, though being up-to-date on standard boosters (Tetanus, Hep A/B) is always recommended.

While Portugal has high-quality healthcare, we strongly recommend comprehensive travel insurance that covers cycling activities and medical evacuation. If you are an EU citizen, ensure you carry a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). UK citizens should carry their Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) to access reciprocal state-provided healthcare for necessary treatments.

Weather

Portugal's climate is influenced by both the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, creating diverse conditions for riding.

- **The Best Window: April to June** and **September to October** are the "Goldilocks" months, offering mild temperatures and clear skies.
- **Summer Heat:** In July and August, the interior—particularly the Alentejo—can see temperatures exceeding **35°C**. During these months, coastal routes are preferred as they benefit from cooling Atlantic breezes.
- **Winter:** The Algarve remains mild, making it a popular winter training spot, though the northern mountains can be wet and receive snow at higher altitudes.

- **Gear:** Layers are essential. Even on sunny days, the Atlantic coast can be surprisingly breezy and cool once the sun sets.

Food

Portuguese gastronomy is honest, seasonal, and deeply tied to the sea. The national obsession is **Bacalhau** (salted cod), but you will also find exceptional fresh grilled sardines and octopus along the coast. In the interior, look for hearty **Alentejo pork** and game dishes. No visit is complete without a **Pastel de Nata** (custard tart) from a local bakery. Most meals are served with regional bread and premium olive oils. We cater to all dietary needs; please let us know your requirements at the time of booking.

Drink

Hydration is a priority, especially during inland climbs. We provide ample water and local snacks during all rides. Portugal's wine culture is world-class; try the crisp, effervescent **Vinho Verde** in the north, robust reds in the Alentejo, and the iconic **Port wine** in the Douro. For a traditional digestif, a small glass of **Ginjinha** (sour cherry liqueur) is a local favourite. Soft drinks and alcohol during meals are not included in the tour price.

Solo Travellers

SpiceRoads does not charge a mandatory single supplement. We will arrange for you to share a room with another traveller of the same gender. If no match is available, you will receive a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer to guarantee your own private room, a single supplement is available at the rate listed in the tour pricing.

Extra Expenses

Portugal remains one of the most affordable destinations in Western Europe. Budget for personal incidentals such as post-ride coffees (a local *bica*), unique souvenirs like cork-based handicrafts or hand-painted tiles (*azulejos*), and tips for your local support team.

Money

The currency of Portugal is the **Euro (€)**.

- **ATMs:** Known as **Multibanco**, ATMs are plentiful in airports and towns, accepting most international debit and credit cards.
- **Cards:** Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and most shops.
- **Cash:** While the country is highly digitised, it is wise to carry a small amount of cash for tips or for use in traditional "Tascas" (taverns) in smaller rural villages.

GENERAL BOOKING INFO

If this is the tour for you here's what you need to do to confirm your place:

FLEXIBLE BOOKING CONDITIONS

Booking a SpiceRoads cycling adventure is easy and we try to do everything possible to make sure you have full flexibility and peace of mind. We do not require a deposit to hold your place on a tour and once full payment has been made your money is protected in our client account and you have the flexibility to cancel or change your booking if needed.

CONFIRMING YOUR BOOKING

Just complete our online booking form or send your booking details offline (email or post), and we will confirm your participation. No deposit is needed to confirm your place on a SpiceRoads tour.

You are advised to read our Booking Conditions in full before you make your payment and should you require further clarifications of any of the conditions below, please email us or call our office.

TRIP STATUS

There is a minimum number of participants (usually 2) required to enable the trip to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to Depart'. Once a trip is guaranteed to depart you are free to book your flights and make other travel arrangements. If the trip status is 'Limited' will mean we have only a small number of spaces available for booking. If you are unsure about the trip status, please email us or call our office.

BOOKING ONLINE

From the tour page, click the 'Book Now' link. All departures for this tour will appear, just select the date you'd like to travel. For the next steps, you'll need to know the names of the people travelling. If you wish you can also provide extra details such as passport numbers, height (for bike hire), or you can add that later by logging into Manage My Trip (we'll set up an account for you automatically if you don't already have one). Our system will contact you from time to time to fill in the missing information, as it will be required before departure. However, if the trip that you are booking offers a child discount, you will have to fill out the date of birth of each rider (so we can calculate the appropriate discount).

If you are having any problems please send us an email, or give us a call (+66 026 3295) and one of our travel specialists will assist you with your booking.

BOOKING OFFLINE

Just call us or send an email indicating which trip you want to join and we will happily send you a list of questions and process your booking for you.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS

We do not require a deposit or full payment to book a place for you on a tour.

The balance of the tour's cost (final invoice) will need to be paid 60 days before the departure date with fees for any bicycle rental(s), single supplement(s) and extra hotel nights.

In the case where a booking is made when there are less than 60 days until the tour departure date, the tour's cost should be paid in full within 72 hours of receiving an invoice from SpiceRoads. Payment can be made by credit card using our online payment gateway or by bank transfer. When making payment online you will need to confirm that you have read these booking conditions during the "checkout" process, which equates to agreeing to the terms of services and stipulations as indicated in this document.

In all cases, tour fees need to be paid "in full" before participation in a tour. No person(s) will be allowed to join a tour without fully settling their invoice and receiving a confirmation number from SpiceRoads.

The exception can be made for last-minute miscellaneous fees that can be paid locally (visas, additional local hotel bookings, etc.) can be settled on the day of arrival.

FULL FLEXIBILITY FOR TOUR CANCELATIONS

If the tour is cancelled or postponed by SpiceRoads because we didn't make the trip numbers and the tour can't run, we will make a full cash refund (by bank transfer or on your credit card).

If the tour is cancelled for any other reason, including due to Covid related travel restrictions, we will give you a full credit (with no deductions for admin or any other small-print item) to use on any SpiceRoads tour with no time limit. (Exceptions being flights, special permits and other non-refundable items and these will be advised when booking the trip).

Before paying for your tour, you can cancel your booking with no charge and up until 40 days before departure, you can change your booking to another travel date or move your booking onto another SpiceRoads tour with no charges.

If you need to cancel after you have made full payment, please see our cancellation policy.

Loyalty Riders Club

For those who have been on several long tours with us, we reward customer loyalty by offering repeat customers a special discount off the tour price (excludes single supplement and bike rental). If this is your fourth scheduled tour or more you will receive a 5% discount. If this is your eighth scheduled tour or more we will extend a 10% discount. The discount will be reflected in your online booking, but please contact us if any questions. Loyalty discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Note: Only tours of 7 days or more will be applicable for a loyalty discount.

International Flights

International flights, to and from the start and finish points are not included in the tour price. Once your tour is Guaranteed to Depart you can book your flight. Please contact us for advice before arranging flights for the best arrival and departure times. We would only cancel a trip for an extreme circumstance, but in that case, where we cancel your trip, we cannot be liable for losses incurred relating to any flight booking you have made. Please claim any losses from your travel insurance that you acquired when you booked your holiday.

Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from SpiceRoads, be sure to subscribe.

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