



Andalusia Cycling Tour (Spain): 22 September to 3 October 2026

Introduction

Andalusia in southern Spain is a sleeping giant when it comes to quality road cycling. The inland mountains offer a peaceful setting and incredible mixed terrain rides. Sierra Cazorla, Sierra Nevada and Sierra de Grazalema are well kept Spanish secrets and for road cycling are a few of the best national parks in Europe. This Madrid to Malaga itinerary includes UNESCO heritage Renaissance Spain, Granada home of La Alhambra and Ronda which is believed by many to be the jewel of Andalusia. Mountains, history, olive groves, national park, sunny weather, gastronomy and La Vuelta (Tour of Spain) routes at every corner all combine to make Andalusia the perfect cycling holiday destination. With 300 days of sunshine per year we look forward to welcoming you to southern Spain for your next European cycling adventure!

Tour Highlights

- Epic cycling through the Sierra Nevada mountains
- Granada the home of the Alhambra fortress and palace
- Follow the wheelpath of 'Vuelta a España' & 'Vuelta a Andalucía' pro races
- Cazorla – whitewashed villages, cuisine and Andalusian culture
- 'Pico de Veleta' – the highest asphalted road in Europe (3296m elevation)
- Cycle through Jaen province - the world's biggest tapestry of olive groves
- The Tranco reservoir cycling experience and its turquoise-coloured waters
- Classic Vuelta climbs including 'Las Palomas', 'Hoya de la Mora' and 'Puerto del Viento'



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Tour Itinerary

Day 1 – Tuesday 22 September 2026 – Madrid to UNESCO Renaissance Spain

Today we will collect you mid-morning from central Madrid. Following a 2.5-3hr drive you will have crossed south over the Despeñaperros mountains and into Andalusia. There will be times to set-up the bikes before the 35km warm-up ride into Baeza (UNESCO world heritage site).

The small town of Baeza in Andalusia dates back to the Moorish 9 Century. While the Italian Renaissance began during the 14th Century, Spain as we know it today, was in the middle of the 'Reconquista'. As a result, the Spanish Renaissance period started later and spanned the 15th and 16th Centuries with Baeza representing some of its greatest architecture ensemble in Spain.

The region is also the world's biggest producer of extra virgin olive oil. This is all thanks to the Phoenicians who brought the olive tree to Andalusia around 3000 years ago. Olive trees dot the landscape for as far as the eye can see. Cycling through the never ending 'sea' of olive fields is an experience in itself. The contrast between the ochre soils, bottle green trees and soft blue skies will leave a lasting impression!

Rides: 30-40km warm-up

Sleep: Baeza (UNESCO heritage)

Day 2 – Wednesday 23 September 2026 – Baeza and its fields of Olives

Today you will ride out to the Sierra Magina Natural Park directly to the south of Baeza. The winding roads follow an undulating route but the terrain never gets too steep. For those looking for a challenge the option to climb Peña del Aguila is available. The 5km climb with a 9.5% average grade is a real test. Try and match Alberto Contador who averaged 19km/hr during the 2017 La Vuelta a Andalucia!

Rides from 60 to 100km available

Sleep: Baeza (UNESCO heritage)

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Day 3 – Thursday 24 September 2026 – Welcome to Cazorla National Park

Cycling from the hotel you pass the old medieval gates to Baeza for a final time. After exploring its small cobbled streets and ornate plazas this small town is sure to have provided with you some special memories! Cazorla National Park is our next destination and quite simply is a secret cycling paradise. Cazorla is well known amongst Spanish tourists but is off the typical path for international travellers.

‘Cazorla’ is Spain’s largest protected natural reserve and the second in Europe! The flora and fauna is also of significant value with the park a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 1983. Nature lovers will appreciate this diverse habitat with over 50 mammal and 185 bird species.

Today there will be the chance to ride from hotel to hotel with two different ride distances ranging from 70 to 100km. We stay in Cazorla which is the most recognised town in the park and the Yedra castle is a beautiful sight. The great selection of tapas bars is just another reason for visiting Cazorla and Andalusia. Stage 6 of the 2015 La Vuelta a España pro race finished in Cazorla township which will be now home for the next three nights!

Rides from 70 to 100km available

Sleep: Cazorla (Spain’s biggest national park)



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Day 4 – Friday 25 September 2026 – Cycle to the Tranco Reservoir

Some might want to take an easier ride today with the ‘Sierra de Cazorla’ gran fondo scheduled for tomorrow.

The Sierra Cazorla reserve is a dream cycling destination and today you will understand even further why this is such a special place. Departing Cazorla and the route passes the ‘Puerto de las Palomas’ climb. This 14km climb ascends 375m at an average grade of 2.5%. It has been used on a number of occasions during La Vuelta a Andalucia and La Vuelta a España professional races. This pass boasts spectacular views over the Guadalquivir Valley but is also an interesting spot to take out the binoculars and look for eagles and falcons. What now follows is a flowing descent down to the turquoise coloured waters of the Tranco reservoir. A beautiful ride which dissects the heart of the Cazorla natural park.

If you want to save your legs for tomorrow catch the van transfer from the reservoir back to the hotel. Otherwise continue the loop and turn it into a century ride.

Rides from 50 to 115km available

Sleep: Cazorla (Spain’s biggest national park)

Day 5 – Saturday 26 September 2026 – Sierra de Cazorla Gran Fondo

In 2026 the ‘Sierra de Cazorla Gran Fondo’ will celebrate its 6th edition. In 2024 there were 1200 participants who took on the 145km route which includes 2090m of elevation gain. With two Category 2 climbs and one Category 3 climb to contend with it is sure to be a great achievement.

Not everyone will be looking for such a big challenge so our guides will also be on hand to roll-out a shorter ride or two for those still looking to get in a solid ride through this spectacular national park.

Sleep: Cazorla (Spain’s biggest national park)

Day 6 – Sunday 27 September 2026 – On the road to Granada!

The challenge for today is the Puerto de Tiscar climb. ‘Tiscar’ is a Category 2 climb (8km with a constant 6% grade) and offers amazing views of the surrounding valleys and peaks! From the Cazorla hotel this ride provides access to the rocky landscape of the south western corner of the national park. Sections of this ride will access terrain that looks like the ‘mini Grand Canyon’. The different rides will all finish in the town of Pozo Alcon where there will be a 1hr 30 min transfer through to Granada and home for the next 3 nights.

Rides from 45 to 90km available

Sleep: Granada (home to La Alhambra palace)

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Day 7 – Monday 28 September 2026 – Rest Day - La Alhambra Palace

A rest day is recommended today to visit the La Alhambra palace. It is in Spain's most visited. Tomorrow also has a number of routes which pack a serious punch so a rest day could be very strategic!

We understand though that there are always some riders keen to get out on the bikes. In the afternoon we can put on a fantastic 50km ride. Cycling out of Granada the aim is to reach the 'Puerto de Los Blancares' climb before turning and riding home. From Granada this is a climb in the Sierra Nevada foothills. It is 20km long and gradually rises to 1297m elevation at an average gradient of 3%. There are some short sections with 6-8% slopes to wake you up for the big day planned for tomorrow.

Sleep: Granada (home to La Alhambra palace)



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Day 8 – Tuesday 29 September 2026 – Veleta – Europe’s highest asphalted road

Today the goal is to cycle the highest asphalted road in Europe. The ‘Pico de Veleta’ climb really has everything that the hardened cycling *aficionado* is looking for: a 40km continuous climb, an altitude gain of approximately 2650m and an average grade of 6.5%. No wonder this unique cycling ascent is known as ‘The Everest of European Mountain Passes’. Cycling from Granada the overall climb can be ticked off via achieving a number of smaller climbs; Haza Llanas, Collado de las Sabinas, Hoya de la Mora (military barrier) and finally ‘Veleta’. From the military barrier the final 12km are traffic free so the hairpins, which hit you now at an alarming rate, are for cyclists alone! At the 2750m altitude mark the signpost is sandblasted, testimony to the severe mountain conditions that batter this area during winter. You are sharing company with famous mountain passes such as Gavia, Galibier, Stelvio, Agnello, Iseran or Bonette which are the authentic myths of our cycling sport. We pay our respect to these climbs but appreciate that with over 500m of elevation gain still awaiting the challenge is still in front of us. Are you ready for Veleta and the challenge to reach 3300m elevation?

There are also a number of lower climbs in the Sierra Nevada mountains which will be perfect for those wanting to ride less kilometres and elevation gain.

Rides from 60 to 100km available

Sleep: Granada (home to La Alhambra palace)

Day 9 – Wednesday 30 September 2026 – Ronda and the jewel of Andalusia

This morning we say goodbye to Granada and drive 2hr to El Chorro which is a striking canyon. The ride starts in what is referred to as the Malaga Lakes District. The winding roads through the Serrania de Ronda mountains were historically infamous for bandits but today they are made for road cyclists! The Puerto del Viento climb was used during Stage 5 of the 2017 La Vuelta a Andalusia. The descent down to the Ronda is spectacular rounding out a 60km ride. An additional 40km ride to Setenil de las Bodegas will be on offer for the Espresso riders.

Rides from 60 to 100km available

Sleep: Ronda (jewel of Andalusia)

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Day 10 – Thursday 1 October 2026 – Grazalema National Park

The Sierra de Grazalema national park is a dream cycling destination and today you will understand why this is such a special place! Enjoy the turquoise coloured reservoirs, the white-washed Andalusian villages and riding up and down quiet mountain roads with spectacular views! The challenge for the day is the Puerto de las Palomas climb which climbs out of the Zahara de la Sierra township. An amazing town which is nestled into the corner of a scraggy rocky mountain.

‘Palomas’ is a Category 1 climb that has been used 3 times during La Vuelta a España. It is a 12km climb with a constant 6% grade and we would be lying if we said this wasn’t our favourite climb in Andalusia. The views down to the reservoir below are just incredible and the final 3km provide a series of switchbacks to rival any of the major European climbs!

Rides from 60 to 125km available

Sleep: Ronda (jewel of Andalusia)



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Day 11 – Friday 2 October 2026

Descending from Ronda and the early views include beautiful meandering roads below towering rock faces. Along the way you will encounter the 'Alto de Atajate' climb (6km) which is a constant 5-6% grade through the olive groves. This climb takes in picturesque scenery. You are now riding in the heart of the 'Serrania de Ronda' mountains. The white picturesque villages perfectly blend into the natural environment perfectly are great places to stop for a well earned breather!

As the route finds its way back towards Ronda those wanting more kilometres will tack on an extra loop. Tonight we will celebrate what has been a great cycling holiday following some of the best roads raced by the professional cyclists. Viva Andalusia!

Rides from 50 to 90km available

Sleep: Ronda (jewel of Andalusia)

Day 12 – Saturday 3 October 2026

Following breakfast there will be a 1.5hr van transfer from Ronda to Malaga Airport. Malaga was the birthplace of Pablo Picasso. There are also an endless supply of beaches to explore on the Costa del Sol!



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TRIP DETAILS

REGION: ANDALUSIA (Spain)

PRICE: from 4800€ (twin share)

TOUR DATES: 22 SEPT - 3 OCT 2026

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

DURATION: 11 NIGHTS / 12 DAYS

Single Room Supplement

Road & E-Bike hire

HOTELS: Baeza (x2), Cazorla (x3), Granada (x3) & Ronda (x3); 3/4 Star Hotels

INCLUDED

NOT INCLUDED

Van transport (incl. arrival / departure transfers)

Airfares & Train Tickets

11 nights accomm. (twin share / incl. breakfast)

Pre or post Tour Accommodation

6 dinners included

11 cycling stages with van and mechanic

Food & drinks during all cycling stages

Commemorative cycling jersey

Tour Booklet including ride profiles

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