

Spain: Balearic Islands, Mallorca & Ses Salines

Bike Vacation + Air Package

Think Mallorca is only for professional cyclists? Think again. With our deep Spanish roots, we found the hidden relaxed cycling routes other bike tour companies miss. Of course, the big climbs are there too—for anyone who wants them! As you cycle through lush subtropical forests and mountain valleys, our leaders will introduce you to sunny citrus groves and ancient stone villages bathed in the golden light of Mallorca's vibrant sunsets. After spinning along the turquoise coast, you'll savor Mallorca's rich culinary traditions—including a deep dive into Spanish cuisine with a renowned paella chef, lunch at the island's oldest olive oil mill, and a visit to the unique salt flats at Ses Salines. With a wealth of fresh seafood, locally produced Malvasia wines, and top-quality olive oil, it's easy to see why Mallorca is truly a destination for foodies!

Cultural Highlights

- Savor delicious Mediterranean cuisine, including paella, all flavored with unique Majorcan touches and accompanied with delicious local wines.
- Complement your cycling days with stays in luxurious boutique hotels, each a unique property with its own character and history that embody the region.
- Ride in a cyclist's paradise of diverse landscapes: turquoise Mediterranean waters, dramatic Tramuntana mountains, coastal wetlands, emerald farmland and vineyards, rice fields, and more.
- Stroll small coastal villages with deep farming traditions, each graced with beautiful honey-stoned buildings and a breathtaking setting of mountains and valleys.
- Meet the owner of one of Mallorca's oldest *fincas* and learn how his family has been producing olive oil for 17 generations using the only traditional press on the island.

What to Expect

This tour features easy to moderate terrain on many paved rural side roads, perfect for cycling, with options for longer rides. This tour is ideal for both enthusiastic beginners and experienced cyclists. Our VBT support vehicle is always available for those who would like assistance.

Tour Duration: 10 Days

Average Daily Mileage: 10-40 miles

Average Cycling Time: 2-6 hours

Group size: 14-20 max

Climate Information

Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

March 64°/49°, April 66°/55°, May 73°/59°, June 80°/65°, September 80°/65°, October 74°/60°, November 67°/55°

Average Rainfall (in.)

March 1.1, April 1.6, May 1.4, June 0.4, September 2.0, October 2.8, November 2.3

FLIGHT DAY: Depart from the United States or Canada

Your vacation is about to begin! Spend your first night aloft and arrive ready for an unforgettable trip.

ARRIVAL DAY: Arrive in Palma, Mallorca

A VBT representative will greet you at the airport to start your adventure off right. A complimentary car service will whisk you to your centrally located hotel. From here, you are perfectly positioned to explore this vibrant city at your leisure.

DAY 1: VBT Bicycling Vacation begins / Cycle through vineyards of Binissalém region / Paella cooking demonstration with wine tasting

After a delicious, locally sourced breakfast, meet your VBT representative at 8:30 a.m. The representative will be holding a VBT sign in the lobby of your hotel. Please arrive dressed for cycling (and with your pedals or saddle if you use your own) as the rooms in your next hotel will be not ready until 3:00 p.m., and you'll set out for a warm-up ride before then.

From Palma, journey to the very heart of a breathtaking plateau of vineyards, olive groves, and orchards. This is the wine region of Binissalém in the southern foothills of the Tramuntanas. Wine has been produced here since the days of ancient Rome—even during Moorish occupation, despite the prohibitions of the Koran.

Your loop warm-up ride follows flat local roads past rolling orchards and fields. Enjoy stunning views of the surrounding ranges. Your destination is a lovely finca, where a hearty lunch and delicious wine cap off a perfect spin.

For Spaniards, paella has always held the allure of a large and convivial social gathering. Today is no different. You learn to prepare this historic dish with your host in a spectacular setting. Though the dish originated in Valencia on the mainland, it migrated to Mallorca and thrived under the Moors. With the Christian Reconquest, rice disappeared but was reintroduced as an agricultural staple in the early 20th century in the salt-rich environment of S'Albufereta, where you cycle later.

After lunch, journey to the Es Port hotel, a fortified 17th-century mansion. Its beautifully landscaped 10 acres (four hectares) are bursting with native vegetation, century-old trees, and an organic vegetable garden. Enjoy sea and mountain vistas, indulge in a spa treatment or a dip in the indoor or outdoor pool, or walk to the waterfront in just one minute for lovely beach strolls and shopping.

This evening, savor a special welcome dinner of local specialties prepared by the chef. Weather permitting, dine al fresco on the hotel's poolside terrace.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Warm-up — 27 km (16 miles) OR Warm-up PLUS — 35 km (21 miles)

What to Expect:

Start your warm-up ride on a flat, longer route, then cycle seldom-traveled roads among rolling orchards and farm fields. Pass through vineyards with stunning views of the Serra mountain range and local villages famous of their wine producers. For those who would like more mileage, opt for the longer ride today. Your ride culminates in a stop at a local *finca*. After your included lunch and wine tasting, you travel back to your hotel via shuttle.

Cumulative Distance Range: 27 – 35 km (16 – 21 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 2: Port Sóller / Cycle to Fornalutx and Sóller / Mediterranean home-hosted lunch

After a delicious outdoor breakfast of products from surrounding farms and markets, begin your cycling day in Port de Sóller, a pretty city nestled between the Tramuntana mountain range and the Mediterranean Sea. Today's ride leads you to the beachfront of Fornalutx, and into Sóller. One of

Mallorca's jewels, this geographically isolated town boasts a stunning collection of Art Nouveau and neo-Gothic architecture, and an Old Town linked by charming electric tramcars. You loop the valley of Fornalutx, amid an idyllic landscape of mountain villages, orchards, orange trees, olive groves, and vineyards. This is the Mallorca of old, where locals come to connect with the natural world and its tiny villages that seem to have been forgotten by time.

Stop at a local market to browse an array of farm-fresh and handmade products and to mingle with Majorcans before lunch at a very special venue, Can Det, one of the oldest fincas (ranches) on the island. Aside from the addition of electricity, workers here have used the same techniques for some 500 years! The 17th-generation owner gives you a personal tour, complete with a lunch of local products, freshly pressed olive oil and orange juice plucked from trees dating to the 16th century. You will also see the oldest and only traditional olive oil press in use in Mallorca. Later, you may cycle a mostly flat route back to your hotel or opt for more challenging ride through a small mountain pass. In the afternoon, you might take time for a swim in the outdoor pool, stroll to the beach, or pause a while to witness the sun setting over the glimmering Balearic Sea.

The evening is on your own to explore, relax, and find a spot for dinner that calls to you.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Fornalutx and Sollér — 14 km (8 miles)

Afternoon: Sollér to Port Sollér — 6 km (4 miles) OR Sa Figuera pass to Lighthouse and hotel PLUS — 15 km (9 miles)

What to Expect:

Start your ride from your hotel by the beachfront. You follow side roads with some occasional traffic and then more heavily trafficked ones when closer to Sóller. You loop the rural valley, ascending a longer incline to Fornalutx. Your short ride in the afternoon, mostly flat with some rolling hills will bring you back to your hotel. If you opt to challenge yourself, choose the longer ride. With its remarkable elevation and longer hill, the reward that awaits you is stunning views. The downhill with some tricky switchbacks, will bring you all the way back to the bay. Here you can decide to retrace to your hotel or to continue with longer option and challenge yourself on another incline to Lighthouse with stunning views of Port Sollér.

Cumulative Distance Range: 14 – 29 km (8 – 17 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3: Cycle the Tramuntana mountains / Caimari / Pollença

After a bountiful buffet breakfast, travel to the region of Bunyola to start another rewarding day of cycling. You begin on rural farm roads past grazing sheep and lovely fincas with olive and almond groves and vineyards. As you ride, the majestic Tramuntana range marks your progress. This vast UNESCO World Heritage site—recognized for its farming terraces and ingenious irrigation systems—is home to a profusion of wildlife, including several birds of prey. After a stunning morning spin, you arrive in time for lunch on your own in Caimari, locally renowned for its olive oil tradition and fine herbal liquor. This is Mallorca at its most unspoiled, with steep forested slopes rising to high peaks. It exudes endless charms among its narrow streets.

This afternoon, you pass some larger vineyards and wide-open farm fields dotted with sheep or pigs. By ride's end, you coast into Pollença in the island's north. This medieval-era treasure is a delight to explore, with its crisscrossing narrow streets that hark back to its medieval origins. Avid travelers can take the time to walk up the town's famous 365 steps to a chapel known as Calvary. Or visit the decidedly less demanding Museum of Pollença, an art museum in the old cloister of the Dominicans.

This evening enjoy included dinner in the heart of this charming town.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Bunyola to Caimari — 32 km (19 miles)

Afternoon: Caimari to Pollença — 24 km (15 miles)

What to Expect:

Start the day on mostly flat side roads with some traffic. Then continue on rolling short inclines past Tramuntana hills and typical Majorcan farmlands. There'll be some inclines as you approach Caimari village, where you stop for lunch at your leisure. Your morning ride ends here; you can decide to shuttle to your next hotel or continue cycling on these beautiful rural roads with almost no traffic.

Cumulative Distance Range: 24 – 56 km (15 – 34 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4: Alcúdia / Coastal ride / Sea coves of Pollença

After a fresh breakfast, set out on a relaxing ride along narrow leafy lanes and past bubbling brooks toward the bay of Pollença. Your first destination is Alcúdia, a fascinating city with prehistoric, Roman, Arab, and medieval influences. Explore a bit before continuing your ride in the protected nature reserve of Victòria peninsula.

You will pedal past a few scenic coves before arriving at a prime swimming spot, the sea coves on the Bay of Pollença. Be sure to pack your swimsuit in case you should decide to take a dip in the crystal-clear waters of the Mediterranean Sea. As you wade in the water, take in breathtaking views of Cape Formentor, its mountains, and the bay. Linger here a while for our picnic lunch, an inspiring setting.

Head back to your hotel on a spectacular coastal ride, along the S'Albufereta Nature Reserve, the largest wetland of the Balearics—an ideal environment for growing the island's rice and a haven for migrating birds—enjoying vistas of Port Pollença.

This evening is on your own. Perhaps you'll browse some of the galleries in the Old Town before finding the perfect place for dinner.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Pollença to Alcúdia and coves — 26 km (16 miles)

Afternoon: Alcúdia to Pollença — 23 km (14 miles)

What to Expect:

Your morning ride starts in the countryside along narrow leafy lanes and bubbling brooks, with almost no traffic on a mostly flat route. Once on the peninsula, you visit Alcúdia. Leaving the city, you climb two shorter hills, then descend to a beach for your included picnic lunch. Your afternoon ride features some rolling hills on rural side roads, followed by a flat bike lane on a coastal ride with stunning views. The only challenge you may face could be a north coastal wind from Tramuntana.

Today may offer an additional independent ride for experienced cyclists. Ask your trip leader for details.

Cumulative Distance Range: 23 – 49 km (14 – 30 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5: Rustic Majorcan countryside / Sencelles region / Pla i Llevant / Ses Salines

Bid Pollença farewell this morning and cycle the rustic Majorcan countryside, skirting olive groves, lush vineyards, and more farmlands. Your first destination is Sencelles, a municipality in the heart of the island that offers a glimpse into Majorca's past. Numerous well-preserved archeological sites from the Bronze Age's Talayot period and ancient architecture prove that this region has been inhabited for thousands of years.

Continue today's ride away from the tourist trail to Algaida, one of the best locales to soak up authentic Majorcan culture, especially good-quality cuisine and wines. The name Algaida originated from the Arabic word *al-gaida*, which means "the base." The area around this little town has stone remains of Talaïotic settlements (1400-123 BCE). The historic windmills scattered in and around the town dominate the landscape. You pause in Algaida to sample local specialties and wine at one of the oldest wineries on the island, dating to 1229 when King James arrived on Mallorca. Your hosts, the Morauques family, purchased the estate back in the 15th century and dedicated their lives to the vineyards, following the principles of organic farming.

Leaving the Tramuntanas behind, you next cycle south across the Pla i Llevant region, through the foot of the Ronda hills. The name translates roughly into "plain and east coast," which sums up the flat terrain on the ride this afternoon.

Continue south to Ses Salines, where your boutique hotel will greet you. Perhaps, indulge yourself in the private garden with the outdoor pool, before you explore this lovely village and find a spot for dinner that calls to you.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Bugar to Algaida — 33 km (20 miles)

Afternoon: Algaida to C'An Bonico — 39 km (23 miles)

What to Expect:

After a short journey, you leave the northern mountainous reaches behind for the island's flatter southern area. You will cycle along rural roads past open fields and vineyards today, enjoying the longest ride of the week. Begin the day on moderate routes with some longer ascents leading to small hilltop hamlets and towns accompanied by stunning views. In the afternoon, continue along mostly flat byways or choose to shuttle back to the hotel.

Cumulative Distance Range: 33 – 72 km (20 – 43 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 6: Salines d'Es Trenc / Cala Figuera

Start your day with an al fresco breakfast, then return to the saddle for a final day of exploring the diverse environs of Mallorca. Start with a ride to what many call the “salt of the earth” side of the island—Salinas d'Es Trenc. Salt has been extracted from these shores since ancient times. Today, you visit the salt pans and marble-white, dune-like mounds where a more modern operation processes the mineral. Continue along flat quiet roads into the protected national park, a unique salt-marsh ecosystem that hosts some 200 bird species, including flamingoes and ospreys. About 178 plant species also thrive here, two dozen of them classified as endemic, rare, or vulnerable—each of them adapted to the extreme high-mineral content of the earth.

Continuing on, your path winds through the Mondrago Natural Park, where you cycle past fragrant almond and carob trees, and may even spot a lonesome kestrel winging its way across a stand of white pines. Toward midday, you arrive in the peaceful fishing village of Figuera, where the traditional seaside culture has been perfectly preserved. In the colorful bay of Cala Figuera, you find white fishing boats bobbing merrily in the turquoise waters beneath a tidy terrace of white, bayside cottages. For lunch on your own, you'll find many places to relax, perhaps under the shade of a fig tree where you may enjoy the view of the azure bay and fragrant hibiscus.

You return to your hotel to enjoy your time to relax. This evening, gather once more for a festive farewell dinner to toast your spectacular week in Mallorca.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Ses Salines, Trenc, and Cala Figuera — 37 km (22 miles)

Afternoon: Figuera to C'An Bonico — 14 km (9 miles)

What to Expect:

Ride south across the National Park of Salinas d'Es Trenc into a unique salt-marsh ecosystem. Then follow quiet, mainly flat or rolling roads to Salines and to Cala Figuera, passing pine forests, almond tree plantations, and carob and oranges trees. If you choose the shorter morning option, you can skip six miles in Mondragó National Park. In the afternoon, you can enjoy a short and easy ride back to the hotel.

Today may offer an additional independent ride for experienced cyclists. Ask your trip leader for details.

Cumulative Distance Range: 14 – 51 km (9 – 31 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7: VBT Bicycling Vacation ends / Barcelona

Your bike tour ends after a fresh Mediterranean breakfast this morning. VBT provides you with transportation to the Palma Airport for a short flight to Barcelona. Upon arrival at Barcelona Airport, a representative holding a VBT sign meets you as you exit the baggage claim area. Complimentary transportation will be provided to your hotel.

You have the remainder of the day to discover Barcelona at your leisure. Stroll Las Ramblas Boulevard, one of the prettiest pedestrian thoroughfares in all of Europe. Explore the narrow warrens of Ciutat Vella, or Old Town. Or marvel at the genius of La Sagrada Familia Cathedral, Gaudí's still unfinished masterpiece. You will find a wide range of choices for lunch and dinner on your own. We provide detailed city information to help you plan your day.

Please note: If you arrive early, and your hotel room is not available prior to the designated check-in time, you may store your luggage with the reception desk. For those of you who have chosen the independent Post-Trip Extension, you will stay at this hotel for two additional nights.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DEPARTURE DAY: Departure

After an included breakfast this morning, complimentary transportation to the Barcelona airport will be provided (an approximately 20- to 30-minute drive, depending on traffic) for your departing flight.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations

May vary depending on departure date.

Hotel Saratoga (Days 1-1)

The Hotel Saratoga is ideally located on Paseo Mallorca, one of the central streets in Palma de Mallorca. Within blocks of the hotel, you'll find the best restaurants, shops, museums, and historical sites, including the Cathedral, the Castle of the Almudaina, and the waterfront promenade. After a day of exploring, enjoy the hotel's two restaurants, a bar with harbor views, two swimming pools (one of them on the roof), and a gym with spectacular views of the Cathedral. For an additional cost, indulge in the spa and sauna. Spacious superior rooms provide all the modern conveniences, including satellite flat-screen TV, safe, telephone with answering machine and automatic wake-up calls, air conditioning, and fully equipped bathrooms with hairdryers. The receptionists can help you reserve optional tours of Mallorca.

Hotel Es Port (Days 1-2)

The stunning Hotel Es Port occupies a fortified 17th-century mansion. Its beautifully landscaped 10 acres (four hectares) are bursting with native vegetation, orange and lemon trees, century-old olive trees, an organic vegetable garden, and green lawns. Enjoy sea and mountain vistas during your stay, and embrace its philosophy of well-being, perhaps indulging in a spa treatment or a dip in the indoor or outdoor pool. The hotel offers two venues where you can enjoy some of the finest Majorcan cuisine: an indoor dining room alongside an old olive oil press and an outdoor terrace in the gardens poolside. What's more, it is ideally located—the waterfront is just a minute's walk away for lovely beach strolls and shopping.

Mon Boutique Hotel (Days 3-4)

This elegant and modern luxury boutique hotel is a relaxing sanctuary at the heart of Pollença, surrounded by the soaring Tramuntanas. Each air-conditioned room is well-appointed, thoughtfully designed, and decorated with local artwork. Mediterranean pleasures abound, from warmly welcoming, honey-colored stone walls and soft breezy fabrics to a refreshing pool on the rooftop terrace, surrounded by local flora and outstanding views.

Hotel C'An Bonico (Days 5-6)

The distinctive Hotel C'An Bonico offers all the elegance of the Mallorcan manor house in which it is located. The 29-room boutique property strikes a perfect balance between modern and traditional design features and amenities. Each stylishly appointed room is spacious and bright with air conditioning and complimentary WiFi. Known as the first civil construction of the 13th century, C'An Bonico was renovated into a luxury hotel. Most of the original architectural structure was preserved, including the former jail and a private library has taken up residence in the former defense tower. Located in the heart of Ses Salines, a few minutes from the charming beaches and coves on the island of Mallorca, the Hotel C'An Bonico will not disappoint. |WiFi|Air Conditioning|

Hotel 1898 (Days 1-7)

Discover a true treasure. Located in the heart of Barcelona, the historic Hotel 1898 was once home to the Philippines Tobacco Company. The structure was built in 1891 by architect Josep Oriol Mestres. Early in this century, hotelier Núñez i Navarro restored the property, preserving its historic splendor and 19th-century architectural elements and transforming it into the modern-day Hotel 1898. Today, this unique, colonial-style structure exudes a special personality that brings the best of Barcelona's rich past to its guests. Centrally located on Las Ramblas Boulevard and just a block from Placa de Catalunya, the hotel is an easy walk to all of Barcelona's important sites. The elegant rooms are equipped with air conditioning, free WiFi, and beautiful marble bathrooms. The rooftop terrace features a heated swimming pool, as well as a lovely indoor pool, fitness center, and spa in the tastefully designed basement of the hotel.