

Spain: Balearic Islands, Mallorca & Ses Salines

Bike Vacation Only

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: 7 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

DAY 1: Your VBT Vacation Begins / Warm-Up Ride: Binissalém Vineyards / Paella Cooking Demo & Wine Tasting

At 8:30 a.m., meet your VBT representative and fellow travelers in the lobby of Hotel Convent De La Missió in Palma. Please arrive dressed for cycling and bring your own pedals or saddle if you use them.

From Palma, travel into the heart of a scenic plateau dotted with vineyards, olive groves, and orchards—the renowned Binissalém wine region in the southern foothills of the Tramuntanas. Wine has been produced here since Roman times and even continued under Moorish rule, despite religious restrictions.

Your warm-up loop ride follows flat, local roads past rolling orchards and open fields, with sweeping views of the surrounding mountains. The ride ends at a charming *finca*, where a hearty lunch and local wines cap off the ride.

For Spaniards, paella is more than a dish—it's a celebration. In this spirit, you'll join your host in preparing this iconic meal in a stunning setting. Though paella hails from mainland Valencia, it was embraced in Mallorca under Moorish influence. Later, rice cultivation returned to the island in the early 20th century, particularly in the salt-rich wetlands of S'Albufereta—where you'll cycle later in the week.

After lunch, continue to Hotel Es Port, a fortified 17th-century mansion set on 10 acres (4 hectares) of lush gardens, native plants, and century-old trees. Unwind with spa treatments, a swim in the indoor or outdoor pool, or a stroll to the nearby waterfront for beach time and shopping.

This evening, enjoy a special welcome dinner of regional specialties prepared by the hotel chef. Weather permitting, dine al fresco on the poolside terrace.

Today's Ride Choices

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

What to Expect:

Begin your warm-up ride on a flat, extended route, then cycle along quiet, seldom-traveled roads through rolling orchards and farmland. Pass vineyards with stunning views of the Serra mountain range and local villages renowned for their wine production. For those seeking additional mileage, a longer ride option is available today. The ride concludes at a local *finca*, where you'll enjoy an included lunch and wine tasting before returning to your hotel by shuttle.

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

Included Meals: Lunch, Dinner

DAY 2: Fornalutx and Sóller / Mediterranean Home-Hosted Lunch

After a delicious outdoor breakfast featuring products from local farms and markets, begin your cycling day in Port de Sóller, a picturesque town nestled between the Tramuntana mountain range and the Mediterranean Sea. Today's ride leads you along the beachfront of Fornalutx and into the heart of Sóller—one of Mallorca's true gems. This geographically isolated town boasts a stunning collection of Art Nouveau and neo-Gothic architecture, as well as an Old Town linked by charming electric tramcars.

You'll loop through the Fornalutx valley, surrounded by an idyllic landscape of mountain villages, orchards, orange groves, olive trees, and vineyards. This is the Mallorca of old—a place where locals come to connect with nature and where time seems to stand still in its tiny, timeless villages.

Stop in Sóller to browse an array of local shops featuring handmade products and mingle with Majorcans before lunch at a very special venue: Can Det, one of the oldest fincas (estates) on the island. Apart from the addition of electricity, workers here have used the same traditional techniques for over 500 years. The 17th-generation owner will give you a personal tour, culminating in a lunch of local delicacies, including freshly pressed olive oil and orange juice from trees dating back to the 16th century. You'll also see the oldest and only traditional olive oil press still in use on the island.

Later, cycle a mostly flat route back to your hotel or opt for a more challenging ride through a small mountain pass. In the afternoon, you might take a dip in the outdoor pool, stroll to the nearby beach, or simply pause to watch the sun set over the shimmering Balearic Sea.

The evening is yours to explore, relax, and discover a dinner spot 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 the hotel, following quiet side roads with occasional traffic, increasing as you approach Sóller. Loop through the rural valley, climbing a steady incline to reach Fornalutx. In the afternoon, enjoy a shorter, mostly flat ride with gentle rolling hills back to your hotel. For a challenge, opt for the longer route. A notable climb rewards you with sweeping views, followed by a downhill stretch with tricky switchbacks leading back to the bay. From here, either return to your hotel or continue on a final ascent to the lighthouse for panoramic views over Port de Sóller.

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

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3: Tramuntana Mountains / Caimari / Pollença

After a bountiful buffet breakfast, travel to the Bunyola region to begin another rewarding day of cycling. Your route starts on quiet rural roads, passing grazing sheep and traditional *fincas* surrounded by olive and almond groves and vineyards. As you ride, the majestic Tramuntana Mountains accompany your journey. This vast UNESCO World Heritage site—recognized for its terraced farming and ingenious irrigation systems—is also home to abundant wildlife, including several birds of prey.

After a scenic morning ride, arrive in Caimari for lunch on your own. This charming village, known for its olive oil tradition and herbal liqueurs, showcases Mallorca at its most unspoiled, with steep forested slopes and narrow, winding streets.

In the afternoon, continue past larger vineyards and wide-open farmland dotted with sheep and pigs. By day's end, you'll coast into Pollença in the island's north. This medieval gem invites exploration, with

narrow, crisscrossing streets that echo its historic past. Ambitious visitors may climb the town's famous 365 steps to the chapel of Calvary, while others may prefer the nearby Museum of Pollença, housed in a former Dominican cloister.

This evening, enjoy an 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 light to moderate traffic. Continue along rolling hills and short inclines past the foothills of the Tramuntana range and classic Majorcan farmland. As you approach the village of Caimari, a few gentle climbs lead you to your lunch stop at your leisure. Your morning ride ends here. From Caimari, you can choose to shuttle to your next hotel or continue cycling along beautiful rural roads with minimal traffic.

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

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4: Alcúdia / Coastal Ride / Pollença Sea Coves

After a fresh breakfast, set out on a relaxing ride along narrow leafy lanes and bubbling brooks toward the Bay of Pollença. Your first stop is Alcúdia, a fascinating city shaped by prehistoric, Roman, Arab, and medieval influences. Take some time to explore before continuing your ride through the protected nature reserve on the Victòria Peninsula.

Pedal past a few scenic coves before arriving at an ideal swimming spot on the Bay of Pollença. Be sure to pack your swimsuit in case you're tempted by the crystal-clear waters of the Mediterranean. As you wade in, take in breathtaking views of Cape Formentor, its dramatic peaks, and the surrounding bay. Linger here for our picnic lunch in this inspiring setting.

Your return ride follows a spectacular coastal route along the S'Albufereta Nature Reserve—the largest wetland in the Balearic Islands. This rich ecosystem, ideal for rice cultivation and a haven for migrating birds, offers sweeping views of Port de Pollença as you head back to your hotel.

This evening is yours to enjoy. You might browse local galleries in the Old Town before settling into the perfect spot 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 begins in the countryside, following narrow leafy lanes and bubbling brooks on a mostly flat, low-traffic route. Once on the peninsula, you'll visit the historic town of Alcúdia. From there, a pair of short climbs leads to a scenic descent to the beach, where you'll enjoy an included picnic lunch. In the afternoon, ride over gentle rolling hills along quiet rural roads before transitioning to a flat coastal bike path with stunning sea views. The only potential challenge is a north wind coming off the Tramuntana range. Experienced cyclists may opt for an additional independent ride today. *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 farewell to Pollença this morning and cycle through the rustic Majorcan countryside, skirting olive groves, lush vineyards, and fertile farmlands. Your first destination is Sencelles, a municipality in the heart of the island that offers a glimpse into Mallorca's past. Numerous well-preserved archaeological sites from the Talaiotic period of the Bronze Age, along with ancient architecture, reveal a region inhabited for thousands of years.

Continue riding off the tourist trail to Algaida, one of the island's best places to soak up authentic Majorcan culture, known for its quality cuisine and wine. The name *Algaida* comes from the Arabic *al-gaida*, meaning "the base." The area is rich in Talaiotic stone remains (1400–123 BCE), and the historic windmills scattered around the town define the landscape.

Pause in Algaida to sample local specialties and wines at one of the oldest wineries on the island, founded in 1229 during the reign of King James. Owned by the Morauques family since the 15th century, the estate has been lovingly maintained using organic farming methods.

Leaving the Tramuntana Mountains behind, cycle south across the Pla i Llevant region, passing through the foothills of the Ronda range. As its name suggests—"plain and east coast"—this area offers a flat and peaceful ride through the countryside.

Continue on to Ses Salines, where your boutique hotel awaits. Perhaps unwind in the private garden or outdoor pool before heading out to explore the village and find a dinner spot 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, leave the northern mountains behind and enter the island's flatter southern region. Today's ride—the longest of the week—follows rural roads past open fields and vineyards. Begin with moderate routes featuring a few longer ascents to hilltop hamlets and towns offering stunning views. In the afternoon, continue along mostly flat byways or opt for a 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 in the garden, then return to the saddle for your final day of

exploring the diverse landscapes of Mallorca. Begin with a ride to what many call the “salt of the earth” side of the island—Salinas d’Es Trenc. Salt has been harvested from these shores since ancient times. Today, you’ll visit the salt pans and the marble-white, dune-like mounds where a modern operation continues to process this mineral treasure.

Continue along flat, quiet roads into the protected national park, a rare salt-marsh ecosystem that is home to around 200 bird species, including flamingoes and ospreys. Approximately 178 plant species also thrive here, with two dozen classified as endemic, rare, or vulnerable—each uniquely adapted to the earth’s high mineral content.

Your route then winds through Mondragó Natural Park, where you cycle past fragrant almond and carob trees, and may spot a lone kestrel gliding above a stand of white pines. By midday, you’ll arrive in the peaceful fishing village of Cala Figuera, where traditional seaside culture remains beautifully preserved. In the colorful bay, white fishing boats bob cheerfully in turquoise waters, nestled beneath a tidy terrace of whitewashed cottages. For lunch on your own, you’ll find plenty of places to unwind—perhaps under the shade of a fig tree, enjoying the view of the azure bay and the scent of blooming hibiscus.

In the afternoon, return to your hotel for some well-deserved relaxation. This evening, gather once more for a cooking class with locals, followed by a festive farewell dinner featuring regional specialties. Raise a glass to celebrate 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 through the Salinas d’Es Trenc National Park and into a unique salt-marsh ecosystem. Then follow quiet, mostly flat or gently rolling roads to Ses Salines and Cala Figuera, passing through pine forests and groves of almond, carob, and orange trees. For a shorter morning option, you can skip six miles by bypassing a section of Mondragó Natural Park. In the afternoon, enjoy a short and easy ride back to the hotel. For experienced cyclists, an additional independent ride may be available today. *Ask your trip leader for details.*

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

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7: Your VBT Vacation Ends

Your bike tour concludes this morning after a fresh Mediterranean breakfast. Say farewell to your trip leaders and fellow travelers, and plan to depart by the hotel's check-out time of 11:00 a.m. The hotel staff will be happy to assist with transportation arrangements to Palma for your onward journey. Depending on your group's departure schedule to Barcelona, you may also choose to join our air transfer to Palma Airport.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations

May vary depending on departure date.

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|