

# Renaissance Spain

Baeza, Ubeda & Cazorla (Andalusia, Spain)



## SIERRA

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## BAEZA



### Renaissance Spain Cycling Tour (Andalusia, Spain)!

The two small towns of Ubeda and Baeza in Andalusia date back to the Moorish 9<sup>th</sup> Century. While the Italian Renaissance began during the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries with Ubeda and Baeza representing its greatest architecture ensemble in Spain.

The region is also the world's biggest producer of extra virgin olive oil. Olive trees dot the landscape for as far as the eye can see. Cycling through the never ending rows 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!

This cycling adventure also ventures into the spectacular Sierra Cazorla National Park. '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.

With 300 days of sunshine per year Andalusia is a dream cycling destination. During 2018 there are multiple departures for the Renaissance Spain cycling experience.



## ITINERARY

### DAY ONE – Cordoba, Spain

We will be available to meet you at Cordoba Train Station at 10am. Cordoba is strategically situated on the fast train line between Madrid and Malaga. Did You Know? By the 10<sup>th</sup> Century Cordoba was Europe's intellectual centre. Its old town is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. If you need help with additional days pre or post-tour please let us know.

From Cordoba we drive 1hr into Jaen province which is home to castles, battles and olive oil! There will be time for a briefing, bike set-up and light lunch. Following lunch your ride follows the Guadalquivir River valley through to Baeza. The Guadalquivir River is the second longest river with its entire length in Spain and is the lifeline of Andalusia. Its irrigative capacity supports the rich agriculture of Andalusia!



**Today's Ride:** 70km cycling  
**Meals:** Dinner provided  
**Accommodation:** Baeza (Andalusia, Spain)

## DAY TWO – 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!

During the late afternoon you will visit the Castulo Ibero Romano Archaeological site and museum. Hannibal Barca, the Carthaginian general, married the Iberian princess Himilce from Castulo gaining the alliance of the city with the Carthaginian Empire. Archaeological excavations still continue today and monuments from Iberian, Roman and Moorish times are all present.



**Today's Ride:** 100km cycling available  
**Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner provided  
**Accommodation:** Baeza (Andalusia, Spain)

## DAY THREE – 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. Nature lovers will appreciate this diverse habitat with over 50 mammal and 185 bird species.

Stage 6 of the 2015 La Vuelta a España pro race finished in Cazorla township which will be now home for the next two nights!



**Today's Ride:** 90km cycling available  
**Meals:** Breakfast provided  
**Accommodation:** Cazorla (Andalusia, Spain)



## DAY FOUR – Puerto de Tiscar climb (Cazorla)

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 hotel the 75km loop provides access to the rocky landscape of the south western corner of the national park.

The afternoon has been left as free-time for those who would like to explore Cazorla on their own or relax in its stress-free atmosphere!

The Sierra guides though will be available to take anyone interested on an afternoon walk through some beautiful wilderness trails! An area of interest is the source of the Guadalquivir River which emerges as a spring high in the Sierra Cazorla mountains!



**Today's Ride:** 75km cycling available  
**Meals:** Breakfast provided  
**Accommodation:** Cazorla (Andalusia, Spain)

## DAY FIVE – Puerto de las Palomas climb (Cazorla)

The Sierra Cazorla reserve is a dream cycling destination and today you will understand even further why this is such a special place! Cycle down to the turquoise coloured Tranco reservoir, through small Andalusian villages and ride up and down quiet mountain roads with spectacular views!

Along the way though you will pass the Puerto de las Palomas climb. This 14km climb ascends 375m at an average grade of 2.5%. Towards the final kilometres the switchbacks begin to open up offering expansive views down to the olive fields which continue until the horizon!

Post ride there will be a 1hr transfer to the small medieval town of Baños de la Encina. 'Baños' is home to the 10<sup>th</sup> Century fortress, Castle Burgalimar, and there will be time to visit this incredible example of Moorish architecture!



**Today's Ride:** 85km cycling  
**Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner provided  
**Accommodation:** Baños de la Encina (Andalusia, Spain)

## DAY SIX – Cordoba Return

Mid-morning we will be available to transfer you 1hr 30 min to Cordoba. The Sierra guides will have you at Cordoba Train Station by 12 noon at the latest. Please let us know if you would like any post-tour accommodation organised in Cordoba.

**Meals:** Breakfast provided

## TOUR DETAILS

**REGION:** Baeza & Cazorla (Andalusia, Spain)

**PRICE:** 1850 € (twin share)

**DURATION:** 6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS

**SINGLE ROOM:** 250 €

**HOTELS:** Baeza (x2), Cazorla (x2), Baños de la Encina (x1); 3 Star Hotels

**OPTIONAL EXTRAS:**

Carbon Road Bike Hire: 175 €

Pre or Post Tour Hotel: **Please Ask**

Fast Train Tickets: **Please Ask**

**INCLUDED**

Arrival & Departure transfers (Cordoba)  
5 nights accomm. (twin share & breakfast)  
5 guided cycling stages  
3 dinners with beer & wine included  
Mechanic & accompanying support van  
Excursions: Castulo, Olive Oil Tasting & Baños!

**NOT INCLUDED**

Pre or post tour accommodation

**2018 TOUR DEPARTURES:**

4 – 9 March 2018  
18 – 23 March 2018  
15 – 20 April 2018  
13 – 18 May 2018

3 – 8 June 2018  
14 – 19 October 2018  
4 – 9 November 2018  
18 – 23 November 2018

Note: Min. 2 clients required for tour to proceed