



FREE GUIDE

A LOCAL'S GUIDE TO CYCLING MALLORCA

The routes, cafés, local tips, and advice I give to friends before they visit the island.



INTRODUCTION

WELCOME

Firstly, thank you for downloading this guide!

If you're reading this, then chances are you've either booked a cycling trip to Mallorca or you're seriously thinking about it. Whatever stage you're at, my aim is simple. I want to help you make the most of your time here, avoid some of the common mistakes that first time visitors make, and hopefully show you a few places that you otherwise might never have found.





INTRODUCTION

MEET YOUR GUIDE

My name's Alex, founder of Velocamp Mallorca, and for almost ten years I've been lucky enough to call this incredible island home.

During that time I've spent thousands of hours riding these roads, exploring every corner of the Tramuntana mountains, discovering hidden cafés, finding the quietest back roads, and helping hundreds of cyclists experience Mallorca for the very first time.

INTRODUCTION

WHY THIS GUIDE?

Velocamp Mallorca was born with one simple mission. To make sure our guests experience the very best routes, the most iconic climbs, and the hidden gems that make Mallorca the cycling paradise it is today. So many people arrive here with just a week to ride, and the last thing they want to do is spend half of that week planning routes, researching cafés, or wondering if they're missing something better just around the next corner.

I wanted to create a cycling holiday that I would want to book myself, where everything is taken care of from the moment you arrive, leaving you free to simply enjoy riding your bike.

INTRODUCTION

As we grow, I now receive hundreds of messages from people planning their own cycling trips. Almost everybody asks the same questions. Where should I stay? Which part of the island is best? Where can I rent a decent bike? Which routes are actually worth riding if I've only got a few days? What cafés are genuinely worth stopping at? When's the best time of year to visit? And probably the biggest question of them all... am I fit enough?

Rather than answering those questions one by one every week, I thought I'd put everything I know into one guide that you can download, save, and hopefully come back to whenever you're planning your own trip.

This isn't meant to be the complete guide to cycling in Mallorca. There are plenty of those already. Instead, think of this as advice from someone who genuinely lives here, rides here almost every day, and wants you to experience the island the same way I would if a good friend came to visit.

Inside you'll find my three favourite rides on the island, including the world famous Sa Calobra, the spectacular MA10 coast road through Banyalbufar, Estellencs and Andratx, and the beautiful roads through Sóller, Deià and Valldemossa that I genuinely believe every cyclist should experience at least once. I'll also share where I would stay if I was visiting purely to ride, where I'd rent a bike, my favourite café stops, the best time of year to visit, how to stay safe on the mountain descents, how fit you really need to be, and plenty of other local tips that I've picked up over nearly a decade of living and cycling here.

Whether you decide to explore Mallorca on your own, with a group of friends, or spend a week with us here at Velocamp Mallorca, my goal is exactly the same. I simply want you to experience the very best that this incredible island has to offer.

If this guide helps you discover one road you otherwise wouldn't have ridden, one café you would have cycled straight past, or one piece of local knowledge that makes your trip even better, then it's done exactly what I hoped it would do. Let's get started.

CONTENTS

WHAT'S INSIDE

01 Three Rides You Can't Miss

02 Planning Your Trip

03 Tips From a Local

04 Am I Fit Enough?

SECTION 01

THREE RIDES YOU CAN'T MISS

RIDE ONE

CLASSIC MALLORCA COAST ROAD

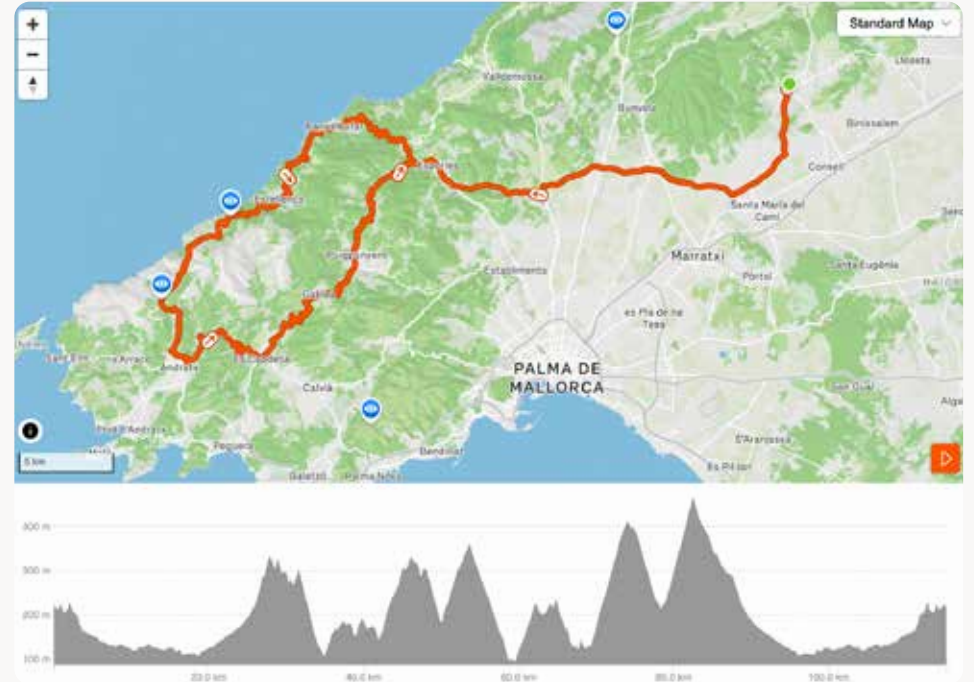
 <https://strava.com/routes/3359571096309465614>

115KM
DISTANCE

1,830M
ELEVATION

Esporles → Banyalbufar → Estellencs →
Andratx → Galilea → Puigpunyent

*"After breaking the legs in on day one, day two arrives
at exactly the right time."*



THE MA10 COAST ROAD

After breaking the legs in on day one, day two arrives at exactly the right time.

Everyone is feeling comfortable on the bike, the group has settled into riding together, and it is time to start adding some serious climbing while exploring Mallorca's world famous MA10 coast road.

After a nutritious breakfast at the villa, we roll out towards Esporles. The first 25 kilometres take us along quiet country lanes and wider open roads as we navigate a

handful of roundabouts before arriving in the beautiful village of Esporles, around 25 kilometres west of the Velocamp Mallorca villa in Alaro.

From here we tackle our first climb of the day. Three kilometres through shaded forest at a steady gradient of between four and eight percent before we crest the summit and enjoy the smooth rolling roads towards Banyalbufar.

THE MA10 COAST ROAD

A long, fast sweeping descent follows as we drop towards the Coll de sa Bastida, where panoramic views open up across the stunning village of Banyalbufar. This is one of those descents you wish would never end.

The tarmac is immaculate, traffic is usually very light, and although it can be a challenging climb in the opposite direction, today we are fortunate enough to be heading the right way.



THE MA10 COAST ROAD

Passing through Banyalbufar, we continue for around nine kilometres along some of the finest roads on the island. The Mediterranean stretches out to your right as we follow the famous MA10 towards another of Mallorca's stunning stone villages, Estellencs.

As soon as we leave Estellencs, the road rises once again. Around four kilometres at a steady five to six percent. With

spectacular views in every direction and plenty of conversation with the riders around you, the climbing seems to disappear surprisingly quickly before we roll over the summit and continue deeper into the Tramuntana mountains.



THE MA10 COAST ROAD

Next comes one of the most enjoyable descents of the entire ride. Four kilometres of fresh tarmac allow the speed to build as we sweep through the two famous tunnels that have appeared in countless cycling photos and videos from Mallorca. You will almost certainly pass smiling cyclists climbing in the opposite direction as they tackle the ascent we have just enjoyed descending.

As the road levels out, it is time to head

THE MA10 COAST ROAD

uphill once again. We begin the climb of Es Grau, around three and a half kilometres at a steady five and a half percent. Surrounded by cool mountain air and lush forest, it is another climb that always seems to pass far quicker than expected.

Now comes one of the highlights of the day. The descent of Coll de sa Gramola. Four and a half kilometres of flowing corners, gentle bends and very little traffic. With

spectacular views stretching out across the coastline, this is the sort of descent that reminds you exactly why Mallorca has become one of the world's great cycling destinations. Get down onto the drops, relax, and enjoy every second before rolling into Andratx.

THE MA10 COAST ROAD

GALILEA AND THE FINAL CLIMB

Leaving Andratx behind, we climb once again as the road winds gently through the forest before another flowing descent carries us down towards Es Capdella. Here we turn left and arrive at the two biggest climbs of the day.

"If someone asked me to recommend just one ride that truly showcases everything Mallorca has to offer, this would be it."

THE MA10 COAST ROAD

The first is Galilea. Just over five kilometres at around five percent average gradient, this beautiful climb twists its way through the forest with wonderful views across the pine covered hillsides below. At the summit the reward is a technical descent with tight switchback corners that can sometimes be slippery or covered with loose gravel before eventually dropping us into the village of Puigpunyent.

There is very little time to recover because our final climb begins almost immediately.

Es Grau is shorter than Galilea but noticeably steeper. Just under four kilometres at around six to seven percent average gradient, it can really bite in places. With more than 1600 metres of climbing already in the legs, this final effort may take a little longer than the earlier climbs, but the reward is worth every pedal stroke.

THE MA10 COAST ROAD

From the summit we enjoy one final descent before turning right and dropping back into the beautiful village of Esporles, where the day's adventure first began. From there we follow the country lanes and main roads back to the Velocamp Mallorca villa in Alaro.

After 115 kilometres and well over 2200 metres of climbing, this route captures everything that makes cycling in Mallorca so unforgettable. Long flowing climbs,

exhilarating descents, breathtaking coastal scenery and some of the most picturesque villages anywhere on the island all come together in one incredible day on the bike. If someone asked me to recommend just one ride that truly showcases everything Mallorca has to offer, this would be it. It is the route I return to time and time again, and one that I genuinely believe every cyclist should experience at least once.

RIDE TWO

SÓLLER SWITCHBACKS AND DEIÀ

 <https://strava.com/routes/3359558608663892280>

79KM
DISTANCE

1,262M
ELEVATION

Bunyola → Coll de Sóller → Deià →
Valldemossa → Santa Maria

"This ride has a bit of everything. Iconic climbs, incredible descents, spectacular scenery."



SÓLLER SWITCHBACKS AND DEIÀ

THE COLL DE SÓLLER

My second choice of rides that you simply cannot miss is our day five route, taking in the incredible Col de Sóller and passing through what I believe is the most picturesque village on the island, the stunning village of Deià.





SÓLLER SWITCHBACKS AND DEIÀ

We roll out from the Velocamp Mallorca villa and straight into the beautiful back country lanes. This is one of the biggest advantages of being based in Alaro. Within just a few minutes we are riding quiet country roads and heading straight for the mountains.

It is very different from staying in Pollenca, where you are often faced with busy main roads and tourist traffic before you even reach the good riding.

SÓLLER SWITCHBACKS AND DEIÀ

We pass through Bunyola before making a right turn towards Sóller. Within around 30 minutes we're approaching the base of my favourite climb on the island, the Coll de Sóller.

I like this climb for various reasons. First, the gradient is comfortable. It is not going to beat you up, so you can either sit in zone two and enjoy the scenery, or really open the legs and empty the tank as you chase a

personal best. I am still trying to beat 15 minutes myself. I always finish a second or two short, but I'll get there one day.

Five kilometres of switchbacks at an average of four to five percent gradually carry you to the summit. There are some fantastic photo opportunities at the top while everyone catches their breath before beginning the longer descent on the other side.

SÓLLER SWITCHBACKS AND DEIÀ

The descent features around 25 switchbacks and is quite technical, so take your time and keep an eye out for the green patches that can appear on some of the tighter corners. They have caught out more than a few riders who thought they were the next Tom Pidcock.

At the bottom we rejoin the Sóller road. Just take care here as fast traffic can be leaving the tunnel. We continue descending before

turning left and beginning the Can Bleda climb towards Deià.

The tarmac here is beautifully smooth, the road is never too steep, and with very little traffic you can really settle into a rhythm while taking in the scenery around you. At the summit we pass Hotel Carazon before beginning one of the most scenic descents anywhere on the island.

SÓLLER SWITCHBACKS AND DEIÀ

Spectacular homes cling to the cliffs overlooking the sparkling Mediterranean before the road eventually drops us into the beautiful village of Deià.

Now you have a decision to make. Do you stop for one of the famous almond croissants from the bakery, or carry on towards the main climb of the day?

Personally, I would stop if there's time.

Because what comes next is a proper test. The Can Costa climb is around six kilometres long, with gradients between six and eight percent. It definitely has a bite to it, especially on a hot day. Some of the long straight sections seem to go on forever.

If you fancy a quick breather halfway up, pull into the Mirador on your right and enjoy the incredible views across Sa Foradada before carrying on to the summit.

SÓLLER SWITCHBACKS AND DEIÀ

As we roll over the top, passing the excellent Can Costa restaurant, we descend towards the petrol station before turning left into the village of Valldemossa. It can be busy here, so keep an eye out for tourists wandering through the streets with their heads buried in the shop windows.

After all that climbing, it is time to enjoy one of the fastest descents of the week. Speeds of 70 or even 80 kilometres per

hour are possible if you are confident enough. You certainly will not see me going that fast. Once my Hammerhead starts showing 62 or 63 kilometres per hour, I usually decide to back off.

There can be plenty of traffic on this road, so enjoy it, but always keep it sensible.

SÓLLER SWITCHBACKS AND DEIÀ

Back at the villa, the Velocamp chef is waiting with freshly baked cakes, sandwiches and protein smoothies before everyone heads for the pool.

What a day. This ride has a bit of everything. Iconic climbs, incredible descents, spectacular scenery and two of the most beautiful villages anywhere in Mallorca. It is definitely one that should be on every cyclist's list.



RIDE THREE

SA CALOBRA — THE ICON

 <https://strava.com/routes/3359871883868742410>

91KM
DISTANCE

2,023M
ELEVATION

Lloseta → Coll de sa Batalla → Escorca
→ Coll dels Reis → Sa Calobra

"It is raw. It is spectacular. It is iconic."



SA CALOBRA

And finally, the third ride that you simply cannot miss while you are in Mallorca is, of course, the world famous Sa Calobra.

We tackle this iconic monster on day four of Velocamp week, after our recovery ride on day three. We arrive with fresh legs and everyone has the opportunity to ride their best time up the climb.



SA CALOBRA

We leave the villa early on this one and, once again, we're straight into the quiet back lanes of Alaro, where we tackle the Coll de Tofla almost immediately. It is only a short climb, but it is the perfect way to wake the legs up before the day really begins.

From there we continue through Lloseta, Selva, and Caimari before arriving at the base of the fantastic Coll de sa Batalla. This

is the second time we ride this climb after using it to break the legs in on day one. At 7.9 kilometres with an average gradient of around five percent, it is a longer climb, but never an intimidating one.

The gentle gradient, beautiful pine forests, sweeping switchbacks, and very little traffic make it one of the most enjoyable climbs on the island.

SA CALOBRA

The second time around we always recommend taking it easy. Ride it in zone two, chat with the person next to you, and save the legs for what is still to come. Of course, if you are visiting Mallorca on your own and this is your only chance to ride it, then go for it. Anything under 25 minutes is a solid ride in my opinion.

At the summit you will find the world famous Repsol petrol station, quite possibly

the only petrol station in the world that sells more coffee, croissants, and pain au chocolat than it does petrol and diesel. It is a magnet for cyclists and during April the place is absolutely mental, so be prepared.

Leaving the Repsol behind, we continue towards Escorca, one of those places where you genuinely feel like you are deep in the mountains.

SA CALOBRA

The next 15 kilometres are gently undulating, with a few short climbs along the way but nothing too demanding. During the winter months this section can stay damp all day because the surrounding mountains block the sun, so take a little extra care if you are riding here at that time of year.

Then, all of a sudden, the famous Sa Calobra arch comes into view.

You know exactly where you are.

It is time.

One thing many people do not realise is that you do not immediately begin descending. First you have to climb to the top of Coll dels Reis. It is only around three kilometres long, but it is punchy, averaging close to eight percent in places.

SA CALOBRA

You can see riders high above you, looking like tiny ants as they climb towards the summit, and somehow that makes the climb feel even steeper.

At the top, groups of riders gather beside the Coll dels Reis sign, taking photos, putting on jackets, and preparing themselves for what comes next.

Then it is time to go.

Ten kilometres of technical switchbacks carry you all the way down to the sea. Depending on the time of year, be aware of the large coaches that use this road.

Sometimes they will appear behind you, and sometimes they will be climbing towards you, needing plenty of room to negotiate the tighter bends. Keep looking ahead, ride within yourself, and always give them space where needed.

SA CALOBRA

Twenty minutes later you arrive beside the crystal clear water at the bottom.

Now the reality sinks in.

Because everything you have just descended, you now have to climb back up. Time for one last gel, a quick espresso, a few photos, and then it is time to settle in.

We are going up.

Now comes the big decision.

Do you attack it from the bottom and chase a time, or spin the legs and soak up one of the most iconic climbs in cycling?

If this is your only visit, I would probably have a crack at a good time. Anything under an hour is very respectable. Under 40 minutes is seriously strong. Under 30 minutes... well... you should probably be riding the Tour.

SA CALOBRA

There is nothing ridiculously steep about Sa Calobra. It is simply long. Ten kilometres of climbing with plenty of sections between seven and nine percent. Surrounded by enormous mountains and watching the road snake endlessly across the landscape ahead of you somehow makes it feel even bigger than it really is.

It is raw. It is spectacular. It is iconic. And I can almost guarantee it will be one of those

rides that stays with you for many years after you return home.

At the summit it is time to celebrate. High fives all round, plenty of stories about the climb, and for Velocamp riders, the best lunch stop of the week.

While everyone else arrives exhausted, bright red, dripping in sweat and desperately searching for a cold drink,

SA CALOBRA

our guests are already reaching into the support van for ice cold Coke, Haribo, sandwiches, muffins, and plenty more. I have to admit, we get more than a few jealous looks. But we all make our choices.

After lunch comes one final reward. The fast descent back to the main road before turning left through the famous arch and heading back past the Repsol garage.

Then comes eight kilometres of pure joy as we descend Coll de sa Batalla. After more than 2000 metres of climbing, every corner feels well earned.

For Velocamp riders this is an out and back route, giving us the quickest return to the villa. There is one final kick over the Coll de Tofla before rolling back through the quiet lanes into Alaro.

SA CALOBRA

DOWN TO THE SEA, AND BACK

Then it is time for coffee and cake. Protein smoothies, fresh cookies, sandwiches, pizzas, whatever the chef has prepared disappears in minutes. A jump in the pool. Compression boots on. Add your name to the massage schedule. You have earned it. Sa Calobra is complete.

UNDER 60 MIN
RESPECTABLE

UNDER 40 MIN
SERIOUSLY STRONG

UNDER 30 MIN
YOU SHOULD BE RIDING THE TOUR

SECTION 02

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT MALLORCA?

Something else that I get asked all the time, especially from guests who are thinking about joining one of our upcoming camps, is when is the best time of year to come and ride in Mallorca? I think there are a few things to consider when answering that question.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

The busiest time of year for cyclists is typically late March, April, and May, and then again in September and October. Those are the two main cycling seasons here in Mallorca. There is a very good reason for that. During both the spring and autumn you can usually expect daytime temperatures of around 25 degrees Celsius, or 77 degrees Fahrenheit, with very little rain, plenty of sunshine, and long days filled with that warm Mediterranean sunshine that makes the sea sparkle. From a weather point of view, it really is close to perfect.

Of course, there is a trade off. Because the weather is so good, the island is naturally much busier with cyclists. The cafés are often overflowing, the famous photography spots can be incredibly busy, and it is not unusual to find yourself climbing some of the island's most iconic roads in what looks like a line of ants. I am sure you have seen those viral videos on Instagram where people complain that Mallorca has simply become too busy.

So do not let those videos on social media fool you into thinking that Mallorca is always overflowing

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

with cyclists. More often than not they are showing the busiest hour of the busiest day during the busiest month of the year. It makes for good clickbait and helps grow their channels, but it certainly does not tell the full story.

There is another misconception that I hear all the time, and that is winter. Personally, I think winter can be one of the very best times to visit Mallorca. The biggest reason is simply because the island is almost empty. There are very few tourists here during the winter months, which means that if you catch a good weather window, you can enjoy blue skies, warm sunshine, quiet



PLANNING YOUR TRIP

mountain roads, and some of the best cycling conditions you could ask for without the crowds.

I have posted videos on my Instagram where we have ridden the MA10 coast road for five hours in perfect cycling conditions, with temperatures in the low to mid twenties, bright blue skies, and warm sunshine, without seeing another cyclist all day.

Now, I am not going to pretend that I can guarantee perfect weather during the winter months because I cannot. It is definitely less consistent than spring or autumn, and that is something you have to accept. But personally, I think the trade off is absolutely worth it. No tourist traffic, no crowded cafés, no waiting around at the famous photography spots, just peaceful mountain roads and some of the best riding you will find anywhere in Europe during the winter months.

At Velocamp Mallorca we run camps throughout the year, with the exception of July and August. The reason is simple. It is just too hot. During the height of summer you would need to leave the

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

villa at around five o'clock every morning just to get your ride finished before the heat becomes uncomfortable, and honestly, who wants to do that on a cycling holiday?

So, to wrap things up, March, April, and May offer some of the finest spring cycling you will find anywhere in Europe, although they can be busy. September, October, and early November bring beautiful autumn riding with warm temperatures and reliable sunshine. But do not overlook that huge window from December through to March. It can offer some of the finest winter cycling anywhere in Europe, with quiet roads, spectacular scenery, empty cafés, and days where it genuinely feels like you have the entire Tramuntana mountain range all to yourself.

Whenever you decide to visit Mallorca, I honestly think you are going to fall in love with this island. I certainly did.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

SPRING & AUTUMN VS. WINTER

Mar–May & Sep–Nov

Reliable warm sunshine, around 25°C, very little rain. The busiest roads and cafés of the year — beat the crowds by starting early.

What follows is one of the fastest descents of the week. Enjoy it, but always keep it sensible.

Dec–Mar

The island is almost empty. Weather is less consistent, but a good window brings blue skies and quiet mountain roads with no one else on them.

July and August are skipped entirely: simply too hot to ride comfortably.

SECTION 03

**TIPS FROM
A LOCAL**

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

One thing I quickly realised after posting cycling content from Mallorca on social media was just how many people were asking exactly the same questions. Where should I stay? Where can I rent a bike? What's the best time of year to visit? Am I fit enough?

Rather than answering these one by one every week, I thought I'd include the most common questions in this guide, along with a few local tips that I think will genuinely help you get more out of your trip, whether you're travelling on your own, with friends, or bringing the family along as well. The first question is probably the one I get asked more than any other.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

WHERE SHOULD I STAY?

Now, I am going to be a little controversial here because my answer goes completely against what you will probably read in Facebook groups or hear from your mates at the local cycling club.

If your main reason for coming to Mallorca is cycling, and you want the best possible access to the island's greatest routes during a typical seven day trip, then I honestly would not choose Pollensa or Alcudia.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

That might surprise a few people because if you ask around, I can almost guarantee that is exactly where most people will tell you to stay. Usually because that is where they stayed themselves after somebody else recommended it to them. It has almost become one of those things that simply gets passed from one cyclist to the next.

So why do so many cyclists stay there?

The answer is actually quite simple. The whole area has been built around cycling tourism. There are endless hotels, plenty of bike hire shops, cafés on every corner, and everything is geared towards visiting cyclists. If you are looking for a simple hotel based cycling holiday, it definitely has its advantages.

The downside is that all you have to do is look at a map of Mallorca to see where most of the island's best riding actually is. There is a reason why so many people staying in Pollensa end up

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

riding Cap de Formentor three or four times during the same week. It is an incredible ride, but it is also one of the few spectacular routes that is easily accessible from there without committing to very long days in the saddle.

If you want to ride Sa Calobra, Deià, Valldemossa, Andratx, Galilea, the MA10 coast road, Coll de Sóller, Coll de Femenia, and many of the other iconic climbs that make Mallorca famous, you are looking at some very big days on the bike. For stronger riders that might not be a problem, but for most people, riding 120 to 180 kilometres every day, especially with plenty of climbing, simply is not realistic.

Now, if you are travelling with your family and cycling is only part of your holiday, then Pollensa or Alcudia could still be a great choice.

There are lovely beaches, plenty of restaurants, and lots to keep everyone entertained while you

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

head out for a ride.

But if you are asking me one simple question, where would I stay if my priority was riding the very best roads that Mallorca has to offer? My answer would be much further towards the southwest of the island.

The two places I would strongly recommend are Palma, the capital of Mallorca, or even better, Alaro, which just happens to be where Velocamp Mallorca is based.

Now, you might think I am being a little biased, but just hear me out.

Palma has a fantastic balance of everything. You are incredibly close to the mountains, so you can be climbing within ten or fifteen minutes of leaving your hotel.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

Then, when you get back from your ride, you have everything you could possibly want. Endless restaurants and bars, fantastic shopping, beautiful architecture, cobbled streets to wander through, the stunning cathedral, beaches, and plenty of history. If you fancy a beer after your ride, you are spoilt for choice.

What I love most about Palma is that although it is a busy city, you can leave the centre and be riding quiet mountain roads through pine forests within minutes. For me, it gives you the perfect balance between an amazing city break and a cycling holiday.



TIPS FROM A LOCAL

The only real downside is that accommodation can be quite expensive, especially during the busiest months of the year.

Even better than Palma, if your main priority is simply cycling, is Alaro.

Alaro sits around 20 to 25 minutes northeast of Palma at the foothills of the Tramuntana mountains, and from a cycling point of view, I honestly do not think there is a better base on the island.

From Alaro you can comfortably ride to Sa Calobra, Coll de sa Batalla, the entire MA10 coast road, Coll de Sóller, Deià, Coll de Femenia, and pretty much every iconic climb that most cyclists come to Mallorca to experience. Instead of spending hours riding to and from the mountains, you are already there.

What I also love about Alaro is that it feels like the real Mallorca. It is a beautiful traditional Mallorcan village where you get to experience the local culture rather than staying in an area that has largely

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

been built around tourism. There are some excellent local restaurants, a lovely village square, and a much more relaxed atmosphere. At the same time, Palma is only about 25 minutes away, so if you fancy an evening in the city, it is an easy drive or taxi ride.

There are a couple of downsides. Alaro is a much smaller village, so there are far fewer places to stay, and during the busiest times of the year accommodation can book up well in advance. But if I was coming to Mallorca purely for a cycling trip, these are the two places I would be looking at first.

Personally, I would choose Alaro every single time. It puts you right in the heart of the island's best riding, gives you access to almost every iconic route on the island, and lets you experience the authentic side of Mallorca that so many visitors never get to see.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

WHERE TO STAY

Pollensa / Alcudia

Built for cycling tourism, with hotels, hire shops and cafés on every corner. Great for a family trip, but most of the island's best climbs sit a very long ride away.

Palma

Climbing within ten or fifteen minutes of your hotel, plus restaurants, bars and history to enjoy once you're back. Accommodation can be pricey in peak season.

RECOMMENDED

Alaró

Sits at the foot of the Tramuntana, with almost every iconic climb comfortably in reach. A traditional Mallorcan village, and home to Velocamp Mallorca.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

WHERE CAN I RENT A BIKE?

The other question that I probably get asked more than any other on social media is, "Hi Alex, I'm coming to Mallorca but I need a bike. Where should I rent one from?"

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

Again, I am going to presume that you followed my earlier advice and booked your accommodation in either Palma or Alaro. I cannot really give you any solid recommendations for places like Pollensa because it is simply not somewhere that I spend much time. Refer back to the earlier section and you will understand why. So, let's start with Palma.

If you are staying in Palma, you are absolutely spoilt for choice. Fortunately, it is also a very easy decision to make because most of the best bike shops are all together in one location. Simply type Plaza del Rosario into Google Maps on your phone and it will take you to a small square just off Passeig del Born in the centre of Palma. Within a couple of minutes' walk you have four or five fantastic bike shops all next to each other.

The first one is Rapha. They rent top of the range Factor bikes and the team in there are incredibly friendly, knowledgeable, and always very accommodating. They are also reasonably priced. However, you do need to be a paid Rapha member if you want to rent one of their bikes.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

Directly opposite Rapha you have Catalina Bike Rental. This shop is owned and operated by a friend of mine called Ignacio. He is originally from Argentina and is not only an excellent cyclist, but one of the friendliest guys you could meet. Catalina rents top quality Standert bikes from as little as 30 euros per day, which is incredible value. Ignacio also organises regular social runs from the shop, so if you happen to be a runner as well as a cyclist, it is well worth looking up the Catalina group on Strava and joining one while you are here.

Right next door to Catalina is another brilliant shop called Café du Cycliste. Most people know them for their fantastic clothing, but they also rent bikes, mainly Bassos. You really cannot go wrong with these guys. The staff are incredibly welcoming and if you happen to pop in, ask if my good Irish friend Chris is around. He will definitely look after you.

While you are there, walk next door to Rapha and have a look inside Tanline. They do not rent bikes,

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

but if you are looking for some of the nicest cycling kit I have ever worn, this is the place.

It is a Spanish brand with all of their clothing made in Girona, and the bib shorts are honestly some of the smoothest and most luxurious I have ever used. I would highly recommend treating yourself to a pair while you are in Mallorca.

If you want to go uber high end and ride something a little more special, maybe even a bucket list bike, then you have to visit Velo Mallorca. It is only about a five minute walk from Plaza del Rosario and honestly feels like Willy Wonka's



TIPS FROM A LOCAL

Chocolate Factory for bike porn. They have everything. Factor One bikes, Colnago Y1RS bikes, fully custom Pinarellos, beautiful cycling apparel, and pretty much every dream bike you can imagine. Even if you are renting somewhere else, it is well worth popping your head in just to have a look around. Louis, the owner, and all of his staff are incredibly accommodating and passionate about bikes, so go and check them out.

Right, that is Palma ticked off.

If you decided to stay in Alaro, then first of all, well done to you for making the right choice. Go and see Tony at Northwind Cycles. Tony is the main bike rental specialist in Alaro and rents mainly Canyon bikes. He is another great guy from the UK and offers a fantastic service. If you are not staying directly in the village, he is also happy to deliver your bike, which makes life even easier.

Finally, if there is a group of you coming over and you want to make sure you are dealing with a

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

company that has plenty of bikes in every size, can deliver and collect them, is competitively priced, and might still have availability when everybody else is sold out, then check out Tramuntana Tours in Sóller. Yes, it is probably quite a long way from wherever you are staying, but like I said, they deliver and collect for a small additional fee. Andy, the owner, is one of the biggest movers and shakers in Mallorca cycling. When everybody else says no, Andy pretty much always says yes. With one of the biggest rental fleets on the island, he somehow always seems to find a bike when everyone else has run out. This guy will not let you down.

And that is pretty much it. If you cannot find a bike from one of those shops, send me a message and I will personally help you get one sorted, although I honestly do not think it will ever come to that. Enjoy your trip, send me a photo of whatever you end up renting, and do not forget to say hello to the guys for me.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

RENTING A BIKE IN PALMA

Almost every shop worth visiting sits within a few minutes' walk of Plaza del Rosario.

Rapha

Top of the range Factor bikes. Requires a paid Rapha membership.

Catalina Bike Rental

Owned by Ignacio. Top quality Standert bikes from as little as €30 a day.

Café du Cycliste

Known for clothing, but also rent Bassos bikes. Ask for Chris.

Velo Mallorca

Factor One, Colnago Y1RS, Pinarellos. Worth a look even if you're renting elsewhere.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

RENTING A BIKE IN ALARÓ & SÓLLER

Northwind Cycles, Alaró

Tony is the main bike rental specialist in the village, renting mainly Canyon bikes. Happy to deliver if you're not staying directly in Alaró.

Tramuntana Tours, Sóller

Andy runs one of the biggest rental fleets on the island and delivers and collects for a small fee — a solid option when everyone else is sold out.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

HOW TO RIDE SAFE?

Even with all of the other recommendations in this guide to help you plan the most epic cycling holiday in Mallorca, none of it really matters if you have an accident on day one.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

A lot of people think there is more chance of coming off if you are a new cyclist, but in reality I actually think there is more chance of experienced riders crashing because they become slightly overconfident. I am sure you have seen the endless videos on social media of riders posting their epic descents, throwing the bike over through switchbacks, riding in the Superman position, trying to squeeze every last kilometre per hour out of the descent, and doing their very best impression of Tom Pidcock. But this is exactly where people come a cropper. They do not know the roads, and even if they do know the roads, they probably do not know the road surface.

You see, at different times of the year there are different things to look out for. During the summer months here in Mallorca, many of the mountain roads become covered in endless pine needles. Although passing cars push most of them towards the edges of the road, they still collect on the tighter switchbacks and can become like ice if you lean the bike over too far without the right technique.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

Then, as the weeks and months pass, the pine needles are replaced by green moss. There are certain sections of some of the island's most popular climbs that never receive any direct sunlight during the winter because they sit in the shade all day. Add rain, cold temperatures, and humidity, and you have the perfect recipe for a slippery green slime that can catch out even the most experienced rider.

Even without the obvious hazards like these, the roads can be perfectly smooth, perfectly dry, and in fantastic condition. You come around a corner at 80 kilometres per hour, doing absolutely



TIPS FROM A LOCAL

everything right, only to find a herd of goats standing in the middle of the road. If it is not goats, it might be hikers. The point is that you never know what is waiting around the next bend.

That is why one of the biggest parts of our welcome briefing at Velocamp Mallorca is focused on safety. It does not matter how good every other part of your cycling holiday is if you end up spending most of it in hospital.

What we always encourage is very simple. Have fun, push hard, and test your limits going uphill. Chase your personal best. Empty the tank if that is what you enjoy. But when it comes to the descents, make sure your number one priority is getting back down safely.

Always leave plenty of space between yourself and the rider in front. On the longer descents with lots of switchbacks, such as Sa Calobra or Coll dels Reis, make a habit of looking down to the next corner below before you commit. If you can see a bus, coach, or even a sports car climbing towards

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

you, there is every chance it will need to use part of your side of the road to negotiate the tighter hairpins.

The mountains are not a race track. There is nothing wrong with touching the brakes, backing off a little, or arriving at the bottom thirty seconds later than your mates. Nobody remembers your descent time, but everyone remembers the rider who ended up in the back of an ambulance.

Follow those simple rules, ride smart, think ahead, and I genuinely believe you will be absolutely fine. Mallorca is one of the greatest places in the world to ride a bike. Respect the mountains, enjoy every kilometre, and make sure you get home with nothing more than tired legs and a camera full of unforgettable memories.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

FIVE CAFÉ STOPS WORTH THE DETOUR

One of the best things about cycling in Mallorca is the sheer number of café stops. If you have ridden in other parts of Europe, you will quickly realise just how well set up Mallorca is for cyclists. The riding alone is epic, but when you combine that with the cafés, bike shops, hotels, and everything else that caters for cyclists, it really is hard to beat.



Photo © velovie.cc

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

I really noticed this on a recent trip to the Pyrenees. As spectacular as the mountain passes were, the area was so sparse that you had to be completely self-sufficient or have vehicle support the whole way just to make sure you stayed properly fuelled. Here in Mallorca it is completely different. It is actually very difficult to find yourself anywhere on the island without somewhere to refill your bottles, grab a coffee, or pick up a sandwich along your route.

That said, there are good stops and there are great stops. If you want something a little better than simply filling your bottles, scoffing a chocolate bar, and carrying on, then here are five personal recommendations that I regularly visit myself and genuinely think are worth adding a few extra kilometres onto your route for. These are in no particular order and, of course, I have no idea where you are starting or finishing your ride.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

THE CAFÉ LIST

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | Cycling Planet, Alaró | Owned by two former pros. Top class pa amb oli and homemade cakes. |
| 2 | Sa Botiga, Banyalbufar | A convenience store, not a café. Some of the best Neapolitanas on the island. |
| 3 | Café Passeig, Esporles | The best bread and ham on the island. Try the tuna and tomato llonguet. |
| 4 | Vall Hermós, Estellencs | A long stop, not a quick one — a terrace with panoramic valley views. |
| 5 | Can Jordi, Puigpunyent | One of the best smash burgers I've ever eaten. Save it for after the climb. |

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

HOW FIT DO I NEED TO BE?

One hundred percent, by far the most common question that lands in my inbox multiple times every single week from people wanting to come and ride in Mallorca is, "Am I fit enough?"

And the answer is nearly always the same.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

You're probably a lot more capable than you think.

I would say around 70 percent of our guests who come and ride with us at Velocamp Mallorca start the conversation by saying, "Your week looks absolutely incredible, but I'm just a little bit concerned that I'm not strong enough."

This is completely normal.

We all have these insecurities, especially when we're putting ourselves into a group environment. We're worried about getting left behind, disrupting everybody else's ride, or being the odd one out. If you're having exactly those same thoughts while reading this, relax. Knowing that everybody else is thinking exactly the same thing should hopefully put your mind at ease a little.

Of course, if you're coming to Mallorca by yourself or with a friend, then you can ride the island

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

and start questioning your own fitness or ability.

The great thing about Mallorca is that you do not have to be Tadej Pogačar to enjoy the mountains here. I honestly think that's one of the reasons why Mallorca has become so much more popular than places like the Alps, the Pyrenees, Calpe, or Andorra. Those places are famous for incredibly long and often brutally steep mountain passes. Mallorca is different. I would say around 85 percent of the climbs here sit somewhere between five and seven percent, and most of the famous ones are only around five to seven kilometres long. That makes them challenging enough to feel like a real achievement, but still enjoyable for riders of almost every level.

If you're riding Mallorca on your own, then ride it however you want. Don't feel the need to chase after the guy who flies past you on the first climb. Nobody cares. You're never going to remember gritting your teeth trying to hang onto a stranger's back wheel. What you will remember are the photo stops you made climbing Coll de sa Batalla, looking out across the valley below, the coffee

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

you had in Deià, or sitting outside a little village café wondering how on earth places like this even exist. That is what cycling in Mallorca is all about.

At the same time, if you want to treat Mallorca as a bucket list challenge, turn up in the best shape of your life, hoover up a load of Strava segments, and go full gas every single day, then you can absolutely do that too. The island is perfectly built for it. Between the cafés, water fountains, quiet roads, and cycling infrastructure, it really is one of the best places in Europe for a solo cycling trip. When people message me about joining Velocamp Mallorca, it's normally because they're coming from somewhere that simply doesn't have many hills. That's completely understandable. If you're coming from somewhere like Florida where it's as flat as a pancake, then preparing yourself for mountain riding can be difficult. This is where indoor trainers have completely revolutionised cycling. If your budget allows, I would massively recommend getting yourself a smart trainer, signing up to Zwift, or even using the free platform MyWhoosh, and committing to a couple of months of regular climbing workouts before your trip. It is an absolute game changer. Not only will it

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

you had in Deià, or sitting outside a little village café wondering how on earth places like this even exist. That is what cycling in Mallorca is all about.

At the same time, if you want to treat Mallorca as a bucket list challenge, turn up in the best shape of your life, hoover up a load of Strava segments, and go full gas every single day, then you can absolutely do that too. The island is perfectly built for it. Between the cafés, water fountains, quiet roads, and cycling infrastructure, it really is one of the best places in Europe for a solo cycling trip. When people message me about joining Velocamp Mallorca, it's normally because they're coming from somewhere that simply doesn't have many hills. That's completely understandable. If you're coming from somewhere like Florida where it's as flat as a pancake, then preparing yourself for mountain riding can be difficult. This is where indoor trainers have completely revolutionised cycling. If your budget allows, I would massively recommend getting yourself a smart trainer, signing up to Zwift, or even using the free platform MyWhoosh, and committing to a couple of months of regular climbing workouts before your trip. It is an absolute game changer. Not only will it

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

prepare you for your week in Mallorca, but you'll probably come home and start dropping souls on your local club rides as well. So either way, it's a win win.

What we hear time and time again from our guests at the end of the week is that they simply cannot believe how much they achieved. Watch the video testimonials on our website and you'll hear exactly the same story over and over again. People arrive feeling nervous, convinced they won't make it through the week, only to return from the famous Cap de Formentor lighthouse ride on the Friday saying, "Wow... I honestly can't believe I did it."

Five hundred and thirty kilometres.

More than eight thousand three hundred metres of climbing.

And somehow they still feel fresh.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

That isn't by accident.

A huge part of that comes down to the support and recovery they receive throughout the week. Every meal is prepared by our private chef to make sure you're properly fuelled before and after every ride. Out on the road, our support van is fully stocked with food, drinks, and nutrition from our partners at 4Gold, making sure nobody ever bonks or hits the wall simply because they haven't eaten enough.

Then, when we return to the villa each afternoon, the recovery really begins. Fresh protein smoothies, homemade cakes, quiche, and post ride food are waiting for you as soon as you arrive back. Then it's time to relax by the pool, stretch out, work on a bit of mobility, or slide into one of our multiple sets of Reboots compression boots while your legs recover ready for the next day.

To finish it all off, every single guest receives a daily sports massage from our professional sports

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

A week that somehow brings out more in people than they ever thought they were capable of. And if you're still sitting there thinking, "I'm not sure," then don't forget we also have the option of riding one of our brand new Scott Fastlane electric road bikes. They have become more and more popular at Velocamp, and for good reason. They look, ride, and sound almost exactly like a normal road bike these days. The assistance is completely optional, so you simply choose how much help you want through the different support levels. You still get the workout, you still ride all the same incredible roads, but you have that extra little bit of confidence sitting there in your back pocket whenever you need it. Just let us know when you book and we'll reserve one for you.

So the answer to the question that lands in my inbox almost every single day is nearly always the same.

Are you fit enough?

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

Most likely.

Should you train before you come?

Absolutely.

Can you complete a week at Velocamp Mallorca?

One hundred percent.

With the support of the team, the recovery facilities, the Reboots compression boots, daily massage, nutritious food from your private chef, the support van, and a group of people who I genuinely believe will become friends for life, I think you'll surprise yourself with what you're capable of. Come and find out for yourself.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

A WEEK IN NUMBERS

530

KILOMETRES RIDDEN

8,300

METRES CLIMBED

And somehow, guests still feel fresh — that's what a week of proper support and recovery does.

YOUR MALLORCA ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

If you've made it this far, then firstly, thank you. I really hope this guide has answered some of your questions, helped you plan your trip, and maybe even inspired you to add a few more climbs or cafés to your list.

YOUR MALLORCA ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

Whether you decide to come to Mallorca on your own, with a group of friends, or join us here at Velocamp Mallorca, I can promise you one thing. You're going to fall in love with this island. I've been lucky enough to ride my bike in some incredible places around the world, but I still don't think anywhere combines world class cycling, breathtaking scenery, fantastic cafés, quiet mountain roads, and an incredible cycling culture quite like Mallorca.

If you do decide to join us at Velocamp Mallorca, our job is simple. We take away all of the planning, the logistics, and the stress, so that all you have to do is turn up and enjoy yourself. No spending hours researching routes. No worrying about where to stop for food or refill your bottles. No getting lost halfway through a ride. No wondering whether you've chosen the right roads. We've already done all of that for you.

Instead, you'll spend the week staying in our beautiful private villa in Alaro, a traditional Mallorcan village that I genuinely believe is the best base for cyclists anywhere on the island. Sitting right at

YOUR MALLORCA ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

Whether you decide to come to Mallorca on your own, with a group of friends, or join us here at Velocamp Mallorca, I can promise you one thing. You're going to fall in love with this island. I've been lucky enough to ride my bike in some incredible places around the world, but I still don't think anywhere combines world class cycling, breathtaking scenery, fantastic cafés, quiet mountain roads, and an incredible cycling culture quite like Mallorca.

If you do decide to join us at Velocamp Mallorca, our job is simple. We take away all of the planning, the logistics, and the stress, so that all you have to do is turn up and enjoy yourself. No spending hours researching routes. No worrying about where to stop for food or refill your bottles. No getting lost halfway through a ride. No wondering whether you've chosen the right roads. We've already done all of that for you.

Instead, you'll spend the week staying in our beautiful private villa in Alaro, a traditional Mallorcan village that I genuinely believe is the best base for cyclists anywhere on the island. Sitting right at

YOUR MALLORCA ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

more time riding the roads you actually came here to experience. It is one of the biggest reasons we chose Alaro as the home of Velocamp Mallorca.

Unlike staying in a busy hotel surrounded by hundreds of other cyclists, our villa becomes your home for the week. It is somewhere to completely switch off after each ride, relax by the pool with a recovery smoothie, slide into the Reboots compression boots, enjoy your daily sports massage overlooking the mountains, and sit down each evening with your fellow riders to enjoy chef prepared meals while reliving the day's adventures. With two experienced guides, a fully stocked support vehicle, premium Canyon bikes, carefully planned routes, and a team whose only job is to make sure you have the best cycling holiday possible, all you have to do is turn up and enjoy the ride.

The thing I'm probably most proud of isn't the villa, the bikes, or even the routes. It's the community that we've built. Every single camp starts with eleven strangers arriving at the villa on Saturday

YOUR MALLORCA ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

afternoon. By the following Friday, they're sitting around the dinner table laughing like they've known each other for years. Watching those friendships develop every single week is one of my favourite parts of running Velocamp Mallorca, and I genuinely believe it's something that's almost impossible to recreate when you're travelling on your own.

And finally, if you have any questions about cycling in Mallorca, whether it's about routes, accommodation, bike hire, training, or joining one of our camps, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Even if you decide not to book with us, I'm always happy to help a fellow cyclist if I can.

JOIN A CAMP

RIDE IT WITH US

Thank you again for taking the time to read this guide. I hope you've found it useful, and I genuinely hope our paths cross one day, whether that's out on the roads of Mallorca or over a coffee in the village square in Alaro.

Ride safe, enjoy every kilometre, and I'll hopefully see you in Mallorca soon.

ALEX MANNOCK

FOUNDER, VELOCAMP MALLORCA

[VELOCAMP MALLORCA.COM/CAMPS](https://velocampmallorca.com/camps)

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

A week that somehow brings out more in people than they ever thought they were capable of. And if you're still sitting there thinking, "I'm not sure," then don't forget we also have the option of riding one of our brand new Scott Fastlane electric road bikes. They have become more and more popular at Velocamp, and for good reason. They look, ride, and sound almost exactly like a normal road bike these days. The assistance is completely optional, so you simply choose how much help you want through the different support levels. You still get the workout, you still ride all the same incredible roads, but you have that extra little bit of confidence sitting there in your back pocket whenever you need it. Just let us know when you book and we'll reserve one for you.

So the answer to the question that lands in my inbox almost every single day is nearly always the same.

Are you fit enough?