



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 VELOCAMP?

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

WHY THIS GUIDE?

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 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, 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, why winter might just be the island's best kept secret, how to stay safe on the descents, and how fit you really need to be.

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.

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SECTION 01

THREE RIDES YOU CAN'T MISS

RIDE ONE

CLASSIC MALLORCA COAST ROAD

▲ [View the route on Strava](#)

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 before arriving in the beautiful village of Esporles, around 25 kilometres west of the villa in Alaró.

From here we tackle our first climb of the day. Three kilometres through shaded forest at a steady four to 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.

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

THE MA10 COAST ROAD

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.

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.

As the road levels out after the tunnels, it is time to head 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.





THE MA10 COAST ROAD

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. Get down onto the drops, relax, and enjoy every second before rolling into Andratx.

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.

The first is Galilea. Just over five kilometres at around five percent, twisting through the forest with wonderful views across the pine covered hillsides. At the summit the reward is a technical descent with tight switchbacks that can be slippery or covered with loose gravel, dropping us into Puigpunyent.



**IF SOMEONE ASKED ME TO RECOMMEND JUST ONE RIDE THAT
TRULY SHOWCASES EVERYTHING MALLORCA HAS TO OFFER,
THIS WOULD BE IT.**

ALEX, ON THE MAIO COAST ROAD

THE MA10 COAST ROAD

ES GRAU AND THE FINAL CLIMB

There is very little time to recover, because our final climb begins almost immediately as we leave Puigpunyent towards Esporles. Confusingly, it shares its name with the climb we rode earlier after the tunnels. This is the second Es Grau of the day: a different road, and a different challenge.

It is shorter than Galilea but noticeably steeper. Just under four kilometres at around six to seven percent, and it can really bite in places. With around 1,600 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.

From the summit we enjoy one final descent before dropping back into Esporles, where the day's adventure first began, and follow the country lanes home to the villa in Alaró.

After 115 kilometres and over 1,800 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 on the island, all in one incredible day on the bike.

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

▲ [View the route on Strava](#)

79KM

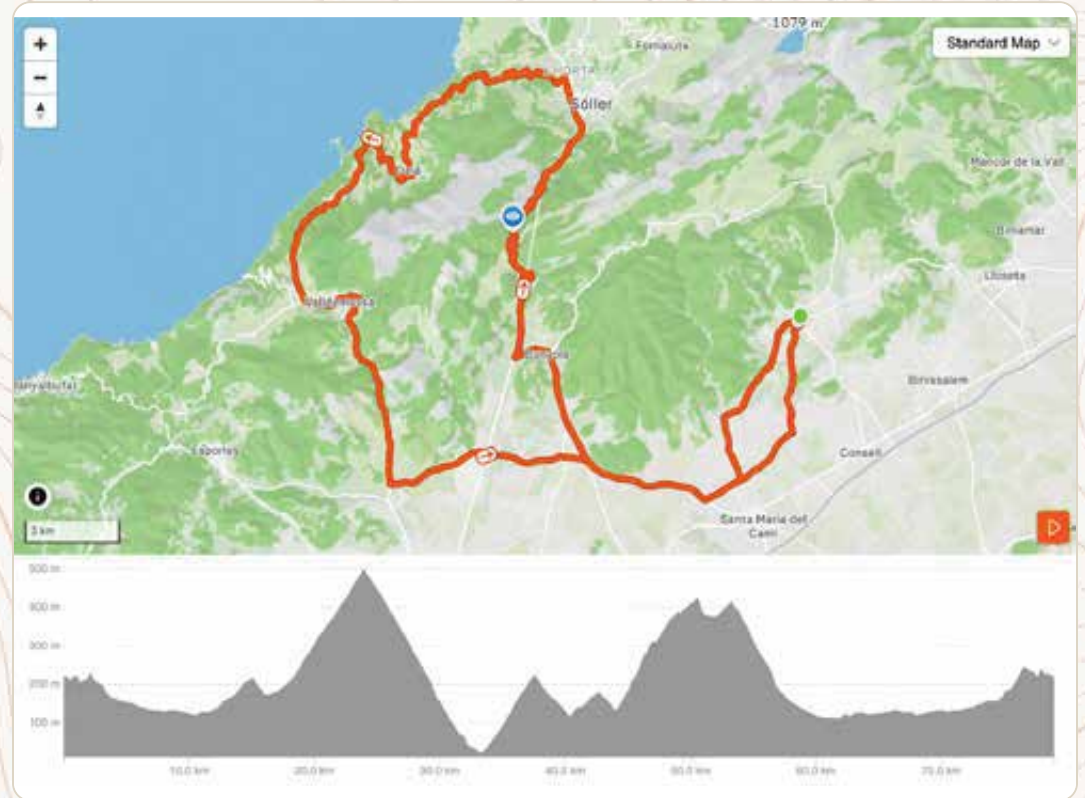
DISTANCE

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 Coll 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 villa and straight into the beautiful back country lanes. This is one of the biggest advantages of being based in Alaró. Within just a few minutes we are riding quiet country roads and heading straight for the mountains.

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

We pass through Bunyola before turning right towards Sóller, and within around 30 minutes we're approaching the base of my favourite climb on the island.

SÓLLER SWITCHBACKS AND DEIÀ

MY FAVOURITE CLIMB

I like the Coll de Sóller 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 carry you to the summit. There are some fantastic photo opportunities at the top while everyone catches their breath before the longer descent on the other side.

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. 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 is beautifully smooth, the road is never too steep, and with very little traffic you can really settle into a rhythm.



I AM STILL TRYING TO BEAT 15 MINUTES MYSELF. I'LL GET THERE ONE DAY.

SÓLLER SWITCHBACKS AND DEIÀ

DEIÀ AND CAN COSTA

At the summit begins one of the most scenic descents anywhere on the island. Spectacular homes cling to the cliffs overlooking the sparkling Mediterranean before the road 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. If you fancy a breather halfway up, pull into the Mirador on your right and enjoy the incredible views across Sa Foradada.





SÓLLER SWITCHBACKS AND DEIÀ

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

Then comes 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 shows 62 or 63, I usually back off. There can be plenty of traffic, so enjoy it, but always keep it sensible.

Back at the villa, the chef is waiting with freshly baked cakes, sandwiches and protein smoothies before everyone heads for the pool. Iconic climbs, incredible descents, spectacular scenery and two of the most beautiful villages in Mallorca. What a day.

RIDE THREE

SA CALOBRA: THE ICON

▲ [View the route on Strava](#)

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

COLL DE SA BATALLA

We leave the villa early on this one and tackle the Coll de Tofla almost immediately. It is only a short climb, but the perfect way to wake the legs up. From there we continue through Lloseta, Selva and Caimari to the base of the fantastic Coll de sa Batalla.

At 7.9 kilometres with an average of around five percent, it is a longer climb, but never an intimidating one. Gentle gradients, beautiful pine forests, sweeping switchbacks and very little traffic make it one of the most enjoyable climbs on the island.

Riding it a second time this week, we recommend taking it easy in zone two. If this is your only chance to ride it, go for it. Anything under 25 minutes is a solid ride in my opinion.

SA CALOBRA

TOWARDS THE ARCH

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. 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 deep in the mountains. The next 15 kilometres are gently undulating. During the winter months this section can stay damp all day because the mountains block the sun, so take a little extra care 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. You can see riders high above you, looking like tiny ants, and somehow that makes the climb feel even steeper.



SA CALOBRA

DOWN TO THE SEA

At the top, groups of riders gather beside the Coll dels Reis sign, taking photos, putting on jackets, and preparing 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. Keep looking ahead, ride within yourself, and always give them space.

Twenty minutes later you arrive beside the crystal clear water at the bottom. Now the reality sinks in. Everything you have just descended, you now have to climb back up.





**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 YEARS.**

ALEX, ON SA CALOBRA

SA CALOBRA

AND BACK UP AGAIN

Time for one last gel, a quick espresso, a few photos, and then it is time to settle in. 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?

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, watching the road snake endlessly across the landscape ahead of you.

UNDER 60 MIN

RESPECTABLE

UNDER 40 MIN

SERIOUSLY STRONG

UNDER 30 MIN

YOU SHOULD BE RIDING THE TOUR





SA CALOBRA

THE BEST LUNCH STOP OF THE WEEK

At the summit it is time to celebrate. High fives all round, plenty of stories, and for Velocamp riders, lunch from the support van.

While everyone else arrives exhausted, bright red and desperately searching for a cold drink, our guests are already reaching into the van for ice cold Coke, Haribo, sandwiches and muffins. We get more than a few jealous looks.

Then comes eight kilometres of pure joy descending Coll de sa Batalla, one final kick over the Coll de Tofla, and back to the villa for coffee, cake, the pool, compression boots and a massage. You have earned it. Sa Calobra is complete.

RIDE IT WITH US

RIDE ALL THREE WITH US THIS SEASON

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

SECTION 02

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT?

Something I get asked all the time is when is the best time of year to come and ride in Mallorca. The busiest periods for cyclists are late March, April and May, and then again in September and October.

There is a very good reason for that. In spring and autumn you can usually expect daytime temperatures of around 25°C (77°F), very little rain, plenty of sunshine, and long days. From a weather point of view, it really is close to perfect.

Of course, there is a trade off. The cafés are often overflowing, the famous photo spots can be incredibly busy, and it is not unusual to climb the island's most iconic roads in what looks like a line of ants.



PLANNING YOUR TRIP

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU SEE

I am sure you have seen those viral videos on Instagram where people complain that Mallorca has simply become too busy. Do not let them fool you. 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, but it certainly does not tell the full story.

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. You would need to leave the villa at around five o'clock every morning just to finish 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 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. I think it might just be the island's best kept secret, and I've given it a whole section of its own.



PLANNING YOUR TRIP

MONTH BY MONTH

Average daytime highs on the island, how

busy the roads feel, and what I'd pack.

Weather varies year to year, so treat these as a guide.

Main seasons
Winter riding
No camps

MONTH	AVG HIGH	CROWDS	WHAT TO WEAR
JAN	15°C	Quiet	Winter layers
FEB	16°C	Quiet	Winter layers
MAR	18°C	Building	Arm sleeves and a gilet
APR	20°C	Peak	Summer kit, gilet
MAY	24°C	Busy	Summer kit
JUN	28°C	Moderate	Summer kit, early starts
JUL	31°C	No camps	Too hot to ride well
AUG	31°C	No camps	Too hot to ride well
SEP	28°C	Busy	Summer kit
OCT	24°C	Peak	Summer kit, gilet
NOV	19°C	Quiet	Arm sleeves and a gilet
DEC	16°C	Quiet	Winter layers

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

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 at your local cycling club.

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

That is where most people will tell you to stay, usually because that is where they stayed themselves after somebody else recommended it. The whole area has been built around cycling tourism, with endless hotels, bike hire shops and cafés. For a simple hotel based holiday, it has its advantages.



PLANNING YOUR TRIP

PALMA OR ALARÓ

The downside is that all you have to do is look at a map 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 riding Cap de Formentor three or four times in the same week. It is an incredible ride, but one of the few spectacular routes easily reached from there without very long days in the saddle.

If you want to ride Sa Calobra, Deià, Valldemossa, Andratx, Galilea and Sant Elm from the north, you are looking at some very big days. For most people, riding 120 to 180 kilometres every day with plenty of climbing simply is not realistic. If you are travelling with family and cycling is only part of the holiday, Pollensa or Alcudia could still be a great choice.

But if my priority was riding the very best roads Mallorca has to offer, I would stay much further towards the southwest. Palma has a fantastic balance: you can be climbing within ten or fifteen minutes of your hotel, then come back to endless restaurants, beautiful architecture, the cathedral and plenty of history. The only real downside is the price of accommodation in the busiest months.

Even better, if your priority is simply cycling, is Alaró. It sits 20 to 25 minutes from Palma at the foot of the Tramuntana, and from a cycling point of view I do not think there is a better base on the island. You can comfortably ride to almost every iconic climb, and it feels like the real Mallorca: a traditional village with excellent local restaurants and a lovely square. Yes, I might be a little biased.



WHERE TO STAY

CHOOSING YOUR BASE

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

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



PLANNING YOUR TRIP

GETTING HERE AND GETTING AROUND

Palma airport has direct flights from across Europe all year round, and easy connections from North America through Madrid, Barcelona, London and other European hubs. From the airport, Palma is around 15 minutes away and Alaró around 25 minutes.

If you are travelling with your own bike, choose a hard case or a well padded bag, and leave a little time to rebuild it before your first ride. Many riders simply rent locally instead, and I've shared my favourite shops later in this guide.

A hire car is useful if you are staying outside Palma, though you will rarely need it once you are riding every day. Taxis are easy to find in Palma, but book ahead for the villages. At Velocamp, airport transfers are included, so you can forget about all of this.

WHAT TO PACK

The climbs are long rather than brutally steep, so gearing matters more than you might think. A compact chainset with a 32 or 34 tooth cassette will make your week far more enjoyable.

Mornings can start cool in the mountains even in spring and autumn, so layers you can stuff in a pocket are worth their weight in gold.

SPRING AND AUTUMN

- Two or three sets of bib shorts and jerseys
- Arm sleeves
- Lightweight gilet for descents
- Packable rain jacket
- High factor sun cream and lip balm
- Sunglasses with clear lenses for tunnels

WINTER

- Thermal bib tights
- Long sleeve thermal jersey
- Windproof jacket and a base layer
- Full finger gloves
- Shoe covers for cold mornings
- Neck warmer for early descents
- Front and rear lights for shaded roads

ALWAYS

- Helmet, required outside towns
- Spare tubes, levers, mini pump or CO2
- Your own pedals and shoes
- Bike computer with routes loaded
- Bottles and nutrition for long climbs
- Recovery shoes for the evenings

SECTION 03

WINTER IN MALLORCA

WINTER IN MALLORCA

THE ISLAND'S BEST KEPT SECRET

There is one misconception I hear all the time, and that is about winter. Personally, I think winter can be one of the very best times to ride in Mallorca.

The biggest reason is simply that the island is almost empty. There are very few tourists here in the winter months, which means that if you catch a good weather window, you can enjoy blue skies, warm sunshine and quiet mountain roads without the crowds.

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



WINTER IN MALLORCA

WHY RIDE HERE IN WINTER?

If you live somewhere with a long, dark winter, Mallorca offers something rare: real road riding, in the mountains, months before your season starts at home.

EMPTY ROADS

Very little tourist traffic, no coaches queuing on Sa Calobra, and climbs you can ride without a line of riders ahead of you.

A MILD CLIMATE

Daytime highs usually sit around 15 to 18°C, with sunny days that reach the low twenties. Perfect for riding hard without overheating.

WHERE THE PROS TRAIN

Professional teams base their winter training camps here for exactly these reasons. You'll ride the same roads they do.

NO QUEUES ANYWHERE

Empty café terraces, the Repsol stop to yourself, and the famous photo spots with nobody else in the frame.





WINTER IN MALLORCA

ALMOND BLOSSOM SEASON

From late January into February, the almond trees across the island burst into flower. Whole valleys turn pink and white, and riding through the countryside around Alaró at this time of year is something I never get tired of.

It is also the perfect moment to build a base. You can put in long, steady days in the mountains while your friends at home are stuck on the indoor trainer, and arrive at the start of spring already flying.

For anyone coming from North America, a winter week here is a reset button: swap snow, slush or a flat winter of Zwift for sunshine, switchbacks and coffee in the village square.

WINTER IN MALLORCA

RIDING WINTER THE RIGHT WAY

Winter here is far kinder than most people expect. Crisp, bright mornings soften into warm sunny afternoons, and a good spell of weather brings days in the high teens or even the low twenties. It is the kind of riding your friends back home can only dream about in January.

A few things are different in winter, and knowing them makes all the difference. The days are shorter, with roughly nine and a half to ten hours of daylight in December and January, so rides start a little later and finish before the light fades. Mornings can be cold in the mountain villages, so layers you can remove as the day warms up are essential.

Some shaded sections of the island's most popular climbs never see direct sunlight in winter, so they stay damp and can grow slippery green moss. The road through Escorca towards Sa Calobra is a good example. Take these corners gently, and keep the hard efforts for the climbs.

At Velocamp, our winter weeks are planned around the conditions. We keep an eye on the forecast every day, move the big rides to the best weather windows, and choose sunnier, more sheltered routes when it's cooler. The chef, the massage and the compression boots all work just as well in January.



NO TOURIST TRAFFIC, NO CROWDED CAFÉS, JUST PEACEFUL MOUNTAIN ROADS ALL TO YOURSELF.

WINTER IN MALLORCA

SPRING AND AUTUMN VS WINTER

March to May, and September to November. Reliable warm sunshine, around 25°C, very little rain. The busiest roads and cafés of the year, so start early to beat the crowds.

December to March. 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. Skipped entirely. Simply too hot to ride comfortably.

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



SECTION 04

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

WHERE CAN I RENT A BIKE?

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've included the most common ones here, 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 question I get asked most on social media is probably this one: "Hi Alex, I'm coming to Mallorca but I need a bike. Where should I rent one from?"

I'm going to presume you followed my earlier advice and booked your accommodation in Palma or Alaró. I can't really give you solid recommendations for Pollensa, simply because it's not somewhere I spend much time. Refer back to the earlier section and you'll understand why.



TIPS FROM A LOCAL

RENTING IN PALMA

If you're staying in Palma, you're spoilt for choice, and it's an easy decision because most of the best shops are together in one place. Type Plaza del Rosario into Google Maps and it will take you to a small square just off Passeig del Born. Within a couple of minutes' walk you have four or five fantastic shops.

Rapha rents top of the range Factor bikes, and the team are friendly, knowledgeable and reasonably priced, although you do need to be a paid Rapha member. Directly opposite is Catalina Bike Rental, run by my friend Ignacio, originally from Argentina and one of the friendliest guys you could meet. Catalina rents quality Standert bikes from as little as 30 euros a day, and Ignacio organises regular social runs, so look up the Catalina group on Strava if you're a runner too.

Right next door is Café du Cycliste. Most people know them for their clothing, but they also rent bikes, mainly Bassos. Ask if my good Irish friend Chris is around. While you're there, pop into Tanline. They don't rent bikes, but their Girona made bib shorts are some of the most luxurious I've ever worn.

If you want something truly special, maybe even a bucket list bike, visit Velo Mallorca, a five minute walk away. Factor One, Colnago Y1RS, fully custom Pinarellos: it honestly feels like Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory for bike lovers. Louis, the owner, and his staff are incredibly passionate and accommodating.



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. Quality
Standert bikes from as little as
30 euros 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 IN ALARÓ AND SÓLLER

If you decided to stay in Alaró, well done for making the right choice. Your first stop should be Cycling Planet, right in the village. Owned by two former pros, it is also one of my favourite café stops, so you can sort out your bike and enjoy a coffee in the same visit.

Your second option in Alaró is Tony at Northwind Cycles. Tony rents mainly Canyon bikes, and he's happy to deliver if you're not staying in the village.

If there's a group of you and you need plenty of bikes in every size, delivery and collection, and availability when everyone else is sold out, try Tramuntana Tours in Sóller. 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.

If you can't find a bike from one of those shops, send me a message and I'll personally help you get one sorted. Send me a photo of whatever you end up renting, and say hello to the guys for me.





TIPS FROM A LOCAL

HOW TO RIDE SAFE

None of the recommendations in this guide matter if you have an accident on day one.

A lot of people think new cyclists are more likely to come off, but I actually think experienced riders are, because they become slightly overconfident. You've seen the videos: riders throwing the bike through switchbacks, doing their best impression of Tom Pidcock. This is exactly where people come a cropper. They don't know the roads, or the road surface.

In summer, pine needles collect on the tighter switchbacks and can feel like ice. Later in the year they're replaced by moss in the shaded sections. And even on perfect tarmac, you might come round a corner to find a herd of goats or a group of hikers in the road.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

UPHILL FAST, DOWNHILL SMART

That's why one of the biggest parts of our welcome briefing at Velocamp is safety. What we encourage is simple. Have fun, push hard, and test your limits going uphill. Chase your personal best. But on the descents, make sure your number one priority is getting back down safely.

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, look down to the next corner before you commit. If a bus, coach or sports car is climbing towards you, it may need part of your side of the road to get round the hairpin.

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

Respect the mountains, enjoy every kilometre, and get home with nothing more than tired legs and a camera full of memories.



NOBODY REMEMBERS YOUR DESCENT TIME.

TIPS FROM A LOCAL

THE RULES OF THE ROAD

The essentials for riding in Spain. A quick summary, not legal advice, so check the latest rules before you travel.

HELMETS

Wearing a helmet is compulsory on roads outside towns and villages. Wear one everywhere and you'll never need to think about it.

PASSING DISTANCE

Drivers must leave at least 1.5 metres when overtaking a cyclist, and most locals on the island are very used to riders.

RIDING SIDE BY SIDE

Riding two abreast is allowed, but move into single file on narrow roads, blind bends, or whenever traffic builds behind you.

BE SEEN

Lights are needed in tunnels and in poor light, so pack a small front and rear light for the darker sections.

NO HEADPHONES

In ear headphones are illegal while riding in Mallorca and cannot be worn. Save the playlist for the pool.



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. I really noticed this on a recent trip to the Pyrenees: as spectacular as the passes were, the area was so sparse you had to be completely self sufficient or have support all the way.

Here it's completely different. It's very difficult to find yourself anywhere on the island without somewhere to refill your bottles, grab a coffee, or pick up a sandwich.

That said, there are good stops and there are great stops. These are five that I regularly visit myself and genuinely think are worth adding a few kilometres for, in no particular order.



Photo © velovie.cc

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, famous for its pastries. The napolitanas are some of the best on the island.

3

CAFÉ PASSEIG ESPORLES

The best bread and ham on the island. Try the tuna and tomato llonguet.

4

VALL HERMÓS ESTELLENC

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.

SECTION 05

AM I FIT ENOUGH?

AM I FIT ENOUGH?

YOU'RE MORE CAPABLE THAN YOU THINK

By far the most common question that lands in my inbox every single week is, "Am I fit enough?" And the answer is nearly always the same.

Around 70 percent of our guests start the conversation by saying, "Your week looks incredible, but I'm a little concerned I'm not strong enough." This is completely normal. We all worry about getting left behind or being the odd one out. Knowing that everybody else is thinking the same thing should put your mind at ease.

The great thing about Mallorca is that you don't have to be Tadej Pogačar to enjoy the mountains here.



AM I FIT ENOUGH?

MALLORCA IS DIFFERENT

I honestly think that's one of the reasons Mallorca has become more popular than the Alps, the Pyrenees, Calpe or Andorra. Those places are famous for long and often brutally steep passes. Around 85 percent of the climbs here sit between five and seven percent, and most of the famous ones are only five to seven kilometres long. Challenging enough to feel like a real achievement, but enjoyable for riders of almost every level.

If you're riding on your own, ride it however you want. Don't chase the guy who flies past you on the first climb. Nobody cares. What you'll remember are the photo stops on Coll de sa Batalla, the coffee in Deià, or sitting outside a little village café wondering how places like this even exist.

If you're coming from somewhere flat, like Florida, preparing for mountain riding can be difficult. This is where indoor trainers have revolutionised cycling. If your budget allows, get a smart trainer, sign up to Zwift or the free platform MyWhoosh, and commit to a couple of months of regular climbing workouts before your trip. It's an absolute game changer, and you'll probably come home dropping people on your local club rides too.



AM I FIT ENOUGH?

A WEEK IN NUMBERS

530

KILOMETRES RIDDEN

8,300

METRES CLIMBED

6

DAYS OF RIDING

11

RIDERS MAXIMUM

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." And somehow they still feel fresh.





AM I FIT ENOUGH?

THAT ISN'T BY ACCIDENT

A huge part of that comes down to the support and recovery our guests 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, so nobody ever bonks simply because they haven't eaten enough.

Back at the villa each afternoon, the recovery begins. Fresh protein smoothies, homemade cakes and post ride food are waiting as soon as you arrive. Then it's time to relax by the pool, stretch, or slide into our Reboots compression boots.

AM I FIT ENOUGH?

THE DAILY MASSAGE

To finish it all off, every single guest receives a daily sports massage from our professional sports physiotherapist, up on the top terrace overlooking the mountains.

I have to laugh, because by the end of most weeks he normally gets more praise from our guests than the rest of us put together. He's that good.

Combine all of that with two experienced guides, a fully stocked support van, and the confidence that comes from being surrounded by like minded people encouraging each other, and it creates something you simply can't recreate riding on your own. Support. Confidence. Laughter.





AM I FIT ENOUGH?

A LITTLE EXTRA CONFIDENCE

If you're still sitting there thinking, "I'm not sure," don't forget we also have brand new Scott Fastlane electric road bikes.

They've become more and more popular at Velocamp, and for good reason. They look, ride and sound almost exactly like a normal road bike. The assistance is completely optional, so you choose how much help you want through the support levels.

You still get the workout, you still ride all the same incredible roads, but you have that extra bit of confidence sitting in your back pocket whenever you need it. Just let us know when you book and we'll reserve one for you.

AM I FIT ENOUGH?

A WEEK AT VELOCAMP

ARRIVAL DAY

SETTLING IN

Airport transfer, bike fitting, welcome briefing and your first dinner together.

DAY 1

BREAKING THE LEGS IN

Settling into the group, including the beautiful Coll de sa Batalla.

DAY 2

MA10 COAST ROAD

Banyalbufar, Estellencs, Andratx and Galilea. Ride one in this guide.

DAY 3

RECOVERY RIDE

An easier spin out to Randa to freshen the legs before the big one.

DAY 4

SA CALOBRA

The icon, ridden on fresh legs, with lunch from the van at the top.

DAY 5

SÓLLER AND DEIÀ

Coll de Sóller, almond croissants in Deià and Can Costa.

DAY 6

CAP DE FORMENTOR

The famous lighthouse ride to finish the week in style.

Every day ends the same way: food, pool, compression boots, massage, and dinner with the group. Routes may change with the weather.



AM I FIT ENOUGH?

THE SHORT ANSWER

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

Are you fit enough? 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, 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.



FROM OUR GUESTS

DON'T JUST TAKE MY WORD FOR IT

“

WHAT an experience! The routes were fabulous: scenic, challenging, and incredibly picture worthy. From helping with luggage and filling water bottles to washing bikes and providing strong pulls to close gaps in the paceline, they took care of the details so we could simply focus on riding. The daily massages were invaluable for keeping the legs ready to ride day after day. Highly recommended!

SHANE Colorado, USA

“

One of the best cycling experiences of my life! Dinners were spectacular. The villa is a first class operation that is gorgeous. Kits washed daily! And the location in Alaró is second to none. It rained a bit on our first ride, so I was planning on washing my bike, but when I arrived back at the villa, Francesco took the bike from me, and from all the other riders, and washed them. Don't miss out on this amazing cycling experience.

CURTIS Arizona, USA

“

This was my fourth cycling tour, having previously ridden through France, Italy and Switzerland, and now Mallorca. Breathtaking ocean views, epic mountain climbs, incredible roads and fantastic food. Without question, the best staff I've experienced on any cycling tour. More than just great guides and hosts, they're people I genuinely hope to call friends for a lifetime.

RAYMUND Utah, USA

★★★★★ [Read more reviews on Google](#)

YOUR MALLORCA ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

THANK YOU

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 inspired you to add a few more climbs or cafés to your list.

Whether you decide to come to Mallorca on your own, with friends, or join us 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 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.



YOUR MALLORCA ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

RIDE IT WITH US

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

You'll spend the week in our beautiful private villa in Alaró, a traditional Mallorcan village that I genuinely believe is the best base for cyclists anywhere on the island. Sitting right at the foot of the Tramuntana, it means less time getting to the mountains and more time riding the roads you actually came here to experience.

Unlike a busy hotel surrounded by hundreds of other cyclists, our villa becomes your home for the week. Somewhere to switch off after each ride, relax by the pool, slide into the compression boots, enjoy your daily massage overlooking the mountains, and sit down each evening for chef prepared meals while reliving the day's adventures. With two experienced guides, a fully stocked support vehicle, premium Canyon bikes and carefully planned routes, all you have to do is ride.





YOUR MALLORCA ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

THE PART I'M MOST PROUD OF

The thing I'm probably most proud of isn't the villa, the bikes, or even the routes. It's the community we've built.

Every camp starts with eleven strangers arriving at the villa. By the end of the week, they're sitting around the dinner table laughing like they've known each other for years. Watching those friendships develop every week is one of my favourite parts of running Velocamp Mallorca.

And if you have any questions at all, about routes, accommodation, bike hire, training or joining a camp, please get in touch. Even if you decide not to book with us, I'm always happy to help a fellow cyclist.



Thank you for reading. 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 Alaró. Ride safe, enjoy every kilometre, and I'll hopefully see you soon.

ALEX MANNOCK

FOUNDER, VELOCAMP MALLORCA

JOIN A CAMP

velocampmallorca.com · team@velocampmallorca.com

