

LE 10 COL CHALLENGE SPAIN

VIVA ESPAÑA

3RD – 10TH SEPTEMBER 2023

In this the closing chapter of Le 10 Cols Trilogy we decided to pursue the road less travelled.

Rather than re-visiting those predictable regions of Spain commonly associated with cycling, this adventure focuses on Galicia, Asturias and the Cantabrian Mountains. Gloriously empty of tourists it may be but La Vuelta Espana is no stranger to these parts and many tours have been won and lost here over the years. Through Atlantic fishing villages on winding coastal roads we wend our way east along northern shores through the Galician Massif before finishing this epic week in the Cantabrian Mountains.

CYCLING
6 DAYS
DIFFICULTY:
HIGH



ANOTHER CLASSIC CYCLING ADVENTURE BY BAGMAN

01242 221770 / WWW.BAGMAN.WEBSITE

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DAY 1:

Santiago de Compostela Airport

Transfer to Palmeira. You will be met at the airport by your guides and driven 45 minutes to a 4 star hotel in Palmeira overlooking the beach where you will have a chance to assemble your bikes with the assistance of our professional mechanic and share dinner with fellow riders. This quiet seaside resort hotel offers a swimming pool and direct access to the beach – fancy a morning dip in the ocean?

DAY 2:

Palmeira – Cee

Today starts with a windfarm climb over the peninsula before dropping back down to the coast road and heading north to the tiny port of Muros for lunch. The unspoilt ruggedness of the Atlantic coastline provides for stunning riding and the chance to experience fishing villages and small towns undiscovered by most Spaniards even. A final kick-up gives unrivalled views along the coast before rolling in to the lovely harbour town of Cee for refreshment, dinner and bed!



DAY 3:

Cee – Laxe

Another coastal day but the scenery changes here to one of tilled fields and golden beaches devoid of humanity – the lack of people is almost eerie! Our route intertwines with the El Camino Santiago network, a 500 mile pilgrimage from the Pyrenees to the west coast and its walkers

can be seen from time to time along the road. We finish on the beach in Laxe in good time for lunch and a transit along the northern shore to spend the night in the university city of Oviedo, capital of Asturias. This is cider country!

DAY 4:

Oviedo – Pola de Lena

On this the Queen stage we tackle two serious mountains – the Angliru and La Cubilla. For many La Cubilla needs no introduction but the Angliru is the real prize! The climb is only 12.5km long with an average gradient of a shade over 10%; however, the first 6kms average only 6%, making it a very top heavy climb with 22% gradients at times. Views at the top make everything worthwhile though and you'll join the ranks of the elite who have made it to the summit. After lunch we tackle La Cubilla topping out at a shade below 1,700 metres above sea level – hold on tight for the 35km decent straight into the hotel bar!

DAY 5:

Polo de Lena – Torazu

A more forgiving day will allow your legs to recover as we head east through river valleys and over scenic ridges to our lunch stop at the market town of Polo de Laviana. Brace yourself though – the afternoon holds an appointment with Les Praeres. Only 4km in length but averaging 12.5% who can forget the epic Vuelta 2022 stage with Louis Meintjes reaching the summit first whilst Evenepoel shredded his GC competitors up this now legendary climb.

DAY 6:

Torazu – Basilica de Covadonga

We head north today to meet the Atlantic coast once again before heading back inland over the stunning Mirador del Fito and descending to lunch at the canyon adventure town of Les Arriondes. Ensure you're well fuelled up for the afternoon



climax of Lagos de Covadonga. This rates as one of the most beautiful climbs in the world and with good reason; or so we're told – vehicles aren't allowed to the top so we'll have to take your word for it! We transit from here to Villacarriedo for an evening spent in palatial splendour.

DAY 7:

Villacarriedo – Regules

Our final day on the bike takes us over a series of impressive steps and beautiful valley descents topping out at the abandoned military outpost of Picon Blanco and dropping down to Espinosa de los Monteros for lunch. A gradual post lunch climb gives way to an exhilarating 20km descent before tackling our last climb of the week up the beautiful Collado del Asón. The final descent brings us to the front door of our own private medieval villa where we will be wined and dined by our hosts under the covered terrace.

DAY 8:

Santander Airport

After a leisurely breakfast of fresh local produce you will be driven to the heart of bustling Santander for a few hours downtime before your late afternoon flight back to the UK – you may sleep on the plane!

COST
£1,689

Bagman reserves the right to amend this itinerary at any stage should adverse weather or safety become a cause for concern.

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Terrain

Le 10 Cols Challenge is designed to be tough. The itinerary includes one or more mountain passes each day and a good level of fitness is required. All stages are on tarmacked roads but there is a short section of gravel on day one and some surfaces can be a bit sketchy in places – standard road bikes with compact groupsets are advised.



Accommodation and Food

Rooms are on a twin-share basis unless a single supplement* is paid and include breakfast but not lunch or dinner. Hotels vary from 2* to 4* and all are very comfortable and have been used and approved on prior trips. Lunches are taken in cafes and restaurants en route and evening meals mainly at our hotels or on occasion local restaurants. The food in this region is excellent and portions enormous – and cheap! 3 course dinners with wine tend to come in about €20-25 and you'll struggle to finish.

*Single room supplement £355.00



Support

Le 10 Cols Challenge is supported by a mini-coach for transits and broom wagon, a van with professional mechanic for bikes and mechanical back-up and an experienced cycling guide. As well as GPS routing and daily briefings you will never be more than a few minutes from assistance should you need it and everything from additional water and puncture repair, mechanical assistance and a lift to the top (or bottom for that matter) are never more than a phone call away. Regardless of modern communications, our drivers and guides constantly cover the field of cyclists to ensure everyone is on track and comfortable so no-one is left behind.

We will transfer your bike and luggage from our HQ in Cheltenham to Spain and back again after your trip so all you have to worry about is catching your flight with hand luggage; you'll be home long before us though so you may have to wait for a few days for your kit on your return. All foreign transfers are included in the price.

Weather

Northern Spain is famed for its verdant terrain and the rain falls regularly here. That said, it is no wetter than the UK in the summer months and the underlying temperature is generally warmer. Temperatures can vary from hot (upwards of 25°C) to mid-teens when it rains at this time of year. Typically, however, cycling shorts, shirts and possibly a long sleeve top or gilet should suffice – wet weather gear is also recommended.

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Le 10 Cols rates 4 out of 5 in terms of difficulty. It should only be undertaken by experienced cyclists who have trained for this type of terrain. There is, of course, full vehicle support and a lift to the top should you need it but the experience will be far greater for those with a reasonable degree of fitness.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- ✓ Bike and luggage shipping
- ✓ Airport and local transfers
- ✓ Bed and breakfast
- ✓ GPS routing
- ✓ Daily route cards
- ✓ Top tube stickers
- ✓ Mechanical support

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

- ✗ Flights
- ✗ UK transfers
- ✗ Lunches and dinners
- ✗ Drinks
- ✗ Spending money
- ✗ Replacement bike parts



CONTACT US FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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