

Iberian Inspirations!

Spain, Portugal, Andorra, Pyrenees



www.WorldOnWheels.tours

*If you're not living on the edge
you're taking up too much room !*

Iberian Inspirations Motorcycle Safari



Destinations and Places of Interest

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Madrid | 7. Badajoz | 13. Ordesa |
| 2. Ciudad Real | 8. Lisbon | 14. Andorra |
| 3. Cordoba | 9. Coimbra | 15. Zaragoza |
| 4. Granada | 10. Porto | 16. Segovia |
| 5. Ronda | 11. Salamanca | 1. Madrid |
| 6. Seville | 12. Soria | |



Iberian Inspirations Motorcycle Safari

Itinerary for May / Jun 2025

Day	Date	Details	Distance
1 M	May 19	Arrange your international flights to arrive today in Madrid, the lively capital of Spain	
2 T	20 *	A spare day to see some of Madrid, and maybe rest up a bit after your long flights	---
3 W	21	Our first day's ride takes us to Ciudad Real, which translates in English to 'Royal City'	210k
4 T	22	We wind through some wonderful twisty rural roads on our way to Cordoba	265k
5 F	23	Small roads continue, to reach Granada with time to explore sensational Alhambra Palace	170k
6 S	24	The best of Andalusia stretches before us as we continue to wind our way to Ronda	225k
7 S	25	White-washed villages dot the horizon across southern Spain, as we head to Seville	150k
8 M	26 *	We'll have a rest day exploring the architectural delights of the Andalusian capital	---
9 T	27	We take small twisty country roads to Badajoz, near the border with Portugal	235k
10 W	28	Cross into Portugal and keep to smaller roads, to reach Lisbon with some hours to explore	260k
11 T	29	To Coimbra via the world's most famous huge-wave surf beach at Nazaré	240k
12 F	30	We'll fast-track it somewhat, to reach Porto with some spare time to appreciate it	150k
13 S	31	Long winding country roads take us back across into Spain and on to Salamanca	350k
14 S	Jun 01 *	Our second rest day is in this UNESCO-listed World Heritage site. Lots to see and do	---
15 M	02	We bypass the sprawl of Valladolid, and head to the quaint high-plains village of Soria	330k
16 T	03	More high plains leading us into the mountains, to Ordesa and Monte Perdido N P	320k
17 W	04	A long day with seemingly endless twisties, into the tiny principality of Andorra	260k
18 T	05 *	Rest day exploring the town of Andorra la Vella, or optional loop ride around the region	---
19 F	06	Back into Spain, we take the long and winding road all day to Zaragoza	360k
20 S	07	Across country again to arrive at the stunning 2,000 year old Roman aqueduct of Segovia	360k
21 S	08	Some lovely Sierra twisties on our final day's ride, returning to Madrid	140k
22 M	09	Our tour finishes with breakfast; arrange to fly out or choose to extend your visit	-----
			4,025k

* indicates consecutive night in same hotel, allowing for laundry, etc.

Departure Date

For the **Iberian Inspirations Motorcycle Safari 2025**, your recommended arrival date in Madrid is **Monday 19th May 2025** as shown above, or earlier. Many European capital cities have daily connections to Madrid. Please see further discussion on International Flights herein.

Tour Operator

This Motorcycle Safari is one of several itineraries offered by **World On Wheels**, Australia's only professional tour operator specialising solely in international motorcycle adventures. Operating for 20+ years as **Ferris Wheels**, Mike Ferris pioneered the Himalayan Motorcycle Safari concept in 1994 with his first crossing of the world's greatest mountain range by an Australian group of riders. In 1995 as a newly qualified travel agent, he took his first commercial safari to the Khardung La in Ladakh (India), at 5,602 metres the highest road in the world. Mike now operates and personally leads **World On Wheels** motorcycle safaris to diverse destinations such as the Indian Himalaya, Nepal-Bhutan, Rajasthan, Peru-Bolivia, Iceland, Turkey, Mexico-Guatemala-Belize, South Africa, Morocco, the Baltic States, and the Dalmatian coastline, as well as this new one through the Iberian Peninsula embracing Spain, Portugal, Andorra and the Pyrenees – each of them two to three weeks in duration. **Mike Ferris** is Australia's only international motorcycle guide who is also a fully qualified and government-accredited motorcycle riding instructor.

Be aware that this itinerary is a guide only and may need to change due to weather, road conditions or other factors. Please be flexible, but rest assured your Tour Leader will make the final day-to-day decisions only after consultation with our local partner, local authorities and group members.



Package Price

The **Iberian Inspirations** tour price, excluding airfares and joining in Madrid, is US\$8,500-00. Riders must have a full and unrestricted Rider's license. Pillion seats are welcome and we also have a limited number of passenger seats available in our support vehicle, accompanying the riders for the length of the Safari – price for pillion or passenger is US\$7,500-00. Please note that our prices are subject to foreign exchange fluctuations, and we reserve the right to alter any pricing pursuant to Clause 9 of our Terms and Conditions herewith, up to the date of final payment.

In this itinerary our tour prices are shown in US\$ for greatest stability but we ask for the equivalent in AU\$ at the prevailing daily exchange rate. The international website (unaffiliated with any bank) to be used for daily foreign exchange calculations is: www.XE.com/currencyconverter. We request a US\$1,000 deposit and will invoice you thereafter for the remaining balance, in US\$ but payable in the AU\$ equivalent at the prevailing daily rate. You'll have some flexibility as to when to pay – final payment will be due 60 days before the tour date, but if you choose to pay us at any time beforehand because you feel the US\$/AU\$ forex rate is favourable, this works well for everyone all round.

Price includes

- BMW GS motorbike rental for the duration of the Safari; see '**Our Motorbikes**' below
- Clean, friendly, mid-range accommodation throughout the Safari, nights 1 to 21 inclusive
- Twin-share basis; (single room supplement, additional US\$1200-00) ¹
- Three meals per day except on non-riding days: breakfast only, to allow maximum free-format day
- Experienced guide, local agent and qualified mechanic
- Minibus support vehicle and driver, for luggage transport and assistance
- Spare parts, tools, medicines and first aid equipment
- All fuel costs, maintenance and third-party insurance for the bikes
- A complimentary **World On Wheels** T-shirt and cap, luggage tags, daily digital Google maps

¹Accommodation is provided on a twin-share basis and if you're on your own we'll do our best to bunk you in with an acceptable roommate. But if you're the last person to book, there's obviously a 50-50 chance you'll have to take a room on your own and will therefore be liable for the single room supplement. So the moral of the story is, book early or bring your own roommate with you. Or preferably both!

Price excludes

- Airfares to/from Madrid (allow around Au\$2,500-00 depending on airline)
- Comprehensive travel insurance policy, which must cover use of large-capacity motorbike ²
- Medical examination and vaccinations before departure (recommended)
- Tipping for any local hotel porters you may choose to utilise
- Road tolls if necessary (we always try to avoid if time permits!)
- Entry fees to optional destinations of interest and fees for local guides
- Expenses of a personal nature such as postage, laundry, souvenirs and drinks
- Tips for support staff at completion; optional but always appreciated, US\$100-00 suggested ³

² Please note that a motorcycle safari overseas must be considered one of life's more adventurous pursuits and therefore personal travel insurance is mandatory. In Australia, we can suggest www.AussieTravelCover.com.au **Be aware**, however, that travel insurance ceases immediately on return to your own country, even if on-going medical treatment or surgery is required. Private health cover or government Medicare resumes at that point.

³ A note on tips. We recognize tipping is not generally part of the antipodean psyche, but it is pretty much expected in most other parts of the world. Daily hotel porters will expect a small reward if they carry your bags to your room and our mechanic/driver/local guide will anticipate a reasonable tip to supplement his modest wages whilst on tour. We suggest something like US\$100-00 is affordable for this tour (only US\$5-00 per day), collected at the conclusion of the tour. If you've had a good time, we would encourage you to contribute generously! (...and if you haven't, please let us know why and we'll contribute on your behalf).

International Flights

It's a pretty simple procedure these days to book airline tickets online. There are several 'consolidator' internet sites such as Flight Centre, Expedia, Sky Scanner, Flight Network, etc which will give you comparisons on all available carriers to/from your required destination. There are many daily airline connections from international cities to/from Madrid. We suggest you book your airfare early to get the best price.

Food & Health

Quality of food can obviously be a concern when visiting exotic foreign lands. We take care in selecting clean and reputable establishments for our meals and the local fare is not always as fiery and spicy as some people would have you believe. Our riders are quite often pleasantly surprised by the delicious meals available. Even so, an occasional upset stomach cannot always be avoided in remote areas, so we advise initial caution and we carry various medicines to ensure as much comfort as possible.



Participants in any of our adventure activities are obviously expected to have a reasonably high level of health, fitness and capability, but in all cases a **consultation with your doctor is suggested** in order to identify necessary vaccinations and precautions, particularly if you are traveling overseas for the first time. Anti-malarials are not necessary and can sometimes have a negative impact on the digestive system as they are a very strong drug, so we generally advise against them. And don't get talked into a rabies vaccine unless you're intending to wrestle with the street dogs or monkeys...

Climate & Clothing

Our itinerary is designed to take advantage of the pleasant weather of the northern spring. However, Spain's and Portugal's geography vary greatly and therefore temperatures can range from cold in the mountains to warm on the coast to hot in the interior, and also with a chance of some rain. At times there will be little shade available, so sunscreen, sunglasses, hats and sleeves will also be required. Jeans or riding pants and our **World On Wheels** shirts tend to be the norm, with calf-height boots and riding gloves. Helmets, full or open-faced as you prefer, should be brought from home. Our personal preference is the modern flip-up variety which gives the option of opening the face when stationary, and closing it to provide security at cruising speeds.

Professional quality riding gear including jackets, over-pants and other protective clothing are an excellent investment and will go a long way to ensuring your comfort and protection in what may sometimes be adverse conditions. Multi-layered jackets and pants with removable liners are the way to go. We use and endorse HELD motorcycle gear, supplied in Australia by a company called Made In Germany. Go online and check it out!



And while we're giving plugs, we'd like to suggest you consider a Rider Improvement course, regardless of your experience or perceived ability on a motorcycle, to brush up on your skills prior to joining an international riding safari. Our recommendation here is the renowned operation Stay Upright, who offer a range of courses designed to progressively increase your riding ability. Mike completed his Instructor's course with Stay Upright, who offer various track and adventure riding courses in the eastern states of Australia. Check your own regional area to see what courses might be available. Highly recommended.

Our Motorbikes

Our bike supplier is an official travel partner of BMW Motorrad. Our standard bike is the F800GS, but the F900GS and R1300GS models are available for an additional upgrade fee; please see our **Booking Form** for details. All of these are fully-faired and are perfect steeds for traveling these European roads. For the more vertically challenged we are able to make some lowering adjustments to some of these models to assist in your riding comfort. Fuel, insurance and maintenance are included.

Please note you will be required to sign a rental contract with our bike supplier in Madrid, leave a photocopy of your passport and a credit card imprint as a security deposit. Our package price includes comprehensive insurance but the policy carries an Excess (or 'Deductible self-risk') of €2,000 – ie the rider is liable for the first €2,000 of any damage; if you drop the bike, any broken levers, mirrors, lights, etc will be payable by you. This excess can optionally be substantially reduced to €350 by the upfront payment of an additional insurance premium of €20 per day x 19 riding days = €380.

Our Riding Policy

We will occasionally require riders to 'bunch up', particularly when navigating through large towns, but out on the open road we know that you will want a lot of freedom and time on your own (isn't that what riding is all about?) We allow plenty of time for people to set their own pace, and it's unlikely that you'll ever be pressed to keep up. We know of some motorbike tour operators who insist that everybody ride in formation every day like a Sturgis rally, but that's not our style at all.

You'll be given maps and daily directions on how far we're going, the destination for the night (including hotel name/address and phone number), and where we are likely to stop for lunch, drink breaks, sightseeing and refueling along the way, etc. Our preferred Corner Marking system will be explained to you in detail. There is always plenty of time to take photos, chat to the locals, or just sit and soak it all in. Our support vehicle with our luggage will always be the last vehicle in the convoy, with our mechanic, spare parts and tools, etc. in case of any bike problems.

But let's not pull any punches here. A tour such as this is potentially a dangerous undertaking; it's inherent in the very nature of the trip. You'll be on an unfamiliar bike, on unfamiliar roads in unfamiliar traffic conditions. It is important for you to recognize this and accept ultimate responsibility, firstly for joining and secondly for riding in a circumspect manner for the duration of the tour. Please read and acknowledge Paragraph 16 of our Terms and Conditions! (End of sermon)

Detailed Daily Itinerary

Day 1 will mainly consist of flying, and involves the logistics of getting everyone into Madrid at more or less the same time from various different locations. You may want to arrive a day or so early to explore; we need you to at least arrive in time please for a meet 'n' greet with a welcoming drink at our hotel early this evening, before our first group dinner together. We need to dedicate some time to processing paperwork for your motorbike rental, and have a briefing on road rules, etiquette, our corner-man system, 'the plan' and so forth.

Day 2 is a day to explore some of Madrid's wonderful city centre, and perhaps recover a little from long flights.



Day 3 sees us heading south out of the capital. We'll no doubt have to join a major road or two and contend with some traffic before we find our way onto the smaller rural roads we prefer. We wind our way through some huge pastoral landscapes south of Madrid before stopping for lunch somewhere on the outskirts of Toledo – no 'holy' Batman jokes please.

Sticking to the smaller roads we continue winding south to arrive in Ciudad Real in time for a look around, with perhaps a visit to the magnificent Catedral de Santa Maria del Prado in the heart of the town. Then a couple of cold drinks might be in order to wash down our first day's ride.

Day 4 sees us continuing south, and has us passing through a section of the Parque Natural de la Sierra de Andujar as we make our way along to the city of Cordoba in Andalusia. This vibrant centre has been ruled by the Moors, the Romans, and the Visigoths during its long history. It is built on two sides of a river, with a beautiful Roman Bridge dating back to the 1st century BC connecting the two sides. It was the only crossing for two thousand years until a second bridge was built in the 1950's. It's gonna be warm here; Cordoba boasts the hottest temperatures not only in all of Spain, but all of Europe!



Day 5 We'll meander our way from one Moorish city to another, to arrive in Granada around lunch time. Civilisation here has been dated back to 5,500BC, the University is one of the largest in Europe with about 47,000 undergrads, and the name Granada actually translates to 'pomegranate' in English. We'll have time to explore the impressive Alhambra citadel in the afternoon, one of the historical and cultural highlights of this tour.

Day 6 Everyone surely must have heard about the sensational roads and scenery of Andalusia, and you're about to experience the very best of them. Small winding roads take us past and through gorgeous white hilltop towns, orchards, olive groves, and grazing pastures as we twist and weave our way west from Granada to Ronda.



We'll bypass the sprawling metropolis of Malaga on the coast (and the *de facto* capital of the Costa del Sol) in favour of the cooler hills and small rural roads. Ronda is a delightful town of superb architecture and medieval charm, and the world-famous bridge connecting both sides of the town never fails to impress.

Day 7 We head out of Ronda to enjoy more of these sensational roads and hills as we turn towards Seville, the capital of Andalusia. Picturesque white-washed towns dot the landscape, with the obligatory cathedral and/or fortress perched upon the highest point. This particular little visual overload is called Olvera:



Seville itself is also incredibly photogenic but somewhat larger. We're obliged to contend with some traffic as we find our way into the centre of the largest city of Andalusia. This place is simply soaked in history, and not all of it is glamorous. The Spanish Inquisition started here in 1480, with the Christian Dominican friar sentencing to death non-believers by burning them alive in the town square. In unrelated news, Christopher Columbus is buried here and his tomb can be viewed in the Cathedral of Saint Mary. He was of course Italian, but conducted several Spanish explorations across the Atlantic, sponsored by the Catholic Church.



Day 8 is our first 'rest day' but with so much to see and do, there might not be much resting! The central Plaza de Espana itself is an architectural wonderland, as is the Alcazar, and the Cathedral, and the ... you get the picture.

We'll spend as much or as little of the day as you want, exploring and marveling at the sights and sounds and alfresco dining delights. It might even be possible to take in a flamenco dance performance this evening as we do our best to consume our own body weight in *tapas* and sample the excellent local *cervezas* and *vinos*.

Day 9 On the road again, we stick to the smaller winding roads through some rural farming pastures and rolling hills. We pass through small white-washed villages such as Aracena and Fuentes de Leon as we head to the picturesque regional centre of Badajoz on the Guadiana river, near the border with Portugal. This city was a Moorish stronghold, and has the almost obligatory fortress-like Cathedral and citadel with fortified walls.

Day 10 Our first border crossing – although you probably won't even notice it. With no border formalities between European nations, all you'll see is a small sign announcing 'Portugal' as we cross. We explore some rural roads of course for as long as we can, but inevitably as we draw closer to Lisbon we'll have to join the urban traffic sprawl of the Portuguese capital, and our aim is to arrive with a few hours to spare.

It's another beautiful city, with *olde worlde* architectural marvels to admire. Portugal has long been a sea-faring country and was a leader of *The Age of Discovery*, when European nations ventured across uncharted waters to discover new lands and expand their empires.

Portugal is one of the oldest countries in Europe, and has been inhabited for an astonishingly long time – a human skull found in a cave here in 2014 has apparently been carbon dated as 400,000 years old !



Day 11 has us riding up along the Atlantic Ocean coast, with spectacular little inlets and coves to visit. The rugged coastline to the north of Lisbon provides massive ocean swells which have become very popular in recent years with adrenalin junkie big-wave riders. They come from all over the world to take on Nazare's huge surf – and we do mean HUGE...



We'll swing by to see if the waves are pumping today, before continuing along the coast a bit further then turning inland away from the ocean to Coimbra, our destination for the night. This one-time capital of the country is situated on the picturesque Mondego river, and the university here is the largest in the Portuguese-speaking world.

Day 12 sees us heading north to Porto, with time to have a look around. This city of course is famous for giving the world the fortified wine known as port, but is so much more as well. Architecture, history, culture...

Day 13 is a long riding day and we may have to fast-track it for a while on rural arterials to Vila Real, but then we can resume our preference for smaller byways as we approach the border with Spain. On the other side we'll visit a gorgeous little lake before reaching our destination of Salamanca for the night.

Day 14 is a rest day. Salamanca dates back to around 700BC, which is during the first Iron Age. It's very fitting therefore, that it's now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There is of course a splendid cathedral here, as well as a stone Roman bridge from the first century AD, crossing the Tormes River.

Day 15 Leaving Salamanca, we'll continue heading north but forsaking busy Valladolid to stop instead at the small and charming village of Soria in the evening. There's a thriving wine industry here and the surrounding landscape is dotted with vineyards. We might perhaps be persuaded to sample the local drop.



Day 16 We won't bother with Pamplona because the bulls aren't running, so we'll head further north-east into the winding rural roads in the foothills of the Pyrenees. We ride through the fringes of the Parque Natural de la Sierra and we're staying at Ordesa in the Monte Perdido National Park tonight. Straight sections of road are few and far between here, with stupendous switchbacks being the order of the day!

Day 17 There's only one road in and out of the Park but we're sure you won't mind riding these wonderful corners again for a short distance, as we continue towards the Pyrenees National Park to arrive late in the day into Andorra, high in the hills. This little Principality of just 470 sq km is one of the smallest countries in Europe and indeed the world, sandwiched between France and Spain.

Day 18 is our last rest day, exploring a little of Andorra la Vella. The major industry here is tourism, with lots of duty-free stores for which Andorra is famous. It's a very pretty town to stroll around and the scenery is spectacular. If you've not had enough saddle time over the past few days, you're welcome to take your bike and go for a ride to some local lookouts.



Day 19 is the start of our homeward bound leg. We leave Andorra and you can practice some pronunciations as we find some lovely winding roads via La Seu d'Urgell, La Pobla de Segur and El Pont de Suert on our way to Barbastro and eventually to Zaragoza.

This capital of Aragon with about one million inhabitants, is another wonderfully picturesque city lying in a wide basin and surrounded by mountains. In the finest of Spanish traditions it has a huge cathedral, a fortress, and several beautiful bridges across the Ebro river.

Day 20 We'll choose a circuitous route to our next destination, in order to take in the spectacle of the Segovia Aqueduct. This incredible edifice was built in the first century AD to transport water to the city from mountains about 20k away, and is possibly the world's finest example of Roman aqueduct construction.



Day 21 and we are now winding down the clock. It's a relatively short distance back to Madrid but there are some spectacular roads to enjoy in getting us there. We enjoy the twisties on a steep climb into the mountains and through yet another *Parque*, before tackling Madrid's suburban traffic on the way to our central hotel.

Day 22 Swap addresses with your fellow riders at breakfast so we can all keep in touch and share photos of your happy memories. Don't forget to tell 100 friends how much fun you've had with us on the Iberian Inspirations tour! We hope to see you again somewhere else in the world, sometime soon, on two wheels. Our tour finishes with breakfast, so make your arrangements to fly out today or extend your visit to see some more of Madrid.

Further trip notes including a Checklist of essential clothing and equipment to take, health considerations, visa formalities, etc, will be sent upon receipt of a completed Booking Form and deposit. Please contact our office any time for further information via email: **Adventure@WorldOnWheels.Tours**

We invite you to do a bit of your own research on the places we'll be visiting, so you have a head start on what to do and see when we arrive at our nightly destinations. The internet is full of useful resources like Wikipedia with a wealth of information. (Please continue to next page, where we describe our motorbike options)

Our motorbikes: (may change, subject to availability)



BMW F800GS

Capacity	895cc ('powered down' to 800cc)
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	Parallel twin
Transmission	6-speed, chain drive
Brakes	Twin disks front, single disk rear
Wheels, front / rear	Cast aluminium, 19" / 17"
Fuel capacity	15 litres
Wet weight	227 kg
Seat height options	815mm, or 762 with lowering kit
Maximum power	87 HP



BMW F900GS

Capacity	895cc
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	Parallel twin
Transmission	6-speed, chain drive
Brakes	Twin disks front, single disk rear
Wheels, front / rear	Wire spoked 21" / 17"
Fuel capacity	15 litres
Wet weight	219 kg
Seat height options	860mm, or 815 with lowering kit
Maximum power	105 HP



BMW R1300GS

Capacity	1300 cc
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	Horizontally opposed twin (boxer)
Transmission	6-speed, shaft drive
Brakes	Twin disks front, single disk rear
Wheels, front / rear	Spoked, 19" / 17"
Fuel capacity	20 litres
Wet weight	237 kg
Seat height options	850mm, or 800 with lowering kit
Maximum power	145 HP