

BMW Club Oxford Section

# Proposed Andalucía Trip

13th May to 30th May, 2018\*

Dear Members,

We are currently organising a trip to Andalucía in May 2018 and I have outlined some ideas below.



Andalusia has a varied terrain, with its marshes and valleys, passing through meadows, rolling hills, forests and mountains, deserts and craggy peaks.

As we wind through the surprising landscapes, secondary roads lead us from village to village, from region to region, introducing us to the most authentic aspects of our land, its customs, its culture and its people.

With mild temperatures most of the year, there is nothing like being seduced by a good route, and of course, a good stop where we can enjoy the culinary delicacies of Andalusia on a terrace, enjoying the light, sun and charm of the region.

If you are interested in knowing more and to get an idea on numbers for ferries, hotels etc. please e mail:-[steve.moxey@bmwcluboxford.com](mailto:steve.moxey@bmwcluboxford.com) or [dave.tomlinson@bmwcluboxford.com](mailto:dave.tomlinson@bmwcluboxford.com)

## This is what's it all about:

We chose the dates to coincide with the "Pilgrimage of El Rocio", probably the biggest event in Andalucía if not Spain. A religious event that is anything but solemn, when up to or over one million "pilgrims" descend on this otherwise deserted village in the heart of the Donana National Park (Spain's largest and full of rare wildlife).

Over 90 brotherhoods from all over Andalucía, form wagon trains, covered brightly coloured wagons drawn by Oxon, they walk, they ride in massive columns and heaven help the motorist! And they party, as only Andalusians seem to party, in brightly coloured flamenco dress for a week, day and night. This finishes on Pentecost, the 20th May next year.

I thought the trip would head down to the West of Madrid, possibly El Escorial, the Gredos Mountains. Taking in Merida, ARACENA, Jabugo, down to Huelva and ROCIO.

Onto Cadiz, Vejar, TARIFA, inland to Grazalema, Ronda, Marbella. Along the Coast, Nerja and up to the ALPUJARRA, great riding, Spain's highest village and some good restaurants. The Cave Houses near GUADIX and back up via the Windmills of Don

Quixote fame, Toledo and up via the East of Madrid, hopefully fitting in Cordoba, Castellar and many other highlights.

## Routes:

### **Motorbike Route from Tarifa to Caños de Meca – Cadiz**

With this route, you can discover and enjoy the part of Andalusia that goes from the Los Alcornocales Natural Park to the La Breña y Marismas del Barbate Natural Park.

This is an area of human settlement dating back to the Roman Empire, where its natural resources and the sea are the basis of the region's economy.

It's an interesting plan, full of tradition and culture, unforgettable scenery and endless opportunities to enjoy the great cuisine of the area.

<http://www.andalucia.org/en/routes/motorbike-route-from-tarifa-to-canos-de-meca-cadiz/>

### **Motorbike Routes in Cabo de Gata - Almería**

You can enjoy the wonderful climate of this province, the sunniest of Spain, and ride along the beautiful roads running through the Natural Park of Cabo de Gata. It is a luxury to all those on two wheels who want to enjoy unique, amazing landscapes.

On the suggested route, you will discover lost, remote places, where you can marvel at the beautiful scenery and enjoy the roads (in good condition) that make going anywhere possible.

Admire cliffs above the sea, hidden valleys and gorges where, in the desert surroundings, we can see wonderful spaces and magnificent beaches coming out of nowhere like an oasis.

<http://www.andalucia.org/en/routes/motorbike-routes-in-cabo-de-gata-almeria/>

### **Motorbike Route in the Alpujarra - Granada**

With this route, we want you to discover some of the richest regions of Granada. We leave from the Marquesado de Guadix region to enter into the Sierra Nevada National Park and the limits of the region known as the Alpujarra, finishing in the Valle de Lecrín, very close to the Vega de Granada.

These regions, surrounding the highest mountain of the Iberian Peninsula and making up the Sierra Nevada National Park, have common features, especially climatically,

regarding their proximity to the Sierra and unique characteristics that constitute rich and interesting activities for discovering them in depth.

Each one is varied and unique, already more than enough reason to explore each of the regions for their ethnographic, natural, cultural and gastronomic richness.

<http://www.andalucia.org/en/routes/motorbike-route-in-the-alpujarra-granada/>

### **Motorbike Routes through the Sierra de Aracena y Picos de Aroche - Huelva**

This suggested route is one of the most beautiful to follow in Andalusia on motorcycle. The Sierra de Aracena Natural Park and Picos de Aroche, located in the western foothills of the Sierra Morena, is one of the most beautiful protected areas of Andalusia.

The chestnut forests, introduced by the Romans, make these pastures a true paradise for the partially free raising of cattle, and make this land one of the most renowned producers of cured Iberian pork products.

The confluence of three river basins, this is a land rich in water and pastures, making it truly breathtaking.

The underground aquifer filters have also carved one of the most beautiful caves (still in formation) in Southern Europe, the Gruta de las Maravillas, which can be visited in the town of Aracena.

<http://www.andalucia.org/en/routes/motorbike-routes-through-the-sierra-de-aracena-y-picos-de-arache-huelva/>

Best Biking Roads

[http://www.bestbikingroads.com/motorcycle-roads/motorbike-rides-in-spain-/andalucia--\\_8576.html](http://www.bestbikingroads.com/motorcycle-roads/motorbike-rides-in-spain-/andalucia--_8576.html)



\*Proposed Ferry Times

The ferry leaves on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018 from Portsmouth, arriving Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Return sailing leaves Santander Monday 29<sup>th</sup>, arrives Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> at Portsmouth