

# MANAÑA MOUNTAIN SPAIN – WEEKEND ITINERARY

## DAY 1. THURSDAY. Arrival

You fly from your departure airport into Alicante airport where you should arrive any time before 2pm local time for the scheduled 1.5 hour transfer up to the mountains (alternative transfers can be arranged at additional cost). On arrival in the village we get the bikes built up in good time before dinner. If you're renting a bike, we will get it set up to your liking. After dinner we brief you on what's to come during your week with us and answer any questions that you may have.

## Ride days

This whole region was once populated by the Moors, a nation of great traders who cut many twisting trails through the rugged limestone mountains. The remains of these ancient narrow rocky tracks are perfect for off-road bikers and often give access to the most remote mountains, forests and hidden villages. Add to these, hidden hunter trails, drover routes, twisting goat tracks and skinny mountain traverses and you have an array of top quality MTB riding. We have built up an incredible wealth of knowledge in our 14 years here and are able to plan the best routes for our groups, allowing them to split to meet different ability levels where necessary. Riders are made aware of any tricky ride sections as they approach and given sound advice on how to tackle them for full enjoyment. We take you deep into the Valencian Mountains and guide you through some of the best Mountain biking trails that this beautiful region of Spain can offer.

## DAY 2. FRIDAY. Meet the Marina Alta

Riding from the door we head out for our first full day in the saddle on a mix of undulating trails and cracking local single track runs with an impressive backdrop of steep ancient almond and olive terraces, natural rock arches and Moorish castle ruins. We cut through a sheltered valley and soon on to a favourite rocky Mozarabic mule run. A steady climb then takes us higher into the Marina Alta Mountains and lunch at the Moorish Castle ruins from which Castell de Castells takes its name. The castle's wow factor views are left behind as we saddle up for a rollercoaster journey back to base taking in "Little Snake", "Snake Pass", the "Weasel" and "Dragonfly" a mix of superb single track sections ranging from fast flowing through to tight rocky, rugged switch backs and everything in between. All of it in amongst a breathtaking landscape and the aroma of wild mountain herbs.



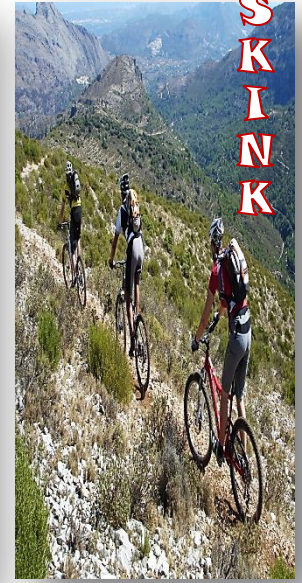
## DAY 3. SATURDAY. Crocodiles, Turkeys and Wolves

Today we venture further afield to access some great Spanish single track opened up by your guides in 2011. A short transfer drops us in vine growing country where we climb rough, loose trails with an awesome mountain backdrop and views to the Sea. The morning efforts bring a welcomed remote bar stop and miles of top single track riding in a landscape peppered with weather beaten shepherd casita ruins. Suitably refreshed, we encounter "The Crocodile's Back" a long, rocky, narrow path traversing the mountain. A leisurely lunch is taken at a remote spot amongst the vines before more top single track beckons. "Pavo Pass" - another exciting trail carves its way down into the valley below and an optional bar stop at Kiko's. We leave Kiko with his broad smile and head down onto one of the "Los Lobos" trails, our ultimate single track run of the day. A rugged trail then takes us to the support vehicle where bikes are guide loaded whilst you enjoy cool refreshments and reflect on a superb day in the saddle. Then it's back to base for a siesta before a superb dinner out in the village.



## DAY 4. SUNDAY. Eagle Country

We spin out of the village on a quiet warm up road before climbing high into the mountains to a remote lookout where the Skink trail awaits us. A tough, testing 8k single track descent of varied terrain ensues and delivers us to a welcome coffee bar. Refreshed, we hit a dry riverbed chasing through cane tunnels in true boar country. Our next climb challenge fast appears and with the knowledge that food awaits at the peak we soon top out and take a relaxed lunch with the rewarding views that our efforts have bought us. Post lunch our real payback becomes evident - a long, challenging single track descent – the Raptor run. This awesome valley hosts Golden, Booted and Bonelli's eagles often seen patrolling the skies. On through forest and farmers tracks we arrive at a bustling village with a selection of bars offering refreshment for those that have the inclination. For anyone wanting a more relaxed last day, the bars provide all they need whilst the remainder head off on an exciting final loop of great varied terrain with an unexpected surprise. We return to the bar a while later to a welcome beer and banter. The bikes are guide loaded before the short journey back up to base to pack up and ready ourselves for our last night together.



## DAY 5. MONDAY. Heading home.

We get the final bike packing done and ready for the journey home. If flight times allow, we can provide a short guided ride, but otherwise you can enjoy a lazy start before the journey to Alicante and then home.

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