

COVENTRY CTC GROUP

MALLORCA : Porto Pollensa 19th -29th April 2024

HOLIDAY INFORMATION

MIKE THOMAS

November 2023

INTRODUCTION

Following the success of two holidays to Mallorca The Coventry CTC Group have a third trip in April 2024 based in Port Pollensa which provides the perfect location for cycling, with a variety of terrain; three peninsulas, scenic coastline, the rolling centre of the island, and the challenging Tramantana mountains.

We are returning to the comfortable Pollenca Park Hotel where the majority of guests were cyclists creating a wonderful atmosphere, and the the food was excellent.

Late April 24 avoids the early Spring top level cycling training teams and is before the expensive and hot main holiday season starting in May. Temperatures are ideal for cycling, but some of the sightseeing trips and cafes may not yet be open.

Members will make their own bookings based on a Jet2 package which is very flexible with Birmingham flights. The core dates are 19 – 29th April.

We will offer easier 50-70km and harder 80-120km rides approximately each day. These will be detailed in a separate table with stats and GPS info. We are currently working on devising new routes for Mallorca24.

We also plan to arrange transport to take us with our bikes to locations to enjoy a linear ride back, to reduce the amount of ascents, and route repetition.

The walking options from the hotel usually have an opportunity to swim and bird watching.

We hope to offer an option for a day's sailing which was very popular last year.

The holiday offers much more than cycling and eating. The sea has been warm to swim after cycling, and we have enjoyed room parties and music in a number of hotels nearby in the evenings.



HOLIDAY BOOKINGS

Members need to make their own bookings on-line with Jet2 flights from Birmingham. <https://www.jet2holidays.com/balearics/majorca/puerto-pollensa/pollensa-park-and-spa>
Or by using the Jet2 App. The nominal start date is 19th April 24 for 10 nights but members can be flexible with their duration. I recommend booking the half-board option which included free wine, beer and soft drinks. We should be able to sit together for the evening meal. If you open an account with Jet2 you will be sent offers. I booked with a £50 discount. Info on discounts have been posted on the Mallorca WhatsApp group. Once booked please confirm with an email to mike.thomas@coventryctc.org.uk



FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

The attraction for this holiday is the Tramantana Mountains and surrounding areas which demand a reasonable degree of fitness. Members need be able to do 50-80km with 900m ascent for the easier rides and 100km with 2000m of ascent for the harder rides. I.e. you need to be comfortable with the Coventry Group's intermediate rides.

WEATHER / CLOTHING

Temperatures are generally excellent for cycling, and the sea has been warm enough to swim. However I recommend taking warmer clothes especially for the evening. The average daily maximum is 17 C and the average daily minimum is 6 degrees at altitude. A thin shower proof jacket is essential for cool descents and the remote possibility of a shower.

WATTSAPP GROUPS

We will retain the two WattsApp groups from last year which were incredibly useful especially for the deaf members. *Mallorca Organisation* is for arrangements for rides and parties etc and *Mallorca Photos and Chat* for just that.

To join these groups please email Shona.Hudson@coventryctc.org.uk with a request giving her your mobile number

Look out for Jet2 discount offers and for advice on bike hire etc.

INSURANCE

To comply with Jet2 terms and conditions you must take out adequate travel insurance. <https://www.jet2holidays.com/terms-and-conditions>

All Cycling UK members are covered for third party insurance worldwide and there's increased cover for registered ride leaders. Therefore everyone who cycles on the holiday must be a CyclingUK member.

Please ensure that you have a valid EHIC card. If this has expired, you need to apply for a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) which provides reciprocal health cover for participating countries worldwide. See <https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/cra/start>

When arranging insurance please check the small print to ensure it covers for cycling, and note any conditions such as wearing helmets.

PASSPORT AND THE NEW EU TRAVEL TRAVEL AUTHORISATION SYSTEM

If you are a national from a country outside the EU **wishing to visit or travel** within the EU, you will need a **valid passport** and possibly a **visa**. Your passport should be valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU and it must have been issued within the last 10 years. This means your travel document must have been **issued within the previous 10 years the day you enter the EU on condition that is it valid until the end of your stay plus an additional 3 months.**

The EU are in the process of developing a new visa waiver system similar to the USA ESTA electronic system for entry into the Schengen Zone. The legal process to develop this started in 2016 and the date for being fully operational has been deferred till May 2025. So it should not affect us till then. For more light reading see <https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/etias/>

TOURIST TAX

Tourist tax is not included in the Jet2 package, and will be charged by the hotel reception when checking in. From April 1st 2024 this will be €3.25 Euro per night. This will be more if you extend the holiday into May.

BIKES

Most members previously hired bikes, and were pleased with them. This often gave them an opportunity to try a new modern bike.

Note the road bikes have standard compact group sets which may not have low enough gear ratio for those of us of a certain age. I **strongly recommend** arranging bike hire to book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment at this peak time for us recreational cyclists.

There are numerous bike hire shops in Port Pollenca and Alcudia

- Pro Cycle Hire is conveniently opposite the hotel and offered good service but they have a limited number of bikes <https://www.procyclehire.com/>
- Rent March offer a range of bikes including hybrids and e-bikes. They also provided good service <https://www.rentmarch.com/>
- Huerzeler also offered good service.
<https://www.huerzeler.com/en/inspiration/stationen-und-hotels/stationen/puerto-pollensa>
- The service from Ultimate Bike Hire was very poor this year.

It may be more cost effective to take your own bike. You would need to arrange this when you book your flight. The return cost for flying with your bike and transfer to the hotel this year was £90. You need to box your bike with either a purpose made bag/box or one from a bike shop which was used for delivering bikes. If anyone needs help with this just let me know; it is no big deal.

CYCLE RIDES

The main attraction for cycling from Port Pollenca is the wonderfully scenic limestone Tramantana Mountain Range. The gradients here are reasonable and there is a wide range of options including the terrific road down to Sa Calobra as the photo below, but the ascents are not to be underestimated. The Tramantana mountain range extends north-east of Port Pollenca to form the Formentor Peninsula which has a spectacular road along its length leading to a lighthouse and café. Along the north coast of the island and southwards into the centre of the island the topography is more rolling with sightseeing opportunities.

Detailed rides with both easier and harder options will be circulated later with brief descriptions statistics and GPS info.

We have adopted a fairly relaxed mode of leading the rides during the last 2 trips

because in general the navigation is fairly easy. It would be much appreciated if members can offer to lead the rides. It's a big help to leaders if riders have the routes on their GPS 'phone or good old paper maps

I plan to arrange transport to the start of the Sa Calobera ride to avoid the long ascent up the main road, and also arrange to arrange transport to Palma. This will provide an opportunity for seeing the medieval centre of the city, and for two excellent rides back to the hotel. The cost of these this year was €25 each



WALKS

There are plenty of walking options from Port Pollenca and beyond. The footpaths tend to be rugged limestone, but the rewards are bird life, scenic views and swimming opportunities. I will circulate these in a schedule later.

SAILING

Last year we arranged a day on a large yacht with an instructor, based in Alcudia. Members had the opportunity to sail the boat and have a swim with the boat moored in a sheltered bay, and food was provided. This day was very popular this year and I intend to arrange a similar opportunity for Mallorca24. The cost this year was €50 each.

SIGHTSEEING SUGGESTIONS

Public transport in Mallorca is excellent. There is a regular bus service to Palma 301 Cala de Sant Vicenc 321, Port d'Alcudia & Pollenca 322 and Formentor 334 . The nearest bus stop to the hotel is Llenaire. For a full list of routes and timetables see <https://www.tib.org/en/linies-i-horaris> Public buses have moved to using contactless debit or credit cards, up to 5 people on a card. If you want to pay by cash it's a lot more. The modern train services all start at Palma see <https://www.mallorca-now.com/train-routes.html>

Shops : Most of the shops and banks in the resort are located in the streets leading off from the harbour area. A market is held every Wednesday next to the church of the Virgen del Carmen, hosting around 200 stalls. Be prepared to haggle!

Alcudia: The walled old town is very attractive, and Roman remains worth visiting. Port d'Alcudia is the main sea access point to the north of the island and full of café-bars and restaurants.

Pollensa: This tranquil Medieval town is well worth exploring for its old winding streets and climb the steps to the Calvary, There are endless outdoor bars and churches

S'Albufereta/S'Albufera Wetlands: A haven for bird-spotting. Easily accessible by bus services 315 324 and 302 from Alcudia.

Cala Sant Vicenc is served by bus service 321. Much modernisation dominates the small beaches there. There's a good but rugged coastal path to the west, and a path leading back to Port Pollenca

EMERGENCIES

All members on the holiday must have their 'in case of emergency' details on their phone. If you need help with this pop a note on WhatsApp.

Before the holiday I'll send out a note asking members for details of their insurance, medication, and next of kin etc.

Below is a list of emergency services.:

- Public Medical Centre –, Carrer de Vincenc Buades, 45. Port de Pollença
Tel: +34 971 86 56 81 .
- Public Hospitals: Centre de Salut "EsSafrà", Alcúdia, Tel : +34 971 54 97 77. Open 24 hrs, accepts EHICs
- University Hospital Son Espases, Ctra. De Valldemossa 7907010 Palma,
Tel: +34 871 205 000. This is a new, large hospital and has an A&E
- Pharmacy: On the sea-front towards the harbour
- .Emergency numbers:
 - General Emergency Number 112
 - National Police 091
 - Local Police 092
 - Ambulance/ medical emergency 061
 - British Consulate Palma +34 971 71 24 45