



TRAINING
EDELWEISS TOURS

RIDING ACADEMY ANDALUSIA

Let us tune your riding skills!



RIDING DAY 1 : LA ENVIA - LA ENVIA

Standard Route (75 km / 47 miles)

The first day of our training starts with a few "dry runs" in the seminar room. This is about basic knowledge from the physics of motorcycling, which we can use to refine our riding technique. Every rider inevitably does the basic things right in order to be able to ride at all, but (as with all complex movement patterns) many activities are carried out unconsciously. This necessary automation however, also carries the danger of getting stuck in well-worn routines, even if they do not optimally fit the current riding situation. Understanding the physics of riding allows us to analyze our behavior on the motorcycle, to assess it in terms of physical plausibility, and to expand our repertoire. "Knowing why" also has a motivating effect when learning and practicing initially difficult riding maneuvers. Apart from the topics brakes, grip, and so on, we focus on the right riding line. Which is the most advantageous? How do I find it? And what do I have to do to keep the tires on this line?

In the afternoon we ride to a nearby, enclosed training area, where free from any disturbing traffic, we can try out, consciously apply and improve the morning's theoretical considerations on the bike. Even on our way there, we can tackle the first few corners and try to put the theoretical knowledge into practice. This may feel tricky for some, but we will work on that today and in the days to come. The focus lies on riding techniques and braking methods that are especially helpful when riding on narrow roads, as well as on difficult and tight bends and hairpins. We will deal intensively with the different cornering styles and riding lines and practice the coordination of the motorcycle's controls. With these "basics" in our luggage, the big, wide world will be open to us tomorrow as a training ground.

RIDING DAY 2 : LA ENVIA - LA ENVIA

Standard Route (216 km / 134 miles)

Today we go out into the "wild" for the first time. We don't have to travel far at all in order to find some wonderful training routes, as Andalusia is full of them. The roads offer every conceivable curve and combination, from long to tight, from fast S-curves to tight hairpins. Most of them are in good condition and very low-traffic, so it is wonderful to work on your line and if necessary, you can ride one or the other section several times. A special route, a cul de sac to a mountain village, dotted with narrow bends, is perfect for practicing hairpin bends. Where exactly we will be on the road is decided by the instructor, even at short notice if necessary. According to plan, we will go deep into the hinterland, to the outskirts of the Sierra de Baza nature reserve. After all, we want to see different parts of the country.

We see each of these countless curves as a challenge to put yesterday's theory into practice. We always have the right line in front of our eyes, we adjust our posture, guide our view accurately in and through the curve. The instructor demonstrates it and every participant has the opportunity to ride directly behind him (or her...) and to watch and learn something. You are also welcome to ride ahead to get feedback or to do your own turns and work on your technique in peace and quiet. It's not about speed, which sooner or later will come about all by itself, but we rather try to slowly turn the complex interaction of movement sequences, target fixation, and line selection into an automatism. Incorrect lines must also feel wrong, while every success increases our self-confidence and safety.

Highlights:

#1: Sierra Nevada



With an altitude of 11,420 ft. the Sierra Nevada is said to be Spain's highest mountain range. The Spanish name translated into English means "snow-capped mountain range", and the Sierra Nevada, in fact, is covered in snow from November until May. The paved road, which is said to be Europe's highest pass road, leads you up from Granada and ends at an altitude of 7380 ft. After this point there is only a gravel road, closed to traffic, leading up to the very top.

RIDING DAY 3 : LA ENVIA - LA ENVIA

Standard Route (270 km / 168 miles)

In order to further deepen what we have learned and practiced extensively yesterday, we will embark on an even larger loop today. In the "Desert of Tabernas" and around the high plain of Velefique, we find roads that are even narrower than yesterday's, often "decorated" with dirt or some gravel, which gives us an additional challenge. The landscape is breathtaking, the hairpin bends should not be that anymore, at least they shouldn't scare us anymore, but provide fun instead. Every single one of them makes the riding lines more accurate and the smiles broader.

Maybe you notice more and more today that there are other road users around. Often they drive in front of us and are quite slow. Or could it be that we are now moving more quickly? Yes, probably, and yet we feel safer, at least we should! So it is a good idea to practice overtaking as well. Please remember that it is your responsibility to determine the right time for overtaking. Please do not just follow the instructor or the rider in front of you!

First, we follow the same route as yesterday to Alhama de Almería. A little further north, in Gergal, there is a short but very demanding road with narrow hairpin bends, which are plastered! But the real highlight has yet to come, as we ride up to the plateau of Velefique. 23 hairpin bends, narrow but smooth to ride, simply fantastic!

In a big circle, we head back to the south, through the village of Tabernas, the Wild West of Spain. Many of Clint Eastwood's early westerns were shot here. So when you see his shadow on a house wall, quickly pull..... your helmet off your head and enjoy a Café con leche!

Highlights:

#1: Sierra de los Filabres



Connecting to the desert of the Province of Almería, the Sierra de Los Filabres spreads from east to west over a distance of about 31 miles. The Sierra de Los Filabres is the largest mountain range of the Almería Province. Its highest peak, the 7,112 ft. high Calar Alto hosts one of the most important astronomical observatories in the region.

Besides the Calar Alto, the 6843 ft. high Tetica de Bacares or "La Tetica" belongs to the highest summits of the Sierra de Los Filabres. The countryside offers stunning views of orchards of almond trees, citrus trees, and olive trees. The area is surrounded by dramatic hills and huge isolated valleys. Among the quaint mountain villages, there are abandoned fincas and pastures of wild thyme. We will enjoy an impressive ride over the challenging curves of the La Tetica pass road.

#2: Puerto de Velefique (1.860 m)



Located in Sierra de Los Filabres mountain range, this winding road to the summit, also known as Alto de Velefique, is asphalted in excellent conditions. The climb includes over 20 hairpin turns, making the ascent very scenic. This road is usually open all year, but it can be closed anytime when the access is not cleared of snow. The views are stunning on a desert-like scenery. Bikers who live here like to call it the "Spanish Stelvio".

RIDING DAY 4 : LA ENVIA - VIÑUELA

Standard Route (304 km / 189 miles)

Obviously, we could also spend the remaining two days of our academy in the hinterland of Almería, there would be enough roads and curves. But we'll use the wealth of experience we've gained over the past three days for a technically demanding two-day tour towards Málaga.

In order not to have a negative influence on the performance of our bikes, we only take the most necessary luggage with us. What do you need for one night? Toothbrush, a handful of chargers, changing clothes, done. The rest stays in the base hotel in Almeria, where we are allowed to keep our rooms.

We ride along the southern edge of the Sierra Nevada National Park, on small, ultra-curvy roads that (should) provide us with a lot of fun by now. West of the A44 motorway, which connects Granada with the coast, we travel through the Sierra de Chaparral, where the landscape becomes even more spectacular. But please stop to look around and take pictures, the roads here don't forgive inattention!

Our hotel for the night is located directly on the shore of the reservoir of Vinuela, what a treat! The sundowner on the hotel's terrace is our reward for this long and exhausting day.

Highlights:

#1: Sierra de Tejeda



In the south of Andalusia, not far from the coastal town of Nerja, lies the Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara y Alhama Nature Park, which covers around 41,000 hectares. Its picturesque mountain world, from which the 2,068-metre-high peak Maroma rises, is a popular destination for day trips. Deep gorges, sharp mountain peaks, and steep slopes characterize the landscape of this graceful mountain world.

The grey and white tones of the stone slopes of dolomitic marble, which give the park its characteristic appearance, look almost unreal. The name La Maroma ("The Rope"), comes from a rope that was once used to descend to an ice house below the summit.

RIDING DAY 5 : VIÑUELA - LA ENVIA

Standard Route (300 km / 186 miles)

Today is the grand finale of our tour and training week and we use it not only to ride more narrow, curvy roads but also to take a look at the beautiful coast of Andalusia. As you can probably imagine there is more traffic along the coast than in the hinterland. We have to be patient here and there.

We follow the coast for a while, take pictures from some of the numerous viewpoints, enjoy the salty breeze, and the smell of freshly cooked seafood. The golden beaches are inviting and you can go for a quick dip if you like, before or after lunch, as our lunch stop happens to be right on the beach. Coast, seafood, good riding: this is The Med at its best!

In Castillo de Baños we leave the coast to find the masterpiece of this Riding Academy, the best roads of the week, extremely twisty, in parts very narrow and quite challenging. The last stretch of road to the hotel leads us over a narrow pass, a road you would have found difficult only a few days ago, but today it is pure riding bliss.

Highlights:

#1: Pueblos Blancos de Andalucia (white towns)



In the Andalusian mountains you will find numerous of the famous „pueblos blancos“. Those famous white perched villages, which, from the distance, may look like strange white spots draped along the mountains, have always been of great importance for the people: the often rough and barren nature up there in the mountains make these village communities essential to survive. The laid-back and

efficient life in those scattered villages and the social cohesion of the people living in such a village, to date, works very well. An Andalusian scenery without those pueblos blancos is hard to imagine.

Those narrow, crooked alleys and the whitewashed houses mostly date back to Phoenecian and Roman settlements and, after that time, were extended from the 8th to 15th century by the Moors. In addition, the churches and the manor houses built in the centuries after the Reconquista represent a contrast to the mostly moorish character of the houses.

Looking at the pueblos blancos from the distance, they seem to be just some sleepy villages. But, in fact, some of them can give you a hard time driving through without getting lost. The German language, for example, has a suitable saying if something isn't clear to someone: „This appears to me like a Spanish village“. Trying to get from one end to the other might be very confusing and, thus, explains the saying.



We wish you a wonderful tour.

Worldwide the #1 in
guided motorcycle tours.



EDELWEISS BIKE TRAVEL // Sportplatzweg 14, 6414 Mieming, Austria
Tel.: +43 5264 5690 // Fax: +43 5264 5690 3

facebook.com/edelweissbicycletours // info@edelweissbicycle.com
www.edelweissbicycle.com