

Come join other EBTC members on this three-week cycling trip that combines Portugal and Morocco: Portugal Sept 22-Oct 4, 2018 and Morocco Oct 6-14, 2018. Spots are limited so book early.

Portugal: September 22-October 4, 2018

Website: <https://pedalportugal.com/guided-tours/eastern-frontier-tour>

Thirteen days; eleven days cycling and two free days—€1,355 (about \$2,000 Canadian at current exchange rates)

Take a north-south guided cycling holiday through some of the wildest and most beautiful countryside along the border between Portugal and Spain, exploring the ancient towns and landscapes of four different regions. Starting from Guarda at the northern tip of the Serra da Estrela mountains, we ride through a rugged land of isolated villages, small towns, sweeping panoramas and some of the most dramatic castles in Portugal. After a detour into the Spanish province of Extremadura, we cross back into the wide open expanses of the Alentejo and its historic towns before heading on through the Algarve hills and winding our way down to Portugal's far south-east. Riders must be reasonably fit and able to cycle 80-plus kms on consecutive days. The distances given are the shortest options that take good roads for cycling. For groups happy to ride longer distances it will be possible to extend all or some of the days to cover more ground. Spring and autumn are the best times to see these regions – the Beira Alta can be cold and wet in the winter and all three areas get uncomfortably hot in the summer. The landscape is a lot lush in the spring, with wildflowers carpeting the countryside, but there's a higher chance of rain. The autumn (fall) is generally also a few degrees hotter. Whichever month you pick, you should be able to expect lots of sunshine and plenty of warm (and hopefully dry) days with average daytime temperatures in May/June of around 14-26°C (57-80°F) and in September of 16-27°C (61-81°F).

Where do we go?

- **Day One:** arrive in Guarda by train and/or airport transfer and meet your fellow riders
- **Day Two:** ride through the foothills of the Serra da Estrela before turning east to the pretty little town of Belmonte. We then visit the spectacular castle at Sortelha before continuing to the riverside town of Sabugal. **67km**
- **Day Three:** skirting the Serra da Malcata nature reserve and visiting the medieval castle at Penamacor before continuing to the stunning setting of Monsanto, where a picturesque village huddles beneath yet another ruined granite fortress. **60km**
- **Day Four:** spend the day cycling out to explore the countryside around Monsanto and visiting the ancient, near-abandoned former Roman city of Idanha-a-Velha – or take a rest day
- **Day Five:** ride across a wide-open landscape of forested hills and rolling pastures, passing isolated villages before crossing the border into Spain and continuing to Alcántara with its crumbling old town of mansions topped by storks' nests. **85km**
- **Day Six:** we turn south-east and spend most of the day riding across the plains of Extremadura, crossing a couple of small ridges of hills before crossing back into Portugal and arriving at the one-time frontier border post of Marvão, where a 13th century castle perches atop a rocky ridge that offers amazing panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. **80km**
- **Day Seven:** entering the rolling landscape of the Alentejo, we ride to the attractive walled market town of Estremoz – with yet another ruined fortress. **76km**
- **Day Eight (Sunday):** we cross a small range of hills and ride past a 14th century convent (now a luxury hotel) before continuing on quiet roads to the picture-perfect hilltop village of Monsaraz. **62km**
- **Day Nine:** explore the countryside and villages around Monsaraz – or spend a rest day in this idyllic spot
- **Day Ten:** ride south along the western side of the huge Alqueva reservoir, passing over the dam, on the way to the pretty provincial town of Moura with its attractive pedestrianised centre – and inevitable castle. **64km**
- **Day Eleven:** the countryside starts to get a little wilder as we ride to the walled town of Serpa and then into the Guadiana Valley natural park on our way to the ancient river port of Mertola. **83km**
- **Day Twelve:** terrain becomes more rugged as we ride into the hills of Algarve, following the banks of the Guadiana for a while before heading back into the hills and descending to Vila Real de Santo António and the end of our tour. **82km**
- **Day Thirteen (Friday):** say your farewells and transfer to Faro

What's included?

- 12 nights bed and breakfast (based on two people sharing a twin or double room) in a good hotel or guest house
- evening meal – typically three courses with house wine or beer and coffee
- picnic lunch on main riding days (not provided on optional rides/rest days)
- support vehicle to carry luggage etc (and emergency transport)
- transport from Lisbon or Porto to Guarda on Day One if required
- transfer to Faro on Day Thirteen if required
- experienced guide to ride with you

To book Portugal:

If you have questions or wish to book, please contact Huw Thomas via pedalportugal@gmail.com

Morocco: October 6-14, 2018



October 6 – 14th, 2018

\$2,065 per person, land only

Optional Single Supplement: \$190 CAD

YOUR CHANCE TO

- Ride from the Atlas Mountains to the coast
- Conquer challenging climbs and exciting descents
- Explore Marrakech and Essaouira

AT A GLANCE

- 6 nights hotels, 2 nights in traditional Moroccan riads
- 6 days cycling with 100% vehicle support
- 90% tarmac, 10% unsurfaced roads

Pedal through Morocco from the Atlas Mountains to the coast

Encompassing the best of Morocco, this trip will take us past the foothills of Mt Toubkal, golden Kasbahs, impressive gorges and the long sandy beach of Essaouira. This spectacular route follows smooth tarmac roads and climbs over high mountain passes that reward you with spectacular vistas of the High Atlas Mountains. A real highlight is riding through Paradise Valley, close to Imouzzer, where a palm-filled valley leads to a high pass with views down to the ocean below. After all the riding we will receive a warm welcome from a range of great hotels including a traditional Riad.

Guided Group

This is a small group guided holiday. The group is usually between 4 to 15 in size, with an average of 12 like-minded clients booking individually, in a couple or as friends together.

For more information contact:

Sue Flemming, Adventure Travel Specialist
Jane's Worldwide Travel
780 467 0075 or 1 877 367 0075 Toll Free
flemmingsue@gmail.com



For more detailed information on the Morocco trip, go to <https://www.exodustravels.com/ca/morocco-holidays/accommodations/cycle-moroccos-great-south/mmi-85471>

To book the Morocco trip, contact Sue Flemming at: flemmingsue@gmail.com