

Route 14 – Around the Sierra Espuna area

We left Quesada on a Saturday afternoon only 6 of us in 2 cars with bikes on board and headed towards Murcia. We passed Murcia and took the Almeria road turning off at a town called Alhama de Murcia, in the town centre we turned right following the signs for Mula and Pliego driving for approx 15 minutes along this road which is the start of the nature / reserve park of “Sierra Espuna”. We arrived at the Hotel La Mariposa where we were staying and were met by Mark, Sam and Tom mine hosts. After checking into our rooms we had a walk round the hotel, gardens, pool area etc. a quick drink at the well stocked bar then went for a small walk up in the hills directly opposite the hotel where the views were stunning. There are a few walks around the hotel and their all marked out and easy to follow. We walked for about 3kms then returned to the Hotel for a refreshing dip in the pool before having our supper. First thing in the morning we were up early had breakfast, bikes out of the secure storage that Mark provided and started cycling towards Pliego . It took us about an hour to cycle their on beautiful quiet roads enjoying the breath taking scenery, we cycled downhill for about 3kms right through the town of Pliego and straight on to Mula where we went up to the castle again to take some photographs and to see the city from above .The town square was alive with people so we stopped their for a coffee before our steep climb back up through Pliego. Once back at the top of the Espuna we headed towards the hotel this time taking a loop road through the picturesque village of El Berro passing the large campsite and again gorgeous scenery. We arrived back at the hotel about 4pm where we loaded the bikes had a swim and a shower then headed to Lorca for our supper. This was a brilliant trip and we will start to use this area more as there are so many roads and places to go. Mark, Sam and their family have an excellent facility with activities for everyone and go out of their way to help you .So if you fancy a few days away then this is the place for you.

Total Distance: Approx. 50 Kms

Time: 6 hours

Summary: Very hilly, some of them very steep and challenging but are rewarded with the views.

