

Route 13 – La Manga and the Mar Menor

For this route you need to take your bikes in the car to San Pedro or closer to Santiago if you wish. We parked on the outskirts of San Pedro at the Thaiasia hotel and cycled along the cycle track all the way to Santiago de Ribera (Approx 6kms) nice and flat. We located the ferry terminal which is right next to the canoe club and waited. We boarded the ferry which was very busy, the cost was €4 each and a €1 to take our bikes. It was a very picturesque crossing with great views of the mainland and the strip. After a 45 minute crossing we disembarked and were now at Thomas Maestre Port the largest marina on La Manga . We started cycling about 12.30 leaving the Port and heading for the one and only road which had a cycle track on various places, we cycled for about 15kms and stopped at a really nice sandy beach for a drink, swim and cool down as it was in the high 30s. We continued on our trip just following the road. At the end of the strip we kept to the right (Cabo De Palos on the left) and headed for Los Nietos passing the salt flats and staying as close to the shore as we could. We followed rough tracks most of the way to los Nietos where we all stopped for another swim before having Sunday lunch. After lunch we picked up the road (F34) which was dead flat and more or less straight all the way. We passed through Los Urrutias, Punta Brava, Los Alcazares, Los Narejos, San Javier and finally arriving back at Santiago De la Ribera where we found a nice Tapas bar on the sea front and ordered 10 Tinto de Veranos and coffees, we also had our final dip in the sea before cycling the last 6kms back to the cars. We had an excellent ride, one of the best trips we have done although it was relatively long we took all day enjoying the scenery and stopping regularly for drinks and swims. If you've not done this one then I recommend you do it soon before it gets cooler as it was fantastic being able to swim whenever we felt like it. If you think it might be too far then you can always cycle to the top of the strip and cycle back to the port and get the ferry back. (Roughly 40kms) The ferry goes every 2 hours

Total Distance: Approx. 75 Kms

Time: 5 hours

Summary: What a fantastic day out. The entire route is easy and flat and you will just want to keep on cycling.

