



motorbike-tours.co.uk

Newsletter

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Cold...or what?



I don't know about you, but I've had enough of the winter. It was so cold the other day, that I chipped a tooth on my soup, and now I'm ready to feel the sun on my back and the wind in my hair; well at least where my hair used to be.

And judging by the response we've had to the tours, many of you feel the same way too. The June 'Valle del Jerte' tour is already full and the other tours are booking up well, so if you're thinking about joining us, don't leave it too late; our groups aren't huge.

To be honest, I'm being a bit of a wuss about the weather. Although we've had above average rainfall this winter, here in Spain, the temperature has held up well and I've been able to get out on my bike on a regular basis. My most recent run (for pleasure) was along the old coast road between Nerja and La Herradura. A newly built section of autovia has rendered the road almost deserted. As car drivers fire along the autovia, the twisting route along the craggy shoreline has been left to bikers. I've done the route many times before, but it never becomes stale. I enjoyed it when the road was thick with cars and trucks, but now it's just pure bliss, and lying at the end of the

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route is the beautiful bay of La Herradura.



In recent years, new roads have sprung up all over Spain. Apart from the obvious benefit of being able to get from 'A' to 'B' more quickly, the old routes have become sources of great pleasure for motorcyclists who know where these roads lie, and whether they're still in good condition.

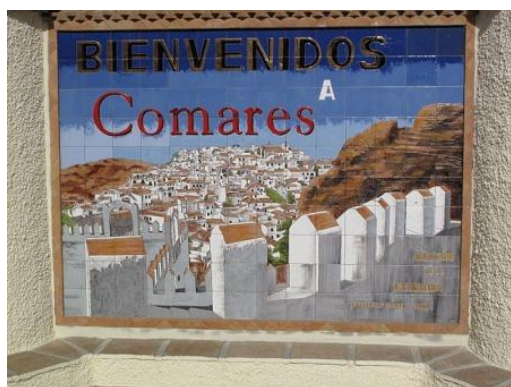
Anyway, it won't be long now before the weather picks up, and I sincerely hope to see you here in Spain

Alan [See the tours here](#)

Focus On

Comares; The Village in the Sky.

At 739 metres above sea level, Comares is one of the highest pueblos in Andaluca. Although the village isn't nearly the highest in Spain, it is one of the most spectacular. It can be seen perched on a craggy rock face, from many miles around, and the view from the top is no less spectacular.



Dating back to the third century BC, Comares occupies an important place in Spain's history, especially relating to the Moorish rule of the area. The original fortress was built by the Romans, but it was the Moors who built the citadel that was to become one of the most important in the Axarquia Region. Two of the towers still stand today, one of them by the cemetery at the top of the village.

During the 11th century, Comares was the regional administrative headquarters of Cutar, El Borge, Almachar and Moclinejo.

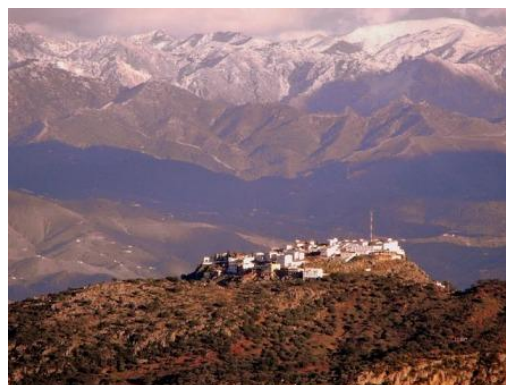
As Moorish rule declined in the 15th century, and nearby Velez-Malaga fell to the Christians, the Moslem governor of Comares, Mohammed El Jabis, paid homage to the Catholic monarchs in the hope of staving off invasion. But in

late 1487 he lost the fortress to the Catholic Kings from the north.

Even though the Moors departed a long time ago, their past presence is evident in the narrow cobbled streets which are bordered by whitewashed houses. The general layout of the village gives an air of bygone times. A series of ceramic tiles posted around the streets tell the story of the Moors, and the Christian conquest. Other points of interest are the 16th century Parish Church and the cemetery, which sits high in the village.

After you've done the tour of the pueblo, enjoy a drink in the bar in the Plaza, before looking out from the viewing point onto the fields of olives below.

Getting to Comares is by no means straight forward, so if you plan to make your own way there, be sure to take a map.



Comares is one of the destinations featured in the [Andalucia Tour](#).

**See the
Andalucia Tour
Here**

Featured Tourer

Yamaha Dragstar 650

This edition of the newsletter features Chris Humphries and his 1997 Yamaha Dragstar 650. Chris is a seasoned tourer and is well experienced with life on the 'wrong' side of the road. He prefers to use camping as his mode of accommodation, and carries his tent with him on his journeys.



Chris uses a couple of soft pannier bags, which incidentally, he made himself from two leather bags. He has also designed and fitted a rear tray that is attached to the sissy bar structure. This configuration allows him to carry a holdall, tent, sleeping bag, pillow, folding chair and umbrella amongst his kit. If anyone would like to know how to make panniers, Chris has kindly offered to let us into the secret, so if you [email me](#), I'll pass on his advice.

His preferred method of navigation is through the use of a Garmin Zumo GPS. As Chris says, *'I find that the GPS takes me down "green lanes" in Europe without having to stop to read road maps, the trips are 100% more enjoyable although the mileage done is reduced considerably, this appears to make the journey much more interesting.'*

The Dragstar isn't everyone's cup of tea, but you'd do well to find a better cruiser for the price. It has, after all, that in-built Yamaha quality. Chris describes his bike as 'ideal for purpose, cheapish to buy and economical to run'. The only thing he can say against it is that the seat becomes uncomfortable after a while and if he doesn't stop on a regular basis, he gets leg cramp, but really, that could happen with any bike; it's a case of what suits you and your body shape.

The next planned trip for Chris is at the end of June to Northern Spain and the Picos de Europa. He plans to make a video diary of the tour, so with luck, we'll one day see it on YouTube.

Chris has asked if there are any like minded riders out there, who do similar tours. If you are one, [email me](#) and I'll pass on your details.

Thanks to Chris for telling us a little about his bike and his tours. If you'd like to tell us about your bike, [Email](#) your photos and comments (please).



**MOTORCYCLE FRIENDLY
ACCOMMODATION**

And Finally

A biker friend of mine was telling me about a friend of his friend, who had once been marooned on a desert island somewhere in the South Pacific.

He had been there for ten years without seeing a soul, surviving on bananas and coconut milk, and dreaming about his next ride on his beloved Harley, when one day as he was looking out at the ocean, he saw an object approaching the island.

As the object came nearer, he realised that it was a diver, and when the diver eventually rose from the water, he saw that it was a beautiful young girl.

He watched mesmerised as the heavenly body came nearer. 'When did you last have a cigarette?' she asked.

'It's been ten years,' he replied. She then took a pack of cigarettes from her pocket (they were sealed in a plastic bag), lit one and handed it over. He took the cigarette, inhaled and said, 'that's just fantastic'.

She then asked, 'when did you have your last drink?'

Once again he replied 'Ten years, it's been ten years.' So she took a can from another pocket, pulled the ring and handed it over.

'It's so good to taste beer after all this time,' he said.

Then she pulled down the zipper of her tight wetsuit and revealed her feminine charms. 'When did you last have some real fun?'

The biker looked at her with shock written all over his face, then said, 'Don't tell me you have a motorbike in there too.'

That's a true story by the way. It came from a very reliable source. My friend's, friend's friend wouldn't lead you on. You'll be pleased to know that the biker was eventually rescued and re-united with his bike.

Anyway, it's time to go now, so I want you all to rush off and book a tour.

See you soon

Alan [See the tours here](#)

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