

Non-cyclists can holiday too...

We understand that you don't always want to leave your non-cycling partner at home when you head off on a Marmot Tours holiday. Read on to find that you don't have to!

Key Points

CHOICE OF TRIP:

We have a small selection of 4 fabulous destinations that lend themselves to non-cyclists joining the group.

DISCOUNT:

We offer a discount of 15% off the basic trip cost for non-cyclists.

NUMBERS:

Each group will generally have a max. of 2 non-cyclists per departure and maintain the usual Marmot group size of 20 cyclists, supported by 2 guides on the road.



Non-Cyclists on a Marmot Tours Holiday

Annual leave is precious and holidays are not cheap (even if a Marmot Holiday IS great value for money!), so we know that it is not always possible to have a Marmot cycling holiday AND another holiday with your non-cycling partner at a different time.

Marmot Tours has built its excellent reputation by providing exceptionally attentive and passionate 'on the road' support to its clients. We have no intention of 'rocking this boat' but we know that for some of our clients, being able to have their non-cycling partner with them on the holiday too, is the icing on the cake.

So, we have identified those holiday destinations, where it is realistic that both you as a cyclist and your non-cycling partner can have a fabulous holiday... read on for more information and contact us on cycle@marmot-tours.co.uk if you have any questions.



Group Size

We are able to welcome 2 non-cyclists per departure of suitable itineraries (read on for your choices). In exceptional cases we can increase this to up to 4 non-cyclists. These non-cyclist places are in addition to 20 cycling places on each departure and don't affect the quality of support that our cyclists receive from our guides.

Cost

As we know that non-cyclists will not benefit from the main support from our guiding team, whose priority will always need to be the cyclists on the road, we are offering a 15% discount on the price of the holiday. It is not possible to use this discount in conjunction with any other Marmot discounts.

Travel

Airport transfers are included for non-cyclists, as they are for cyclists: your holiday starts at the recommended arrival airport and finishes when we drop you off at the recommended departure airport. See individual holiday webpages for more information.

For the Classic Cols of Gran Canaria and Alpine Minibreak holidays, we strongly recommend that non-cyclists hire a small car to allow them to be independent and explore the wider area.

Guide Support

Non-cyclists need to be independent in arranging their own timetable during each day, so we advise some planning and research before the holiday. The information here will give you some ideas and contact details for more information.

Our 2 guides will be happy to chat through your plans with you but their priority during the holiday is the safety and well-being of cyclists on the road, and they themselves will be on the road for long days, so are not available to support non-cyclists.

Supporting your Cyclist!

On all of the holiday choices here, it is possible for non-cyclists to head out in the van with the guides for a day to help 'support' their partner on the road. This gives you a great insight into what your partner is facing with the challenge of some of these routes, as well as an idea of the behind-the-scenes work that our guides do. It is unfortunately not possible to do this every day.

As with everything, we only want to do something, if we can do it well, so we only want your non-cycling partner to come along if they really will have a great holiday too. We feel that non-cyclists should only join trips where:



- 1) The holiday is centre-based, or across just 2 locations so that clients are not moving on each day.
- 2) Where the accommodation has appropriate facilities (swimming pool or spa options) to give some lovely opportunities for relaxing during the day.

Ventoux Club des Cinglés Challenge, Provence

This is a fabulous road cycling challenge mini break, involving just 2 days of cycling (one of which is the epic 3 ascents of Ventoux attempt!), and is based at the wonderful 3* Spa Hotel Ventoux Provence in Malaucene.

The hotel is set in its own grounds with an outdoor pool and very pleasant gardens. It is in walking distance to the town of Malaucene, where the group heads for dinner each evening.

Options for non-cyclists:

- Exploring Malaucene, a designated town of Art & History on the north slopes of Ventoux
- Walking and hiking options, from a 9km 'discovery walk' of the local chapels (350m ascent, 4 to 5 hours), to climbing Ventoux (7 hours and quite a lot of uphill!)
- Discover Vaison La Romaine, the largest Gallo-Roman site in France (15 min taxi ride from Malaucene)
- Relaxing and swimming, using the hotel facilities
- Getting an insight into the 'behind the scenes' life of a guide in the Marmot team (not on the challenge day as the guides need to focus 100% on the cyclists)
- Rent an e-bike locally to support your partner on their challenge day up Mt Ventoux
- No independent vehicle is needed by non-cyclists on this holiday.

Resources:

Malaucene Tourist Office: <https://www.ventouxprovence.fr/en/404.html>

Things to do in Malaucene (Tripadvisor)

English is spoken at the hotel, if you have questions during your stay and the guides aren't around.



Dolomites Minibreak

Involving 4 days of cycling in an area of outstanding natural beauty, destined to be explored on 2 wheels (or 2 feet!), this mini break is based at the SportHotel Europa in Alleghe. An old Alpine town with mountain architecture, Alleghe lies at the foot of the awe-inspiring NW face of Monte Civetta and on the shores of the beautiful lake Alleghe.

Alleghe is synonymous with Civetta and walks and excursions in the very heart of the Dolomites. There is no shortage of breathtaking scenery, which you can enjoy on gentle trips on the valley floor, like the walk around Lake Alleghe, or along mountain paths or via ferrata that go right to the summit of Mount Civetta at 3220 metres.

The Best of the Dolomites Minibreak is a 'Classic Cols' style holiday with flexible route choices each day. If you choose a shorter route, you can join your non-cycling partner back at in Alleghe in the afternoon.

Options for non-cyclists:

- Walking & Nordic walking: a selection of walks start in Alleghe, from a 2-hour easy walk to a 15km Nordic walk. Or, take the cable car to Piani di Pezzè (1450m) and Col dei Baldi (1900m) which are starting points for walks of all levels.

- Visit a Dolomites dairy - Malga Boi Vescova (1734m). This small dairy can be reached from Alleghe, taking the lifts up to Piani di Pezzè or Col dei Baldi. The dairy serves typical cured meats and cheeses, accompanied by polenta and wine.
- Explore the Ottoman 'Chimneys of Caracoi' in Caracoi Agoin and Caracoi Cimai, telling their story of Ottoman prisoners of war exiled here by the Venetian Republic (walk 1hr 30 from Alleghe). Continue up to the ancient hamlet of Bramezza with stunning views over Monte Civetta and the green waters of Lake Alleghe.
- Lakeside activities: sunbathing on the 'beach', boating, pedalo, strolling around the shores.
- Photography: this area is crying out to be photographed, so just head out and explore with your lens at the ready!
- Exploring Alleghe with its gift shops and cafes.
- Relaxing and using the Spa facilities at the hotel.
- Getting an insight into the 'behind the scenes' life of a guide in the Marmot team!

Resources:

Use the excellent Tourist Office Website for Alleghe (<https://www.alleghelepale.com/infoen.php>) to plan your holiday.



Alpine Minibreak

The Maurienne valley is considered by many to be Europe's best cycling destination. With so many 'bucket list' climbs and beautiful, gravity-defying roads snaking their way up the high Alpine pastures, it is undoubtedly a fantastic place to ride a road bike, but equally beautiful to explore on foot!

The [Hotel Saint-Georges](#) in St Jean de Maurienne town is ideally located for local shops, cultural activities (museums, cinema, theatre), restaurants and sports centres (swimming pool, tennis courts, health club) as well as for local walks and hiking.

Options for non-cyclists:

- Walking and hiking: there are many hikes that can be done locally or in the area, also climbing and via ferrata options
- Large outdoor pool in town
- Local car hire is available for day trips (or you can hire a car for the duration of your stay from Geneva Airport), widening your options and enabling you to go up higher into the mountains
- Getting an insight into the 'behind the scenes' life of a guide in the Marmot team!

Resources

[Maurienne region tourist info](#)

[Guide to St Jean de Maurienne](#)

[Things to do in St Jean de Maurienne \(Tripadvisor\)](#)

[Open air swimming pool](#)



Classic Cols of Gran Canaria

The beautiful island of Gran Canaria is waiting to be explored by bike (obviously), but also on foot or in a nippy little car that will take to the winding routes and give you access to the sandy southern beaches of Maspalomas and the stunning interior of this multi-faceted island.

Set across just two 4* hotels, Hotel Las Tirajanas in the centre of the island and Hotel Spa Roca Negra near Agaete on the NW coast, both have lovely outdoor pools and sunbathing terraces. However, due to the fact that this a full week's holiday and there are 6 days to 'fill', we recommend that non-cyclists hire a car to help them explore and give them true independence. Views en-route are just fabulous - this is not like driving in the UK. Stop where you fancy to absorb the culture and ambience of this wonderful destination.

Options for non-cyclists:

- Walking and hiking: there are endless walking paths in all corners of the island. See <http://www.ramblingroger.com> for some ideas. Try the walk into the Baldama Caldera, or from La Goleta to Roque Nublo - a popular hike.
- Cenobio de Valeron Caves - a short drive from Agaete. €3 entrance.

- Visit the Cruz de Tejeda: a cross in the town of Tejeda, that marks the geographical centre of the island. Cafe/lovely views/walks from here. Possibility to rendezvous with the cyclists here.
- Picos de las Nieves: the highpoint of the island at 1,949m. Wonderful views, beautiful pine forests on the ascent. Possibility to rendezvous with cyclists here.
- Relaxing and swimming in the hotel facilities (massage / beauty treatments available at Roca Negra)
- Getting an insight into the 'behind the scenes' life of a guide in the Marmot team!

Resources

Agaete Tourist Info: http://www.grancanaria.com/patronato_turismo/Visit-Agaete.1233.0.html

San Bartolomé: http://www.grancanaria.com/patronato_turismo/San-Bartolome-de-Tirajana.29004.0.html

Gran Canaria Tour & Trail Super Durable Map (6th edition, 2022) 1:50,000