

## **CycleItalia's SELF-GUIDED California Riviera**

**CycleItalia's self-guided California Riviera can be the next best thing to one of our guided tours. If you are independent, mechanically savvy, and wish to choose your own dates and traveling companions, CycleItalia's "Fai da Te" (do it yourself) vacations could make your dreams come true.**

**These vacations are totally self-guided and designed for avid riders. There is no tour guide or support vehicle. You're expected to enjoy cycling rain or shine and be self-sufficient on the road in every way. Technical assistance information will be provided to help in the event of mechanical problems too difficult for you to repair, or an accident.. Each night's hotel phone number is printed on the daily RideGuide should you need to phone them for assistance, most likely in the form of a taxi sent out to rescue you.**

**Our philosophy is this is an off-season cycling vacation and therefore the daily distances are less than our summer cycling vacations. Many routes can be combined to make more time on the bike possible. A typical day features a buffet breakfast starting around 8 am. Most riders will be on their bikes departing the hotel around 9 or 10 am with the idea of enjoying the cycling in the morning and having freedom to relax or for other activities in the afternoon. We've also taken great care to limit the rides to Santa Barbara and the immediate area to avoid any cycling on the freeway (save a ¼ mile bit on one loop) for safety/enjoyment reasons.**

**Buffet breakfasts are included each day. Please don't take breakfast items away to eat later. Breakfast is the only meal included on our self-guided itineraries. We leave you free to choose the style and expense of both your lunch and dinner. Suggestions for both will be included in your information packet.**

**Maps and RideGuides are a key part of a CycleItalia vacation. One highlighted Master map will be supplied to the "Master" of each group while a RideGuide (direction cue-sheet) will be included for each participant. We respectfully ask that you do NOT photocopy these for any reason--RideGuides are the copyrighted property of CycleItalia and all rights are reserved. The cue-sheet section of the RideGuide features cumulative and point-to-point distances in miles (since this is the USA) so it's essential to have a cycle computer on your bike calibrated in miles. In the event you desire to follow a different route than the one marked on the master map or described on the RideGuide, you're on your own-- as CycleItalia makes no claims as to other routes' suitability, safety or enjoyment potential for cycling.**

**Cellular telephones can be useful and we highly recommend your group have at least one. If you will be riding in a larger group or with cyclists of varying abilities, multiple phones can make things much easier while on the road.**

**Weather is always in an issue for cyclists. In Santa Barbara the best weather months are usually when it's awful most other places in the US. Avoid the "May Gray, June Gloom or the July Haze" (you should be with us in Italy then anyway!) and consider spring, fall or winter to enjoy the California Riviera when the weather is best and things are less crowded with tourists.**

**Optional Services are available through CycleItalia. If you're flying into Santa Barbara's airport we can arrange transportation to our HQ hotel. If you prefer to drive we'll include driving directions. Bike rentals can also be arranged through a subcontractor. (These are not the bicycles shown on our website which are reserved for guided tours)**

**California Riviera is a 5 night fixed-base package with lodging just blocks from the beach in Santa Barbara California and includes, deluxe lodging, daily buffet breakfast, highlighted master map and a daily RideGuide for each participant. Two-person minimum.**

**Dates available-- Year round (except May, June and July), with some exceptions.**

**To reserve a CycleItalia self-guided tour package complete and sign a self-guided reservation form and include a check/money order or credit card details for \$500 per person in your group.**

**We require a signed credit card authorization no matter what form of payment you choose—just as if you were renting a car. This can be downloaded in PDF form.**

**Deposits are non-refundable unless your chosen tour dates are unavailable.**

**Full payment is due 45 days before your arrival day in Santa Barbara.**

**If you must cancel your trip for any reason after final payment has been received, a full refund (less the original deposit amount of \$500 per person) will be made only if CycleItalia is notified in writing no less than 30 days before the start of your trip. There is NO refund of any kind if you cancel your trip less than 30 days before the scheduled start. We may be able to reschedule your vacation to another date upon written request, depending on availability. A \$250 per person change fee will apply. Trip insurance is available and highly recommended. An application can be found via a link on our website LINKS page**

**Final confirmation packets including hotel lists, RideGuides and master maps will be mailed to you approximately 30 days before departure.**