RIDING

EXPERIENCE Tours ● **Training** ● **Trackdays**

'Day one is a non-stop Spanish roller-coaster'

Guided trail and tarmac tours in the sensational Spanish Sierras

JUSTIN HAYZELDEN MCN CONTRIBUTOR BIG-MILE ENTHUSIAST

he experience begins with a personal pick-up at Malaga airport by Toro's main man, Lyndon Foster – a genial host whose infectious enthusiasm instantly sets the tone for the adventure ahead. From there it's just a short drive to Toro HQ, a luxury villa deep in the Andalucian hills with a private pool and plenty of space to chill out. Full riding kit is available, so the option to travel light on a short budget flight from the UK keeps hassle to a minimum.

If you choose the self-guided Stress Buster tour, from thereon you're on your own – though with your route pre-loaded in the sat nav and accommodation booked in advance all you need worry about is the riding. We opted for the two-day led ride so as to experience both tarmac and dirt.

Day one is all about the twisties and features an incredible route of long fast

'It's hard to imagine a more perfect day's riding

sweepers, technical compound curves, endless S-bends and sensational switchbacks. The smooth tarmac flows as a seemingly endless ribbon of turns through the rugged terrain round El

Burgo via the impossibly blue lake at Zahara de la Sierra, up and over the mountain passes to Grazalema before an unbelievably awesome rollercoaster ride from Ronda to the coast along the legendary A-397; it's hard to imagine a more perfect day's riding.

Following a fantastic dinner at a local restaurant and a well-deserved night's rest, it's up at sparrows and off to the dirt for day two. Gravel tracks provide a contrasting challenge to the previous day and though they're surprisingly novice friendly even the most experienced rider will get a thrill on the spectacular mountain ride from Alozaina to Ardales. The route even features an 'all-hands-to-the-pumps' river crossing for that obligatory team bonding moment.









Danger ••••••• Difficulty •••••• Value

What's Toro Adventure?

The latest offering from one of Europe's most highly regarded trail riding tour operators, Toro Trail. As a companion to their longestablished dirt bike trips, Toro have created a variety of adventure bike packages ranging from a two-day tour of the Andalucian hills to 10 days fully guided and supported in Morocco.

Who is it for?

It's aimed at anyone who wants to experience the best of adventure touring without the potential pitfalls of going it alone. Toro's team of experts arrange everything in advance, so all you need do is fly in, suit up and hit the road. Tours can be tailored to suit any level of ability.

What are the bikes?

Top-spec Rallye versions of BMW's venerable R1200GS. Depending on the type of tour, Toro's fastidiously maintained fleet can be fitted with full luggage and a navigation device - low seat options are also available. All riding kit can be provided as required, including the latest RST Adventure suits and NEXX XD1 helmets with intercom.

- Where Around 25 minutes from Malaga airport, Spain When Throughout the year
- What's included Bike and accommodation, kit, fuel, meals and expert quide (depending on package)
- Price Start at €550 (around £499)
- Contact www. toroadventure.com

TWO ROUTES TO DO

Take to the lakes

Miles 150 Scenery •••• Roads •••

Don't blame

u don't want to

Your route is the A592 to Whinlatter Pass and then the A595. The road falls away down Kirkstone Pass to the distant blue water of Ullswater as steeply as a flight of stairs. Kirkstone is only one of the brilliant biking passes in the Lake District. There's the majestic loop of Honister and Whinlatter outside Keswick, the adventurebike double-bill of Wrynose and Hardknott heading out to the coast.



Charlbury TT

Miles 50 Scenery ••• Roads •••

The triangular route of the B4437, A361 and B4026 is a stunning ride. It's a reasonably popular circuit known as the Charlbury TT – and it's a memorable experience. Especially on a sunny day. This little corner of Oxfordshire is the English countryside at its most beautiful - nothing disturbing the peace but the distant grumble of a tractor on a field. Well, nothing until we came whooping along the B4437.



You can hear these two whooping over the sound of the exhausts