

# G I B R A L T A R

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*NATACHA 36*



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*You, cyclists who like to climb, discover in these few pages what makes the list of the national challenge in Gibraltar so rich.*

GEOGRAPHY

MEDIA

TOURISM

SPORT

# Gibraltar

## Geography

Gibraltar is a British territory in the south of the Iberian Peninsula. It consists of the Rock of Gibraltar and its immediate environs, separated from Spain by a 1.2 kilometre border. It is claimed by Spain. Until January 2020, Gibraltar was part of the European Union but not of the Schengen area. This status changed following the Brexit, as a consultation carried out in October 2016 showed that 96% of Gibraltarians wanted a special status allowing them to remain within the EU. The border between Spain and Gibraltar therefore remains an open border in the Schengen Area. The name Gibraltar comes from the Arabic Jabal Ṭāriq meaning "the mountain of Tariq". Tariq was a Muslim conqueror who led the conquest of the Straits of Gibraltar in 711.



The Strait of Gibraltar is the natural border between Spain and Morocco, Europe and Africa, the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. But there is no bridge linking the two shores. The reason is simple: distance.

If you are planning to travel to Gibraltar by car, be aware that the border can be very busy and waiting times can be long. It is therefore advisable to be patient and allow plenty of time to cross the border.

From Gibraltar airport just over the border, the No. 5 bus goes to the city centre, while the No. 10 bus goes to the cable car.

In Gibraltar, unlike most British territories, it is compulsory to drive on the right, as it shares a border with Spain.

A unique feature of Gibraltar is that you have to cross the airport runway to enter the city. When a plane is approaching, the traffic light turns red as you approach the runway and you have to stop and wait at the barrier.

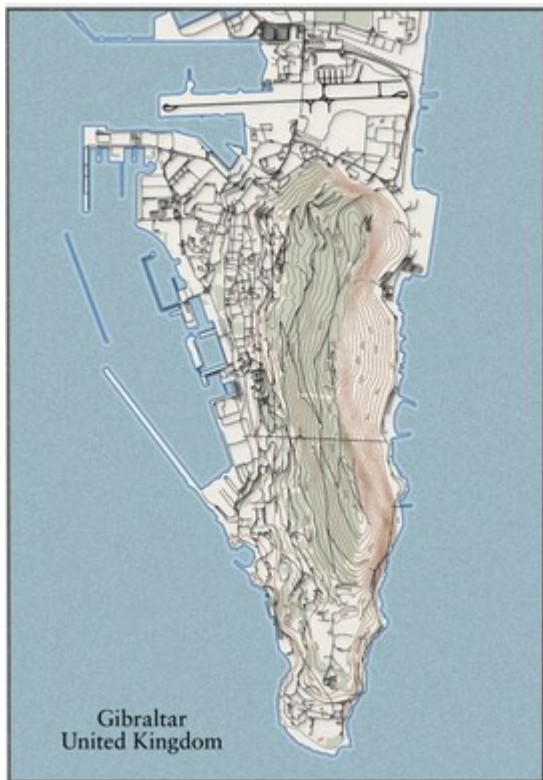
To complete the 5 climbs, you can leave your car at the free Spanish car park at La Linea and cross the nearly border by bike. Alternatively, there is a public car park on Queensway Road and around ten pay-and-display car parks in the area.



The territory covers an area of 6.8 km<sup>2</sup>. It has a 1.2km land border with Spain and 12km of coastline on two sides, the first on the Alboran Sea (east coast) and the second on the Strait of Gibraltar (west coast), where the majority of the population lives and where the port has been built.

The highest point is the Rock of Gibraltar (a limestone rock rising to 426 m), a nature reserve inhabited by Berber macaques, the only wild monkeys in Europe.

Gibraltar is one of the most densely populated territories in the world, with 4,290 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>.



Topographic map

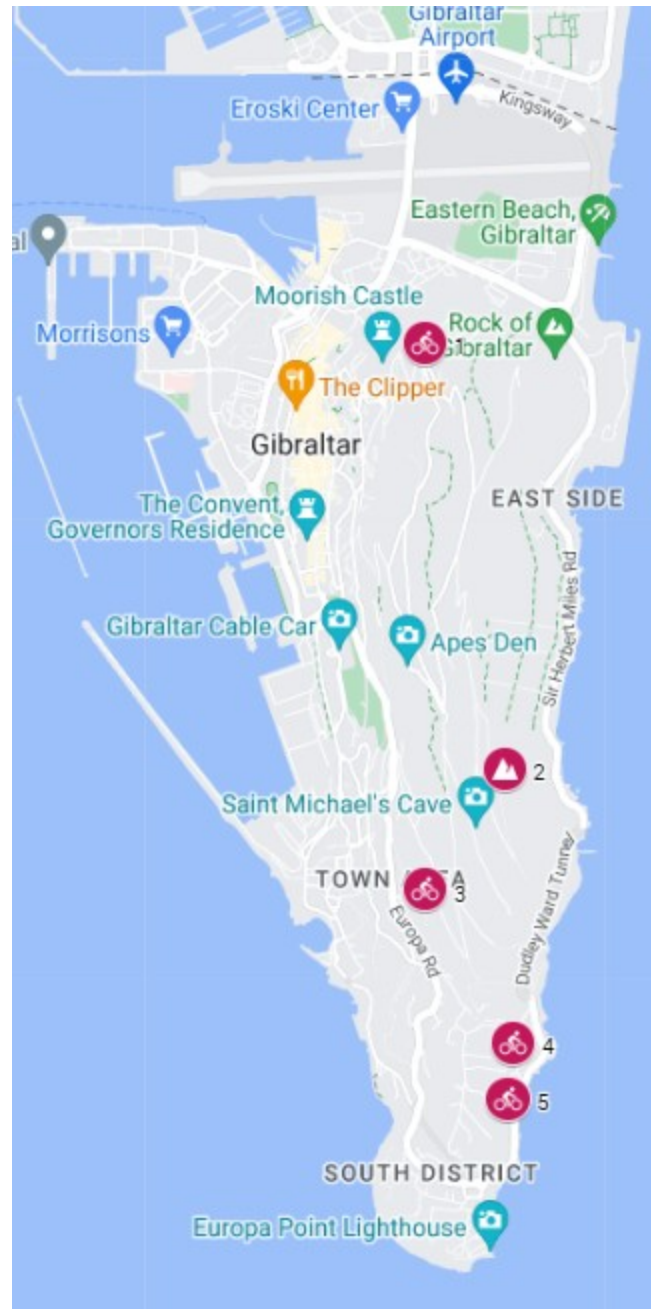


Monos monkeys



The rock dominates the landscape

Of course, we've only kept one zone, so here's a breakdown of the 5 winning climbs.



The red cyclists represent the 4 natachas alone, while the red mountain represents the BIG.

## Tourism in Gibraltar

First occupied by the Moors in the Middle Ages, then ruled by Spain, this outpost was ceded to the British in 1713. The various levels of fortification include the remains of a 14th-century Moorish castle and the Great Siege tunnels, enlarged during the Second World War.

It is one of the busiest ports in the world, due to the importance of its wildlife and the different forms of wild life that live in its waters. Gibraltar has been declared a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. As well as the main viewpoints from which you can see the African coast on sunny days, the best part of the Rock of Gibraltar is the Nature Reserve, which is home to more than 600 plant species.

The Rock of Gibraltar, our BIG (GIB-002) and in particular the upper part of the rock, symbolises Gibraltar's most striking feature and has even become a world-famous emblem. Its inhabitants, the Barbary macaques, descendants of North African populations, are also very famous. Some of these tailless monkeys live in the Apes' Den, while others stay close to the cable car. Although they are used to humans, they are also notoriously bad-tempered, so it's best not to try and feed or pet them.



The summit of the Gibraltar BIG



To climb it, it's Rock... 'n Roll.

The area's military heritage led us to seek out tourist sites featuring it. Princess Caroline's Battery (GIB-001) is an artillery battery located at the northern end of Upper Rock Nature Reserve, at the junction of Willis's Road and Queen's Road. It was built in 1732 and named after the third daughter of King George II. In 1905, the battery was reformed to make way for a 6-inch Mark VII gun, which was installed on top of the armoury.



Princess Caroline's military heritage



On the last slopes, ready to attack ?



The Navy, and in particular the Royal Navy, is another of our bases. Our GIB-003 is located at the Mount. **The Mount** is the former official residence of the senior officer of the Royal Navy. The Mount was purchased in 1799 and for over two hundred years was the seat of Gibraltar's highest naval officer. In 1903 it was the site of an early use of colour photography. The Mount currently belongs to the Government of Gibraltar. It is used as a wedding venue.



The Mount in 1879



Weddings at the summit

Foundations can lead to great discoveries. In preparation for the construction of a sports complex at the top of Gibraltar at a place called "Lathbury", structures from the Second World War were discovered, including command posts, security tunnels and anti-aircraft firing positions. The authorities are trying to reconcile the sports facility with the military heritage. We've made it our GIB- 004.



Remnants of the Second World War  
in Lathbury



The arrival of our new fight coincides  
with the arrival to the old fights.

## The sporting side of Gibraltar's climbs

The rock is steep. The gradients are therefore severe. The proof: 5 red triangles on 5 climbs. Here are some sections your calves won't forget:

91m taken in 700m (13%) at the end of the Military Heritage Centre

(01) 97m taken in 700m (13.8%) three-quarters of the way up the Rock

(02) 44m in 300m (14.6%) to finish the access to Mount Road

(03) Lathbury only measures 600m but ... at an average of 16.3%

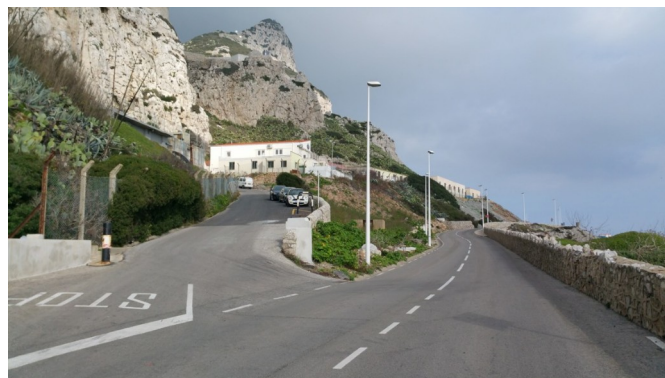
(04) The gentlest is Dobinson Way with 500m of gentle gradient followed by 200m at 15.5%.



The road to the Lathbury Complex



You say steep?



Obviously, we're going left



## Gibraltar cycling

A cycle race finish may take place there, but no cycle race can pass through. Gibraltar is a dead end. In 1986, the organisers of the Tour of Andalusia had the good idea of installing a finish at the foot of the foothills of the BIG.



Stéphane Guay's victory in 1986

A solid time trial for climbers is also on offer for local cyclists.



And the Tour of Andalusia had scheduled one in 2010

### 2010 Vuelta a Andalucia

February 21 - Stage one: Jaén – Alto de la Guardia de Jaén

February 22 - Stage two: Otura – Cordoba

February 23 - Stage three: Marbella – Benahavis

February 24 - Stage four: Gibraltar – Gibraltar (ITT)

February 25 - Stage five: Torrox Costa - Antequera

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