

Voyage

Spain - Picos de Europa



The nature of this trip is to traverse the majestic Picos de Europa National Park from the south to the north; from the high rocky summits to the white sand beaches of the coast.

This traverse takes us to the most characteristic areas of the Picos de Europa, the highlight being reaching the highest point at the base of the Naranjo de Bulnes, the most emblematic mountain of the Picos with its 500m vertical wall.

The walk will also take us through high pastures where the last shepherds of the Picos still live a traditional life and along historical trails like the roman path across the Picos. We will also experience the excitement of canyoning and relaxing while paddling in the beautiful Deva river. We will finish our voyage enjoying a cycle ride along the cliffs and beaches of the coast.

Day 1

Depart Heathrow in the morning and arrive at Bilbao airport. A bus transfer from the airport (approx. 3 hours) will take us to Hotel El Rebeco in Fuente De Cantabria. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 2

Cable car ride up to 1800m. Walk to Sotres following the Duje Valley and walking over the biggest glacial moraine of the Picos and below 500m vertical walls (about 5 hours). This is a relaxing day to warm up, with beautiful scenery since you start right away in the high mountains.

Night in hostel type accommodation in a very nice little mountain village called Sotres. Dinner in hostel.

Day 3

Walk up to the base of Naranjo de Bulnes. This will be a long day to reach the base of the 500m. vertical west face of the famous Naranjo de Bulnes, without a doubt the most famous climbing wall in Spain. This involves approx. 8-10 hours of walking.

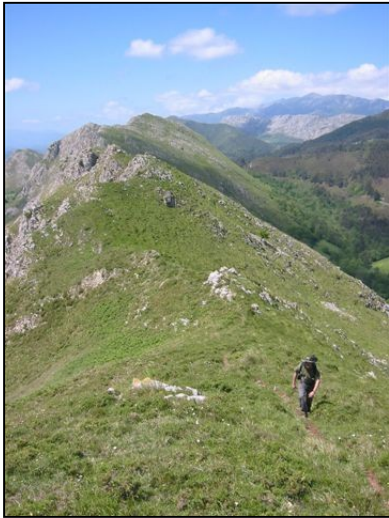
Day 4

We make our way to the small town of Arenas using the ancient roman path across the high pastures of Portudera (approx. 5-6 hours). Arenas is situated by the famous Cares river, and we spend 2 nights in a local hotel.

Day 5

After enjoying a well deserved rest, in the morning we'll head for the excitement and fun of canyoning. This involves ropes, a harness, helmet and other safety equipment... you will be abseiling, swimming, jumping and tobogganing but is suitable for beginners. The activity takes around 3 hours and is only 20 minutes drive from Arenas.

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Day 6

Walk from Arenas to Besnes. We take an old shepherds path on our last day walking along the Cares valley and high over it's gorge. This provides amazing views as we make our way to the charming hotel in Besnes (approx. 6 hours). Night and dinner in Besnes.

Day 7

Canoeing on the Deva river from Panes to Unquera. Today we take the canoes to follow our way towards the coast, canoeing for 3 hours on the beautiful Deva River, named after the ancient local goddess of water. Open canoes, kayak paddles, flat waters, beautiful scenery and many birds make for a great day.

Bus transfer to Llanes coast. Night in Palacio de Garaña Bungalows. Dinner in local cider barn!

Day 8

On our final day of activities, we mountain bike along the rough coast of Llanes (approx. 4-5 hours). This is a circular route on varied terrain (small roads, dirt roads, single tracks) along the high cliffs and pristine beaches of the coast of Llanes. You'll have an amazing view of the Picos de Europa in the distance just to really set the scene.

Later we take a bus transfer to Bilbao, about a 2 1/2 hour drive, to our hotel.

Day 9

Free time in Bilbao, when you can visit the Guggenheim Museum if you like. Transfer to airport to fly home.

