

## **Itinerary Content**

The week's holiday starts by being met at the airport on the coast and driving to your village accommodation. Depending on group size this will include a 500 year-old guesthouse and recently renovated country apartments.

**Some Possible Walks** – we will be able to choose six of these suggested walks (Daily starting from our base. Average start time 10.00, average finish time 18.00)

### **1. Collado de Llesba (1700m) to Corisco (2,200m), 10km**

We drive to the top of the scenic San Glorio pass and take a high ridge walk that follows the southern border of the Picos de Europa National Park and the northern boundary of the Alto Fuentes Carrionas Natural Park. Our figure of 8 route leads us through a variety of habitats and rock formations and offers us spectacular 360 degree views from the summit.

### **2. Fuente De Cable Car, 1800m, to either Pico Padiorna, 2,300m or Horcados Rojos, 2,500m. 10km**

Driving to the cable car base station at Fuente De we ascend 750m into the central massif. If the conditions permit we should be able to summit at least one of these iconic peaks and experience the "testosterone" Karst scenery that the High Picos are famous for.

### **3. El Cable 1,800m to Fuente De. 1,000m. 10km**

Another option from the top of the cable car, this route takes us along the eastern lip of the Fuente De cirque and down a "hidden " valley. From here it's easy to appreciate the natural striated habitats and the ancient farming methods still used as we descend to the valley floor. The high alpine pastures are home to the rebecco (chamois), vultures and many butterflies. In the ancient beech and oak forests we may spot Red deer, fox, Black woodpeckers and Silver-washed butterflies.

### **4. From our base to the Bedoya Valley. 12km**

Usually on the first day we walk from the house to give you an introduction to the area. We pass through the market gardens on the valley floor and ascend through beech and oak forests to the incredibly rich hay meadows on the flanks of Peña Ventosa. As well as the stunning vistas towards Peña Prieta to the south and the Eastern Massif to the west we will be blessed with a variety of flowering plants. We may also spot Peregrine falcons, nut hatches, tree creepers, Roe deer, Marbled white, Brimstone and Clouded yellow butterflies.

### **5. The Cares Gorge. 20km.**

Walking the Cares Gorge one way is an absolute must for any visitor to the Picos. We set out from the village of Posada de Valdeon and admire the fantastic views from the unique and impressive mirador (viewpoint) of El Tombo. We quickly descend into the heart of the Tolkienesque Monte de Corona where we visit the ancient wolf trap. After lunch in Cain our route is literally swallowed by the rock walls of the Cares Gorge. Your driver will meet you at the end of the walk to return home.



### **6. Caloca 1,100m to Bistruey 2,000m. 12km**

Wolf and bear country. A steady climb first on small lanes then into open grazing meadows and a slowly rising cattle track brings us to the south facing slopes of Bistruey. The open nature and gentle angle of the slope allows us the freedom to tack at will to the summit.

### **7. Bejes to Corvera, 1,200m. 12km**

An ancient and improbable path transports us up onto the Sierra de Bejes, where we have fantastic views down onto the Urdon Gorge. We work our way up the slope on old mule tracks to Dobrillo, an abandoned smelting plant and a fascinating industrial archaeological relic from the mining days.

### **8. Tannario to Peña Olvidada. 1,200m**

A Holm oak lined lane winds us up the mountainside towards the impressive walls of El Jisu. We ford the Belondio River and crane our necks up at the mighty Canal de Lechugales before entering the cool of the beech forest. Peña Olvidada is the site of an iron-age fort. We descend through ancient oaks and both neglected and working hay meadows.

**Cost:** £500

**Included in the cost:**

7 nights full-board including breakfasts, packed lunches and 3 course evening meals with wine, all taken together in our guesthouse base.

6 days guided walking and transport during the week.

**Not included:**

International flights (Flights to Bilbao are available from Birmingham with KLM via Amsterdam for £167)

Cable car tickets and drinks, etc. when out.