



HIKING IN THE SPANISH PYRENEES

**Ordesa National Park, Benasque and
Romanesque Boi Valley**



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1 Introduction

Enjoy six days of walking in the spectacular **Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park** and the **Posets-Maladeta Natural Park**, located in the heart of the Pyrenean mountain range.

A great getaway to enjoy some of the most emblematic places of the **Pyrenees** where, apart from walking, you can enjoy the culture and gastronomy of the country.

Without a doubt, Ordesa National Park is a natural jewel, with a geomorphology created by the erosive glacial action, where you can find huge vertical walls, beech forests, waterfalls and a varied fauna.

2 Destination

The **Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park** is located in the **Huesca Pyrenees**, Aragon (Spain). It occupies the municipalities of **Bielsa**, **Fanlo**, Puértolas, Tella-Sin, **Torla** and **Broto** and it receives over 600.000 visitors per year.

The Park covers 15.608 hectares and it has a peripheral protection zone of 19.679 hectares. The altitude ranges from 700 m. in **Vellós River** to 3.355 m. in the **Monte Perdido** summit.

Brecha de Rolando is a narrow col of 40 m wide and 100 m high, located at 2.804 meters high in the Monte Perdido massif. Legend has it that this gap was created by **Rolando**, Charlemagne's nephew, while he was trying to destroy his sword hitting it against the rock after the battle of Roncesvalles.

Monte Perdido is the highest limestone massif in Europe with a summit of **3.355 meters** high.

The **Posets-Maladeta Natural Park** is located in the Aragon Pyrenees, in the long axis of the Pyrenees. Here is where we find the highest concentration of peaks over 3,000 meters. Highlights include the **Aneto** (3.404 m) the highest mountain in the Pyrenees. We should also mention the Posets (3.369 m) and **Perdiguero** (3.221 m).

Valleys like Benasque, Chistau and Barrabés, offer infinite possibilities of activities for all types and seasons of the year such as trekking, mountain skiing, mountaineering and climbing.

In addition to the meadows, the forests of red and black pine trees predominate in the landscape, which sometimes mix with fir trees. It is also possible to find holm oaks and some patches of deciduous mixed forests. In terms of fauna, it is possible to find grouse, martens, Tengmalm owls, snow ptarmigan, marmot or chamois among many other animal species.

3 Basic information

Destination: **Ordesa National Park**. Pyrennes. Spain

Activity: Trekking

Difficulty: **

Length: 9 days.

Season: From May to October

Minimum-maximum group: 4-14 people.

3.1 Required physical condition and type of terrain

Physical level	Total elevation	Kms	Physical Condition
*	Up to 600 m	Up to 16 km	Normal: occasional sport practice
**	Up to 1200 m	Up to 23 km	Good: regular sport practice
***	Up to 1400 m	Over. 23 km	Very good: strict sport practice

Physical level category does not have to correspond exactly with given ascent and kilometres at the same time.

Type of terrain

- * Good conditioned forest tracks and trails
- ** Good conditioned trails. Presence of stones and roots on the way requiring attentive hike.
- *** Bumpy, stone loose tracks, including off trails

Observations. A good physical condition is required in order to face big climbs. You must be used to walking in the mountains regularly.

4 Programme

4.1 Programme outline

Day 1. Reception of participants and transfer to Ordesa.

Day 2. Day trip to **Cola de Caballo. Ordesa.**

Distance 17 km. Ascent +520 m - 520 m. Time: 6-7 hours.

Day 3. Mondotó Peak(1.967m) and La Estiba (2.005m). Ordesa

Distance 15 km. Ascent + 1.100 m. - 1.100 m. Time: 6-7 hours.

Day 4. Bujaruelo, Entrepueños Peak and Lapazuso Mountain Lake. Ordesa.

Distance 12 km. Ascent +1.175m -1.175m. Time: 6-7 hours.

Day 5. Circular Route to Tozal del Cebollar. Ordesa.

Distance 12 km. Ascent +1.040m. -1.040m. Time: 5-6 hours

Day 6. Circular Tour of La Renclusa. Benasque

Distance 12,9 km. Ascent + 649 m. - 649 m. Time: 5-6 hours.

Day 7. Bastisielles and Escarpinosa Mountain Lakes.

Distance 12,4 Km. Ascent + 793m.- 793 m. Time: 5-6 hours.

Day 8. Cultural visit of the Romanesque Boi Valley

Day 9. Transfer to the airport. Return flight.

+ Possibility of extending the trip with an extra day in Barcelona or Pyrenees

4.2 Detailed programme

Day 1. Reception of participants and transfer to Ordesa.

Day 2. Day trip to **Cola de Caballo. Ordesa.**

One of the most famous routes to know the **Valley of Ordesa**. A route located at the bottom of the glacial valley. It goes all the time next to the **Arazas River**, which will surprise us with five waterfalls in its route: Arripas, Estrecho, La Cueva, Sodaso Steps and the Cola de Caballo.

This easy path is surrounded by the famous "forest of beech trees", that disappear close to the Cirque of Soaso, where we will see the **Monte Perdido 3.355m**, **Añisclo Peak 3.254m** and **Punta las Olas 3.002m**.

We will not see Cola de Caballo (Horse tail) until we reach the bottom of the cirque, that will surprise us with its almost 100m fall.

The return will be by the same itinerary of ascent. Depending on the weather conditions we will do a circular tour in the lower part of the valley.

Distance 17 km. Ascent +520 m - 520 m. Time: 6-7 hours.



Day 3. Mondotó Peak (1.967m) and La Estiba (2.005m). Ordesa

From the village of **Nerín**, we will head towards the Mondotó peak, an easy route to one of the best viewpoints of the **Añisclo Canyon**, with a depth that reaches 1000m of fall at our feet.

We will continue towards the North, to the **Estiba peak**, that will give us a better panorama on the high summits of Ordesa.

We will complete the circular hiking along the edge of the **Pardina canyon**, famous for its hanging strips, which flows into the main canyon: **Añisclo**.

We may be lucky enough to spot the lammergeyer, easy to locate in this area, as well as chamois, marmot, griffon vulture...

Distance 15 km. Ascent + 1.100 m. - 1.100 m. Time: 6-7 hours.

Day 4. Bujaruelo, Entrepueños Peak and Lapazuso Mountain Lake. Ordesa.

From **San Nicolás de Bujaruelo** we will ascend the path that will lead us to the border with France, at the Puerto de Bujaruelo. An itinerary that as we go up, it will allow us to see peaks such as **Panticosa, Tendeñera** and **Otal**.

Meanwhile, we will enjoy a great variety of trees, such as yew, black pine, spruce, pine roya, shrubs such as boxwood, and a large variety of flora.

Once in Bujaruelo, and with almost 1000m of ascent done, we will see the descent to Gavarnie and its magnificent cirque with its Grand Cascade.

We will ascend the **Entrepueños Peak (2.480m)** where we will have a better view of the north faces of **Taillón** and **Gabietos**.

We will descent northwards, where the **Lapazuso Lake** is, to reconnect with the route that we had taken in the ascent.

Distance 12 km. Ascent +1.175m -1.175m. Time: 6-7 hours.

Day 5. Circular Route to Tozal del Cebollar. Ordesa.

Perhaps, one of the best viewpoints of Ordesa from a place that goes unnoticed.

On a circular route, we will go up the **San Antón canyon** to reach the **Col of Cebollar 1.900m**, where we will have a better view of the entire entrance of the **Ordesa Valley**, with the nearby **Mondarruego** wall and the **Tozal del Mallo**.

We will change canyon to descend by the high part of the Carpín Canyon. Through a strip, we will descend through the Ara valley until we reach the Gr-11 at the Bridge of Navarros, where we will complete the circular tour by road as we get the Ordesa camping.

Distance 12 km. Ascent +1.040m. -1.040m. Time: 5-6 hours

In the afternoon transfer to Benasque.

Day 6. Circular Tour of La Renclusa. Benasque

Llanos of Benasque Hospital and **Basurta** are the starting point for the ascent to the highest peak of the Pyrenees, we refer to **Aneto Peak (3.404 m)**.

We will start from the bottom of the valley to reach the **Renclusa mountain hut**. From here we can admire the greatness of the **Massif of Maladetas** with glacier valleys that give way to the high peaks. We will continue ascending until we reach a hill from where we will descend towards the **Forau de Aigualluts**, which is a large sinkhole whereby all the water that comes from the Aneto glacier goes to Aran Valley. From here the Aneto Peak dominates the landscape.

Return through the bottom of the valley to the starting point.

Distance 12,9 km. Ascent + 649 m. - 649 m. Time: 5-6 hours.

Day 7. Bastisielles and Escarpinosa Mountain Lakes.

We will depart from San Jaime Bridge in a woodland of Black Pine and habitat of the capercaillie, enjoying one of the best views of the **Estós valley** over the **Perdiguero Peaks**. Once at the **Bastisielles Lake**, we will pass the **Escarpinosa Lake**, considered one of the most beautiful in the Pyrenees, with the Perramó waterfall and its needles as a background.

Distance 12,4 Km. Ascent + 793m.- 793 m. Time: 5-6 hours.

Day 8. Cultural visit of the Romanesque Boi Valley

We cannot leave the Pyrenees without making a cultural visit to the Romanesque Valley of Boí. Excellent architecture of the time in a beautiful landscape.

In the afternoon, we will return to Barcelona. Accommodation in the city.

Day 9. Transfer to the airport. Return flight.

+ Possibility of extending the trip with an extra day in Barcelona or Pyrenees

5 More information

Price: Ask for more info.

5.1 Included

- Certified Mountain guide for the entire trip.

- Transfers from and to the airport.
- Private transport during the trip.
- 7 High quality hotel nights in double room on half board bases (breakfast and dinner).
- 6 picnic lunches during the activity days.
- Accident insurance cover.
- Trip management.

5.2 Not included

- Flights (Muntania offers this service for an additional cost of 15€).
- Last night hotel in Barcelona. Any other activity not including in the programme.
- Drinks where not included in the dinner menus.
- Entrance to monument or interested places if required.

5.3 Required equipment

It is important to carry little weight in the backpack to walk comfortably, so it is recommended to take only the essential material and clothing. We will inform you so you backpack weighs no more than 6-8 kilos.

- Backpack (between 30-35 litres).
- Trekking boots or shoes depending on the trekking.
- Folding trekking poles.
- Crampons and ice-axes
- Clothing:
 - Socks.
 - Long and short trekking pants
 - Thermal shirt (first layer). A spare change.
 - Fleece jacket or similar (second layer).
 - Gore-Tex type jacket and pants (third layer).
 - Primaloft jacket or light down insulated jacket.
 - Fleece, light type of gloves.
 - Hat and cap.
- Sunglasses.
- Head lamp (extra batteries).
- Cotton or silk sheet-sleeping bag and very light towel.
- Water bottle or water bag Camelback type of minimum capacity 1 liter.
- First aid kit and essential toiletries.
- Sunscreen and protection lip balm.
- Camera.

5.4 Observations

A good physical condition and being used to walk in the mountain is required to confront the demanding slopes. It is not necessary to bring a sleeping bag but you need to bring a silk or cotton travel liner. It is recommended to bring very little food since it can be purchased in the huts along the way.

Date Flexibility

Aside from the regular travel trip dates, we are flexible to reconsider new dates if those are more convenient to the client's leisure plans. Do not hesitate to contact us should you have any different dates in mind.

Time and meeting point

One week prior to the trip departure date, an email will be sent to each participant to give away the meeting point and time along with the guide contact information. At this point any information considered essential to the trip organization will be shared.

Plane tickets (if applicable)

If case you wish us to handle you plane ticket, please contact us with airport arrival and departure details and number of needed luggage. Before issuing any ticket, Price and details Will be send to the client for its approval.

Muntania fee for plane ticket management is 20€ per person.

If, otherwise, you handle your plane tickets, please coordinate with us before hand to check on arrival and departure information.

Please take into consideration getting with you on your carry-on luggage some set of clothing in case of checked luggage lose.

Trekking Backpack

Very important to carry out just indispensable material and clothing to walk at ease. You would not need to take food supplies and clothing can be hand-wash daily. We recommend backpack weight between 6 to 10 kg.

5.5 Insurance policy

All activities in Spain have an accident insurance included in the price. Yet, if you practise mountain sports regularly and also travel frequently, **we suggest you get a travel insurance**, that as well as covering any accident and rescue it also protect you against many other situations.

If you do not have a travel insurance you can acquire one with our travel agency. Exploring Spain processes all insurances with **Intermundial**. The cost of these insurances is lower if you buy it through Exploring Spain than if you do it directly with Intermundial.

EU RESIDENTS

Ski/Aventure Plus

It is a **travel insurance** and also **covers the practise of many sports and activities**. You can get one for the duration of the trip or for the whole year, being able to choose the starting date. If you get the insurance for a year, it will not only be valid for the trip with Exploring Spain but also it will be valid for any other trips or activities you may do during that year.

Ski/Aventure Plus with Cancelation

It has the same coverage that the previous insurance but also you will be cover in case of cancelation of the trip and tickets in case of force majeure (sickness, injury...) for yourself and/or a relative.

The travel insurance with cancelation that we offer, allows a refund of the costs already paid for up to 1.000 €. If the cost of the trip and flights is higher, you can extend the amount covered (under request).

Multi-assistance Plus with or without Cancelation

Both Multi-assistance Plus with or without Cancelation are **travel insurances with better coverage** than the Ski/Adventure Plus with or without cancelation but they **do not cover the practise of sports**.

This insurance can be of your interest if you already have an accident and rescue insurance that covers the activity that you will be doing in the trip, but you do not have a travel insurance. It can also be useful if you are interested in a trip without practising any sports.

NON EU RESIDENTS

Incoming Cancelation Plus

This insurance covers the costs of the trip and the tickets if you have to cancel the trip before the departure because of different reasons like for example a sickness (see conditions of the insurance).

This insurance can be useful if you already have a travel insurance but it does not cover the cancelation of the trip or if you already have an insurance covering sports and activities.

Incoming Ski/Aventure Plus with Cancelation

It is a **travel insurance** and also **covers the practise of many sports and activities**. You will also be cover in case of cancelation of the trip and tickets in case of force majeure (sickness, injury...) for yourself and/or a relative. You can get one for the duration of the trip or for the whole year, being able to choose the starting date. If you get the insurance for a year, it will not only be valid for the trip with Exploring Spain but also it will be valid for any other trips or activities you may do during that year.

The travel insurance with cancelation that we offer, allows a refund of the costs already paid for up to 2.000 €. If the cost of the trip and flights is higher, you can extend the amount covered (under request).

*Consult prices and conditions for Intermundial insurances with Exploring Spain following this link: <https://www.exploring-spain.com/insurances>

Included accident and rescue insurance

** Included accident and rescue insurance. Nº POLIZA 4020006195 Muntania Outdoors. Assistance phone number 24h 902 09 15 57 (it is the contact number for the insurance company Prebal, Previsión Balear M.P.S).

*** It is the customer's responsibility to inform the insurance company about the accident as soon as possible. Prior the departure for the trip, we will send you an email with the insurance policy number and the assistance number so you can have it during the trip.

**** Depending on where the accident happens, the customer will have to pay in advance if the insurance company indicates it, being the payment refunded by the insurance company within the policy's limits. In any case Exploring Spain – Muntania Outdoors S.L. is responsible for any advance payment required for the rescue or assistance.

5.6 Links of interest

- <http://www.ordesa.net>
- <http://www.refugiodebujaruelo.com>

5.7 Highlights

- Know the Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park and the Natural Park Posets-Maladeta.
- Active trip, visiting areas of great natural richness.
- All inclusive.
- Transportation from the arrival airport of the activity.
- Active trip, visiting areas with great landscapes.

6 Contact

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