



## WALKS, HIKES, GUIDES and GRADES

### Local insights and knowledge...

We only use qualified local Spanish mountain guides. Carefully selected by us, they share our passion for the area where we live. This means, as well as amazing hikes in breath-taking scenery, you will also learn about the culture, geology, and wildlife of our area.

Whatever the holiday, we will be walking over uneven and rocky ground. We do grade each holiday according to the hiking / walking involved. Simply find your holiday on the table below and then refer to our definitions. We have also included an example of each of our graded walks.

Please note, we always consider the weather forecasts and trail conditions before finalising our daily routes.

**It is important to remember that at any time of year, across the entire mountain range, a rise in elevation of 200m can mean a fall in temperature of around 1°C – even in summer!**



## Walking Grades

Holiday	Easy	Moderate	Challenging
Birding Holiday	✓		
Cooking & Walking	✓	✓	
Culture & Gastronomy	✓		
Guided Walking / Hiking		✓	✓
Spanish Language	✓	✓	
Snowshoeing		✓	✓
Trail Running			✓
Wildlife Holiday	✓	✓	

## Definitions

Characteristic	Easy	Moderate	Challenging
Height gain in metres	50 - 250	200 - 450	450-800
Hours walking*	1 - 3	2 - 5	4 - 8
Approx distance in km	3 - 6	6 - 12	10 - 19
Some steep sections	No	Yes, but short	Yes
Rocky & uneven trails	Occasionally	Yes	Yes
Sustained climbing	No	Yes, climbs of under 2 hours	Yes, climbs of over 2 hours
Technical sections e.g. steep descent, scree, exposed path	No	Some	Yes

\*Walking Time is based on a relaxed pace including time for stops, photography and explanations from the guide.

## Example Walking Trails

### **Easy Walk:** Valley of Ordesa



Distance: 7km (optional extension 12km)

Elevation: 200m (350 with extension)

Terrain: Mainly wide forest tracks, rocky paths down to waterfall viewpoints.

A beautiful walk-through beech woods with a gentle climb. We follow the river Arazas along the bottom of the Ordesa canyon, visiting 3 very different, but equally dramatic waterfalls. There is an option to extend the walk to the Soaso cascades. This also gives views to Monte Perdido at the head of the valley (an extra 4km). Our local guide will explain how the valley was formed, as well as keeping an eye out for the wildlife, including the elusive black woodpecker!

## Moderate Walk: Canyon of Añisclo



Distance: 10km

Elevation: 350m

Terrain: Rocky paths through woods and up and down the mountainside.

A rocky single track descends via switchbacks down into the canyon.

Wide undulating stony track along the canyon bottom.

We explore the canyon of Añisclo, rich in history, as well as flora and fauna. A good warm up climb to start, as we follow a medieval pathway up to a restored village (200m ascent), with a beautiful Romanic church in a breathtaking setting. We then head down a rocky path into the Añisclo canyon, stopping to take in the spectacular views. Once in the canyon, one-kilometre-high cliffs tower above us, whilst vultures circle overhead on the thermals. The river Bellos has carved the limestone of this canyon, forming deep channels, waterfalls, and beautiful turquoise pools. At river level, we head downstream looking out for endemic plants. Nestled in a cave above the river, is the tiny chapel where our village Saint lived in the 8th century. A short final climb takes us back to our start point.

## Challenging Walk: Faja de Pelay



Distance: 20km

Elevation: 780m

Terrain: Steep sustained initial ascent through woods with switchbacks. High level rocky path track with some exposed sections. Wide paved then stony track descends gradually along the valley bottom.

A sustained 650m switchback climb along the “Hunters path” through the woods is rewarded by breathtaking views above the Ordesa Canyon. We traverse the south side of the canyon on well-trodden paths along the faja (wide ledge in the canyon wall). The impressive U shaped valley opens up in front of us, with Monte Perdido dominating the skyline. Our gradual descent takes us to the famous horsetail falls. This is our turning point for the trek back via the valley bottom. On the way we pass the cascades of Soaso and stop to admire 3 other impressive waterfalls. A long but truly memorable day.

## Reviews

### The guide was fantastic...

The guides for the walking were fantastic - knowledgeable, enthusiastic and great fun. Everything was organised so well and with lots of attention to detail.

Lynne Scotland

My second time....what really makes the experience stand out is the local guide. His knowledge of geology, plants, birds, history and more - and he's great company to boot!

Martina UK

The history you learn from the guides and Simon and Lucy is fascinating, from the ancient formations of the mountains to how the valley was saved from becoming a Dam.

Cathryn London

The guide was fantastic and we learned a lot from him. I have very happy memories of fantastic autumn colours, golden beech forests, waterfalls, ancient villages, awesome canyons, snow topped mountains.....the list is endless!

Jane UK

Whether we were with the local guide, or Lucy or Simon, there was always something to be learned about the flora, fauna, geology and history of the area. After having doubts about going on a group holiday we returned having had a wonderful week.

Nick & Eileen