



# Aragon Active

## Improvers Spanish Language Holiday

Build confidence in Spanish Conversation through excursions and role play



### Language Level

This holiday is aimed at students who have a basic grounding in Spanish and are willing to have a go at conversing in Spanish in a variety of situations, all to build confidence. As a guide, you should have a language level of A2 to B1. If you are unsure of your level, please take the [Cervantes on line level test](#) and let us know your result (allow half an hour to do the test).

During this holiday we create an environment where you will not be judged by your grammatical mistakes, and where the aim is to “get the ball over the net” in conversation. Equally, we shall be working on the most common stumbling blocks when learning Spanish (Por y Para, Ser y Estar etc.) and expose you to a range of spoken Spanish to practice your understanding of the language.

### Walks

Being in the mountains, the terrain can sometimes be rocky and uneven, but we try to minimise any climbs or steep descents. Be prepared to spend a lot of time on your feet during guided tours of monuments, villages and talking to locals.

We grade this week as easy walking. [See our walking grades.](#)

### Full Itinerary

This is a Spanish immersion holiday, so we try to encourage Spanish to be spoken all day, except for the evening meal, when most prefer to relax with a glass of wine and speak English.

The itinerary below gives an idea of what we do during a typical week. Each evening after supper we give a briefing (in English) on the following day. Any changes to the itinerary will always be done to ensure you have a fulfilling and enjoyable holiday. We also need to fit in with availability of the different people involved in our visits, and of course the weather!

## DAY 1

### Arrival

- Minibus taxi transfer from Zaragoza airport and train station. (see website for times). Arrival at Casa Allué, Albella.
- A welcome drink on arrival at our farmhouse, Casa Allué, and a chance to meet Simon and Lucy, your hosts.
- After the evening meal we will have a chat about the week ahead, and the program for the following day.



## DAY 2

### Spanish Lesson & Solana Hike

- Introductory lesson with our Spanish teacher and an opportunity to discuss your personal objectives for the week.
- The lesson is spread between our classroom and our terrace (with refreshments!).
- After coffee we take a short drive up to a small village in the “Solana,” the south facing mountain slopes. Here we hike up to a recently restored Chapel, with a 12<sup>th</sup> century depiction of Christ.
- The location gives a birds eye view of the Ara valley and the impressive Cancias mountain.
- After a picnic lunch we head back down, stopping to learn about the village “Esconjuradero.”
- We then have a well-deserved drink in one of the local bars, before returning to Albella for the evening meal.
- Distance 5 km (return), ascent/descent 250m.



## DAY 3

### Lesson & Hike Escuaín Gorge

- We meet up with our Spanish teacher in Aínsa for a morning class.
- After coffee in a local café, we go to the mountains with our guide for a hike above the Escuaín Gorge, part of the Ordesa National Park.
- A short walk along a rocky trail above the gorge takes us to 3 viewpoints. Giving us the possibility to see vultures flying above and below us. We will have our packed lunch here.
- This is the best area in Europe, and arguably the world, to see the endangered Bearded vulture.
- Our guide will explain about this magnificent bird and the success of the local charity that has helped the recovery of their numbers.
- To complete the hike, we take a short steep climb up to a plateau for views of the majestic “Castillo Mayor” mountain, before a rocky descent down to our start point.
- Distance 6km, Ascent 300 m



## DAY 4

### Ara valley Walk to Janovás

- We walk straight from the house along medieval pathways, ancient seabeds and quiet roads to a beautifully restored hamlet. Here we chat to a resident to learn the inspiration behind the projects and learn how local superstitions have influenced the architecture.
- Next, we go down the hill on a wide stony track to the once abandoned village of Janovás.
- Sixty years ago, a dam project forced out the residents of this once vibrant community, except for one determined family. The project never went ahead, and this was a ghost town for decades.
- Today the town is slowly being rebuilt.
- We have the privilege of chatting to a resident, who, although just a boy at the time, lived through the evictions and dirty tricks of the electricity company.
- Afterwards we have our picnic lunch by the Ara River, and get a lift back up to the farmhouse.
- There is time to relax before dinner.
- Distance 6km, descent 250m.



## DAY 5

### Valle de Chistau

- Today we travel to one of the most traditional valleys of Aragon. It is also where our Spanish teacher lives.
- On the way we stop at the tourist information where you can ask questions about the area. We will then take a short stroll with the teacher above the Rio Cinqueta, as he explains local legends and anecdotes.
- We have lunch at a local family restaurant with mountain views.
- In the afternoon we visit the old priest's house, now converted into a museum where we learn about the subsistence way of life, and of course, their music and local celebrations.
- Drive back to Albella in time for a light buffet supper.
- Walk Distance 4km, Ascent 150m



## DAY 6

### Lesson & Hike in Ordesa National Park

- After a morning Spanish class at the farmhouse, we head off with the mountain guide to hike in the impressive canyon of Ordesa in the National Park.
- Our guide will explain how the canyon was formed and explain along the way about the flora and fauna.
- We walk along wide forest tracks, gently ascending through beech woods to reach 3 stunning waterfalls.
- We have our packed lunch at one of the waterfall viewpoints, before crossing over the Arazas River, and heading back down to the start points.
- Back in Albella, there is time to relax before the evening meal.
- Distance 7km, Ascent 200m.



## DAY 7

### Aínsa role play

- We spend the day in the medieval town of Aínsa. With its Romanic church, fort and cobbled streets it is one of Spain's top 10 prettiest towns.
- After a morning lesson in Aínsa new town, we head up the hill to the old town for a coffee in the medieval plaza.
- We learn about the history and traditions of Aínsa through a fun role play exercise.
- Lunch in local restaurant is followed by a visit to the Ecomuseo where we learn about the fauna of the Pyrenees and we visit the raptor sanctuary.
- Time for souvenir or local produce shopping before heading back to Albella for a light supper.



## DAY 8 - Departure

Depart for Zaragoza and onward journeys home.

### Make a Reservation

Use our online booking system on the holiday page to reserve your place.

There are only 8 places available on this trip.

Accommodation, transport, guides, meals and drinks are all included. The only additional cost is the optional gratuities for the guides.

We charge no single supplement.

If you have any questions, please contact us using the details below:

Email: [holiday@aragonactive.com](mailto:holiday@aragonactive.com)

Telephone: 0034 679 345 623.

**Please note this is strictly a no-smoking holiday.**