



Aragon Active

Wildlife and Walking Holiday

Discover the flora and fauna of the central Pyrenees



For the all-round naturalist

If you love nature and being surrounded by nature, then this is the perfect holiday.

We are interested in all flora and fauna, making frequent stops to observe something. The ideal trip for any keen photographer.

Full Itinerary

The itinerary below gives an idea of what we will be doing during a typical week.

Each evening after supper we talk about the following day.

Any changes to the itinerary are made to maximise the best use of time and to ensure you have a full and enjoyable holiday. It will depend a great deal on the weather, as well as the availability of our various experts.

Each day we will take a pack up lunch to eat in breathtaking surroundings!

Walks

Most walks are short, however being in the mountains the terrain can be rocky and uneven with some ascents and rocky downhill, so a moderate level of fitness is needed.

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

DAY 1

Arrival

- Minibus taxi transfer from Zaragoza airport and train station. (see website for times).
- 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

High Mountain 4x4: Mammals, birds and flowers

- We drive to the remote valley of Chisagüés.
- Here we take the highest driveable track in the Spanish Pyrenees, to reach a height of 1900m.
- Depending on the snow line we then walk to a higher vantage point giving spectacular views.
- We normally walk up to beyond 2000m.
- An all-round naturalist and qualified mountain guide will be your guide.
- We hope to see Marmots and Chamois at this altitude, as well as vultures, other raptors, some small birds, butterflies and alpine flowers.



DAY 3

Alpine Wildflowers

- We go to the valley of Tena to meet our local expert alpine botanist.
- There are hundreds of alpine flowers, however, the beauty of this day lies not just in spotting the different varieties but also learning the associated stories and their importance in local culture.
- After an easy stroll through the varied alpine landscapes, we have our picnic lunch with views of an ancient volcano.
- On the way back to the farmhouse we stop at the protected sight of one of the few remaining wild populations of Lady's Slipper orchid in Spain. Depending on the Spring weather conditions, we hope to see it in full bloom.



DAY 4

Raptors Ordesa National Park – Escuaín Gorge

- An early start as we go to find a colony of the Eurasian Bee-eaters. One of our most beautiful African visitors.
- We then go to the best place in Europe, and arguably the world, to see the Bearded vulture.
- A short walk along an undulating trail above the Escuaín gorge takes us to 3 viewing balconies.
- This provides the unique opportunity to see Griffon vultures and Bearded vultures flying above, and even below us!
- Our guide and ornithologist will explain the conservation program that has been responsible for saving the Bearded vulture from disappearance.



DAY 5

Rest day in Albella

- A day without travelling and a chance to rest and recharge.
- Explore the wildlife around the farmhouse including a range of wild orchids.
- Relax with a book on the terrace or do a self-guided hike up the mountain behind the house or go wild swimming.
- Afternoon optional guided visit to our local chapel to learn the full story of our saint, San Úrbez, “the rain man!” and how the chapel survived the Spanish civil war.



DAY 6

From Vultures to Moths & More!

- Visit to a vulture feeding site where we meet a biologist from the Bearded vulture conservation charity (FCQ).
- After a question-and-answer session, meat is laid out for the raptors. We then witness an incredible spectacle as hundreds of Griffon vultures descend!
- Other vultures we will see include Bearded vultures, Egyptian vultures, and perhaps even a Black vulture!
- After our picnic lunch, we visit the eco museum and headquarters of FCQ in Aínsa.
- As well as a tour of the museum we will see some of the rescue birds at the centre.
- The medieval town of Aínsa is also one of Spain’s prettiest towns. There is an opportunity for a drink and a short tour and a chance to buy local produce to take home.
- After dinner we meet our moth specialist and see the moth traps. As darkness falls, we shall try to entice the Spanish Moon moth to visit us, as well as keeping an eye on the other traps.



DAY 7

Moths and butterflies

- Before breakfast we will look at what we caught in the moth traps the night before, we will then release them.
- After breakfast, our expert lepidopterist and entomologist will accompany us on a local walk. We visit some of the meadows around the farmhouse.
- After lunch on the terrace, there are options to relax, have a siesta, or walk a nearby woodland track to see other species of butterfly.



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

Telephone: 0034 679 345 623

Please note this is strictly a no-smoking holiday.