



Collett's
MOUNTAIN HOLIDAYS

THE PYRENEES - A WEEK ON THE GR11

5 consecutive & awe-inspiring sections of a celebrated high mountain trail for stronger walkers

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At a glance

A superb week on the GR11 offering you a dramatic hiking experience following five consecutive stages of this world-renowned long distance footpath - showcasing arguably some of the best high level hiking in the Pyrenees. You will venture into the rugged, high mountain wilderness of the Pyrenees on the sometimes steep and precipitous GR11 route, where you will find a stunning landscape dotted with mountain lakes and spectacular views. You will stay a night in the remote Refugio Respomuso, as well as two nights in the 4* Hotel Ordesa in the village of Torla, gateway to the Ordesa canyon. Otherwise you will return to our base at the Hotel Sabocos in Panticosa, high in the Valle de Tena. The holiday price includes accommodation, breakfast, three course dinner with wine (6 nights), packed lunches (5 days), return transfers to and from Zaragoza – and all transport to and from the walks.

Dates & Prices

4-11 September 2022

£1,295pp (Single Supplement - £125)

Prices are based on two people sharing a double or twin room and sharing a bunk room in Refugio Respomuso.

Please note that there are no single rooms available at Refugio Respomuso. This is a Sunday to Sunday itinerary.

Unfortunately, the option to Self-Drive is not available on this holiday.

Grade : Hard - Long

Ascents : 700m to 1000m each day

Walking Time : 7 to 10 hours each day

Descents : 100m to 1200m each day

Terrain : Way-marked paths which can be steep, rocky and loose underfoot. Some short sections are very steep and may be considered by some to be exposed. Previous hiking experience, surefootedness, a good head for heights and a good level of fitness are essential. **Some basic scrambling experience may also be beneficial for the crossing of the Collado Tebberai.** *If you are in any doubt whether this holiday is suitable for you, please call the office on 01799 513331 or email enquiries@colletts.co.uk and we will be happy to discuss the route in more detail with you.*

Included in the price

- Accommodation - 4 nights in the 3* Hotel Sabocos, Panticosa
 - 1 night in Refugio Respomuso, located at 2200m
 - 2 night in the 4* Hotel Ordesa, Torla
- Breakfast each day (buffet breakfast in the hotels; basic breakfast in Refugio Respomuso)
- Packed lunch each walking day (5 days)
- 3 course evening meal, wine included (6 nights, not Thursday - your rest day)
- Guided Walks led by a qualified mountain leader
- Transport to/from the GR11 trailheads each walking day
- Transfers to/from Zaragoza Airport or 'Delicias' Rail Station.

Transfer times are based around the Ryanair flight from Stansted airport to Zaragoza.

If interested in visiting Barcelona at the start or end of the holiday, consider the high speed AVE train to and from Zaragoza Delicias. Journey time – approx 90 mins. See www.renfe.com for train times.

Not included in the price

- Flights & Insurance
- Lunch, dinner, transport and activities on your rest day – Thursday



GR11 – The Itinerary

Day 1 (Sun) - Arrive & Settle in

After being picked up from Zaragoza, you will be transferred to the delightful Hotel Sabocos, our base in Panticosa, high in the Valle de Tena. This will become your 'home from home' for your stay - where you can settle into your room after a quick check-in process. Dinner will be served in the restaurant at 8pm, over which a short briefing will take place.

Day 2 (Mon) - the Canal Roya and Ibones de Anayet

14.5km, 900m ascent and 600m descent - A superb 'first day' walk which ascends the Canal Roya up to its near vertical headwall starting off on a good track. Soon the track gives way to a path which in turn somehow manages to find its way up between rocky crags and pops out into the high mountain plateau which is home to the idyllic Ibones (lakes) de Anayet. Weather and legs permitting, you will then have the option to either enjoy an extended lunch stop at the lakes - taking in the magnificent views north to the iconic Pic du Midi d'Ossau - or to climb the distinctive Vértice d'Anayet (2559m, an additional 300m ascent) from where there are panoramic views to be enjoyed. The GR11 then weaves its way down into the Valle de Tena, affording you stunning views of Balaitous (3144m), Vignemale (3298m) and the Picos del Infierno (3083m) - the very mountains you and the GR11 will be rubbing shoulders with over the coming days.

Day 3 (Tues) - Aguas Limpias, the Ibones de Arriel and Refugio Respomuso

11km, 800m ascent and 100m descent - After a short transfer to the GR11 trailhead at La Sarra, just north of Sallent de Gállego, you will continue to follow the now familiar red and white markers of the GR11 on a well graded path as you ascend the Aguas Limpias valley deep into the wilderness. Today you have the option to leave the GR11 in order to visit the spectacular Ibones de Arriel - four stunning lakes which nestle in the shadow of the mighty Balaitous. From the Ibones you will follow a superb high level traverse into the Circo de Piedrafitta above which many of Spain's 3000m peaks tower. Since the ascent to the Ibones is a tough climb across steep, loose scree and small boulders, you may choose to stay true to the GR11 and follow it directly to Refugio Respomuso. Tonight, you will sleep in mixed sex dormitories of between 6 and 14 people, and your evening dinner will be provided by the refugio - which serves a fairly basic but none-the-less adequate three course evening meal (wine will be provided). *Refugio Respomuso is remote and you will need to carry your own personal belongings for the overnight stay here.*

Day 4 (Weds) - Collado de Teberai, Ibones Azules & Embalse Bachimaña to Baños de Panticosa

12.5km, 700m ascent and 1150m descent - After an early breakfast in the refugio (which again is fairly basic), you will continue to follow the GR11 as it weaves its way up and over the Collado de Teberai - at 2782m, it is the second highest point along the entire GR11 route! It is a truly stunning ascent - at first over grassy pastures, then over loose scree and finally up a short but very steep and narrow gully to the collado. An equally short but just as steep descent then follows and leads into a narrow traverse above the enchanting Ibón (lake) de Tebarrai. A well trod but very rocky path then twists and turns as it makes a steady descent past the Ibones Azules and Embalse de Bachimaña down into the historic spa village of Baños de Panticosa. You will need to be sure-footed, have a good head for heights and be comfortable on very steep and loose ground for today's section of the GR11. On reaching Baños de Panticosa we will arrange for you to be driven the short distance down the mountain to Panticosa, where Hotel Sabocos awaits your return.

Day 5 (Thur) - Rest day

You are free to have a well deserved lie-in (breakfast is served until 10am!) and to spend the day relaxing in Panticosa. Perhaps visit the 4* spa at Baños de Panticosa. There are also a couple of short walks from the door. On Wednesday evening your walk organisers will be on hand to help you to arrange taxi shares should you want to visit the Spa or explore the Valle de Tena on a longer self-guided walk.

Day 6 (Fri) - Cuello Alto del Brazato & the Ara Valley to San Nicolas de Bujaruelo

18.5km, 1000m ascent and 1200m descent - Shortly after breakfast we will take you back up the mountain to re-join the GR11 where you left it on Wednesday evening. A well graded path will help you to gain height relatively quickly and will lead you on to the Cuello Alto del Brazato (2578m) which you will reach by another short but steep ascent which is loose under-foot, and a tricky traverse across a small boulder field. From here fantastic views of the impressive Vignemale (the highest peak in the French Pyrenees) may be enjoyed. The descent down to and along the Ara Valley is both stunning and long but other than another short section of boulder hopping and a river crossing, you will follow a well-trodden path. Upon reaching San Nicolas de Bujaruelo you may feel that a drink at the refugio is long over-due! You will then make the short transfer to the picturesque village of Torla by taxi where you will spend the night.

Day 7 (Sat) - Faja de Pelay and Ordesa Canyon

20km, 800m ascent and 800m descent - Today you will make the short journey (approx 20 mins) deep into the Ordesa canyon on a national park shuttle bus. The final walk of the week is a true classic. This stunning high level walk begins with an intense ascent to a breathtaking mirador (lookout) high above the canyon floor. It then continues along a natural, and at times narrow balcony (faja) which has been formed by millions of years of erosion. Once on the faja, magnificent views of the Ordesa canyon far below, Monte Perdido and the Brèche de Roland are your rewards. After the exhilaration of the faja, you will meander back along the valley floor through delightful forests of beech, pine and fir. The national park shuttle bus will then transfer you back to Torla for your final night and farewell evening meal in Hotel Ordesa.

Day 8 (Sun) - Departure

Enjoy a well earned breakfast, and time to pack. The transfer to Zaragoza will depart in good time to get you back to the airport in time for your return flight.

Please note that this is the intended itinerary but the exact programme may differ slightly, maybe as a result of trail conditions or adverse weather.