

## Collett's Classics in the Picos de Europa

Handpicked gems for moderate walkers at medium and higher level

[www.colletts.co.uk/picosclassics](http://www.colletts.co.uk/picosclassics)

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# Picos – The Collett's Classics

## At a glance

This holiday has been especially designed for moderate walkers in search of rewarding days out on the hills and mountains in the company of other like-minded walkers. This impressive range of beautiful mountains might not be on the radar of too many UK walkers, but year in year out their grandeur and beauty blow the socks off any first-time guests. The intermediate and high-level walking here is truly spectacular. Each day (except Thursday, your rest day) you will venture out on our favourite intermediate walks, tried and tested 'winners' that will enthral you. We return each late afternoon to our accommodation at Posada El Corcal in Tama just outside the vibrant town of Potes. A couple of times, on the way back to the Posada, we will stop-off in Potes. Here you can wander the cobbled streets or have a drink in one of its picturesque squares, whilst soaking in its vibrant medieval character. Your walks will take place in both the Picos de Europa National Park and the surrounding Cordillera Cantabria.

Return transfers from Bilbao, as well as daily transport to walk trailheads, is included in the holiday.

For those of you in search of more strenuous routes, and later finishes, then our 'Peaks & Passes' holiday might be of more interest.

## Dates and Prices

9 – 16 June 2019	£825	30 June – 7 July 2019	£825	8 – 15 September 2019	£825
16 – 23 June 2019	£825	21 – 28 July 2019	£825		

Self Drivers\* £50 discount per person

Single Supplement £125

*Prices are based on two people sharing a double or twin room. This is a Sunday to Sunday itinerary.*

*\*Self Drivers would be expected to use their own vehicle to drive to the walk trailheads during the week - unless we have space in our designated minibus(es).*

Grade : Moderate

Ascents/Descents : 400m to 650m each day

Walking Time : 4 to 5 hours each day

Terrain : Footpaths which are generally good underfoot. Some short sections are 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. *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](mailto:enquiries@colletts.co.uk) and we will be happy to discuss the route in more detail with you.*

## Included in the price

- Accommodation - 7 nights in Posada El Corcal, Tama
- Breakfast each day
- Packed lunch each walking day (5 days)
- 3 course evening meal, wine included (6 nights, not Thursday - your rest day)
- Detailed route notes
- Transport to/from the trailheads each walking day
- Transfers to/from Bilbao Airport. See the "Travel" section below for more details.

## Not included in the price

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



# The Itinerary

## Day 1 (Sun) – Arrive & Settle in

We will meet you at Bilbao and transfer you to the Posada El Corcal, our attractive base in Tama, a hamlet in the Liébana valley nestled in the foothills of the central massif. This will soon become a welcoming 'home from home' for you. After a quick check-in, you can settle into your room. Dinner will be at 8.15pm during which there will be a brief welcome meeting.

*The Picos is rich in great day walks, many of which have become favourites of ours. Consequently below is just a sample itinerary to whet the appetite. The exact programme may of course also vary as a result of adverse weather or trail conditions.*

## Day 2 (Mon) – Pico Jano

**9.2km, 500m ascent/descent** A fabulous first day walk to help you find your walking legs, orientate yourself and settle in to your week in the Picos. This is an excellent circular walk taking in Pico Jano with its panoramic 360° views of the Picos de Europa and Cordillera Cantabrica.

## Day 3 (Tues) – Mogrovejo Circular

**9km, 450 m ascent/descent** – a sublime walk, which introduce you to the idyllic, step-back-in time character of the foothills, featuring timeless hamlets that are dotted about the flower-rich upland pastures and pretty woodlands. This walk starts at the supremely quaint village of Mogrovejo and weaves its way between the hamlets of Redo and Tanarrio, through stunning meadows and passes beneath the high flanks of the Picos mountains, giving walkers both a superb close-up view of the imposing limestone cliffs as well as beautiful views down into the Liebana Valley.

## Day 4 (Weds) – The Cares Gorge

**12.1km, 400m ascent/descent** - no trip to the Picos de Europa would be complete without doing this world-renowned classic. It is the signature walk of the range and well worth the one hour drive to the trailhead. This deep narrow canyon separates the western and central massifs and is home to a route which only exists because of a mind-boggling feat of engineering in the 1920s, when the water canal for the Poncebos hydroelectric power station was built.

## Day 5 (Thurs) – Rest day

You are free to have a well-deserved lie-in. Breakfast is served until 10.30am. This is a day for you to rest and relax. You might take a leisurely tour of the excellent Picos de Europa Visitor Centre, which is close to the Posada, or take an easy stroll into Potes along the river for a late lunch. There are also a couple of excellent local walks which you could self guide. On Wednesday night we will be on hand to help you to arrange taxi shares should you want to team up with other guests to visit the spa in the La Hermida Gorge or travel further afield. In the evening you are free to sample the delights of one of Potes' many excellent restaurants – taxis are inexpensive for the 5 minute journey.

## Day 6 (Fri) – Fuente De Ramble

**9km, 400m ascent/descent**– The impressive Fuente De glacial cirque is the starting point of both one of the most spectacular cable car rides in Europe - 753m of ascent in 3 mins 40 secs - and one of the 'must do' trips in the Picos de Europa alongside the Cares Gorge. This leisurely ramble first explores the Aliva high pastures, where cattle roam free and the historic Chalet Real – King Alfonso's hunting lodge – proudly stands. We then have a rest stop at the Aliva Refugio where sweeping views can be enjoyed over a drink. If energy levels and time permits, this route can be extended to explore the old mine workings from the days when minerals were heavily mined here in the Picos.

## Day 7 (Sat) – San Pedro Circular or Cucayo Rio Frio

**10.2km, 400m ascent/descent** – this gorgeous walk passes through a variety of idyllic landscapes (forests, open meadows and vineyards). Enjoy spectacular views of La Hermida Gorge and surrounding peaks. Includes three exquisitely typical Cantabrian villages.

## Day 8 (Sun) – Departure

Depending on the exact time of the transfer, after a breakfast you will be transferred to Bilbao Airport.

# Travel

## Airport Transfers

Getting to the Picos de Europa is easy and airport transfers are included in the price of your holiday.

### Inbound

We offer transfers every Sunday to/from **Bilbao Airport** to pick-up people who have flown with [Easyjet](#) from Edinburgh, Stansted, Manchester & Bristol; with [BA](#) from Gatwick; and with [Aer Lingus](#) from Dublin. Please do not book a flight that lands later than **17:00**.

### Outbound

Please do not book a return flight that departs earlier than **10:30**.

Exact transfer timings will be confirmed approx. three weeks before your holiday. Our transfer service is not a personal taxi service and waiting can be unavoidable, so please do not book a transfer unless you are relaxed about the possibility of having to kill time in Bilbao or at the airport. **Places are limited**, so please check availability with us before you book your flights.

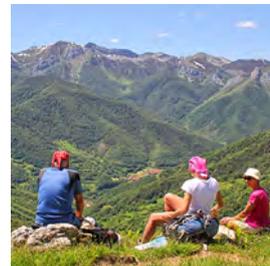
## Self-Drivers & Fly-Drivers

Some people may like to travel to Northern Spain with their own car using [Brittany Ferries](#) services into **Santander** and **Bilbao**. Others might fly and then hire a car via Santander (1½ hours), Bilbao (2½ hours) or Asturias (2 hours).

Either way, in such cases, we reduce your holiday price by **£50 per person** but you would be expected to use your own vehicle to drive to the walk trailheads during the week - unless we have space in our designated minibus(es).

**Extra Nights** - If you choose to self-drive or fly-drive and you require accommodation for an extra night or two at the start or end of your stay in order to help with flights, ferries or wider holiday plans – simply let us know and we will be happy to help.

**Car Hire** - For a competitive car hire quote please visit our [Car Hire](#) page.



# Holiday Notes

Your 'Collett's Classics' holiday will be spent at your own risk as part of an autonomous group, in which each member of the party is responsible for their own safety and has a duty of care to their fellow walkers.

The following is an explanation of the status of our organised 'Collett's Classics' - which we refer to as organised, not guided.

Our 'Collett's Classics' is a series of self-guided walks which are made available to you on a basis of goodwill so that you might enjoy a route you might not otherwise have undertaken if you had visited the area independently. It represents nothing more than the opportunity to go out on a beautiful walk in the company of like-minded individuals.

It is a fact that mountains, mountainous areas and activities undertaken in them are associated with personal injury and death. By coming to such areas, you are exposing yourself and your party to the possibility of personal injury or even death. In such an event, Collett's Mountain Holidays will not be held responsible for your interest in mountainous areas and your involvement in mountain pursuits, which can occasionally have tragic consequences.

In these days of litigation it is important you know that you (and each member of your party) join us on this holiday at your own risk as part of an autonomous group, in which each member of that group has a duty of care to the other. This is no different from the responsibilities you have on a casually arranged weekend walk with friends or family in the UK.

Our walk organisers all have experience of the mountains, some more than others. Some may have qualifications relevant to mountain activities, but they are not qualified mountain guides. We recruit and train our walk organisers in line with a Health & Safety Policy, which is based on Risk Assessments and recognised mountain safety procedures. Not being professionally responsible for you on our organised itineraries does not mean we ignore safety, nor does it make us exempt from owing a duty of care to each person who joins us on an organised itinerary.

Your safety is paramount and we therefore take our own measures to maximise safety. We do this in line with legal requirements pertaining to duty of care. We apply codes of practice to the procedures carried out by our outdoor staff. We assess, manage and communicate risk. We try to make people aware of the importance of mountain safety and to highlight their responsibilities when part of a group.

Our codes of practice should not really be taken into consideration or relied upon by you when deciding to join this 'Collett's Classics' holiday, for at the heart of our procedures are basic mountain safety measures, which should be undertaken by every individual when preparing for a day in the mountains.

Finally, during your holiday with Collett's Mountain Holidays you act at your own risk on any ideas, information and opinions you might acquire from our walk organizers or from material prepared by us to help you get the most from the area.

