



Birdwatching Spain

Butterflies holiday in Picos de Europa

“Butterflies, Alpine birds and flowers in the stunning mountains of Picos de Europa”

Dates

9 - 16 June 2019

Cost

1350 €/person. 160 € Single supplement

Price includes: Accommodation, all meals, all ground transport, guiding and check list.

Not includes: Flights, travel insurance and personal items.

Leaders: Pau Lucio.

Conservation donation: 10% of profits will be donated to the butterfly conservation society *Zerynthia*.

Group size: Maximum of 7 guests.

Grade: Gentle pace and generally easy terrain.



Holiday highlights

- Picos holds over 137 species of butterflies, being one of the best places for butterflies in all Europe.
- Flower-filled meadows covered by alpine plants and orchids: Lizard, Early marsh, Lady or Heath spotted among many others.
- Special bird species: Honey buzzard, Wallcreeper, Snowfinch, Alpine accentor, Yellow and Red billed chough, Marsh tit, Middle Spotted woodpecker, Egyptian vulture, Citril finch, etc.
- Mammals such as Chamois and Wildcat are possible.
- Contribute a local conservation project.

Holiday details

Every butterfly lover knows how fantastic are Picos de Europa mountains for butterflies. The easiness to reach high altitudes and the variety of flower-filled meadows, deciduous woodlands and deep limestone gorges makes Picos the perfect place for a wildlife trip focused on butterflies. Furthermore, the area also holds a large variety of alpine plants, birds and flowers.

Our holiday will contribute directly towards the valuable conservation work done in the area by the butterfly conservation society *Zerynthia* (*Asociación Española para la Protección de las Mariposas y su Medio*), as 10% of the profits will be donated to them.

Picos remains as one of the last unspoiled mountains in Europe. For many years, the inaccessibility and the depopulation have been key to maintain a healthy population of carnivorous: Cantabrian brown bear, Iberian wolf and Wildcat. Wolves have been (and still are) persecuted in Picos for centuries. Prove of that, is an old wolf trap we see during the holidays.



One of the days is scheduled to take the cableway from Fuente Dé which is the Europe's longest single span cable to reach an impressive height over 1800 m.a.s.l. At this altitude, the species are extremely specialized. We will be in search of Snowfinch, Wallcreeper, Alpine accentor, Yellow-billed chough and alpine butterflies such as Gavarnie blue, Silky ringlet, Common brassy and Lefebvre's ringlet. In addition, we expect to see gorgeous alpine flowers like Trumpet Gentians, Leafless-stemmed Globularia, *Arenaria purpurascens*, Rock jasmine and *Erinus alpinus*.

Our accommodation for the holiday is the hospitable *Hotel Tierra de la Reina* in the town of *Boca de Huérgano*. Its location is perfect for our holidays; away from the busiest touristic areas and near to the valleys we visit. In addition, we will take a stroll along the river Cares and its impressive gorge. We plan also to visit a small forest of ancient Spanish juniper trees. There, we find Mediterranean flora and fauna.

We look for butterflies in different mountain passes where we encounter the endemic Chapman's ringlet, Damon blue, Purple-edged copper and birds such as the Citril finch. The meadows are teeming with great variety of Fritillaries: Marbled, Lesser marbled, Pearl-bordered, Weaver's, Granville, Knapweed, False heath, Heath, Provençal and Meadow.

Join us in this unforgettable trip!