

Walk Spain

Picos Inn to Inn



Picos de Europa - beautiful mountain scenery - charming village inns - ancient pathways - varied landscapes – walk unencumbered - exclusive route – peaceful conditions – transfers included – support on hand

Get to know the stunning Picos de Europa mountains in depth, on foot.

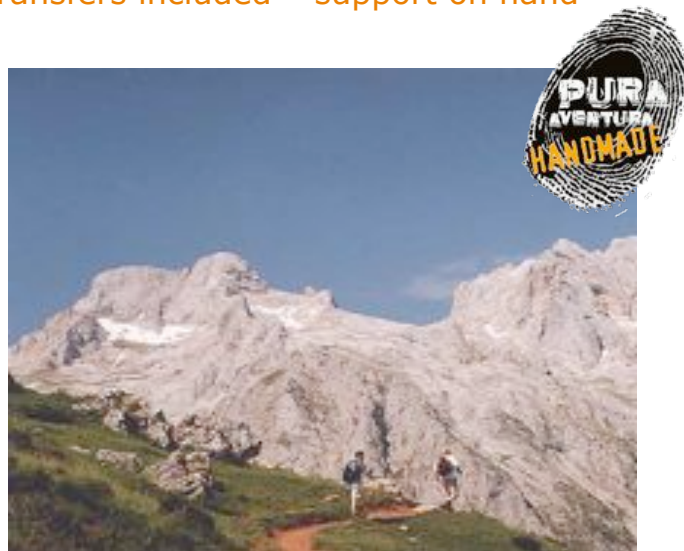
Hike through green valleys, flower-filled meadows, remote villages, thick forests and craggy uplands in the course of an incredibly varied week.

Enjoy well-paced days with detailed maps and walking notes provided.

Sleep in a range of carefully selected family run inns and small hotels.

Walk with just daypacks as your main bags travel ahead each day.

This is a Pura *handmade* holiday with an activity rating *high* and a comfort rating *first*.



Walk peaceful paths through the high Picos mountains.



"This is paradise! Wonderful flowers, superb scenery, lovely overnight spots, and seeing a large group of chamois on our rest day." Helen J.

Holiday Itinerary

Day 01 | Liebana | **travel to the Picos**

You are collected at either Asturias or Santander airports for the two hour drive to Liebana Valley in the Picos de Europa National Park.

Liebana lies to the south-east of the Picos range and has a warmer, sunnier climate than the rest of the mountains.

Smallholdings dot the landscape – families still farm tiny plots of land largely by hand. The pace of life feels particularly gentle in this part of the mountains.

The red roofs of the houses contrast with the deep green of the meadows.

Stay in a comfortable six room inn with views down one of Liebana's side valleys to the spectacular wall of the high Picos. Spend two nights in this peaceful little village. (d)

Day 02 | Liebana | **villages and meadows**

Find your walking legs today with a circular walk to the high sides of the valley.

Set off directly from your inn, walking on ancient trails across the meadows that join the nearby villages.

Walk a steep uphill route to a small shrine, site of a popular annual pilgrimage, set on a natural balcony with views over the valley and mountains beyond.

If the last uphill stretch feels tough, just bear in mind that all of the older people in the surrounding villages walk this route every year.

Once you reach the shrine you can drink from the spring and enjoy a picnic with gorgeous views across the valley to the limestone uplands of the Picos.

Return back to your village walking down through woods and across pretty meadows. May and June are particularly lovely months for flowers.

During the week, we include breakfasts, picnic lunches each day and dinners on the first three nights.

Walk 12km, 5hrs, \uparrow 650m, \downarrow 650m (b,l,d)



Questions? Ready to book? Call us on **01273 676 712**

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What is special about Pura's Inn to Inn?

Inn to inn holidays are probably the hardest itineraries to get right.

Finding a series of good places to stay within a day's walk of one another is difficult.

Making sure that the walks connecting them are all worthwhile is nigh on impossible.

Having taken a great deal of time to create this holiday, we are confident that there are no compromises: all of the walks are first rate.

In addition, the route takes in the amazing variety of landscape which makes the Picos so special.

Walk through meadows, forests, villages, valleys and into the highest peaks over the course of a week.

"The selection of routes and inns was perfect." Andrew & Ruth R



This route is exclusive to Pura Aventura so almost nobody else uses some of these paths.

Each year our guides have to go through and clear sections of the way.

They also have to revisit the walking notes we produce as there can be subtle changes.

For instance, after many years telling people to navigate one section by walking towards a large dead tree, the tree came to life and sprang leaves.

As well as detailed walking notes, we provide you with 1:25,000 scale maps which you should be comfortable to use as backup.

Day 03 | Liebana | *walk in meadows and woods*

Leaving your bags to catch their taxi, set off walking today with just things you need for the day.

The first half hour of your walk follows yesterday's route through meadows and villages.

After an hour or so you begin the descent into the main Liebana Valley, this is a steep downhill but with stunning views.

Enjoy views of the hermitage at San Tirso with the Picos in the background.

Once you reach the valley floor you walk alongside the road for one kilometre until you reach Potes, the capital of the Liebana Valley.

Potes has a very pretty medieval centre with narrow cobbled streets and lots of little bridges over the rivers.

The name Potes actually derives from somewhere between the Latin and Spanish words for bridge.

Have lunch here in one of the many cafes or restaurants.

After lunch there is still 8km to walk which you can avoid by taking a taxi. If you do walk, the route takes you up into another very pretty side valley.

Walk 21km, 7hrs, ▲300m, ▼550m

When you arrive your bags will be waiting for you.

Tonight's inn really feels like a family home. The interior is modern and very comfortable. Meals are delicious here – there is no menu, they just prepare whatever is fresh and in season. (b,d)

Day 04 | Liebana | *walk between valleys*

Set off with your daypack and picnic. Today's walk takes you through some of the most remote parts of the Liebana Valley.

Walk from village to village, crossing meadows and woodland. You also climb up over a ridge between valleys.

Some of the most detailed navigation of the week happens today.

The last section of the day's walk takes you across a meadow towards a village, the path takes you literally to the back door of your inn.

Tonight's accommodation is a very simple but charming XVI century inn with just four rooms.

The owners have lived here for their entire lives meaning that you really get to experience the traditional lifestyle of the Picos mountains. (b,l,d)

Walk 18km, 6hrs, ▲800m, ▼500m



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Walking from village to village through Liebana.

Day 05 | Liebana | **riverside beech forests**

By now you are walking along the main Liebana Valley as it narrows towards the huge amphitheatre at Fuente Dé.

The path crosses back and forth over the pretty Deva River as it flows down to Potes and out to the sea.

Walk through beech forests by a river.

Carry on towards tonight's resting place climbing gradually beyond the trees into the wide meadows of the valley sides.

Walk 14km, 5hrs, ▲650m, ▼200m

You will find your small hotel at Fuente Dé nestled against the foothills of the Picos rising more than a vertical mile from your doorstep.

Spend two nights here in what is the largest (30 rooms) and therefore least characterful accommodation of the week. (b,l)

Day 06 | Liebana | **rest or summit walk**

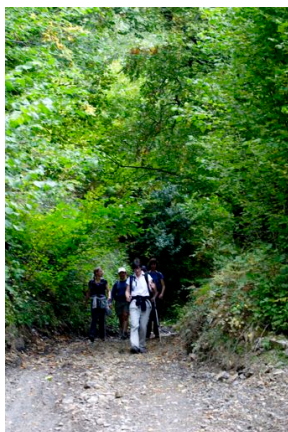
Today you can spend just relaxing and wandering in the area around your hotel.

Alternatively, and probably more likely, you will take the cable car from next to your hotel into the high mountains.

From the top of the cable car you have a variety of options, either a short wander or you can walk up and onto the peak of one of the highest mountains in the whole range.

Enjoy stunning views back down the forested Liebana Valley and ahead to the high limestone cliffs ahead of you. From the cable car you will walk towards the wall of cliffs ahead of you.

Loop around the back of the first set of these peaks and you find a reasonably steady climb up to the peak of Horcados Rojos, one of the highest peaks in the Picos.



At the very end of the walk there is a short section which is not good for anyone with vertigo but otherwise this is a walk and not a climb.

Walk 12km, 5hrs, ▲700m, ▼700m

Return back down to the cable car for the quick ride to your hotel for a second night. (b,l)

Day 07 | Liebana | **craggy uplands walk**

Having walked all of the valleys of Liebana, this walk starts in the high mountains.

The cable-car at Fuente Dé provides a spectacular 3 minute ride of over 1,000m to the upper reaches of the Park.



The peak of Horcados Rojos, not as hard as it looks!

The contrast with the green valley floor is striking as you step out into a moon-like landscape of splintered rocks, jagged peaks and deep ravines.

Instead of heading off and up to your left, as you did yesterday, today you peel off the right in order to follow the path downhill.

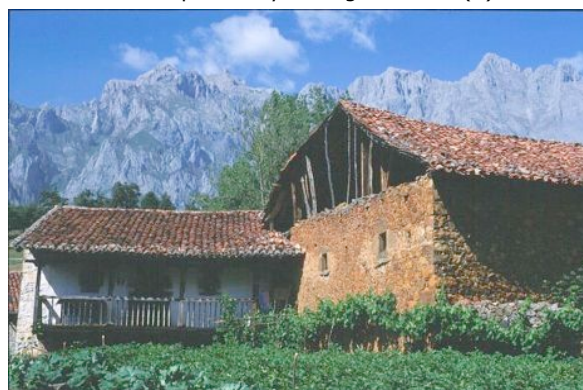
This is a long walk but it is essentially all downhill as you pass through a wide glacial valley as it sweeps down towards the village of Mogroviejo.

A broad and comfortable path takes you down through woodland towards Potes. Walk 21km, 6hrs, ▼1,100m

You might like to eat in a restaurant in the town tonight as you celebrate completing your circuit. (b,l)

Day 08 | travel | **return home**

Return to the airport for your flight home. (b)



The lovely contrasts of the Picos

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Holiday Information

Pura Handmade

This holiday is unique to us.

We have designed and deliver this holiday using our own people and carefully selected local suppliers to create a *Pura Handmade* holiday.

Diego Martín, one of our founders, lives and guides in the Picos. This holiday took him considerable time to put together, discovering the most interesting paths to walk between remote villages.

He still regularly maintains the trail.

You are looked after by a Pura team on the ground in the Picos and they are always on hand in case of need.

How long?

8 days, depending on time of year, we can be very flexible with the start day of this holiday.

How active?

The walks are reasonably strenuous but you walk at your own pace.

The Picos are rugged, steep limestone mountains. The paths we use are generally well worn and comfortable although in the higher Picos there is often shingle.

Walks involve some long uphill sections.

There are long distances on some days so you should enjoy hill walking to get the most out of the holiday.

How comfortable?

Small inns and hotels, twin/double en suite rooms.

Your bags are taken for you from place to place.

How independent?

Completely independent but supported.

Our transfer guide meets you when you arrive.

While you are walking you can relax knowing that support and help is a phone call away.

We provide you with all the maps, walking notes and local information you will need.

How responsible?

Pura Aventura is passionate about the places it visits. To help preserve the integrity of these destinations we:

- Work directly with local businesses and organisations to directly benefit local economies. We use small, locally owned hotels and restaurants.
- Work with local guides so that our holidays are more interesting for clients and more beneficial locally.

Pura Aventura actively supports the mountain conservation charity www.quebrantahuesos.org.

Why the Picos de Europa?

This is some of the most spectacular, varied and untouched scenery in Europe. It's a world away yet only a couple of hours from home.

The Picos de Europa is a dramatic, compact mountain range on the north coast of Spain.

High mountains rise sheer out of lush green valleys dotted with red-roofed hamlets.

When should I go?

Any time from April/May through October is good.

Please note that in late July and August it can get uncomfortably hot so we tend to advise against these months for travel on this trip.

It can also be hard to find space at these small hotels in the peak summer months.

The driest month is usually September although you should be prepared for occasionally cool conditions in the upper park, and the chance of rain at any time.

May tends to be showery but is also one of the most beautiful months to visit, with snow in the high park and meadows full of spring flowers.

October is changeable but benefits from the beautiful autumnal forests and is often hot and sunny.

In May, June and October you should be prepared for occasional cold, wet mountain conditions.

Altitudes range from sea level to 2,300m. Summer temperatures range between 15° - 28°C.

Where do I travel to?

Santander: Ryanair has direct flights from London Stansted. 1.5 hour drive to Picos.

Ferries to Santander leave from both

Asturias: Easyjet has direct flights from London Stansted. It also has indirect flights via Madrid from most places in the UK. 2 hour drive to Picos.

You can also fly to Bilbao with Easyjet or Iberia but the transfer is longer and may incur additional charges.

Not based in the UK?

We are very happy to discuss your requirements if you are not travelling to and from the UK. Call us on **+44 1273 676 712** between 9am and 6.30pm weekdays.

Not quite right?

If this holiday's not quite right for you, call us to discuss your ideas or consider:

Aracena Inn To Inn Independent walk through these little-known mountains in Andalucia.

Rioja Inn to Inn Walk a beautiful route exclusive to Pura along the southern edge of the region.

Prices & departures

2012	Daily, Apr - Oct £795pp
Please note	In the peak months of July/August availability can be very tricky. Please call us on 01273 676 712 to discuss availability.
Price includes	Includes twin/double en suite accommodation; Meals (b,l,d) as per itinerary; Private transfers to/from Santander or Asturias airport or ferry terminals; Walking notes, detailed maps; local and information;
Not included	Flights; personal expenses.

Prices per person based on twin share or double accommodation.
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