

Walk Spain

Rioja Inn to Inn



La Rioja - beautiful scenery - charming village inns - ancient pathways - varied landscapes - route exclusive to Pura - peaceful countryside - beech forests - Roman roads - gourmet 'maridage' dinner

Hike a route exclusive to Pura along the southern edge of la Rioja.

Enjoy five consecutive days of walking as you follow our detailed maps and walking notes.

Walk unencumbered as your luggage travels ahead of you by taxi each day.

Sleep in a range of carefully selected first class inns and small hotels.

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



The landscape of the Iregua Valley



"We had a fantastic time your organisation and attention to detail was superb. Many, many, thanks. You have an A* company." Pam L.

Holiday Itinerary

Introduction

The region of La Rioja consists of two types of landscape: the flat vineyards of the Ebro Valley and the mountainous woodlands to the south of the region.

Walking through vineyards day after day would be monotonous so this holiday instead concentrates largely on the peaceful southern area with time at the end to explore the wine growing area.

The walk takes you through woodland, meadows, mountains and remote villages over the course of five days' walking.

The route you follow combines the GR93 Sierras de Rioja path with the Iregua Roman road.

Distances are not excessive with walks of between four and six hours each day.

Neither are height gains excessive, the flattest day has 238m of accumulated height gain, the hardest 800m.

At the end of each day you stay in comfortable though at times fairly simple inns and small hotels.

Food is a major highlight of la Rioja, you will find a choice of places to dine each night of your trip so whereas we include breakfasts and packed lunches on walking days, dinners are generally at leisure.

The exception is the special 'maridage' meal on Friday evening as you finish your walk.

This is a gourmet seven-course meal which combines dishes with a suitable wine (included).

Day 01 | Ezcaray | **travel to la Rioja**

Fly to Bilbao this morning, ideally this is a Friday.

On arrival you collect your hire car for the 1.5 hour drive south into the region of La Rioja.

It may seem odd to have a hire car on an inn to inn walking holiday but this is actually the best value means of getting from Bilbao into La Rioja.

Once you arrive in the region, you make your way to the end point of your walk where you leave the car parked up for the week.

We arrange it so that you rendezvous with our local taxi driver who takes you across to the start point of your week-long walk.



Most of the hotels are of a first class standard

To book or for more information call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.



Walk Spain

Rioja Inn to Inn



The landscape between Ezcaray and San Millan



Stay in a series of small inns and hotels during your holiday



Lovely beech forests near Anguiano

Stay in a comfortable hotel in the heart of the village.

Walk 20km, 6hrs, \uparrow 800m, \downarrow 700m (b,l)

Day 06 | Viguera | walk along a valley

Follow the Roman road which ran from Vareia Romana (now a suburb of Logrono) south towards Numancia Romana (today's Soria).

Basically you spend the week walking back towards your hire car which you use to get back to the airport on day nine.

The start point of your walk is the small town of Ezcaray.

Depending on your arrival time, you might like to wander and explore the town.

There are a couple of particularly fine restaurants to choose from tonight, including the one in your own hotel.

Day 02 | San Millan | walk across valleys

Today's walk is a gentle introduction to the pretty countryside of the south of La Rioja.

Leaving your bags in the hotel, set off with your packed lunch and daypack to walk to your next hotel in the village of San Millan.

Cross the Rio Oja as you start out the walk which takes you over the saddles of several ridges which separate pretty villages such as Turza and Pazuengos.

The last stretch of your walk takes you through beech and oak forests towards the pretty monastery of Yuso.

On arrival at your next hotel, you will find your bags waiting for you.

The hotel has just ten rooms, all comfortable with private bathroom.

For dinner (not included) take a pleasant ten minute stroll into the village where you will find a couple of good options for dinner – one formal, one informal.

Walk 16km, 4.5hrs, \uparrow 600m, \downarrow 690m (b,l)

Day 03 | San Millan | day to relax or explore

Take a day to rest and explore this area more on foot.

There is a lovely walk up to the small monasteries of Yuso and Suso up in the surrounding hills.

Drop back down to the valley to have a picnic beside the Cardenas River in the shade of beech trees. (b)

Day 04 | Anguiano | walk through forests

Enjoy a longer and slightly more challenging walk than yesterday as you start out with a fairly steep ascent and descent before the route flattens out over the second half of the day.

The route takes you through forests up to highlands from where you can see the high peaks of San Lorenzo and the Sierra de la Demanda.

As you cross into the Iruela Valley, you begin to walk through a pretty agricultural landscape towards the village of Anguiano.

Tonight you stay in the most basic of the week's accommodation.

The seven rooms do all have private bathrooms.

Walk 21km, 6hrs, \uparrow 500m, \downarrow 450m (b,l)

To book or for more information call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.



Walk Spain

Rioja Inn to Inn



Take time out to visit the Abastos market in Logrono.



Enjoy a gourmet seven course meal in Daroca.



Walk across vineyards to the castle at Davalillo

Day 05 | Torrecilla | **cross highlands**

Walk through woodland and across high hills with great views towards the higher ground to the south. You do not pass through any villages today as you leave the GR path for the first time.

Your destination today is the very pretty village of Torrecilla en Cameros which has Roman origins and a lovely Roman bridge over the river.

The walk takes you down the pretty Iregua valley with its orchards and villages.

Stay in a charming small hotel between the villages of Isallana and Viguera.

Walk 16km, 4hrs, \uparrow 250m, \downarrow 450m (b,l)

Day 07 | Daroca | **walk across highlands**

This is your last day of walking as you skirt around the Sierra de Moncalvillo following paths which connect these small rural villages.

This route does not correspond to any particular pathways or GR routes so you should have a compass with you to help navigate.

There is nothing complex about the walk but there are points at which we need you to walk in a particular direction and a compass will make life easier for you.

There are parts of this walk which do not offer much in the way of shade so we suggest that you set off in good time this morning to avoid walking in the middle of the day. Walk 14km, 4hrs, \uparrow 500m, \downarrow 300m

Spend your last two nights in a comfortable inn set high on a hill above the village of Daroca. You left the car here earlier in the week. (b,l,d)

Day 08 | Daroca | **day to explore**

Have a lie in this morning.

Today you can choose to do a walk in the area or drive into Logrono to visit the market, buy wines and enjoy a tapas lunch on the famous Calle Laurel.

Afterwards you might like to visit the fascinating wine museum at 'Dinastia Vivanco'.

It takes you through all aspects of the winemaking process using a fascinating range of displays.

Tonight you have a special dinner included in a first rate restaurant in your village.

The restaurant is run by two brothers – one is the chef, the other the sommelier: both are self taught.

Ingredients come from the hills around and about but the food is remarkably sophisticated and delicious.

The sommelier explains their choice of particular wine to go with particular foods.

It really is quite a revelation to experience the difference a well-chosen wine can make. (b)

Day 09 | home | **walk through vineyards**

Assuming that you are taking the evening flight home from Bilbao, you have time to explore the wine producing part of the region today.

Please note that you can choose to extend your holiday with more time in the vineyards.

En route to the airport you might like to stop off at the village of Briones to walk a pretty route through vineyards towards the castle at Davalillo.(b)

To book or for more information call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.



Walk Spain

Rioja Inn to Inn



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.

Xabier Etxarri, one of our founders, is a native of Navarra (which forms part of La Rioja).

This holiday took him considerable time to put together, discovering the most interesting paths to walk between remote villages.

How long?

9 days. Departures on a Friday work best though we can be flexible on this depending on the time of year.

How active?

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

The ascents and descents are not generally particularly hard and distances are moderate.

You can expect to be walking for an average of about five hours a day.

You must enjoy hill walking to get the most out of this holiday.

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.

How comfortable?

First class small inns and hotels, twin/double en suite rooms.

The hotel on day four is the most basic or characterless but it is still comfortable. The others are of a good standard.

Your bags are taken for you from place to place.

How independent?

Completely independent but supported.

When you arrive in La Rioja, you are met by our transfer driver who takes you back to the start point of the walk.

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

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

How responsible?

La Rioja is one of the few regions in Spain which is not suffering dramatic movement of young people out of the villages to the cities.

A major factor in this is that young people can make a good living by entering the hospitality industry, market gardening or viticulture.

On this holiday we use small, locally owned hotels and inns. You eat out in a range of village restaurants.

All of this helps contribute to the continued development of a sustainable long-term future for the rural population of La Rioja.

As with all of our Spanish holidays, your booking directly benefits the mountain conservation charity

www.Quebrantahuesos.org

When should I go?

Any time from April/May through October is good.

In July and August it may be hard to find space at these small hotels and it can be hot for walking.

The driest month is usually September although you should be prepared for occasionally cool conditions in the evenings.

May tends to be showery but is also one of the most beautiful months to visit.

October gradually gets more changeable but benefits from the beautiful autumnal forests.

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

Altitudes range from sea level to 1,450m.

Summer temperatures range between 15°-30°C.

Where do I fly to?

Bilbao: Easyjet has a midday flight from London Stansted on the Saturday. This will be followed by a 1.5 hour drive to La Rioja.

On the Sunday you can return on the 9pm flight to make the most of your time in La Rioja.

Iberia has flights from London Heathrow though timings are not generally as conducive.

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 676712** 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:

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

Walk Spain: Picos Inn to Inn Self guided walking in the beautiful and dramatic Picos de Europa mountains.

Prices & departures

2011	Apr - Oct £895pp
Price includes	Includes twin/double en suite accommodation in comfortable hotels; All breakfasts, five picnic lunches and one gourmet 7 course 'maridage' dinner; Luggage transfers; Hire car; Walking notes, detailed maps; Local information;
Not included	Flights; personal expenses.
Please note	Whilst we keep this itinerary as up to date as possible, the definitive list of our departure dates & prices can be found at www.pura-aventura.com/departures

Prices per person based on twin share or double accommodation.
WSRI11

To book or for more information call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.

