

## Proposed Walking Holiday to the Central Pyrenees Summer 2025

For those who did not see my short presentation at the winter social I visited this region with a friend in 2013 and know some of the proposed routes. It's part of the Ordesa National Park. The walk takes us through some stunning scenery, with waterfalls, pine forests and rugged rocky terrain in the higher sections. Wild alpine flowers and marmots and Chamois are to be found. I have chatted informally with a few in the group who showed an interested but expressed concerns about vertical exposure I thought I could accommodate their anxieties, however after pouring over maps I came to the reluctant conclusion that I could not guarantee this. So in short if you do not have a head for heights then this trip is not for you. In some places pins and or chains are fitted to short sections for additional safety. There will be some steep and rocky sections and ascending needs extreme care in a few places. Two poles are essential for safety. We will all need to join the British section of the Austrian Alpine Club, this will give us a helicopter ride of the mountain in the very unlikely event we should require it. Additional insurance will be required to cover hospital treatment. Membership will give us discounted accommodation in the mountain huts.

The trip will be 9-10 days door to door. It starts with a flight from Stanstead to Zaragoza, with the budget airline Ryanair. On arrival in Spain, I propose we hire a minibus taxi to take us to the mountain village of Torla, this will be a drive of perhaps 3 hours. Torla will be the starting and finishing point of this circular walk. Accommodation in Torla can either be in one of a small number of hotels or if you prefer there is a bunk house.

I've not made any firm decisions for the day after the flight. I would envisage the first two nights and the last night here. I don't have the summer timetable for Ryanair but we should arrive at Torla in a timely fashion. We could have the next day off enjoying the cafés and tavernas etc. A short walk might be on the cards maybe a half day. Or some of us might like to join an organised trip. I'd like to walk the "Faja de Flores", this requires 1000 metres of ascent, a scrambling up the canyon wall, where we then traverse a natural footpath followed by a short section of via Ferrata with severe exposure. All under the guidance of experienced hired guides. Its dependant on numbers I think 7 might be the minimum but we might be able to tag on to another party.

- **Day 1** travel to Zaragoza and taxi mini bus to Torla village.
- **Day 2** a guided trip to the famous Faja de la Flores, or a leisurely day around this lovely mountain village.
- **Day 3** a straightforward hike from Torla through the Ordesa canyon it's pine forests and waterfalls to our first mountain hut Goriz at about 2.200 metres. It will take 7 hours or less. I am familiar with this route.
- **Day 4** an excursion from Goriz and back again summing of Monte Perdido, the lost mountain, 3355m the third highest in the Pyrenees. I have done this route before, and it will take 5-6 hours max. It is weather dependant.
- **Day 5** a short day and a walk 3-4 hours to our next mountain hut passing through the amazing Breche de Rollando into France. Night stop at the Refuge de Sarradets 2,700 metres.
- **Day 6** excursion from Sarradets possibly ascend the summit of Taillon 3144m. We may have time for a short diversion to the famous view point of the Circo de Garvarnie.
- **Day 7** leave refuge and descent to Bujaruelo and follow the road back to Torla. This will be about 14kms mostly descent. Night stop Torla.
- **Day 8** travel back to Zaragoza and then onward to Stanstead and home.