

Trail Descriptions - Hike Profiles for Picos de Europa

DAY	Date	DEPART	ARRIVE	Kms	Miles	Avg Time (hr)	Gain (ft)	Loss (ft)	High Pt (ft)	Guided Y/N (note 1)	Difficulty Rating (note 2)	Difficulty/Comments
1	5/3/2024	Arrive Biloa, Spain	to Hotel Torrescerredo, Cabrales Las Arenas (aka Las Arenas)							n/a		
2	5/4/2024	Hotel Torrescerredo	to Hotel Torrescerredo		5.0	5	450	450	~600	N	Easy	Trip leader leads walk within Las Arenas village area to Cave of Cheese museum and El Cabriteru sheep and goat farm and taste the blue cheeses.
3	5/5/2024	Hotel Torrescerredo	to Hotel Torrescerredo		11.0	7	2395	2395	~2400	Y	Moderate	Foothills of Arenas. Hike follows wide easy tracks used by locals to access this rural and pasture area with some areas of trees. Steepest grade is ~500/mi
4	5/6/2024	Lagos de Covadonga	to Canales village		10.0	7	1804	4101	~3800	Y	Moderate	45 min drive from hotel to TH with stop to view historic site at Covadonga Sanctuary. Hike starts with loop around traditional farming area near the lakes; then, join an ancient Roman path to the foothills of the western massif for ascent of Peak Pandescura (3,281'). From the peak, hike thru pasture areas into the Cabrales valley to end at Canales. Transfer to hotel ~10 min. Steepest grade ~850/mi
5	5/7/2024		to OPEN									
6	5/8/2024	Poncebos TH to Cares Gorge	to Caín de Valdeón TH to Cares Gorge	10.5	6.5	3.5	2859	1160	~1750	N	Strenuous	1-way route led by Trip leader via established Ruta de Cares. She hiked this route May 2023. Trail is sculpted out of the rock walls of the gorge and runs along caves, bridges and tunnels. There are some steep dropoffs, but the trail is wide (similar to Kendall Katwalk). This is the most popular hiking route in the National Park. Most elevation gain occurs in the first 2 miles with grade ~600/mi
7	5/9/2024	Sotres TH	to Sotres TH		7.0	5	2411	2411	~6500	Y (note 1)	Moderate	30 min drive from hotel to TH. Hike to twin summits of Mancondiu. Most of the walking, apart from the last 0.25 mile, is on disused mining tracks.
8	5/10/2024	Sotres TH	to Sotres TH	24	8.0	5	2500	3510	~5000	Y	Moderate	30 min drive from hotel to TH. The route transitions from Sotres meadows to stony tracks of the Central Massif. This route includes stop at Refugio de la Terenosa (~2.8mi). At Collado Vallejo (~4mi), the turnaround point, there's a view of famous Naranjo de Bulnes (Picu Urriellu). This route will not be attempted if there is snow/ice and alternate hike will be provided. Hike longitudinal profile - https://www.miteco.gob.es/content/dam/miteco/es/parques-nacionales-oapn/red-parques-nacionales/parques-nacionales/perfil_pr_21_tcm30-70952.pdf
9	5/11/2024		to Transfer to Potes							n/a		Transfer to Potes via private mini-bus including stop at Centro de Interpretación de Los Picos de Europa (museum)
10	5/12/2024	TH upper station of cable car	to TH upper station of cable car	11.4	7.0	5	2500	2500	7700	Y (note 1)	Moderate	Cable car to upper station. This is out-and-back hike PR-PNPE 23 Horcados Rojos (Red Hangers), with omission of summit. This alpine route, all above treeline, provides views Central Massif peaks. Tread surface is gravel and broken stone, and is well-marked. Route ascends across the base of several peaks; then, climbs to a saddle. Except on the far side of the saddle, there are no steep dropoffs. The group will stay back from the dropoff. Final ascent to summit of Red Hangers is not included in this hike.
11	5/13/2024	TH upper station of cable car	to Mogrovejo village	14.6	9.0	5	1315	4936	6350	Y (note 1)	Moderate	Cable car to upper station. 1-way hike (PR-PNPE22) from southeast area of Central Massif to Mongrovejo, going to Los Puertos de Áliva (mountain shelter) and Peña Oviedo (area of tumular Neolithic burials). To Áliva, tread surface is gravel and broken stone. For ~2.5mi after Áliva, route follows a gravel road; then, turns eastward on earthen roads passing meadows, pastures and Spanish oak groves. The trail is well-marked. There are no dropoffs.
12	5/14/2024	Potes	to Bilbao									Transfer to Bilbao via private minibus. Free time to explore Old Town and Guggenheim museum
13	5/15/2024	Bilbao	to Bilbao									Commercial tour to Gaztelugatxe + Gernika Tour. Farewell dinner. TBD
14	5/16/2024		to Depart									

TOTALS 63.5

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