

WALKAWAY TREKS: GREEN SPAIN TOUR

MARCH 30 - APRIL 11, 2019

UPDATE: SEE PICTURES OF THIS TREK ON FACEBOOK

We invite you to come explore stunning beaches, lush forests, rich meadowlands, natural and man-made rock formations and historic architecture in this exclusive tour North of Spain. Our 12 day guided adventure visits Oviedo, Gijon, Llanes, Cabrales, Potes, Santander and Bilbao offering our guests fantastic scenery, delicious meals and the rich history of each unique area guided by Walkaway Treks Charles Whitlock and our local expert walking tour manager Juan Ruiz.

Hiking Level: This hike is comparable to a Bruce Trail Level 2 in pace and duration; that is a pace of 4-km / h and a maximum distance of 15 km. This is a mountainous area but the paths are well defined, although some paths may be rough or steep. Some days we will have elevation gains in the range of 500 m. A reasonable level of fitness is required.

Toronto	March 30	Lufthansa 471	depart:	19:00
Frankfurt	March 31		arrive:	08:45
Frankfurt	March 31	Lufthansa 1142	depart:	11:30
Bilbao			arrive:	13:35

March 31, 2019: Arrival, Bilbao Airport – Oviedo. (D)

On arrival at Bilbao Airport we meet our expert guide and depart for Oviedo where we overnight at the four-star Hotel Ciudad de Oviedo. Welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

The hospitable and dynamic Asturian capital is a place where we experience something different every day. Boasting an intense cultural and commercial life, the city is easily navigated with gems around each corner, some including: the Fontán market, La Foncalada (a pre-Romanesque fountain) and a stunning mix of civil and gothic architecture. The historic quarter makes strolling Oviedo a pleasure as we take in scenery littered with statues from the University to the Cathedral, and the palace of the Marquis of San Félix to the Camposagrado. Rest in one of the many squares and enjoy time at a chigres (cider bar).

April 01, 2019: Oviedo Area (B / L)

Day trip to Santo Adriano: Enjoy the relaxing one hour drive to the village of Santo Adriano where the Xanas Route starts and our day begins. The easy circular hike of Las Xanas (named after the Xanas of Asturian mythology), a 9 km trail, lets us experience the stunning view of Xanas Gorge, beautiful green pastures and the village of Pedroveya. Our return hike takes us down the Valdolayes path before we depart back to Oviedo. Overnight in Oviedo.

April 02, 2019: Oviedo Area (B / L)

Day trip to Somiedo Natural Park: Today's hike is a slightly more challenging, 14 km, one way exploration from Alto de Farrapona to Valle del Lago. This trail consists of the Saliencia Lakes (Calabazosa or Lago Negro, Cerveriz, Laguna de Almagrera or La Mina and La Cueva) and El Valle Lake, in addition to the high mountain area between them, in which the Albos Peaks stand out. The Saliencia Lakes are listed as a Point of Geological Interest by the Spanish Geo Mining Institute. Until just a few decades ago, an iron mine operated next to La Cueva Lake which has given it its characteristic reddish hue. Our trail continues along the hillside until opening up to views of Lago del Valle and its town. Overnight in Oviedo.

April 03, 2019: Oviedo – Gijón (B / L / D)

After our morning departure to La Ñora Beach our group will complete an easy 9 km walk to Gijón. The trail begins with a climb up through eucalyptus woods to a scenic balcony. Here we take a break while enjoying a panoramic view of the Bay of Biscay and the beach. Continuing uphill, we reach the

coastal strip with lovely views at our rest area. Afterwards, we head toward La Cagonera and its cliffs, a favorite for para gliders. Continuing on to Colina del Cuervo and skirting Peñarrubia Beach, we come to a fountain and our rest stop. Our trek carries on downhill and we pass the house of writer Rosario Acuña, and on to the San Lorenzo Bay and Piles Bridge. This concludes our hike, but not the walk, which continues along the beach. The walk along San Lorenzo Promenade offers views of Gijón Bay all the way to Santa Catalina Headland. Visit the Church of San Pedro, located on Santa Catalina Peninsula at the end of San Lorenzo Promenade, known locally as "El Muro" (the Wall). Another notable attraction is the "Eulogy to the Horizon", a monumental work by the Basque sculptor Eduardo Chillida, visible from any point on Gijón's coastline and which has become a symbol of the city. From there we head downhill through the park to reach the marina between Fomento and Fomentín Wharfs, where the moored boats offer a picturesque setting. The tour ends here but the group will walk to our hotel, the Hotel Silken Gijón. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Gijón.

April 04, 2019: Gijón (B)

Relax and enjoy a free day in Gijón – explore, taste and enjoy Gijón known for its maritime heritage and the old fishermen's quarter of Cimadevilla. Santa Catalina hill has a cliff top park and sculpture. The 18th-century Revillagigedo Palace houses an international arts center. It adjoins the Collegiate Church of San Juan Bautista, now a concert hall. Nearby is the 16th-century Clock Tower, with a museum about the city.

April 05, 2019: Gijón – Llanes – Cabrales (B / L / D)

This morning we depart to the beautiful coastal town of Llanes where the group will start a laid-back walk along the coast. The Llanes – Celorio route is a casual one-way hike of 7 km beginning at Paseo San Pedro on Sablón Beach in the heart of Llanes. Nestled on the coastal strip between El Cuera Range and the Bay of Biscay, Llanes is rich in scenery and history. A short distance from the local monastery lies the lovely beach of Las Cámaras and the end of the trail. From here we continue by coach to the town of Cabrales and our Hotel Naranjo de Bulbes. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Cabrales.

April 06, 2019: Cabrales area (B / L / D)

Day trip: Morning departure to Poncebos, where we will explore the 12 km Cares route. A few recommendations for today's activities:

- 1) Wear good shoes and suitable clothing. Although the weather is nice, it is a good idea to bring a raincoat
- 2) Bring water and snacks
- 3) Wear sunscreen
- 4) Be respectful to people, animals and plants

The Cares river route runs into the Picos de Europa National Park, in Spain, and is one of the most breathtaking trekking trails that can be done in Europe. Called "The Divine Gorge", the path is carved in the mountain rocks and is a wonderful journey between Caín (province of León) and Poncebos, in Asturias. Fun fact: in 1916, a winding, precarious path began to be marked out so that workers belonging to the Electra de Viesgo electricity company could monitor and maintain a water canal. This canal carried part of the River Cares water supply to be used for hydroelectric generation at Camarmeña Power Plant. Subsequently, in the 1940s and 50s, the current path was built to provide better access for canal maintenance.

Our trail begins in Poncebos. As we travel uphill and begin to see the River Cares flowing between the huge rocks and walls rising over 1,000 meters. Continuing along, we will come to Saigu Channel, Las Avareras Channel, El Tableru and finally La Raya Channels just before reaching Culiembro. The most beautiful point of the trail now lies before us where the gorge walls almost converge. Shortly, now in the lands of León, the trail runs higher up from the river, continuing on over bridges Bolín and Los Rebecos. The last stretch of the hike takes us through a tunnel-like section with large openings

cut into the rock. Caín Dam ends our hike and the group journeys on to our accommodation; Hotel Valdecoro. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Potes.

April 07, 2019: Potes area (B / L / D)

Our morning departure takes us to the cable car Fuente De and Ports of Áliva trek. This easy walk takes advantage of the cable car Fuente De, making the journey accessible for every walker. Our hike starts from the upper station where we climb to the Horcadina of Covarrobles and descend through extensive meadowlands between Central massifs and East of the Picos de Europa, otherwise known as Áliva ports. From here we travel into the lush forests of the Pico de Valdecoro and a comfortable descent back to Fuente De. This hike is roughly 4 and a half hours and we recommend wearing comfortable hiking boots and to bring water. Fog can appear at any time of the year, please do not leave the trail if it does appear. Following the return to our hotel we have dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Potes.

April 08, 2019: Potes area – Santander (B / L / D)

Leaving the Potes area, we depart by coach to explore the Soplao Region, located between the townships of Herrerías, Valdálga and Rionansa, high up in the Sierra de Arnero mountains. This site offers splendid, extensive views of the Sierra de Peña Sagra and Picos de Europa mountain ranges, the Nansa valley and the Cantabrian Sea. Today the group will have the opportunity to discover the underground tunnels, a hike of approximately 2 & ½ hours. Visitors will be amazed at the variety of rock formations and the diversity of spaces. The organization provides the appropriate gear for the visit: helmet with lamp, coveralls and rubber boots. After our tunnel exploration we continue by coach to Santander and our accommodations, Hotel Santemar. Dinner out at a local restaurant, overnight in Santander.

April 09, 2019 Santander – Bilbao – San Sebastian (B)

Breakfast at the hotel and a mid-morning departure to Bilbao. Afternoon Bilbao walking tour followed by some free time to explore on your own. Late afternoon departure to the beautiful city of San Sebastian. Accommodation at the hotel and overnight.

OPTIONAL (to be decided locally): This morning from the hotel in Santander our group can go for a leisurely walk to the Faro Mayor Lighthouse (short walk about 3 km) and walk along Sardinero beach (located in front of the hotel) to Magdalena Peninsula.

April 10, 2019 San Sebastian (B / D)

This morning in San Sebastian we enjoy a walking city tour and an afternoon at leisure. Tonight enjoy our farewell dinner. Overnight.

April 11, 2019: Bilbao – departure (B)

Breakfast, hotel check-out and departure for Bilbao Airport.

Bilbao	April 11	Lufthansa 1825	depart:	11:30
Munich			arrive:	13:35
Munich	April 11	Lufthansa 494	depart:	15:20
Toronto			arrive:	18:25

Accommodation based on (final list may vary):

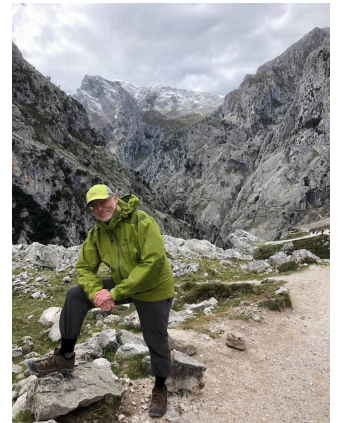
Hotel Ciudad de Oviedo / Oviedo	www.hotelciudaddeoviedo.com or similar
Hotel Silken Gijon / Gijón	www.hoteles-silken.com or similar
Hotel Naranjo de Bulbes / Cabrales	www.hotelnaranjodebulnes.com or similar
Hotel Valdecoro / Potes	www.hotelvaldecoro.es or similar
Hotel Chiqui / Santander or similar	www.hotelchiqui.com/en/
Hotel Astoria 7 or Hotel Europa / San Sebastian	

- Fully escorted by Charles Whitlock, Walkaway Treks
- Local language-capable tour manager
- Bus services as per program
- 3 nights in Oviedo; 2 nights in Gijón; 1 night in Cabrales area; 2 nights in Potes; 1 night in Santander and 2 nights in San Sebastian
- 7 dinners at the hotels with limited drinks included
- 7 packed lunches with limited drinks included

UPDATE:

April 3, 2019 Gijon, Asturias, Espana. Today's hike started in an eucalyptus forest at La Nora Beach. An easy walk of 10 km to Gijon. We were caught in a torrential rainfall followed by very strong winds. I labeled the wind gusts as the "Brexit winds of change" as the winds were blowing from the north. I share with you the panoramic views of the Bay of Biscay.

April 6, 2019. The Cares route, Poncebos Spain. Aka as the Divine Gorge. Located in northern Spain the Picos de Europe is one of the most breathtaking trekking trails in Europe. We walked to a height of 1000 m. Trail follows the cliff edge, not too settling for people that suffer from vertigo. Covered about 21 km of cliff edge walking. A absolutely spectacular and invigorating day. A great thank you to our local guide Juan Antonio for locating this treasure chest.



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572 Weber Street North, Unit 1, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 5C6
 CONTACT: Scott Allen, CTC
 Phone (519) 745 – 1860 ext 303
 Fax (519) 745 - 5694
 Toll Free: (800) 578 – 8958
 Cell: (519) 897 - 9673
 e-mail: scotta@ftwaterloo.com