

WILD PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAYS



FORGOTTEN SPAIN

MOUNTAINS, COAST AND AUTUMN COLOURS

HIGHLIGHTS

- Cares Gorge
- Magnificent coastal scenery
- Hotel in quaint fishing village
- Cobbled streets and Roman bridges
- Medieval churches
- Abandoned villages of Los Beyos, Ponga
- Soft morning mists with superb light
- Gorgeous autumn colours
- Los Lagos, spectacular high mountain lakes
- Image development tuition
- Traditional local hotels & food
- Cable car into the mountains
- Spend time with like minded people

"Many thanks Geraldine and Martin for running such an incredible trip in a simply stunning area of the country. The number of wonderful locations you took us to make it a 'must visit' for landscape photographers... have to mention the food and wine, it was sublime." Julian

"...the holiday in the Picos was outstanding, the landscapes and the light exceeded all expectations. Once again, thanks Geraldine, you looked after us and demonstrated a great knowledge of the area and its culture, thanks Martin for your endless patience and good humour whilst helping us to get the best shots and how to develop them" Chris and Wendy

GENERAL SUMMARY

A gentle and relaxed photography holiday exploring the magnificent Picos De Europa, its villages, autumnal forests and the coastal scenery of northern Spain's Costa Verde. An ideal opportunity to learn how to get the very best images out of your digital camera including developing/processing your images. Photographers who come here for the first time are totally amazed that such a remarkable place is not thronging with tourists. Soaring to nearly 9000 feet and towering over the Atlantic coast of Northern Spain, this bizarre lunar landscape is enhanced by soft, morning mists with shifting light rising out of high pastures. The area is far removed from the dry, overpopulated southern 'costas' and is little-known outside of Spain. There are isolated villages where men and women



scythe the meadows and wear clogs. Wolves and bears wander in the old forests and there is a wild rugged coastline with a strong Celtic culture. Here you will find, find a truly magical photographic destination strongly reminiscent of Tolkien's 'hobbit land'!

A sense of adventure, a mind open to learning and your photographic antenna are all that is needed to thoroughly enjoy this holiday which offers a fine opportunity to create a superb portfolio of images from this diverse and highly photogenic area. The holiday is suitable for all levels of photographer.

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Transfer to Mountain Village Hotel

There will be a single transfer (4 hrs) in the afternoon from Asturias/Oviedo airport to our small family hotel in Espinama located in the Liebana valley. We will enjoy lunch en route. This will be our first opportunity to sample the local hospitality, meet each other, discuss the proposed itinerary and generally relax into the holiday. Our

hotel in Espinama is situated in a very pretty village and is really convenient for participants to wander around and photograph at their own pace.

Hotel Espinama (L,D)

Day 2: Local Village and Sunset in the Mountains

This morning we will rise early for the short drive to a mountain location where we will hopefully be rewarded with an early morning sunrise. Later in the morning we will explore our local village of Espinama. There are old stone buildings with attractive red tiled roofs, local produce shops and superb forest all around. An afternoon cable car ride up into the central massif of the Picos de Europa will offer dazzling views of the whole area; superb locations on top of the world in the very heart of a remarkable karstic landscape. This is a wildly graphic landscape of towers and sheer rock faces carved during the ice age. This is a peaceful and magnificent place to capture dramatic images in the evening sunlight.

Hotel Espinama (B,L,D)

Day 3: Morning Workshop and Piasca Church

After an optional sunrise outing, we have breakfast before settling down to a creative editing workshop. After lunch we drive down the valley to photograph the gorgeous pre Romanesque church of Piasca with its old and very beautiful stone carvings both inside and outside. It is surrounded by lovely countryside.

Hotel Espinama (B,L,D)

Day 4: Potes and a Journey to the Cares Gorge

This morning we will explore Potes a traditional market town with interesting cobbled streets and traditional ar-



chitecture. This is the perfect place to sit outside one of the excellent street Cafes to watch the world go by whilst enjoying a coffee. Potes is the perfect place for buying local products and souvenirs. Late morning we begin the spectacular drive to Cain. Our journey will be punctuated by stops to photograph many special places. We enjoy a picnic lunch on the Saint Glorio Pass at 1600 metres. Here there are fine views of the mountains of the Picos de Europa. En route to Cain is the Consejo of Castilla de Leon, we capture images of a gentle and traditional way of life where the women work in the fields, men scythe the meadows and wear clogs! In Autumn the colours are very vibrant. Our hotel is beautifully situated in the tiny village of Cain at the start the phenomenal Cares Gorge.

Accommodation Hotel Cain (B,L,D)

Day 5: The Cares Gorge

Today we will explore locations in The Cares Gorge. Deep ravines, exotic plant life, dizzying cliffs and ever-changing light will make for some remarkable and dramatic photog-

raphy. At each and every turn there is something to catch our eyes and take our breath away. Look out for the wild goats leaping nimbly on the precipitous cliffs and griffon vultures soaring in the thermals high above. The gentle walking on a good trail is exposed at times but never difficult. It allows us to relax and enjoy turquoise pools and improbable rock scenery in the dramatic shifting light. Accommodation Hotel Cain (B,L,D)

Day 6: Abandoned Villages of the Beyos

Our route today passes through some memorable locations. We will travel by road visiting some of the most traditional and picturesque villages that Asturias and Leon have to offer; this is surely one of the most beautiful drives in Spain. We visit Los Beyos in Ponga, the wildest and most unexplored corner of the Picos. Deep ravines, ancient forests and towering limestone walls have limited the development of villages to the river's edge or high meadows. All seem lost in time, and some, like Viboli with only 10 inhabitants are almost totally abandoned. We will photograph some fine examples of traditional Beyos architecture. En route we also pass through the South of the Picos, through Castilla de Leon and back into Asturias again. We stop at both the Mirador de Piedrashitas and Mirador de Valdeon both stupendous locations for photographing the west and central massifs of the Picos. This is a busy but rewarding day photographically. This evening we go out for dinner in Cangas de Onis one of the main market towns of Asturias.

Accommodation Hotel Soto de Onis (B,L,D)



Day 7: Los Lagos and the Coast

Before breakfast an impressive drive takes us high into the mountains to our sunrise location; the serene Los Lagos These high lakes are set against a back-drop of limestone peaks providing excellent sunrise colours and reflections. We return through Covadonga, the spiritual heartland of Asturias. After lunch we will explore the market town of Cangas de Onis before driving to the Mirador del

Fitu for a picnic lunch and panoramic views of the whole area. Late afternoon we drive down to the Costa Verde. Our coastal hotel is situated in a quaint fishing village Accommodation Coastal Hotel, fishing village (B,L,D)

Day 8: Fishing Villages and Coast

Today we will explore the coastal estuary of Villaviciosa, an area of great beauty and diversity and the quaint fishing village of Tazones. This very traditional fishing village has steep old cobbled streets, typical brightly painted terraced houses and doors, wooden galleries and some of the best small fish restaurants in Northern Spain. Fortunately for us, the wild coastal scenery of the Costa Verde is little known except to the more discerning Spanish.

Accommodation Coastal Guest House, fishing village (B,D)

Day 9: Airport Transfer

After an early breakfast we transfer (1hr) to Asturias airport for our homeward flight. (B)

JOINING ARRANGEMENTS AND TRANSFERS

There will be a single group transfer from/to Oviedo/ Asturias airport on Day 1 and Day 9. One option is to fly easyJet London Stansted – Oviedo – Stansted. This will be the flight that we meet and drop off for. It may be that you prefer to travel by a different route, there are several options. If you prefer to arrive before Day 1 we are able to advise a small hotel in Piedras Blancas locally to Asturias airport. On Day 1 we will pick up from this hotel shortly after meeting the participants arriving on the easyJet flight. Please check with our office before booking your flight to Asturias as once the relevant easyJet flights are



published we can establish the pickup/drop off times for Day 1 and 9. Please get in touch for clarification on the above.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 8 nights small family run hotels based on twin share.
- 8 breakfast, 7 lunches, 8 dinners (B,L,D) indicated on the daily itinerary
- Wine with dinner
- Airport Transfers 2
- Guide
- Photographic tutor
- Transfer from Asturias Airport on Day 1. Transfer to Asturias airport on Day 9

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Lunch on Day 8

- Alcoholic beverages except some wine with dinner
- Snacks, alcoholic drinks and hot beverages other than with meals
- Travel Insurance

HOTELS

Our accommodation is in small family run hotels chosen for their locations and our long connections with the local owners.

FOOD

The food will be Spanish, wholesome and filling local dishes. Breakfast is taken in the hotel. There will be a substantial picnic lunch on most days making good use of local bread, cheeses, meats and salad. Dinner is usually three courses with a starter, main course, dessert and wine.

SPENDING MONEY

Depending on whether or not you intend to buy presents, souvenirs we would suggest around 150 Euros. There will be many ATM machines.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is recommended that you take out appropriate insurance to cover personal accident, medical costs, repatriation, holiday/flight cancellation and loss of baggage. We will need a copy of your travel insurance policy.

PASSPORT & VISAS

For those resident in the European Union, only an EU passport is required. For those outside the EU, please check with you embassy about Visas.



A passport with 6 months remaining validity is required. Visas are not required by UK or EC passport holders. Other nationalities should check with the Spanish Consulate in their own country.

HEALTH

We will have a first aid kit to hand at all times. Please bring with you any personal medicines and a very simple kit with plasters etc.

CLIMATE

The Picos de Europa is known for its changeable mountain weather and proximity to the north coast of Spain. Although most of the region's precipitation occurs in winter, it can rain at any time of the year. Conditions will sometimes be comfortable for shorts and short sleeved shirts. As with any mountain area there is the risk of some poor weather, with rain and even mist/fog. Cloud inver-

sions can occur providing some surreal and spectacular lighting conditions.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Spain is 1 hour ahead of GMT (Greenwich mean time). Electricity is 220 volts and electrical sockets have two round pins. The currency is Euro and the language Spanish with local dialects just to make it interesting.

LEVEL OF PHOTOGRAPHY REQUIRED

All levels of photographers are welcome. To get the most out of the tuition offered participants should be familiar with the basic functions of their camera and be enthusiastic about learning to process their images.

PARTNERS

Non photographer partners/friends will be very welcome and will no doubt really enjoy the holiday too although the emphasis will be always on photography.

SUGGESTED CLOTHING

Generally we would hope that the weather will be warm and sunny, but in mountain areas it can rain and become a little chilly at times so a few items of warm clothing should be brought along in addition to your normal casual clothes for travel and the hotel!

- Lightweight trousers
- Long sleeved shirt/tee-shirt - sun protection
- Light wool jumper
- Lightweight waterproof Jacket/trousers
- Pair sturdy walking trainers/boots/shoes (either)
- Sun hat
- Shorts



- Light warm hat
- Pair of light gloves
- Scarf (cotton/silk) for protection against sun on neck

Useful Extras:

- Very small basic first aid to include plasters, and any personal medicines
- Litre water bottle
- Small penknife

SUN PROTECTION

Temperatures during the day can be warm and the sun is especially penetrating in the mountains so please ensure that you have some sort of sun protection.

Sun Lotion with an SPF for UVA & UVB of 15+; a lightweight hat to protect your head and neck from the sun; good sunglasses with high quality non-tinted lenses and high degree of UV protection.

DAILY ROUTINE

You will need to have adventurous approach in both mind and body. We will be transported to many of our locations

and there is some walking on trails/paths. There will also be opportunities for some early morning rises to make the best of the dawn light, conditions and locations. We will have substantial picnic lunches on location. Evenings will be relaxed and focused on post processing tuition, socialising, dinner and the opportunity to view images. We will always be happy to answer your technical questions and demonstrate programmes such as Lightroom.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT/INFORMATION

- Camera bag or backpack such as the Flipside or Trekker series designed by LowePro.
- Any extra equipment that doesn't fit in your camera bag/hand luggage will need to go in a hard case that can be put in the aircraft hold.
- A camera with interchangeable lenses such as a digital SLR or a compact system camera/mirrorless camera.
- A set of lenses to cover the whole range from wide-angle to telephoto, for example...
For full-frame cameras: 16–35mm wide-angle, 24–105mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom. For crop format cameras: 10–20mm wide-angle, 17–50mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom.
- Spare camera (highly recommended)
- Sturdy tripod – not only useful for low light photography but also for accurate framing and composition of landscape and close-up images.
- Cable release – mechanical or electronic remote to avoid shake on long exposures.
- Neutral density, graduated filters and polariser, if you use these. At least one neutral density filter in the range of 4–6 stops would be a good addition to your kit.

- Lens cloth
- Sensor cleaning device (optional)
- Lightweight 'trekking' absorbent towel for drying cameras and equipment
- Rain cover for camera and camera bag.
- Sufficient memory cards for the whole holiday as it may not be possible to buy more during the trip.
- Film users should bring enough film, as it may not be possible to buy in many places.
- A laptop with the image editing applications of your choice, essential for checking and presenting images during the trip and for one-on-one sessions with the tutor. All of the places we stay in have Wi-Fi.
- Backup storage device (optional)
- Spare batteries and chargers
- All the electrical sockets are European two-pin, so you might need a travel plug adapter.

MAPS

Picos de Europa: *Macizos Central y Oriental* (Los Urrieles y Andarra) Adrados Ediciones,(1:25,000).

One of two detailed hiking maps of the Picos, covering the central and eastern part of the mountains, between the river Cares and Potes. On the reverse of the map there is a panorama drawing of the area and an index of mountain peaks.

There is also a good one of the whole of the Picos. Adrados also, 1:250,000, this shows the roads we will be using too. Local maps can be bought in Potes.



BOOKING THIS HOLIDAY

Contact us [through our website](#), where you can also complete the [online booking form](#), or give us a call on our landline +44 (0)1630 647828.

PARTNERS

Non photographer partners will be very welcome although this primarily a photography holiday we also visit some very beautiful and relaxing places. If any participants do not wish to join the walks/photographic sessions they will be able to relax in and around the accommodation. The cost will be the same for photographers and non photographers.

OUTDOOR TRAVEL

This is an outdoor travel photography holiday and the itinerary will be dependent on the vagaries of the weather, local conditions and other variables. Wild Photography Holidays may use their discretion to change the itinerary should conditions dictate this; your health, safety and enjoyment will always be our primary concern when making such changes.

MORE INFORMATION

We hope that this information has answered some of your questions about the holiday, It doesn't hope to answer everything. If you have any questions please get in touch.

LINKS

View [images and information for this tour](#) on the website. Read about [our approach to teaching photography](#)

