

Adventure Travel
4x4 Expeditions
Consultancy
Training



OneLife Adventure

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Pyrenees Explorer

15th – 26th August 2020

The Spanish Pyrenees are the least visited part of the dramatic Pyrenean Mountains, guarding the border between France and Spain. The whole region is immensely beautiful - thickly forested foothills, secret plunging valleys and soaring snow capped mountains make for some of the best mountain driving in Europe. Home to Western Europe's last bears and wolves, it is a forgotten area of Spain - villages still speak their own dialects, an ancient mixture of Spanish and Catalan. We spend our days driving from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean through some of the best scenery the Pyrenees offers, with the high peaks still mantled in snow. The forest tracks make for challenging driving on steep climbs and tight hairpins bends as we use forgotten smugglers trails that cross the border between France and Spain. We climb into the High Pyrenees, twisting through steep gorges carved by torrential, snow fed steams as they rush south to the Spanish Plains, leaving us behind in the remote, peaceful valleys of Anso and Hecho.

We skirt the Odessa National Park, home to lammergeiers and bears, before climbing to over 2500 metres, into the high peaks around the landlocked principality of Andorra. Finally, with the ocean in sight we drop down the rolling Pyrenees Oriental ready to dip our feet into the sea at Cap de Creus.

If you are coming to Spain for the first time, this expedition will show you a side of Spain far from any preconceptions you may have – a wild, remote and timeless Spain. The relaxed and slow pace of this popular expedition, with plenty of time to stop and explore, is ideal for those who are travelling on expedition for the first time or with young families. You'll stay in good quality small campsites with clean modern facilities, often with restaurants, pools, bars and play areas. All your ferry costs are included and there will be a maximum of 6 vehicles – perfect for a relaxing, stress free holiday.





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Summary

Start point	French/Spanish border near Sumbilla
Finish point	French/Spanish border near Port de Selva
Number of days	12 days, 12 nights. Meet the evening of the 14 th August
Approx. distance	1200 km
Road conditions	Mixture of gravel, rock tracks and local roads.
No' of vehicles	Maximum of 6 vehicles or 12 adult guests plus our support vehicle.
Accommodation used	Accommodation will be in good standard small campsites with toilet/shower facilities, most have a pool, bar and restaurant. 1 night will be wild camping.
Specialist equipment - vehicle	A well maintained and serviced 4x4 vehicle fitted with underbody protection. A CB radio must be fitted. Tyres of All Terrain or Mud Terrain tread patterns are most suitable. Front and rear recovery points and a full set of recovery equipment (strops and shackles) is desirable, along with a spade. A winch is not essential and additional fuel cans are not needed. A vehicle fridge/coolbox is useful for cold drinks and keeping food fresh.
Specialist equipment - camping	Either roof or ground tents are suitable. You will need good quality sleeping mats if using ground tents, along with sleeping bags. You should bring your own chairs, table, stove, pans, cutlery and utensils. Clothing can be light as the days will be hot in the sheltered valleys. However, you should bring some warm and windproof outer wear as there will still be snow on the peaks and the western end of the Pyrenees can experience thunder storms. Protection from the sun and UV is needed.
Passport	Required.
Visa	Not needed for citizens of the EEU.
Health	No special requirements beyond small first aid kit and EHIC – European Health Entitlement Certificate (available from UK Post Offices).
Cost of living	Comparable to the UK. You will be able to withdraw Euros from ATM's and credit cards are widely accepted.



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Weather

Warm and sheltered in the valleys but it can be cool up on the mountains, snow will still be present on the high peaks. Occasional storms in the Bay of Biscay can bring cloud and rain. Gets dryer and warmer as we head east

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average daily temp												
Max ° C	2	3	8	12	17	20	25	28	14	7	4	2
Min ° C	-2	-2	4	5	10	14	15	15	8	5	1	-2
Rainfall mm	89	64	62	56	42	42	50	56	67	94	78	79

Food and Shopping

Food is readily available even in small villages, traditional dishes and superb ingredients make this a real gastronomic explorer as well! Meals can be cooked individually or communally, the choice is yours and we will co-ordinate and assist you with food purchasing while in country.

Schedule and Pace

The route and timings are not fixed, we will be free to break journey, stop and explore, as you desire. We aim to be in the campsite by 17.00 on most days to allow us to relax and enjoy the experiences of the day. The daily distances driven vary due to the terrain and ground conditions but a typical day will be 2-3 hours driving in the morning, 1 hour for lunch and then a further 2 hours driving. There will be two rest / non driving days during the trip when you'll be free to explore or rest as you choose, additionally there will be time to visit major sites and attractions on our route.

Outbound shipping

The crossing from Dover to Calais is made by ferry and is included in the expedition price. You are free to specify your own preferred dates and times and this route will give you the option of enjoying France on the way down. We can also offer an option to take a Brittany Ferries crossing from Portsmouth/Plymouth to Santander/Bilbao at additional cost, please contact us for a quote. This is a cost effective option, taking advantage of our discounted rates, saving the diesel cost, tolls and a long drive down.

Note – While this section of the expedition is unsupported by OneLife Adventure, we are happy for you to join us as we drive down to the starting point of the trip – perfect while you get used to driving “on the wrong side”! Accommodation, meals and refreshments you take during this transit stage are not included.

Inbound Shipping

The return crossing from Calais to Dover is made by ferry and is included in the expedition price. Again, you are free to break the return journey and specify the ferry dates and times allowing you to extend your holiday as you choose.

Note – As for the outbound journey, this section of the expedition is also unsupported by OneLife Adventure but again you are welcome to join us for the return. Accommodation, meals and refreshments you take during this transit stage are not included.



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Cost

- £1099 per person for the first 2 adults (based on 2 sharing) **inclusive of Dover Calais ferry crossings**. Ask us for a quote for a discounted Brittany Ferries crossing, we credit you the Channel crossing, you simply pay the difference.

The expedition price includes **flexible return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais, all campsite/accommodation costs, full backup and guiding from the support team.**

- *If one adult and one under 16 only then the price is for 2 adults.*
- *Under 16's - £225 each.*
- *Adult single supplement, add £450.*
- *For each additional adult up to a maximum of 4 per vehicle, add £275*
- *Your fuel, food, snacks, drinks and personal spending are not included.*



**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE ON THIS
EXPEDITION
PLEASE CONTACT US**

NUMBERS ARE LIMITED – maximum of 6 vehicles or 12 adults!

OneLife Adventure Expedition Rating System

PYRENEES EXPLORER



Easy, short driving days, suitable for families and drivers with basic off road driving skills.



Easy camping with occasional wild sites interspersed by sites with facilities, no technical needs, suitable for families and young children.



Higher off road content, moderate driving days, suitable for families and medium off road driving skills.



50% wild camping, some technical needs, suitable for families and young children used to camping.



Longer days occasionally and high content of off road driving, recoveries likely and moderate levels of off road skills needed.



80% wild camping +, weather or environment requires some technical clothing/equipment, suitable for experienced families with older children.



Long days and long distances are the norm, likely to encounter severe hazards and will require teamwork to succeed, experienced drivers.



Extreme weather (hot, wet or cold), will require extensive technical equipment, irregular meals and physical discomfort will be the norm! Success is achieving the destination – Camel Trophy style.



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