

Adventure Travel
4x4 Expeditions
Consultancy
Training



OneLife Adventure

www.onelifeadventure.co.uk

Peaks 'n' Plains Explorer

21st July – 1st August 2026

For this trip we return to a route we recc'd way back in 2012 - a route from 10th century Northern Christian Spain to the Moorish south, initially following in the footsteps of the great Christian liberator, El Cid. Starting near Zaragoza, in the Bardenas Reales desert, we head southeast towards the coast and then south through the mountains towards El Cid's capital at Valencia. The track then heads deeper through the Sierra Martes into Moorish Spain and Murcia. We then travel across the plains to the vineyards of Valdepenas before entering the Muslim heartlands of Al-Andulus, modern day Andalucia. We'll explore the great southern mountains of Sierra de Segura before heading back to the Mediterranean near Almeria and the snow-capped Sierra Nevada. We'll then enter the great former Moorish capital city of Granada to visit its great "Red Palace", the Alhambra. Built in the 14th century, this remains Spain's best example of Moorish architecture, its Muslim builders attempting show a glimpse of paradise, while on earth. After a rest day in Granada, we head to the southernmost Spanish desert at Tabernas and the backdrop for many of Sergio Leone's spaghetti Westerns. We'll visit some of the film sets - A Fistful of Dollars (what you need when going into a Toyota main dealer) and The Good, The Bad and the Ugly (a Land Cruiser, a Defender and a Jeep), OK, OK enough gringo!

This trip will take you exploring through some of the best of Spain's wild countryside as we see the lasting Muslim Moorish influence on this vibrant exciting country. We have recced parts of the route before in 2012 but I'm sure things will have changed so expect a bit of exploration and route finding on this Explorer - new for 2026.





Summary

Start point	Near Zaragoza
Finish point	Granada
Number of days	12 days, 12 nights – meet evening of 20 th July
Approx. distance	1200 kilometres
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 a mix of good standard campsites with toilet/shower facilities and wild camps in the wonderful Spanish countryside.
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 essential, along with a spade. A winch is not essential and additional fuel cans are not needed. A vehicle fridge/cool box 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 especially in the south, however you should bring some warm and windproof outer wear as there will still be snow on the peaks in the Sierra Nevada. Protection from the sun and UV is needed.
Passport	Required, Spain follows Schengen area rules, your passport must have a 'date of issue' less than 10 years before the date you arrive and have an 'expiry date' at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave the Schengen area. If you renewed your passport before 1 October 2018, it may have a date of issue that is more than 10 years ago. NOTE: For 2026, the European Union's new Entry/Exit System (EES) will have begun. When travelling into and out of the Schengen area, for short stays, you may need to have your fingerprints and your photo taken, also answering the Schengen Border Code questions. If you enter the Schengen area through the Port of Dover, this information will be taken at the border, before you leave the UK. You may also need to provide either your fingerprint or photo when you leave the Schengen area. You will NOT need the new ETIAS system visa that will come into effect in Q3 2026.
Visa	UK residents, travelling as tourists, do not need a visa to enter the Schengen area, which includes Spain and France, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period.
Health	No special requirements beyond small first aid kit and GHIC – Global Health Entitlement Certificate (available from UK.gov online). The UK GHIC has replaced the older European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). If you have an existing EHIC you can continue to use it until the expiry date on the card.



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Cost of living

Comparable or slightly less than the UK. You will be able to withdraw Euros from ATM's and credit cards are widely accepted.

Weather

Warm and sheltered inland but it can be cool up on the mountains with possible thunderstorms in the evenings.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average daily temp												
Max ° C	15	16	18	19	22	25	27	28	26	22	17	15
Min ° C	8	9	10	11	13	16	17	18	17	15	11	9
Rainfall mm	110	111	69	64	39	21	5	6	26	80	114	108

Food and Shopping

One of the highlights of Spain is its varied food and there will be plenty of opportunities to eat traditional dishes in country restaurants. Food is readily available, even in small villages, on a daily basis. 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 of 140 km will be 2-3 hours driving in the morning, 1 hour for lunch and then a further 2-3 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, one of these will be in Granada, 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 and Spain 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 can be a cost-effective option, saving the diesel cost, tolls and a long drive down, the dates of the trip are timed to coincide with Brittany Ferry sailings.



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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 – The transit sections to and from the start/finish points are unsupported by OneLife Adventure, but we welcome you to join us as we drive down to/from these points of the trip – perfect while you get used to driving “on the wrong side” and we’ll assist where we can with any problems on these legs. Accommodation, meals and refreshments you take during this transit stage are not included.

Cost

- ***£1399 per person for the first 2 adults (based on 2 sharing) inclusive of Dover Calais ferry crossings.*** Ask us for a quote for Brittany Ferries, 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 - £395 each.***
- ***Adult single supplement, add £450.***
- ***For each additional adult up to a maximum of 4 per vehicle, add £375***
- ***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

PEAKS ‘N’ PLAINS EXPLORER



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 level off road driving skills.

