



Spain Picos de Europa Hiking

An Exclusive Adventure with Erik Perez

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary and accommodations may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

We love talking travel!
Contact us at info@mtsobek.com
or call **800-974-0300**



Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

Unrivalled Expertise

MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Travel Company by Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards.

Unique Trip Design

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





Leading the Way

World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





Why take this trip with us?

REASON 1

MT Sobek has led hikers on Europe's most awe-inspiring routes since 1970, pairing expert local insight with immersive mountain experiences.

REASON 2

This special journey returns to a beloved MT Sobek region, showcasing the breathtaking Picos de Europa with a well-known regional expert.

REASON 3

Erik Perez has led MT Sobek guests into the Picos since 1989 and now shares his charisma and deep expertise in the mountains he calls home.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Full hiking days on magnificent mountain trails with some historic monument visits and cultural experiences.



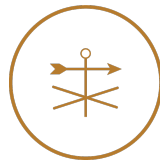
LODGING

A mix of historic Paradores, well-located lodges, and an iconic luxury hotel in Oviedo.



CLIMATE

July typically brings good mountain hiking conditions, but the sea-influenced Picos can shift from sunny and warm to cool, misty, windy, or wet—all in the same day.



KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

"What a total comfort to know that with MT Sobek, you're in the hands of professionals who have been doing it so long and so well. That was part of why we landed on them as our operators for our dream trip, and everything about the experience they gave us—from tailored expertise to unswerving professionalism—confirmed the company's emphasis on excellence." - Alex M.



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Hike into the extraordinary limestone peaks of northern Spain on a special Follow the Leader adventure with beloved MT Sobek guide Erik Perez. The Picos de Europa rise in dramatic massifs shared by Cantabria, Asturias, and Leon. Trek high passes, traverse the stunning Cares Gorge, and take in spectacular views from jagged peaks to the Cantabrian Sea in this less-traveled range. Along the way, explore the captivating history and culture of the region, from sacred sites to battlegrounds and UNESCO-listed treasures. End each day in standout Paradores and historic hotels, savoring cider, Cabrales cheese, and the wild beauty of northern Spain.

10 Days

Start: Bilbao, Spain

End: Oviedo, Spain

Departing: July, August

Activities: Hiking & Trekking

Lodging: Luxury Hotels, Comfortable Hotels, Rustic Lodging

Group Size: 6-16 Guests

ACTIVITY:



“

This trip was excellent! It was great to have everything planned out for us. Our guide Erik spent time telling us about the history of each region of Spain as we passed through, and he was equally knowledgeable about food and wine of the area. I was comforting to know we had good support for every aspect of the trip.

- Diana J.

Check mtsobek.com for date-specific pricing.

The Itinerary

DAY 01

Meet in Bilbao & Hike into the Picos de Europa

After meeting up in Bilbao, travel west through Basque Country into the Cantabrian Mountains. After a delicious lunch in the stone-house village of Potes, explore the 6th century Monasterio de Santo Toribio de Liebana, a major Roman Catholic pilgrimage site where a relic of the Lignum Crucis (True Cross) is displayed in a side chapel. Continue to Pido and into Picos de Europa National Park. Set out along a rural dirt road and through the forest to a gorgeous view of a glacial cirque in the foothills of the Picos de Europa. Hike to your Parador, tucked at the base of the cirque—a stunning setting right below the Central Massif.

MEALS: Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3-hour total private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 2 hours/2 miles of hiking with 400' elevation gain

DAY 02

Ride the Cable Car & Summit Pico Tesorero

Board the Fuente De cable car this morning and enjoy panoramic views as you ascend into craggy peaks. At the top (6,070'), begin to climb and zigzag your way to the odd-looking Refugio Cabaña Veronica, dramatically perched at 7,628 feet. After taking in the jaw-dropping 360-degree view of the snow-capped Picos, those who wish can scramble up a steep incline to reach the summit of Pico Tesorero (8,430') where Cantabria, Asturias, and Leon meet. The views are magnificent looking out on the distinctive Naranjo de Bulnes limestone tower, the highest peaks of the Picos, and all the way down to the sea. Enjoy a picnic on the mountain before returning to your Parador. Level 3 option is a hike to Horcado Pass, also with gorgeous views.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 4-minute cable car ride

ACTIVITY: 7 hours/8 miles hiking with 2,300' elevation gain and loss

DAY 03

Hike High Passes in the Central Massif

Return by cable car to the high trails for a big day ascending multiple passes. From the start, you are surrounded by serrated Picos peaks. Ascend a narrow path to the first pass, Colladina de las Nieves (7,385'), keeping an eye out for rebecos, the chamois of the Picos. Traverse a scree path to the rocky peak of La Padiorna (7,592'), where the views over the range seem endless. Roll up and down over Las Colladinas with more fabulous perspectives, then descend to Collado Jermoso (6,772') and its perfectly perched hut for lunch amid breathtaking scenery. On the return, ascend to Horcada Verde (7,516'), a saddle between two peaks, and rejoin the trail back to the cable car. Level 3 option is summiting La Padiorna via a different route.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 4-minute cable car ride

ACTIVITY: 9 hours/13 miles hiking with 4,800' elevation gain and loss



Cross Vega de Liordes into the Valdeon Valley

Leave Fuente De on foot and begin a two-day classic traverse across the Picos de Europa. Climb steep but well-built switchbacks on the aptly named Los Tornos de Liordes, looking back over the lush valley and Parador far below. Arriving at the alpine meadows of glacier-carved Vega de Liordes (6,070'), pause for a picnic lunch. Cross to the Canal de Asotin and begin a gradual descent through mountain terrain and deep Asotin beech forest. Follow a rocky trail along the mountainside for the last stretch to the traditional mountain village of Cordiñanes de Valdeon. Level 3 option is Horcada de Valcabado to Pandetrave with views of the plains of Spain and transfer to hotel.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 15-minute private van transfer for Level 3 hike only

ACTIVITY: 8.5 hours/11 miles hiking with 4,000' elevation gain and 4,500' elevation loss



Hike the Dramatic Cares Gorge

Continue crossing the Picos between the Central and Western Massifs on the thrilling Ruta del Cares. This spectacular trail, carved into the limestone walls of the Cares Gorge, runs from Cain to Puente Poncebos with the river far below and mountain walls soaring thousands of feet above. Pass through tunnels and cross bridges over the gorge as you marvel at the scale of the canyon and its twisted karst folds and peaks. After the hike, enjoy lunch in Puente Poncebos and transfer to Cangas de Onis, gateway to Covadonga and the green landscapes of Asturias.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 10-minute (am) and 45-minute (pm) private van transfers

ACTIVITY: 5 hours/8 miles hiking with 900' elevation gain and 1,120' elevation loss



Explore Covadonga Lakes & Alpine Meadows

Today's hike explores Lagos de Covadonga, the oldest area of Picos de Europa National Park and one of its most scenic corners. Walk between the shimmering glacial lakes of Enol and Ercina, then climb through karst-dotted meadows where cowbells ring and chamois move below jagged peaks. Enter old-growth beech forest and continue across open alpine slopes beneath Peña Santa de Enol toward Vegarredonda Hut. Pause at Llampá Cimera (4,800') for a rewarding mountain panorama before retracing your steps to the lakes. On the return to the hotel, stop at Covadonga, site of the pivotal 718 battle that marked the beginning of the Reconquista.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 45-minute private van transfer each way

ACTIVITY: 6 hours/9 miles hiking with 1,800' elevation gain and loss

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Summit Pico Pienzu in the Sierra del Sueve

Leaving the Picos de Europa, head north to the Sueve Range and its highest peak, El Pienzo (3,822). Begin at El Fito (1,960') and follow a scenic trail across open meadows, with ocean and mountain views widening as you walk. Watch for grazing cows and wild Asturcon horses as you ascend to Collado Belluenuzu, then continue across the grassy pass to El Pienzo's summit. Take a moment to enjoy the sweeping panorama from the craggy Picos de Europa to the blue horizon of the Cantabrian Sea before returning to Belluenuzu for a picnic lunch. Descend through the ancient, often misty La Biescona beech forest, then transfer to Ribadesella on the coast.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 40-minute private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 6.5 hours/10 miles hiking with 1,800' elevation gain and 2,800' elevation loss

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Hike Sierra del Cuera & Taste Cabrales Cheese

Return inland to Cabrales, a region known worldwide for its blue cheese, for a hike in the Sierra de Cuera. Start on a quiet mountain road, gradually climbing through open pastures where cows, sheep, and goats graze, and reaching a lovely viewpoint where the Central and Western Massifs of the Picos roll out toward the south. From there, follow a series of switchbacks to reach Collado Concha del Gobiu (3,488'), where a striking view of Torrecerredo and Naranjo de Bulnes awaits on the pass. Continue over rocky mountain terrain to the summit of Peña Lacia, where the views are even better. Descend to Arenas de Cabrales for a late lunch and a taste of the area's celebrated blue cheese.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour private van transfer each way

ACTIVITY: 5 hours/6 miles hiking with 2,100' elevation gain and loss

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Discover Medieval Oviedo

Take a walk through northern Spain's colorful history with Erik as your expert guide. Begin atop Oviedo's Monte Naranco and hike downhill, taking in views of the city and Sierra del Aramo before reaching the UNESCO-listed pre-Romanesque churches of Santa Maria del Naranco and San Miguel de Lillo. These remarkable 9th-century monuments reflect the artistry, power, and enduring legacy of the early Asturian kingdom. After visiting, enjoy lunch, then continue into town to the 18th-century Hotel de la Reconquista, one of Spain's most historic hotels. In the afternoon, explore Oviedo on foot, discovering its elegant streets, cathedral, plazas, and lively cider culture. Gather for a final Asturian dinner in a traditional restaurant.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: hours/5 miles hiking with 1,000' elevation loss



Depart Oviedo

After breakfast, depart Oviedo for your onward journey. Leave northern Spain with memories of limestone summits, deep gorges, ancient monasteries, historic Paradores, Asturian cheese and cider, and the rare privilege of exploring Erik Perez's beloved mountains with MT Sobek.

MEALS: Breakfast

TRANSPORTATION: 45-minute private van transfer



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Parador de Fuente De

Soaring mountain scenery defines the Parador de Fuente De, located at the foot of the Picos de Europa and beside the cable car into the Central Massif, with easy access to trails. This modern Parador offers comfortable, warmly traditional rooms with modern amenities. The restaurant celebrates hearty Cantabrian cooking from the Liebana region, including local cheeses, meats, and classic mountain dishes. Step outside and peer up at the limestone peaks.

Hotel Cumbres de Valdeon

Deep in the heart of Picos de Europa National Park, Hotel Cumbres de Valdeon is a small mountain hotel surrounded by peaks and pastures, welcoming you with flags flying and friendly service. Simple, spacious rooms on two floors offer mountain and valley views and the town is just a 3-minute walk away. Enjoy hearty meals at the restaurant and sip a coffee while marveling at the peaks framed in the window.

Parador de Cangas de Onis

The Parador de Cangas de Onis occupies the former 8th-century San Pedro de Villanueva Monastery on the banks of the Sella River. With more than 1,200 years of history, the building pairs Romanesque heritage with modern comfort. Bright, airy rooms, peaceful grounds, and Asturian cuisine—with a cheese bar and local cider—make it an ideal base for exploring the western side of the Picos de Europa.



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Silken Gran Hotel de Sella

The former summer palace of the Marquis of Arguelles, the Silken Gran Hotel de Sella sits right on the Bay of Biscay at the mouth of the Sella River. Comfortable rooms in the original building and modern annex reflect period charm with city and bay views. Enjoy a swim in the outdoor pool, take a stroll along the beach promenade, or cross the bridge into town to explore beachfront Ribadesella.

Hotel de la Reconquista

Hotel de la Reconquista is an Oviedo landmark, housed in an 18th-century Baroque building built under the patronage of the Spanish Crown. With grand courtyards, arched galleries, and an unusual octagonal chapel, the property is now listed as a National Monument. Comfortable rooms blend classic character with modern comforts and city views while the hotel's prime central location allows easy exploration of the historic city on foot.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: July, August

Book early for a greater choice of available dates.
Once you book, your price is GUARANTEED!

July 4-13, 2027

What's Included

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses



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