

Spain & France Across the Pyrenees Hiking

High Mountain Passes & Historic Paradores

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary 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**

Unrivaled 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 Tour Company in 2022 by USA Today's 10 Best 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

This journey was designed by top MT Sobek guide Erik Perez, a professional mountaineer and published historian who has been leading hiking tours in northeastern Spain for more than 30 years.

REASON 2

Over 13 days, this well-paced adventure pairs scenic hikes in the Pyrenees with guided city tours, all featuring insights into local history and culture.

REASON 3

After a thrilling quest through a breathtaking landscape of peaks, waterfalls and high meadows, days end at picturesque country inns and upscale historic hotels.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Rewarding hikes and scenic drives through dramatic landscapes of the Pyrenees, and informative city tours of Pamplona and Barcelona.



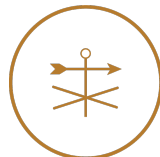
LODGING

Charming mountain hideaways, medieval castles, revamped historic landmarks (paradors) and modern city hotels, all featuring modern amenities and superb locations.



CLIMATE

July is sunny with possible storms in the afternoon. September is clear and cooler. Temps will range from 50 F to 85 F.



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.



Spain & France Across the Pyrenees Hiking

High Mountain Passes & Historic Paradores

Travel from Bilbao to Barcelona on this comprehensive trek across the iconic Pyrenees, a hiker's paradise. Marvel at towering peaks, high meadows, and enormous waterfalls while traversing challenging and magnificent terrain through the ancient mountain kingdoms of Aragon and Catalonia. Wrap up each day's adventure at a comfortable country inn or picturesque parador, heritage buildings revamped as hotels. With guided tours of Pamplona and Barcelona that bookend the trip, learn about the culture and architecture while experiencing the best of this mesmerizing region.

9 Days

Start: Bilbao, Spain

End: Barcelona, Spain

Departing: June, July, August, September

Activities: Hiking & Trekking

Lodging: Comfortable Hotels

Group Size: 4-16 Guests

ACTIVITY:



Check [mtsobek.com](https://www.mtsobek.com) for date-specific pricing.

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"Challenging trails, comfortable inns, excellent wine, good food, and very knowledgeable guides. The mountains are beautiful. Overall, this was an outstanding tour."

- Geoff H.

The Itinerary

DAY 01

Arrive in Bilbao, Spain

Arrive in Bilbao early morning to rendezvous with the group at 11 am. After a briefing, enjoy a 2-hour drive to the capital of Navarre province, Pamplona — best known for the famous "running of the bulls." Enjoy a walking tour, followed by lunch in the old town. Then transfer to Ordesa National Park, founded in 1918 as Spain's first national park, with sheer cliffs, lush forests, and deep valleys, all dominated by Monte Perdido, the third highest peak in the Pyrenees. Spend the night in the mountain village of Torla.

ACCOMMODATION: Hotel Bujaruelo, Torla-Ordesa

MEALS: Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 4.5-hour private van transfer

DAY 02

Hike through Forests & Meadows to Gavarnie

This morning, transfer to the trailhead for a hike along the banks of the Ara River through beech and pine forests. At San Nicolas de Bujaruelo, cross the river on a beautiful stone bridge, the remains of an old Roman road. Continue through meadows and high pastures to Bujaruelo Pass (7,920') and the French border. In the late afternoon, descend into the French town of Gavarnie, enjoying spectacular bird's-eye views of the majestic amphitheater, where foaming waterfalls pour over 1,500-foot walls.

ACCOMMODATION: Grand Hotel Vignemale, Gavarnie

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 6–7 hours/10 miles hiking with 3,201' elevation gain & 2,937' elevation loss

DAY 03

Take a Dramatic Hike to Monte Perdido

Enjoy dramatic views of the scree field and valley below as you take a challenging 9-hour hike down a very steep scree slope in the area of Monte Perdido. From Gavarnie (4,554'), cross again to the Spanish side via Espuguettes-Puerto Nuevo de Pineta (9,441') and the Circo de Pineta, ending at the Parador Nacional de Bielsa (also known as Parador Monte Perdido) in Aragon's Valle de Pineta — a truly impressive mountain setting!

ACCOMMODATION: Parador Nacional de Bielsa, Bielsa

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 9 hours/12 miles hiking with 4,700' elevation gain & 4,000' elevation loss



DAY
04

Admire Sweeping Views from the Balcon de Pineta

On today's hike, follow switchbacks to the Balcon de Pineta and Lago Helado de Marbore. This strenuous route goes along the highest part of the base of Pico Marbore and Monte Perdido, two of the area's high peaks. From the Balcon (9,900'), enjoy dazzling views of the valley below.

ACCOMMODATION: Parador Nacional de Bielsa, Bielsa

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 8 hours/8 miles hiking with 4,158' elevation gain & loss

DAY
05

Discover Benasque in Maladeta Aneto Natural Park

Transfer to the village of Benasque in Maladeta Aneto Natural Park. After visiting the village, drive a little further to Llanos del Hospital, under the peaks of Aneto, the highest of the Pyrenees, and Maladeta. Check into the hotel and enjoy a delicious lunch before the 2-hour hike to Aigualluts, the lower meadow below Aneto Peak. Enjoy dinner at the hotel restaurant.

ACCOMMODATION: Hotel Llanos del Hospital, Benasque Huesa

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 2-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 2-3 hours/5 miles hiking with 500' elevation gain & loss



Hike below Aneto, the Highest Peak in the Pyrenees

Hike towards Puerto de la Picada through a tranquil landscape with grazing horses and swaying grasses. After the initial ascent on a good trail with magnificent views of the Aneto (11,168') and Maladeta (10,866') peaks, reach the highest point of the Puerto (8,182'). Then enter Catalonia and the Vall d'Aran (7,755') as you descend to the waterfall of Uelhs deth Joeu (Eyes of the Jew). After a short transfer, reach the parador and enjoy time to stroll through the mountain village of Arties or swim in the parador's outdoor pool.

ACCOMMODATION: Parador de Arties, Lleida

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 25-minute private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 6 hours/10 miles hiking with 1,944' elevation gain & 3,200' elevation loss



Enjoy a Gentle Climb in Catalonia

You are now in the Catalonia (Cataluña) region of the Pyrenees, which has a separate identity from the rest of Spain. After a 30-minute transfer, embark on a gentle climb from a meadow below the Puerto de la Bonaigua (6,270') through boulders up to Lagos de Gerver (7,300'), a sparkling lake surrounded by green lichen and bushes bursting with red berries. Then descend to the road, where you board a bus for a 3-hour drive to the Montserrat area, near Barcelona. Enjoy an overnight in a beautiful medieval castle.

ACCOMMODATION: Parador de Cardona, Cardona

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3.5-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 4 hours/6 miles hiking with 1,000' elevation gain & loss



Explore Montserrat and See Gaudi Masterpieces in Barcelona

Transfer one hour to the cable train of Montserrat, the sacred mountain of the Catalans, and hike via the Pla de Ocells and below the sandstone pinnacles of Cavall Bernat (4,950'). The setting of Wagner's opera Parsifal, this mountain range is a mystical landscape of towering pillars and smooth pinnacles. Descend to the 9th-century Benedictine monastery and shrine of the Black Madonna. In the afternoon, transfer one hour to Barcelona, check into the hotel and enjoy a sightseeing tour, taking in Gaudi-designed buildings. Enjoy a farewell dinner with the group.

ACCOMMODATION: Hotel Gallery, Barcelona

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour cable train transfer and 1-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 3 hours/6 miles hiking with 860' elevation gain & 2,392' elevation loss



Fly Home

Transfer on your own to Barcelona International Airport for homeward-bound or onward flights.

MEALS: Breakfast



Where You'll Stay

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

Hotel Bujaruelo

Located in the center of Torla, near the entrance of Ordesa National Park, Hotel Bujaruelo is a welcoming hideaway with airy public areas, including a cafe and bar featuring a lovely outdoor terrace. The spacious, colorful rooms and stellar service make it a fantastic base from which to explore the park.

Grand Hotel Vignemale

Rising up like a fairytale chateau amidst the Pyrenees, the Grand Hotel Vignemale lures adventure travelers of all types. In addition to incredible scenery that surrounds it, the charming hotel features cozy rooms and a tea room/bar, a great place to unwind after a long day of hiking.

Parador Nacional de Bielsa

A welcoming mountain retreat located in Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park, Parador Nacional de Bielsa offers a great hideaway for taking in the fresh Pyrenean air. Rooms are outfitted with modern amenities and comfortable furniture; some bedrooms have spectacular views. The restaurant serves delicious Aragonese cuisine, such as Cinca River trout and roasted lamb.



Where You'll Stay

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

Hotel Llanos del Hospital

A beautiful outpost located amidst black pine forests, glaciers, and snowcapped peaks of Posets-Maladeta Nature Reserve, Hotel Llanos del Hospital offers secluded accommodations with an old-country feel, vistas of the highest peaks of the Iberian Peninsula and stellar wildlife watching opportunities (look out for bears, deer, wild boar, otters, vultures, and eagles).

Parador de Arties

The snow-capped peaks of the Pyrenees and the green luxuriant valley of Val d'Aran set the scene at Parador de Artie, a shining example of 14th- and 15th-century Aragonese architecture. The interiors feature cozy rooms, sloping ceilings, and wooden beams. During the summer, nap in hammocks by the bar, take a dip in the swimming pool, or unwind at the lounge.

Parador de Cardona

Housed in a 9th-century fortress that dominates the Cardoner River valley, this impressive hotel oozes history. Within the Parador, take in an 11th-century church, a Gothic cloister, an ancient water cistern and moats, towers and walls everywhere. The interiors feature medieval-inspired furniture, walls decorated with tapestries, and wrought-iron torch holders, all paired with modern amenities.

Hotel Gallery

With its superb location in the center of Barcelona, Gallery Hotel allows easy access to the city's most significant architectural highlights, as well as shops, restaurants, and other attractions. Guest rooms are sophisticated and stylish, and amenities include a fitness center and a rooftop pool and terrace, perfect for sunbathing during the day or cocktails in the evening.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: June, July, August, September

Book early for a greater choice of available dates.

Once you book, your price is GUARANTEED!

June 30-July 8, 2024

July 21-29, 2024

August 25-September 2, 2024

September 15-23, 2024

June 29-July 7, 2025

July 20-28, 2025

August 24-September 1, 2025

September 14-22, 2025

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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