

Spanish/French Pyrenees

Summer Expedition, suitable for single or multiple groups



The Haute Pyrenees are arguably one of the best places in Europe to hold a Gold DofE expedition.



The area is easily accessible by cheap airlines (flying to Toulouse) and the transfer time to the heart of the National Park is just under two hours. This makes the expedition arena both cost and time effective from most areas of the UK.

The area itself is ideal for a summer expedition as the altitude keeps temperatures low and the network of good paths gives excellent opportunity to run multiple groups on discrete routes. There are areas set aside next to the mountain refuges for wild camping but numerous opportunities to place tents in some really wild and remote spots.

The mountain refuges (huts) provide a good network of emergency contact points and the area is well serviced by emergency helicopter rescue services.

On the edges of the park there are many realistically priced campsites with excellent facilities in which to have a base camp and the villages in which these are situated are quiet and well serviced with supermarkets and restaurants.

There is scope here to complete a quick “in and out” expedition taking seven days or to extend the expedition to take in the Ordesa canyon or other unique geological points of interest.

The itineraries detailed below are only suggestions and we can build a trip to suit you, the team’s abilities and your budget.

**Pyrenees – Terrain Difficult suitable for Gold practice or assessed - 9 Day Option
Suitable for one or two groups**

(8 Nights Camping 4 Day expedition) Cost approx £725 (exc. flights)

A fantastic trip taking in some of the best mountain scenery on this mountain chain.

The expedition takes place over part of the Pyrenean High Level Route and crosses from France to Spain and back again. It takes in two of the most stunning areas in the Pyrenees, the Cirque de Gavarnie and the Ordesa Canyon.

Students would acclimatize by walking in from the French side and crossing over to Torla via the Breche de Roland and the Ordesa Canyon. Their expedition would start from here, following the Spanish side of the border on the GR11. Then finally back over to France. Accommodation is by camping near refuges and on village campsites

Day 1

Travel to Toulouse (Early morning flight) private onwards travel to Gavarnie Accommodation Camping.

Day 2 & 3

Acclimatise by walking to Spain from the Col des Tentes. If there is a good forecast, this can be done by the Breche de Roland and the Ordesa Canyon. Accommodation Camping.

Day 4

Rest day in Spain. Chance to shop (and go Canyoning) Camp near Torla Accommodation Camping.

Day 5 -8

Start the expedition. Walk up to join the GR 11 through Spain before crossing back via the Col de Vache into France. On to Caunterets Accommodation Camping.

Day 9

Return journey, private coach to Toulouse to catch evening flight onwards to UK

Two acclimatisation days are built into this itinerary for safety due to the altitude 2 – 3000m at which this trek takes place.

There is also scope to extend the trip with extra days to take part in some adventurous activities from Caunterets



Option Two suitable for one, two or multiple groups

Pyrenees – Terrain Difficult - 8 Day Option (7 Days Camping 4 Day expedition) 6 Nights camping 4 Day expedition Cost approx £650 exc flights.

The expedition would cross over into Spain and then back again to France, keeping close the GR 11 Pyrenean High Level Route. Accommodation is by camping near refuges and on village campsites

Day 1

Travel to Toulouse (Early morning flight). Private coach to Caunterets

Day 2

Acclimatization Day walk with access to altitude via cable car

Day 3

Shop and on to Pont d'Espagne. Walk in to Wallon Refuge. Stay or camp at the Refuge

Day 4 -7

Start the expedition. Over to the Refuges des Oulettes des Gaubes to camp below the North Face of Vignemale. From there to Spain and finally back over to finish at Pont D'Espagne.

Day 8

Return journey via Toulouse and onto the UK (evening flight)

Again it is possible to vary this expedition, add days, take part in Via Ferrata climbing trips or just take an additional day to explore the lovely alpine villages of the area.



What do the costs include ?

- A qualified supervisor and accredited assessor for the expedition,
- One free teachers place per 12 students
- Expedition food
- Private Airport transfers in France,
- Maps, campsite and teachers bunkhouse costs.
- Detailed Kit lists,
- Risk assessments
- Pre expedition visit to the school to assist with route planning
- On going advise from our office in Somerset

What is not included (The honesty section)

- Any additional soft drinks or personal expenditure
- Air fares and UK airport transfers
(There are various options for flights depending upon your point of departure)
- Personal travel insurance
- Personal spending monies

Why book with Wildcountry Consultants.

As one of the first Approved Activity Providers licensed in the UK to provide UK and overseas DofE expeditions WCC have built a solid reputation for quality and safety.

All of our instructors are mature individuals who have a considerable depth of experience in working with youth groups and they all hold the appropriate qualifications for the terrain in which they are operating. We do not use trained only individuals.

Our Employers Liability Insurance covers all our instructors and we are covered for £10M Public Liability Insurance through Activities industry Mutual, the leading provider of Insurance to the adventurous activities market. We are also fully licensed by the Adventurous Activities Licensing Service (A division of the HSE) to provide mountaineering and trekking expeditions across the world.

We provide a holistic service from our office in Somerset for all our expeditions: from comprehensive advice on expedition equipment to personal fitness, risk assessments, declaration of risk documentation, booking paperwork and participant medical declaration forms.

The areas in which we operate we have first hand experience through having run expeditions previously and the instructors involved will have operated in this environment before. We will not take any individuals on our expeditions where we have concerns over their physical abilities or level of personal preparation to cope with the physical demands of the terrain they intend to cover.

Our commitment to you is one of safety first through meticulous planning and continual assessment of both the participants and the environment in which they are operating. Whilst the expedition will be demanding and place the participant in an environment which is generally outside of their comfort zone we will try to ensure they enjoy the experience as fully as possible by checking they are fully prepared for the experience. Finally we will turn the experience into a learning environment for them by assessing their understanding of the role they play within the team and the environment through which they are travel



