

# Andorra: Jewel of the Pyrenees

**Tour Style:** Guided walking

**Destination:** Andorra

**Trip code:** PYLCL

2 & 4



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Tucked away between France and Spain, the tiny European principality of Andorra is situated among the southern peaks of the Pyrenees Mountains. With an enchanting mix of lush valleys, secluded lakes, and glittering rivers, this small-but-mighty nation offers outstanding walking opportunities. Staying in the pretty village of Soldeu, we have the perfect base from which to discover a wealth of stunning backdrops, trails, and unforgettable views in all directions.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Return flights from London Heathrow, including baggage and transfers
- A choice of 2 guided walks per day with local leaders (on walking days)
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- 7 nights' accommodation in Soldeu
- 7 breakfasts & 7 dinners
- All in-destination transport

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## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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- The mountain landscapes of Soldeu
- Marvelling at Andorra's flora and fauna
- Visiting Comapedrosa Natural Park
- Admiring the lakes of the Pessons Valley
- Discovering the Vall d'Incles
- Spending your free day in the capital, Andorra La Vella

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## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

Transfer from Toulouse Airport to Soldeu in Andorra. Settle in at Hotel Himàlaia.

### Day 2: Soldeu

A chance to explore the area around Soldeu and take in the magnificent vistas. Walking from the hotel, we'll enjoy a circular walk above the town, through the forest and ski slopes.

#### Option 1 - Soldeu To Refugio De Ribaescorjada

**Distance:** 5.5 miles (9km)

**Ascent:** 1,350 feet (410m)

**Descent:** 1,350 feet (410m)

Climbing on the south side of the village, we'll head for the Refugio de Ribaescorjada giving great views over the area, Torradella peak (2,543m) and the French border. We'll then walk down to the valley, heading west, and follow the Valira d'Orient river back to Soldeu.

#### Option 2 - Soldeu To Tosa De Espiolets

**Distance:** 7.5 miles (12km)

**Ascent:** 2,150 feet (650m)

**Descent:** 2,150 feet (650m)

Climbing on the south side of the village, we'll ascend Tosa de Espiolets (2,467m), from where we can enjoy an amazing 360° panorama of the area, Torradella peak (2,543m) and the French border.

### Day 3: Ransol Valley Towards The French Border

We'll take a short coach transfer to the end of the Ransol valley and discover the area northwest of Soldeu.

#### Option 1 - Estany De Ransol Lake

**Distance:** 5 miles (8km)

**Ascent:** 1,650 feet (500m)

**Descent:** 1,650 feet (500m)

On this circular walk we'll first walk up to the beautiful green Estany de Ransol lake, the highest point of our walk. Then we'll head down to the Refugio de Coms de Jan, a small mountain hut where wild horses are often found.

### Option 2 - Estany De Ransol And Estany Dels Meners De La Coma Lakes

**Distance:** 6 miles (10km)

**Ascent:** 2,400 feet (730m)

**Descent:** 2,400 feet (730m)

This walk starts the same way as Option 1, passing Estany de Ransol lake and continuing to Estany dels Meners de la Coma lake, a very open area surrounded by high peaks such as the Pic de la Coume de Seignac (2,857m). We'll see an old stone shepherd's hut, the Cabana dels Meners.

### Day 4: Estany Primer De Pessons Up To Sisè Estany

Going southeast of Soldeu, there will be a short coach transfer to Grau Roig. Both walks will follow the Pessons valley with its beautiful lakes.

#### Option 1 - The Lakes Of The Pessons Valley

**Distance:** 5.5 miles (9km)

**Ascent:** 1,400 feet (420m)

**Descent:** 1,400 feet (420m)

This is a circular walk from Grau Roig, located in a remote, wild valley. We'll pass numerous wonderful lakes like Estany del Cap del Pessons, Sisè Estany, Estany del Meligar, Estany Rodó, and Estany Primer.

#### Option 2 - Collada Del Pessons Mountain Pass

**Distance:** 8 miles (13km)

**Ascent:** 2,200 feet (690m)

**Descent:** 2,200 feet (690m)

Starting from Grau Roig, this is a harder version of the Option 1 walk. After passing all the lovely lakes of the valley we'll go up to the Collada dels Pessons mountain pass (2,800m), the highest point along the Coronallacs Trail of Andorra. We'll be rewarded with views of the valley going down to Encamp.

### Day 5: Free Day

You may wish to relax and enjoy the hotel's spa. There is a regular local bus service to the capital, Andorra La Vella, where shoppers can take advantage of the microstate's advantageous tax rules or enjoy the famous Caldea Spa.

### Day 6: Comapedrosa Natural Park

Going further west, we'll walk in Les Valls de Comapedrosa Natural Park. In the lower part of the valley, we'll walk through hazel thickets and Scots pine forests. The grazing meadows, remains of ancient drystone walls and traditional stone farm buildings bear witness to the valley's agricultural heritage.

### Option 1 - Pla De L'Estany Lake

**Distance:** 5 miles (8km)

**Ascent:** 1,650 feet (500m)

**Descent:** 1,650 feet (500m)

A lovely circular walk to the Pla de l'Estany, a lake of glacial origin and one of Andorra's natural wonders and home to a host of plant species including dog's tooth, daphne and whole-leaf primrose.

### Option 2 - Pla De L'Estany Lake And Refuge

**Distance:** 6 miles (10km)

**Ascent:** 2,500 feet (760m)

**Descent:** 2,500 feet (760m)

The walk begins in the same way as Option 1 and continues past the lake to the Pla de l'Estany Refuge before descending on the same path.

## Day 7: Vall D'Incles

Northeast of Soldeu, the Incles valley hosts a wide variety of flora and fauna and has also managed to retain its wild character. One of the largest valleys in Andorra, its natural gems will delight.

### Option 1 - Tossal D'Incles To Estany De Siscaro Lake

**Distance:** 6 miles (10km)

**Ascent:** 1,700 feet (520m)

**Descent:** 1,850 feet (560m)

From the end of the Incles valley we'll walk to Soldeu following a trail around the Tossal d'Incles mountain, where we'll be rewarded with beautiful views. From Siscaro lake we'll walk back down to the hotel.

### Option 2 - Around Cap De La Tosa D'Entor

**Distance:** 8.5 miles (14km)

**Ascent:** 2,500 feet (760m)

**Descent:** 2,500 feet (770m)

From the end of the Incles valley we'll head east, first climbing to the Pic de la Coume d'Enfer lake and then to the Refugi de Cabana Sorda hut. The second part of the walk is a scenic and relatively flat walk to the Estany de Querol lake. From there we'll descend to the hotel.

## Day 8: Departure Day

Coach transfer from hotel to Toulouse Airport.

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## ACCOMMODATION

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### Hotel Himalaia, Soldeu, Andorra

With Himalaya-inspired decor enhancing its inviting setting, the Hotel Himalaia Soldeu provides a warm and welcoming place to stay in Andorra. The hotel has 106 well-appointed rooms complete with free Wi-Fi, satellite TV, hairdryer, as well as a minibar and safe. Guests can look forward to dining in the buffet-style restaurant, relaxing at the bar, or making use of the lounge area and pool table. The hotel also has a spa area with two jacuzzis, a Turkish bath and a sauna, as well as a gym.

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## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Joining Instructions (With Flights)

Book your holiday 'with flights' and you can choose to depart from a range of UK airports\* to your destination. For latest flight times and prices please call us on 0203-974-8865 or email [reservations@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:reservations@hfholidays.co.uk)

If you choose to book your flights with us, we automatically include return transfers between the destination airport and hotel.

### Joining Instructions (Without Flights)

Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flights' and you'll have the freedom to book your own flights from your local airport.

\*Subject to availability

## Essential Information

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing.

### Essentials

- Walking boots
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

### Recommended

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- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel
- Snacks
- Dry bags
- Rubbish bags
- Insect repellent

### Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- GPS device

## Useful Information

### Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so, and advise us of the insurance company and policy number.

We work with Campbell Irvine to provide you with competitive single and annual multi-trip insurance. Please see our website for more information and details of how to contact them for a quote:

<https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/about-us/booking-information/insurance>.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/>.

### Local Currency

The local currency is the Euro (€)

## TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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