

Andorra: Jewel of the Pyrenees

Trip style: Guided Walking Holidays

Destination: 📍 Andorra

Trip code: PYR07-LCL09

Grades: 1, 2 & 4

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 496kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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 YOU'LL LOVE

- The mountain landscapes of Soldeu
- Marvelling at Andorra's flora and fauna
- Sorteny Valley Nature Park a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
- Admiring the lakes of the Pessons Valley
- Discovering the Vall d'Incles
- Spending your free day in the capital, Andorra La Vella

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 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

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Transfer from Toulouse Airport to Soldeu in Andorra. Settle in at your hotel.

Day 2: Soldeu and Vall d'Incles

Northeast of Soldeu, the Incles valley hosts a wide variety of flora and fauna but has also managed to retain its wild character. One of the largest valleys in Andorra, the Incles is as remote as it is beautiful with landscapes that include forests, lakes, streams and mountain chalets.

Day 3: Vall de Sorteny

Declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in October 2020, the Sorteny Valley Nature Park has a huge diversity of flora, with more than 700 phanerogam species and more than 50 species endemic to the Pyrenees.

Day 4: Vall del Madriu– Engolasters Lake

The Madriu-Perafita-Claror valley was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2004. Its dramatic landscapes of craggy cliffs and glaciers offset by high open pastures and steep wooded valleys covers 10% of the principality of Andorra. Engolasters is perhaps the most well-known of Andorra's lakes and the remains of its original dam turbine can still be seen today.

Day 5: Free Day

Enjoy a free day where no walks are offered. You may wish to relax and enjoy the hotel's spa or take the regular local bus service to the capital, Andorra La Vella. Shoppers can take advantage of the microstate's advantageous tax rules, enjoy the famous Caldea Spa, or visit the Bicycle Museum. The Sanctuary of Meritxell combines art, religion and nature and can be reached by local bus.

Day 6: Estany Primer de Pessons

Today we'll journey southeast of Soldeu to Grau Roig. Both walks will follow the Pessons valley famous for its beautiful lakes.

Day 7: Vall de Riu

We'll take a short transfer this morning and walk back to the hotel in the afternoon. Our final day walks take place on easier terrain, with tracks that are on compacted ground and offer spectacular views over the valley. Today provides an opportunity for those who wish to cross the famous Tibetan Bridge (payable locally). Though it's just a metre wide, it's one of the longest bridges in the world at 603 metres, and comes in at 158 metres high.

Day 8: Departure Day

Coach transfer from hotel to Toulouse Airport.

Hotel Piolets, Soldeu, Andorra

In the heart of Soldeu, Hotel Piolets offers the perfect blend of alpine charm and modern comfort. The cosy bedrooms are equipped with TV, minibar, hairdryer and safe. In the evening guests can enjoy dinner in the buffet-style restaurant or relax in the bar. Facilities include an indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna and gym and there is free Wi-Fi throughout the hotel

Vaccinations & health information - SHARED WITH ALL EU NEW 2026

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see whether any health precautions are needed for your trip. Health advice and requirements can change, so we recommend doing this in good time before travel. As a general rule, travellers should ensure they are up to date with routine UK vaccinations and boosters, including, for example, MMR and diphtheria, tetanus and polio. Some countries may require you to have specific vaccinations such as Malaria, Rabies and Yellow Fever. Please check with your GP if you are unsure. Please note that the use or possession of some common prescription or over-the-counter medicines is restricted or banned in certain countries. If you will be carrying medication, you should check with the relevant embassy or consulate before travelling. As an extra precaution, we recommend keeping medication in its original packaging, carrying a copy of your prescription, and, where possible, asking your pharmacist to provide the medication name in the language of the country you are visiting. For further country-specific health advice, visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk or www.traveldoctor.co.uk. If you are travelling from outside the UK, please consult your own doctor and check local entry requirements.

Passport & Visa information - Schengen Area ANDORRA ONLY

This information is for those travelling with a full 'British Citizen' passport; for all other nationalities or passport holders, please check with your local consulate for advice. Passport Requirements Andorra does not have its own airport and is normally accessed via France, which are part of the Schengen Area. For UK passport holders, your passport must: Have been issued within the last 10 years on the date you enter the Schengen Area Be valid for at least 3 months after your planned departure from the Schengen Area When arriving in France your passport will normally be stamped on entry and exit to the Schengen Area. There are usually no routine passport checks at the Andorra border. Length of Stay UK passport holders can visit countries in the Schengen Area for up to 90 days within any 180-day period without a visa. As travel to Andorra is via France and passport controls are limited, time spent in Andorra may count towards your Schengen 90-day allowance. Visa Requirements Visa rules depend on your nationality, destination, length of stay, and purpose of travel, and they can change frequently. It is your responsibility to check whether you require a visa before travelling. British passport holders should check the latest entry, passport validity and visa requirements for their destination on the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> Passport Stamping When you cross the French–Andorran border, French border officers may stamp your passport on both entry into Andorra and exit back into France. While the stamp isn't strictly mandatory, it is strongly recommended, especially for British travellers, because: Without the border stamps, the days you spend in Andorra may be counted towards your 90 day Schengen travel allowance. With the correct stamps, only your first and last day of travel are counted, rather than the full duration of your stay. What to Expect During Your Transfer To help ensure your time in Andorra is recorded correctly: Your transfer vehicle will stop at the French–Andorran border in both directions so you have the opportunity to get your passport stamped. Border officials have advised that the process is usually quick, but it may add around 30 minutes to your transfer time. This small step helps protect your Schengen allowance and keeps your future EU travel running smoothly.

Packing list - Overseas Guided Walking

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 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 (excluding Bhutan, Georgia and India)
