



This is a 7-day (6 night) comprehensive birding itinerary for the Picos de Europa National park. The itinerary is aimed at small groups of 2 -8 people from May to June, and September but it can be tailormade to suit individual preferences.

### *Day 1: Check-in at the Rio Aliso Cottages*

Introductory meeting to discuss program, places to visit, perspectives, health and safety, etc

*The Rio Aliso cottages are situated in the beautiful village of Llonin, ideal for nature enthusiasts as it falls on the boundary of the Picos de Europa National Park..*

*The two semi-detached cottages can accommodate 4-5 people, and have been built in stone and wood, in keeping with traditional typology. Both are fully furnished and are equipped with central heating.*



## Day 2: Eagles and Vultures

The foothills of the Picos de Europa are one of the best places to observe raptors such as : Griffon Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, Golden Eagle, Short-toed Eagle, Black Kite and more.

This habitat includes the most spectacular Griffon Vulture nesting colonies and also some Aegyptian Vulture and Golden Eagle nesting territories.



## Day 3. The Bearded Vulture and the feeding station for Scavenger Birds

The Bearded Vulture is one of the most spectacular birds to be viewed in the Iberian peninsula. Though it was extinct in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, the bearded vulture has been making a comeback, due to o reintroduction project by the Bearded Vulture Foundation (FCQ).



Along with some FCQ staff, day 3 will be spent scouting for the Bearded Vulture in the Picos de Europa, and visiting the Feeding Station for Scavenger Birds. Privileged spectators will learn and observe the food behavior, hierarchies of scavengers and will also learn to differentiate between various species and understand the behavior of these majestic birds



## Day 4. The Forest Birds

The main objective will be the striking Black Woodpecker, but we will keep our eyes peeled for other forest birds as well.

We will visit beech forests where we can also spot elusive treats such as buntings, shrikes, finches, Tree Creeper, Eurasian Nuthatch, Crested Tit and more....

## Day 5. Alpine Birds.

A visit to some places 2000 meters above sea level.

In these higher altitudes of the Picos, it's possible to spot some of the most interesting alpine birds, like Snowfinch, Alpine Accentor, Yellow billed Chough, Water Pipit and specially Wallcreeper.

This is the best place in the Picos de Europa to observe these amazing birds.



## Day 6. Mountain and subalpine birds.

The terrain from 1000 to 1500 metres above sea level, comprising meadows and steep cliffs is ideal for subalpine birds and butterflies.



Our main target will be the community of passerines like Rock Thrush, Blue Rock Thrush, Water Pipit, Rock Bunting, Yellow Hammer, Black Redstar, Red Billed Chough,...etc

The birding possibilities in these areas are rich and astounding and can be greatly complemented with a large number of butterfly species like the fantastic *Parnassus apollo* and many others.



Day 7: Check Out

Group of 2-4 people : 510 € per person  
Group of 5-8 people: 450 € per person

The price includes:

- The guide services
- Accident insurance
- Optical equipment
- English and Spanish Ornithological lexicon.
- Taxes
- All transfers from the airport
- Cable car tickets
- Lodging in Rio Aliso cottages (self catering) [www.rioaliso.com](http://www.rioaliso.com)



Some birding activities may be altered, interchanged or reserved as 'free days' on request.



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