

# Purely PYRENEES

walking and cycling holidays

## The Best Of The High Pyrenees : From Lourdes To The Stars



**All the top highlights of the High Pyrenees - turquoise lakes, innumerable waterfalls, and the UNESCO Site of the Cirque du Gavarnie. Great walking on ancient footpaths, regional cuisine, and an unforgettable night staying at the Summit Observatory of the Pic du Midi. You will be starstruck!**

7 nights, 6 walking days

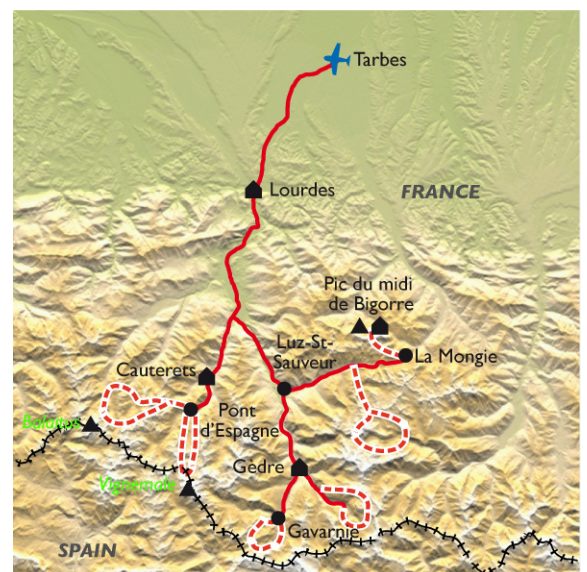
- Minimum required 2
- From point to point
- With luggage transportation
- Self-guided

Code :  
**FP2PUPI**



### *The plus points*

- **Daily transfers to ensure you experience only the "best bits"**
- **Luggage transfers every day (except one) so you only carry a daysack**
- **Characteristic hotels with dinner included**
- **24/7 customer service**



*Before departure, please check that you have an updated fact sheet.*

[http://www.purelypyrenees.com/best\\_high\\_pyrenees\\_lourdes\\_stars.html](http://www.purelypyrenees.com/best_high_pyrenees_lourdes_stars.html)

*We make it possible to enjoy discovering this wonderful region on foot by including transfers that ensure you only walk "the best bits". Although this is in the High Pyrenees, anyone who is reasonably fit and used to walking will find that this is one of their most memorable walking holidays ever - for all the best reasons.*

*You also stay in good quality, authentic hotels, so your creature comforts are well taken care of. To really appreciate what this walking holiday offers, we'd suggest you read the itinerary below - then decide for yourself.*

*The private transfers enabling you to only walk the "best bits" inevitably adds to the holiday cost, so it cannot be directly compared with apparently similar holidays.*

## ■ PROGRAMME

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### DAY 1

#### Arrival at Cauterets

**Standard option (transfers not included):** You make your own way to Cauterets (you will use your own car for the whole of the holiday).

**With extra airport pick-up (transfers included for the whole week):** We will pick you up at Lourdes airport or railway station and drive you to Cauterets. All daily transfers are included in the price. *Pick-ups also available from Toulouse, Pau or Biarritz (please consult us for prices).*

Cauterets is an attractive and vibrant Pyrenean mountain town, which in the 19th century was packed with Romantic authors and artists as well as the affluent bourgeoisie all "taking the waters" (what the French call "the cure") thanks to its natural, health-giving thermal springs. They would also explore the other natural wonders of the region and have a go on the funicular railway (unfortunately no longer running).

You stay for the first three nights at the remarkable three star Hôtel le Lion d'Or - remarkable because it owes its existence and origins to those affluent times, and remarkable too because you walk into a seemingly brand spanking new 19th century hotel. You gradually discover that it has undergone a comprehensive and very expensive refurbishment that retains all its 19th features, yet now includes state of the art 21st century showers (to name but one thing). The restaurant too serves the sort of authentic regional cuisine that those needing to "take the cure" (then and today) appreciate.

**Transfer time : 50 minutes.**

### DAY 2

#### Gaube lake

Short transfer so you can start from the photogenic stone bridge called the Pont d'Espagne with its impressive waterfalls. From there, you walk up through pine forests to appreciate one of the most memorable views in the High Pyrenees: the massive Vignemale mountain and the glacier of Petit Vignemale reflected in Gaube lake. After breaking the spell of that view, you follow a path alongside a tumbling torrent with frequent waterfalls surrounded by forests and alpine type meadows before arriving at the mountain refuge of Les Oulettes from where climbers often launch their attempts on the north face of Vignemale (3,000 feet of climbing heaven or hell, depending on your point of view). You then descend by delightful paths for the short transfer back to Cauterets.

You will appreciate all the modern comforts of the Hôtel le Lion d'Or when you return - and thoroughly appreciate a well earned dinner.

**Walking time : 6h. Distance : 15,5km. Elevation : + 700m / - 700m. Transfer time : 15 minutes.**

### **DAY 3**

#### **Embarrat lake and Marcadau valley**

After a short transfer, you stroll quietly across the Clot plateau (but not feeling like one, we hope), and then the Cayan plateau where the torrent from the slopes above snakes its way between pine trees, and forms small islands in mid-stream. The source of some of the streams you pass are the impressive Embarrat and Pourtet lakes you now reach at well over 7,000 feet (remembering that you did not start at sea level, but were already at many thousands of feet up). Rising even higher are the granite "needles" of Castet-Abarca walked on only, but not infrequently, by Pyrenean chamois. You now have the privilege of walking down the Marcadau valley, which Walkopedia says is one of the world's best walks, and Cicerone describes as a walkers' paradise, but you can decide for yourselves what you call it. As you get lower, so the pine forests reappear, and the stream gets rather more calm, cool and collected.

Its here you will see the large and impressive Refuge Wallon on its literally outstanding site (drinks and snacks usually available) close to a lovely little chapel. You return to the Pont d'Espagne where we transfer you back to Cauterets.

You will again appreciate all the modern comforts of the Hôtel le Lion d'Or when you return - and thoroughly appreciate a well earned dinner.

**Walking time : 5h or 6h30. Distance : 16km or 19,5km. Elevation : + 400 or + 960m / - 400m or - 960m. Transfer time : 15 minutes.**

### **DAY 4**

#### **Cirque de Gavarnie**

Today we visit what most people regard as the most exceptional and memorable site in the whole of the Pyrenees. We drop you off in the village of Gavarnie (or self-drive for the standard option) from where you walk fairly gently up a wide path on a mountain "balcony" to the Bellevue plateau with privileged panoramas of the high mountain scenery all around you. From the top, you descend into the centre of the enormous natural "amphitheatre" that is the Cirque du Gavarnie with its myriad waterfalls - many impressively long and powerful - sheer bare rock cliffs, and contrasting peaceful valley bottom.

The appropriately named Grande Cascade at about 1,300 feet is over 300 feet higher than the Eiffel Tower (300 feet!), and one of the highest in Europe. The bucolic final section is along the valley bottom, or, more challengingly, by the Espugues route, which follows an attractive rocky balcony path. Either way you arrive at Gedre-Gavarnie village. Truly memorable, we are confident you will agree.

You stay two nights at the recently refurbished, very comfortable and renowned three star Hôtel de la Brèche de Roland with its impressive and enjoyable restaurant serving local traditional dishes transformed into contemporary masterpieces by chef-owner Philippe Pujo. The Brèche de Roland - Roland's Breach - is a 40 metre wide, 100 metre high gap in the cliffs dividing the two sides of the High Pyrenees, and legend claims it was cut by Count Roland using his sword Durendal after losing the 8th century Battle of Roncesvalles.

**Walking time : 5h or 6h. Distance : 9,5km. Elevation : + 500m or 750m / - 500m or 750m. Transfer time : 1 hour.**

## **DAY 5**

### **Cirque de Troumouse**

A beautiful walk from the hamlet of Héas, passing herds of summer pasturing long horned cattle and up to the incredible glacially created "arena" that is the Cirque de Troumouse (rising to almost 10,000 feet all around you). There can be no doubts about why this whole area is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You walk across the plateau in the middle of the Cirque with its wildflower meadows and streams before arriving at the Aires lake where there is also a refuge cabin. Having spent plenty of time taking it all in, you now descend down good footpaths back to Héas. Don't forget to visit the 16th century pilgrimage chapel built to house a wooden Black Madonna found by local shepherds, and which miraculously (say some) survived an avalanche.

The welcome comforts of the Breche de Roland await you.

**Walking time : 5h. Distance : 12km. Elevation : + 600m / - 600m. Transfer time : 30 minutes.**

## **DAY 6**

### **Ets Coubous valley (Néouvielle) and night at the summit of the Pic du Midi**

Today you walk mainly in the wonderful Ets Coubous valley, which offers a succession of lovely lakes where the colour of the water and the reflections change as you walk by. It is an altogether enjoyable walk that enables you to really immerse yourselves in the endless panoramas and beauties of the High Pyrenees. Thoughts of home and work seem a million miles away, and you will hopefully fully appreciate the tranquillity that comes from being among, and almost part of, these magnificent mountains. But now a change of pace is forced upon you as we transfer you (or self-drive for the standard option) to the village of La Mongie, itself a ski resort at 6,000 feet, where you take the cable car up and up and up another 4,000 feet to the summit of the Pic du Midi de Bigorre for your unforgettable night "among" the stars.

The Observatory was begun in 1878, and its telescope was funded by NASA to photograph the moon in preparation for the Apollo landings. Now it is primarily used for visitor purposes you will be pleased to learn, and has a new planetarium experience. The daytime views across what feels like endless miles of mountains is matched at nighttime by almost literally endless views of the stars - crisp, clear and apparently very close due to your altitude and the absence of light pollution. The Hôtellerie du Pic du Midi right by the Observatory offers a welcome cocktail to enjoy as you stand on the terrace watching the sun go down. After dinner, you are given a guided "tour" of the heavens, and a privileged visit inside the Observatory itself.

**Walking time : 4h30. Distance : 11km. Elevation : + 800m / - 800m. Transfer time : 1h15.**

## **DAY 7**

### **Descent of the Pic du Midi**

On your descent of the Pic du Midi, via the historical "**Chemin des Muletiers**" (the "Muleteers' Path"), originally taken by the men who built the observatory, you will walk down past the Hôtellerie des Laquets (old, unused hotel) before coming to the ruins of the former observatory at the **Col de Sencours**. The descent continues down through a gorgeous valley, through high-altitude grazing areas and shepherds' huts, but it is also possible to take the cable car down. Transfer to Lourdes.

You stay the last night at the three star Hôtel Beauséjour in the centre of Lourdes enabling you to visit the religious sites, and take the funicular up to Jer peak, which has exceptional panoramic views.

**Walking time : 4h30. Distance : 10km. Elevation : - 1500m. Transfer time : 1 hour.**

## **DAY 8**

### **End of stay**

**Standard option:** Your holiday ends after breakfast. You will still have your car with you.

**With extra airport pick-up:** After breakfast, we will pick you up and take you to Lourdes airport or railway station. *Transfers also available to Toulouse, Pau or Biarritz (please consult us for prices).*

**Transfer time : 20 minutes.**

*Elements beyond our control (the weather, level of the group, logistical risks, other miscellaneous reasons...) may lead our team to modify the programme. We aim to please, but your safety will systematically be our priority.*

The night on the Pic du Midi: if weather conditions prevent the cabin car from working, then we will tell you as soon as we know, and will arrange for another hotel and another walking itinerary for the following day. We will also reimburse you for any price differences.

**WARNING :** This winter (2017/18) has given us a lot of snow in the Pyrenees and the spring season is also giving us unusually low temperatures. The amount of snow still lying is therefore exceptional for the time of year. Depending on the speed at which the remaining snow cover continues to melt, we may be forced to move your holiday to a later date (in spite of the theoretical possible departure dates) or modify the proposed itineraries. Thank-you for your comprehension.

## ■ **USEFUL INFORMATION**

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### **PROGRAMME OF DEPARTURES**

15 June to 30 September

### **MEETING POINT**

**Standard option (transfers not included):** You make your own way to Cauterets (you will use your own car for the whole of the holiday).

**With extra airport pick-up (transfers included for the whole week):** We will pick you up at Lourdes airport or railway station and drive you to Cauterets. All daily transfers are included in the price. *Pick-ups also available from Toulouse, Pau or Biarritz (please consult us for prices).*

## **END OF STAY**

**Standard option:** Your holiday ends after breakfast. You will still have your car with you.

**With extra airport pick-up:** After breakfast, we will pick you up and take you to Lourdes airport or railway station. *Transfers also available to Toulouse, Pau or Biarritz (please consult us for prices).*

## **TO GET TO THE MEETING POINT**

SNCF runs overnight sleeper and daytime trains from Paris to Lourdes, which is also easily accessible by road (all motorway except the last 10 or so miles). You can fly to Tarbes-Lourdes-Pyrénées airport direct from Paris everyday, and on several days a week in peak holiday months from London and various other cities in Britain, Germany, Spain and Eire. Or you can drive directly to Cauterets.

## **CAR SHARING**

To reduce your travel costs as well as carbon emissions, think about car sharing, whether you are a driver or passenger. Connect to [Blablacar](#) it's simple and practical.

We recommend that you compare the cost of various different means of accessing your circuit start point by using the website [Comparabus](#). Contrary to what the name suggests, this site proposes several different means of completing a journey, including, flights, trains, buses or car sharing.

## **PARKING**

There is reasonably priced public parking in Lourdes.

## **IF YOU WANT TO ARRIVE THE NIGHT BEFORE OR STAY AFTER THE TRIP**

You can book extra nights before, during or after the holiday. Just contact us.

## **GUARANTEED DEPARTURE FROM (PERS)**

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## **LEVEL**

This holiday features mainly comfortable, but some challenging walking, so is suitable for people who are reasonably fit, and used to walking (albeit "gently") for much of a day. On most days there are choices of itineraries, which you can decide for yourselves each day. It can get hot in July and August, as well as more crowded. We would recommend June and from mid August through September as the best months.

## **LUGGAGE TRANSPORTATION**

We will transfer your luggage between each hotel, so all you need to carry when walking is a daysack with whatever you regard as essentials. This does not apply to the night on the Pic du Midi when you will need to carry any washing essentials and clothing changes you consider necessary.

## **SUPERVISION**

This is an independent, self-guided holiday.

## **ACCOMODATION**

You stay in double or twin en suite rooms for 6 nights in three star hotels, and one night in a room at the Observatory.

## **MEALS**

You will eat well. Dinners are based on set menus featuring regional specialities usually with 3 or 4 choices for each of three courses, but you can pay locally for upgraded choices. Breakfast is included every morning as are picnics on days when there are no shops or cafes/restaurants - and, anyway, you can always ask the hotel the night before to make a picnic, which you can pay for locally.

## **LUGGAGE TRANSPORTATION**

Unless using the self-drive (standard) option, we will transfer your luggage between each hotel, so all you need to carry when walking is a daysack with whatever you regard as essentials.

## **THE PRICE INCLUDES**

7 nights dinner, bed and breakfast; people and luggage transfers (only if you have chosen the "extra airport pick-up" option); detailed walking instructions; 1:25,000 IGN map; 24/7 customer phone service.

## **THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE**

People and luggage transfers (except if you have chosen the "extra airport pick-up" option); lunches except when picnics are included; drinks with meals; non-standard menu items; entry fees; personal and travel insurance.

## **FORMALITIES**

You need to keep your passport with you at all times, and ideally insurance information. You need to make your own arrangements to claim local healthcare. There are requirements in France and Spain for all vehicles to carry safety equipment.

## **CONTENTS OF YOUR TRAVEL FOLDER**

When we have received your balance of payment for your holiday, and in the month before departure, we send you all the documentation you need: detailed itinerary showing dates, times, contact details etc; a detailed guide to your walking route (with options) and lots of cultural, historical and nature background information; formal documents (invoices, contracts etc); luggage labels etc. If you book at the last minute, we can send this information to your first night hotel.

## **■ EQUIPMENT**

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**Do** pack everything into one suitcase (preferably soft form) and bring a weatherproof daysack (small rucksack) each. We transport your luggage, and large rucksacks are difficult for flights and cars.

**Do** invest in "tech" clothing - light, waterproof, breathable, quick drying etc - and good walking boots with ankle protection (trainers will not be good enough).

**Do** simplify your "tech" equipment if you can: for example, can you get communications, internet access, entertainment, music and books all on your smartphone ? There's plenty of space in your luggage for a Kindle, so do you need to take books as well ?

**Do** choose comfortable clothing for evenings too - usually people dress casual, or at most smart casual, but remember you are usually staying and dining in quality hotels.

**Do** remember that while you are enjoying some of the most unspoilt and magnificent scenery and landscapes in the world, and walking for hours without seeing another soul, you will be staying in villages and towns with shops that have most of the things you might need as replacements, or if you've forgotten stuff. After all, you are in France and Spain, not the middle of nowhere !

## **LUGGAGE**

- A soft travel bag, avoid suitcases, which are more cumbersome and limit the weight of your belongings to 10 kg if possible.
- A small backpack of 30 litres minimum for your daytime requirements.

## **CLOTHES**

- Waterproof and breathable anorak (Gore-Tex type)
- Fleece or a sweater (depending on the location and season)
- Waterproof over-trousers
- Pair of gloves (depending on the location and season)
- Sun hat (with all round brim)
- Shorts
- Swimming costume + packaway towel
- Several pairs of proper walking socks
- Underwear
- Pair of trainers or light evening shoes
- Comfortable clothing for the evening

## **EQUIPMENT TO BRING**

- Walking boots (with ankle protection)
- Sunglasses, sunscreen and lip protection
- Water bottle or backpack container (allow 2 litres per person per day)
- Tupperware type container for the picnic + cutlery
- Compass
- Waterproof cover for walking instructions and map
- Head torch
- Survival blanket
- Mobile phone (signal strength is often surprisingly good, but cannot be relied on)
- Your identity documents (including driving licence - you never know when...)

## **FIRST AID KIT**

- Small shared kit (gauze, plasters, analgesic, blister plasters, earplugs, pain killers, indigestion tablets)

## **■ MORE INFORMATION**

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## THE AREA

This region is the heart of the Pyrenees and what most people imagine the Pyrenees is like before they come here.

On the French side the landscape is made up of long deep valleys running approximately north-south, with a few perpendicular valleys running east-west. There are several interesting areas in the foothills (such as the Nature Reserve of Pibeste and its mouflons) or the wonderful ridges in the Val d'Azun or up on the Hautacam, but these lower areas soon give way to the immense north faces and cirques in the National Park of the Pyrenees, a protected area teeming with wild animals and endemic flowers.

The biggest gem of all is the double-rated (for both nature and culture) UNESCO site of Gavarnie. Its cirque (along with the Breach of Roland and the cirques of Estaubé, Troumouse and Barroude) forms a focal point for Pyrenean exploration and romanticism.

On the other side of the cirques lies Spain and the National Park of Ordesa, lined with jaw-dropping canyons such as Añisclo, Escuin, Pineta and Ordesa itself. The whole area is a mountain paradise.

There are large concentrations of spa towns (Barèges, Luz-Saint-Sauveur, Argelès-Gazost, Bagnères de Bigorre...), some of the worlds most renowned cycling cols (such as the Tourmalet, for example), the highest peaks in the Pyrenees (such as Aneto, Vignemale, Mont Perdu or Balaitus), superb walking trails, and the four top tourist sites in the Pyrenees: the town of Lourdes with its Catholic sanctuaries and curative waters, the world class observatory at the Pic du Midi, the Victorian-style spa town of Cauterets and its famous bridge at Pont d'Espagne, and the village and cirque at Gavarnie (of course!).

Victor Hugo once wrote of Gavarnie "it is both a wall and a mountain at the same time, it is the most mysterious of edifices built by the most mysterious of architects; it is nature's coliseum; it is Gavarnie".

In the early 19th Century, other Romance writers and poets flocked to this area of the Pyrenees searching for inspiration. I have personally visited the cirque maybe hundreds of times and it literally never ceases to amaze me. The sheer beauty and immensity of its 1700m vertical cliffs and Europe's highest waterfall pouring out from its centre are enough to make a grown man cry. The impossible scale of everything leads me to reflect on just how small we are in comparison to the incredible forces of nature.

The place is obviously crawling with tourists, which is why you should go for a hike off the main trail and up onto the surrounding hillsides where you will get some of the best views of both the Cirque and the Breach of Roland (a 50x100m gap in the cliffs that a giant 8th-Century soldier named Roland allegedly made with his sword when fleeing back to France from Spain after fighting with Arabs and Basques).

On the other side of the Breach there is a whole new world waiting for you in the colourful canyons of the National Park of Ordesa, in Spain. Here you will find the Faja de las Flores, one of the most famous walking paths in the Pyrenees, carved into the top part of a cliff at an altitude of 2600m!

Not very far from Gavarnie, there is the Pic du Midi with an observatory, hotel, restaurant and museum at the top. It is possible to hike up or get there by paying for a cable-car ride. The observatory itself has a long history, with the first brick having been laid over 100 years ago. The cable car has been running since the year 2000 in a bid to allow the observatory to partially finance itself with revenue from the tourists. The Pic du Midi is a fairly high peak (2877m) that is separated from the main chain of mountains to the south. This means that it is well protected from bad weather and large accumulations of cloud, making it a privileged spot for star-gazing and observation of the skies in general (in fact the speciality of the observatory is now observation of the sun). In the past, photographs taken from the observatory were used for the first NASA missions to the moon!

It would also be wrong to speak of the Pyrenees without mentioning the town of Lourdes. Nestled down at the entrance to the valley leading up to Gavarnie, Lourdes is dedicated to Catholics from all over the world who flock here in pilgrimage to visit the caves where Saint Bernadette had repeated visions of the Virgin Mary towards the end of the 19th Century. Mary had told her to drink the water coming from a source near the cave and this water turned out to have miraculous curative properties. The objective for many who visit Lourdes is to drink the water or bathe in it as a cure for illness or injury.

In addition to the religious side of things, Lourdes is also good for walkers as it is surrounded by many small hills such as the Pic du Jer or the Pibeste, which have outstanding views of both the plains and the high mountains to the south.

In the central Pyrenees there are several granite massifs filled with pristine mountain lakes. The Lac de Gaube near Cauterets is considered to be one of the most beautiful lakes in the Pyrenees, with stunning views out to the north face of Vignemale (the highest peak in the French Pyrenees at 3298m). It is a real pleasure to snowshoe over the top of it in good winter conditions.

Slightly more difficult hikes will also take you to many other lakes that are arguably just as beautiful but without the crowds of tourists.

The massif of Néouvielle was one of the first nature reserves to be created in France in the 1930s. There are almost 600 types of algae in the lakes, of which there are over 70 (not including the other lakes just outside the protected area!). The fact that this massif is entirely within France and protected on all sides by other large massifs means that it has a special micro-climate, leading to an abundance of different animal and plant species. The temperatures are higher than expected for a given altitude, meaning that European altitude records for many different species have been registered here: mountain pines growing at over 2600m and fox-gloves at over 1800m! The French electricity company EDF have made the most of the park's water reserves by building dams and creating huge storage reservoirs at high altitudes. The water can be sent at great speeds down penstocks buried inside the hillside (there are still a few impressive penstocks built onto the outside of cliff faces too),

down into the power stations in the valleys where the kinetic energy will be transformed into electricity.

## ■ INSURANCE

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According to the regulation of our profession, Purely Pyrenees is covered by a Civil Professional Liability. However, each client must hold an individual civil liability as well as an individual multi risk guarantee in order to protect themselves from incidents or accidents that may occur before or during their hiking trip.

We remind you that a credit card covers, in general, only assistance in repatriation and not the cancellation of your trip, and this only provided you use the card to pay for the total of the trip.

We offer a choice of three insurance options which you can purchase at the time of booking.

### **Package 1: simple cancellation insurance at 2.5%**

This insurance provides reimbursement of the amount incurred (excluding fees and the cost of insurance) in case of cancellation due to one of the following causes: serious accident, illness or death of insured, spouse or person accompanying them, and certain family members.

### **Package 2: simple cancellation insurance and assistance / repatriation at 3.7%**

This insurance allows, in addition to the benefits described in the plan No. 1; - To benefit from assistance in case of illness or injury during the trip and covers your return home if necessary. - A reimbursement paid on a pro rata basis (excluding transportation costs and with a waiting period) in the case of an interruption of your trip following an accident, the death of a loved one or other specified accidents.

### **Package 3: Package "super multi-risk": 4.8%**

This insurance offers, in addition to the benefits described in the packages No. 1 and No. 2, - A wider cancellation insurance with the repayment of amounts incurred (net of deductible) in case of cancellation for any justifiable reason including an exceptional and unexpected event. - The management of some of the costs incurred at the time in case of return not linked to an exceptional and unexpected event. - Compensation (capped) for loss, theft or destruction of baggage. - Payment of compensation for delayed baggage delivery of more than 48 hours.

**The rapatriation is not valid for all countries, please check with us before subscribing the insurance.**

You will receive with the confirmation of your booking an extract of the general conditions of contract chosen (in french). Take this document with you on your journey. The validity of all guarantees corresponds with the travel dates indicated on the invoice and applies only to services sold. For departures and returns postponed, please contact us. Warning: If you buy only the contract No. 1 (simple cancellation insurance), this means that you need to have your own insurance, repatriation assistance (related notably to certain credit cards). We advise you to check your contract and cover guaranteed. In this case, we ask you to tell us when you book the name of your insurance company and your policy number. You will assume, therefore, the responsibility of certain risks, especially in the advance payments of certain costs.

Important: If you must use the assistance during the trip, you must obtain the prior consent of Europe Assistance before taking any action or incur any expenditure by telephoning: 33 1 41 85 85 85 and quoting the number of contract: 58662860

## ■ ACTING FOR RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

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Purely Pyrenees is a founding member of Action for Responsible Tourism.

The label "Action for Responsible Tourism" was awarded Purely Pyrenees in 2009. It is controlled, every year, by ECOCERT.

Based on common values of respect, solidarity and quality, ATR aims to harmonize professional practices of its members.

To win the confidence of customers, it focuses on four key commitments, which arise from many activities in the field and at home.

- Clear information and awareness of responsible tourism given to the traveller.
- Selection of providers in the spirit of responsible tourism.
- Setting up of a transfer of competencies to the providers.
- Commitment in relation to the tour operator's own structure.

More information on the label ATR on /[www.tourisme-responsable.org](http://www.tourisme-responsable.org)

## ■ CONTACT US

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## ■ NOTES

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