

Purely PYRENEES

walking and cycling holidays

Quintessential Collioure To Cadaques



This short break packs in the best of the wonderful walk along the Mediterranean coast from Collioure (France) to Cadaqués (Spain). You stay in exceptional hotels with excellent regional cuisine - you will return home refreshed and keen to explore more of the varied landscapes of the Pyrenees.

4 nights, 3 days walking

■ Minimum required 2

■ From point to point

■ With luggage transportation

■ Self-guided

Code :
FP2PUQO



The plus points

- **One of our all-time classics...**
- **A choice of routes everyday: along the coast or through the foothills**
- **Authentic high-quality hotels with 2 gourmet dinners included**
- **Private transfers from and back to Perpignan airport or station**



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

https://www.purelypyrenees.com/quintessential_collioure_cadaques_break.html

You begin in the artists' village of Collioure, inspiration for many famous artists (including Matisse and Picasso). You then discover the vineyards of Banyuls, the Côte Vermeille (the "red coast"), the little white villages of the Costa Brava, and Cap de Creus ("Cape of the Cross") with its creeks filled with crystal-clear waters. A most appealing journey where the Pyrenees meets the Mediterranean, and where the blues of the sea and sky seem to blend harmoniously.

■ THE PROGRAMME

DAY 1

Arrival at Collioure

Standard option: You make your own way to Collioure.

With extra airport pick-up: We pick you up from Perpignan airport or railway station. *Pick-ups are also available from Toulouse, Carcassonne, Montpellier, Girona or Barcelona (please consult us for prices).*

Collioure is an old fishing port with a remarkable heritage, including an ancient royal castle with walls lapped by the Mediterranean. The town is renowned for being much visited by Braque, Matisse, Picasso and Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Depending on your arrival time, you will hopefully have time for a hike around the coastal foothills of Collioure, taking you past the Hermitage of Notre Dame de la Consolation. If you are feeling really energetic you can hike up to the Tower of Madeloc too, or just leave those breath-taking views for tomorrow...

You stay at the welcoming three star Hôtel Les Princes de Catalogne, well-situated in the very heart of Collioure, just metres from the port and the sea. Dinner will be in our nearby favourite restaurant, which offers a selection of local specialities.

For a supplement you can stay in the exceptionally stylish four star Relais des Trois Mas, right beside the sea facing the port. It has its own beach and a gourmet restaurant that has justly earned one Michelin star. Let us know if you would prefer this luxurious option.

Transfer: 40 mins. Walking time: 2h30 or 4h40. Height gain: 330m or 680m.

DAY 2

Collioure - Banyuls

After walking past the Château Royal, along the sea-front and the village beach, you climb up among dry-stone walls and cork trees to the an old mill, and then on to St Elme's Fort, which gives you an exceptional view of Collioure and the coast beyond. From here, you have 2 options.

Coastal Walk: you walk down into the busy and colourful harbour of Port Vendres, then follow the coast to Cap Béar passing a multitude of sublime creeks with crystal clear waters and sandy beaches, often with few or no people on them. L'Anse des Paulilles, for example, gives you a fantastic pretext for a dip in the sea before continuing on to Cap d'Ullastret and finally Banyuls-sur-Mer.

Inland Option: you continue climbing up to the majestic Tour Madeloc through alternating Mediterranean "maquis" and vines, and when you see the breath-taking 360° view running from the Spanish border to the plains of Roussillon you understand why they built this watch tower here. From here, you gently descend towards the sea through vineyards and chestnut orchards until you reach Banyuls. A very satisfying walk.

You stay at the impressively contemporary three star Hôtel Les Elmes located right next to the beach in Banyuls, which features a thoroughly enjoyable gourmet restaurant. Most rooms face the sea.

Walking time: 4h15 or 5h. Distance: 13km or 15,5km. Ascent/descent: + 500m or + 700m / - 500m or - 700m.

DAY 3

Banyuls - Llança - Port de la Selva

After a relaxed breakfast overlooking the Med, we transfer you to Llança just over the border in Spain, and from there you can choose from :

Coastal Walk: the coastal path continues past impressive modern villas, passes Sarnella lighthouse, and soon arrives at Port de la Selva. Its pretty little harbour featuring white houses is somehow both lively and sleepy, and best appreciated over a portside drink. You then pass tiny bays such as the intimate Cala Fornells en route to the wilder, rockier Cap de Creus ("Cape of the Cross"), and finally the fascinating little village of Selva de Mar, just a stone's throw away from the sea, but protected from it by nestling its narrow valley location.

Inland Option: this fantastic route heads across "maquis" and climbs through valleys untouched by tourism following ancient pilgrim paths to the small chapel of Santa Helena beside the imposing Monastery of San Père de Rodes. You can visit the monastery, and take in its striking views of the coastline dotted with whitewashed villages and, particularly, the wild Cap de Creus. With a little extra effort you can reach the remains of San Salvador castle, perched on a 700m-high hilltop, to enjoy the stunning panorama of the whole coastline including Cap de Creus, the plains of Empordà, the immense and perfectly-rounded bay of Rosas, and behind you the Pyrenees dominated by Mount Canigou, but with the Albères massif in the foreground. You pass interesting dolmens on your gentle descent to Port de la Selva.

You stay at the remarkable four star Hôtel Porto Cristo located just a few metres from the sea. It has been built around an old and very atmospheric wine-cellar, still with huge wine casks in place. The rooms are spacious, and the service is excellent. Dinner is in a restaurant very near to the hotel that offers simple but tasty cuisine featuring locally caught fish. Another memorable place to have stayed.

Walking time: 4h or 5h. Distance: 12 or 15.5km. Ascent/descent: + 250m or + 500 to 700m / - 250m or - 500 to 700m. Transfer time: 1 hour.

DAY 4

Port de la Selva - Cadaques

On this last walking day, you can again choose between coastal and inland routes.

Inland Option: after warming up those legs walking up and out of Port de la Selva, you'll find it worth the short detour to visit the beautiful hidden creek of Cala Taballera. Certainly not to be missed! You then walk across the rough and wild reaches of the upper Cap de Creus, where you will see many dry-stone shelters made for religious purposes. No wonder they call this the Costa Brava - the wild coast! You will eventually follow the path dropping steeply towards Cadaques beside low stone walls and olive orchards, but we would recommend that you extend your walk by making the round trip to the creek and lighthouse at Cala Nans, not least for its magnificent from-the-sea view of Cadaqués.

Coastal Walk: today, the coastal walk is actually somewhat more challenging than the inland option. Like the coastal option, you cross the wild cap de Creus, but this route leads to the extremity of the cape, and its lighthouse - the most easterly point on the whole Iberian Peninsula. You then head back to Cadaqués on paths passing by many beautiful creeks, such as Cala Culip, Cala Jugadora and Cala Bona. You also pass through Port-Lligat where Salvador Dali lived for many years. His quirky house is now a museum (pre-booking essential. See below), and at the entrance to the bay is the Island of Port Lligat which featured in several of his most famous paintings. You can also add a short circular walk on S'Oliguera, another cape almost cut off from the mainland by the sea.

The magnificently refined four star Hôtel Playa Sol is located right next to the seafront with the port of Cadaqués on one side, and a delightful garden and swimming pool on the other. Dinner is in a good restaurant just a few minutes from the hotel.

Walking time: 4h15 or 6h30. Distance: 13km or 23.5km. Ascent/descent: + 450m or + 600m / - 450m or - 600m.

DAY 5

End of stay

Standard option: Your holiday ends after breakfast. *We can also take you back to your car in Collioure for a supplement (see price list).*

With extra airport pick-up: We will transfer you back to Perpignan airport or railway station. *Transfers to Toulouse, Carcassonne, Montpellier, Girona or Barcelona are also available (please consult us for prices).*

You could also choose to visit the Dali museum in Figueras if you have time before your flight (it takes about an hour and a half). Do discuss this option with us if it interests you.

Journey time: 2 hours (plus museum visit)

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.

Visits : we recommend you check the opening days and times for the museums before you leave.

- Dali Museum (Figueras) : http://www.salvador-dali.org/museus/figueres/fr_index.html?mes=1#calendari

If you leave with us at 9am from Cadaqués, no booking is necessary for the above museum.

• Casa Dali (Port Lligat) : http://www.salvador-dali.org/museus/portlligat/fr_index.html?mes=1#calendari

For Casa Dali (Port Lligat), booking is essential (00349 72 251 015).

■ USEFUL INFORMATION

DISPOSITIONS COVID-19

Because of the added health precautions relating to COVID, you must be equipped from the start of your trip with:

* a sufficient quantity of masks (at a rate of 2 per day minimum). Wearing a mask will be compulsory during any transport, in certain accommodation, crowded places etc.

* zipped pockets for masks and other items such as used tissues

* hydro-alcoholic gel

* a thermometer to take your temperature in case of symptoms appearing during your stay * a pen (sometimes necessary to sign an agreement in certain accommodation).

The hosts who will welcome you (hoteliers, refuge guards, restaurateurs, transporters, local teams ...) are the people who will help to guarantee the smooth running of your stay and will ask you to conform with certain health related protocols. Out of respect for them and other people who frequent the same places, we ask you to commit to respecting the instructions given to you.

Be reassured and optimistic, because as you know, hiking is an activity that will allow you long and enjoyable periods of time during which the wearing of a mask is not mandatory!

So breathe fresh air and smile!

PROGRAMME OF DEPARTURES

1 March to 15 November.

MEETING POINT

Standard option: You make your own way to Collioure.

With extra airport pick-up: We pick you up from Perpignan airport or railway station. *Pick-ups are also available from Toulouse, Carcassonne, Montpellier, Girona or Barcelona (please consult us for prices).*

END OF STAY

Standard option: Your holiday ends after breakfast. *We can also take you back to your car in Collioure for a supplement (see price list).*

With extra airport pick-up: We will transfer you back to Perpignan airport or railway station. *Transfers to Toulouse, Carcassonne, Montpellier, Girona or Barcelona are also available (please consult us for prices).*

TO GET TO THE MEETING POINT

Depending on the date, there are some flights and trains to Perpignan, and trains to Collioure, but there are more flights to Montpellier, Toulouse, Girona and Barcelona. The journey by car is almost all motorway.

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

If you arrive by car, Collioure has several parking options.

GUARANTEED DEPARTURE FROM (PERS)

2

LEVEL

The walking is generally comfortable rather than challenging, but there are 2 itineraries to choose from each day: 3-4 hour walks with height gains between 300 to 500m, or 5-6 hour walks with height gains between 400 and 700m. Although the stages are not very long, in places the paths are quite stoney, with some steep parts early in the trip. If you are not used to walking over this type of terrain you may need to add a little time to the itineraries. It can get very hot in July and August, as well as more crowded, but the temperatures are moderated by the mountains and sea breezes. We would recommend May, June and September as the best months.

LUGGAGE TRANSPORTATION

Your luggage will be taken on to the following night's hotel, so you will only carry a daysack while on your walk.

SUPERVISION

This is an independent, self-guided holiday.

ACCOMMODATION

In double rooms (singles available for a supplement). 2 nights in 4-star hotels and 2 nights in 3-star hotels. On the first night, you can substitute the 3-star hotel for a 4-star hotel with a Michelin star restaurant at a supplement.

MEALS

4 dinners are included in the holiday price.

TRANSFERS

Usually transfers are in people carriers, mini-buses, cars or taxis. Often they will be exclusively for you.

THE PRICE INCLUDES

4 nights dinner, bed and breakfast; daily luggage transfers so you only carry a day sack; comprehensive route descriptions with maps; 24/7 English speaking customer service.

THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

Lunches or picnics (there are numerous places to shop or eat, but hotels will provide picnics if ordered the night before (pay locally)); drinks with dinners; booking fee of 25€ / person, entry tickets and other optional places of interest; personal 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

In the month preceding your holiday (and after the totality of your trip has been paid for), you will be sent a travel folder containing all the necessary documents for the completion of your holiday: a practical information sheet (giving you your meeting times, transfers, accommodation contact numbers and addresses etc), detailed route descriptions and itinerary, maps (sometimes integrated into the route descriptions), necessary documents (your invoice, hotel vouchers if required etc), and luggage tags.

■ EQUIPMENT

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

THE AREA

The walking takes place at the Mediterranean end of the Pyrenees. The final mountains tumble down directly into the sea, but they are no longer anything like the high alpine pastures of the Central Pyrenees. Here, there are cacti and Mediterranean scrub and the weather is much more reliable. The wonderful smells of lavender, thyme and rosemary are never far away. The most significant weather feature would be the strong "Tramontana" wind, which can sometimes be quite relentless.

Politically, this part of the Mediterranean is divided between France (department of the Pyrénées Orientales) and Spain (province of Girona). However, both parts form part of Catalonia and recently (2017) the part that is south of the border claimed independence from Spain. This independence has not been officially recognised by any other European nation, but many people will insist that they are now independent. The situation is likely to develop significantly over the coming years, but the subject can be quite a thorny one, so you should be aware that the opinions of local people should be respected whether you happen to agree with them or not.

French is the main language north of the border (with some Catalan spoken), but south of the border you are likely to hear more Catalan spoken than Spanish. Most place names are in Catalan, and both "northerners" and "southerners" are united by a common Catalan culture.

On the French side of the border, the towns of Banyuls and Collioure cannot be missed - Banyuls is famous for its terraced vineyards overlooking the Med (feel free to taste the local wine!), and Collioure for its picturesque harbour and lighthouse, inspiration to great artists from the Fauvism movement such as Matisse or Derain. From the coast, you will notice one mountain standing out from the rest as you look inland - the mighty Canigou (2784m). Purely Pyrenees also runs trips to climb this mountain!

The easternmost point of the Pyrenean range can be found in this region: Cap de Creus, in Spanish Catalonia (a headland that also happens to be the most easterly point of the whole of the Iberian Peninsula). This is a wonderful place to explore on foot to observe some of the incredible rock formations and bizarre landscapes that inspired Salvador Dali in some of his most famous surrealist paintings. For fans of Dali, it is also possible to visit a museum dedicated to him in Port Lligat near Cadaqués.

There are some gorgeous landscapes in this part of the world, which can also change several times in the same day. The transition between the seaside and the mountains is immediate - you just have to climb up a little and contemplate this tortured coastline with the plains of Roussillon to the North and the Empordà to the South. Not to mention the fantastic sunrises over the Med!

Architecture speaking, the castle in Collioure (with the sea lapping at its outer walls) and the magnificent Romanesque mountain monastery of Sant Père de Rodes are not to be missed.

If eating is your thing, then there is paella, grilled sardines, fresh anchovies, Catalan sausages or crema catalana just to name a few specialities. They also love to eat toasted bread with tomato and olive oil for breakfast. You can also try Cava (the Catalan answer to Champagne) or Cremat, a drink based on burnt rum and coffee.

■ INSURANCE

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

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

■ CONTACT US

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Purely Pyrenees is a brand created by La Balaguere SAS.

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■ NOTES

