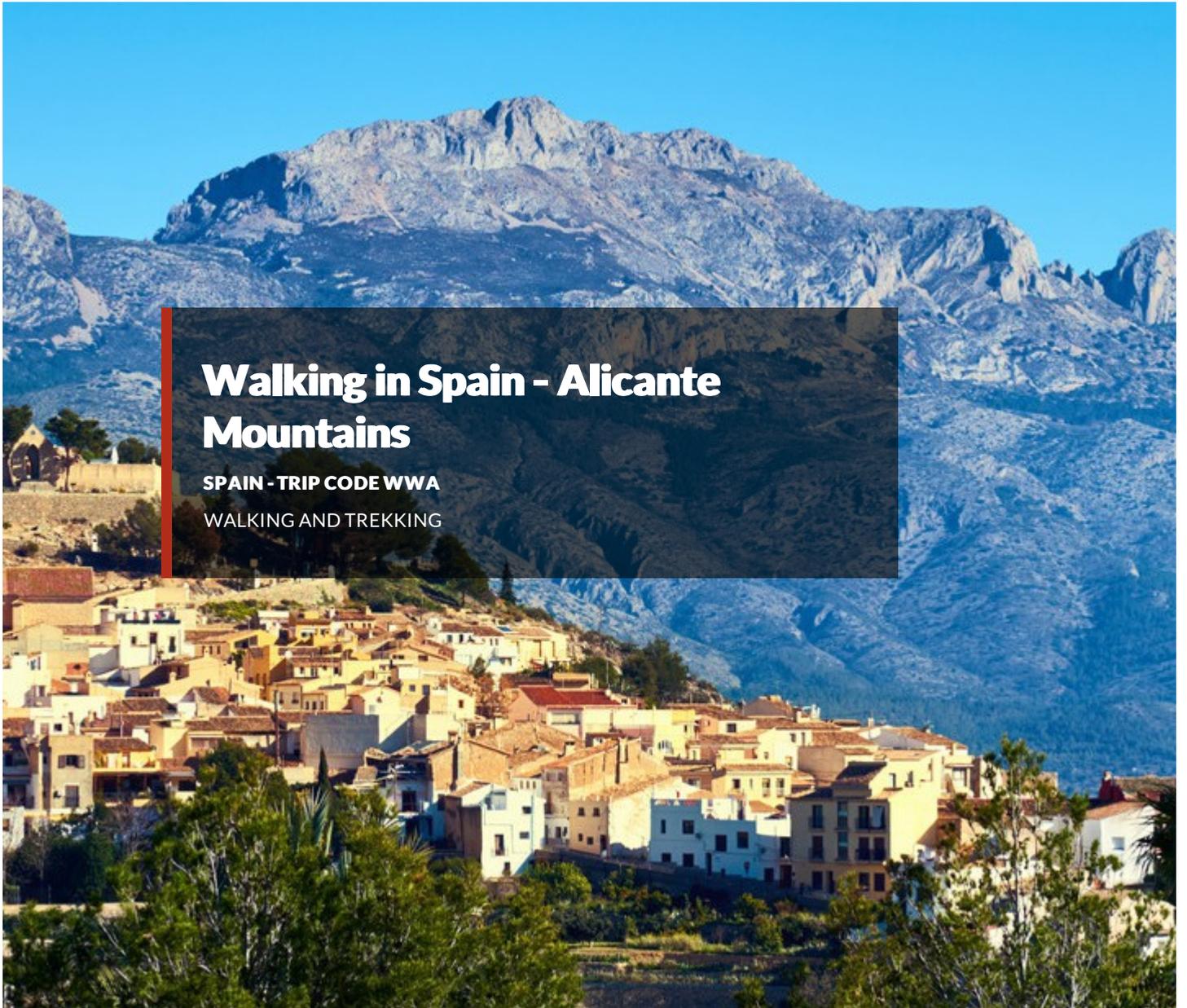


# EXPLORE!



## Walking in Spain - Alicante Mountains

SPAIN - TRIP CODE WWA

WALKING AND TREKKING

### Why book this trip?

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Based in the heart of the Alicante Mountains, this centre-based walking holiday explores the quiet mountain trails of a surprisingly little-visited inland area. Enjoy a variety of walks along ridge lines above olive and orange groves, through canyons and tranquil mountain meadows.

- **Off season Spain** - With over 300 days of sunshine a year, the climate is ideal for an early spring or autumn escape
- **Ancient trails** - Follow in the footsteps of the Moors to discover hilltop castles
- **Almond blossom** - See the spectacular pink almond blossom on our early season February departure
- **Malla de Llop** - One of the most spectacular ridge walks in the area (Included for 2020 departures)



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
Breakfast: 7



**TRIP STAFF**  
Explore Tour  
Leader



**TRANSPORT**  
Bus



**ACCOMMODATION**  
7 nights  
comfortable hotel



**WALKING GRADE:**  
Moderate



**GROUP SIZE:**  
10 - 16

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Join the trip at Alicante Airport and drive to Castell de Castells

Our base for the week is Castell de Castells, a peaceful village 30 kilometres from the Mediterranean coast surrounded by rugged limestone mountains.

With more than 300 days of sunshine a year and mild and sunny winters, this region is one of the best spots in western Europe for year-round walking. The Alicante Mountains are at their best during the late autumn and early spring when they are covered in wildflowers and blossom.



**ACCOMMODATION:**  
Hotel Rural Serella (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



**SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE**

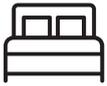


**MEALS PROVIDED: NONE**

### DAY 2 - Circular walk to Moorish castle ruins and along the ridges of the Sierra de Serella

Today we take a circular walk from our hotel into the Sierra de Serrella. We walk through olive and almond groves to the ruins of Serrella Castle. The ruins are hard to see from below, revealing themselves as we ascend on a winding mountain path to the square tower on the summit - affording spectacular views across the mountain ranges of the entire region. The castle dates back to the battles between the Christians and the Moors, it was one of the last Moorish strongholds until the Christian conquest in 1254. We continue along the slopes of the Sierra de Serrella which afford stunning views across the neighbouring peaks and mountains.

Today's 12 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately five hours with a total ascent and descent of 680 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Rural Serella (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



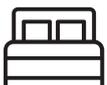
MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 3 - Walk through the dramatic Malafí Canyon and see prehistoric rock paintings

After breakfast we drive to the isolated village of Tollos, from where we descend through olive orchards to enter the Malafí Canyon. The landscape is dominated by large protruding rock faces, limestone peaks and vertically-sided quarries. This dry ravine is home to one of the best examples of late prehistoric rock art on the Iberian Peninsular. Discovered in 1980, the Sanctuary of Pla de Petracos site has eight shallow rock shelters, five of which show paintings in red of both animals and human figures. We continue along an undulating cobbled road back to the hotel.

Today's 17 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately five-and-a-half hours with a total ascent of 300 metres and descent of 450 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Rural Serella (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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#### **DAY 4 - Walk into Barranc de l'Infern (Hell's Canyon) taking the ancient steps cut into the hillside**

Our circular walk today begins from Fleix taking the ancient Vall de Laguar highway, a stepped path built in medieval times by the Moors to connect the three villages of Campell, Fleix and Benimaurell. This area was the last hideout of the remaining Moors in Spain before they got evicted from here in 1609.

There are over 6,000 steps carved into the mountainside which we descend and ascend, following in the footsteps of the Moors. We walk into the Barranc de l'Infern (Hells Canyon) and along the dry river bed of this narrow ravine. In spring time the area is carpeted in wildflowers, herbs (rosemary and thyme) and poppies.

Today's 13.5 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately five-and-a-half hours with a total ascent and descent of 800 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Rural Serella (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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#### **DAY 5 - Free day. Opportunity to go to Denia beach or explore the local area further**

Today has been left free. There is an optional half day walk available, the Alcala Circuit which is 10 kilometres with a local lunch of arroz al horno (Spanish rice dish) or alternative short walks from the hotel.

There is also the opportunity to head to the coast for a dip in the Mediterranean. Denia beach is approximately an hour's drive away where you could combine some relaxing on the sandy beach with a coastal walk.



ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel Rural Serella (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 6 - Walk across the Contador Pass and around Carrascal Peak with views across the Sierra Aitana**

Today we drive south to walk across the Contador pass. We take a spectacular circular trail around Carrascal peak with views across to the Puig Campana summit and the Sierra Aitana. Puig Campana (1,410m) is the second highest peak in the region with impressive rock walls. The trail descends through pine forest.

In the evenings you can enjoy local dishes and wine on offer at the hotel or in the small selection of restaurants/bars in Castell de Castells. The food of this area is influenced by the Moorish, Islamic culture including; couscous, Puchero (stews) and aromatic herbs.

Today's nine kilometre walk is expected to take approximately three-and-a-half hours with a total ascent and descent of 650 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Rural Serella (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 7 - From the hotel ascend to Aixorta peak (1,218m) and see natural, arch-shaped rock formations**

This morning we walk from hotel, traversing along the northern slopes of Aixorta peak we pass many almond groves. In February and March these trees have an explosion of beautiful pink and white blossoms. We ascend steadily to summit Aixorta, the highest peak in the Sierra de Serrella with

panoramic views over the Alicante mountains.

Before descending to the hotel we walk to Els Arcs, an impressive natural, arch-shaped rock formation. The inner limestone has eroded over time leaving two large arches.

Today's 17 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately six hours with a total ascent and descent of 780 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Rural Serella (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 8 - Drive to Alicante Airport where the trip ends**

After breakfast we drive to Alicante Airport where our trip ends.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## **Trip information**

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### **Country information**

Spain

## Climate

Overall, spring, early summer and autumn are ideal times for a Spanish trip - though the weather varies enormously from region to region. The high central plains suffer from fierce extremes, stiflingly hot in summer, bitterly cold and swept by freezing winds in winter. The Atlantic coast, in contrast, has a tendency to damp and mist, and a relatively brief, humid summer. The Mediterranean south is warm virtually all year round. Spain's Islands the Canaries and Balaerics experience very mild winters and warm summers making them ideal year round destinations.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion
+1	2 Pin Round	Roman Catholic

## Language

Castilian Spanish, Catalan, Galician, Basque

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## Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Taxi to Denia beach - Cost depends on numbers (€20-35 p.p.)

Alcala Cicruit walk - €30 including transport and lunch

Castell de Castell museum - €3 entrance fee

### Clothing

Bring light and comfortable clothing that can be layered according to the temperature. The weather conditions in the mountains can be changeable, and it can become windy and cool, especially at night, so bring warmer layers. Tops made from wicking materials which keep you drier, a warmer fleece is recommended as a mid layer, and walking trousers are preferable to trousers of heavier material such as jeans.

- Breathable wind and waterproof jacket
- T-shirts
- Long sleeved tops
- Sunhat
- Long trousers
- Shorts (if you prefer to walk in them)
- Swimwear and towel
- Midlayer Fleece/pullover
- Socks (liner and thicker pair)

### Footwear

We recommend you bring well-worn in walking boots with good tread- leather or fabric are both fine. In

addition please take comfortable trainers/shoes or sandals for the evenings. We suggest that on international flights you either carry your walking boots in your hand luggage or wear them - should your luggage be lost or delayed, your own boots are the one thing that will be irreplaceable.

## Luggage

20kg

### Luggage: On tour

Bring one main piece of luggage and a 20-30 litre day sack is recommended. You will need to carry what you need for the day which may include a raincoat, jumper, camera, sun-cream, water and picnic lunch. On hot days you will carry fewer clothes but more drinking water.

## Equipment

- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Small Torch (with spare batteries and bulb)
- Camera
- Walking poles (if you usually use them)
- Personal toiletries
- Personal first aid kit - On each walk a first aid kit is carried but you should have your own blister kit, supply of plasters, aspirin and other essentials.
- Insect repellent
- Small waterproof dry bag (for items such as your mobile phone)
- Reusable water bottle (minimum 1 litre) - Get 15% discount on a Water-to-Go bottle [www.explore.co.uk/about-us/responsible-travel/water-to-go-discount-with-explore](http://www.explore.co.uk/about-us/responsible-travel/water-to-go-discount-with-explore)
- Lunch bag/Tupperware (for packed lunches)

## Tipping

### Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Explore Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

### Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour. Accordingly, we recommend approximately €20 per person for tipping. 10% is recommended at meal times.

## Spain

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

<b>Lunch price</b>	<b>Dinner price</b>	<b>Beer price</b>
£8.00 - 12.00	£16.00 - 20.00	£1.50 - 3.50 (depending on the region/area in Spain)

**Water price**  
£1.4

## Foreign Exchange

<b>Local currency</b>	<b>Recommended Currency For Exchange</b>
Euros	We recommend you take the majority of your spending money in Euros cash.

### Where To Exchange

We recommend that you change any currency into Euros prior to arrival. Bureau de Change are generally only found in major cities and large airports.

### ATM Availability

In cities and most major towns.

### Credit Card Acceptance

Visa and Mastercard are generally accepted in larger restaurants and some shops.

### Travellers Cheques

Not recommended.

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## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus

### Accommodation notes

The welcoming Hotel Rural Serrella is located in the scenic village of Castell de Castells. The en suite rooms are comfortable furnished and in typical simple Spanish décor with tiled floors, they vary in size and layout. Some rooms also have a balcony and some have a sofa and small kitchen, the rooms are allocated on a run of house basis. The hotel features a bar, terrace and small spa, and restaurant serving authentic food of the region. With views of the surrounding mountains, it is an ideal base for a week's walking.

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## Essential Information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

### **Under 18 immigration guidance**

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### **Price Guarantee**

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### **Visa and Passport Information**

Spain: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

### **Booking conditions**

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

### **Transfers**

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

#### **Booking a land only package with Explore**

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

#### **Joining Tour Abroad**

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at

the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## **Insurance**

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## **Maximum altitude (m)**

1218

## **Spain**

### **Vaccinations**

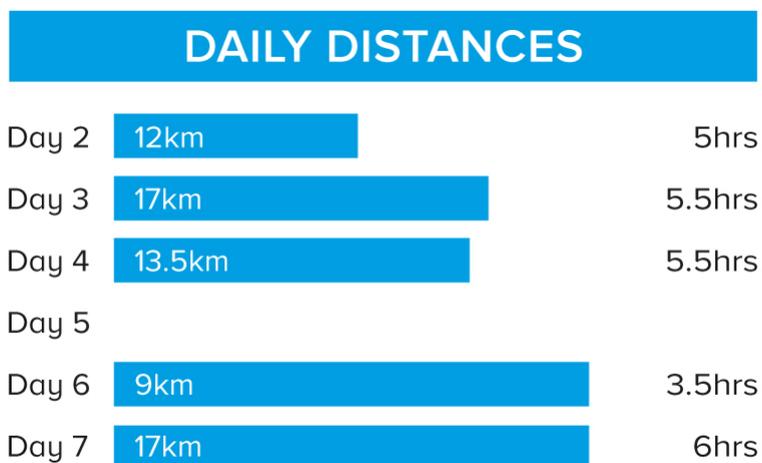
Nothing compulsory but Tetanus is usually recommended as a precaution. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list.

Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS

and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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### Walking and Trekking information



#### Walking grade

Moderate

#### Trek details

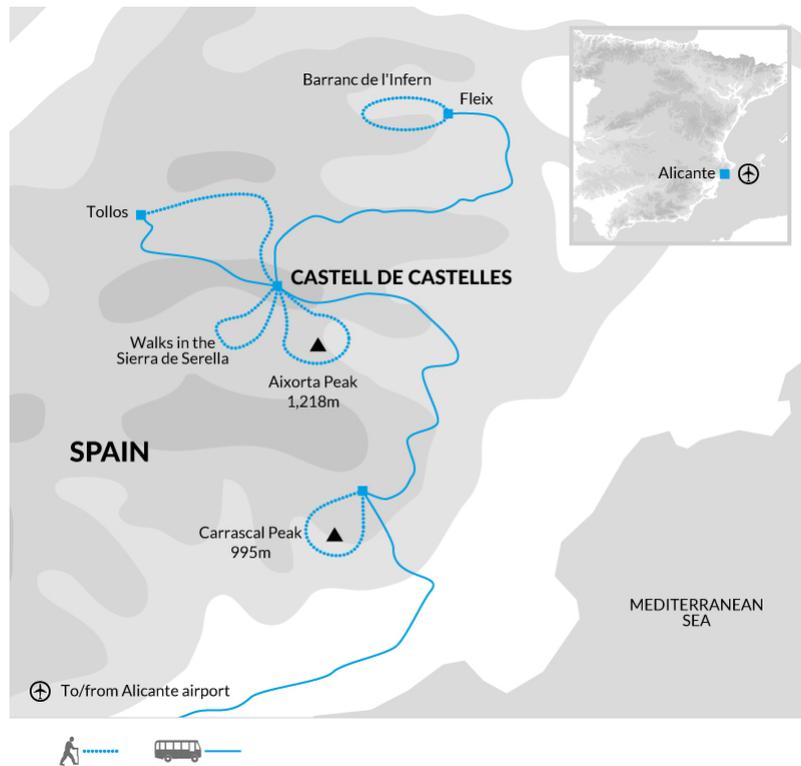
Walks on 5 days for between 3.5 to 6 hours. Follow mountain trails and mule tracks, hilly terrain.

#### Max walking altitude (m)

1218

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### Additional Information



## Why book this trip

Based in the heart of the Alicante Mountains, this centre-based walking holiday explores the quiet mountain trails of a surprisingly little-visited inland area. On walks directly from the hotel in Castell de Castelles, discover the influence the Moors had on the region and see spectacular wildflowers and blossom.

## Reviews



AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS



PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE



AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS