

WEATHER ON OUR MOUNTAIN TRIPS IN THE CENTRAL PYRENEES

Mountain weather is notoriously unpredictable and the Pyrenees are no exception! Yet, the range averages 300 days of sunshine a year. The typical seasonal pattern applies throughout the Pyrenees: snowy winters, rainy springs, warm and sometimes humid summer days with frequent thunderstorms and cool, damp autumns. However micro-climates affect the range greatly, in particular, our principal area of operation - the High and Central Pyrenees.

Generally, in this part of the range, winds blow from the humid Atlantic north, creating cooler, cloudier and wetter conditions on the French side. The southern-facing Spanish side, including Ordesa National Park area where most of our walking takes place, sits in the rain shadow and enjoys a much better climate, usually dry and sunny during the summer, although during July and August thunder storms can develop late in the afternoon or evening. These typically occur when a southerly wind blows hot moist air up from Spain's central plains.

We have scheduled most of our trips from mid-June to mid-July when the conditions are typically the most stable and most, if not all snow has usually melted from our paths on the highest parts of our itinerary. Some trips also run in September, when conditions are also relatively stable and snow has not yet begun to fall.

Of note for those taking part in our "trekking" trip which spends 2 nights in mountain huts high in the range, is the great difference between daytime and nighttime temperatures at elevation

On our tour dates, average temperatures in our overnight base in the village of Torla are highs of 18°C/65°F and lows of 8°C/47°F. Our start/end point city, Barcelona, tends to be much warmer than the Pyrenees, as it is at lower elevation. Average highs for Barcelona are 25°C /77°F and lows 16°C/61°F.

In the Goriz Mountain Hut (2200 m elevation), average high temps in June are 13.6°C and lows 6.5°C. Average rainfall in June is 107ml. In July the average high temps are 14.8°C and lows 7.6°C; average rainfall is 65 ml.

FORECASTS

For Ordesa area weather forecasts here are 3 sites you can use in combination to get a decent idea:

<http://en.eltiempo.es/> (An English version of a good general Spanish site, but not mountain-specific. Search for **Torla** in the search field on the left to find conditions for our valley base)

The excellent Meteo Exploration site www.meteoexploration.com We include direct links to the specific sites for the 2 mountain huts used on our trekking trip, Serradets (or Breche du Roland) and Goriz:

<http://www.meteoexploration.com/forecasts/Refugio-Serradets/?lang=en>

<http://www.meteoexploration.com/forecasts/Refugio-Goriz/?lang=en>

The Mountain Forecast site <http://www.mountain-forecast.com> They have forecasts for Monte Perdido, Taillon and Vignemale - the 3 biggest summits in the general Ordesa area. You can adjust the elevation for which you want a forecast. Keep in mind that these are big peaks (3000m+) that create their own weather - the conditions down in the Ordesa Valley will usually be much better.

Finally, see the Goriz Hut webcam <http://www.goriz.es/index.php/webcam> for a peek at current conditions there (2200 m, above Ordesa Canyon and below Monte Perdido)