



Walks and Climbs in the Picos de Europa (Cicerone Climbing Overseas)

By Robin Walker

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The guidebook has walks and climbs in the Picos de Europa, a limestone range to the north of the central section of the Cordillera Cantabrica, on the northern Atlantic shore of Spain, Europe. The Picos de Europa, Spain's premier National Park and a UNESCO Man and the Biosphere designated area, are unique among Europe's mountains: geologically, for being the largest single mass of mountain limestone in the continent; geographically, for being the only true maritime range Europe possesses; and sociologically, for retaining even to this day a large part of the culture that has for centuries been the basis of life in the towns and villages dotted around the area. Although relatively modest in terms of altitude and extent, the Picos are, nevertheless, high mountain terrain. The gentle pastures of the valleys quickly give way to spectacular but rugged alpine scenery. Approaches are steep, but the rewards for those able and willing to make the effort are immeasurable. Chapters 1-3 deal with background information such as geology, flora, fauna, history and technical issues. Chapter 4 describes valley-based activities and Chapter 5 offers detailed descriptions of walks, scrambles and alpine climbing from a number of different high-mountain bases. Suggestions are also given for multi-day walking tours and for winter mountaineering.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Robin's love of mountains began at an early age, holidaying in the Pennines with his family. From there he went on to walk and climb throughout Britain and Europe. In 1981 Robin got the chance to work in Spain, and the chance to explore Spain's mountain regions was too good to miss, and he decided to stay. As a climber the walls of the Picos de Europa drew his attention at first, culminating in Walks and Climbs in the Picos de Europa. Slowly, however, repeated trips to the Cordillera Cantabrica led him to grasp the potential of this hugely underrated range for mountain walking, and gave to Walking in the Cordillera Cantabrica.

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