



ASTURIAS CYCLING TOUR

Northern Spain: Leon to San Sebastian



Asturias Cycling Tour

Cycling from El Angliru to Lagos de Covadonga

Here is a classic cycling tour to challenge all recreational cyclists looking to tick off a full bucket list of epic climbs straight from **La Vuelta a España** pro-cycling race. This Spanish cycling tour follows the Asturian and Cantabrian provinces in northern Spain which are considered by many as the spiritual home of the modern day 'La Vuelta'. Just like Le Tour and the Giro, La Vuelta is full of EPIC climbs.

Join us in Asturias and test yourself on some of Europe's most challenging climbs (Lagos de Covadonga, San Lorenzo, La Farrapona and L'Angliru to name a few).

Northern Spain is often referred to as green Spain and the impressive east-west mountain range is the perfect stage for road cycling enthusiasts. In simple terms, a massive limestone formation extends through the Asturias, León and Cantabria provinces which captures heights above 2500 m elevation in many places. What is so amazing though is how close the mountains are to the Cantabrian Sea. In places they are barely 15km from the sea so just imagine the cycling views that will be on offer! The best way to describe these mountains is as the 'Spanish Dolomites'; jagged, eye-popping rock formations that provide delights around every switchback. We hope you are ready to climb as the tour hits the high peaks of the Somiedo, Ubiñas-Mesa, Ponga, Saja Besaya and Picos de Europa national parks.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Cycle the **Picos de Europa** national park – Spanish Dolomites!
- ✓ Test yourself on **L'Angliru** one of Europe's toughest road cycling climbs.

Move aside Mortirolo & Zoncolan!

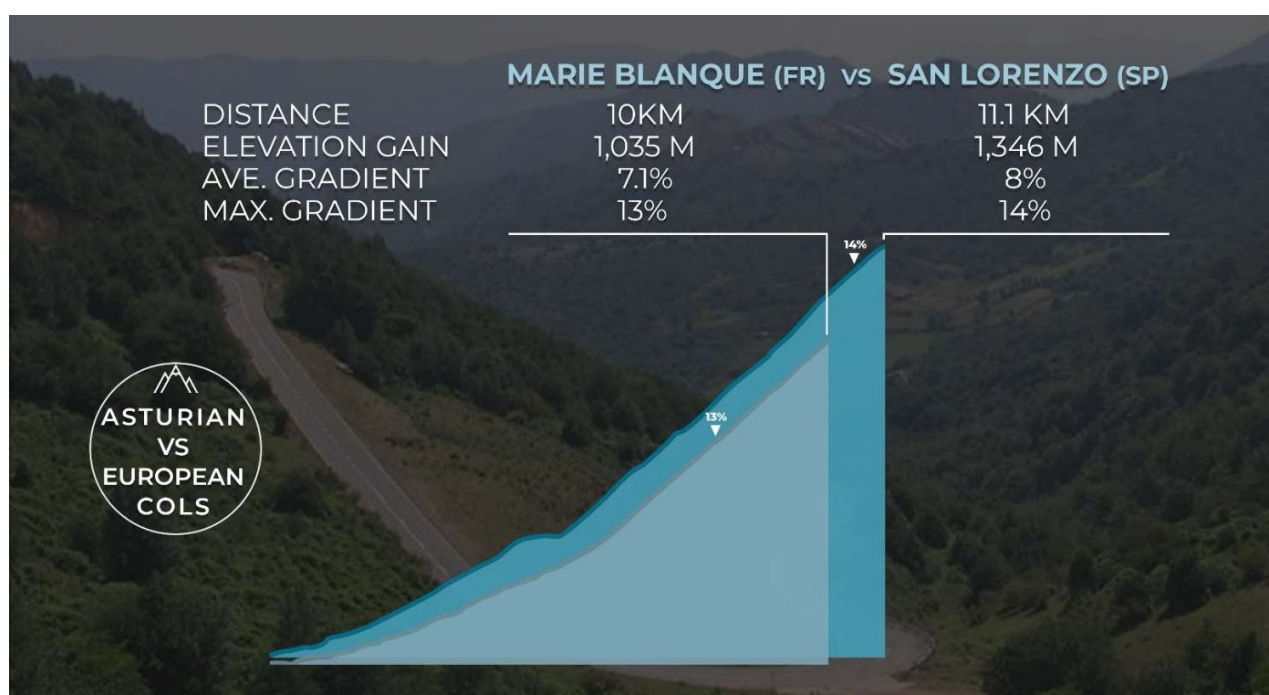
- ✓ Lagos de Covadonga – **21 magical 'La Vuelta' moments!**
- ✓ Be mesmerized as you ride through '**La Hermida**' canyon.



ITINERARY

DAY ONE – Santander to Somiedo

We can collect your group from Oviedo Airport, Santander Airport, Bilbao Airport or Leon Train Station during the morning. There will then be a van transfer towards Pola de Somiedo. Along the way we will stop for lunch. On arrival at the hotel we will then set up the bikes and head out for a 30-40km warm up ride.



The San Lorenzo climb will be a great way to get introduced to the Asturian mountains. San Lorenzo now awaits and its 11km at 8% average grade very much resemble the mighty Col du Marie Blanche statistics in the heart of the French Pyrenees. This climb really has some bite!

Tonight we sleep in Pola de Somiedo which is nestled in the heart of the Somiedo natural park. They estimate that there are nearly 200 brown bears living in these remote mountains. They are very shy and thankfully don't feed on resting cyclists!

Why Epic?

San Lorenzo has been used twice at La Vuelta during 2006 and 2010. Our climb from the east certainly packs a punch. Please pace yourself on the first 6km (5.5% average grade) as what now confronts you is a 5km wall averaging 11.2% all the way to the summit. Day 1 – wow!

Meals

Dinner included

Destinations

San Lorenzo

Today's Ride

30-40km cycling / 1000m elevation gain

Accommodation

Pola de Somiedo (Asturias, Spain)



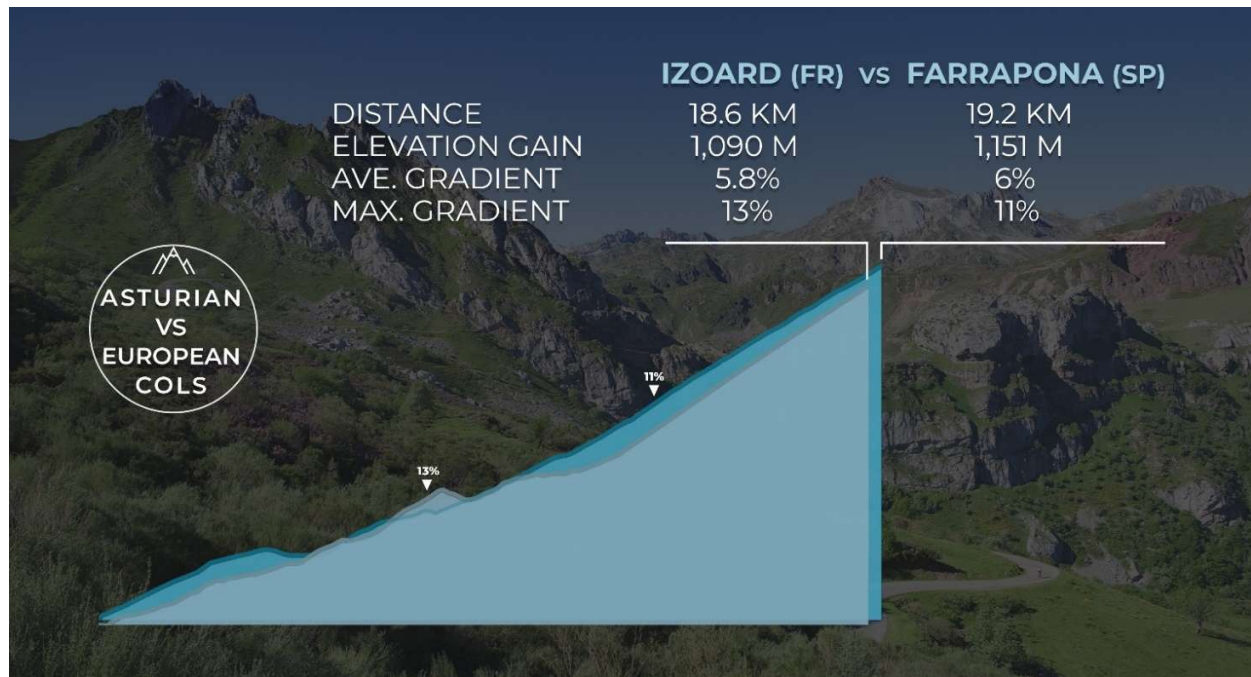
DAY TWO – La Farrapona versus Col d'Izoard

Today we will roll-out from the front door of the hotel. Before long we are at the base of La Farrapona climb. This has always been a up and back climb but thanks to the Vuelta pro race asphaltting the eastern approach in 2025 we can now climb from the west and descend to the east.

La Farrapona is an 18.5km climb with a 5.5% average grade. However, the ascent increases in difficulty as the climb advances. The final 6km average 8.7% but thankfully the magnificent panoramic views of the Salencia Lakes will take your mind off what is a genuine Vuelta wall. As you will start to appreciate, Asturias is full of climbs and from La Farrapona we link-up with the 'Ventana' climb.



During the run home we will get your heart rate up again as we continue past the ‘Senda de Oso’ (bear track) towards the edge of the Las Ubiñas-La Mesa Natural Park. This cycling route follows the valley directly west and behind the massive l’Angliru massif which is tomorrow’s huge challenge. A classic hotel to hotel ride which finishes at our new base for the next two nights.



Why Epic?

This corner of Asturias has rolled out 3 Vuelta summit finishes during 2011, 2014 and 2020. Alberto Contador took the win on Alto de La Farrapona during Stage 16 of the 2014 edition.

Meals

Breakfast & Dinner Included

Destinations

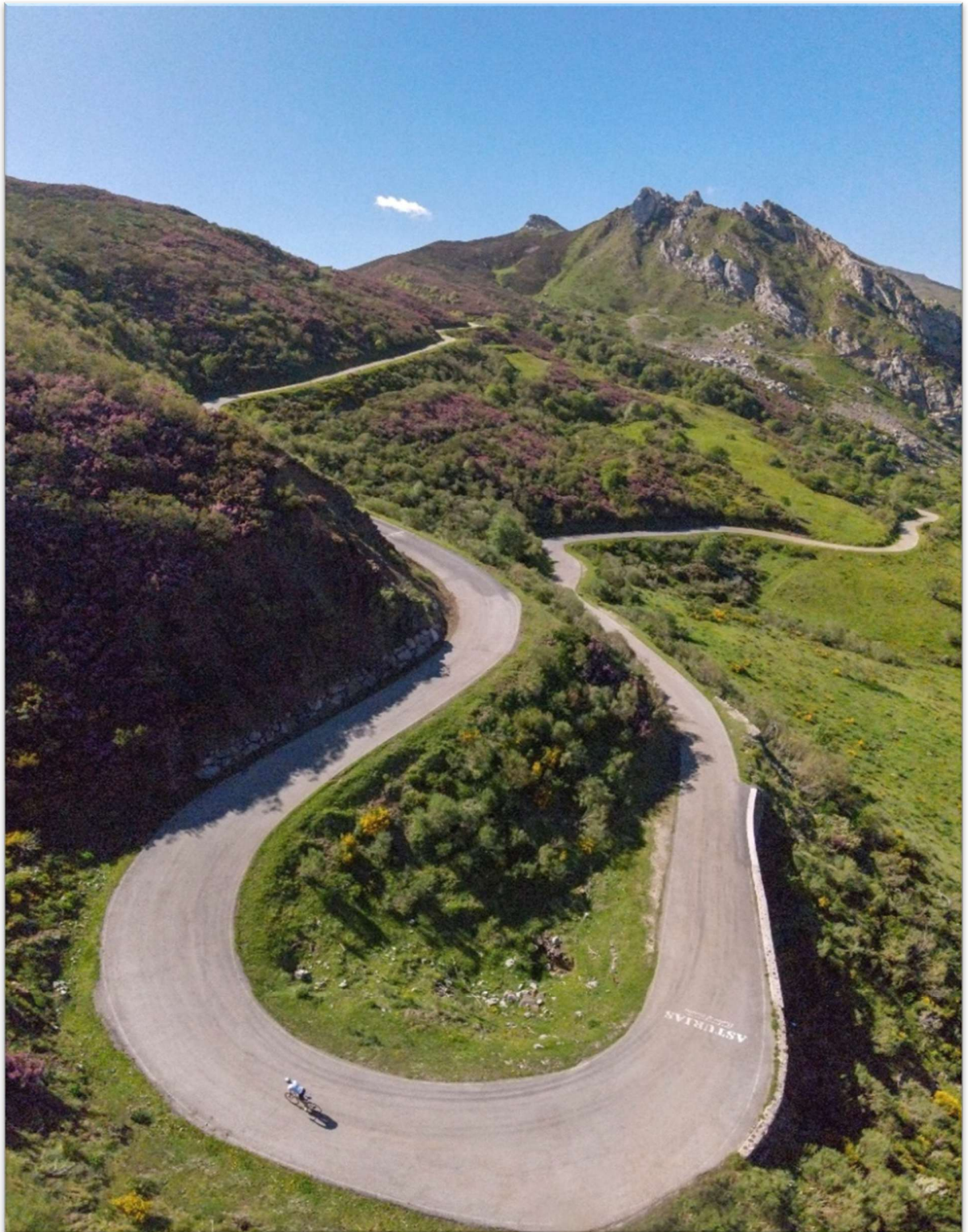
Senda de Oso

Today's Ride

85km / 2050m elevation gain

Accommodation

Oviedo (Asturias, Spain)



DAY THREE – L'Angliru: are you ready?



Are you ready? Having cycled this monster a number of times we can honestly say that you are never really ready for L'Angliru. If your bike has the right gearing - compact cranks with at least a 32 rear cassette, you have some training in the legs and strong willpower this should be enough to get you to the top. This will probably be your greatest road cycling achievement to date and perhaps for all times for that matter.

The Tour de France has Tourmalet, Alpe d'Huez, Galibier and Mont Ventoux. The Giro d'Italia has Giau, Stelvio, Mortirolo and Zoncolan. La Vuelta over its journey was missing a secret ingredient, a colossal climb you could say! Enter L'Angliru. A goat track used by Asturian farmers was converted overnight into Spain's number 1 cycling mecca.

El Alto del Angliru was first introduced by La Vuelta organisers during 1999. The 12.5km climb with 10.2% average grade we think puts it in the top 3 of all European road cycling climbs. Sounds tough right! But wait for it, the final 6.5km average 13.5% with half a dozen extended ramps ranging between 19 to 23.5%. The legend is born!

In the initial 30 challenging km to the L'Angliru summit you will have already climbed 1575m elevation gain. Staggering statistics. If you would like to add another 20km to your ride we will guide you up 'El Cordal' which is a typical Vuelta link climb!

Why Epic?

'Un autentico infierno' as the locals would say! As soon as L'Angliru made race news, it spread like a wildfire across the cycling world. There have now been 8 Vuelta stage finishes since 1999 and Alberto Contador is the only rider with multiple stage wins.

Meals

Breakfast & Dinner Included

Destinations

El Cordal

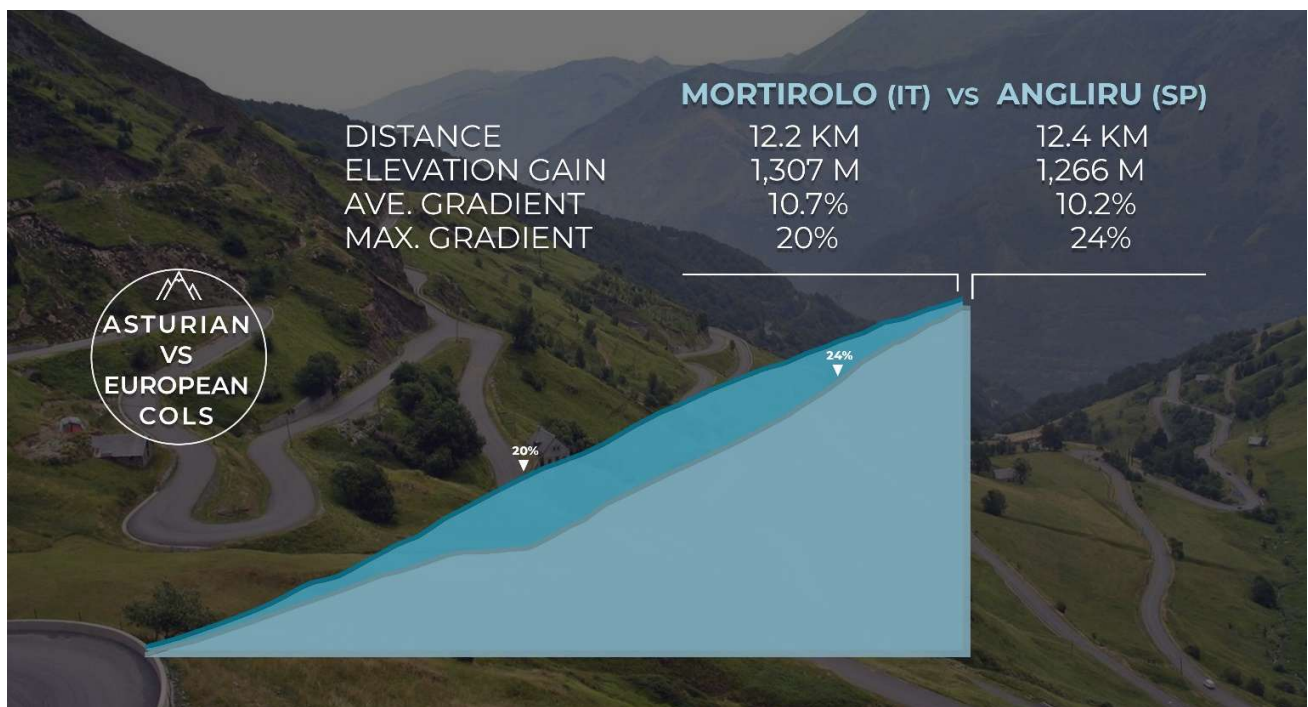
Today's Ride

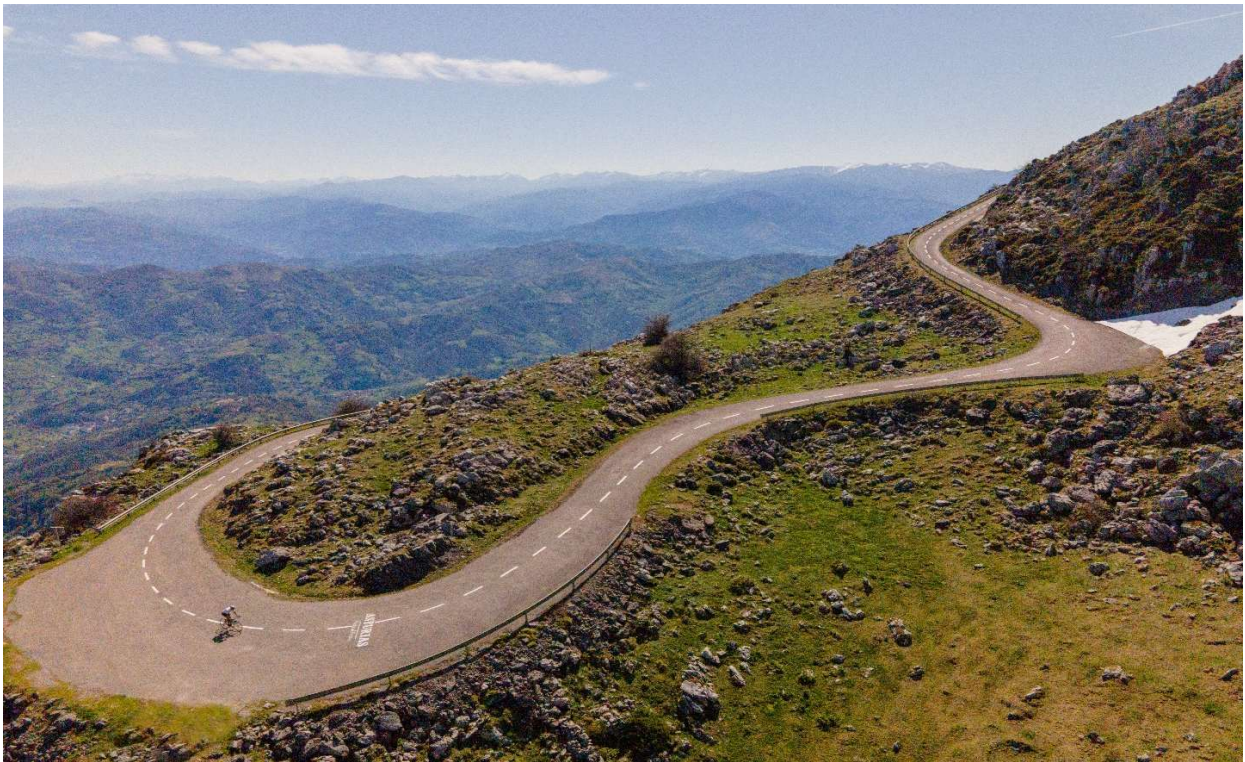
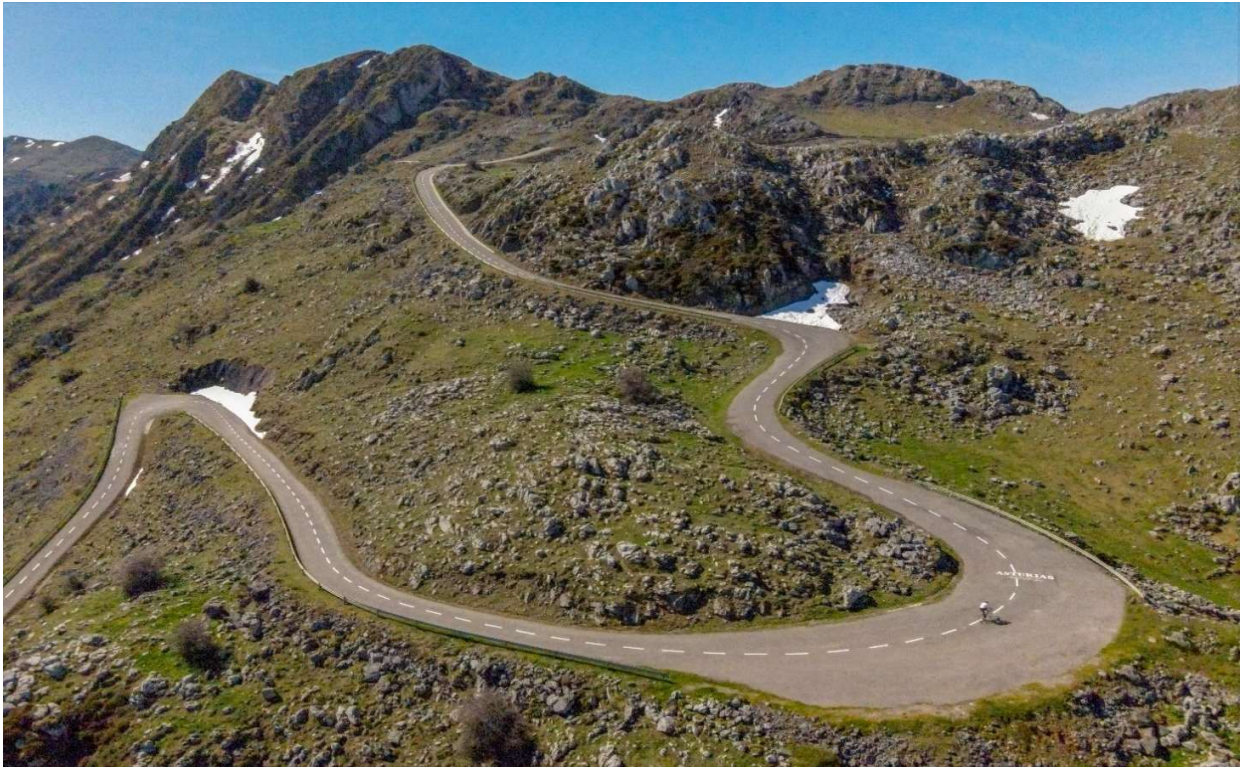
65km / 1650m elevation gain or

85km / 2100m elevation gain

Accommodation

Oviedo (Asturias, Spain)





DAY FOUR – Lagos de Covadonga

Whether you are a photographer, nature lover, hiker or cyclist everyone who travels to northern Spain must visit Lagos de Covadonga (*lago* = lake). The majestic lakes which are found at the summit have become a common fixture at La Vuelta.

In the morning though we begin with a 45min transfer east towards the ‘Picos de Europa’. Before reaching the natural park we have the impressive Mirador del Fito (*Mirador* = Lookout) climb to contend with. Immense panoramic views of the Asturian coastline (Bay of Biscay) open up and will be sure to impress! This is, without a doubt, one of the must-see viewpoints on any trip to Asturias. 7km and 8% average grades will mean you are well and truly warmed up. Mirador del Fito was first used at La Vuelta in 1989 and has had 16 visits since. During Stage 15 of the 2018 Vuelta the Fito and Lagos de Covadonga double was used. Let’s see if you can emulate the podium of Thibaut Pinot, Miguel Angel Lopez and Simon Yates.



The 'Fito' descent now delivers you to the base of the Picos de Europa National Park. These mountains are commonly referred to as '*Pequeño Dolomiti*' (Little Dolomites). 14km of constant climbing (7% average), on wait for it closed roads for general traffic, take you up to Lagos de Covadonga and its towering limestone peaks. There is a testing 3km stretch during the mid-section which constantly hovers around 11% average. It's a special micro-climate at the top just like what can be found atop Col de l'Iseran or Passo Gavia in the French and Italian Alps respectively.

Why Epic?

Lagos de Covadonga was first included during the 1983 Vuelta race. During the last 40 years there have been no less than 21 epic stage finishes. It is one of the most loved climbs with the '*aficionado*' and Spanish and French champions Pedro Delgado and Laurent Jalabert respectively are the only riders to have taken out multiple stage wins.

Meals

Breakfast & Dinner Included

Destinations

Covadonga

Today's Ride

100km / 2350m elevation gain

Accommodation

Cangas de Onis (Asturias, Spain)



DAY FIVE – ‘El Stelvio’ of Asturias

A fantastic hotel loop ride through the Ponga forest now awaits. The three climbs form what we believe is the Queen stage of this epic Asturias cycling tour. This is saying something when today doesn't even include any of the big-name Vuelta climbs! Starting with Collado Mohandi and its 12km and 4.8% average will be a good start. Collado Llomena follows with 9km at 7% before sweeping down to the ‘Desfiladero de los Beyos’ canyon. Here you will be dwarfed as you cycle between giant mountains and deep canyons.

Things get really interesting though on the ‘Caseilles’ climb. It is short but sweet (i.e. code for steep!) but it is also perhaps the most idyllic European road cycling location we have been privileged to ride until now. The small hamlet of Caseilles in the heart of the natural park is nothing more than a church and a handful of houses at the summit. But for road cyclists it has something truly special. The road leading up to the township is only 4km long and its 12.3% average grade is frighteningly beautiful. At its maximum this curving climb reaches 21% grades at one point. What it lacks in distance though it certainly makes up for in wow factor. Perfect switchbacks all the way to the top with spectacular mountains either side.

During the afternoon there will be time to explore Cangas de Onis. This is an emblematic town which was actually the capital of the Asturian kingdom until the year 774. The battle of Covadonga saw the first win of the Reconquest of the Moors (722). It was a long drawn out process seeing the final win for the Christian armies took place in Granada (southern Spain) in the year 1492. Today it's medieval bridge and monuments are part of a town of only 3500 inhabitants which swells for outdoor tourism thanks to its hiking, cycling, climbing and canoeing opportunities.

Why Epic?

The locals refer to the Caseilles climb as ‘El Stelvio de Asturias’ thanks to its 23 switchbacks. Due to its shorter length it more closely resembles ‘Lacets de Montvernier’ in the French Alps. An epic cycling experience awaits!

Meals

Breakfast & Dinner Included

Destinations

Ponga National Park

Today's Ride

92.5km / 2500m elevation gain

Accommodation

Cangas de Onis (Asturias, Spain)

DAY SIX – Cantabrian Sea to ‘Picos’

Today is one of those special days on the bikes where the Sierra peloton passes from mountains, down to the Cantabrian Sea and back up into the Picos de Europa mountains. Passionate road cyclists will channel La Vuelta energy and the narrow mountain roads through quiet remote landscapes.

After breakfast we'll be off in search of quiet roads up to 'Alto del Torno'. This 8.8km climb with 5% average grade hides its nasty secrets until the final 2km (a constant 10% grind). Now it's time to cruise down to the beach (Playa del Barro) on the Cantabrian Sea for a well earned coffee. Special sites along the route continue with big mountain views over to the 'Naranjo de Bulnes' peak and a scintillating stretch of deep canyon road called 'Desfiladero de la Hermida'. The road follows a 21km long gorge which happens to be the longest in the Iberian Peninsula (Spain & Portugal combined).

The *desfiladero* (gorge/canyon), which is flanked by rock walls that reach 600m high in places, brings you all the way to the town of Potes and our home for the final night.

Why Epic?

Desfiladero de la Hermida is a canyon road that has constantly linked many big Vuelta stages. Steep peaks and rock formations provide a truly scenic spectacle. Stage 16 of the 2023 La Vuelta took the pro peloton through the canyon on the way to Bejes. Find a stage replay and see what you are getting yourself in for!

Meals

Breakfast & Dinner Included

Destinations

Desfiladero de la Hermida

Today's Ride

110km / 1850m elevation gain

Accommodation

Potes (Cantabria, Spain)



DAY SEVEN – Thur 16 July 2026 – San Glorio climb!

After six days on the bike some might decide to take it a little easier for the final day ride. As a minimum though, there is the chance for a morning ride through the Cantabrian mountains. From Potes the Puerto de San Glorio climb is available. The 26.7km at 4.9% average makes for a long climb. The initial 10km average 2.5% with several false flat sections to prepare you for the final 16km assault to the summit. This final section includes constant 6.3% average grades which will allow you to find a comfortable rhythm.

You can then descend back to Potes and rest up or continue with a final assault to ‘Fuente De’!! This climb was last used as a summit finish during the 2012 La Vuelta a España pro race. It is a popular route for cyclists due to its beautiful scenery!



Why Epic?

San Glorio is a climb that was used at La Vuelta a España during 2014 and 2021. It is a fantastic road that links the Cantabria and Castile & Leon provinces. What makes San Glorio a real test though is its final 16km (6.3%). Comparing climb statistics and Col d'Aubisque in the French Pyrenees for example measures 16.5km and 7% average grade. San Glorio equals a 10km warm-up followed by a climb similar to Col d'Aubisque!

Meals

Breakfast Included

Destinations

San Gloria

Today's Ride

Min. 50km / 1350m elevation gain

Max. 95km / 2100m elevation

Accommodation

Potes (Cantabria, Spain)



DAY EIGHT – Farewell to Asturias (airport transfer)!

Following breakfast we can transport your group to Oviedo Airport, Santander Airport or Bilbao Airport. We trust you have enjoyed your Asturias Cycling Tour experience!

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour Package:

Asturias Cycling Tour

Tour Inclusions:

7 nights accommodation (twin share), 3-4 star hotels
2 x Airport transfers
7 breakfasts included
7 epic road rides (includes GPX tracks)
Sierra support van/s
Sierra guides (cycling guides / van driver / mechanical support)
Food and drink during rides
4 tour dinners with beer/wine included
Tour booklet (ride maps and profiles)
Complimentary Sierra tour jersey

Price: **3150 Euro per person** (twin share)

(Based on Group of 6 – further discounts available – please ask)

EXTRAS

Single room supplement: **600 Euro**

Carbon road bike hire (Orbea Avant M30, 105, compact, 11/32 cassette, rim brakes): **200 Euro**

Carbon road bike hire (Orbea Orca M30i, Di2 105, 11/34 cassette, disc brakes): **300 Euro**

Carbon E-road bike hire (Orbea Denna, disc brakes): **450 Euro**

