

# *Wilflower, Birds and Butterflies Walks in the Picos de Europa* factsheet



## **Wildflowers, Birds & Butterflies Walks - with Teresa Farino**

**Dates : 12th - 25th May 2012**

**Price : £100pp per week or £25pp per day**

**Accommodation: Book your accommodation separately - choose from half board in Posada El Corcal or stay in one of our self catering apartments**

In association with the well known British naturalist Teresa Farino, Collett's is delighted to announce two specialist weeks in the Picos de Europa in May - which is a superb time of year for orchids in particular and many other early bulbs, as well as for some of the most emblematic plants of the lower and middle-altitude haymeadows, plus a wealth of butterflies, birds and other wildlife.

Teresa has been living in the Picos de Europa since 1986 and is passionate about all aspects of natural history, particularly the wildflowers and butterflies of her home patch, where she has been leading wildlife holidays for almost twenty-five years. In addition to contributing to magazines such as BBC Wildlife and British Wildlife, Teresa is probably best known as the author of a number of widely acclaimed books about the flora and fauna of the Iberian Peninsula including the popular Sunflower guide 'Landscapes of the Picos de Europa', and Oxford University Press' 'Travellers' Nature Guide: Spain'. Her most recent book is the lavishly illustrated 'Wild Spain', published in 2009 by New Holland Press.

During each week, Teresa will visit all the major habitats of the south-eastern corner of the Picos de Europa, with an emphasis on the haymeadows and rock-gardens of both limestone and siliceous bedrock, but also including some of the rivers and gorges, acid heathlands, deciduous forests of Beech and Pyrenean Oak and more Mediterranean, evergreen woodlands and dry grasslands.

### **Each week at a glance**

- Saturday** Arrive and settle in (unless of course you have arrived early and have already been enjoying some of our Organised Walks!);
- Sunday, Monday & Tuesday** Specialist days out organised and led by Teresa Farino;
- Wednesday** Free to explore the 'alpine' habitats at the top of the Fuente Dé cable car or walk the spectacular Cares Gorge;
- Thursday & Friday** Specialist days out organised and led by Teresa Farino;
- Saturday** Depart after breakfast or, if you prefer, why not stay a few days longer and enjoy some of our Organised Walks?

You can choose to join Teresa for the full week or just for a day or two, but places are limited so booking is highly recommended.

The 'Wildflowers, Birds & Butterflies' walks are organised and led by Teresa Farino and supported by a Collett's Walk Organiser. The group will walk at a leisurely pace, allowing plenty of time for botanising, photography and observation of other wildlife. Some days the group will visit several habitats, spending a couple of hours in each with very little walking involved, but on other occasions the group will walk for the whole day, although the distance covered will never be more than five kilometres or so. Each day the exact itinerary will be confirmed after breakfast, since it will depend heavily on the weather.

Although wildflowers will be the primary focus of these walks, they should also appeal to those interested in the huge diversity of fauna that is to be found in the Picos de Europa, notably butterflies, birds and reptiles.

Upon returning to the Posada each day there will be a relaxed session with Teresa over late afternoon tea and cake where there will be the opportunity to chat further about the highlights of the day with both Teresa and your fellow walkers, compare notes and photos and then make plans for the following day.

### **Accommodation options**

Choose from half board or B&B in Posada El Corcal (prices from £460 per person per week) or stay in one of our self catering apartments (prices from £266 per person per week). Please contact us for more details.

