

# NORTHERN SPAIN

## *Birds & Mammals, Flowers & Butterflies* September 5-10



### **Birding Areas & Highlights**

Come and explore the rugged, breathtaking Cordillera Cantabrica, the stunning mountain chain extending along Northern Spain from the Basque country to Galicia.

**Parque Natural de Somiedo:** Mountains, narrow fertile valleys, deciduous woods, sub-alpine grasslands and rock, where we search for Brown Bear feeding on the berries of Alpine Blackthorn plus Apennine Chamois. Griffon Vulture, Red-billed Chough, Iberian Woodpecker, Rock Sparrow & Black Redstart should be present plus migrant raptors & passerines. Wonderful for butterflies & flowers, inc. Marbled White, Clouded Yellow, Scarce Copper, Rock Grayling & Pearl-bordered Fritillary, plus Globe Thistle & Autumn Crocus.

**Picos de Europa:** Nearby the Hotel, two excursions searching for the elusive Iberian Wolf high up in the mountains, plus looking for Wild Cat hunting down in the lowland meadows towards dusk. At the top of the majestic limestone Massif can be found Alpine Chough, Alpine Accentor, Wallcreeper, Water Pipit & even Snow Finch.

### **Accommodation & Itinerary**

Morning flight from Stanstead to Asturias, driving via Cabo de Penas to the Parque Natural de Somiedo for 2 night stay at the *Hotel la Bolera* in the delightful village of Robles de Lacinia. The charming, family run Hotel allows easy access to the nearby Bear watching sites of Lamardal & La Peral.

Then drive east towards the Picos de Europa for further 3 nt. stay at another family run *Hostal, Hotel Tierra de la Reina* in Boca de Hurgano. From here we explore the region for Wolf & Wild Cat plus take the Cable Car at Fuente De to search for the speciality mountain birds.

Evening flight back to Stansted.

**Cost:** £1695 (s/s £125)

**Deposit:** £200

**B/L due:** Jul 5

**Included in the cost:** 2 nts. dinner, bed & b/fast at *Hotel La Bolera*, 3 nights dinner, bed & b/fast at *Hotel Tierra de la Reina*, two private Wolf Excursions, return Cable Car at Fuente De, full transportation & full professional guidance throughout (including Godfried as our local guide).

**Not included in the cost:** Return international flights Stansted/Asturias (approx. £195), lunches, drinks, gratuities & items of a personal nature.

**(NB: Cost based on 7 guests min, with £1 = €1.08)**

