

The Chemin de la Liberté

The great escape across the Pyrenees



Ultimate Challenges

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The Chemin de la Liberté starts from the nearby town of Seix. During the Second World War more than 33,000 civilians and 6000 allied servicemen climbed over the peaks of the Pyrenees from France to escape Nazi occupation and regain their liberty in neutral Spain.

Spectacular scenery makes for an inspirational experience along this famous '**Freedom Trail**' route including seeing the memorial to the Halifax pilot and his crew and wreckage of their bomber at a height of 2,200m which crashed in July 1945.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Depart London – Toulouse, France

Arrive Toulouse and transfer to Seix.
Overnight Auberge (guesthouse). D

Day 2: Free day

Free day to visit the Chemin de la Liberté Museum to understand more about the route that the refugees and allied soldiers took. There is an opportunity for acclimatisation trek before dinner, which will be followed by a detailed trek briefing about the challenge ahead. B,L,D

Day 3: Aunac (900m) to Subera Hut (1,499m) - 6-7hrs trekking

Our trek begins from Aunac. We begin by dropping down to the river floor and then gradually climbing to the Col de la Core for lunch. With the hard part of the day done, our path heads round the hillside on an undulating trail to the Refuge de Subera at 1,499m where we camp. B,L,D



Day 4: Subera Hut (1,499m) to Estagnous Refuge (2,245m)

7-9hrs trekking

A tough and demanding day. We cross two high cols of over 2,300m with a 1,500m ascent to reach our next refuge Estagnous at 2,241m.

After pausing for thought at the Halifax bomber we cross the Col de Craberous before dropping down to Espugues for lunch. We then descend further to an etang (a small lake) before scrambling up a few boulders and then climbing up once more over a beautiful granite pavement to the final col of the day at 2,462m.

From here, we descend for around 45-minutes to our overnight refuge. B,L,D



Day 5: Estagnous Refuge (2,245m) to Borde de Perosa (1,100m)

6-7hrs trekking

An early start, we begin trekking downhill to the tranquil Lac Rond (1,929m). Lac Long lies 200m above us, and the path to it is extremely steep. In places there is a via ferrata style cableway to assist for around 150m on the path. No technical experience is needed – just determination! Once at Lac Long (2,125m) the border at the Col de la Clauère is almost within sight. Our path crosses a deep gully, usually filled with snow, which provides the final push to the top (2,522m) where we gaze into Spain. It's hard to imagine how the escapees from France would have felt at this moment, having reached the border. After descending we meet our vehicles and transfer to our hotel in Spain and a well-deserved celebration dinner. B,L,D

Day 6: Depart Toulouse

After breakfast we transfer to Toulouse for the onward flight to London. B

Best time of year: early July to September

© Ultimate Challenges Itinerary complex and subject to change

Breakdown of Costs – The Chemin de la Liberté

Included

- Scheduled international return flights (economy)
- Transfers upon arrival and departure
- Local guides
- All accommodation/tents
- Meals as stated (B, breakfast, L, lunch, D, dinner)
- UK Expedition Leader (from 15+ participants)
- UK doctor throughout
- 1 Free charity place for 20+ participants

Excluded

- Airport taxes and fuel surcharges
- Donation to Chemin de la Liberté Museum
- Single supplement
- Gratuities
- Personal expenses
- Personal travel insurance

Costs TBC

Our pricing policy

We believe that we are very competitive and offer excellent value for money. However, it can be confusing when comparing prices, a small alteration in an itinerary, can make a substantial difference. We would be happy to review proposals you may have received from other tour operators, as we are confident that we can beat any genuine quote.

Why choose Ultimate Challenges?

- We have over 25 years experience running pioneering charity challenges e.g. Kilimanjaro , the Inca Trail, California Bike
- We choose the most unexplored and upcoming regions for our amazing expeditions
- We are built on a team of Senior Event fundraisers
- Our team is driven to provide inspiring, life changing and effective fundraising events for our charity partners
- We use the best ground agents, the most experienced trek staff and doctors to ensure your supporters have a safe and memorable challenge
- We operate an Ethical Code of Conduct with all our ground handlers to ensure fair treatment of all our local staff. We have high health and safety expectations, and all our partnerships are conducted with respect for local cultures and environmental concerns
- We offer an end-to-end service to ensure our charity partners are given full support from our experienced staff ensuring you maximize your income

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‘ Choose your Tour Operator with your head, so your supporters can following their hearts when they travel’



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