

Wolf-watching in Spain

Naturetrek Tour Report

4th – 8th November 2025



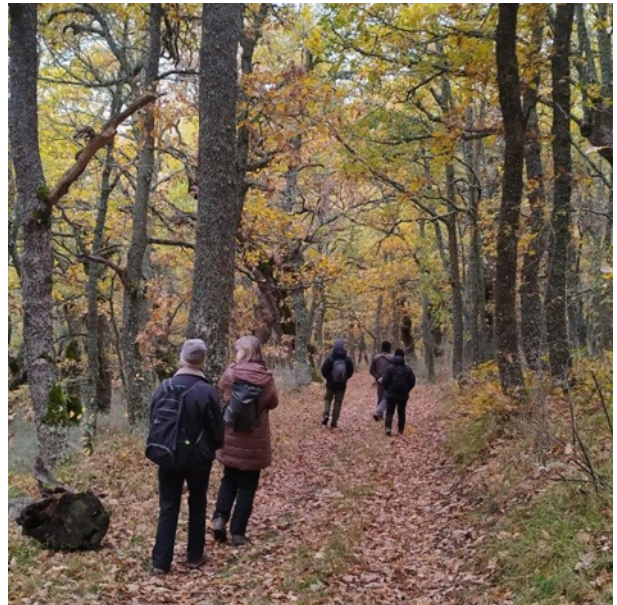
Grey Wolf



Golden Eagle



Grey Wolf scat



Walking in the woods

Tour report by Alfonso Palazuelos Cobo



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Tour participants: Alfonso Palazuelos (leader) and Tino Garcia (local guide) with seven Naturetrek clients

Summary

We enjoyed a fantastic week in the Palencia Mountains in the Northern Spain. We enjoyed amazing days in the Hotel of Molino de Salinas, with incredible home-cooked food. We also enjoyed numerous opportunities for wildlife viewing provided by Tino, with sightings of Wolves, Wildcats, Golden Eagles and the elusive Wallcreeper, along with other local fauna.

Day 1

Tuesday 4th November

The group was picked up from the airport in Santander, and from there we went to the village of Salinas de Pisuergra, where we would stay all week, in the Hotel Molino de Salinas. Once we had left our luggage, we went to have lunch in the Romanesque church of Villanueva de la Torre, a fantastic place with good views of the meadows in the area. From here, we began a little trek through a nearby valley, where we could see a few European Bisons, and a Wildcat in a meadow! We returned to the hotel to rest, and to prepare for the first group dinner.

Day 2

Wednesday 5th November

Today we started with what would become our routine: we got up before dawn to go to the Wolf observation point. We arrived just before dawn, and shortly after, the first wolf appeared in the centre of a meadow. Then, a few minutes later, we saw two cubs on the top of a small hill. Mid-morning, we went down to the town of Cervera de Pisuergra to take a short break and for coffee or hot chocolate.

We continued the day in search of Wildcats in the meadows; at this time of the years, the cats mostly hunt in the valley floors. We had a hot lunch of beans, bacon and chorizo in the church of Verdeña, where the group also had a good opportunity to observe the local birdlife. And we continued again in search of the Wildcat. Unfortunately, it started to rain hard, so we went back to the hotel to rest and get ready for a wonderful dinner prepared by Begoña.

Day 3

Thursday 6th November

We got up before dawn to try to see the Wolves again, and once again, we saw five wolves; we watched them as they went in and out of a nearby forest. Once the Wolves' activity stopped, we headed back to the town of Cervera de Pisuergra to take a short break and have a coffee. After the stop, we continued in search of Wildcats through the valley of the Montaña Palentina.

Then, we went down to take a lunch in one of the old schools that some of the villages still have. After lunch, we tried again for cats, and we had a lot of luck: we found two of them, hunting water voles! We enjoyed a good observation for over thirty minutes. Finally, we returned to the hotel.

Day 4

Friday 7th November

Despite the bad forecast, we had a sunny morning and were able to enjoy the Wolves for practically the entire duration of the session. Mid-morning, we took a short break and a coffee in the town of San Salvador de Cantamuda. Then, we continued through the valley of La Pernia to the spectacular viewpoint of Piedrasluengas, where it is possible to see the massifs of the Picos de Europa, Peña Sagra and Peña Labra.

We had lunch in the church of Camasobres and then took a short walk, in search of birds. We had a lot of luck, and saw two of the rarest species of the Montaña Palentina, Wallcreeper and Alpine Accentor. During this short walk, we also saw Crested, Coal and Blue Tits. We finished the day and returned to the hotel to have our last dinner as a group.

Day 5

Saturday 8th November

On this last day, we tried to get a sighting of another family group of Wolves, but unfortunately we didn't have luck. We did see Roe Deer and Chamois. We went to take a coffee, and then ventured into one of the most pristine valleys of the natural park. We were able to see a group of Ibexes beginning their rutting season, as well as a group of Chamois which appeared and disappeared from a hillside as soon as one of the Golden Eagles that inhabit the valley was spotted in the sky. Immediately afterwards, we collected our luggage and went to the airport at Santander, where clients safely caught the flight home.

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Species lists

Birds

English name	Scientific name	November 2025				
		4	5	6	7	8
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		✓			
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			✓		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓				
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>			✓		✓
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>		✓		✓	
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	✓				
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓		✓		✓
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓		✓	✓	
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>				✓	
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>				✓	
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>				✓	
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			✓		
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓		✓		
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>				✓	
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓	✓	✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓				
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓				
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>					✓
Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>				✓	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓		✓		
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>			✓	✓	
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			✓		
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	✓	✓			

Mammals

English name	Scientific name	November 2025				
		4	5	6	7	8
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			✓		
Iberian Ibex	<i>Capra pyrenaica</i>					✓
Cantabrian Chamois	<i>Rupicapra parva</i>		✓		✓	
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>			✓		
European Wildcat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>	✓	✓	✓		
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			✓	✓	
(Iberian) Grey Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>		✓	✓	✓	