The brown bear is a priority species in the European Union, such that its presence is a key factor for selection of the areas forming part of the Natura 2000 Network. The species is included in the Spanish Catalogue of Threatened Species as "At risk of extinction".

For more information on brown bear ecology and distribution, please visit the website of the Brown Bear Foundation: www.fundacionosopardo.org

Why are National Parks, Natura 2000 Network sites and the brown bear motors for revitalising rural areas?

- Because they are a quality mark for natural areas.
- Because they promote sustainable tourism and local products.
- Because they contribute towards the generation of local employment.

Compatibility of wildlife tourism with the conservation of protected natural areas and the brown bear
Although the probability is minimal, it is important to respect the following recommendations to AVOID BEAR ENCOUNTERS:

THE PICOS DE EUROPA NATIONAL PARK FORMS PART OF THE NATURA 2000 NETWORK

The Natura 2000 Network is a network of natural protected areas of the European Union and is the largest in the world. As Europeans we all form part of this network, with Spain contributing the largest surface area, some 30% of Spain’s territory.

Its objective is to conserve the biodiversity present and favour sustainable socioeconomic development. Protecting Natura 2000 Network sites signifies favouring the traditional production activities and also those new ones which respect biodiversity conservation.

Brown bears are present in the Picos de Europa National Park. Respectful and sustainable tourism is perfectly compatible with the conservation of the National Park and with the conservation of the brown bear, but this requires knowing and respecting the park’s regulations and to act responsibly when visiting and carrying out activities in brown bear areas.

DO NOT ENTER AREAS OF DENSE VEGETATION or access rock faces
DO NOT APPROACH ANY DEAD ANIMALS
DO NOT FOLLOW BEAR TRACKS
DO NOT LEAVE FOOD REMAINS BEHIND WHICH MAY ATTRACT BEARS OR OTHER WILDLIFE
DO NOT POSITION YOURSELF BETWEEN the mother and her cubs
DO NOT RUN, shout at the bear or threaten it in any way, which might result in an aggressive reaction
DO NOT ENTER AREAS OF DENSE VEGETATION or access rock faces
DO NOT APPROACH ANY DEAD ANIMALS
DO NOT FOLLOW BEAR TRACKS
DO NOT LEAVE FOOD REMAINS BEHIND WHICH MAY ATTRACT BEARS OR OTHER WILDLIFE
DO NOT POSITION YOURSELF BETWEEN the mother and her cubs
DO NOT RUN, shout at the bear or threaten it in any way, which might result in an aggressive reaction

IF IT HASN’T SEEN US
Back off slowly, WITHOUT ALERTING IT TO OUR PRESENCE
DO NOT ENTER AREAS OF DENSE VEGETATION or access rock faces
DO NOT APPROACH ANY DEAD ANIMALS
DO NOT FOLLOW BEAR TRACKS
DO NOT LEAVE FOOD REMAINS BEHIND WHICH MAY ATTRACT BEARS OR OTHER WILDLIFE
DO NOT POSITION YOURSELF BETWEEN the mother and her cubs
DO NOT RUN, shout at the bear or threaten it in any way, which might result in an aggressive reaction

IF THE BEAR HAS SEEN US
If it approaches, ALERT THE BEAR OF OUR PRESENCE WITHOUT USING AGGRESSIVE MOVEMENTS AND BY TALKING WITHOUT SHOUTING
DO NOT ENTER AREAS OF DENSE VEGETATION or access rock faces
DO NOT APPROACH ANY DEAD ANIMALS
DO NOT FOLLOW BEAR TRACKS
DO NOT LEAVE FOOD REMAINS BEHIND WHICH MAY ATTRACT BEARS OR OTHER WILDLIFE
DO NOT POSITION YOURSELF BETWEEN the mother and her cubs
DO NOT RUN, shout at the bear or threaten it in any way, which might result in an aggressive reaction

IF IT FEELS THREATENDED
If it charges aggressively, STOP BEFORE REACHING US and then retreat immediately
DO NOT ENTER AREAS OF DENSE VEGETATION or access rock faces
DO NOT APPROACH ANY DEAD ANIMALS
DO NOT FOLLOW BEAR TRACKS
DO NOT LEAVE FOOD REMAINS BEHIND WHICH MAY ATTRACT BEARS OR OTHER WILDLIFE
DO NOT POSITION YOURSELF BETWEEN the mother and her cubs
DO NOT RUN, shout at the bear or threaten it in any way, which might result in an aggressive reaction

IF WE COME ACROSS A BEAR even despite following these guidelines:

DO NOT ENTER AREAS OF DENSE VEGETATION or access rock faces
DO NOT APPROACH ANY DEAD ANIMALS
DO NOT FOLLOW BEAR TRACKS
DO NOT LEAVE FOOD REMAINS BEHIND WHICH MAY ATTRACT BEARS OR OTHER WILDLIFE
DO NOT POSITION YOURSELF BETWEEN the mother and her cubs
DO NOT RUN, shout at the bear or threaten it in any way, which might result in an aggressive reaction