



SPAIN

NORTHERN SPAIN JOURNEYS (TOUR CODE: 12539)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Madrid

TRAVEL PERIODS

26 Mar 24 - 05 Nov 24

EXPERIENCE

Escorted
Food & Wine

TRAVEL STYLE

Group Journeys

Spain offers experiences like no other European Country. From tasting the world's best olive oils and wines to wandering the fabled cobbled laneways in San Sebastian or admiring the famous Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

Highlights

- **Guaranteed Departures.** Small group sizes (max 24 passengers). English speaking only tour with an experienced Tour Director.
- Enjoy an **authentic Tapas Dinner** at a local restaurant in Madrid
- Marvel at the impressive titanium-clad: the **Guggenheim Museum** in Bilbao
- Discover the Northern mountains and the Atlantic sandy beaches from **Santillana del Mar to Oviedo!**
- Stroll down the cobblestone streets in **Santiago de Compostela** while admiring its historical beauty
- Experience the delights of **Salamanca**, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its remarkable architectural and artistic treasures

Discover the northern region of Spain on this 9-night tour. Embark on an unforgettable journey through Spain with a guided city tour, accompanied by knowledgeable local guides, in the captivating cities of Madrid, Bilbao, Santiago de Compostela, and Salamanca. Throughout the trip, you will have the pleasure of an English-speaking tour director who will ensure a seamless and enriching experience. Indulge in a delectable Pintxos lunch in San Sebastian, famous for its culinary delights. As the journey comes to an end, enjoy a memorable farewell dinner in Madrid.



GUARANTEED DEPARTURES



SMALL GROUP SIZES



SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL



ENGLISH-ONLY EXPERT GUIDES



CITY-CENTRE QUALITY HOTELS



SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDED



SLOWER-PACED ITINERARY



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support

- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 9-nights accommodation in 4-star hotels
- Transportation by luxury coach
- Private transfers to/ from airport as per itinerary
- Daily Breakfast
- Meals: Welcome Tapas dinner, Pintxos lunch in San Sebastian, Farewell dinner
- Rioja wine tasting with light lunch
- Guided city tour with local guides in Madrid, Bilbao, Santiago & Salamanca
- English-Speaking Only Tour Director throughout the journey

ITINERARY

Intro Map

Northern Spain Journeys



Day 1 Madrid

A private transfer will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel.

At 19:00, meet with your Tour Director (TD) at the hotel's Reception Desk for a welcome meeting. You will also meet your fellow travellers. Your TD will give you all the relevant details of the city and will inform you of the schedule for the following day.

The rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight stay in **Madrid** at the Barcelo Torre de Madrid

Day 2 Madrid

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

Set out for a morning city discovery tour and enjoy one of the most exciting cities in the world, Madrid. See the highlights and discover the passion of this amazing city.

Afternoon at your leisure to continue exploring the wonders this city has to offer, or join the optional excursion to Toledo (*extra cost*).

In the early evening, join your fellow travellers for an authentic Welcome Tapas Dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight stay in **Madrid** at the Princesa Plaza

Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 Madrid La Rioja Bilbao

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

Today you will drive north to the Northern Spanish territories. Your first stop is Laguardia, in the heart of La Rioja, one of the most famous Spanish wine regions. Here you will visit an internationally acclaimed traditional, family-run wine cellar and enjoy a local products-based light lunch.

This afternoon you'll continue to Bilbao where you will spend the rest of the day on your own.

Overnight stay in **Bilbao** at Barcelo Nervion

Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4 Bilbao San Sebastian Bilbao

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

This morning you will explore Bilbao with your local guide. The best-known landmark is the titanium-clad Guggenheim Museum, a Frank Gehry masterpiece. You will also have time to wander through the historic Siete Calles district. Many of the historic buildings were damaged after floods in the 1980s but have now been beautifully restored. Enjoy some time at your leisure to explore the esplanade surrounding The Guggenheim Museum and admire this modern architectural building.

This afternoon you will continue to San Sebastian, one of the most famous and elegant destinations in Europe. **Enjoy a traditional Pintxos lunch** at San Sebastian old town's Taverns.

Time at leisure for you to marvel this gorgeous town. Discover the extraordinary landscape dominated by the bay and the magnificent La Concha beach. Take some free time to stroll through this elegant city before returning to Bilbao.

Overnight stay in **Bilbao** at Barcelo Nervion

Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 Bilbao Santillana del Mar Oviedo

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

Ready for northern mountains and Atlantic sandy beaches? Depart to Santillana del Mar, one of the most important historical artistic towns in Spain. It contains architectural treasures such as the Collegiate of Santa Ana, and a Jewel of the Romanesque Architecture in Cantabria.

Continue to **Covadonga**, where you will have free time to see the Sanctuary and the Grotto where you will see the patroness of Asturias our Lady of Covadonga.

In the afternoon, departure to **Oviedo**, where you will see the beauty of Saint Maria de Naranco Church, Jewel of the pre-Romanic Asturian architecture. Free time to explore Oviedo, many of their streets are pedestrian, where you will be able to see World Heritage sites like The Cathedral, a splendid example of gothic Asturian architecture.

Overnight stay in **Oviedo** at the Gran Hotel Espana

Breakfast

Day 6 Oviedo Mondonedo Lugo Santiago de Compostela

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

This morning you will see the Galician landscapes as you travel to Lugo. Along the way, you will take a short stop at Mondoñedo where you will have some time at leisure to visit the 13th-century Cathedral and try the delicious "Mondoñedo Cake".

Upon your arrival in **Lugo** you will have some free time to stroll and explore the Roman ruins throughout the city, like its walls, declared Patrimony of the Humanity.

This afternoon you will reach, Santiago de Compostela's holy land declared World Heritage Site as it is the most important center of Christian Pilgrimages in Spain as it's the end of the Camino de Santiago route.

Overnight stay in **Santiago de Compostela** at the NH Collection Santiago

Breakfast

Day **7**

Santiago de Compostela

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

Stroll Santiago's old cobble streets as you capture its historical beauty. Feel the passion at Obradoiro Square and the Cathedral (entrance not included) dedicated to the Apostle Santiago.

The rest of the day at your leisure to explore the narrow cobblestone streets at your own pace.

Overnight stay in **Santiago de Compostela** - 4 star hotel - Eurostars Hotel

Breakfast

Day **8**

Santiago de Compostela Salamanca

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

Continue to Salamanca, University City. Enjoy a city tour this University City World Heritage Site of great architectural and artistic wealth.

Overnight stay in **Salamanca** at Catalonia Plaza Mayor

Breakfast

Day **9**

Salamanca Avila Madrid

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

Your journey is reaching its last steps, but you still have to discover one of the oldest middle-aged Spanish jewels, **Avila**. Enjoy some time at your leisure before you continue on the final destination – Madrid.

This evening you will join your fellow travelers for a final farewell market experience dinner.

Overnight stay in **Madrid** at the Barcelo Torre de Madrid

Breakfast, Dinner

Day **10**

Madrid

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before a private transfer takes you to the airport.

Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

Barceló Torre de Madrid

Madrid

The ideal accommodation to discover Madrid in the most comfortable way. This signature design hotel is located in the Plaza de España, a stone's throw from Gran Vía, a 10-minute walk from the Royal Palace of Madrid and a 15-minute walk from Puerta del Sol and Plaza Mayor.

It has 258 fully equipped rooms, perfectly combining modernity and sophistication. Designed to guarantee the highest quality standards, these rooms have everything necessary to satisfy the most demanding guests, whether traveling for business or pleasure.

It has first-class facilities typical of a 5-star hotel. Among them, a sophisticated bar on the ground floor, meeting rooms for holding all kinds of events, restaurants where you can savor exquisite dishes and a Wellness area with a gym for those who wish to keep fit.

Endowed with a singular and exclusive character, the spectacular building where the hotel resides represents a symbol for the city not only because of its magnificent location, but also because for several years it was considered the tallest concrete building in the world.



Barceló Bilbao Nervión

Bilbao

Design, technology, art, nature, modernity and sustainability come together in the eco-urban concept of the Barceló Bilbao Nervión Hotel. The hotel is located in the heart of Bilbao, next to the Town Hall, a 10-minute walk from the Guggenheim Museum and surrounded by the best shopping areas and the popular *pintxos*. Perfectly communicated with the train station, termibus and the airport, it is a perfect hotel for business trips or urban tourism.

The Barceló Bilbao Nervión hotel breathes dynamism, with an urban and contemporary touch for both business and pleasure stays. It is the perfect place to get to know the incredible city of Bilbao.



Gran Hotel España

Oviedo

The Gran Hotel España is located in the historic and commercial center of Oviedo, next to emblematic buildings such as the Cathedral of San



Hotel NH Collection Santiago de Compostela

Santiago de Compostela

The NH Collection Santiago de Compostela, formerly known as NH Obradoiro, hotel is in a quiet part of Santiago de Compostela, just minutes from the old town. Opposite, you'll find the Galicia Auditorium, a popular events venue. With spacious, comfortable rooms. Each one is a stylish sanctuary featuring wood floors, white and apple-green color schemes, and extras like free Wi-Fi & first-class leisure facilities include a state-of-the-art gym and 2 immaculate pools. We also have a contemporary restaurant, a lobby bar, and a range of function rooms.



Hotel Catalonia Plaza Mayor Salamanca

Salamanca

In the historic center of Salamanca, next to the Plaza Mayor, is the privileged Catalonia Plaza Mayor Salamanca hotel with a rationalist style. Its unbeatable location allows you to discover all aspects of the city of Salamanca. In the hotel pool you can take a bath while you have a drink and sunbathe. Or if you prefer, you can practice a little sport in the gym.

The Catalonia Plaza Mayor hotel is next to the Plaza Mayor in Salamanca and only an 8-minute walk from the University of Salamanca, the Cathedral and the Casa de las Conchas, whose ornamental motifs are symbols of the Order of Santiago.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Spanish

LOCAL CURRENCY

Euro

- No age limit
- All passengers must be able to independently board and alight the coach.
- When the group is made up of 8 or fewer passengers, the tour will not include a Tour Director, but a knowledgeable expert driver/guide. A minivan with driver/guide, normally not equipped with wifi, will be provided in this case.
- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.
- For organisational reasons, the itinerary may be reversed or modified without notice. In this case, our supplier ensures similar visits and excursions in accordance with the spirit of the tour program.
- Blackout dates may apply during festive season.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package (Entrance tickets to sites and museums)

IN PARTNERSHIP

