



## Northern Spain -11 Days 10 Nights

| Day      | Destination            |
|----------|------------------------|
| 2 Nights | Madrid                 |
| 2 Nights | Santiago De Compostela |
| 1 Night  | Oviedo                 |
| 1 Night  | Santander              |
| 2 Nights | San Sabastian          |
| 2 Nights | Barcelona              |

### Day 1: Day 1 Welcome to Madrid

Join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for dinner in a local restaurant and enjoy an evening of typical madrileño Flavors.

### Day 2: Day 2 Madrid of the Bourbons

Enjoy sightseeing with your Local Expert as they take you along the main historical areas in the capital of Spain, known as Madrid of the Bourbons. Your drive continues through the Old Quarter, discovering the origins of the city. Learn about the growth of this city, from humble beginnings to a thriving European metropolis. A highlight of your escorted journey will be to visit the Prado Museum. Discover countless works by Velázquez, Goya, Titian, Rubens and others as you are guided by a local art historian. Gain new perspective on classic artworks as your art historian shares historic anecdotes and provides new insights into the Prado's collection. The afternoon is free for you to

relax at a café or shop in the boutiques.

### **Day 3: Day 3 Through the Guadarrama Mountains to Santiago de Compostela (Madrid – Santiago de Compostela)**

Journey through the Guadarrama Mountains to the infinite horizons of Old Castile and pass the impressive Castillo de la Mota. Continue past historic Tordesillas, and on to Santiago de Compostela.

### **Day 4: Day 4 Saintly Santiago de Compostela**

Explore Santiago de Compostela with Insight Choice. Choose to join a city tour with a Local Expert and visit the cathedral, festooned with architectural frills. Alternatively, embark on a scenic walk along the Way of St. James, through scenic parks and gardens. Relax during your free time, or explore the narrow streets and old city squares.

### **Day 5: Day 5 Along the Costa Verde to Oviedo (Santiago de Compostela – Oviedo)**

Pass through the ancient forests of Galicia and cross to the Green Coast of Asturias – one of Spain's most beautiful, named after the colour of the sea and the pine and eucalyptus trees that line the shore. Enjoy a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience for lunch. Very popular with locals, enjoy a homemade farm to table meal and learn about traditional cider product, including a tasting. Your route reveals glorious coastal vistas before turning inland to travel through old villages and deep valleys en route to Oviedo.

Continue on to Oviedo where a Local Expert will show you the 9th century churches built when the city was the capital of Christian Spain. Visit the Cathedral of the Holy Saviour in the stately square of Plaza Alfonso II. Admire the incredible altarpiece, one of the finest in Europe.

### **Day 6: Day 6 Picturesque Santillana del Mar and on to Santander (Oviedo – Covadonga – Santillana del Mar – Santander)**

Visit the Holy Cave of Covadonga, a shrine to Pelayo, who achieved the first Christian victory over the Moors in 722. See the unique Roman bridge in Cangas de Onís as you head into the foothills of the Picos de Europa, a national park boasting spectacular mountain and gorge scenery.

Enjoy views of the Costa de Cantabria while travelling to Santillana del Mar, arguably the most beautiful village in Spain. Stroll through the rustic cobblestone streets, admiring stone houses decorated with carved, heraldic symbols and reach the delightful church square.

Continue on to the sophisticated beach resort of Santander where you have free time in the evening to enjoy this luxurious hotel.

### **Day 7: Day 7 Bilbao, Costa Vasca and San Sebastián (Santander – Bilbao –**

## **Donostia - San Sebastián)**

In nearby Bilbao, admire the striking modern architecture of the Guggenheim Museum, one of the world's most spectacular buildings. Enjoy the views as you are driven along part of the Costa Vasca, dotted with small coastal fishing villages and pause in the seaside city of Getaria to see 'El Ratón', the mouse-shaped rock. Continue to San Sebastián and admire its beauty as you walk with your Local Expert through the Old Quarter to see the Plaza de la Constitución.

## **Day 8: Day 8 San Sebastián, Pearl of the Cantabrian Coast (Donostia - San Sebastián)**

Enjoy a day at leisure to stroll along San Sebastián's boardwalk and with the city harbour filled with fishing boats and pleasure crafts, you can enjoy several sporting activities on its large sandy beach. Perhaps you'll want to explore the nearby French villages of Saint-Jean-de-Luz, also known as Little Paris, and Biarritz. You could also stroll along the promenade of the famous La Concha Bay or enjoy the boutiques of the Old Town.

## **Day 9: Day 9 Pamplona and on to Barcelona (Donostia – San Sebastian – Pamplona – Barcelona)**

Journey to the famed town of Pamplona, known for its Running of the Bulls festival. With time free for you to explore, take a stroll to the famous Estafeta Street or visit Café Iruña, immortalised by Ernest Hemingway in his novel 'The Sun Also Rises.' Your travels continue to Barcelona, the vibrant capital of Catalonia, a land that retains its own distinctive language, culture and traditions.

## **Day 10: Day 10 Barcelona, the City of Gaudí**

Wake up ready to embrace the city's artistic heritage. Join a Local Expert and drive along the Passeig de Gràcia, adorned with elegant wrought-iron street lamps and the most flamboyant Modernist buildings. Continue through the Eixample district to behold Gaudí's extraordinary masterpiece, the Sagrada Família. As you venture inside, look above to see its giant, tree-like pillars and spectacular vaulting. Admire the wonderful rainbow of the incredible stained-glass windows. With the afternoon at leisure, you are free to relax or continue your exploration on your own. In the evening, join your Travel Director and newfound friends at a local restaurant. Raise your glass and toast your travels during dinner.

## **Day 11: Day 11 Depart for Madrid**

Today, bid farewell to your journey across Spain and Portugal as you transfer from Barcelona to Madrid.

## **Highlights**

See spectacular Spain on this 11-day guided tour. Meet a local on the Green Coast of Asturias — a

verdant beach along the wild Cantabrian Sea — for a lunch made of locally sourced ingredients and cider. In Oviedo, join a Local Expert for a tour of the town's 9th Century churches and the Cathedral of the Holy Savior. See the most beautiful village in Spain, Santillana del Mar, where you can wander cobblestone streets until you reach its scenic town square. Relax at your luxury beach resort in Santander, taking in views of the bay below. In Barcelona, allow a Local Expert to lead you through the city's Gothic Quarter, through the Roman Gate and to the Sagrada Família, a spectacular basilica with towers that seem to touch the sky and stained-glass windows that are works of art.

## Price

INR 3,08,616 /- (USD 3507) (INR 88 ROE) PER PERSON ON TWIN BASIS

## Included Sightseeings

~~Madrid~~ See the highlights of the city with your Local Expert. Visit the Old Town, travelling along the elegant Paseo de la Castellana, past the fountain in the Plaza de Cibeles, the Cervantes Monument and Royal Palace, before crossing the Puerta del Sol.

~~Valencia~~ With your Local Expert, see 1,000-year-old wall paintings in some of Europe's oldest churches. Admire the incredible altarpiece, one of the finest in Europe, when you visit the Cathedral of the Holy Saviour.

~~Santillana~~ Go into this magnificent national park to admire the stunning picturesque scenery and rocky trails.

~~Bilbao~~ Visit the spectacular modern Guggenheim Museum designed by Frank Gehry and sites of this Basque region gem during your orientation with your Travel Director.

~~San Sebastian~~ With your Local Expert, enjoy a guided walking tour of the Old Quarter including Plaza de la Constitucion.

Barcelona