



## SPAIN

# ESSENTIAL NORTHERN SPAIN (TOUR CODE: 12600)

### STARTS AND ENDS

in San Sebastian

### TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Nov 24 - 30 Oct 25

### EXPERIENCE

Cultural  
City Stays

### TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

Experience the best of Northern Spain on a journey from Bilbao through medieval towns, UNESCO World Heritage sites, stunning architecture, and breathtaking landscapes.

## Highlights

- Explore the magnificent **Burgos Cathedral**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a prime example of Gothic architecture
- Wander through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed historic centre, home to the famous **Santiago Cathedral**
- Discover the dynamic city of **Bilbao**, famous for the stunning Guggenheim Museum and its harmonious blend of modern and traditional architecture

Embark on a 12-day adventure through Northern Spain, starting in Bilbao with its vibrant culture and iconic Guggenheim Museum. Explore the medieval charm of Santillana del Mar, then journey to Picos de Europa for breathtaking landscapes and the stunning cable car ride from Fuente Dé. Discover the rich history of Oviedo, Santiago de Compostela, and León, with their UNESCO World Heritage sites and historic architecture. Visit the majestic Burgos Cathedral before returning to Bilbao.

Enjoy a combination of free time and guided tours in these captivating cities, with comfortable transfers and accommodations throughout.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

## INCLUSIONS

- 1 night in Santillana del Mar at Parador Santillana del Mar 3\* or similar
- 2 nights in Oviedo at Barceló Oviedo Cervantes 5\* or similar
- 2 nights in Santiago de Compostela at Parador de Santiago 5\* or similar
- 1 night in Burgos at Abba Burgos 4\* or similar
- 2 nights in Leon at NH Coll. León Plaza Mayor 4\* or similar
- 3 nights in Bilbao at Barcelo Occidental Bilbao - 4\* or similar
- 2nd Class Highspeed trains tickets : Santiago – Burgos / Burgos – León / León - Bilbao
- Return Private transfers to San Sebastian Railway Station or Airport
- Daily Breakfast
- Arrival and departure transfers in all cities
- Private tour arrangement for a visit to Picos de Europa with an English-speaking driver (8hours)
- Fuente Dé cable car tickets

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Bilbao Airport Bilbao

Welcome to Bilbao!

Meet your driver at the airport/ railway station in San Sebastian and private transfer to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Bilbao at **Barceló Occidental Bilbao** or similar.

### Day 2 Bilbao

After breakfast, spend the day at leisure exploring Bilbao's highlights, including the Guggenheim Museum, Euskalduna Conference and Music Centre, Norman Foster's Underground, Calatrava's airport, and iconic towers by Arata Isozaki and César Pelli—showcasing the city's vibrant dynamism.

Overnight stay in Bilbao at **Barceló Occidental Bilbao** or similar.

Breakfast

### Day 3 Bilbao Santillana del Mar

After breakfast, private transfer from Bilbao to Santillana del Mar.

Upon arrival, the day is yours to explore the city.

Overnight stay in Santillana del Mar at **Parador Santillana del Mar** or similar.

Breakfast

#### Day 4 Santillana del Mar Oviedo

Enjoy a buffet breakfast at your hotel before embarking on a full-day tour of the breathtaking **Picos de Europa**, a stunning mountain range in northern Spain spanning Asturias, Cantabria, and León.

Arrive at Fuente Dé for a spectacular cable car ride, descending 753 metres over 1,450 metres of cable in just 5 minutes. Be captivated by the dramatic rocky crests, deep gorges, picturesque valleys, glacial lakes, and lush forests.

After this unforgettable experience, continue your journey to Oviedo.

Overnight stay in Oviedo at **Barceló Oviedo Cervantes** or similar.

Breakfast

#### Day 5 Oviedo

Enjoy a buffet breakfast at your hotel before spending a free day at leisure exploring Oviedo.

Once the capital of the Asturian Kingdom, Oviedo's rich history dates back to its founding in the 8th century. The city's pedestrian-friendly historic quarter, with its unmistakable medieval charm, makes it a delight to explore on foot.

Overnight stay in Oviedo at **Barceló Oviedo Cervantes** or similar.

Breakfast

#### Day 6 Oviedo Santiago de Compostela

Enjoy a delightful buffet breakfast at your hotel before embarking on a private transfer to the historic city of Santiago de Compostela.

Relax and take in the picturesque scenery along the journey as you travel to one of Spain's most iconic destinations, renowned as the final stop of the legendary Camino de Santiago pilgrimage.

Overnight stay in Santiago de Compostela at **Parador de Santiago** or similar.

Breakfast

#### Day 7 Santiago de Compostela

Enjoy a buffet breakfast at your hotel before spending a free day exploring Santiago de Compostela, the vibrant capital of Galicia.

Wander through the city's historic centre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its stunning façades of convents, monasteries, and iconic buildings like Fonseca House. Admire the city's remarkable blend of historic charm and contemporary architecture. Don't miss the Santiago Cathedral, the final stop on the Way of Saint James pilgrimage, attracting millions of visitors from around the globe each year.

Overnight stay in Santiago de Compostela at **Parador de Santiago** or similar.

Breakfast

Day **8** Santiago de Compostela Leon

Start your day with a buffet breakfast at your hotel before heading to León.

A private transfer will take you to the train station, where you'll board a train to this captivating city. Upon arrival, a private transfer will escort you to your hotel.

León, famed for its stunning Gothic Cathedral with vibrant stained-glass windows and its charming Old Town, promises a memorable experience.

Overnight stay in Leon at **NH Collection León Plaza Mayor** or similar.

Breakfast

Day **9** Leon

Enjoy a buffet breakfast at your hotel before spending a free day at leisure exploring León.

This historic city, once the capital of the kingdom during the Middle Ages, is an important stop on the Pilgrim's Road to Santiago de Compostela. Wander through its charming streets, where history comes alive with stunning medieval architecture and landmarks that reflect the city's rich heritage. León offers the perfect blend of culture, history, and a welcoming atmosphere, making it a delightful destination to explore at your own pace.

Overnight stay in Leon at **NH Collection León Plaza Mayor** or similar.

Breakfast

Day **10** Leon Burgos

Enjoy a buffet breakfast at your hotel before a private transfer to the railway station for your train journey from León to Burgos. Upon arrival, a private transfer will take you to your hotel.

**Burgos**, a city rich in history, still preserves significant traces of its medieval grandeur. Once the capital of the unified kingdom of Castilla-Leon for five centuries, it boasts the magnificent Burgos Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and other historical landmarks that reflect its glorious past.

Overnight stay in Burgos at **Abba Burgos** or similar.

Breakfast

Day **11** Burgos Bilbao

Enjoy a buffet breakfast at your hotel before a private transfer to the railway station to board your train from Burgos to Bilbao. Upon arrival, a private transfer will take you directly to your hotel, ensuring a smooth and comfortable arrival in this vibrant city.

Overnight stay in Bilbao at **Barceló Occidental Bilbao** or similar.

Breakfast

Day **12** Bilbao Bilbao Aiprort

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and private transfer to railway station/ airport in Bilbao.

End of services.

Breakfast

## OPTIONAL EXTRAS

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### Day 2: Guggenheim Museum private tour

Meet your private guide in front of Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum and start this tour. Designed by architect Frank Gehry, the museum is one of the most important architectural works of its time. It has become one of the emblems that have made Bilbao the avant-garde city of the 21st century. Explore the exterior and interior of the museum. Its facade makes a harmonic set that acts as a background to the city. Titanium scales, glass curtains, and stone curves designed with complex mathematical formulas give shape to this enormous "architectural sculpture," showing perspectives never seen before. It features works by Spanish and international artists.

**Meeting /Arrival Point:** In front of Guggenheim museum, next to The Artist Hotel main door

**Departure Time:** 11:00am

**It includes:**

- Private local guide (1h30min)
- Tickets to Guggenheim museum



Operates on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [contact us](#) for details.

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### Day 2: Rioja tour experience - Wine, culture & gastronomy

The Rioja offers much more than excellent wine. It is a region of stunning landscapes, unspoiled villages, art, culture and gastronomy. You will stop for lunch in one of the villages in the Rioja area.

**It includes:**

- Car with english speaking driver 8 hours
- Shared Visit a traditional winery and Wine Museum (90 minutes)
- Gourmet Lunch



Operates on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [contact us](#) for details.

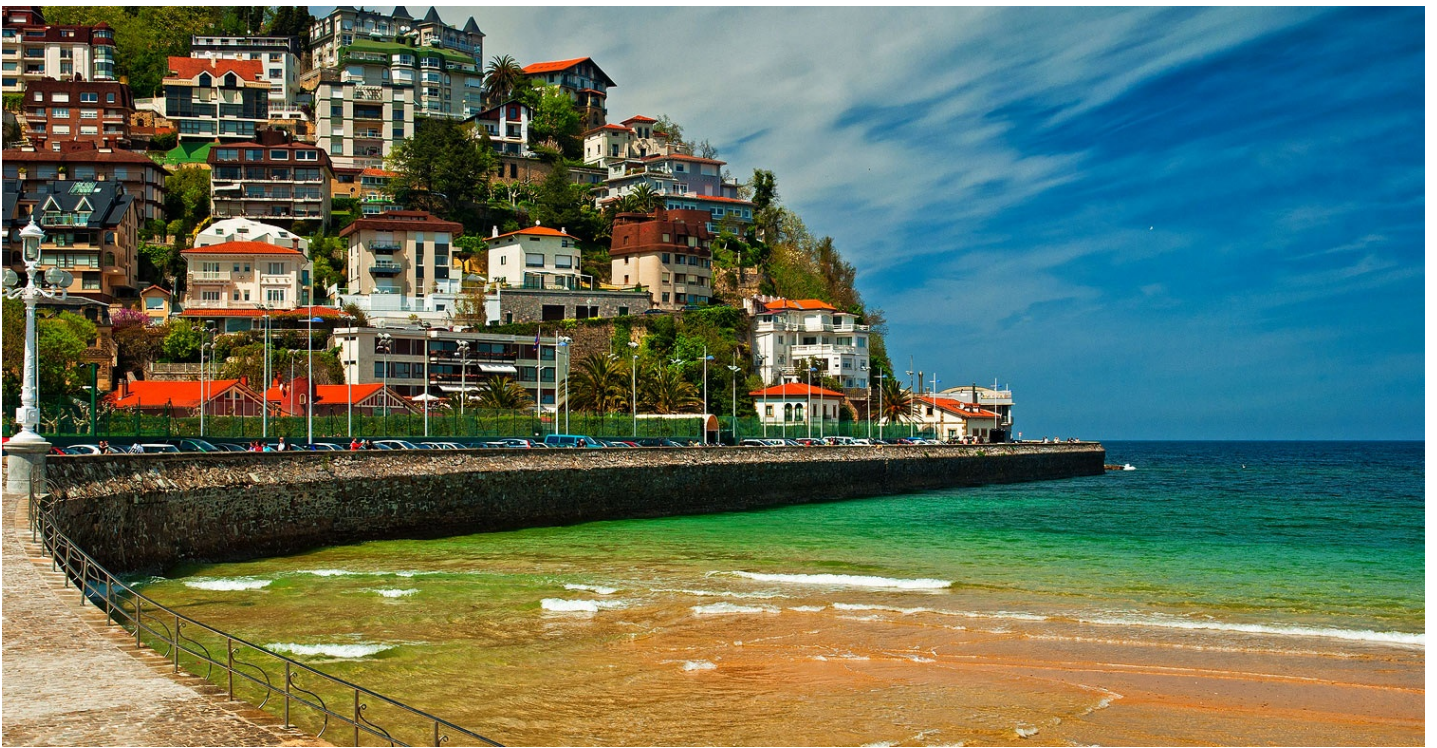
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## Day 2: San Sebastian & Biarritz private tour

With your private guide and car, visit these two towns that combine the past and modernity, great gastronomy, and a strong identity. **San Sebastian** lies along a white sandy bay between the Urgull and Igeldo hills. It is famous for offering sea and mountains, beautiful landscapes, monuments, sports, and internationally prestigious cuisine (the city has 14 Michelin stars spread across 6 restaurants). Just 40 km from San Sebastian is the **coastal city of Biarritz**. It has a popular casino inaugurated in 1901 which, together with its museums, churches, and more than 6 km of beaches, makes the city a renowned tourist center in Europe.

**It includes:**

- Car with english speaking driver 8 hours
- Local guide (8h)



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [contact us](#) for details.

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## Day 7: Galicia coast & mussel tasting cruise

With your private driver, explore the incredible landscapes of **Galicia Rías Baixas**. Stops are made to admire the beautiful landscapes of the region, such as Vilagarcía de Arousa and Cambados, before arriving at O Grove Port. Here you will join the catamaran trip and learn more about the production of mussels, oysters, and scallops through the most picturesque fishing villages. During one hour, the catamaran tour takes place through the area between O Grove, A Toxa, Cambados, and the Illa de Arousa, with explanations about the peculiarities of the Ría de Arousa. Once you reach the floating platforms, a stop will be made to closely observe the seabed thanks to the underwater vision of the catamaran and enjoy a mussel tasting.

### **It includes:**

- Private car/van transfer from your hotel and back
- Shared boat trip with mussels & wine tastings onboard (1h)

5 hours

From 01 April 2025 to 31 October 2025

Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

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# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Spanish

## LOCAL CURRENCY

Euro

- 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.

## 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