





# Northern Spain: Basque Country, Rioja and Madrid

9 Days | **SMALL GROUP JOURNEY**  
MAXIMUM 12 GUESTS

Welcome to Northern Spain – a land of timeless charm, world-class wines and vibrant heritage. From the elegance of San Sebastián's coastline to the storybook streets of Salamanca, discover dramatic landscapes, ancient cathedrals, and celebrated culinary traditions. Over 9 days, journey through the Basque Country, Rioja and Castile, and uncover the rich soul of Spain, where every destination reveals a deeper layer of Spain's beauty and spirit.



## Highlights & Inclusions

- > 8 nights in exquisite 4 and 5-star hotels
- > 8 breakfasts (B), 4 lunches (L)
- > Guided sightseeing of San Sebastián, Pamplona, Burgos, Salamanca, Toledo and Madrid
- > Txacoli and Pinto Wine Tasting in San Sebastián
- > Funicular ride to Mount Igeldo overlooking San Sebastián
- > Visit two La Rioja wineries including a delicious wine tasting lunch
- > Salamanca guided tour includes discovery of Salamanca University's secrets and legends
- > Traditional tapas lunch in Madrid
- > Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Listed sites of Burgos Cathedral, the old town of Salamanca and Toledo
- > Entrance to Pamplona Cathedral, Burgos Cathedral, Salamanca University, Toledo Cathedral and Alcazar and Royal Palace of Madrid
- > Tour Director accompanying group
- > Deluxe VIP transfers
- > Arrival transfer on first day

Note: hotel city taxes, if applicable, are not included.

### Day 1 San Sebastián

Welcome to Spain's Basque Country, a captivating region celebrated for its rugged coastline, vibrant culture, and world-renowned culinary scene. Arrive in San Sebastián to your beautiful hotel and unwind with an evening at leisure.

**STAY 2 NIGHTS:** Hotel Catalonia Donosti 4-star or similar

### Day 2 San Sebastián (B, L)

Enjoy a guided tour of elegant San Sebastián, a coastal gem known for its Belle Époque architecture, golden beaches and deep-rooted Basque identity. Discover the city's highlights including the lively Old Town, picturesque La Concha Bay and charming local markets. Along the way, enjoy a tasting of regional Txakoli and Pinto wines, followed by a welcome lunch with wine at a local restaurant. The rest of the afternoon is yours to relax or explore more of the city at your own pace.

### Day 3 San Sebastián – Pamplona – Logroño (Rioja wine region) (B)

Begin the day with a scenic ride on the Monte Igeldo Funicular, offering breathtaking panoramic views over San Sebastián's La Concha Bay and the Cantabrian coastline. Continue inland to Pamplona, famously known for the Running of the Bulls and rich in medieval charm. Enjoy a guided walking tour through its historic heart, including a visit to the striking Gothic Pamplona Cathedral, whose impressive cloister is among the most beautiful in Europe. In the afternoon, travel to the world-renowned Rioja wine region and settle into your elegant accommodation.

**STAY 2 NIGHTS:** Áurea Palacio de Correos 5-star or similar





Salamanca Cathedral, Salamanca, Spain



Toledo, Spain



Plaza de Cibeles, Madrid, Spain

#### Day 4 Logroño (Rioja region) – Laguardia – Logroño (Rioja region) (B, L)

Today, embark on a full-day exploration of the celebrated Rioja wine region, one of Spain's most prestigious Denominación de Origen Calificada (DOCa) areas. Known for its bold reds crafted from the Tempranillo grape, Rioja combines centuries-old wine traditions with modern innovation. Visit two local wineries for wine tastings, one inclusive of lunch with wine. Visit the fortified hilltop town of Laguardia, renowned for its

underground wine cellars and medieval architecture, with independent time to stroll its charming, cobbled streets and soak in its storybook atmosphere before returning to your hotel.

#### Day 5 Logroño (Rioja region) – Burgos – Salamanca (B)

Travel west to Burgos, a city steeped in history and birthplace of the legendary El Cid. Enjoy a guided tour with admission to the UNESCO-listed Cathedral of Saint Mary, a masterpiece of Spanish Gothic architecture famed for its soaring spires and ornate facades. Continue to Salamanca, one of

Spain's most beautiful Renaissance cities, and check into your stunning accommodation.

**STAY 2 NIGHTS:** Hospes Palacio de San Esteban 5-star or similar

#### Day 6 Salamanca (B, L)

Start they day with a guided tour one of Europe's oldest and most prestigious universities, uncovering its hidden stories. Afterwards enjoy a local lunch with wine. The rest of the afternoon is yours to relax or explore the golden sandstone streets at your own pace.

#### Day 7 Salamanca – Toledo – Madrid (B)

Depart for the hilltop city of Toledo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the "City of Three Cultures" for its historical blend of Christian, Jewish and Muslim influences. Enjoy a guided tour with visits to the Alcázar and the magnificent Gothic Cathedral. In the afternoon, continue to Madrid where the evening is at your leisure.

**STAY 2 NIGHTS:** Hotel NH Collection Madrid Palacio de Tepa 5-star or similar

#### Day 8 Madrid (B, L)

Today's guided tour of Spain's vibrant capital includes the Royal Palace, Europe's largest functioning royal residence and a symbol of Spanish heritage and power. Afterwards, celebrate the journey with a closing tapas lunch paired with local wines, an iconic Spanish tradition of small share plates reflecting the country's regional diversity and social spirit.

#### Day 9 Madrid (B)

If you are not extending your stay with us in Southern Spain or Portugal, your tour ends on hotel check-out.

### Feature hotel | ★★★★★

Hospes Palacio de San Esteban, Salamanca

Stay **2** nights

- > A 16th-century Dominican convent-turned-luxury hotel, offering a magnificent blend of Gothic architecture, original cloisters, and serene modern interiors
- > A peaceful haven in the heart of Salamanca with award-winning dining that honours Castilian cuisine



### Departures and Pricing

2026	STARTS	ENDS
	San Sebastian	Madrid
	18-Apr-26	26-Apr-26
	02-May-26	10-May-26
	17-May-26	25-May-26
	07-Jun-26	15-Jun-26
	20-Jun-26	28-Jun-26
	04-Jul-26	12-Jul-26
	29-Aug-26	06-Sep-26
	12-Sep-26	20-Sep-26
	26-Sep-26	04-Oct-26
	10-Oct-26	18-Oct-26

2027	STARTS	ENDS
	San Sebastian	Madrid
	17-Apr-27	25-Apr-27
	01-May-27	09-May-27
	15-May-27	23-May-27
	05-Jun-27	13-Jun-27
	19-Jun-27	27-Jun-27
	03-Jul-27	11-Jul-27
	28-Aug-27	05-Sep-27
	11-Sep-27	19-Sep-27
	25-Sep-27	03-Oct-27
	09-Oct-27	17-Oct-27

**Price from AUD \$9,490** Twin Share per person  
Single Supplement \$3,900

\*Prices for each departure are listed on our website. Prices are in Australian Dollars (AUD) and in other currencies on request.



## Why this journey stands apart – A note from our CEO

*A comprehensive and diverse tour through Spain's most beautiful and interesting regions north of Madrid including the autonomous regions of Basque, Navarre and Castile & León, each with their own customs and traditions. Enjoy tastings in the Rioja, Spain's premier wine region and visit Salamanca, one of the most beautiful World Heritage Cities with significant architectural heritage. Finish with the amazing Toledo and of course Madrid, one of my favourite European capitals.*



Costa Brava, Spain



Rioja Wine Region, Spain

## Our most popular tour extensions

### PRE-TOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **Vibrant Barcelona (5 Days) Private City Break**

- > A vibrant urban escape featuring Gaudí's architectural wonders, world-class museums, beachside tapas, and the buzz of Barcelona's stylish, cosmopolitan lifestyle
- > Discover the best of Catalonia's capital

Explore more on page 92

#### **Costa Brava Coastal Delights (6 Days) Private Regional Discovery**

- > A coastal retreat exploring the dramatic beauty of the Costa Brava for a rich cultural experience in one of Spain's most enchanting coastal regions
- > Featuring guided visits to medieval villages, the Dalí Theatre-Museum, and seaside gems like Cadaqués

Explore more on page 90

### POST-TOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **A Southern Spain: Andalusian Delights (8 Days) Small Group Journey**

- > Extend your Spain discovery to the south to discover Andalusia in all its greatness
- > Discover Moorish palaces, flamenco rhythms, and sun-drenched white villages as you explore Seville, Córdoba, Jerez, and beyond

Explore more on page 83

#### **Best of Portugal (8 Days) Private Regional Discovery**

- > Take our Best of Portugal itinerary as a private discovery of neighbouring Portugal
- > Featuring iconic cities, fairy-tale villages, riverside cruises, and UNESCO-listed landmarks, along with a Fado show, Port tastings, and a scenic Douro Valley train journey for a winery lunch experience

Explore more on page 87

