



SPAIN

## LANDSCAPES OF NORTHERN SPAIN & PORTUGAL JOURNEYS

(TOUR CODE: 12543)

<b>STARTS AND ENDS</b> in Madrid	<b>TRAVEL PERIODS</b> 26 Mar 24 - 05 Nov 24	<b>EXPERIENCE</b> Escorted Food & Wine	<b>TRAVEL STYLE</b> Group Journeys
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Discover Spain and Portugal's varied history and culture and you travel across the northern landscapes during this 15-day itinerary.

### 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
- Stop for a sightseeing in **San Sebastian** and admire its beautiful "**Concha Bay**"
- Journey through the **Galician landscapes** and try the delicious "Mondonedo cake"!
- Visit **Coimbra**, well-known to be the birthplace of Fado.
- Discover **Aveiro**, known as "The Portuguese Venice" and, enjoy a ride on its beautiful canals aboard a traditional **Moliceiro boat**
- Try a typical **Portuguese dinner** as you visit one of the oldest **Fado** venues in Lisbon

Explore northern Spain and Portugal during this 15-day journey. Visit the beautiful cities of the Galicia region and Portugal. Admire the contrasting landscapes and the rich culture and history that is steeped in the region.

						
<b>GUARANTEED DEPARTURES</b>	<b>SMALL GROUP SIZES</b>	<b>SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL</b>	<b>ENGLISH-ONLY EXPERT GUIDES</b>	<b>CITY-CENTRE QUALITY HOTELS</b>	<b>SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDED</b>	<b>SLOWER-PACED ITINERARY</b>



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

## INCLUSIONS

- 14-nights accommodation in 4-star hotels
- Transportation by luxury coach
- Private transfers to/ from airport as per itinerary
- Daily Breakfast
- Pintxos lunch in San Sebastian
- 3 dinners: Welcome Tapas dinner, Fado show and dinner in Lisbon and Farewell dinner
- Wine tasting at Pinhao's centenary cellars with lunch and Rioja wine tasting with light lunch
- Guided city tours with local guides in Madrid, Bilbao, Santiago, Porto & Lisbon
- Cruise Aveiro's canals with Moliceiro Boat
- Entrance fees for Merida's Roman Theatre included
- English-Speaking Only Tour Director throughout the journey

## ITINERARY

### Intro Map

Landscapes of Northern Spain & Portugal 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 **Barcelo Torre Madrid**



MADRID. PUERTA DE ALCALÁ DE NOCHE

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 leisure to continue exploring the wonders this city has to offer, or, join the optional excursion to Toledo.

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

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

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 destination is **Laguardia**, in the heart of La Rioja, one of the most famous Spanish wine regions.

Internationally acclaimed, and among its vineyards, we will visit a traditional and family run wine cellar. Take a taste of the world-famous Rioja Reds and enjoy **a local product-based light lunch.**

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 leisure to explore the esplanade surrounding The Guggenheim Museum and admire this modern architectural building.

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



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, 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 on 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



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 holly land declared World Heritage 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

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.

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

Breakfast



Day 8

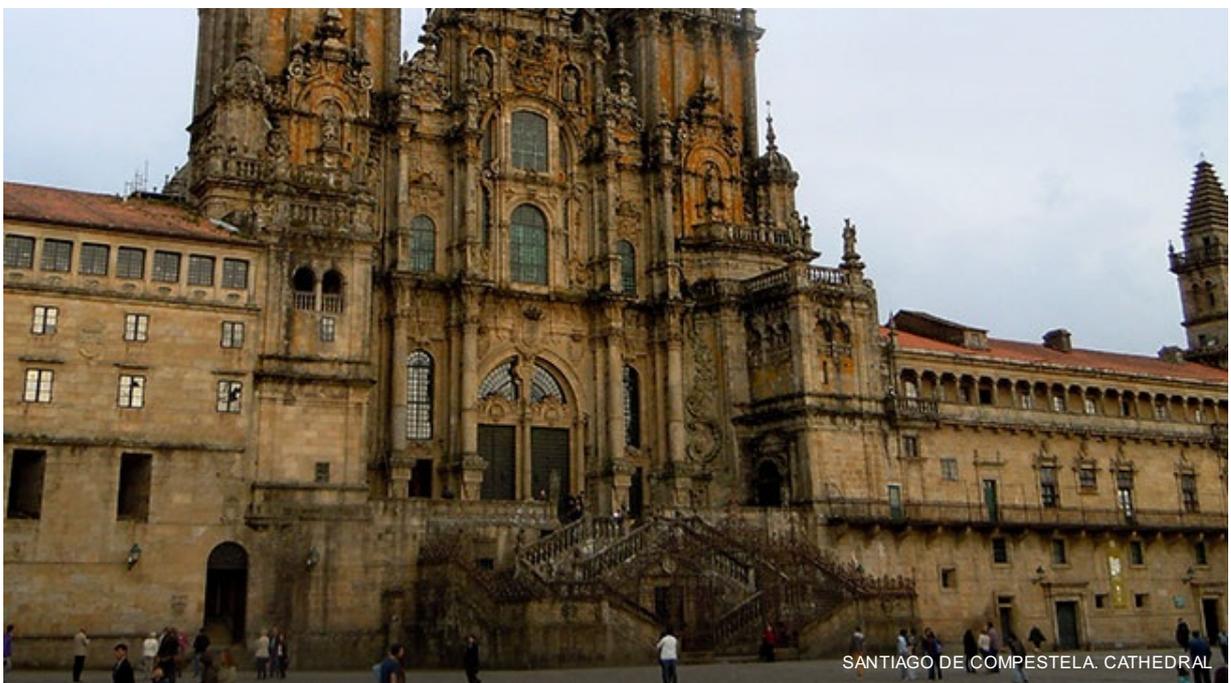
## Santiago de Compostela Salamanca

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

Your Iberian exploration begins today as you travel toward Salamanca. Venture for Portuguese soils, you will drive towards Salamanca. Enjoy a city tour this University City World Heritage Site of great architectural and artistic wealth.

Overnight stay in Salamanca at **Catalonia Salamanca**

Breakfast



Day **9**

## Salamanca Porto

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

We farewell Spain to discover Portuguese landscapes.

Our first stop will be at **Pinhao**, a beautiful little town on the Douro Riverbank and famous for their centenary cellars. Taste their wines while visiting their stunning vineyards. After the tasting experience, **enjoy a local product-based lunch**.

Continue to **Porto**. Located along the Douro River estuary in Northern Portugal, Porto is one of the oldest European towns, and proclaimed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996.

Overnight stay in Porto at **Catalonia Porto**

Breakfast



Day **10**

## Porto

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

Feel the Douro River breeze while discovering Porto. Admire the Cathedral, Stock Exchange building and Santa Clara church. Afterwards, enjoy a Douro River Cruise.

Enjoy rest of day at leisure.

Overnight stay in Porto at **Catalonia Porto**

Breakfast



PORTO. DUORO RIVER

Day **11** Porto Aveiro Coimbra

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

We depart to Aveiro, known as “The Portuguese Venice”. Enjoy a cruise on its beautiful canals aboard a traditional Moliceiro boat. Enjoy time at leisure and explore the town, the old Beira Mar neighborhood and the Aveiro Fish Market.

Continue to Coimbra, one of the oldest cities in Europe and the birthplace of Fado. Spend time at leisure.

Overnight stay in Coimbra at **Melia Aeminium**

Breakfast



COIMBRA

Day **12** Coimbra Tomar Obidos Lisbon

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

Today may seem long as you’ll discover several small historical towns, but distances are short and sweet. Depart to the

**Tomar's Monastery**, a Gothic and Manueline style masterpiece considered a World Heritage site by UNESCO. Continue to the picturesque fishing town of **Nazaré**. Enjoy time at leisure.

Travel to **Obidos**, beautiful example of Portuguese medieval walled town. Spend some time at leisure.

Continue to the Portuguese Capital: Lisbon.

Overnight stay in Lisbon at the **Sheraton Lisbon & Spa**.

Breakfast



## Day 13 Lisbon

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

Spread across seven hills and known for its decorative arts, Lisbon is one of Europe's most interesting capitals. Join a morning city sightseeing of the ancient Olissipo. Drive through its main squares and avenues, Belem Tower, Jeronimos Monastery, Monument to the Discoverers, Marquis of Pombal Square & Liberty Avenue.

Afternoon is at leisure for you to catch the nostalgic corners of Alfama Quarter, the old city gathered next to its Castle, with old buildings nested in narrow twisting "Ruas" full of color housing the genuine "tabernas".

In the early evening, join your fellow travellers and enjoy a typical **Portuguese dinner visiting one of the oldest Fado** venues in the city.

Overnight stay in Lisbon at the **Sheraton Lisbon & Spa**.

Breakfast, Dinner



## Day 14 Lisbon Merida Madrid

Enjoy a full buffet breakfast at your hotel.

We farewell Lisbon and Portugal while drive back to Spain. Our first stop will be Mérida, capital of the ancient Lusitania Roman Province. Merida, the capital of Extremadura, in western Spain, was founded by the Romans in the 1st century BC. There are still remains of the ancient city, such as the spectacular Roman Theater (entrance included). Enjoy some time at leisure.

Following your visit to Merida you will continue to Madrid, where you'll enjoy your Farewel dinner..

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

Breakfast, Dinner

## Day 15 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.



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## 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.



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## 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 Salvador and the Campoamor Theater.



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## 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.



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## 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.



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## Hotel Catalonia Porto

### Porto

Visit Portugal's most charming city from the Catalonia Porto, set in a series of buildings protected for their historical value. You will be staying in the centre of Porto, next to Praça da Batalha and the San Ildefonso church in one of the most important commercial areas in town. Choose from our light-filled rooms decorated in pure Porto style with bright colours and the typical coloured tiles.

The Catalonia Porto hotel is ideal both for tourists traveling as a couple or as a family to get to know the city and its wide cultural offer, as well as for business travelers looking to combine their work commitments with the chance to explore vibrant Porto. The hotel is in a key location to visit all that you cannot miss, next to Praça da Batalha, presided over by the imposing Church of San Ildefonso.



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## Hotel Meliá Aeminium

### Coimbra

In a very quiet residential area near the university hospital and centre of Coimbra, the hotel has a perfect location for exploring this beautiful city and region. Relax in extremely comfortable rooms. Try the varied buffet breakfast before setting out to enjoy the atmosphere and everything there is to see in what is known as the Portuguese "city of students".



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## Sheraton Lisbon Hotel & Spa

### Lisbon

Experience breathtaking views from the comfort of your room as you choose between our City and River view accommodations, immersing yourself in the stunning skylines that will leave you in awe.

Indulge in luxury and privacy with our suites featuring separate living rooms, providing the perfect space to unwind and entertain in style.



# 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

