



PEACE OF MIND BOOKING PLAN 

# MADRID, NORTHERN SPAIN & GALICIA

(11698)

 Zaragoza

Discover the highlights of Iberian Peninsula's during this exceptional 11-day escorted tour. Travel from Madrid passing by Northern Spain to Braga and explore historic cities, century-old Cathedrals, lush wine regions and enjoy regional specialties.

Spain

**CULTURAL** **FOOD & WINE**

**PRIVATE ESCORTED TOURS**

## Highlights

 Taste the classical tapas of Madrid

 Overnight stay in **San Sebastian** in a 4\* hotel

 Visit Santiago de Compostela

 Explore the Spanish fjords knowns as las "Rias Bajas"

This 11-day journey starts in Madrid, Spain's capital city that features elegant boulevards and historic landmarks. Discover the main highlights of the city, including Plaza Mayor, the Royal Palace and Prado Museum, and then head to the ancient city of Zaragoza to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of The Pilar, patroness of Hispanity, then, stop for the night at San Sebastian. Explore the fascinating city of Santiago de Compostela, the highlight of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route, before moving on towards Vigo passing by the Rias bajas and la Toja Island. Return to Madrid to finish the tour.

### Duration

11 days

### Destinations

Spain

### Travel Departs

Madrid

### Travel Ends

Madrid

### Experiences

Cultural, Food & Wine

### Travel Style

Private Escorted Tours

## Included

-  3 nights in Madrid in a 4\* hotel
-  1 night in San Sebastian in a 4\* hotel
-  1 night in Santander in a 4\* hotel
-  1 night in Oviedo in a 4\* hotel
-  1 night in La Coruna in a 4\* hotel
-  1 night in Santiago de Compostela in a 4\* hotel
-  1 night in Vigo in a 4\* hotel
-  1 night in Braga in a 4\* hotel
-  Private transfers to/from airport or train station to/from your hotel
-  Air conditioned deluxe minivan/minibus
-  Daily Breakfast
-  Guided sightseeing tours in Madrid, San Sebastian, Bilbao and La Coruña
-  Tapas Tour- Historical-gastronomic experience in Madrid
-  Guided city tour of Santiago de Compostela
-  Tour: Route of the mussels in Pontevedra
-  Driver-guide during the tour

## 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

## Itinerary

### Day 1 Madrid Airport → Madrid

Upon arrival at the airport you will be greeted and escorted to your private transfer to the hotel. The rest of the day is yours to explore Madrid at your leisure.

Overnight stay in **Madrid** in a 4\* Hotel.

### Day 2 Madrid

After breakfast enjoy a morning **guided city tour of Madrid**. Discover the medieval origins of the city, like **the Arabic fortress**, at the Barrio de la Morería, famous for its historical buildings. Drive through the courtesan district of the Hapsburgs characterized by Phillip II and its Renaissance and Baroque style buildings, **Puerta del Sol**, **Plaza Mayor** and Plaza de la Villa; the Madrid of the Bourbons and the complex town planning schemes of Charles III, the Royal Palace, Cibeles and Neptuno Fountains and the Puerta de Alcalá. Admire the XIX C. works such as **Prado Museum**. The contemporary Madrid with areas such as Gran Vía, Castellana, the district of Salamanca, Plaza Castilla and Parque del Oeste, as well as commercial and financial areas of Modern Madrid, the emblematic Las Ventas Bullring and the **Santiago Bernabéu Football Stadium**. Afternoon free to continue exploring the wonders that the city has to offer.

In the late afternoon, take part in a **Tapas Tour- Historical-gastronomic experience**: Stroll through the Madrid of the Austrias and discover its most curious legends and stories, we will visit several typical Madrid establishments where you can taste the most classical tapas of the capital. Taverns full of flavor and history, a living memory of traditional Madrid. In each of them we will try some of its most characteristic **tapas, accompanied by local wines**, (our suggestio or you can request another type of drink).

Overnight stay in **Madrid** in a 4\* Hotel.

🍴 Breakfast

### Day 3 Madrid → Zaragoza → San Sebastian

Breakfast at the hotel, depart from our established hotels in Madrid towards **Zaragoza**. Free time to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of The Pilar, patroness of Hispanity and stroll through the old streets of Zaragoza. In the afternoon we will continue to **San Sebastian**, it's one of the most famous tourist destinations where they hold the International Film Festival. Enjoy a guided city tour of this marvelous style bourgeois city, seeing the extraordinary landscape dominated by the bay and the magnificent La Concha beach.

Overnight stay in **San Sebastian** in a 4\* hotel.

🍴 Breakfast

### Day 4 San Sebastian → Bilbao → Santander

After breakfast at the hotel we will head to Mount Igeldo, where you will take in the marvelous views of the city, then we proceed to Bilbao. Our panoramic driver will show you the highlights of Bilbao before you will have free time to explore the esplanade where you will find The Guggenheim Museum. Admire this modern architectural building before we proceed to the old fishing village of "**Castro Urdiales**", where you will have some more time to look around. We will then depart for Santander, a port city located between the sea and the mountains, well known for its Sardinero Beach, one of the best known beaches in Spain. Enjoy the free time to stroll around this elegant city.

Overnight stay in **Santander** in a 4\* hotel.

🍴 Breakfast

### Day 5 Santander → Santillana → Covadonga → Oviedo

After breakfast at the hotel, depart to **Santillana**, one of the most important historical artistic towns in Spain. It contains architectural treasures such as the Collegiate of Santa Juliana, a Jewel of the Romanesque Architecture in Cantabria. Then continue to Covadonga where you will have some to see the Sanctuary and the Grotto, and the patroness of Asturias our Lady of Covadonga.

In the afternoon, departure to **Oviedo**, where you will see on a series of hills 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** in a 4\* hotel.

🍴 Breakfast

### Day 6 Oviedo → Lugo → A Coruña

After breakfast at the hotel, drive to the Galician region, firstly stopping at Lugo, where you will have time to admire the Roman remains that still retains its walls, declared a World Heritage Site. Continue onto **A Coruña** for a short panoramic drive through the fabulous Marine Avenues. You will glimpse the elegance of this city and its typical Galician architecture of glass house-galleries. We will also stop in one of the oldest working lighthouse the "Tower of Hercules" dating back to the roman period. Afternoon is at leisure to relax.

Overnight stay in **A Coruña** in a 4\* Hotel.

🍴 Breakfast

### Day 7 A Coruña → Santiago de Compostela

After breakfast at the hotel, depart to **Santiago de Compostela**, declared a World Heritage as it is one of the most important centers of Christian Pilgrimages in Spain. This city marks the end of the Camino de Santiago route that was built during the Roman Empire. Enjoy a city tour where we will see the main square called Obradoiro and also the Cathedral (entrance included) dedicated to the Apostle Santiago. The rest of the day is yours to explore at leisure the narrow cobblestone streets and experience the student

atmosphere.

Overnight stay in **Santiago de Compostela** in a 4\* hotel.

 Breakfast

**Day 8** Santiago de Compostela → Ria Bajas → La Toja → Vigo

After breakfast at the hotel, departure towards one of the most marvelous areas of Galicia, the **Rias Bajas** (Spanish Fjords). Driving through this magnificent landscape we will arrive to **La Toja Island**, universally known for its spa. Proceed to the Ria de Arosa, passing through Pontevedra where you will enjoy a marine excursion along the Ria for the duration of 1:15 min. During this excursion you'll visit the mussels' farm and learn how the mussels, oysters and scallops are cultivated. We will have the pleasure of observing underwater panoramas and we will finish with a tasting on board of mussels with water, wine or soft drinks. Continue your journey and arrive to Vigo, situated in the middle of the Rias Baixas.

Overnight stay in **Vigo** in a 4\* hotel.

 Breakfast

**Day 9** Vigo → Viano do Castelo → Braga

After breakfast at the hotel, depart to the Portuguese border. Arrive at Viana do Castelo, the city located between the mouth of the river Miño and Porto. Stop on the way in Porto and then continue onto Braga for an overnight stay.

Overnight stay in **Braga** in a 4\* hotel.

 Breakfast

**Day 10** Braga → Salamanca → Madrid

After breakfast at the hotel, depart to the Spanish border and arrive in Salamanca, a World Heritage Site. There you will have a short stop and time to explore this University City of great architectural and artistic wealth. Continue onto Madrid for an overnight stay.

Overnight stay in **Madrid** in a 4\* hotel.

 Breakfast

**Day 11** Madrid → Madrid Airport

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and depart to the airport with a private transfer.

 Breakfast

## Additional information

Official language

Spanish

Local currency

Euro

Blackout dates may apply during festive season.