

INSIGHT VACATIONS

Northern Spain

Classic Group

11 DAYS | 1 COUNTRIES | 14 MEALS | LEISURELY

Experience Asturias' Green Coast and meet a local to sample regional cuisine. Tour Oviedo's historic sites, relax in Santander and marvel at Barcelona's Sagrada Família.



4.5/5

★★★★★

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Guest Review Rating

DEPARTURE MONTHS

April - October

For dates, prices and to choose your group size call your Travel Advisor or see [insightvacations.com/northernspain](https://www.insightvacations.com/northernspain)

DAY 1 | WELCOME TO MADRID

Join your Travel Director and fellow travellers for dinner in a local restaurant and enjoy an evening of delicious food and wine. **(D) Hotel: Barceló Torre de Madrid/Canopy by Hilton Madrid Castellana**

TRANSFERS: Depart Madrid-Barajas airport at 09:00, 11:30, 13:30 and 16:00.

WELCOME: Meet your Travel Director at 17:30.

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. **(B)**

DAY 3 | GUADARRAMA MOUNTAINS TO 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. **(B) (D)**

Hotel: NH Collection Santiago de Compostela

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. **(B) (RS)**

DAY 5 | ALONG THE COSTA VERDE TO OVIEDO

Pass through the ancient forests of Galicia and cross to the Green Coast of Asturias. Enjoy a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Be treated to a homemade meal and learn about traditional cider product, including a tasting. Continue 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. Admire one of the finest altarpieces in Europe. **(B) (L) (RS)**

Hotel: Barceló Oviedo Cervantes

INCLUDED MEALS: Breakfast **(B)** Lunch **(L)** Dinner **(D)** **RELAXED STARTS:** **(RS)** **HOTELS:** On occasion, hotels of a similar standard and location may be used.

DAY 6 | PICTURESQUE SANTILLANA DEL MAR AND ON TO SANTANDER

Visit the Holy Cave of Covadonga, a shrine to Pelayo. See the unique Roman bridge in Cangas de Onís and head into Picos de Europa, a national park boasting spectacular scenery. Enjoy views of the Costa de Cantabria whilst travelling to Santillana del Mar, arguably the most beautiful village in Spain. Continue to Santander. **(B) Hotel: Eurostars Real, Santander**

DAY 7 | BILBAO, COSTA VASCA AND SAN SEBASTIÁN

In nearby Bilbao, admire the striking architecture of the Guggenheim Museum. Enjoy the views as you are driven along part of the Costa Vasca and pause in Getaria to see 'El Ratón', the mouse-shaped rock. Continue to San Sebastián and admire its beauty during a City Tour with a Local Expert. Explore the secrets of the harbour area and uncover the forgotten Basque maritime cultural heritage. **(B) (RS)**

Hotel: Barceló Costa Vasca, San Sebastián

DAY 8 | SAN SEBASTIÁN, PEARL OF THE CANTABRIAN COAST

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. **(B) (RS)**

DAY 9 | PAMPLONA AND ON TO 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. **(B) Hotel: Hilton, Barcelona**

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. **(B) (D)**

DAY 11 | DEPART BARCELONA OR MADRID

Today, bid farewell to your journey as you transfer to the airport. The 09:00 transfer continues on to Madrid airport and hotel in the early evening. **(B)**

TRANSFERS: Arrive at the airport at 07:00, 09:00 and 11:00.



HIGHLIGHT INCLUSIONS

Premium Experiences

Madrid | Witness the world's finest collection of Spanish paintings as you tour the Prado Museum with an art historian.

Santiago de Compostela | Insight

Choice Embark on a scenic walk on part of the Way of St. James through parks and gardens that transform with the seasons, or join a city tour to admire the cathedral facade at Praza do Obradoiro.

Oviedo | See ancient wall paintings and marvel at Europe's finest altarpieces in the Cathedral of the Holy Saviour.

Picos de Europa | Visit the holy cave of

Covadonga and see the tomb of Pelayo who became the first King of Asturias.

San Sebastián | Enjoy a guided walking tour of the Old Quarter.

Bilbao | Admire Gehry's spectacularly modern Guggenheim Museum.

Pamplona | The city is home to Café Iruña, a favourite of Ernest Hemingway.

Barcelona | View the contrasting architectural styles of Gaudí's extraordinary masterpiece, the Sagrada Família, under construction since 1882.

Gijón | Meet locals for a delicious meal of locally sourced produce that has been prepared just for you. This experience supports United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®
EXPERIENCE



Premium Dining

Madrid | Indulge in delicious food and wine at a characteristic restaurant of the city's vibrant centre.

Barcelona | Savour Catalan delicacies that reflect the history of the local culinary culture, combining classic recipes with the freshest produce.

