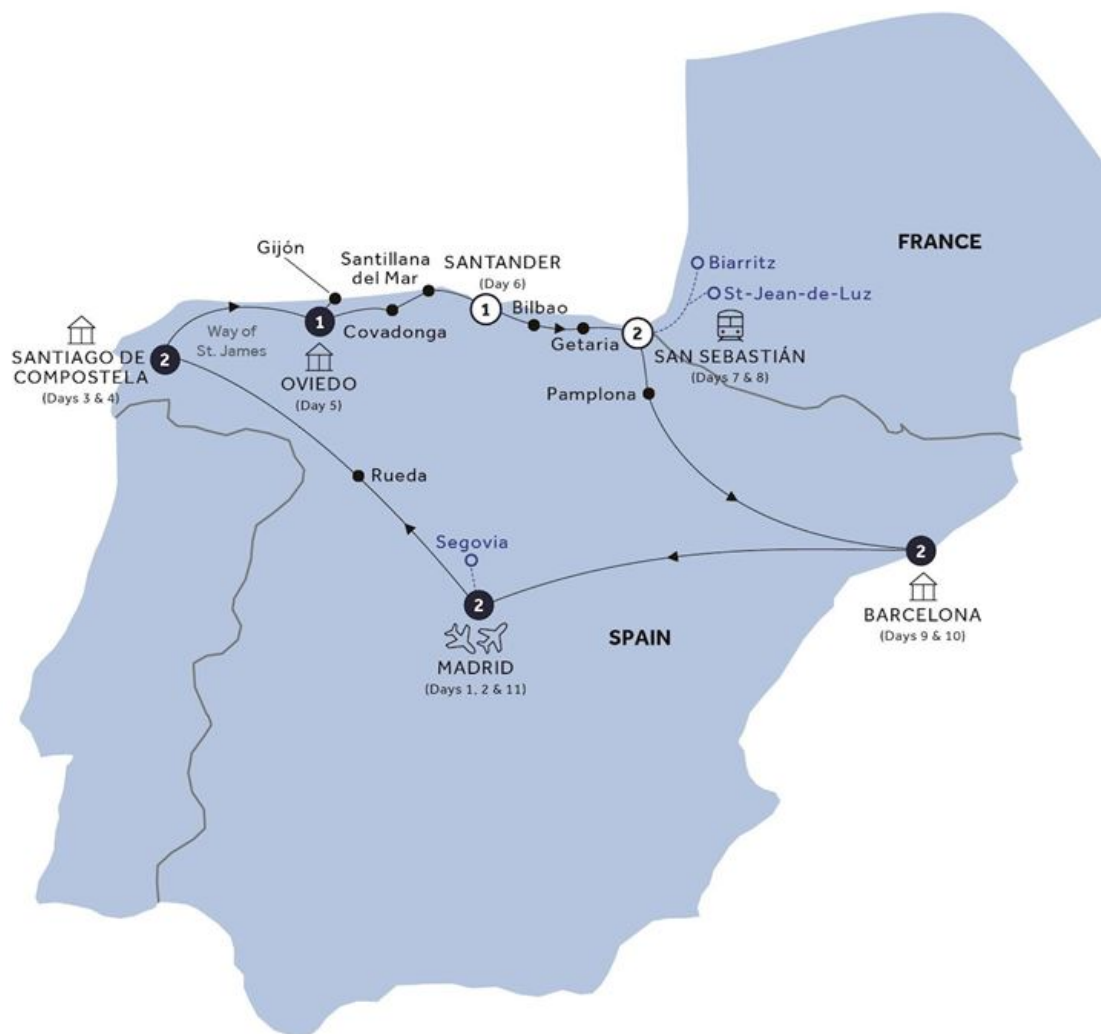


**INSIGHT VACATIONS**

*The Art of Travelling in Style*

## **NORTHERN SPAIN END MADRID**





## KEY


**1** Central  
Hotels + Nights

**1** Scenic  
Hotels + Nights


● Place Visited

○ Optional Place  
Visited

||||| Trip Option

 Cruise

 Train

 Join/Leave Options

 Included Flights

 UNESCO  
Heritage Site

## Day 1 | Welcome to Madrid



Join your Travel Director for a Welcome Dinner in a local restaurant and get to know your fellow travellers over an evening of delicious food and wine.

**Meals:** Dinner with Wine

**Hotel:** Canopy by Hilton Castellana / Radisson Red Paseo Del Arte

## 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.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Canopy by Hilton Castellana / Radisson Red Paseo Del Arte

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Excursion to Segovia** - Drive to the fortified city of Segovia where a Local Expert leads you through the medieval streets from the Roman aqueduct to the magnificent Alcazar, one of the inspirations for Walt Disney's Cinderella castle. Inside this 14th-century palace, experience the paintings, tapestries, weaponry and armoury of the Spanish medieval era. Then take a panoramic drive outside the walls to admire stunning views over the Eresma valley, the Roman aqueduct and picturesque buildings of this medieval jewel.

**Adult: 53.00 EUR**

*\* This optional involves reservation and entrance pre-payments. Cancellation will incur a 50% cancellation fee.*

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

**Madrid by Night** - An evening drive to the most historic area of Madrid including stops for wonderful views of the city and a walk through the lively streets and squares of old Madrid. Enjoy free time for dinner in one of the many restaurants and return home along the grand Avenida Castellana with its spectacular fountains.

**Adult: 22.00 EUR**

**Madrid by Night with Dinner** - Enjoy an evening out in the nation's stately capital city. Tonight we'll enjoy a wonderful dinner out on the town in a carefully chosen venue, accompanied by Spanish wine and great local entertainment. What a wonderful introduction to Madrid.

**Adult: 66.00 EUR**



### Day 3 | Through the Guadarrama Mountains to Santiago



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.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

**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.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** NH Collection Santiago de Compostela.

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Rías Baixas** - Visit a Galician Grand Manor House known as a "Pazo", home to an aristocratic family and its garden. The journey with our Local Expert will also take us past the island of Arousa and the fishing villages of Vilagarcía and Vilaxoán. Enjoy the scenery of this most bountiful seafood area of Spain, a region also famous for its white wines.

**Adult: 41.00 EUR**

**Dinner in Galicia** - Tonight we'll have the chance to sample a wonderful variety of Galician dishes, complemented with fantastic locally-produced wine. Discover the Celtic influence in the cuisine and enjoy ingredients fresh from the Atlantic. Having experienced the heart and soul of this wonderful region, tonight is the perfect opportunity to experience Galicia through your taste buds!

**Adult: 68.00 EUR**

## Day 5 | Along the Costa Verde to Oviedo



Pass through the ancient forests of Galicia and cross to the Green Coast of Asturias - one of Spain's most beautiful, named after the colour of the sea and the pine and eucalyptus trees that line the shore. Enjoy an espicha experience for lunch, very popular with the locals, you'll have a taste of different products they offer, with a souvenir glass of cider. Your route reveals glorious coastal vistas before turning inland to travel through old villages and deep valleys en route to Oviedo.

Continue on 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 in the stately square of Plaza Alfonso II. Admire the incredible altarpiece, one of the finest in Europe.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch with Wine

**Hotel:** Barceló Oviedo Cervantes.

## Day 6 | Picturesque Santillana del Mar and on to Santander



Visit the Holy Cave of Covadonga, a shrine to Pelayo, who achieved the first Christian victory over the Moors in 722. See the unique Roman bridge in Cangas de Onís as you head into the foothills of the Picos de Europa, a national park boasting spectacular mountain and gorge scenery.

Enjoy views of the Costa de Cantabria while travelling to Santillana del Mar, arguably the most beautiful village in Spain. Stroll through the rustic cobblestone streets, admiring stone houses decorated with carved, heraldic symbols and reach the delightful church square.

Continue on to the sophisticated beach resort of Santander where you have free time in the evening to enjoy this luxurious hotel. Why not take the time to explore the hotel terrace with stunning views of the bay below or relax with one of the many therapy treatments offered at the hotels spa?

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Eurostars Hotel Real, Santander.

## Day 7 | Bilbao, Costa Vasca and San Sebastián



In nearby Bilbao, admire the striking modern architecture of the Guggenheim Museum, one of the world's most spectacular buildings. Enjoy the views as you are driven along part of the Costa Vasca, dotted with small coastal fishing villages and pause in the seaside city of Getaria to see 'El Ratón', the mouse-shaped rock. Continue to San Sebastián and admire its beauty as you walk with your Local Expert through the Old Quarter to see the Plaza de la Constitution.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Barceló Costa Vasca, San Sebastián.

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Donostia by Night with Dinner** - View the beach as we head to the lively heart of the old town of Spain's gourmet capital for a sumptuous supper in one of the city's boutique restaurants. Wine and soft drinks included.  
**Adult: 79.00 EUR**

## 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? Maybe stroll the promenade of the famous La Concha bay or enjoy the boutiques of the Old Town?

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Barceló Costa Vasca, San Sebastián.

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Biarritz and Saint-Jean-de-Luz** - With your Local Expert, today we head to Basque France (don't forget your passports!). First stop is Biarritz, home to the rich and famous, with its sophisticated spa resort. Next a short drive to St-Jean-De-Luz, jewel of the Basque Country, to visit the church where 'The Sun King', Louis XIV, married the Spanish Princess Maria Theresa.  
**Adult: 44.00 EUR**

## 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, perhaps take a stroll to the famous Estafeta Street or visit Café Iruña, immortalised by Ernest Hemingway in the '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.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**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 your delightful Celebration Dinner.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

**Hotel:** Hilton Barcelona.

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Gaudí's Parc Güell and the Maritime Front** - Enter a strange fantasy world at Parc Güell, Spain's most impressive public park which we'll visit with our Local Expert. Here Gaudí designed mushroom-like houses, "bird nest" pillars and a stunning mosaic dragon. The huge central terrace is enveloped by a ceramic-encrusted serpentine bench (reputedly the world's longest seat) and offers panoramic views of Barcelona and the bay. We then head to the Maritime Front, why not try one of the numerous waterfront restaurants?

**Adult: 46.00 EUR**

**Montserrat & The Black Madonna** - We'll enjoy a stunning drive to Montserrat, the mystical sacred serrated mountain, with its unique formations and spectacular views. It's home to the Benedictine Abbey of Santa Maria de Montserrat and the 'Virgin of Montserrat', one of the most-venerated Black Madonna's of Europe. Catalan landscapes unfold before us, as our Local Expert introduces us to this place of immense beauty and significance.

**Adult: 53.00 EUR**

*\*This optional experience involves reservation and entrance pre-payments. Cancellation will incur a 50% cancellation fee.*

## Day 11 | Depart Madrid



Today, bid farewell to your journey along Spain and Portugal as you transfer to the airport.

**Meals:** Breakfast