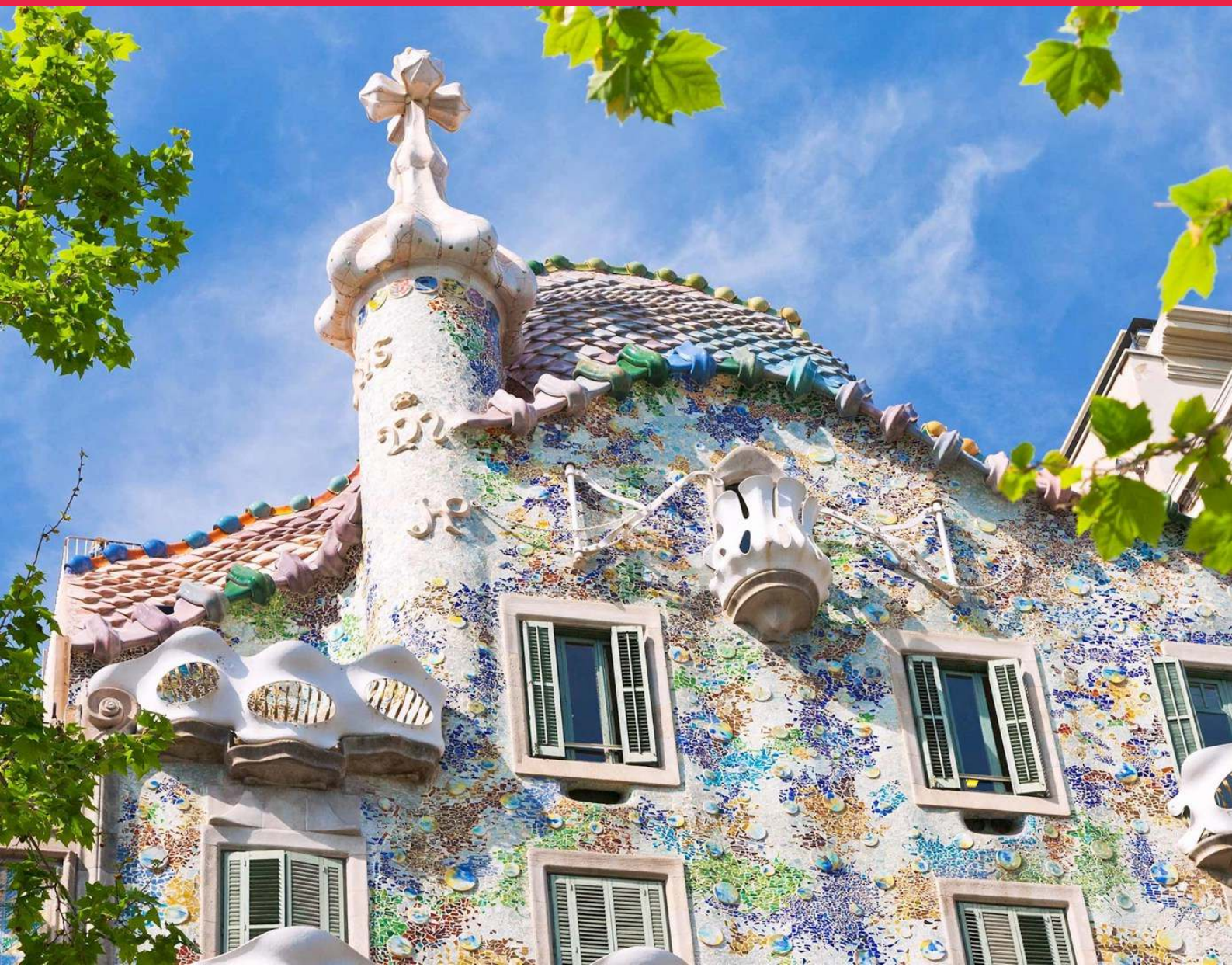


Northern Spain



Northern Spain



- Start Location
- Plane
- Cruise
- 1 Over night

- Visited Location
- End Location
- Train
- Ferry

Day 1 | Welcome to Barcelona



Trace the treasures of the north on this grand expedition from Barcelona to Madrid, easing yourself into la buena vida as only the Spaniards can. Take the day to delve into centuries of history and the cosmopolitan culture of Barcelona, rambling up Las Ramblas, people-watching in Plaça de Catalunya and admiring the whimsical architecture of Gaudí. This evening, you'll meet with your fellow travellers and Travel Director for a Make Travel Matter® Welcome Reception at Mescladis, followed by an evening drive to see the city's iconic sights.

Meals: Dinner

Hotel: Abba Sants Barcelona Hotel

Day 2 | Discover Vibrant Barcelona



Consider joining a morning Optional Experience to Montserrat, where you can visit the mountaintop monastery and the shrine of the Black Madonna, known in Catalonia as La Moreneta. Return to Barcelona for a sightseeing tour with a Local Specialist. Admire Gaudí's stunning architecture along Passeig de Gràcia and take in the exterior of his unfinished masterpiece, La Sagrada Família. See the seaside monument dedicated to Christopher Columbus before taking time to explore Barcelona's barrios at your own pace.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Abba Sants Barcelona Hotel

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Mystical Montserrat - Take a drive to the mystical mountain of Montserrat, known for its breathtaking views and spectacular scenery. Hear about the site's historic from a Local Specialist and visit the Benedictine monastery to view the famed Black Madonna. At the daily farmer's market, perhaps sample and purchase their homemade cheeses, honeys and other local delights.

Adult: 59.00 EUR

**This optional experience 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:

Olympic Barcelona with Catalan Dinner - Take a scenic drive up to Montjuïc for sweeping views over buzzing Barcelona and a glimpse of the buildings used during the 1992 Olympics. Afterwards, indulge in a delicious Catalan style dinner complemented by drinks and good company.

Adult: 76.00 EUR

Gothic Quarter and Dinner - Work up an appetite with a walking tour of the old Gothic Quarter, where Barcelona was born. Meander through the beautiful medieval streets and century-old architecture with your Local Specialist. Then we'll take you to the Port Vell Waterfront, now a vibrant marina in the old harbour, where you'll enjoy Mediterranean food in one of our favourite local eateries.

Adult: 82.00 EUR

Day 3 | Journey to Pamplona



The feisty former capital of Navarre takes centre stage. We follow in the footsteps of thousands of exhilarated runners and hot-blooded bulls today. See Pamplona's ancient city walls and Plaza del Castillo, the heart of the city where markets, tournaments and even bullfighting have taken place.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Tres Reyes Pamplona

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Pamplona Discovery With Tapas And Sangria - Enjoy a walking tour of charming Pamplona with our Local Specialist. See the ancient walls with views over the city, explore the beautiful old town and the Cathedral before retracing the steps of the famous 'Running of the Bulls'. Later, savour traditional Spanish tapas and sangria at Hemingway's favourite watering hole, the most beautiful and historic café in town!

Adult: 42.00 EUR

Day 4 | Off to Culinary San Sebastián



Today, we journey to the sophisticated culinary capital of San Sebastián. See the beautiful Bahía de la Concha beach or stroll along la calle 31 de Agosto in the Old Town.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Tres Reyes 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: 83.00 EUR

Day 5 | San Sebastián Your Way



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: Tres Reyes San Sebastián

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

St Jean de Luz, Jewel of the Basque Country - Truly the jewel of the Basque Country, St. Jean de Luz is a wealthy port town with an intriguing past filled with pirates, a royal marriage and closely-guarded family recipes. Our local specialist will guide you through it all and give you the chance to taste this city's world-famous creation – the macaron. Later, you'll have time to explore the local craft shops and the beautiful beach.

Adult: 47.00 EUR

Day 6 | Scenic Landscapes, Quaint Towns and Oviedo



Your journey continues to Bilbao, where you'll view the Guggenheim Museum, designed by architect Frank Gehry.

Spectacular scenery unfolds as you pass the Picos de Europa and drive through charming market towns. Visit the grotto of Our Lady of Covadonga, a famous Marian pilgrimage site, and admire the basilica crafted from the marble of the surrounding hills. Later, you'll connect with locals during a traditional dinner and cider tasting at a Be My Guest experience hosted by the Castañón family at their cider mill.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Exe Oviedo Centro

Day 7 | Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela



The Asturian fishing village of Luarca is our first stop today. Soak up its seafaring atmosphere en route to the pilgrim city of Santiago de Compostela, renowned as the end of the 'camino' pilgrimage route that has its origins dating as far back as the 9th century.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Santiago Plaza by Melia

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Santiago de Compostela by Night with Galician Dinner - This evening, you'll travel back in time to the city where medieval pilgrims flocked. You'll get to marvel at the illuminated historical buildings of Santiago de Compostela, before relaxing at a local restaurant we know and love - where you'll sample the delicious local Galician cuisine.

Adult: 78.00 EUR

Day 8 | Explore Santiago de Compostela



Join a Local Specialist who will share insights into the 'Way of Saint James' and explain why thousands of people attempt the life-changing pilgrimage annually. Visit the vast Cathedral, reputed to be the final resting place of Saint James the Great, and the Plaza do Obradoiro, a square dominated by four architectural styles. Consider an Optional Experience to the Rías Baixas for soul-stirring views of the Galician coast. The region has long waterways stretching inland that are said to be the mark left by God's hand when he cleansed himself after creating the world.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Santiago Plaza by Melia

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Explore Rías Baixas and the Mussel Beds - Join us on a visit to Ría de Arosa, one of the deep fjord-like estuaries of Galicia, with our Local Specialist. We'll stop at O Grove Port and the village of Cambados, before enjoying a boat trip to the mussel and oyster farms, where we'll sample locally farmed food and wine.

Adult: 57.00 EUR

Day 9 | Onwards to Artistic Zamora and Salamanca



Journey through the lush Galician landscape and Castile-Leon to Zamora, a veritable open-air museum of Romanesque art. We continue to Salamanca – its golden-hued façades providing an air of mystery and majesty. We join a Local Specialist for a sightseeing tour including views of Spain's oldest university and the Cathedral, as well as a walk through the imposing Plaza Mayor, built in the Spanish Baroque style.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Gran Corona Sol

Day 10 | Venture to Stylish Madrid



Travelling east, we arrive in the fiery Spanish capital, Madrid, for an afternoon of sightseeing with a Local Specialist. Dive Into Culture and visit the Prado Museum, which houses one of the largest collections of European art in the world. Then, see the Royal Palace, Gran Vía and the neoclassical Cibeles Fountain that has become an iconic symbol for the city of Madrid. Tonight, join your Travel Director and fellow companions for a memorable Farewell Dinner with wine, toasting to a magnificent journey through northern Spain.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Rafael Atocha

Day 11 | Adiós Madrid



For now, it's a fond hasta luego to your newfound friends as our Spanish adventure comes to an end.

Meals: Breakfast