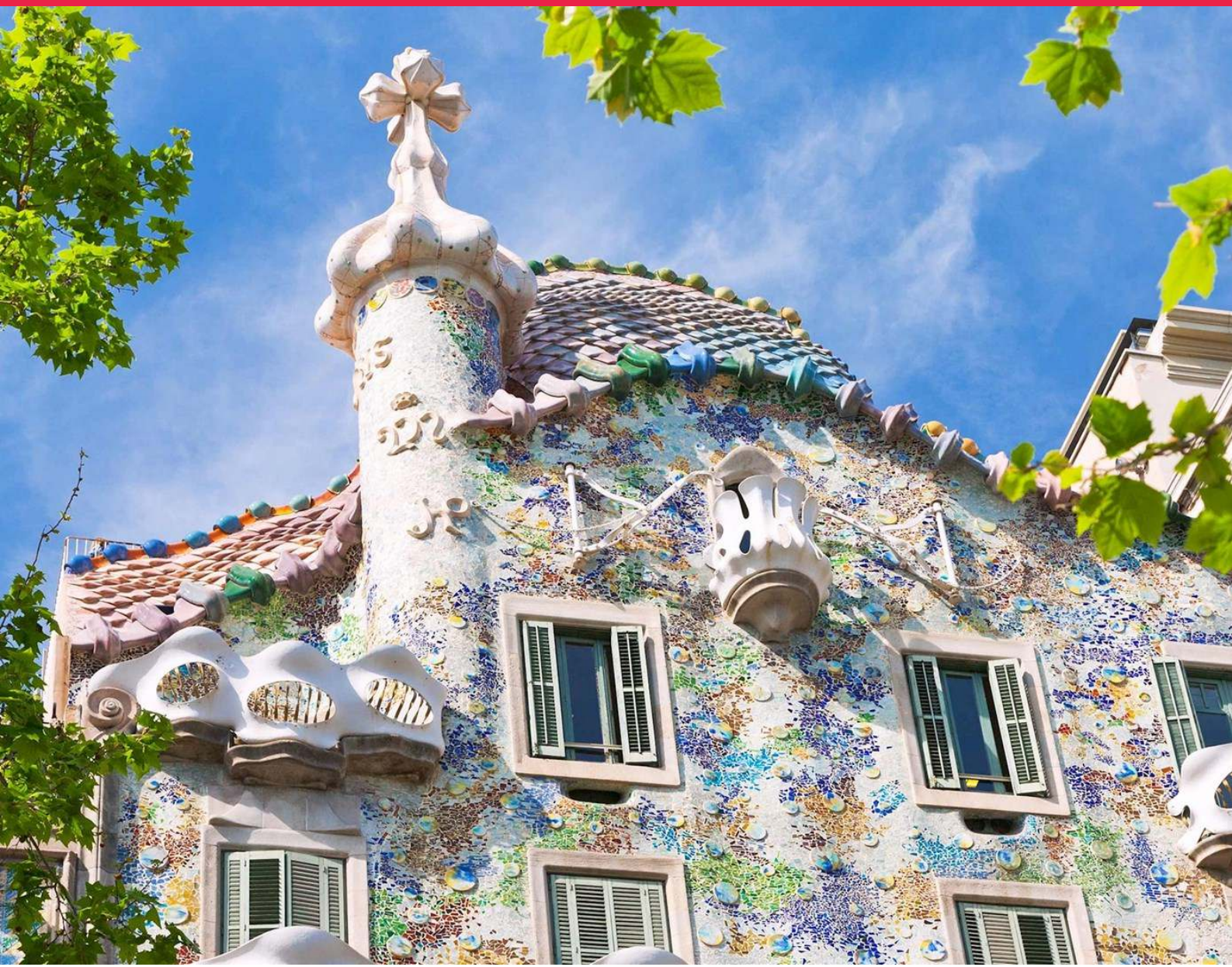


# Northern Spain



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-  Start Location
-  Plane
-  Cruise
-  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:** Welcome Reception

**Hotel:** Abba Sants Barcelona Hotel

## Day 2 | Discover Vibrant Barcelona



Join our Local Specialist today as we take in the Gaudi architecture of Passeig De Gracia before admiring the exterior of his unfinished La Sagrada Familia. Later, we pay tribute to Christopher Columbus as we pass the seaside monument that bears his name. Spend the rest of the day on your own to explore the city's enchanting barrios. Consider joining an Optional Experience to the mountain-top monastery of Montserrat to see the shrine of the Black Madonna - affectionately known in Catalonia as La Moreneta.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Abba Sants Barcelona Hotel

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Mystical Montserrat*** - Today, with our Local Specialist, take a drive to the enchanting and mystical mountain of Montserrat, with its breathtaking views and spectacular scenery. While there, 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 specialties.

Adult: 53.00 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:

***Dinner And Nighttime City Panorama*** - Your evening in buzzing Barcelona begins with a delicious Catalan-style dinner, complemented by drinks and good company. After dinner, we'll take you up to Montjuïc for spectacular nighttime views of the city.

Adult: 72.00 EUR

***Gaudí's Parc Güell and Port Olympic*** - 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 coast and Port Olympic, built for the athletes of the 1992 Olympics, where we'll have free time to try one of the numerous

waterfront restaurants.  
Adult: 47.00 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

#### 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: 37.00 EUR

### Day 4 | Off to Culinary San Sebastián and on to Santander



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. Our next stop is Bilbao to view the modern Guggenheim Museum, designed by talented architect Frank Gehry. We arrive in Santander later this afternoon for a two-night stay.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Santemar

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Culinary Treasures of Cantabria*** - Crossing the bay of Santander by ferry, you'll enjoy marvellous views of the city and the surrounding beaches. We'll also pass the birthplace of famous golfer Seve Ballesteros. Our dinner tonight will be held in a hidden corner of Cantabria in a local restaurant specialised in the finest seafood from the Cantabrian Sea surrounded by a wild coast and cosy beaches.

Adult: 86.00 EUR



## Day 5 | Sophisticated Santander Your Way



Spend the day at leisure in elegant Santander. Relax on the sun-kissed shores of one of the nearby beaches, amble through the charming Old Town or perhaps join an Optional Experience to the coastal town of Comillas, with its cobbled streets. Here you will explore Gaudí's El Capricho, built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as a summer villa, then carry on to Santillana del Mar to visit the museum dedicated to the impressive UNESCO-listed Altamira Caves.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Santemar

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***The Neo Caves of Altamira, Santillana del Mar and Comillas*** - With our Local Specialist, we'll discover the Neo Caves of Altamira, often called the Sistine Chapel of Prehistoric Art. We'll also enjoy the architectural wonders of Medieval Santillana del Mar. In Comillas, we'll tour the Modernist art treasure, El Capricho, a beautiful villa designed by Antoni Gaudí. All while taking in the breathtaking scenery of Cantabria!

Adult: 53.00 EUR

## Day 6 | Scenic Landscapes, Quaint Towns and Oviedo



Spectacular scenery awaits today as you travel through the dramatic Picos de Europa which sits between two main pilgrim routes where you will encounter several quaint historic market towns. Visit the grotto of 'Our Lady of Covadonga', a famous Marian pilgrimage site, and the pink-hued basilica made from the marble of the surrounding hills. Later we'll Connect With Locals and enjoy a traditional lunch and cider tasting at our Be My Guest experience with the Castañón family at their Cider Mill. This evening is free for you to explore Oviedo at leisure.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Hotel:** Exe Oviedo Centro

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Historic Oviedo and the Route of the Sculptures*** - The elegant city of Oviedo has many hidden treasures which we'll uncover today with our Local Specialist. Our stroll through Spain's oldest Christian capital city will reveal the city's main monuments, statues of famous and iconic locals, and a treat!

Adult: 31.00 EUR

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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: 74.00 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: 54.00 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