

Northern Spain & Portugal

Starting at **$3,995***

Explore Northern Spain and Portugal on a journey from Madrid to Lisbon, with stops in Rioja, San Sebastián, Santiago de Compostela, Porto and beyond. Taste Rioja wines at their source, sample Basque pintxos, discover the Guggenheim Museum and Gaudí architecture, and follow the ancient Camino de Santiago to its famed cathedral. In Portugal, cruise the Douro River, taste port in Porto, explore the medieval town of Óbidos, and experience the soulful sounds of Fado. Along the way, savor regional cuisine, local wines and centuries of history and culture.

Trip details

Tour start
Madrid

Tour end
Lisbon

11	10	18
Days	Nights	Meals

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Trip Highlights:
- Aveiro Canal Cruise
- Douro River Cruise
- Fado Dinner and Show
- Guggenheim Museum Bilbao
- Lisbon Sightseeing
- Óbidos Tour
- Oviedo Cathedral
- Porto Sightseeing
- Rioja Winery
- Santiago de Compostela & Cathedral

Hotels:
- Melia Castilla
- Mercure San Sebastian Monte Igueldo
- Parador de Limpias
- Palacio de Aviles, Affiliated by Melia
- Melia Maria Pita
- Turim Oporto
- Eurostars Das Letras

2027 Northern Spain & Portugal - 11 Days/10 Nights

Trip Itinerary

Day 1 Madrid Arrival

Meet your tour director at 5:00 PM for a welcome drink at your hotel with your fellow travelers. Your evening is free to explore and dine as you wish.

Day 2 Rioja Winery & San Sebastian

Travel north to Rioja, a region renowned for its wine heritage, hilltop medieval towns, and historic charm. Visit one of the region's 500 wineries for a guided tour of the cellars, followed by tastings and lunch. Travel on to San Sebastián, in the heart of the Basque Country, where your evening is free to stroll the seafront promenade and explore the cobblestone streets of the Old Town, dining independently in one of its many cafes and restaurants. (B, L)

Day 3 San Sebastian & Pintxos Experience

Tour central San Sebastián, taking in the lively atmosphere, elegant architecture, and the wide promenade of La Concha. Afterward, enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town featuring a pintxos experience. Your guide will explain this beloved Basque tradition as you visit local bars to sample these flavorful, bite-sized snacks, which you'll savor with a drink. The rest of the day is free to explore and dine as you wish. (B)

Day 4 Guggenheim Museum & Bilbao

Travel to Bilbao for a guided tour of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao; this titanium clad structure is a masterpiece of modern architecture by American Frank Gehry and a major showcase of contemporary art. Enjoy some free time, perhaps to explore the shops and restaurants along the cobbled streets of the atmospheric Old Town. Continue to your hotel in Limpias, situated in a historic palace with beautiful wooded grounds, where you'll dine on regional Cantabrian cuisine with your group. (B, D)

Day 5 El Capricho de Gaudí, Santillana del Mar & Asturian Cider

Visit El Capricho de Gaudí, an early, playful work by the celebrated architect, rich in intricate details with lush gardens. Continue to Santillana del Mar, recognized as one of Spain's most beautiful villages, for a short tour of its medieval delights and free time for lunch. Next, travel into Asturias and enjoy dinner at a local cider house, tasting local cider poured in the traditional way, with servers tipping the bottle high above their heads to introduce air and volume. (B, D)

Day 6 Oviedo Cathedral & A Coruña

Travel to regal Oviedo, the capital of Asturias with a rich medieval heritage, for a visit to its majestic Cathedral and a short overview of the historic old town. Enjoy free time for lunch. Continue to A Coruña on the Galician coast, where Celtic and Roman heritage blend with dramatic seaside vistas—legend says you can see Ireland from the first-century Tower of Hercules. See the sights on a panoramic tour. Dine at your beachfront hotel this evening. (B, D)

Day 7 Santiago de Compostela, Cathedral, & Porto

Travel to Santiago de Compostela, the historic endpoint of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route. See the city on a walking tour, then visit Santiago Cathedral, a magnificent Romanesque-style structure that has welcomed pilgrims for centuries. Enjoy free time for lunch before continuing into Portugal and arriving in Porto. Take a panoramic tour of this city perched above the Douro River before dining at your hotel this evening. (B, D)

Day 8 Douro River Cruise & Port Tasting

Take a serene, scenic cruise on the Douro River, gliding beneath Porto's bridges and past the colorful riverside quarter of Ribeira, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit Vila Nova de Gaia for a visit to a port house, where you'll enjoy a tasting and lunch, learning about the centuries-old traditions of this famed wine fortified with brandy. Your evening is free to stroll Porto and dine as you please. (B, L)

Day 9 Aveiro, Óbidos & Lisbon

Travel to Aveiro, "The Venice of Portugal," for a short canal cruise. Pass Art Nouveau buildings, salt pans, and the fish market on a traditional, colorfully painted moliceiro boat once used for transporting seaweed. Continue to the medieval walled town of Óbidos, famous for its whitewashed houses, blue-tiled churches, and narrow cobbled streets. After a short orientation tour you'll have free time to explore and enjoy an independent lunch. Travel to Lisbon, Portugal's coastal capital, where you'll have dinner with your group. (B, D)

Day 10 Belém & Fado Dinner

Visit Belém, a historic port district that was busy in the Age of Exploration as sailors ventured forth to discover new trade routes. Tour the city, taking in sights like the ornate Jerónimos Monastery and the Torre de Belém. Return to central Lisbon for a free afternoon to explore independently. Regroup for a farewell dinner at a traditional Fado house, where you'll savor Portuguese cuisine and hear the melancholic, haunting music that expresses Lisbon's soul. (B, D)

Day 11 Tour Ends in Lisbon

Your tour ends after breakfast. (B) B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner>

C·I·E TOURS

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