



NORTHERN SPAIN

A unique photography journey through Basque country.

May 3rd~May 12th, 2023

Ten Days, Nine Nights
\$6850 PPDO + \$1100 SRO

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Travel Highlights

- ◆ Five nights in a five star eco-resort in the Sueve valley of Cofino where you will have the time to settle in, study photography, walk among the hills, relax and enjoy gastronomical delights.
- ◆ Micro day trips to glacial lakes, colorful sea side villages and the dynamic north coast.
- ◆ One night in the heart of the medieval village of Santillana del Mar. A gem in perfectly state of preservation.
- ◆ Three nights in the heart of San Sebastian, “the secret Spain”. A photographers dream with its grand architecture, stunning beaches, seaside villages, old timers and young surfers.
- ◆ This trip is limited to ten travelers.

Photography Highlights

- ✿ Individual Attention
- ✿ Pre-trip Consultation
- ✿ Refine Composition
- ✿ The Art of Seeing~ Land, City & Seascapes
- ✿ Long Exposure Photograph
- ✿ The Secrets of Street Photography
- ✿ Star Gaze and Shoot
- ✿ Post-processing and share sessions
- ✿ All skills welcome



What's included:

- ~ All Breakfasts plus Ten Meals*
- ~ Flight from Madrid to Asturias
- ~ Photography Coaching
- ~ All Ground Transportation
- ~ Entrance Fees
- ~ All 5-Star Accommodations

What's not included:

- ~ Resort Spa Services
- ~ Travel Insurance
- ~ International Flights

* *We decided to incorporate flexibility with meals (especially lunches) rather than schedule three sit down meals per day.*

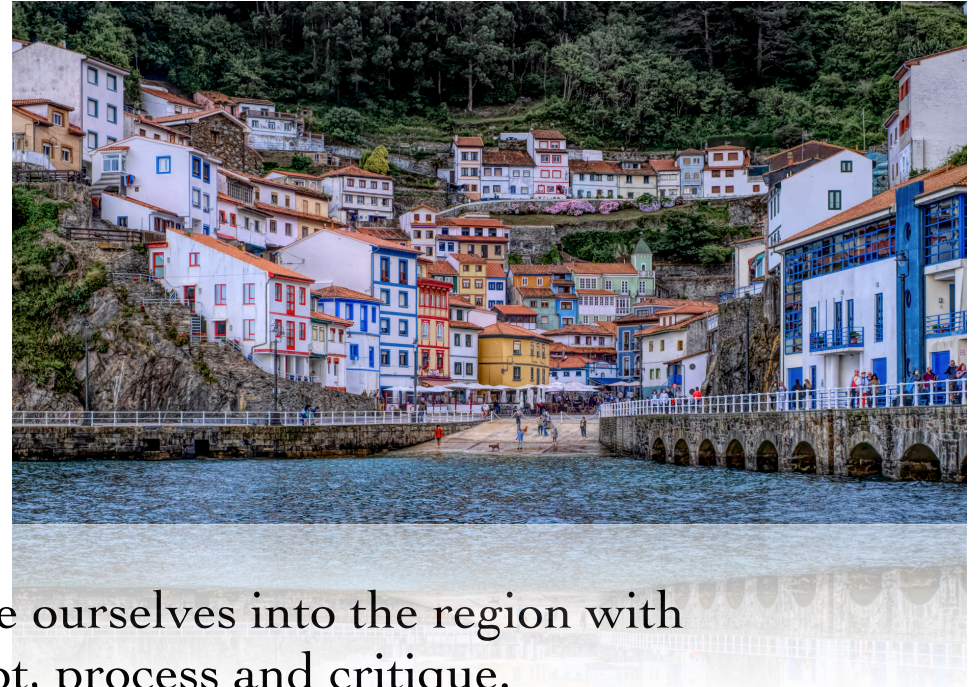


Itinerary at a Glance

- ◆ **Day One** Meet in Madrid and fly to Oviedo. Warm up in a crayon-colored town.
- ◆ **Day Two** The Lakes and Basilica of Covadonga
- ◆ **Day Three** The Rugged Coast of Asturias
- ◆ **Day Four** The Wonders of Picos de Europa
- ◆ **Day Five** Covina countryside and a very special gathering
- ◆ **Day Six** Santillana del Mar, the medieval marvel and gem of Spain
- ◆ **Day Seven** The Guggenheim, Bilbao & San Sebastian
- ◆ **Day Eight** San Sebastian where wind & sea come together
- ◆ **Day Nine** Street photography, cider and pintxos
- ◆ **Day Ten** Farewells and departures

The Journey

This unique photography experience will focus on capturing the exquisite, bold coast of Northern Spain, particularly Asturias and San Sebastian. Basque Country is entirely too rich to pass through in a day or two. We will settle in and immerse ourselves into the region with plenty of time to contemplate, observe, shoot, process and critique.



The first five nights we will stay at an eco-resort like no other among the tranquil hills where cow bells and fresh air will lull you asleep. Wake up above the clouds with the grand “Picos de Europa” in the near distance. Pour a cup of espresso, take hold of your tripod and capture this dream.

From this home base, we will take photography micro day trips further into the mountains, to the glacial lakes and Basilica de Covadonga. We will spend plenty of time down the hill along the dynamic coast where the powerful north sea meets this land.

When we are not shooting, enjoy the spacious common areas to post-process, talk photography or have a one-to one photo session....or you may prefer to read, have a massage or take a walk.



Day six we will drive along the north coast towards the Bay of Biscay where France meets Spain. But first, a stopover in quaint Santillana del Mar. While small in size, the town is respected due to its renaissance palaces and historical-artistic influence on the region.

Our Hotel itself is even filled with amazing history dating back to the 15th century. Once the home of the original Marquess of Santillana, one of the most prominent poets and politicians of his era, today this five star retreat has been fully restored to its original glory.

We'll take a photography walk in town and end the day at an open grill kitchen which offers a variety of local meats like lamb, venison, and primitive cattle breeds. Tradition is everything tonight.

From the 15th century to Bilbao, home to Frank Gehry's modern masterpiece, the Guggenheim Museum which is a creative brain teaser to photograph. After visiting the Guggenheim, we will explore this chic old town which combines gothic, art deco, contemporary and art nouveau styles.

Onward! Imagine Paris meets Malibu and together they have a love child ...and his name is San Sebastian. There's nothing not to love about "Spain's secret" town on the Bay of Biscay where the Basques clearly cling to their deep roots, heritage and very own language! It's palatable.

Massive Roman architecture, ancient squares where bull fighting was born and a maze of small cobblestone streets beckons one to get lost. This is juxtaposed by surfers (in wet suits) from all around the world walking to the bay to ride the waves by day and play at night. It's lively to the point of being playful, friendly, safe and a joy for the street photographer. If that's not enticing enough, it's also a Mecca for foodies including La Viña, known for their sixty year old world famous cheesecake recipe.



With Mansion right in the name, our hotel for the next four nights is a stately nineteenth century villa with perfectly manicured grounds and historical heritage status that has been fully renovated and is waiting to spoil its guest's just steps from the center of town. We will stay here for four nights to truly capture the essence of this city and "his" surroundings.

We will spend a day in the fishing village of Hondarribia, where the cider is “*not an alcoholic beverage but a way of life*”.... Drink or not, to sample is a form of art and is great photo opt. We will take our time capturing this colorful slice of the world before heading back along the coast to capture the place where Spain meets France.

San Sebastian has so much to offer so on our final day we will have a buffet of options...take a trolley car to Mount Igueldo for a breathtaking view of the city, shop, shoot the beach scene or ancient old alley ways. The Haizearen Orrazia, “*the comb of the wind*” will beckons us when the light is right for creative shots of this work of art.

A final special dinner will conclude this very special inaugural adventure and our time together in Basque Country.



Leaders on this journey:

Your Custom Travels, Jordan Diaz, the walking encyclopedia, bi-lingual, hospitality specialist.

Laura L Gingerich, freelance photographer and educator who will give you all she has to ensure your photography dreams are met.



www.yourcustomtravels.com

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for Your Custom Travels

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