



Spain:

SPAIN: CULINARY & CULTURE TOUR

November 7th - November 20th
2023



**YOUR
CUSTOM**
TRAVELS



Presents:
SPAIN: CULINARY & CULTURE TOUR
November 7th - November 20th, 2023

Your Trip Includes: Madrid, Galicia, Asturias, Cantabria, Santander, San Sebastian and Barcelona

- * 14 days & 13 nights
- * Air between Madrid and Coruña
- * Ground transportation within and between cities as required
- * All accommodations in Luxury/Boutique hotels
- * Entrance fees when applicable.
- * All gratuities are included.
- * Experienced tour guides (English, Spanish, Portuguese and French speaking are available).
- * Included meals: Breakfast each morning, all lunches, and all dinners
 - * (5 Michelin Stars, 7 Michelin Guide, and The oldest restaurant in the world)
- * Alcoholic drinks will be specified. (At least 1 each lunch and 2 each dinner included)

Please advise us about any dietary restrictions or food allergies. This is an adventurous culinary journey where we will enjoy many delicacies like certain shellfish, foie gras, and beef cheeks prepared by the greatest chefs in the world.

Not Included:

- * Baggage fees are common upon check-in at the airport. These fees are the responsibility of the passenger.
- * Airport transfer from Madrid airport to our first hotel.
- * Fees for theatrical or live performances outside of our tour itinerary are the responsibility of the passenger.
- * Travel insurance is recommended for all travelers, in the event that they have need to cancel.
- * Items in Mini-Bar are at the expense of the customer.
- * International airfare from originating city to Madrid, Spain. And return airfare from Barcelona to home.
- * Covid-19 Antigen Test in Barcelona to return to USA.

Day 1 Arriving early morning
COMMUNITY OF MADRID
MADRID - 11-7-2023
Tuesday

Hola and happy arrival to Madrid!

9:20 am- We will greet each other in the lobby of the Madrid hotel before beginning our walking tour with our local expert.

1:30 pm- After strolling the plazas and parks, learning about Madrid's history and working up an appetite, we will stop for our first tasting menu lunch at a cozy family-run restaurant that has been serving guests in the traditional Malasaña district for over 50 years.

After lunch we will have time to peruse the cute boutique shops nearby or walk back towards the hotel and the Gran Via for more luxury shopping. You will have time to enjoy wandering the center of the Capital or relaxing at the hotel in the spa, sauna or pool, until we meet again as a group in the lobby at around 7:45pm.

7:45pm- Meet in lobby to casually walk to our tapas dinner in the very trendy Chueca neighborhood. We will enjoy some of the best sangria in town in a friendly environment.

After dinner you can walk around the corner to the Chueca plaza and enjoy a casual after dinner drink amongst the locals. Followed by a short walk back to the hotel to turn in for the night.

Day 2
COMMUNITY OF MADRID
MADRID - 11-8-2023
Wednesday

We will begin our second morning with breakfast at our hotel. (Breakfast is served from 7:30am onwards)

9:20 am- We will greet each other in the lobby of the hotel before taking a ride to the first of two museums we will visit today, the Prado Museum. Alongside the Reina Sofia art museum which we will tour just after, these museums are both within the top 15 most visited and well respected art museums in the world.

2:15pm- After visiting both museums we will adjourn to the world's oldest restaurant and the specialty of suckling pig so delicious that Ernest Hemingway had to write about it twice!

A pleasant walk awaits after lunch through the Mercado San Miguel and the Plaza Mayor before we retire back to the hotel to relax for a few hours. Eventually we will work up our appetites for the evening and our first Michelin star experience- ensure you are prepared as this one is eleven courses!

7:30pm- Dinner at our first Michelin Star experience, a creative and inventive experience which defies convention and encapsulates the personality of the Canary Islands perfectly, right in the heart of Madrid.



Day 3

COMMUNITY OF MADRID- GALICIA

MADRID-CORUNA-SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - 11-9-2023

Thursday

Our third day begins with breakfast at our hotel. (Breakfast is served from 7:30am onwards)

Though we start the morning in Madrid, we will take an early flight to Coruña, the seat of the former Kingdom of Galicia and a city which has seen the influence of many nations, shortly after breakfast.

9:00am- We will meet in the Lobby to take our shuttles to the airport.

1:30pm-We land and meet our Galician guide who will take us on a panoramic tour of Coruña to see the main sites, including the only working Roman Lighthouse in the world, the Tower of Hercules.

We will walk through the old town and then stop for a special Jamon lunch in a traditional Jamoneria.

2:30pm- Lunch under the serrano legs with wine will be a casual but very delicious experience with some specialties normally only found in the Castille and Leon region of the country.

4:00pm-Leaving Coruña we will drive to our home for the next two nights, UNESCO world Heritage city and the culmination point of the Camino pilgrimage, Santiago de Compostela.

After walking the town for a short time we will settle into our home for the next two nights, our historic hotel. We can relax for a couple hours here and unwind before we continue to dinner.

We will finish our day with a farm to table style fresh meal in the greenhouse of a 400 year old musician's home which has been converted by two prominent local chefs into a specialized dining experience.

8:15pm-Meet in the lobby of the hotel to walk a short distance to our specialty dinner.



Day 4

GALICIA

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA- RIAS BAIXAS-COMBARRO- 11-10-2023

Friday

On day four we will awaken with breakfast at our hotel before taking a more formal walking tour of Santiago. (Breakfast is served from 7:00am onwards)

We will learn more about this deeply spiritual city this morning before setting out to enjoy the southern region of Galicia.

8:55am- Meet in the lobby of the hotel to begin our morning together.

Rias Baixas is also known as Albariño country for the creation and prominence of this crisp light wine at over 20,000 vineyards in the area. Our day will be filled with a tour of a wine cellar and vineyard, a visit to a traditional village, stopping for photos at a beautiful island and enjoying the wine alongside a lunch of locally caught fish and seafood. We will accomplish all this in Rias Baixas before returning to Santiago de Compostela in the afternoon to relax and again enjoy the town.

7:30pm- Meet at the lobby of the Hotel Compostela to begin walking towards our dinner in a traditional Galician farmhouse which serves only the freshest produce, meat and fish from the famous centuries old Abastos market a block away.

When we finish dinner the night can continue if you choose as the heart of the old town is very lively, so enjoy a nice coffee or wine and after dinner drink and ask people for stories about walking the Camino!



Day 5
GALICIA-ASTURIAS
SANTIAGO- CUDILLERO-OVIEDO- 11-11-2023
Saturday

This morning we will begin our day with an early breakfast at the hotel.
(Breakfast is served from 7:00am onwards)

9:00am- We will leave Santiago de Compostela and Galicia behind today as we begin to traverse the Northern Spanish coast with the Principality of Asturias as our destination. Asturias is a wild region known for its beautiful coastline and sharply ridged mountains which cover 80% of the area, many of which are Karst limestone like the Mogotes in Viñales.

11:00am- Our first stop at the end of the eastern edge of the Galician coast is the impressive Cathedrals beach. The natural rock formations on this special beach form structures that look very similar to their namesakes and create an excellent photo opportunity. This is a great introduction to the jagged coastline we will begin to follow for the next several days.

1:00pm- Our next stop, and our first in Asturias, will be Cudillero. Arguably Spain's most beautiful seaside town and very reminiscent of Italy's Amalfi coast, Cudillero's kaleidoscope of colors will impress as we casually explore the streets. Small shops and cafes abound, so get lost in the alleyways searching for the famous black pottery the town is known for, or sit and people watch in the square.

3:30pm- The most traditional Asturian lunch greets us at a quaint farmhouse which serves a "fabada" bean stew which won an award as the greatest in the world. The other dishes are also excellent and capture the spirit of the area, while the desserts are simply unmissable.

6:30pm- Our final stop tonight, the medieval city of Oviedo, is located between the Bay of Biscay and Cantabrian Mountains. Known for its very well preserved old town, the capital of Asturias is filled with history and culture. Our hotel fits this aesthetic well as it is among the 25 best luxury hotels in Spain, and is housed in an emblematic palace from the early 20th century in the beautiful heart of the Asturian countryside. Our castle stay will not be complete without a grand multi-course feast and free evening to enjoy the grounds as we choose.

***Dinner attire suggestion- we will eat outdoors so bring a sweater.**

9:25pm- Meet for dinner in the lobby of our hotel to enjoy an elaborate and inventive meal under the stars on the hotels treasured terrace.



Day 6**ASTURIAS****OVIEDO-VILLAVICIOSA-COFIÑO- 11-12-2023****Sunday**

We will enjoy breakfast in our castle in the forest this morning. (Breakfast is served from 8:00am onwards)

While we passed by Oviedo in the evening on the way to our hotel, we will explore the city more thoroughly this morning after breakfast with a walking tour.

10:30am- Meet in the lobby to drive into Oviedo where we will meet our friendly guide to explore the famous Oviedo cathedral and the traditionally maintained old town. We will find jewelry shops displaying unique local designs and an exciting outdoor Sunday market that has been taking place in the Fontana square for centuries.

2:00pm- This region is Spain's cider capital so after our stroll through Oviedo's streets we will depart east to Villaviciosa and a modern twist on the traditional Sidrería with a heavy emphasis on the gastronomic element to pair with the beloved beverage.

5:30pm- From Villaviciosa we will depart to Cofiño, one of the most remote of the 17 parishes in the region. While the stay here is short, the landscape in this region along with the service at this special boutique property will become lifetime memories. Our Hotel is located between the mountain valley and the Cantabric Sea, sharing spectacular views of the Picos de Europa National Park and is honored to have been voted the second best hotel in Spain last year. The rooms are renovated traditional farmhouses owned by a local noble and cover more than half of the tiny village. Complete with an infinity pool, art gallery throughout the property, and all modern amenities, we will be comfortably transported to the past in luxury and style. Welcome.

9:00pm- For dinner tonight we will enjoy our second Michelin starred restaurant, with a special twist on traditional Asturian cuisine, the 15+ courses will surprise you with their creativity and special touches which take the endemic cuisine to new levels. This incredible place has offered to

open the restaurant just for us this evening so we will enjoy a full service private dining experience!



Day 7
ASTURIAS-CANTABRIA
COFIÑO-COMILLAS-SANTILLANA DEL MAR – 11-13-2023
Monday

This morning we will start with a farm-to-table style slow breakfast prepared by Chef Ramón Celorio of our hotel. This meal changes frequently so we will enjoy seasonal local produce grown on site for a lovingly prepared breakfast to rival our Michelin starred dinners. (Breakfast is served from 7:30am onwards)

Once we complete our meal we will have time to further enjoy the hotel grounds this morning as we will have a late checkout of 12:30pm. Relax by the pool, take a walk in the pristine countryside, or simply sleep in this morning as we've been busy the past week!

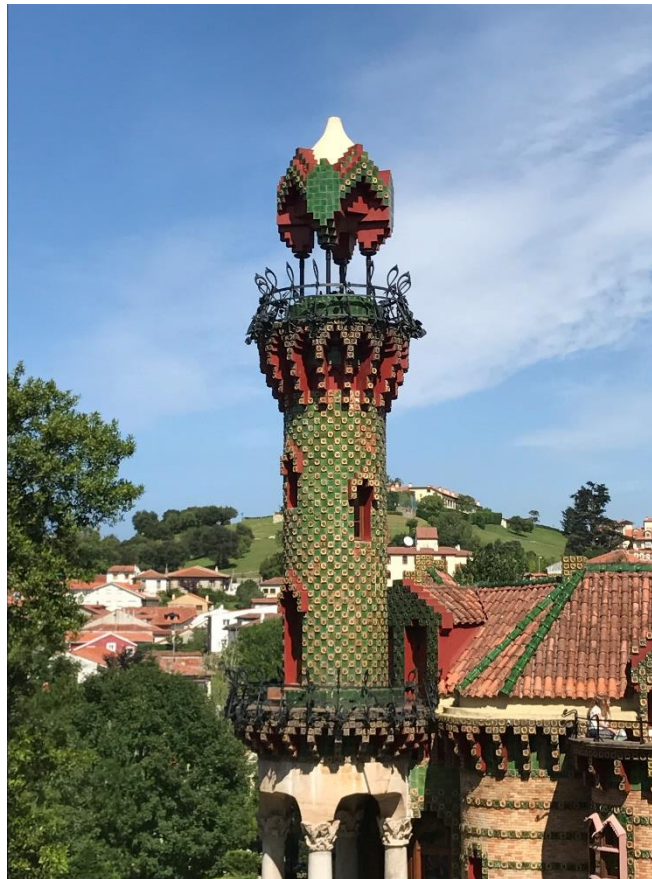
12:40pm- We will meet in front of the hotel to say goodbye to our farmhouses and continue our journey eastward. Leaving Asturias behind us we will quickly cross into Cantabria. Our first destination today will also be our first experience on the tour with Antoni Gaudí's work. We will drive to the bustling village of Comillas to visit El Capricho de Gaudí, one of the few

buildings the young man designed outside of Catalonia and which offers a colorful Moorish inspired version of the artist's classic style.

4:30pm- We will leave Comillas towards our final destination today the charming Santillana del Mar, which while small in size, is greatly 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 Marquis 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.

A midafternoon arrival gives us time to explore the town at our leisure. Everything here is very close in distance but each square inch is densely packed with interesting things to see.

8:15pm- We will meet to walk the short distance to the beloved nearby restaurant for dinner. A friendly welcome and delicious traditional comfort food await at this local family run staple.



Day 8**CANTABRIA-BASQUE COUNTRY****SANTILLANA DEL MAR-SANTANDER-BILBAO-SAN****SEBASTIAN - 11-14-2023****Tuesday**

8:55am- Enjoy breakfast at our hotel before we depart for Santander.
(Breakfast is served from 9-10:00am)

10:05- We will meet in front of the hotel to leave Santillana behind. This day will be spent between the three most important Cantabrian and Basque cities. We will start with Santander, the capital city of the Cantabria region, and a prominent port since ancient times. We will visit the emblematic Royal Summer residence for a tour of the grounds of the Palace of la Magdalena.



12:00pm- From Santander we will drive to Bilbao, capital of Basque Country and the largest city in northern Spain. We will visit the pedestrian old town to see examples of gothic, art deco, contemporary, and art nouveau styles all in one place. Lunch will be served in a beautiful modern open kitchen where we will see several chefs' artistry as they prepare our

tasting meal in front of us. The restaurant itself also boasts a traditional Iberian Jamon bar unchanged from 1927 to highlight the duality of Bilbao as a whole.

5:00pm- Guided tour of Frank Gehry's master architectural design, the Guggenheim Museum, taking us through one of the most incredible buildings and art collections in the world.



6:30pm- Once we finish at the museum, we will continue to our home for the next two nights, San Sebastian. Located in the mountains of the Basque Country, San Sebastian is a coveted resort town on the Bay of Biscay. Our two evenings in this region will include beach time, walking the cobblestoned streets and enjoying vibrant pintxo bars with local wines of course!

Arriving to the immaculate lawn at our hotel, a stately nineteenth century villa with historical heritage status, a feeling of comfort will immediately let you know we're home. We will stay here for two nights as we enjoy one of the world's greatest culinary cities.

***Dinner attire suggestion- we will eat outdoors so bring a sweater.**

8:00pm- We will meet on the lawn of the hotel to walk to our first unique

dining experience in San Sebastian, an evening of savoring the local pintxos that have made this city so famous. The only proper introduction is at a favorite of both local crowds and the multi-starred chefs that call this city home. This is a restaurant where a line is always sure to be found.

As a final sweet surprise we can enjoy the sixty year old recipe for world famous Basque cheesecake - its lightly burnt top and custard like texture will stand out as unlike any cheesecake you've had before.



Day 9
BASQUE COUNTRY
SAN SEBASTIAN - 11-15-2023
Wednesday

**Lunch dress code today- no shorts or open-toed shoes.*

We begin our first morning in San Sebastian with breakfast at the hotel followed by a walking tour of “La Parte Vieja”, San Sebastian’s historic old town. (Breakfast is served from 8:00am onwards)

8:55am- Leaving our Hotel we will meet our local guide and with him we will duck into narrow pedestrian alleyways and many varieties of shops as we enjoy the beautiful colonial and baroque architecture and learn about its history.

1:10pm- For lunch we will visit our third Michelin starred restaurant, the newest creation by Spain's top chef Martín Berasategui, who holds twelve stars in total. Through his illustrious career San Sebastian began without a single Michelin star to now having the second densest concentration of Michelin stars in the world.

This afternoon you will have free time to visit the famous "La concha" and "Zurriola" beaches (the second is known for its surfers), take the funicular to the top of Monte Igueldo for a Birdseye view of the city, peruse the shops in town or relax at the hotel. You will have plenty of time this afternoon to do with as you choose.

8:30pm- We will meet downstairs at the hotel to walk into town for dinner. Tonight we will enjoy the artistry of presentation and culinary mastery for which San Sebastian is so well known. Bright, fresh, and elaborate are three excellent adjectives to describe our second dinner in this culinary mecca.



Day 10
BASQUE COUNTRY-NAVARRRE
SAN SEBASTIAN-PAMPLONA-OLITE - 11-16-2023
Thursday

Enjoy a splendid breakfast at our hotel. (Breakfast is served from 8:00am onwards)

We will enjoy our last morning in San Sebastian slowly as we take a longer breakfast before driving south out of the city.

10:00am- Meet in front of the hotel to leave San Sebastian and the Basque Country behind as we journey to Pamplona, the capital of Navarre. The center of Pamplona is dominated by the famous bullring the “Plaza de Toros” where the world renowned running of the bulls culminates each year. When we arrive to the area we will have a bit over an hour to explore the eclectic old town and its many shops on Estafeta and other streets before making our way to the bullring to have lunch beside it.

1:45pm- Boasting experience working in the United States, Chile, Argentina, England, and in the kitchens of several legendary three-Michelin starred restaurants in Spain, Chef Jesus Íñigo will use that knowledge to prepare a very special tasting menu lunch for us in his chic restaurant.

4:00pm- With our tastes satisfied, we will leave Pamplona to travel a bit further south into the rural areas of the region. Nestled between the Pyrenees Mountains and France to the north and east, Navarra as a whole enjoys fertile soil due to the Ebro River that runs through it and creates an excellent wine producing region near its banks. Within this geographical context we will arrive to the wine capital of Navarra, the time capsule medieval castle town of Olite. This is the central hub through which all wine in the region must travel to receive official protection designation from the government.

5:00pm- Arrive to Olite and check into our accommodations for the next two nights, the original Royal Palace of Olite which the Kings and Queens of Navarre called home.

“Surely there is no king with a more beautiful castle or palace and with so many gilded rooms (...) it could not say or even could imagine how magnificent and sumptuous is this palace (...)”

— A 15th-century German traveler who wrote his impressions of the castle in his diary, now conserved in the British Museum in London.

After checking in, you'll have free time to explore this magical little town until we meet again for dinner as a group.

8:40pm- Meet in the lobby for dinner in the hotel restaurant.



Day 11
NAVARRRE
OLITE - 11-17-2023
Friday

We will continue to experience the Grande ambiance of the palace as we enjoy breakfast in the hall with vaulted ceilings. (Breakfast is served at 8:45am.) We will meet in front of the breakfast hall at 8:40am.

11:00am- We will meet in the lobby to visit the palace castle museum for a tour so we can better understand the history of our place of lodging. The opportunity to climb the towers is also available, granting excellent views of the town below.

12:15pm- Once we have finished our castle tour we will meet out front to take our shuttle to Bodegas Marco Real, the most prominent and well rated winery in the area. The Bodega, surrounded by vineyards and olive trees stands majestically on the edge of town. This major operation will be open for us to tour privately, where we will enjoy a tasting, and even experience the hall of aromas to see how well we can identify particular scents in the wine. This impressive landscape is one that will fascinate those that enjoy the world of wine.



Midafternoon- When we have had our fill of fine wine and wine-making education, we will take our shuttle back into town for a well-earned lunch.

Once we finish lunch you will have free time to enjoy Olite and its many secrets. You can choose to tour the wine museum in the central plaza, go for a supremely local craft beer tasting and tour nearby, shop for souvenirs, or enjoy some time relaxing in the square.

8:35pm- Meet in the plaza in front of the palace to walk to a restaurant nearby that serves traditional cuisine from Navarre using only seasonal ingredients.

Day 12

NAVARRRE

OLITE- BARCELONA- DEPARTURE TO USA – 11-18-2023

Saturday

We will have an early wakeup today as we will be leaving to Barcelona.

6:00am- Meet in the lobby fully packed to grab our picnic style breakfast and get on our bus to Barcelona.

Guests who are finishing their tour here will have a taxi arranged for them to take them to the airport once we arrive to Barcelona.



The above delineated tour is USD \$6,400.00 per person

Single Supplement – Contact us for additional fee information

\$1,500 per person deposit required to secure your space, final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

(This deposit is not refundable)



BARCELONA EXTENSION

Day 12 Continued
OLITE-BARCELONA
11-18-2023
Saturday

Arrive into Barcelona from Olite.

11:45am- Covid Antigen test at Clinica Pyrena in Barcelona.

1:00pm- Lunch will properly begin our day in Barcelona with arguably the best Catalonian tapas in the city as we dive into the local fresh cuisine that cements Barcelona as a global icon.

3:15pm- Check in to our hotel with incredible views directly in front of the Sagrada Familia, this beautiful hotel will be our final home in Spain for two evenings.

4:00pm- We will meet in the lobby with our final wonderful tour guide who will be with us these last two days. Touring the gothic quarter, and the Barcelona Cathedral, strolling La Rambla-Barcelona's premier pedestrian shopping corridor, and the ancient walls are all on the agenda for this afternoon.

6:30pm- Return to the hotel to rest and get ready for a truly elite dining experience.

8:10pm- Meet in the lobby of the hotel to leave for the pinnacle of our journey's dining experiences, a 2-michelin starred restaurant famous for satisfying all five senses with an unforgettable experience.



Day 13
CATALONIA
BARCELONA- 11-19-2023
Sunday

The final busy day of the tour will begin as usual with breakfast at our hotel. (Breakfast is served from 7:30am onwards)

10:00am- Meet in the lobby as this morning we will see many of Gaudi's architectural works starting with his masterpiece, the awe-inspiring Sagrada Familia. After touring the church, we will visit the brilliant Park Güell as well as several of his other projects throughout the city as a whole.

2:15pm- We will finish our tour and have an opportunity to enjoy lunch on the rooftop of our hotel with sangria and views of the Sagrada Familia.

The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy any aspect of this cosmopolitan city that draws your attention.

8:45pm- Our final dinner will transport you to a completely unique environment with tastes that might feel a bit more familiar. Premium Galician dry aged steaks are the house specialty and will help your palate readjust on the way back home!



Day 14
CATALONIA-USA
DEPARTURE TO USA - 11-20-2023
Monday

Breakfast is included at our hotel on our final morning before we prepare for the airport. (Breakfast is served from 7:30am onwards)

Airport transport is included and will be accounted for based on each person's departure time.



The above delineated extension is USD \$1,550.00 per person
Single Supplement – Contact us for additional fee information
\$1,500 per person deposit required to secure your space, final
payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

(This deposit is not refundable)