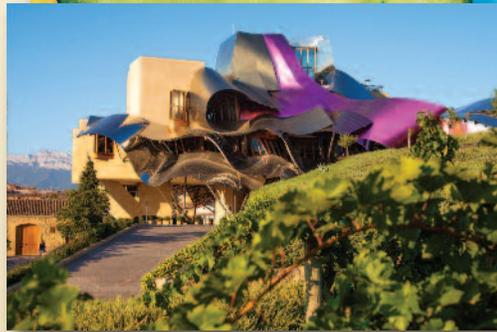




IMPRESSIONS OF NORTHERN SPAIN

featuring MADRID, LAGUARDIA &
SAN SEBASTIÁN



Explore the reaches of northern Spain, and discover an extraordinary region filled with a fascinating history, mouth-watering cuisine and so much more. Discover the culture and heritage of the Basque Country, or Euskadi in the Basque language. Wash down savory pintxos, the Basque version of tapas, with the region's famous cider. Immerse yourself in Basque culture in the unique city of Bilbao, home of the cutting-edge Guggenheim Museum. Fall under San Sebastián's enchanting spell while strolling through its Parte Vieja. In neighboring La Rioja, explore Spain's most famous wine region and step into the cellars of noted wineries before exploring Laguardia, a beautiful medieval city. This Iberian adventure also features Madrid, Burgos and Toledo in the Spanish heartland.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

- **Three nights** in Madrid, Spain, at the deluxe **Hotel Wellington**.
- **Two nights** in Laguardia at the first-class **Hotel Villa de Laguardia Sercotel**.
- **Three nights** in San Sebastián at the first-class **Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra**.

Transportation

- All deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land Program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers are included.

Activities and Events

- **Informative educational programs** presented by **local experts** will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- **Personal VOX listening device** to hear every word from your expert English-speaking guides.
- Attend a **Welcome Reception** and gather for a **Farewell Reception and Dinner**.

Extensive Meal Program

- Enjoy eight breakfasts, four lunches and four dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** during select meals at featured local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Travel Director** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



- Your exclusive **Small-Group experience** is limited to 28 travelers to maximize your travel experience.
- Visit **two UNESCO World Heritage sites**: the Historic City of Toledo and Burgos Cathedral.
 - Taste the wine and unrivaled local cuisine of **La Rioja**, Spain's famous wine region.
- Get an insider's look at the Gehry-designed **Guggenheim Museum** in Bilbao and the **Marqués de Riscal winery hotel** in Laguardia.
- Uncover the magical vibe of **San Sebastián**, a colorful coastal resort town nestled along the Cantabrian Sea.
- Discover **Toledo's European medieval history** and its marvelous stone landmarks that hold secrets of past legacies.
- See the treasures of **Madrid** including the Royal Palace and Plaza Mayor.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 ~ IN TRANSIT

Depart for Madrid, Spain.†

† Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

DAY 2 ~ MADRID

Upon arrival, transfer† and check in to the Hotel Wellington.

This evening, gather with fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception.

DAY 3 ~ MADRID

Educational Focus: Spanish Art.

Excursion: Madrid. See the vast Royal Palace and the lively Plaza Mayor. Admire the striking art nouveau and neoclassical architecture of the Gran Vía, and enjoy viewing other landmarks.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch at a restaurant at the Plaza Mayor.

DAY 4 ~ TOLEDO

Excursion: Toledo. Begin your visit at the Cathedral. Continue to the Church of Santo Tomé to see El Greco's masterpiece, "The Burial of Count Orgaz," before concluding at the Synagogue of Santa Maria la Blanca.

Educational Focus: Contemporary Spain

DAY 5 ~ BURGOS/LAGUARDIA

Excursion: Burgos. En route to Laguardia, stop at Burgos, a lovely hill-top town overlooking La Rioja wine country. Visit its historic city center, and see the Santa María Arch, once the main gate into the city; the impressive architecture of the Plaza Mayor; and the tree-lined Espolón Promenade. Visit Burgos Cathedral, one of the finest in Europe. Having been built over three centuries, the church is a catalog of the Gothic style and its development.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch in Burgos. Upon arrival in Laguardia, check in to the Hotel Villa de Laguardia Sercotel.

DAY 6 ~ LAGUARDIA

Excursion: La Rioja Wine Country.

Visit the Luis Cañas winery, one of the region's renowned bodegas. Continue to the landmark Marqués de Riscal winery and see its hotel designed by Frank Gehry.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch and a wine tasting at the Luis Cañas winery.

Excursion: Laguardia. Explore Laguardia's historic old town. This walled city was fortified in the Middle

Ages because of its strategic location on a hill. Visit the church of Santa Maria de Los Reyes, the Plaza Mayor and the bodegas built into ancient walls.

DAY 7 ~ BILBAO/ SAN SEBASTIÁN

Excursion: Bilbao. Visit Bilbao and the famous Guggenheim Museum designed by Frank Gehry, and see a breathtaking collection of modern and contemporary works of art.

Independent Exploration: Enjoy time at leisure for lunch and sightseeing.

Continue to San Sebastián and the Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra.

Educational Focus: Basque Country.

Cultural Experience: Meet the People. Gather with local residents for dinner and conversation.

DAY 8 ~ SAN SEBASTIÁN

Excursion: San Sebastián. Survey San Sebastián's crescent-shaped bay. Explore the Old Quarter to see its elegant Town Hall and the neo-Gothic Cathedral de Buen Pastor.

Local Flavor: Savor a pintxos lunch during today's excursion.

DAY 9 ~ SAN SEBASTIÁN

Independent Exploration: Enjoy a day at leisure in San Sebastián and make your own discoveries. Perhaps take a stroll along the city's beaches or seek treasures along the Avenida de la Libertad.

Tonight, attend a Farewell Reception and Dinner at a restaurant in San Sebastián.

DAY 10 ~ IN TRANSIT

Transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.†

NOTE: The information presented is preliminary. Itineraries, included features and schedules are subject to change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE
Available at an additional cost

Pamplona. On Day 9, enjoy an excursion to Pamplona. Stroll the city's storied streets, famous for the annual running of the bulls each July. See the splendid Gothic cathedral and the Chapel of San Fermín. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTEL WELLINGTON

Madrid

The Hotel Wellington is located near Madrid's Retiro Park and within walking distance of chic boutiques and the museums of the Art Triangle. The hotel features three fine restaurants and two lounges. Each well-furnished room offers a wealth of modern amenities, including complimentary Wi-Fi.

HOTEL VILLA DE LAGUARDIA SERCOTEL

Laguardia

Set amid vineyards, the Hotel Villa de Laguardia Sercotel features views of the Cantabrian Mountains along with a restaurant, wine bar, swimming pool, fitness center, spa and reading room. The guest rooms are tastefully decorated and have complimentary Wi-Fi and other features designed to provide the utmost in comfort.



HOTEL DE LONDRES Y DE INGLATERRA

San Sebastián

Situated in the heart of San Sebastián, overlooking Concha Beach, this elegant hotel is close to many of the town's highlights. Marvel at breathtaking views from the terrace, and sample delicious cuisine served in the restaurant. Best of all, each beautifully decorated guest room is designed to be a relaxing retreat. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

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Royal Palace, Madrid
Marqués de Riscal



Our mission is to provide you with the most up-to-date information at all times. While the information in this flier is correct at the time of creation, we encourage you to visit our website to ensure that you receive the most current information.