

# Spain

**Barcelona \* San Sebastian \* Santo Domingo de la Calzada \* Madrid**

**9 nights / 10 days**

**Daily programme:**

**Day 1: Arrive Barcelona Airport**

You will be met upon arrival Barcelona Airport and transferred to your hotel.

Hotel check in and the rest of the day free.

Overnight Barcelona

**Day 2: Barcelona**

Breakfast at the hotel and the rest of the day free to explore on your own and shop

Overnight Barcelona

**Day 3: Barcelona**

Breakfast at the hotel and the rest of the day free to explore on your own and shop

Overnight Barcelona

**Day 4: Barcelona – San Sebastian**

Breakfast at the hotel and check out.

**Car rental:**

Pick-up: Barcelona Sants

Drop-off: Madrid Atocha

Depart from Barcelona and head for San Sebastian.

*Distance: 571km*

*Approx. travel time: 5 hours and 30 minutes*

Overnight San Sebastian

**Day 5: San Sebastian**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Rest of the day free to explore on your own.

Overnight San Sebastian

**Day 6: San Sebastian – La Rioja**

Breakfast at the hotel and check out.

Drive to Santo Domingo de la Calzada , in the province of La Rioja

*Travel distance: 290km*

*Duration: Approx. 4 hours*

One of the Rioja towns most deeply marked by the Pilgrim's Route to Santiago de Compostela is Santo Domingo de la Calzada. Its network of medieval streets, declared a National Historic Interest Site, store a valuable heritage, particularly its walls, the Cathedral and the old Pilgrims' Hospital.

La Rioja's gastronomy, and above all the famous wines of the region, are some of the attractions the area offers, where it is also possible to visit the cradle of the Spanish language and the monasteries of Suso and Yuso, in San Millán de la Cogolla.

At the foot of the Sierra de la Demanda hills and the mountain of Yuso, Santo Domingo founded this town in 1044 to help the pilgrims who travelled to Santiago de Compostela in the Lower Middle Ages. The Pilgrim's Route to Santiago de Compostela, which has UNESCO World Heritage status, breathed life into the economy and culture of the lands it passed through and was closely linked to the spreading of artistic and cultural trends. The pilgrims who crossed the lands of La Rioja used to rest on the banks of the river Oja, in the forest of La Hojuela. It was here where Santo Domingo raised a bridge and built a shelter, a hospital and a hermitage, the origin of the town and city (a title awarded by Alfonso XI in 1334). Pedro I "The Cruel" is to thank for the walls which fortify its medieval layout, which has been declared a National Historic Interest Site.

Overnight Santo Domingo de la Calzada

Santo Domingo de la Calzada stands beside the banks of the Oja River on a vast plain. The town's founding is linked to the branch of the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela known as the French Route. Legend has it that in the 11th century, this location was a large holm oak forest on the banks of a tumultuous river that descended from the nearby mountains, now known as the Sierra de la Demanda. A hermit named Domingo took up residence in the heart of the forest, dedicating all his energy to making it easier for pilgrims traveling to Compostela to cross this difficult terrain.

Today you can enjoy the town by visiting sights such as the cathedral or Plaza de España (Spain Square) and savouring La Rioja's delicious cuisine.

#### **Day 7: Wine Museum & Gourmet lunch with landscapes views**

Breakfast at the hotel and the morning free, followed by your **Wine Museum & Gourmet lunch with landscapes excursion**

**Duration: 5 hours**

**La Rioja & Wine Cellars , 2 tickets**

**Restaurant Vivanco (Briones) - Riojan Menu**

Wine museum and restaurant, the museum occupies a surface space of 9000m, grape wines from around the world and extensive vineyards set in a typical Rioja land. Have a gourmet lunch elaborated with wine and surrounded by the incredible landscapes of vineyards.

#### **Itinerary:**

12h00: Pick up at Hotel Viura or Villa de Laguardia

12h15: Pick up at Hotel Los Agustinos

12h30 Wine Museum Visit

14h30 Gourmet lunch

16h15 After lunch, transfer to hotel

16h30 Dropoff at Hotel Los Agustinos

16h45 Dropoff at Hotel Viura or Villa de Laguardia

Return to the hotel and the rest of the day free to explore on your own.

Overnight Santo Domingo de la Calzada

#### **Day 8: Santo Domingo de la Calzada – Madrid**

Breakfast at the hotel and check out.

Drive through to Madrid. Day free to explore.

*Distance: 315km*

*Approx. travel time: 4 hours*

Overnight Madrid

The Atocha area is widely known for important attractions like the Reina Sofia Museum and Spain's biggest railway hub, Atocha train station, which the area takes its name from. There you can catch a high-speed train to other parts of the country, a commuter train to the mountains or the capital's efficient metro system to another neighbourhood. A few of the city's important streets, such as the Paseo del Prado, Calle de Atocha and Paseo de Delicias, also converge there.

The area is full of interesting old buildings, several which have been revitalized and turned into hotels that pride themselves on the location: in the heart of Madrid's downtown hustle and bustle and near Madrid's most important attractions. Staying here is a good alternative to the hotels clustered around the Sol area

Apart from the eponymous train station, the busy Atocha area is full of attractions like the Anthropology Museum; the Royal Tapestry Factory; CaixaForum Madrid, a contemporary art exhibition centre; and Spain's most important contemporary art museum, the Reina Sofia. The museum combines the historic San Carlos hospital with the newer Nouvel building and holds treasures like Pablo Picasso's Guernica.

#### **Day 9: Madrid**

Breakfast at the hotel and day free to explore on your own.

Overnight Madrid

#### **Day 10: Depart Madrid**

Breakfast at the hotel and check out.

Drop the rental car off in the area

At the appropriate time private transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

**Service ends**