

Castilla y León - Grand Tour

Spain's historic interior

World-class heritage from Romans, Moors & Catholic Kings. Wonderful wines, majestic landscapes & rugged high mountain terrain. Discover the secrets of Spain's interior...



by Casas Cantabricas



Summary

Discover Castilla y León, Spain's largest community, the size of Scotland and Wales together spread out on the high plains of the Spanish Meseta and the rugged Sierras that encircle it.

You'll find magnificent cathedral cities & ancient universities, immense mountain wildernesses and rolling vineyards fed by the Rio Duero as it cuts the region in two on its way to Portugal and the Atlantic.

Wherever you go you'll find local cultures and gastronomic traditions unaffected by tourism, and a hearty warm welcome.

Your Route

Tour Highlights:

- 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Segovia, Ávila, Salamanca, Burgos & León
- 13 wine denominations including Ribera de Duero, Toro, Rueda...
- The 'Way of St James' & Via de Plata
- Prehistoric Atapuerca & Siega Verde
- Las Medulas, Sierra de Gredos, Sierra de Francia & Guadarrama

Travel tips:

Fly

To / from Bilbao

Stansted or Manchester with Easyjet
Heathrow with BA
Gatwick with Vueling
Dublin with Aer Lingus

To / from Madrid

Gatwick, Luton, Bristol, Liverpool & Edinburgh with Easyjet
Stansted Manchester, Liverpool & Dublin with Ryanair
Dublin with Aer Lingus

Ferry

Portsmouth or Plymouth to Santander or Bilbao

Please consult for other travel options





Itinerary Overview

Stage	Itinerary	Region	Location	Hotel, Room	Travel/drive time
			Arriving Bilbao (or Madrid)		
1	Day 1 & 2	Burgos	Burgos	HBUR2 Palace at the heart of Burgos, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 30mins from Bilbao
2	Day 3	León	León	HLEO1 Historic hotel in the heart of Leon, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 40mins
3	Day 4 & 5	El Bierzo	Herrerias	HLEO2 Country house hotel, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 30mins
4	Day 6 to 8	Salamanca	Topas	HTOP1 Castle amongst the vineyards of Salamanca, Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 30mins
5	Day 9 & 10	Sierra de Gredos	Hoyos del Espino	HHDE1 Astronomy & Gastronomy in the Sierra de Gredos, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 40mins
6	Day 11 & 12	Segovia	Navafria	HSEG2 Historic Posada near Segovia & the Sierra, Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs
7	Day 13 & 14	Ribera del Duero	Curiel	HCUR1 Castle hotel at the heart of the Ribera de Duero, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 20mins
			Departing Bilbao (or Madrid)		2hrs 30mins to Bilbao

Your Itinerary

What the cost includes:

- Two people in rooms as detailed, bed & breakfast accommodation in each of the hotels
- 4 door economy class car hire for the duration
- Regional roadmap
- Point-to-point directions
- Complementary copy of Cadogan's Guide To Northern Spain
- Our own Travel App - Holiday guide for mobile devices
- NB Flights not included

If you would like to book this itinerary please call us at your earliest convenience.

If, on the other hand, you require further help or information or wish to investigate alternatives please don't hesitate to contact us.

Stage 1



Region: Burgos Province

Major staging point on the Camino de Santiago
 Burgos cathedral, a World Heritage Site, recently restored in all its glory
 The city of El Cid, also known as El Campeador
 Busy old town; lively squares lined with bars & restaurants
 Spain's best lamb & delicious black pudding – Ribera del Duero wines
 The excellent Museum of Human Evolution and nearby Atapuerca
 Medieval villages of Burgos Province - Frias, Oña, Medina de Pomar, Santo Domingo de Silos, Cervernurias....

Palace at the heart of Burgos

A genuine medieval palace right in the centre of historic Burgos, just a short walk to the magnificent cathedral and the myriad tapas bars, restaurants and asadores for which the city is also famous. Built by the Counts of Berberana in the 16th Century, a golden age in Burgos which grew wealthy from the rich wool trade with England and the Low Countries, the Palace has recently been restored to a very high standard. All rooms are exceptional...[Read More](#)



Stage 2



Region: Leon

Crossing point of the Camino de Santiago and Via de Plata.
 Cathedral of Santa Maria - beautiful stained glass Rose Window
 Tapas in la Zona Humeda, 'the wet zone', in the old-town
 See the true Holy Grail housed in the beautiful Colegiata de San Isidoro
 Take a trip to lovely Astorga with its Gaudi palace
 Visit Las Médulas & Ponferrada

Historic hotel in the heart of Leon

This very special hotel in a square in the Romantic Quarter in the heart of Leon, just a short walk to the magnificent Cathedral, is full of history and art. Forming part of the outstanding C11th complex of the Real Colegiata de San Isidoro de Leon and the Panteon de Los Reyes with its amazingly vivid Romanesque frescos, amongst the best preserved anywhere, the hotel was at one time a monastery. The monastery houses the Caliz de Doña Urraca,...[Read More](#)



Stage 3



Region: El Bierzo y Las Médulas

Las Médulas - extraordinary red-rock landscape formed by Roman mining.
Historic El Bierzo, a land seemingly lost in time.
Full bodied local wines, delicious peppers, botila, cecina....
Visit the Knights Templar castle at Ponferrada – straight from a fairytale.
Historic Villafranca del Bierzo, right on the Camino.

Country house hotel

A lovely traditional, beautifully restored country hotel, built at the end of the 19th century. Situated off the road in the farming village of Herrerias de Valcarce on the pilgrims' route to Santiago de Compostela, it looks down onto fields, oak and chestnut trees and the river Valcarce, excellent for trout fishing. A very peaceful, unspoilt spot in the beautiful region of El Bierzo, at the foot of the Ancares Nature Park. It makes an excell...

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Stage 4



Region: Salamanca

Magnificent Salamanca Spain's foremost university town
Walking in the Sierra de Francia
Gijuelo ham, one of the best in Spain
Site of Wellington's famous victory at the Battle of Salamanca and nearby Ciudad Rodrigo
Via de la Plata - ancient Roman route linking Sevilla with Gijón on the north coast.
Arribes del Duero Nature Park - breathtaking catamaran journey on Duero river
Wines of Sierra de Salamanca and nearby Tolo and Rueda

Castle amongst the vineyards of Salamanca

The moat is now a lovely walled garden with a glimmering pool, the battlements sunny terraces for guests to relax and take in the views, and the armoury a cool shady patio but in every other way this hotel is a very 'proper' castle indeed. This XV century castle, at various times owned by Ferdinand, the Catholic King, the Duke of Alba and Cardinal Fonseca (who's stay here with his lover is said to give the castle its curious name) was ...[Read More](#)



Stage 5



Region: Ávila & the Sierra de Gredos

Walking and climbing in the Gredos range
 Birdwatching - many rare species
 Astronomy & stargazing - the village is a Dark-Sky location
 Spa treatments with pure mountain water in the Aguas de Gredos balneario
 Visit Ávila with its magnificent walls or Barco de Avila
 Walk the Puerto del Pico Roman way at one time linking Ávila and Mérida.

Astronomy & Gastronomy in the Sierra de Gredos

At the entrance to the Sierra de Gredos Natural park with stunning views to the rugged granite peaks including Pico Almanzor at 2600m right from the breakfast table, this hotel is the perfect base for those wanting to combine some serious mountain scenery with equally serious pampering! The owners, American and Spanish, are true enthusiasts with a passion for the area, its flora and fauna and its rich gastronomy. Testimony to this is the exten...[Read More](#)



Stage 6



Region: Segovia

Segovia - Roman Aquaduct, Moorish Alcazar, Cathedral and large Jewish Quarter. Beautiful landscapes.
 Local lamb and suckling pig
 Medieval Pedraza - castle owned by Basque artist Zuloaga
 Sepulveda, entrance to Hoces de Duraton, fine Romanesque churches
 Sierra de Guadarrama National Park
 Hoces del Duratón nature Park - canoe or hike through this breathtaking landscape of steep gorges carved out by the Duraton river.
 Hermitage of San Frutos - patron of Segovia
 La Granja de San Ildefonso - the Spanish Versailles

Historic Posada near Segovia & the Sierra

At the edge of the Guadarrama National Park and well placed to visit the wonderful city of Segovia and the medieval villages nearby, this small Posada is homely, comfortable and offers the perfect base to return to after a hard day exploring. The restaurant, popular and highly recommended, serves the best of local ingredients in a light, modern style, less dependent on the hearty Castilian staples of lamb and suckling pig than is perhaps the no...[Read More](#)



Stage 7



Region: Ribera del Duero

The 'Golden Mile' - legendary wine trail with Vega Sicilia and many more.
Peñafiel's magnificent castle cum wine museum and unique square 'el Viejo Coso'.
Richard Rogers' modernista bodega at Protos
Valladolid at the hub of five wine regions. Lovely Old-town with great tapas!
Fine Roman remains at Clunia, vestiges of Moorish struggles in Peñafiel
Cycle or stroll along the banks of the Duero river

Castle hotel at the heart of the Ribera de Duero

Perched upon its little mountain overlooking the village of Curiel this pocket-sized fairy tale castle is now a stylish and comfortable hotel and a perfect base from which to discover the Ribera de Duero wine region. Once part of Eleanor of Aquitaine's estate, the castle played a key role in the Islamic wars of the 11th century, later becoming a nobleman's prison before falling into ruin after the Christian re-population of the area and the bu...[Read More](#)



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