

### Taste of the North

#### Camino del Este

A shorter route with gastronomy, wine, culture, mountains and sea - indulge yourself!

# Camino

by Casas Cantabricas

#### Summary

A compact route covering some northern Spain highlights in a journey full of contrasts yet without too much driving.

You're certainly in for a gastronomic treat, with the famous 'Nueva Cocina Vasca' and world class wines from La Rioja and much more besides.

And it's not all about the food - here you'll find dramatic mountain scenery, fantastic beaches and a wealth of art and architecture, not least in Frank Gehry's famous Guggenheim Museum.



#### Your Route

##### Tour Highlights:

- Bilbao, the 'Pheonix City'
- The great wines of La Rioja
- Architecture ancient & modern
- Beaches & valleys of Cantabria
- Wonderful gastronomy throughout
- Short drives - big contrasts!

##### Travel tips:

Fly;  
Stansted, Edinburgh or Dublin  
to Santander with Ryanair  
Stansted or Manchester to Bilbao  
with Easyjet  
Heathrow to Bilbao with BA  
Gatwick to Bilbao with Vueling

Ferry  
Portsmouth or Plymouth to Santander or  
Bilbao - *optionally included in the tour*

*Please consult for other travel options*



### Itinerary Overview

Stage	Itinerary	Region	Location	Hotel, Room	Travel/drive time
			Arriving to Bilbao or Santander (by air or sea)		
1	Day 1 & 2	Euskadi	Monte Artxanda, Bilbao	City hotel, balcony of Bilbao, Double room (2 sharing)	15mins from Bilbao airport - 1hr from Santander
2	Day 3 & 4	La Rioja Alavesa	Laguardia	Village hotel, medieval Laguardia, Superior double with terrace & view	1hr 20mins
3	Day 5 to 7	Coastal Cantabria	Santillana del Mar	Historic posada, Santillana, Double room (2 sharing)	3hrs 50mins (scenic route)
			Departing from Bilbao or Santander		30mins Santander - 1hr 30mins Bilbao

### Your Itinerary

What the tour includes:

- Two people sharing a double room, bed & breakfast accommodation in each of the hotels
- Ferry or car hire as required
- Regional roadmap
- Point-to-point directions
- Complementary copy of Cadogan's Guide To Northern Spain
- Our own restaurant guide

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: Bilbao & the Basque Coast

Frank Gehry's Guggenheim museum & nearby Bellas Artes  
World famous Basque cuisine - pintxos or something more substantial  
Basque coast, lovely beaches, spectacular rock formations  
Head for the hills - great walking not far from the city  
San Sebastian, Belle Epoque elegance by the sea  
Birdwatching & breathtaking scenery; Urdaibai biosphere reserve  
Catch the tube to the waves & get surfing!

#### City hotel, balcony of Bilbao

Set high on Monte Artxanda, the "balcony of Bilbao", this small family-run hotel offers all the tranquility of a rural environment with fantastic views over and easy access to the city of Bilbao (a short drive or bus ride, or a half hour's walk). You can literally stay in the hills and walk to the Guggenheim! The hotel is an authentic Bizcaian "caserio", a large stone built country house, and its sixteen spacious rooms (seven doubles and 4 twi...[Read More](#)



### Stage 2



#### Region: La Rioja wine region

La Rioja Alavesa, where the mountains give shelter to the best wineries  
Riojan cuisine- excellent local ingredients with a touch of Basque flair  
A history of architecture from cave-dweller to Gehry  
Medieval towns such as Laguardia, thriving centers of the wine trade  
Dinastia Vivanco Museum of Wine Culture, one of the finest private collections in the world.  
Izki Golf, two courses in the midst of the beautiful Nature Park of Izki

#### Historic castle style hotel

Though built in 1863 in the Modernista style this striking building with its imposing watchtower was constructed with stones from a 12th century barracks and has the feel of a small medieval castle. The location is excellent, built into the town wall and at the same time set up and back from the road, with views from the tower, over vineyards to the Sierra de Toloña and the town itself, which are truly second to none. The rooms are quite luxuri...[Read More](#)



### Stage 3



#### **Region:** Western Coastal Cantabria

Historic seaside towns of San Vicente de la Barquera, Comillas or Santillana del Mar.

Sweeping sandy beaches and craggy protected coves

Unspoilt Carmona, Cabezon, Barcena Mayor in the beautiful valleys.

Prehistoric cave paintings at Altamira and magnificent formations in El Soplao - the Cathedral of the cave world.

Wonderful walks along the coast or in the rolling hills just inland.

#### Historic town hotel with pool

Just outside the historic village of Santillana del Mar in a peaceful spot, this handsome building is set in attractive gardens, with a terrace and swimming pool, and views over red roofs and green hills. Decorated and furnished in the traditional period style of the region, and family run, it combines elegant simplicity with rustic charm - and with all modern comforts. There is a lounge and breakfast room/bar (Santillana del Mar, about 5...[Read More](#)



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Configured for iPhone and Android, for use on both tablets and mobile phones.

In the app you will find:

- your itinerary
- your letters and receipts
- your ferry voucher / car-hire voucher as applicable
- point to point directions
- regional guides to the areas you will be visiting
- a general food and vocab guide
- a map with each hotel geo located
- directions to find each hotel (embedded within the map)
- local weather forecast

Also, if you have any other travel documents that you'd like to load to the application you can send them to us and we'll load them on there for you.

#### What our clients say...

*"We loved your Vamoos app - it really enhanced our pre-holiday planning and meant we had everything at our fingertips without having to have WiFi during the trip. The detail provided was exceptional. Everyone should use it!"* ..... Client 2018

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*"We particularly liked the Vamoos app which placed all our holiday information - and more at our fingertips"* ..... Client 2018