

The Grand Northern Tour

A route full of delightful contrasts - a taste of all that is Northern Spain.

Camihos

by Casas Cantabricas

Summary

A circular route following the pilgrim paths to and from Santiago. You'll find surf washed beaches and high arid plains, Cathedral cities and tiny villages lost in time, lofty snow capped mountains and soft rolling hills - the stark contrasts which make northern Spain so exciting!

Constant throughout are a sense of tradition, superb food & wine and a friendly welcome wherever you go.



Your Route

Tour Highlights:

- Ways of St James, steeped in history
- Monumental Leon; Cathedral & San Marcos
- Spain's best surf-washed beaches
- Lofty peaks, high plains, verdant hills
- World class food & great wines, a tapestry of regional tastes

Travel tips:

Fly
Stansted, Edinburgh or Dublin
to Santander with Ryanair
Stansted to Bilbao / Asturias 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 Santander or Bilbao		
1	Day 1 to 3	Central Asturias	Libardon	Historic country hotel, near coast, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 40mins Santander - 2hrs 40mins Bilbao
2	Day 4 & 5	West Asturias	Tol	Country hotel, golf & pool, Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs
3	Day 6 & 7	El Bierzo, León	San Esteban de Valdueza	Country house hotel, Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 15mins
4	Day 8	León	León	City hotel, Leon Old Town, Double room (2sharing)	1hr 40mins
5	Day 9 to 11	Picos de Europa	Pesaguero	Mountain posada with pool, Double room (2sharing)	2hrs 45mins
6	Day 12 to 14	West Cantabria	Santillana del Mar	Historic posada, Santillana, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 30mins
			Departing from Santander or Bilbao		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
- Regional roadmap
- Point-to-point directions
- Complementary copy of Cadogan's Guide To Northern Spain
- Our own restaurant guide
- Ferry or car hire (flights are 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: Asturias, east and central coast

Lovely seaside villages such as Llanes & Lastres.
Dinosaur coast - Jurassic museum near Colunga & fossil footprints on the beaches.
Visit Oviedo, the historic Asturian capital & Gijon by the sea.
Eat, drink and be merry in a traditional Asturian cider house.
The Spanish Cornwall? Beautiful beaches & cliff-top walks.
Beautifully preserved pre-roman architecture, from the 8th Century.

Historic country hotel, near coast

Nestled in the Asturian mountains at the foot of the Sierra del Sueve yet only fifteen minutes' drive away from the beaches and unspoilt fishing villages, Palacio de Libardon offers a perfect rural retreat and at the same time a great base for exploring Asturias. The hotel itself is a fine example of a 'Casona de Indianos', the palaces built by adventurers returning from Latin America, and consists of two main buildings, the main part da...[Read More](#)



Stage 2



Region: Western Asturias

Picturesque fishing villages such as Cudillero & Lluarca
Beaches - world class surf at Tapia, breathtaking Silencio or family fun at San Pedro.
National Park of Somiedo - see the wild deer, and bears if you're lucky!
Celtic settlements on the Asturian coast.
Head inland to the genuine cowboy country

Coastal hotel in picturesque fishing port

Former fishermen's cottages where the nets were made and repaired, this gem of a hotel, right on the dramatic coastline of Western Asturias, in the picturesque port of Puerto de Vega, was converted with a loving and artistic eye by its owner, Milagros. With a nautical theme throughout and all its stylish, individually decorated bedrooms with sea views, her magic touch has created a museum piece almost, but with every modern comfort and detail ...[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 hotel among the mountains

A typical 'Bierzano' stone building recently converted into a comfortable, charming small hotel by the owners who also run the village's popular 'Mesón' restaurant. In an idyllic situation at the entrance to the Valle del Silencio the hotel is the perfect base to discover the main highlights of El Bierzo; Las Medulas, Villafranca, Ponferrada with its Knights Templar castle, Peñalba de Santiago and the Camino de Santiago - but you might just ...[Read More](#)



Stage 4



Region: Leon

Crossing point of the Camino de Santiago and Vía 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 ovely 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 5



Region: Picos de Europa

Let the cable car at Fuente De whisk you up 1800m into the Picos de Europa. Make a pilgrimage to Santo Toribio, at the heart of the Valle de Liébana. Potes, Cangas de Onís and Arriondas historic yet full of life. Local mountain gastronomy - don't miss the local cider and Orujo. Get canoeing on the Rio Sella or Deva, a great day out! Walk the Ruta del Cares - breathtaking mountain scenery for all abilities. Covadonga, geographical, spiritual and sporting heart of the Picos.

Mountain posada with pool

Up in the mountains of the Picos de Europa, this attractive posada is built in traditional style and materials to combine rural charm with modern comforts. Situated in Barrio La Gloria, Pesaguero, a little village twelve kilometres from Potes, in the beautiful Liébana countryside, with views to the high peaks, it is well located for exploring the Picos Mountains, with walks straight from the door or further afield. The posada is centrally located. [Read More](#)



Stage 6



Region: Western Coastal Cantabria

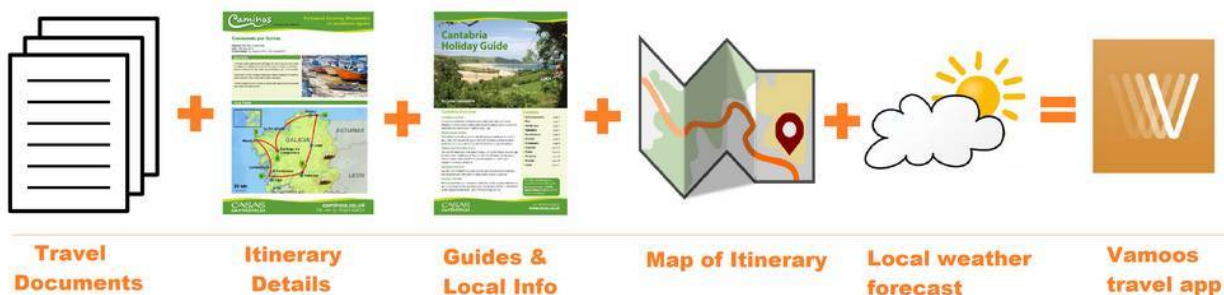
Historic seaside towns of San Vicente de la Barquera, Comillas or Santillana del Mar. Sweeping sandy beaches and craggy protected coves. Unspoilt Carmona, Cabezon, Barcena Mayor in the beautiful valleys. Prehistoric cave paintings at Altamira and magnificent formations in El Soplao - the Cathedral of 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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- local weather forecast

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