

## Grand Northern Tour NC6

### North coast, Picos de Europa & the interior

A circular tour full of contrasts; monumental cities, the coast, mountains and high plains, wonderful wine and food.



#### 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 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:

- The ways of St James, steeped in history
- Monumental León; 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
- Fly or Ferry – the choice is yours

##### Travel Tips:

- **Stansted:** to Santander with Ryanair or Bilbao with Easyjet
- **Gatwick:** to Bilbao with BA or Asturias with Vueling
- **Dublin:** Santander with Ryanair or Bilbao with Aer Lingus
- **Edinburgh:** Santander with Ryanair or Bilbao with Easyjet
- **Manchester:** to Bilbao with Easyjet
- Bristol to Bilbao with Easyjet
- **Ferries** Portsmouth or Plymouth: Santander or Bilbao – 7 sailings weekly. We can include the ferry crossings as part of the package



### Itinerary Overview

Stage	Itinerary	Region	Location	Hotel, Room *	Travel/drive time
			Arriving Santander (or other)		
1	Day 1 to 3	Central Asturias	Libardon	HLIB1 Historic hotel, near coast, 1 x Double room (2 sharing)  + Home cooked dinner for two, 1st night	1hr 40mins
2	Days 4 & 5	Western Asturias	Puerto de Vega	HPDV1 Coastal hotel in picturesque fishing port, 1 x Double room (two sharing)	1hr 40mins
3	Days 6 & 7	El Bierzo	San Esteban de Valdueza	HLEO4 Country hotel among the mountains , 1 x Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 40mins
4	Day 8	León	León	HLEO1 Historic hotel in the heart of Leon, 1 x Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 30mins
5	Day 9 to 11	Picos de Europa	Pesaguero	HPES1 Mountain posada with pool, 1 x Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 50mins
6	Day 12 to 14	Western Cantabria	Santillana del Mar	HSAN2 Historic town hotel with pool, 1 x Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 30mins
			Departing Santander (or other)		30mins to Santander

\* Double room (2 sharing) can be either double or twin bedded. If you have specific requirements, please let us know.

### Your Itinerary

#### What the tour includes:

- Two people in rooms as detailed, bed & breakfast accommodation in each of the hotels
- Car hire or ferry travel as required
- Point-to-point directions
- Complementary map and Northern Spain Guidebook
- Our own restaurant guide and Vamoos travel app
- NB Flights not included
- + Holiday Extras as detailed above

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 & Gijón 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 hotel, near coast

Nestled in the Asturian mountains at the foot of the Sierra del Suevo 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

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 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 ovely Astorga with its Gaudi palace

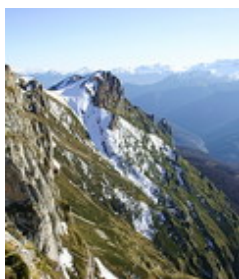
Visit Las Médulas & Ponferrada

#### 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 11th century 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 ...[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 Arriandás 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, Cabezón, 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

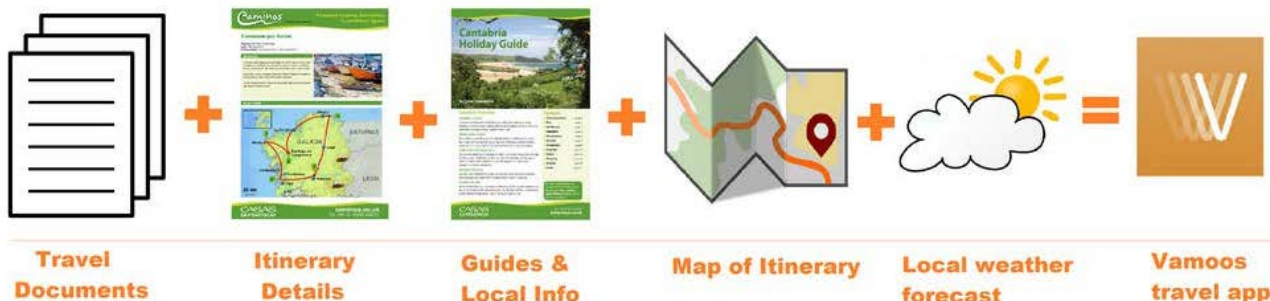
#### Historic town hotel with pool

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](#)





### Vamoos - your personal travel App and e-Document manager



#### Travel paper-free with Vamoos

As a Caminos client you will receive your own personal Vamoos travel app and e-document manager for mobile devices.

This is a paperless system which allows you to keep all of your important travel documentation and key information in one place and carry it with you wherever you go.

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

"I particularly liked the use of Vamoos app to provide all the holiday information including off-line maps & travelling directions so we always had this to hand." ..... Client 2018

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