

Taste of the North NC3

Bilbao – La Rioja – Coastal Cantabria Tour

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

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.

Caminos



Your Route

Tour Highlights:

- Bilbao, the 'Phoenix City'
- The great wines of La Rioja
- Architecture ancient & modern
- Relax in the beaches & valleys of coastal Cantabria
- Wonderful gastronomy throughout
- Short drives – big contrasts!

Travel tips:

Stansted: Santander with Ryanair or Bilbao with Easyjet or Biarritz with Ryanair

Gatwick: Bilbao with Vueling

Dublin: Santander with Ryanair or Bilbao with Aerlingus

Edinburgh: Santander with Ryanair

Ferries: Portsmouth or Plymouth: Santander or Bilbao – 5 sailings weekly.



Itinerary Overview

Stage	Itinerary	Region	Location	Hotel, Room *	Travel/drive time
			Arriving Bilbao airport		
1	Day 1 & 2	Euskadi	Monte Artxanda, Bilbao	HBIL1 City hotel, balcony of Bilbao, 1 x Double room (2 sharing)	20mins from airport
2	Day 3 & 4	La Rioja	Cuzcurrita del Rio Tiron	HCRT1 Theme hotel in C17th mansion in La Rioja, 1 x Double room (two sharing)	1hr 30mins
3	Day 5 to 7	Coastal Cantabria	Santillana del Mar	HSAN2 Historic town hotel with pool, 1 x Double room (2 sharing)	3hrs 20mins (scenic route)
			Departing Bilbao airport		1hr 30mins to Bilbao airport

* 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 sharing rooms as shown, Bed & breakfast, at each hotel
- 4 door economy class car hire for the duration
- Point-to-point directions
- Complementary touring map and regional guidebook
- Our own restaurant guide and travel application
- 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: 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 Vizcayan "caserio", a large stone built country house, and its sixteen spacious rooms are comfortably furnishe...[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

Magical theme hotel in C17th mansion in La Rioja

This fine 17th century mansion, in the centre of the picturesque, medieval village of Cuzcurrita del Rio Tiron, in La Rioja Alta, has been recently restored but certainly has a history! Originally the home of a wealthy family, in the 1920's and 30's, the building was put to use as a bakery, theatre and cinema before, during the Civil War, being occupied by Italian troops who passed on their pasta recipes to the locals. The present owners, L...[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

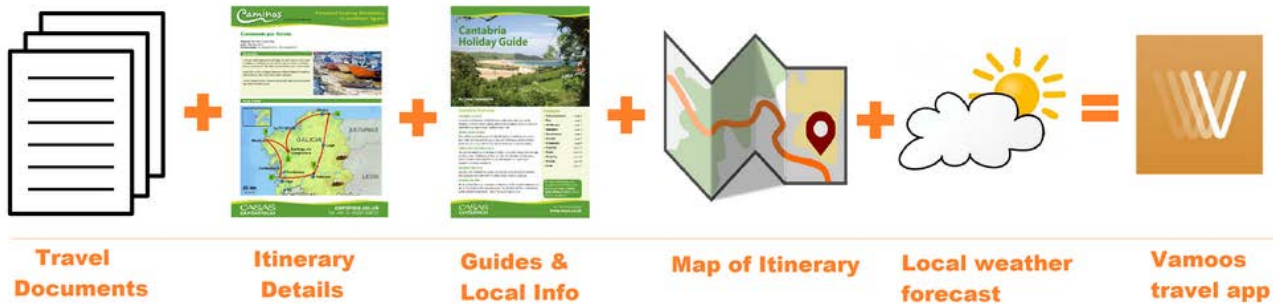
Wonderful walks along the coast or in the rolling hills just inland

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

"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