

The Porto Run PO7

Santander to Porto & back in two weeks

Discover the best of northern Spain and Portugal; monumental cities, stunning scenery, wonderful wines - and lots of other special treats along the way.

Summary

A round tour combining north Portugal highlights with grand cities in Spain with the comfort of your own car.

From Santander, the tour takes in the monumental cities of Burgos and Salamanca, then dives into the magnificent Douro Valley and onto Porto before heading north to Santiago de Compostela and the green northern coast on the way back to Santander.

Discover two countries in one trip; vineyards and nature, food and wine. From start to finish you'll find striking scenery, great walking, superb food and wine, World Heritage cities and lovely, well preserved towns to investigate.



Your Route

Tour Highlights:

- Monumental cities, Burgos, Salamanca, Porto and Santiago
- Glorious wines of the Duero & Douro
- Camino de Santiago & Wellington's footsteps
- Spain's verdant north-west coast
- Breath-taking scenery, the meseta, the Douro Valley & the magnificent Picos de Europa
- Superb regional gastronomy throughout

Travel tips:

Take the ferry from Portsmouth or Plymouth to Santander or Bilbao.

Alternatively fly into Porto, Bilbao, Santiago, or Madrid and enjoy this wonderful circular tour as a fly-drive holiday.

Please consult for other travel options



Itinerary Overview

Stage	Itinerary	Region	Location	Hotel, Room *	Travel/drive time
			Arriving Santander or Bilbao		
1	Day 1 & 2	Burgos	Burgos	HBUR2 Palace at the heart of Burgos, 1 x Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs
2	Day 3 & 4	Salamanca	Salamanca	HSAL3 Charming boutique hotel in Salamanca, 1 x Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 30mins
3	Day 5 & 6	Douro Valley	Vale de Mendiz	HDOU2 Winery hotel with superb views and pool, 1 x Double room (two sharing)	3hrs 10mins
4	Day 7 & 8	Porto	Porto	HOPO2 Elegant, baroque castle hotel in Porto, 1 x Double room (Garden or Castle, two sharing)	1hr 40mins
5	Day 9 & 10	Santiago	Santiago de Compostela	HSAC6 Tradition, innovation and style in central Santiago, 1 x Double room 2 sharing	2hrs 50mins
6	Day 11 & 12	West Asturias	Puerto de Vega	HPDV1 Coastal hotel in picturesque fishing port, 1 x Double room (two sharing)	2hrs 20mins
7	Day 13 & 14	West Cantabria	Santillana del Mar	HSAN2 Historic town hotel with pool, 1 x Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 30mins
			Departing Santander or Bilbao		30mins to Santander ferry port

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

Your Itinerary

What the cost includes:

- Two people in rooms as detailed, bed & breakfast accommodation in each of the hotels
- Ferry or car hire (flights not included)
- Point-to-point directions
- Complementary map of Spain and Northern Portugal
- Our own Vamoos travel app
- 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, Covarrubias....

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: 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 Toro and Rueda

Charming boutique hotel in Salamanca

Situated between the cathedral and the river this small yet historic hotel is the perfect base from which to explore the old quarter of Salamanca. Though centrally placed the thick stone walls offer a peaceful retreat from the city noise. The emphasis here is very much on quality and outstanding personal service with great care being taken over every detail. The owner Julian and his staff will go out of their way to make sure you get the best ...[Read More](#)



Stage 3

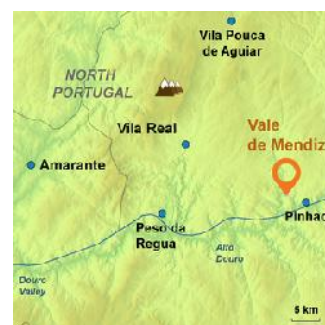


Region: Alto Douro

Take an unforgettable boat trip from Peso de Regua upriver to Pinhao
Or an historic steam train journey on the same route
Pinhao and its delightful train station, decorated with beautiful azulejos – tiles
Magical walks and stunning views among terraced vineyards
Picnic at the beauty spot of São Salvador do Mundo
Take a trip to see the Paleolithic rock-art in the valley of Côa

Winery hotel with superb views and pool

Perched high above the Douro in the delightful Vale de Mendiz (known as the valley of gold), with the most stunning views of the surrounding hills and terraced vineyards snaking their way down the valley to Pinhao, this lovely, small rural hotel makes a perfect base for exploring the region. At one time the Magalhaes family home and estate, producing port since 1870, it was transformed into a hotel with all modern comforts in 2005. With a w...[Read More](#)



Stage 4



Region: Porto

Ribeira, Porto's fascinating historic centre, a World Heritage site
Cross the impressive Dom Luis I iron bridge to the Port Wine Lodges
Art for all from finest museums to simple galleries
Walk the lanes, sail the river, live and breathe Porto
Ferry to Afurada and the golden beach of Estrela

Elegant, baroque castle hotel in Porto

This gorgeously romantic, Baroque castle, full of character, set in its own beautiful gardens, is the perfect base to visit historic Porto. Built in 1887 as a private house, this listed building with its imposing tower is wonderfully atmospheric and, being set on a vantage point, commands lovely views of the city. The location is excellent - fairly near the centre (a twenty minute walk) with on site parking and the metro just a short walk a...[Read More](#)



Stage 5



Region: Santiago & the interior

Santiago, journey's end, for centuries Europe's Nº 1 pilgrim destination
Take a Catamaran trip down the magnificent Rio Sil
Ribeiro wines from vineyards on the steep river valleys of the Miño and Sil
Ourense, full of surprises, and Monforte de Lemos, both steeped in history
Take a trip around the monasteries of the Ribera Sacra Lugo, a thriving city with Roman walls
Los Ancares nature park, little discovered acres of native woodlands

Tradition, innovation and style in central Santiago

With the emphasis on personal service and designed using the oriental principles of 'Wabi-Sabi' this truly unique hotel in the old town of Santiago is an experience in itself. In one of the quieter parts of town, but within easy reach of the main sights, this 19th century house is a charming, perfect balance of old and new, creating an atmosphere of peace and harmony - its original old stone walls and oak beamed ceilings blending more than ha...[Read More](#)



Stage 6



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 7



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

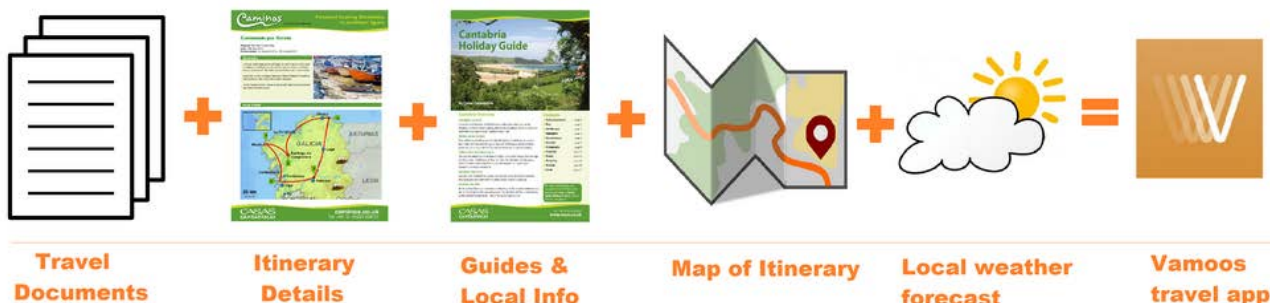
Wonderful walks along the coast or in the rolling hills just inland

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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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