

The Costa Brava Run PC6

Bilbao - Girona - Bilbao

Atlantic to Mediterranean in two weeks - taking in the magnificent Pyrenees mountains along the way!



by Casas Cantabricas

Summary

Coast to coast from Bilbao to the Costa Brava, this marvellous adventure offers the very best of the Spanish Pyrenees as you traverse northern Spain from the Atlantic to the Med and back.

The glittering Mediterranean will be your prize but along the way you'll see stunning mountain scenery, historic towns and villages and finish up in La Rioja - where better to celebrate?

Cruise down to Bilbao or Santander with your own car or fly down and hire a car - either way you're in for a real treat!



Your Route

Tour Highlights:

- Baztan valley & Basque coast
- Rugged Costa Brava & Girona
- Desert landscape of Las Bardenas
- Castillo de Loarre & Mallos de Riglo
- Superb birdwatching & wild flowers -
- National Parks Ordesa, Monte Perdido
- Posets-Maladeta
- Delicious Somontano wines, cheeses & mountain fare

Travel Tips:

Ferry to Spain:

Bilbao from Portsmouth with Brittany Ferries.

Also **Santander** from Portsmouth or Plymouth.

Flight Connections:

For Bilbao – Easyjet from Stansted or Manchester, BA from Heathrow or Vueling from Gatwick

For Biarritz - Ryanair from Stansted or Dublin



Itinerary Overview

Stage	First Night	Last Night	Location	Hotel, Room *	Travel/drive time
			Arriving Bilbao (or Santander)		
1	Day 1 & 2	Navarra	Urdax	HNAV2 Village hotel, French border, 1 x Double room	2hrs from Bilbao
2	Day 3 & 4	Ainsa	Coscojuela de Sobrarbe	HAIN1 Mountain hotel Pyrenees, 1 x Superior double room + Gourmet meal for two (1st night)	3hrs 30mins
3	Day 5 & 6	Val d'Aneu	La Guingueta d'Aneu	HANE1 Mountain hotel with pool, 1 x double room	2hrs 30mins
4	Day 7 to 9	Costa Brava	Calella de Palafrugell	HCDP1 Family-run hotel Costa Brava, 1 x double room	4hrs
5	Day 10	Lleida	Lleida	HPAR3 Parador de Lleida, 1 x double room	2hrs 50mins
6	Day 11 & 12	Zaragoza	Uncastillo	HUNC1 Historic posada in medieval setting, 1 x double room	2hrs 30mins
7	Day 13 & 14	La Rioja	Cuzcurrita del Rio Tiron	HCRT1 Magical theme hotel in C17th mansion in La Rioja, 1 x double room	2hrs 20mins
	Mon 15 Ago		Departing Bilbao (or Santander)		1hr 20mins to Bilbao

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

Your Quotation

What the cost includes:

- Two people in rooms as detailed, bed & breakfast accommodation in each of the hotels
- Hire car or ferry crossings
- 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: North-west Navarra

Rolling green valleys of Baztan & Bidasoa near the coast in the west

Explore the historic, pretty villages of Lesaka, Etxalar, Elizondo...

Dip into the picture-postcard French Pais Basque

Ride the train to the top of La Rhune for stunning views of the Bay of Biscay

The delightful 39km Via Verde de Bidasoa – a Paradise for cyclists & walkers alike

Pop to the coast at Hondarribia, Biarritz or San Sebastian

Village hotel, French border

This delightful rural hotel set on the edge of the village of Urdax right on the Spanish - French border offers the visitor a wealth of contrasts; to the one side the Navarran Pyrenees with fantastic walking and beautifully preserved villages and to the other the gently rolling meadows of the French Pays Basque, each side with its own traditions and with a gastronomic culture among the best in the land. In Urdax and nearby Zugarramurdi there a...[Read More](#)



Stage 2



Region: Sobrarbe, Ordesa National Park, Guara & Somontano

Ordesa & Monte Perdido National Park, the essence of the Pyrenees.

Christian Ainsa and Muslim Alquézar - delightful medieval villages.

Sierra y Cañones de Guara, cut through by spectacular gorges - a playground for outdoor fans.

Somontano wines - low yield, exceptional quality. Known for red wine but don't miss the Chardonnay!

Posets Maladeta, with Aneto, the Pyrenees' highest peak.

Wonderful bird-life, eagles, vultures, & the magnificent lammergeyer.

Beach days and canoeing on the reservoir, take a spin around the sunken church tower.

Mountain hotel Pyrenees

This 16th century stone-built manor house at the heart of the Ainsa valley has been recently restored to a very high standard and is truly enchanting. The combination of stone walls, natural materials, subdued lighting and soft music create a welcoming and cosy atmosphere - the ideal retreat after a day's arduous hiking, touring or wine tasting. The views from every window and the inviting terrace mean that the mountains come to you and you ma...[Read More](#)



Stage 3



Region: Val D'Aran & Val D'Aneu

Magnificent Parc Nacional d'Aigüestortes i Estany de Sant Maurici

Unique culture and dialect in the Val d'Aran

Natural Park of the high Pyrenees

Fine collection of churches from Romanesque, Renaissance and Baroque

Excellent bird watching, in the valleys and the high mountains

Mountain gastronomy with local cheeses, honey and even caviar!

Charming villages with unique Aranés architectural style

Mountain hotel with pool

At the heart of the Val d'Aneu, the gateway to the National Park of Sant Maurici y Aigüestortes, with a pretty lake right at the foot of the garden, this hotel promises the very essence of the Pyrenees. The hotel's traditional exterior and foyer belie the modern style of the recently renovated rooms which are spacious, light and decorated in tranquil tones. There are extensive gardens at the rear running down to the lake with a swimming p...[Read More](#)



Stage 4



Region: Girona & Costa Brava

Walk on the Camí de Ronda, all along the Costa Brava

Fishing villages and beach hopping along the Costa

Empuries, Roman ruins on the bay of Roses

Visit the bodegas of the Empordà wine region

Pals & Peratallada, delightful medieval villages

Jewish heritage, medieval old-town and fortress-Cathedral in Girona capital

Dalí's museum in Figueras and Cadaqués his place on the Med

Sailing, stand-up paddle and diving. Cycling on the local Via-Verdes

Family-run hotel with picture-perfect views of the Costa Brava

Every view is a postcard from this delightful family-run hotel perched on a headland at the end of the bay in Calleta de Palafrugell. Owned by the same family for three generations the service is truly exceptional and the hotel has kept up with the times whilst maintaining its traditional, Mediterranean essence. All rooms have either a small balcony or terrace and the views are lovely from all but the star of the show is the restaurant and ...[Read More](#)



Stage 5

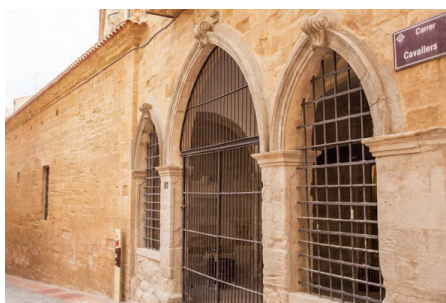


Region: Lleida Capital

Visit the Seu Vella and Castell de la Suda set atop the mount
Get active or just wander in the Parc Municipal de la Mitjana
Museo Automocion Roda – a small, private motor museum
Museu de Lleida – discover the city's history from pre-historic times
Arborètum Jardí Botànic De Lleida a delightful green space in the city

Parador de Lleida

Housed in the 17th century Convento del Roser, the 4-star Parador de Lleida is well placed for the Old Town, the river and the Seu Vella cathedral and Santa Cecilia park which surrounds it. The hotel is comprised of two buildings: the church, which houses the Marmita restaurant and the hotel complex, with 53 rooms set around the convent's beautiful cloister which serves as lobby and lounge. The city centre is just ten minutes' walk fro...[Read More](#)



Stage 6



Region: Northern Zaragoza

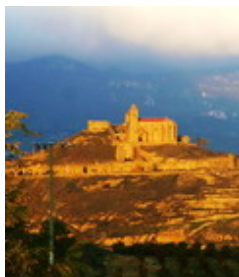
Uncastillo - Spain's best-kept 12th century Romanesque village.
'Spaghetti Western' landscapes in Las Bardenas Reales biosphere reserve
Sos del Rey Catolico - birthplace of Fernando the Catholic King
Walking, cycling, mountain biking, birdwatching, canoeing...
Imposing Castillo de Loarre and nearby stunning rock formations of Mallos de Riglos.
Olite, Javier, Leyre - a medieval smorgasbord
Dramatic gorges of Lumbier and Arbayun
Senda Viva park and zoo - a great day out for the kids.

Historic posada in medieval setting

Walk out of the door of this lovingly restored 18th century town house and step straight back in time into 12th century medieval Uncastillo, Spain's finest Romanesque site. Here you'll find no 'Old Town' just a living museum, untouched by the passing of time. Near the once-strategic border of Navarre and Aragón the local area boasts an architectural heritage of immense importance, including the castles of Javier, Olite and the colossal Loarre...[Read More](#)



Stage 7



Region: La Rioja wine region

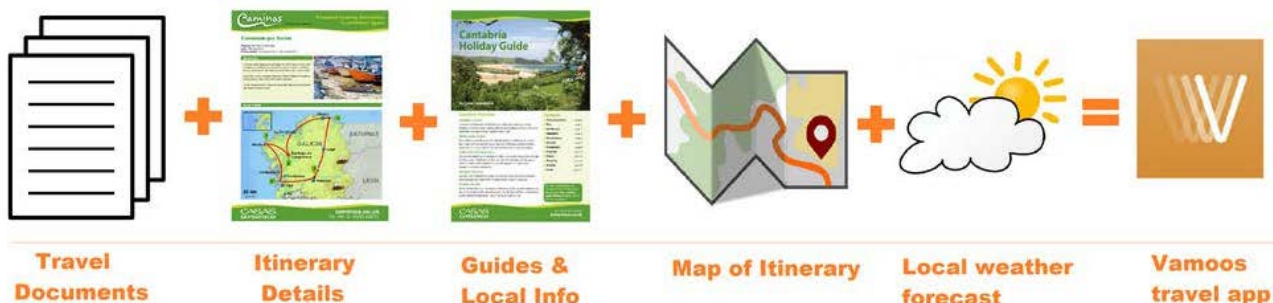
La Rioja Alavesa, where the mountains give shelter to the best wineries
Riojan cuisine- excellent local ingredients with a touch of Basque flair
A history of architecture from cave-dweller to Gehry
Medieval towns such as Laguardia, thriving centers of the wine trade
Dinastia Vivanco Museum of Wine Culture, 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](#)



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"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