

The Toledo Run - Heritage Cities of Castille IC5

Santander - Toledo - Santander

Immerse yourself in Spain's magnificent interior - immense heritage, vast landscapes, epic adventures...

Summary

Starting in Santander or Bilbao this circular trip gives you the opportunity to discover the immensely rich heritage of inland Spain.

This unique tour takes in monumental cathedrals, royal palaces, historic universities and awe-inspiring Roman remains - but it's not all about those 'old stones'...

The immense mountain Sierras of Castille and the enchanting 'dehesa' of Extremadura offer landscapes and wildlife not to be found anywhere else in Europe.

You'll discover a rich living culture and excellent regional gastronomy with wines to match at each stop along the way and a friendly welcome wherever you go.



Your Route

Tour Highlights

- World Heritage at every stop!
- Cathedrals of Burgos and León
- Salamanca – Spain's oldest university city
- Walls of Ávila; Segovia's aqueduct
- Ribera del Duero, Toro, Rioja or Rueda wines
- Historic Cáceres, Trujillo & Roman Mérida
- Toledo 'City of the three cultures'.
- Birdwatching in Monfrague Nature Park

Travel tips

Ferry to Spain

Santander or Bilbao from Portsmouth Plymouth or Rosslare

Flight Connections

To Bilbao - Gatwick, Manchester, Dublin & Bristol

To Santander - Stansted, Dublin & Edinburgh

To Madrid - most UK / international airports



Itinerary Overview

Stage	First Night	Last Night	Location	Hotel, Room *	Travel/drive time
	Tue 01 Ago		Arriving Santander or Bilbao		
1	Day 1 & 2	León	León	HLEO1 Historic hotel in the heart of Leon, 1 x Premium double	3hrs from Santander; 3hrs 20mins Bilbao
2	Day 3 & 4	Salamanca	Salamanca	HSAL5 Historic convent hotel near Cathedral, 1 x Double room (two sharing)	2hrs
3	Day 5 & 6	Cáceres	Cáceres	HPAR7 Parador de Cáceres, 1 x double room (2 sharing)	2hrs
4	Day 7 & 8	Toledo	Toledo	HTDO3 Historic hotel at the heart of Toledo, 1 x double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 30mins
5	Day 9 & 10	Segovia	Segovia	HSEG4 Charming 5-star hotel in Segovia, 1 x double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 40mins (via Ávila)
6	Day 11 & 12	Burgos	Burgos	HBUR3 Palace hotel in central Burgos, 1 x double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 10mins
7	Day 13 & 14	Cantabria	Santillana del Mar	HCUS3 Parador Gil Blas, Santillana, 1 x double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 30mins
	Tue 15 Ago		Departing Santander or Bilbao		30mins to Santander port; 1hr 15mins 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
- Ferry travel (or hire car if flying to Spain)
- Point-to-point directions
- Complementary regional guidebook
- 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: 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 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

Historic convent hotel near Cathedral

Housed in a Dominican convent dating back to the 16th-century this magnificent, 5-star hotel is right in the centre of Salamanca. The Plaza Mayor, Cathedrals, Old & New and all the other main sights are a short walk from the door. The lobby, the library, the bar and some of the more select rooms are located in the original 16th century building, with thick walls, stone arches and a distinctive, Plateresque-style, golden sandstone façade typic...[Read More](#)



Stage 3



Region: Central Extremadura

Ruta de los Conquistadores - Pizarro, Cortés...the conquerors of Latin America

Castillo & Plaza Mayor of Trujillo

Guadalupe, pilgrimage site - enormous monastery, Cathedral and Zurbaran paintings

Caceres, Spain's first listed heritage city

Roman Mérida, once capital of Lusitania UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Monfragüe Nature Park - vast holm and cork oak forests teeming with bird life

Parador de Cáceres

Housed in a 14th century palace, the Parador de Cáceres is located in the heart of the city's old quarter, declared a World Heritage Site. It's just a few minutes' walk from the Main Square, monuments, palaces, house-fortresses, churches as well as shopping streets and bars and restaurants. The elegance of this Renaissance palace is combined with stylish but sober touches which create a relaxed atmosphere. All rooms - 39 spacious rooms i...[Read More](#)



Stage 4



Region: Toledo

Take a walking tour of Toledo old-town with its 13th century cathedral and magnificent Alcazar

Walk up to the Mirador del Valle - the best city photo

Try the Queso Manchego - there's a dedicated museum

Monasterio de San Juan de los Reyes - breathtaking cloister

Puerta de Bisagra - the imposing medieval main gate

Historic hotel at the heart of Toledo

A comfortable and welcoming 4-Star hotel in Toledo located right next to the El Greco Museum in the historic center of the city, an area declared of tourist interest by UNESCO. The hotel is situated in a quiet corner yet easy to access by car and within a short walk you will find the Greater Jewish Quarter, the House of El Greco and the Cathedral. The 57 elegant rooms, some with exposed stone walls or wooden beams are decorated in a style ...[Read More](#)



Stage 5



Region: Segovia

Segovia - Roman Aqueduct, Moorish Alcazar, Cathedral and large Jewish Quarter. Beautiful landscapes

Local lamb and suckling pig

Medieval Pedraza - castle owned by Basque artist Zuloaga

Sepulveda, entrance to Hoces de Duraton, fine Romanesque churches

Sierra de Guadarrama National Park

Hoces del Duratón nature Park - canoe or hike through this breathtaking landscape of steep gorges carved out by the Duraton river

Hermitage of San Frutos - patron of Segovia

La Granja de San Ildelfonso - the Spanish Versailles

Charming 5-star hotel in Segovia

In a truly privileged position high up in Segovia's monumental Old-town, with beautiful panoramic views over the Eresma Valley, the Oblatas Convent, originally occupied by Capuccino monks, has been recently converted into a luxurious five star hotel. The imposing building, which occupies the largest plot in the historic quarter, is just a short walk from the Plaza Mayor, the Cathedral, the Church of San Esteban, and the Antonio Machado H...[Read More](#)



Stage 6



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, Coverrubias....

Palace hotel in central Burgos

Set in an elegant 16th century palace on the southern bank of the Arlanzón river this delightful hotel is the perfect base to discover the charms of Burgos and the treasures of the province beyond. Cross the bridge and within a short walk you can visit the monumental Cathedral and Plaza Mayor, or go along the river to the Monastery of Las Huelgas and the Museum of Human Evolution, or take a stroll and enjoy lovely the parklands alongside the ...[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

Parador Gil Blas, Santillana

The four-star Parador Gil Blas is set at the heart of historic Santillana del Mar - one of Spain's most magical historic places and a great base to discover western coastal Cantabria. This imposing house, a pleasing mix of modern and traditional construction in keeping with the medieval feel of the town is right in the pedestrianised old-town of Santillana del Mar and has its own, renowned restaurant, bar and a lovely courtyard to sit out in. ...[Read More](#)





by Casas Cantabricas

**Personal touring itineraries
in Spain and Portugal**

Travel Notes