



CIE TOURS

NORTHERN SPAIN & PORTUGAL



Porto, Portugal

Immerse yourself in tradition as you journey from Madrid to Lisbon. Discover local wine and cuisine, storied history, inspiring architecture, the ancient Camino de Santiago, and the soulful sounds of Fado.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Aveiro Canal Cruise
- Cider House Dinner in Asturias
- Douro River Cruise
- Fado Dinner & Show
- Guggenheim Museum Bilbao
- Oviedo Cathedral
- Porto Sightseeing
- Port Tasting & Lunch
- Rioja Winery
- San Sebastián Pintxos Experience
- Santiago de Compostela & Cathedral

HOTELS

- Meliá Castilla, Madrid (1)
- Mercure San Sebastián Monte Igueldo, San Sebastián (2)
- Parador de Limpas, Limpas (1)
- Palacio de Avilés, Affiliated by Meliá, Avilés (1)
- Meliá Maria Pita, A Coruña (1)
- Turim Oporto Hotel, Porto (2)
- Eurostars Das Letras, Lisbon (3)

MEALS

11 hot breakfasts (B), 2 lunches (L) and 6 dinners (D)

Changes to the daily itinerary may occur due to weather or attraction availability; your tour director will provide updates.

This is an active destination, with extended walking and standing, stairs, and uneven terrain that may be wet or slippery. Narrow streets and local regulations may require walking longer distances to reach key sites. Good physical mobility is required.



Presenting a special group departure to Spain

12 DAYS | 11 NIGHTS | 19 MEALS

Price is per person, based on double occupancy

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

- Sightseeing by luxury coach with a professional tour director
- All on-tour transportation including shuttles and ferries
- Welcome get-together drink with your group
- Free Wi-Fi on coaches so you can stay connected along the way
- Deluxe documents wallet and backpack to keep you organized
- All local taxes, hotel service charges & handling of one suitcase per person

Optional Travel Protection Insurance is available and payment is due at time of deposit.
Depart North America for Madrid overnight the day before the tour start date.

Air departure tax, fuel & surcharges if applicable, are subject to change until entire group is confirmed and ticketed.

To book or for more information, contact:

Early Booking Promotion - Book by October 7 & save 5%

This tour is subject to CIE Tours' booking guidelines and cancellation penalties. Refer to General Conditions on your CIE Tours group contract. CST# 2021285-50.

NORTHERN SPAIN & PORTUGAL

12-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Madrid Arrival

Meet your tour director at 5:00 PM for a welcome drink at your hotel with your fellow travelers. Your evening is free to explore and dine as you wish. (B, D)

Day 2: Rioja Winery & San Sebastián

Travel north to Rioja, a region renowned for its wine heritage, hilltop medieval towns, and historic charm. Visit one of the region's 500 wineries for a guided tour of the cellars, followed by tastings and lunch. Travel on to San Sebastián, in the heart of the Basque Country, where your evening is free to stroll the seafront promenade and explore the cobblestone streets of the Old Town, dining independently in one of its many cafes and restaurants. (B, L)

Day 3: San Sebastián & Pintxos Experience

Tour central San Sebastián, taking in the lively atmosphere, elegant architecture, and the wide promenade of La Concha. Afterward, enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town featuring a pintxos experience. Your guide will explain this beloved Basque tradition as you visit local bars to sample these flavorful, bite-sized snacks, which you'll savor with a drink. The rest of the day is free to explore and dine as you wish. (B)

Day 4: Guggenheim Museum & Bilbao

Travel to Bilbao for a guided tour of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao; this titanium-clad structure is a masterpiece of modern architecture by American Frank Gehry and a major showcase of contemporary art. Enjoy some free time, perhaps to explore the shops and restaurants along the cobbled streets of the atmospheric Old Town. Continue to your hotel in Limpas, situated in a historic palace with beautiful wooded grounds, where you'll dine on regional Cantabrian cuisine with your group. (B, D)

Day 5: El Capricho de Gaudí, Santillana del Mar & Asturian Cider

Visit El Capricho de Gaudí, an early, playful work by the celebrated architect, rich in intricate details with lush gardens. Continue to Santillana del Mar, recognized as one of Spain's most beautiful villages, for a short tour of its medieval delights and free time for lunch. Next, travel into Asturias and enjoy dinner at a local cider house, tasting local cider poured in the traditional way, with servers tipping the bottle high above their heads to introduce air and volume. (B, D)

Day 6: Oviedo Cathedral & A Coruña

Travel to regal Oviedo, the capital of Asturias with a rich medieval heritage, for a visit to its majestic Cathedral and a short overview of the historic old town. Enjoy free time for lunch. Continue to A Coruña on the Galician coast, where Celtic and Roman heritage blend with dramatic seaside vistas—legend says you can

see Ireland from the first-century Tower of Hercules. See the sights on a panoramic tour. Dine at your beachfront hotel this evening. (B, D)

Day 7: Santiago de Compostela, Cathedral & Porto

Travel to Santiago de Compostela, the historic endpoint of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route. See the city on a walking tour, then visit Santiago Cathedral, a magnificent Romanesque-style structure that has welcomed pilgrims for centuries. Enjoy free time for lunch before continuing into Portugal and arriving in Porto. Take a panoramic tour of this city perched above the Douro River before dining at your hotel this evening. (B, D)

Day 8: Douro River Cruise & Port Tasting

Take a serene, scenic cruise on the Douro River, gliding beneath Porto's bridges and past the colorful riverside quarter of Ribeira, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit Vila Nova de Gaia for a visit to a port house, where you'll enjoy a tasting and lunch, learning about the centuries-old traditions of this famed wine fortified with brandy. Your evening is free to stroll Porto and dine as you please. (B, L)

Day 9: Aveiro, Óbidos & Lisbon

Travel to Aveiro, "The Venice of Portugal," for a short canal cruise. Pass Art Nouveau buildings, salt pans, and the fish market on a traditional, colorfully painted moliceiro boat once used for transporting seaweed. Continue to the medieval walled town of Óbidos, famous for its whitewashed houses, blue-tiled churches, and narrow cobbled streets. After a short orientation tour you'll have free time to explore and enjoy an independent lunch. Travel to Lisbon, Portugal's coastal capital, where you'll have dinner with your group. (B, D)

Day 10: Belém & Fado Dinner

Visit Belém, a historic port district that was busy in the Age of Exploration as sailors ventured forth to discover new trade routes. Tour the city, taking in sights like the ornate Jerónimos Monastery and the Torre de Belém. Return to central Lisbon for a free afternoon to explore independently. Regroup for a farewell dinner at a traditional Fado house, where you'll savor Portuguese cuisine and hear the melancholic, haunting music that expresses Lisbon's soul. (B, D)

Day 11: Independent Exploration

Continue with a day of independent touring in Lisbon on a Hop-On, Hop-Off bus. (B)

Day 12: Tour Ends in Lisbon

Tour ends after breakfast. (B)

AUTHENTIC LOCAL EXPERIENCES

Cruise the serene canals of **Aveiro**, the enchanting "**Venice of Portugal**," aboard a colorful moliceiro boat—once used by locals to harvest seaweed.

Dine at a traditional **Asturian cider house** and savor this refreshing drink, poured from high above the server's head in a dramatic ritual that aerates the cider and enhances its flavor.

Travel along a route intertwining with the storied path of Spain's Camino de Santiago. Visit the magnificent **Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela** – the pilgrims' ultimate destination.

