



# *Northern Spain Tour 2023*

The inimitable sights and flavors of Northern Spain

**June 3-14 , 2023**

**HIGGINS**  
TRAVEL  **LEADERS**



## Saturday, June 3

We leave the USA for Madrid (or earlier so as to spend some time in Madrid and surroundings before the land package program).

## Sunday, June 4

We arrive at Madrid airport where we meet David and Christine to board our tour bus for a transfer to Burgos, our first base. On the way we'll make a stop at Aranda, the capital of the Duero Wine region. Here we'll visit medieval wine cellars where we'll be served a snack lunch with wine tasting. Mid-afternoon we check into Hotel NH Collection Palacio de Burgos in the heart of Burgos, an attractive town in the autonomous community of Castile and León. After free time to unpack and relax, we'll be served a welcome drink followed by dinner at the hotel. Overnight Burgos.

## Monday, June 5

This morning, after breakfast from the buffet, we'll be given a short guided tour of the historical town center with its 800-year-old, UNESCO-heritage cathedral, followed by free time to explore, relax and, possibly, sample some tapas for lunch. In the afternoon we'll take an excursion first to the Carthusian Monastery of Miraflores to admire its 15th century sculptural masterpieces. We then continue to Castrojeriz, an attractive village located on St James's Way. Here we can take a half-hour walk through the village center, following the world-famous, medieval pilgrims' route to Santiago de Compostella. Early evening, we sample the famous Iberico ham, considered to be the world's finest. It is produced from a special breed of pigs that roam the forest gorging on acorns. Dinner will be served in a popular restaurant in Burgos. Overnight Burgos.

## Tuesday, June 6

After breakfast from the buffet, we take a daytrip to Santillana del Mar, a beautiful medieval town located on the Northern pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostella. Its various defense towers and Renaissance palaces make Santillana one of the most important historical areas of Cantabria. After free time for sightseeing, shopping and lunch, we'll visit the nearby Altamira museum, devoted to the history of what is considered the "Sistine Chapel of the Paleolithic Age" and declared a World Heritage site. As some of the cave system's artwork dates back some 36,000 years, in an effort to safeguard it for future generations, the cave has been accurately reproduced for the visitors' benefit. Here we can view copies of the Altamira caves amazing artwork consisting of charcoal drawings and polychrome paintings of contemporary local fauna and human hands. This evenings dinner will be served in Burgos. Overnight Burgos.



# Itinerary continued



## Wednesday, June 7

After breakfast from the buffet, we transfer to Basque Country, stopping en route in the Rioja wine region at the Marques de Riscal winery. Though Riscal has been famed for its wine-making excellence since 1858, it has more recently been spotlighted for the modern-art addition of a hotel designed by Canadian architect Frank O. Gehry. After our tour and wine-tasting, we can spend some free time exploring the attractive town center of nearby Logroño. Late afternoon we'll visit a section of the Basque coastline, known as Flysch. Here, at Zumaia, we'll discover unusual formations resembling dinosaur backs and combed rocks. In the evening we check into Hotel Jaizkibel in the Basque town of Hondarribia. Dinner and overnight Hondarribia.

## Thursday, June 8

After breakfast from the buffet, we join a walking tour of Hondarribia, stretching from its medieval quarters down to its harbor area. We'll then board our bus for an excursion to one of the Basque area's cider farms. After a tour of the facilities, we'll be served a copious regional lunch. Mid-afternoon we'll visit a sheep farm for a hands-on cheese-making experience. This evening we can enjoy a Pinchos dinner on our own in Hondarribia.

## Friday, June 9

After breakfast from the buffet, we'll take a private boat trip to St Jean de Luz in France. This handsome town holds a colorful produce market today, making our visit all the more attractive. Mid-afternoon we'll return to Hondarribia for free time. This evening we are invited to a local "mens' cooking club" a tradition and institution found only in Basque country. Here it's the men who cook for their families and friends. Our host here will lead a cooking class in regional cuisine. Overnight Hondarribia.

## Saturday, June 10

After breakfast from the buffet, we take a daytrip to the elegant city of San Sebastian with its pedestrian streets, stylish beach promenade, indoor food market and pintxos (Basque tapas) eateries. Mid-afternoon return to Hondarribia for free time. Dinner at hotel.

## Sunday, June 11

After breakfast from the buffet, we transfer to Barcelona. On the way we make a stop at Pamplona, a town made world-famous by its annual "running of the bulls." After free time, we continue toward our destination, making a stop in Huesca's medieval old town for lunch. Dinner and overnight Barcelona.



## Monday, June 12

After breakfast from the buffet, we transfer to Monistrol where we take the funicular up to the perched Monastery of Monserrat at over 3,000 ft above sea-level. At this ancient place of prayer and meditation we can see the 12th century Madonna of Montserrat and listen to the beautiful boys' choir. After free time for lunch, perhaps to take the short funicular ride to the very peak of the mountain. In the afternoon we tour the Cordoniu, owned by a family of winegrowers going back to the XVI century. It is the oldest family winemaking business in Spain and one of the oldest in the world. Highlights here are the property's 20th century architecture, its miles of underground cellars and, of course, the tasting of these excellent champagne-method wines. This evening we'll enjoy dinner, as well as a Flamenco Show in Barcelona. Overnight Barcelona.

## Tuesday, June 13

After breakfast from the buffet, we'll be offered a guided tour of Barcelona that includes Antoni Gaudi's extraordinary Sagrada Familia cathedral (outside visit), Gaudi's masterpiece, the Battlo House and the city's other must-see attractions. The afternoon is free for exploring, shopping and relaxing. Farewell dinner and overnight Barcelona.

## Wednesday, June 14

This morning we transfer to nearby Barcelona airport for our flight home or we extend our stay in Spain.

## Included:

- 10 nights in first class hotels
- 10 breakfasts (9 breakfasts if departure flight from Barcelona is too early)
- 9 dinners of regional specialties
- 1 lunch of regional specialties and wine
- 1 lunch of regional specialties and cider
- Welcome drink
- 2 winery tours and tastings
- Tour management throughout
- Private coach transportation throughout
- Road tolls, parking fees
- Local guides in Burgos, Hondarribia, San Sebastian and Barcelona
- Boat trip to France
- All admission fees and special activities as per program
- Local bed tax
- Gratuities for included meals

# Places & Attractions



## The famous Iberico ham

This recent phenomenon is confirmed by the fact that Barcelona in Catalunya and San Sebastian in the Basque region have become Spain's leaders in Michelin-starred restaurants.

Spain's Northeast can boast more than its fair share of fascinating historic towns, cultural attractions and sightseeing highlights. Surprisingly to many, these regions – Basque Country in particular – are attracting food lovers as much as cultural tourists.



## Funicular to Monserrat Monastery

A perfect accompaniment to its excellent cuisine, the wines of northeast Spain reared in Rioja, Navarra, Rivera del Duero and the Penedes regions have increasingly gleaned international recognition as counting among Spain's best.



## Cava: miles of sparkling wine coolers

We shall also have the unique opportunity to take a privileged behind-the-scenes look at one of Basque Country's unusual traditions: the men's cooking clubs where only men cook for their families or friends.



## Flamenco Performance in Barcelona



# Places & Attractions



**36,000-yr-old Cave Art**



**World Heritage Coastline**



**Burgos Art Treasure**



**On Saint James's Way**

# Pricing



## Cost

**\$4,759 per person/double occupancy**

**\$5,870 single occupancy**

**Prices are land only. Airfare will be booked at a later date once it becomes available and subject to current pricing.**

## Payment Information

A non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person is due with your registration to reserve your spot. Because of the group nature of the trip, payments must be made by cash or check. Please make your check payable to Higgins Travel Leaders.

**FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE Mar 15, 2023**

## Travel insurance

Travel Insurance is optional but highly encouraged. Insurance cost is on an individual basis. Please contact Denise at Higgins Travel Leaders for a quote. It is best if Travel Insurance is purchased at the time of initial deposit.

## Cancellation policy

- From the time of deposit until March 15, 2023, your deposit and insurance (if purchased) is non-refundable.
- From March 16, 2023 until trip departure your entire trip is non-refundable as hotel payments are done in advance.

**Note: You must possess a valid US Passport for the trip and it must be valid a minimum of 6 months from your return date to the US. (12.13.2022)**

Responsibility: This tour is operated by Higgins Travel & Cruise Center. Ltd. DBA Higgins Travel Leaders at 3410 Oakwood Mall Drive #600, Eau Claire, WI 54701 and Tailor-Made Europe / David and Christine Harper, C/O 101 Churn Road, Bozeman, MT 59715. Higgins Travel Leaders and Harper will act only as agent for tour members in arranging transportation, accommodations, sightseeing and admissions. We reserve the right at our sole discretion to make changes to the itinerary and are not responsible to any person for expense, loss of time or money or other circumstance that result from such a change. Rates are quoted upon tariffs and exchange rates current at time of printing and are subject to change at any time. Should the exchange rate change significantly, the price of the tour may be adjusted. Also, if fuel surcharges are imposed, the price of the tour may be adjusted. We may decline or accept any person as a tour member at any time. Higgins Travel Leaders and Harper will not be responsible for any loss or damage to personal property or for injuries or damages incurred by a tour member. Higgins Travel Leaders and Harper may cancel the tour, should it become necessary, and refund all monies, thus releasing Higgins Travel Leaders and Tailor-Made Europe from any further obligation. We require a minimum of 20 participants to operate this tour or pricing is subject to change.

# Registration



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B: \_\_\_\_\_  
(AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT - FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B: \_\_\_\_\_  
(AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT - FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a photo copy of the inside photo page of each passport with your application.  
(If applying or renewing, send at a later date)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Delta Skymiles Numbers: Traveler #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Traveler #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate if not listed above: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Any special occasion for trip: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Birthday, anniversary, etc while traveling)

## Travel Insurance:

☐ Yes, I wish to purchase optional insurance. ☐ No, I decline cancellation insurance

## Emergency Contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact Denise at  
Higgins Travel Leaders.

Denise@higginstravel.com or 715-834-2686

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