



Douro Valley, Portugal



Bilbao, Spain

## Northern Spain & Portugal: Pilgrimage into the Past

**Spain:** Bilbao, San Sebastian, Pamplona, León, Santiago de Compostela |

**Portugal:** Douro Valley, Porto

**17 days starting from \$6,045**

including international airfare  
from San Francisco or Los Angeles  
Single Supplement: **FREE**

**Departure Date:** March 30, 2025

**Return Date:** April 15, 2025

**Activity Level:**

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Moderate

### ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAYS	DESTINATION
1	Fly to Bilbao, Spain
2-4	Bilbao
5-6	Pamplona
7-8	León
9-11	Santiago de Compostela
12-13	Douro Valley, Portugal
14-16	Porto
17	Return to U.S.



### OPTIONAL EXTENSION

Carcassonne, Bayonne & French Basque Country

PRE-TRIP: 5 nights from **\$2,195**

PLEASE MENTION THIS  
CODE WHEN BOOKING

**G528-708**

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 • Depart U.S.

Fly overnight from the U.S. to Bilbao, Spain.

### DAY 2 • Bilbao, Spain

Arrive in Bilbao, Spain, and meet your Trip Experience Leader and fellow travelers, including those on our optional *Carcassonne, Bayonne & French Basque Country* extension.

### DAY 3 • Bilbao

Get acquainted with Bilbao during an included walking tour. Visit the medieval Old Town, also known as the “Seven Streets” neighborhood, which is home to the Ribera Market—Europe’s largest covered market.

### DAY 4 • Bilbao • Conversation about Basque independence • Guernica • Txakoli wine tasting

Explore the Basque coast, beginning in Guernica where the German Luftwaffe bombed in 1937. Discover the Assembly House and the oak tree that survived the bombings. After, visit a community center for a conversation about the struggle for Basque independence. Then, head to a family-run wine cellar to learn about and taste *txakoli* wine and enjoy a traditional lunch with the owner.

### DAY 5 • Bilbao • San Sebastian excursion • Pamplona

We bid farewell to Bilbao this morning and travel overland to Pamplona, considered the heart of Basque country. Along the way, we’ll stop in San Sebastian, Spain’s gourmet capital. Get to know the city during a walking tour, with stops at the Miramar Gardens, the old quarter, and the local market.

### DAY 6 • Walk the Camino de Santiago • Conversation about the running of the bulls • Pamplona

Explore the Camino de Santiago, one of Europe’s most important pilgrimage routes dating back to the Middle Ages. Then, absorb the culture of Pamplona, a city made famous by the running of the bulls during the San Fermín festival, with a walking tour led by a local resident who will discuss the controversy surrounding this local tradition. We’ll conclude our tour at Café Iruna, Hemingway’s beloved haunt on Plaza del Castillo.

## IT’S INCLUDED

- 15 nights accommodations
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- All land transportation
- 32 meals—15 breakfasts, 9 lunches, and 8 dinners (including 1 Home-Hosted Lunch)
- 15 small group activities
- Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters for 1 piece of luggage
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next adventure

### DAY 7 • Ubidea • Overland to León

Today we travel overland to León with a stop along the way in Ubidea, one of the smallest towns in Basque Country. As you stroll along its ancient streets, you may feel as though you’ve stepped back into the Middle Ages. We’ll set out to explore Ubidea’s archaeological center, meeting with an archaeologist and visiting the laboratory to learn what the skeletal remains from this region can tell us about the past and the present. After lunch, continue onward to León.

### DAY 8 • A Day in the Life of a Spanish farm • León

Spend *A Day in the Life* of a rural Spanish farm. After meeting the farm’s owner, we’ll explore the property, see the animals, and sit down to a farm-fresh lunch. Later, set on a discovery walk in León. Originally founded as a Roman military base, the city was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its place in history as the first established location of a European parliament. During our walk, witness the city’s long history, with a mix of medieval, Gothic, Renaissance, and Modernist architecture. Among the many highlights is the 13th-century “House of Light,” León Cathedral.



Porto, Portugal



Santiago de Compostela, Spain

### **DAY 9 • Santiago de Compostela**

Travel to Santiago de Compostela, the culmination of the *camino*. Along the way, we'll stop in Santa Colomba de Somoza, a small village nestled in the historical region of la Maragatería. Residents of this remote region of Spain are known as Maragatos, and they are believed to be the last living descendants of the North African Berbers who arrived in Iberia in the eighth century. We'll visit a local beekeeper and have lunch with a Maragoto family before continuing on to Santiago.

### **DAY 10 • Santiago**

Today, explore Santiago de Compostela, the city that has been the destination of many pilgrims. According to legend, a ninth-century shepherd witnessed a moving star and followed it, the light eventually leading him to a burial site. The local bishop examined the bones found there and proclaimed them to be those of James the Great, the patron saint of Spain. Hearing the news, the Spanish king ordered a cathedral be built on the spot, and hence the *camino* first came into being.

### **DAY 11 • Santiago • Optional Pontevedra & Combarro tour**

Explore on your own today, or join an optional tour to the riverside city of Pontevedra and Combarro, a fishing village famous for its *hórreos*, traditional stone grain stores on stilts.

### **DAY 12 • Douro Valley • Chaves • Home-Hosted Lunch**

Today, we leave Spain and depart for Portugal's Douro Valley. Our first stop across the border is in Chaves. With evidence of human occupation as early as the Paleolithic era, and continuously occupied since the Roman era, Chaves was known for two things: its hot springs and its military value. Forts, battlements, and towers ranging from the medieval era to the 18th century dot the landscape. Later, savor an authentic slice of Portuguese life during a **Home-Hosted Lunch** with a local family in Chaves.

### **DAY 13 • Discover Douro Valley • Douro River cruise • Quinta visit**

Set off to explore port wine country along the Douro River. Our first stop of the day is to Pinhão. From there, we'll get to see the Douro Valley from a different perspective: by boat. During our 45-minute cruise, enjoy views of the rolling hills, terraced vineyards, and Portuguese countryside as they pass you by. Next, we'll visit a *quinta* (wine farm) to trace the path of port from grape to glass. We'll also enjoy lunch at the vineyard.

### **DAY 14 • Porto**

Travel west to coastal Porto, and enjoy a panoramic driving tour to see some of its famous sites and buildings. Then, we'll explore Porto's 2,000-year-old streets on foot. We'll discover the Palácio da Bolsa:

Serving as the city's stock market, this Neo-classical building and UNESCO World Heritage Site was constructed in the 19th century, after a fire destroyed the Franciscan convent that originally stood on the spot.

### **DAY 15 • Porto • Optional Arouca tour**

Explore Porto at your own pace today. Or join us for an optional tour of the Arouca Bridge and Geopark—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—before making our way to Arouca Monastery.

### **DAY 16 • Porto • Portuguese youth emigration conversation**

Enjoy a walking tour of Porto, and visit landmarks like the Parque das Virtudes and the Clérigos Church. Then, meet with local students to discuss how educated young people seem to be rapidly emigrating from Portugal.

### **DAY 17 • Return to U.S.**

Depart for the airport for your return flight home, or to begin our post-trip extension to *Lisbon, Sintra Palace & Seaside Cascais*.



Carcassonne, France

# Carcassonne, Bayonne & French Basque Country

5 nights pre-trip from **\$2,195** Only **\$439** per night

Single Supplement: **FREE**

## DAY 1 • Depart U.S.

Fly overnight to Toulouse, France.

## DAY 2 • Arrive Toulouse, France • Transfer to Carcassonne

Today, arrive in Toulouse, where an O.A.T. representative will meet you at the airport and assist in your transfer to Carcassonne.

## DAY 3 • Explore Carcassonne

This morning, we'll gather for a Welcome Briefing at the hotel before we get to know Carcassonne during a walking tour. We'll stroll through La Cité before we stop into a local café for coffee. This evening, we'll gather for a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

## DAY 4 • Explore Carcassonne • Optional Albi tour

After breakfast, enjoy the day pursuing independent discoveries in Carcassonne. Or, you can join an optional tour to Albi, a medieval town perched on the banks of the Tarn River.

## DAY 5 • Carcassonne • Overland to Bayonne

This morning, we depart for Bayonne, pausing en route to explore Auch. We continue on to Bayonne this afternoon.

## DAY 6 • Explore Bayonne • Discover Basque Country

This morning, we'll explore Bayonne on a walking tour. We'll enjoy an in-depth discovery of life in Basque Country, beginning in Laressore, a village on the Nive River. Here, we visit a workshop specializing in the *makhila*, the walking stick with a secret weapon inside. Later, we'll visit Espellete, a town that makes the red pepper that flavors Bayonne ham.

## DAY 7 • Bayonne • Overland to Bilbao, Spain • Begin main trip

We set off for Biarritz, the chic seaside playground of French Basque Country. Then, we journey to Saint-Jean-de-Luz, where the 17th- and 18th-century architecture gives testimony to the heyday of Basque shippers and traders. We continue on to Bilbao, Spain, to join our fellow travelers for the main trip.

Learn more at [www.oattravel.com/spg-carcassonne-bayonne-2025](http://www.oattravel.com/spg-carcassonne-bayonne-2025)

*Please note: This extension may not be available on all departures.*

## IT'S INCLUDED

- Accommodations for 5 nights
- 9 meals—5 breakfasts and 4 lunches
- 7 small group activities
- Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- All transfers



Porto, Portugal

## 2025 Departure Date & Prices

Additional departure cities are available

**DEPARTURE: MAR 30, 2025**  
**RETURN: APRIL 15, 2025**

Small Group Adventure only	\$4,795
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### AIR ADD-ON

San Francisco or Los Angeles	\$1,250
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Additional departure cities are available. Call for details.

**Deposit:** \$500 Deposit per person.

**Single Supplement:** FREE. Single accommodations are limited. If single rooms are full, ask about our Roommate Matching Service.

**Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure, in late December 2024**

### RESERVATIONS & INFORMATION:

# 1-800-955-1925

*DATES, PRICES, ITINERARIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

**PLEASE MENTION THIS CODE WHEN BOOKING** **G528-708**

## Here's how you'll save with our exclusive Good Buy Plan:

when you pay in by check or ACH based on a trip price of \$6,500 per person

Months That You Pay in Full Prior to Your Final Payment Due Date (90 days prior to your departure date)	Guarantee Your Price and Receive:	Good Buy Plan Savings Per Person:	Good Buy Savings Per Couple:
12 months or more	10% off	\$650	\$1,300
11 months	9% off	\$585	\$1,170
10 months	8% off	\$520	\$1,040
9 months	7.5% off	\$488	\$975
8 months	6% off	\$390	\$780
7 months	5% off	\$325	\$650
6 months	4% off	\$260	\$520
5 months	3% off	\$195	\$390
Make your final payment by check within 120 days	\$50 off	\$50	\$50

Good Buy Plan savings are calculated based on total reservation cost.

**GOVERNMENT TAXES AND FEES** The following government taxes and fees are now included in your airfare price. Government and other authority taxes and fees: September 11th Security Fee of up to \$2.50 USD applies per passenger, per flight segment (maximum charge per trip—\$5.00 USD one-way, \$10.00 USD round trip). A flight segment is defined as one takeoff and one landing. Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) of up to \$18 per passenger. Federal Domestic Flight Segment Fee of up to \$3.70 USD applies per passenger, per flight segment (defined as a takeoff and a landing). U.S. or International Departure and Arrival Charges of up to \$200 USD may apply depending on itinerary. On select itineraries that include the purchase of a pre- and/or post-trip extension, U.S. or international departure and arrival charges of up to \$300 USD may apply. Call for details. Standard Policies and Terms & Conditions apply; see [www.oattravel.com/tc](http://www.oattravel.com/tc) for details. See [www.oattravel.com/disclaimers](http://www.oattravel.com/disclaimers) for full policy details. Every effort has been made to publish this information accurately. We reserve the right to correct errors.

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