

# A WELL-KEPT SECRET: SPAIN'S NORTHERN COAST

Porto – Santiago – La Coruña – Oviedo – Bilbao – Burgos – Madrid

April 26 – May 9, 2019 (14 days)



*Hotel Marqués de Riscal, Elciego*



*Santa Maria del Naranco, Oviedo*  
© Turismo Asturias



*Santiago de Compostela* © Luis Miguel Bugallo Sanchez (Lmbuga)

## Highlights:

- Get a taste of Portugal with a stay in the ancient port city of Porto, dramatically situated at the mouth of the Douro River on the Atlantic coast.
- Explore the lesser-known regions of Galicia, Asturias, the Basque Country and Castile and León. With elegant cities, rolling green hills, rugged coastal cliffs, fishing villages and delectable cuisine and wines, the north of Spain offers a remarkable contrast to the rest of the country.
- Discover breathtaking cutting-edge architecture at Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum, the Ysios Winery and Marqués de Riscal wine cellars.



**SPECIAL  
TRAVEL  
INTERNATIONAL**

## SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL

4603 Main Street, Vancouver, BC V5V 3R6, Canada

Tel: 604 291 1332 or 1800 665 0998 Fax: 604 291 1378

Email: [sti@sticanada.com](mailto:sti@sticanada.com) website: [www.sticanada.com](http://www.sticanada.com)

# ITINERARY

## Day 1 / Fri, Apr 26 / DEPART CANADA

Depart for Europe.

## Day 2 / Sat, Apr 27 / ARRIVE PORTO

After arrival at Porto Airport, transfer to your hotel. Time to relax before dinner. (D)

## Day 3 / Sun, Apr 28 / PORTO

This morning, enjoy a tour of **Porto's** historic centre, known for its curved streets and blend of Moorish and Roman influences. See the Romanesque Porto cathedral – also known as the Sé – and stroll along Aliados Avenue to see the monument to King Peter IV. Continue to the historic Ribeira Square and embark on a short cruise on the Douro. Discover Porto's bridges from the water, including the iconic Ponte de Dom Luis I, an iron double-decker bridge designed by Gustave Eiffel's protégé. View the traditional wooden rabelo boats that once were used to transport grapes to the cellars where winemakers make famous Port (fortified wine). Afternoon at leisure to further explore Porto on your own. (B,D)

## Day 4 / Mon, Apr 29 / PORTO – SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Depart Porto and drive along the river to **Entre-os-Rios** on the confluence of the rivers Douro and Tâmega, and across the mountain. Enjoy a wine tasting and lunch at the **Quinta da Aveleda Winery** and walk through its beautiful gardens.

Continue to the charming medieval town of **Guimarães** for a tour of its UNESCO-listed town centre. Late afternoon arrival in **Santiago de Compostela**, Spain. (B,L,D)

## Day 5 / Tue, Apr 30 / SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

The final stop on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail, **Santiago de Compostela** receives hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. Learn about the religious significance and cultural history of Galicia's capital while you explore the city, which features dazzling examples of Gothic, Neo-classical, Romanesque and Baroque design.

Visit the monumental cathedral, which houses the earthly remains of St. James the Greater (Santiago), who brought Christianity to Spain. Admire the Pórtico de la Gloria inside the main entrance, featuring 200 figures referring to the Apocalypse. Afternoon at leisure. (B,D)

## Day 6 / Wed, May 1 / SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA – LA CORUÑA

Head to the spectacular **Costa da Morte** on the Galician coast. Stop at **Finisterre**, a famous ancient port and fishing village at the westernmost point of Galicia. Continue to the stone-built fishing village of **Muxía**, a popular extension to the Camino de Santiago thanks to the belief that the Virgin Mary appeared to St. James while he was preaching here.

Early afternoon arrival in **La Coruña**. Enjoy a tour of the city centre, which sits on an isthmus straddled by the port on its southeast side and the main ocean beaches on the northwest. An irregularly shaped peninsula extends 2km north out to the city's Roman lighthouse – the Torre de Hércules. (B,D)

## Day 7 / Thu, May 2 / LA CORUÑA – OVIEDO

Depart La Coruña. Stop at the **Playa de las Catedrales** on the Cantabria coast. Its extraordinary natural rock formations resemble the soaring arches found in Gothic cathedrals and are only revealed at low tide. Stop at the picturesque seaside village of **Cudillero** for lunch.

Continue to **Gijón**, a city with more than 5,000 years of history on the Bay of Biscay, for a walking guided tour. Late afternoon arrival in Oviedo, Asturias. (B,D)

## Day 8 / Fri, May 3 / OVIEDO

This morning, enjoy a city tour of **Oviedo**. The innovative pre-Romanesque style of Asturias, a precursor to the Romanesque and Gothic styles, is a heritage unique to the province. Afternoon at leisure to further explore Oviedo's museums and parks on your own. (B,D)



#### Day 9 / Sat, May 4 / OVIEDO – BILBAO

Depart Oviedo for the **Cave of Altamira**, renowned for its numerous parietal cave paintings featuring charcoal drawings and polychrome paintings of local fauna and human hands, created during the Upper Paleolithic. The earliest paintings in the cave were executed around 15,500 years ago.

Time for lunch in the nearby medieval village of **Santillana del Mar**, where you will have some time to walk along its bright cobbled streets and admire its flower-filled balconies and huddle of tanned stone and brick buildings. Continue to **Bilbao** – one of the great treasures of the Basque country. (B,D)

#### Day 10 / Sun, May 5 / BILBAO

Morning guided tour of **Bilbao**. Visit the old town (Casco Viejo) and see the cathedral of Santiago and the Mercado de la Ribera. Then, visit Bilbao's most impressive modern masterpiece – the iconic **Guggenheim Museum**. Designed by architect Frank Gehry, the museum opened to the public in 1997 and is one of the most important structures of contemporary architecture. Discover its impressive collection of modern and contemporary art.

This afternoon, drive to the village of **Guernica**, whose bombing in 1937 during the Civil War inspired Picasso's famous mural-sized oil painting. Visit the Peace Museum, before returning to Bilbao. (B,D)

#### Day 11 / Mon, May 6 / BILBAO – BURGOS

Depart Bilbao and drive through the Rioja wine-producing region. Enjoy a guided tour and a wine tasting at **Ysios Winery**. Designed by architect Santiago Calatrava as a "temple dedicated to wine", it features an aluminium wave for a roof and a cedar exterior that blends into the mountainous backdrop.

Continue to the town of **Elciego**, and stop at the **Marqués de Riscal wine cellars**, a colossal project brought to life with the special contribution by Canadian architect Frank O. Gehry. A wine tasting will follow your guided tour. Late afternoon arrival in **Burgos**, Castile and León. (B,D)

#### Day 12 / Tue, May 7 / BURGOS – MADRID

Enjoy a guided tour of **Burgos** – the historic capital of Castile and a major stopping point on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route. Visit the extraordinary Gothic cathedral of Burgos, a masterpiece of Spanish Gothic architecture which dominates the city.

This afternoon, drive to **Madrid**, the Spanish capital. (B,D)

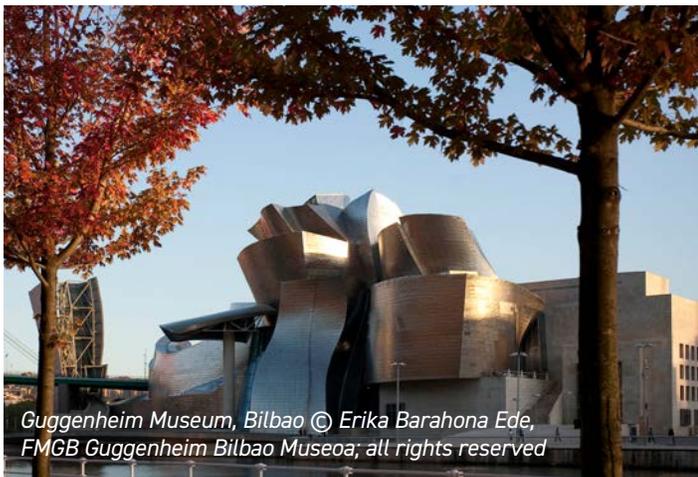
#### Day 13 / Wed, May 8 / MADRID

Discover **Madrid's** rich history and culture on a morning city tour. Follow its evolution from the Moorish times into the Habsburg and Bourbon periods, during which the city's palaces and central squares like Plaza Mayor and Puerto del Sol changed dramatically. Visit the **Royal Palace**, official residence of the Spanish monarchy from 1765 to 1931. To date, the most stunning receptions of the Spanish Crown are celebrated here – audiences, dinner parties, signature of agreements and the traditional ceremony of presentation of Credential Letters from foreign ambassadors to His Majesty the King.

Afternoon at leisure to further explore the Spanish capital on your own and do some shopping. Celebrate the conclusion of the tour with a farewell tapas dinner and flamenco show at **Tablao Flamenco**. (B,D)

#### Day 14 / Thu, May 9 / DEPART MADRID – ARRIVE CANADA

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to Canada. (B)



## TOUR COSTS in CAD

Per person, based on twin occupancy:

**From Vancouver**                 **\$4,790**

**From Calgary/Edmonton**       **\$4,790**

**From Toronto/Montreal**       **\$4,590**

*For other cities, please contact our office for a quote.*

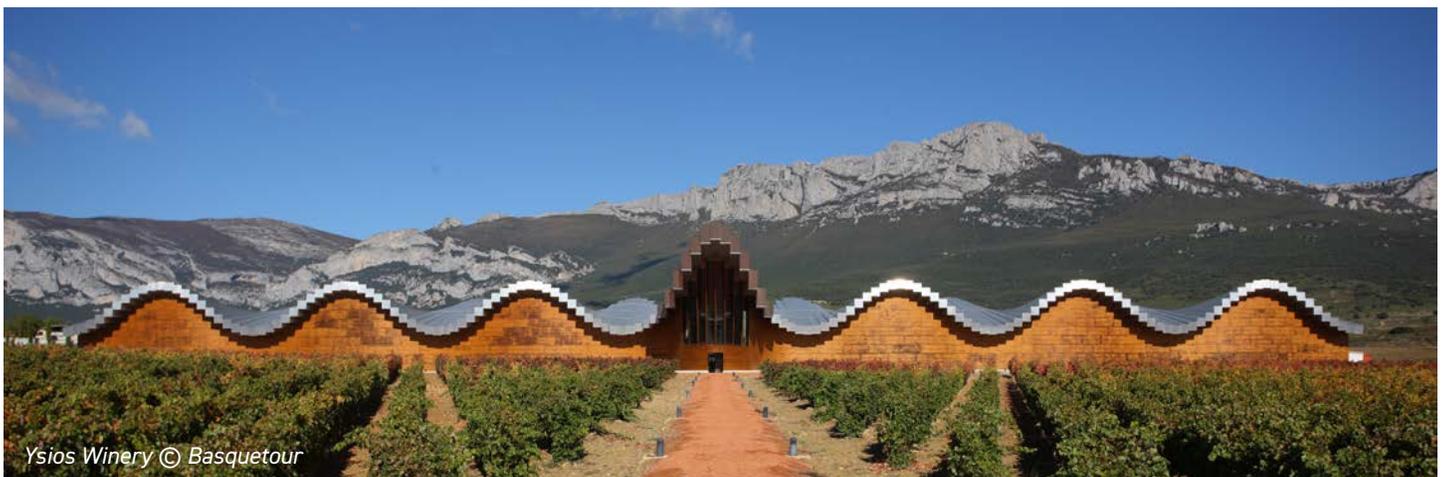
**Single supplement**               **\$1,100**

## INCLUDED

- Return international economy airfare  
Canada – Porto; Madrid – Canada
- Private coach transportation throughout
- Accommodation in comfortable 3- and 4-star hotels
- Meals as per itinerary  
(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- English-speaking guide throughout
- Comprehensive sightseeing including local guides  
and admission fees as per itinerary

## NOT INCLUDED

- Air taxes
- Travel insurance
- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Drinks with meals
- Hotel portorage
- Gratuities for drivers and guides
- Items of a personal nature



# RESERVATION FORM

**A WELL-KEPT SECRET: SPAIN'S NORTHERN COAST**

**April 26 - May 9, 2019**

Please fill out this form in full and mail it with your deposit of \$800.00 and travel insurance payment for each traveller. Travel insurance is optional but recommended. Please write name(s) exactly as listed in passport (e.g.: William, not 'Bill').

TRAVELLER #1		TRAVELLER #2	
Mr/Mrs/Ms	First name	Mr/Mrs/Ms	First name
	Middle name(s)		Middle name(s)
	Last name		Last name
Date of birth:	dd/mmm/yyyy	Date of birth:	dd/mmm/yyyy
City + country of birth:		City + country of birth:	
Passport #:		Passport #:	
Passport expiry date:	dd/mmm/yyyy	Passport expiry date:	dd/mmm/yyyy
Passport issuing country:		Passport issuing country:	
Preferred first name (for name tag):		Preferred first name (for name tag):	

## ADDRESS

Street:	
City:	Province/State:
Postal code:	Country:
Cell #:	Home #:
Email:	
Accommodation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Double <input type="checkbox"/> Twin <input type="checkbox"/> Sharing with:
Seating preference on aircraft:	<input type="checkbox"/> Aisle <input type="checkbox"/> Window
Special dietary meal request:	(where available)
Next of kin (in case of emergency):	Phone #:

## TRAVEL INSURANCE (to be purchased at time of deposit)

<input type="checkbox"/> All Inclusive <input type="checkbox"/> Trip Cancellation <input type="checkbox"/> Declined
Amount of premium (see next page): \$ .....

## PAYMENT

<input type="checkbox"/> Please make cheques payable to: <b>SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL</b> 4603 Main Street Vancouver, BC V5V 3R6 Canada Tel: 604 291 1332 or 1800 665 0998
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa/MasterCard (a 2% service fee applies to payments made by credit card)
Card #:
Expiry date:
Name on card:
Amount to be charged: \$ .....

**I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the brochure.**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

## RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

\$800 pp deposit due at time of booking  
2nd installment of \$800 pp due by October 26, 2018  
Balance due by February 26, 2019  
Travel documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

## TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

## CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI). The deposit of \$800 is non-refundable. The following scale of charges will apply when cancellation is received prior to departure:

Until Oct 25, 2018	\$800
Oct 26, 2018 – Feb 25, 2019	\$1,600
Feb 26 – Mar 25, 2019	75%
From Mar 26, 2019	100%

*NB: different payment/cancellation policy applies to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.*

## TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travel.

## RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents and visas are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

## AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes or conveyances. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.

# TRAVEL INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Following are the main areas of coverage with Allianz Global Assistance and the two packages we offer for this trip. Please carefully read the brochure you will receive after booking for full details. For insurance purposes the key point is that you are in good health. PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS are not covered. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like further information. Please note that travellers need to have current Provincial Health Plan coverage in order to qualify for the ALL-INCLUSIVE insurance package.

The ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGE consists of:

- Cancellation & Interruption
- Flight Accident
- Emergency Medical (\$5 Million limit)
- Travel Accident
- Baggage & Personal Effects

If you wish you may also choose the CANCELLATION & INTERRUPTION insurance alone. This plan is suitable if you have sufficient medical coverage already and rates apply to any trip length.

NB: These premiums are guidelines. The exact premium will depend on your total tour cost (including final airfare with taxes, additional expenses such as single supplement, extra nights at the hotels etc.). At time of booking we will provide the applicable premium for your situation. Insurance rates are valid at time of printing and are subject to change. Premiums are quoted per person, in CAD, and subject to Provincial Sales Tax (8% Ontario, 9% Quebec, 7% Manitoba).

### OPTION 1: THE ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGE

TOUR COST	AGES				
	0-60	61-65	66-70	71-76	77+
\$5,000	\$348.00	\$489.00	\$590.00	\$559.00	\$1,239.00

### OPTION 2: CANCELLATION + INTERRUPTION INSURANCE

TOUR COST	AGES					
	0-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80+
\$5,000	\$250.00	\$289.50	\$326.00	\$372.50	\$495.00	\$592.50



**SPECIAL  
TRAVEL  
INTERNATIONAL**

## SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL

4603 Main Street, Vancouver, BC V5V 3R6, Canada  
Tel: 604 291 1332 or 1800 665 0998 Fax: 604 291 1378  
Email: sti@sticanada.com website: www.sticanada.com