

Celebration · ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

11 Day Frank Gehry Masterpiece & Wines of Spain

Discover the Markets of Seville with a Private Chef and Sample the Finest Wines of La Rioja



CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR DATES – FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS – 11 DAY ITINERARY

Set in the rocky cliffs overlooking La Concha Bay, three monumental pieces of steel converge in a comb-like formation, a man-made emblem of San Sebastian. In Spain's Basque Country, be welcomed to a dynamic culture where cobblestone neighborhoods lie alongside contemporary art destinations in a breathtaking and celebratory environment.

"Everything you can imagine is real." - Pablo Picasso

Traverse along the mountainous limestone valleys of La Rioja, where families craft fine tempranillos and grenaches and Michelin-starred chefs create bite-sized delicacies, perfecting the art of molecular gastronomy. Venture through Jerez de la Frontera, the founding home of Sherry wine, and to Andalusia, where Roman, Moorish and Christian history are threaded in its vibrant architecture, and stomping flamenco heels can be heard dancing across the streets of Seville.

www.celebraionescapes.com

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An 11 Day Itinerary: Spain: San Sebastian, La Rioja, Basque Country, Seville

ARRIVAL DAY 1: Bilbao & San Sebastian



Arrival at the Bilbao Airport / Flight details to be Determined

Meet your guide outside the arrival gate, who will be holding a sign board with your names on it.

Your private English-speaking guide will escort you through customs and immigration and then through the airport to the Arrival Hall where you will meet your private English-speaking driver who will transfer you to your hotel & continue with you throughout the day's touring experiences.

Bilbao Highlights Guided Tour



Along the Nervion River lies the Basque capital of Bilbao, a medieval city that in recent decades has been transformed into a symbol of urban regeneration.

Visit architectural highlights of Bilbao, including the maze-like Old Quarter with its trademark manor houses, the crossroads of the Seven Streets, Sir Norman Foster's designed Metro station and the tier-arched Zubizuri footbridge. Be welcomed into the steel-framed temple of modern art at the Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim Museum for a lectured visit about the architecture and the major works of the museum's collection.

Then lunch in the Guggenheim Restaurant, under the direction of Michelin-starred chef, Martin Berasategui.

Conclude your day trip with a visit to the serene Bilbao's Fine Arts Museum, located inside the city's Doña Casilda Iturrizar Park.

- Visit the Guggenheim Museum (Please note the Guggenheim Museum is

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- closed on Mondays except in July and August)
- Visit the city centre, Old quarter, Norman Foster subway and the new architecture by the riverbed
- Local expert guide (4 hours)
- Entrance fees to sites

After the tour, your driver will transfer you to San Sebastian.

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will be welcomed with a VIP private check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

The rest of your day is at leisure to explore on your own or relax in your hotel.

Dinner at leisure in one of San Sebastian's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

DAY 2: San Sebastian

Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking guide in the lobby of your hotel for your morning walking tour.

San Sebastian Highlights Walking Tour:



Venture to the heart of the Basque region for a city tour of San Sebastian. From the narrow, cobbled streets of the Old Quarter to the Baroque church of Santa Maria, visit the city's most vibrant attractions, including its spectacular cultural complex, Rafael Moneo's "El Kursaal" and its neo-classical market, El Bretxa.

At the base of Mount Igueldo overlooking the glistening La Concha Bay, named for its shell-like shape of sand, glimpse Eduardo Chillida's sculptural masterpiece, "Los Peines del Viento."

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Then ascend in a funicular for panoramic vistas of the city and the Bay of Biscay. Conclude your day spending time perusing a selection of San Sebastian's most fashionable boutiques.

Visit the old quarter, La Concha, San Vicente, Santa Maria del Coro and el Buen Pastos churches

Visit also Plaza de La Constitucion and Alameda Boulevard

- Local expert guide
- Entrance fees to sites
- Local taxi transportation if necessary

You will be returned to your hotel where the rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to explore on your own or relax in the hotel.

Dinner at leisure in one of San Sebastian's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

DAY 3: San Sebastian - Pamplona

Breakfast at the hotel

9:00AM – **After breakfast**, meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your Private Transfer to Pamplona (1 hr.)

10:00AM Arrival in Pamplona. Your private English-speaking professional local guide will be waiting for you upon arrival.

10:15AM - 1:30 PM Full day guided walking tour in Pamplona MARCOS:

Private Walking Tour of Pamplona



Walk the streets of Pamplona, the home of summer's annual San Fermin, the Running of the Bulls. Learn about the history and architecture of the city, the original capital of the "Old Kingdom" of Navarra.

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The streets and squares of its historic quarter still preserve a significant collection of monumental buildings dominated by its churches and medieval walls.

Visit the old quarter, the bullring and the cathedral. Learn about San Fermín, Hemingway and the Fiesta.

1:30 PM Lunch in Town (Cost of food not included)



Continue your day with a visit to the vineyards, winery and cellars of the Palacio de Muruzabal winery, where an oenologist, Adolfo Merino, will conduct a tasting on the patio of the palace.

5:00 PM Drive back to San Sebastian anytime you wish

6:00 PM Estimated Arrival at the hotel

The remainder of the day is at your leisure to relax in your hotel or explore on your own.

Dinner at leisure in one of San Sebastian's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

DAY 4: San Sebastian – Rioja Region

Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of the hotel for your transfer to El Ciego.

10:00AM: Private Transfer to to El Ciego (1 hour and 50 minutes)

12:00PM: Arrival:

Upon arrival in El Ciego, you will be welcomed with a private VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation. (3 nights)

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After check-in your private English-speaking driver and professional local guide will escort you on a day of winery tours, wine tastings, culinary & wine experiences throughout the Rioja Region.



the estate.

In the charming village of Briones in the heart of La Rioja stands the Dinastia Vivanco Wine Museum. The largest wine museum in the world, this ambitious family-run institution traces the history of wine from ten thousand years ago through modern times. Housed alongside the Dinastia Vivanco bodega, enjoy a tasting of bright tempranillos or expressive grenaches before **lunch on**

In the afternoon, your private driver will take you to Haro in the center of the Rioja Alta region for a tasting at the family-owned Lopez de Heredia. One of La Rioja's oldest and most respected wineries, it is renowned worldwide for its signature white Tondonia, a complex blend of Viura and Malvasia grapes.

Pass through La Sonsierra, and Labastida. Visit the town of Laguardia and enjoy a wine tasting at Visit El Fabulista Winery.

Continue on to Haro and enjoy a wine tasting at the family-owned Lopez de Heredia.

7:00PM: Transfer back to your hotel (1/2 hour)

Dinner at leisure in one of San Sebastian's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

The remainder of the evening you are at leisure to relax in your hotel.

DAY 5: San Sebastian – Rioja Region

Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, meet your private English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your full day tour.

9:30 AM - 5:30 PM Full day excursion to La Rioja: The future of Rioja Wines Tour

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Blessed with one of the largest wetlands in the western Mediterranean, with its signature rolling hills and sunny climate, the La Rioja region of Spain boasts ideal conditions for the creation of extraordinary wines.

Begin a day's tour of one of the most outstanding wine regions in the world with a visit to the landmark, ultra-modern Ysios Winery in Alava. Built by the Valencian architect Santiago de Calatrava, its undulating façade seamlessly blends in with the mountainous landscape behind it, and provides a spectacular setting for a flight of its reserve blend.

Lunch at leisure in one of San Sebastian's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

Afterwards, travel to the walled hilltop town of Laguardia. With commanding views of Navarra below, it is home of La Rioja's oldest winery, Casa Primica, the winner of numerous awards for its bright tempranillos.

Nestled in the village of Elciego lies the Vinos de los Herederos del Marques de Riscal, a winery founded in 1860 by the Marques de Riscal. The esteemed winery holds the reputation as being one of La Rioja's best makers of Cabernet Sauvignon and is surrounded by the contemporary Frank Gehry-designed Marques de Riscal Winery Hotel. Be invited on a tour and tasting at the legendary winery itself.
Transfer back to your hotel (1/2 hr.)

Dinner at leisure in one of San Sebastian's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

The remainder of your day is at leisure to relax in your hotel or explore on your own.

DAY 6: Rioja Region – Burgos

Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to Burgos.

8:30 AM Private Transfer to Burgos (Approximate driving time: 3 hours and 30 minutes)

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9:45 AM Arrival in Burgos.

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will be welcomed with a VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

Meet your local English Speaking professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tour.

10 AM - 1 PM Guided Tour in Burgos



With a history that dates back over 800,000 years in the Castile region of Spain, Burgos is a centerpiece of an area once known as the land of castles.

Its sacred sites include the magnificent Gothic Cathedral, constructed over two centuries ago with dramatic octagonal spires and intricate ornate decoration.

A pristine arcade of cloisters are a highlight of the medieval Santa Maria la Real de Huelgas, the Burgos monastery that was the historic spot for royal weddings in medieval times. With its spectacular Mudejar ceiling, the elegant Royal Convent of Las Huelgas, built as a future pantheon for Alfonso VIII and his wife, Eleanor, remains one of the most famous convents in Europe.

Located in a 15th century palace in Burgos' Plaza Santa Maria, once the home of Master Fabrique Aleman de Basilea, savor a traditional Castilian **lunch** of local specialties such as Doña Jimena soup and Burgos-styled black pudding at the Michelin two-starred, Meson del Cid Restaurant.

In the afternoon, visit Cartuja de Miraflores, the famed Gothic-style church completed in 1498 that was chosen by Juan II as the pantheon for himself and his second wife, Isabel of Portugal. This Carthusian house is renowned for its sumptuous interior details in alabaster by the early Renaissance sculptor, Gil de Siloe.

Visit the Cathedral, the Burgos monastery, the convent of Las Hulgas, the old quarter and the Human Evolution Museum

1 PM - 2 PM Lunch at Meson del Cid Restaurant a traditional Castilian delight (cost of food not included)

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2 PM Drive to the village of Elciego and visit the Herederos del Marques de Riscal Winery Visit the Frank Gehry-designed hotel, take a tour of the winery savor some of their renowned Cabernet Sauvignon.

Dinner at leisure in one of Burgos' restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

The remainder of your day is at leisure to relax in your hotel or explore on your own.

DAY 7: Madrid - Seville

Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, check out of hotel and meet your private English-speaking driver in the lobby of the hotel for your transfer to Madrid.

8:30 AM Drive to Madrid (1.5 hrs.)

10:00 PM Arrival in Madrid

Your driver will continue with a private transfer to the Train Station.

In the PM you will board the High-Speed Train to Seville (Business Class tickets included) (2.5 hrs.)

Upon arrival in Santa Justa, meet your private English-speaking driver in the station where you will enjoy a private Mercedes transfer from Santa Justa Train station to hotel

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will be welcomed with a VIP check-in experience. Your luggage will be managed and delivered to your accommodation.

The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax in your hotel or do a little exploring on your own.

Dinner at leisure in one of Seville's restaurants – See Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

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DAY 8: Seville

Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, meet your Private English Speaking professional local guide in hotel lobby to begin your half day walking tour of Seville.



9:30 AM - 1 PM Historical Highlights Walking Tour to Seville

Be amazed by the stunning atmosphere of Seville, where Christian, Moorish and Roman influences meet to create a Mudejar tradition.

In this Andalusian capital, be introduced to the magnificence of its architecture with a tour of its 14th century Royal Palace, known as the Alcazar of Seville.

Lined with blooming orange trees, wander through the fabled Santa Cruz Quarter with its signature whitewashed houses and abundance of delectable tapas bars. Complete your tour of Seville with a romantic carriage ride through the gardens of Maria Luisa Park, designed in the 1920s along the banks of the Guadalquivir River.

- Visit the Cathedral, Giralda, Alcazar and Santa Cruz Quarter

Dinner at leisure in one of Seville's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

The remainder of your day is at leisure to relax in your hotel or explore on your own.

DAY 9: Seville

Breakfast at the hotel

9 AM - 7 PM Day excursion to Cordoba with high speed train

9 AM Independent transfer to the train station (easily by taxi)

9:45 AM AVE High speed train Seville - Cordoba - Seville / Business tickets included (45 mins.)

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10:26 AM Arrival to Cordoba

Upon arrival in Cordoba, meet your Private English-speaking driver & professional local guide at the train station to proceed with your tour day.

10:30 AM - 2 PM Guided tour in Cordoba



On the banks of the Guadalquivir river stands Cordoba, the ancient Andalusian city whose history dates back to Carthaginian times.

A center of power for Romans, Visigoths and Muslims, it was captured by King Ferdinand III during the Spanish Reconquest of 1236. Its architectural highlight is the Mezquita, the Catedral de Nuestra Senora de la Asuncion, once a mosque that was converted into a Catholic church.

With its 856 striped arches of marble, granite, and onyx, it remains one of the most emblematic monuments of the Umayyad dynasty. Wander through La Juderia, the old Jewish quarter and the birthplace of the philosopher Maimondes, where you will dine at the charming El Churrasco, located in a historic house.

Afterwards, visit the nearby Cordoba Synagogue, built in 1315. With its carved Mudejar decorations and Hebrew texts inscribed on its exterior, it remains one of the most sacred Jewish destinations in all of Europe.

Visit the Cathedral - Mosque, Synagogue, Sephardic Museum and old Quarter (Please note the Synagogue and Alcazar are closed on Mondays)

2:00 PM Lunch at leisure in Cordoba (Cost of food not included)

5:00 PM Transfer to the Train Station on your own (easily by taxi)

5:44 PM AVE High speed train Cordoba - Seville / Business tickets included

6:30 PM Arrival to Seville
Independent transfer to hotel (easily by taxi)

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Dinner at leisure in one of Seville's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

The remainder of your day is at leisure to relax in your hotel or explore on your own.

DAY 10: Seville

Breakfast at the hotel

9:00 AM After breakfast, meet your Private English-speaking driver outside the main entrance of the hotel for your transfer and touring today.

9 AM - 5 PM Day excursion to Jerez and visit to Lustau Winery



Just 90 kilometers south of Seville, in the southern peninsula of Iberia, stands the home of the Palomino grape, the Jerez de la Frontera region.

Famed for its white grapes that transform into the sweet, amber wine known in the English-speaking world as “sherry.” At Lustau, a favorite local winery, learn about the Solera barrel method of winemaking, where wines are fractionally blended together to produce a variety of dry sherries.

Jerez de la Frontera is also home to the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art. With its pure bred, gray Cartujano stallions, the esteemed riding school is dedicated to the fine art of horsemanship.

Attend an exclusive dressage performance, an elegant show that combines choreography, classical flamenco and the Andalusian equestrian tradition on its palatial grounds. Explore the school's gardens, palace and museums then if desired.

After the show, drive to Arcos de Frontera. There, you will enjoy a late lunch at the Parador de Arcos del la Frontera, renowned for its fine cuisine and spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

- Enjoy a visit to the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art and Lustau Winery
- Enjoy a the training sessions at the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art
- Visit the stables, tack room, saddlery, Palace rooms, the Equestrian Arts and the

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Horse Carriage Museums

There are some Saturdays during the year that it is possible to enjoy a horse show. If possible we would include the tickets. (Schedule to be confirmed)

1 PM Transfer to Lustau Winery

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Enjoy a Visit to Lustau Winery

Visit the premises

Enjoy some Spanish Tapas including olives, ham, cheese, nuts and chocolate while tasting some of the wines

3:45 PM Transfer to Seville

5 PM Arrival in Seville where you will be dropped off at your hotel.

Dinner at leisure in one of Seville's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

The remainder of your day is at leisure to relax in your hotel or explore on your own.

DAY 11: Seville

Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, meet your English-speaking driver and professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel to begin your full day tours.

9 AM - 7 PM Full day excursion to Aracena and Rio Tinto Mine

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In Western Andalusia, the mountainous regions are dry, a perfect climate to cultivate the delicacy known as Jamon Serrano. Visit a private farm in the Huelva province, the natural habitat of the dark-skinned, pointy snouted Iberico pig, known as the Dehasa.

Then drive to Jabugo, a small town with a large number of charcuterie producers renowned for lomo, chorizo, salchichón, and morcón. Enjoy a tasting of Iberico delicacies paired with fine sherry.

1:30 PM **Enjoy an informal lunch** at a local restaurant with your host. Lunch in Aracena, where you'll savor a range of local specialties. (Cost of food & wine included) Then have the option to spend the afternoon at the Museo del Jamón (the Ham Museum) where you can learn about the history and tradition behind the best ham in the world.

After Lunch, we will continue on to Rio Tinto.



Reputed to be the oldest mines in the world, Rio Tinto has a particularly rich history. Their mineral wealth was already legendary in ancient times. According to myth, these are the fabled **mines of King Solomon**, and a section of the area is still known as Cerro Salomón today.

For all this, the region was inexplicably abandoned after the Roman era and in time was all but lost to collective memory, until it was rediscovered in 1556. It was, however, to take until 1724 for the mines to be reopened, and even then frustration and inefficiency dogged their exploitation. Fed up with this situation, the Spanish government finally sold the mines to a British syndicate in 1871.

British managers soon had the mines running at full steam, making this one of the most important sources of copper and sulphur in the world. Also true to form was the way in which they built **Bella Vista**, a purpose-built village for British employees only. Known as the 'colonia inglesa', the British style houses, neatly trimmed gardens, tennis lawns and social club of Bella Vista can still be visited.

5:30 PM Transfer back to Seville (2.5 hrs.)

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7:00 PM Arrival in Seville where you will be dropped off at your hotel.

Dinner at leisure in one of Seville's restaurants – see Celebration Escapes' recommended restaurant collection.

The remainder of your day is at leisure to relax in your hotel or explore on your own.

DAY 12: Seville - Home in US

Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, Check out of your hotel & meet your private English-speaking driver outside of the hotel to transfer to the airport to meet your international flight to the US and forward to home.

End of Services.

Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today ! 678-500-9548

Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!