

Peaks & Coast

5 night tour - B&B

Your itinerary

The following pages contain general information about your car or motorcycle tour and the locations where you will stay. The order in which they appear on these pages may not be the order your hotels have been confirmed for you - for your individual itinerary please refer to your holiday documentation.





Maps and guide books Included with your travel documents you will find an excellent map of Spain to help you plan your journeys. For route planning you may also like to visit a travel website such

as Google maps, viamichelin.com or theaa.co.uk.

Hotel directions With your travel documents you will find an information sheet for each hotel which has been booked for you giving directions together with some further details.

Arrival Unless stated, you will be expected to arrive at each of the hotels pre-booked for you by 6pm each day. This should allow you time to have a fairly leisurely drive between hotel stops but if you find you will be arriving later than this please ring and advise the hotelier so that your room is held for you.

Extra charges This tour includes breakfast. All additional meals, drinks, phone calls etc must be paid for prior to departure from the hotel.

Your itinerary gives you the opportunity to explore the stunningly beautiful Picos de Europa area as well as the unspoilt coastline, without the need to drive very far from either of our Spanish ports. You may wish to pack your walking shoes because this is a part of Spain ideally seen on foot, to take in the magnificent scenery and also to walk off the delicious traditional cooking you will find in northern Spain. Here we give some ideas of places you may like to visit in and around your overnight stops.

Cosgaya (Potes)



Castro Urdiales

If you are driving from Bilbao, you may like to stop en route at Castro Urdiales on the Bay of Biscay. This has grown from a small fishing port to a modern seaside town with several lovely beaches and a backdrop of mountains. Cosgaya is in a wonderful



Cosgaya

setting nestled in a mountain valley - a perfect place to relax or go for a hike. The market town of Potes is a short drive away and is the centre and departure

point for many outdoor pursuits (white water rafting, canoeing, mountain biking etc) and excursions into the Picos. These mountains are amongst the most spectacular and unspoilt in Europe and there are some incredibly scenic routes to follow. The flora and fauna is exceptional and it's possible to see a large number of birds including eagles and vultures - the mountain flowers can be breathtaking too, particularly early in the season.

Arenas de Cabrales



Covadonga

Arenas is known as the gateway to the Picos de Europa mountains and like Potes, is a popular base for exploring the area with lots of walking trails and great rock climbing. The village produces a well known, veined cheese, Queso Cabrales, made from goat and sheep milk. Matured in caves, this is a strong flavoured cheese which features in many local recipes and at the August cheese festival here. The sanctuary of Covadonga, near Cangas de Onis is a recommended trip. Even viewed from the road it is impressive, particularly because of its beautiful setting, but a visit to the sanctuary and monastery itself attracts tourists from miles around and is an interesting visit. The tomb of Pelayo, who defeated the Moors here in 722 and became the first king of Asturias is in the Holy Cave.



Llanes



Llanes harbour

This is a busy summer holiday location with a choice of dozens of wonderful beaches and coves, the San Pedro clifftop walk (spectacular coastal views), colourful fishing harbour and plenty of seafood restaurants in and around the port. The most popular beach is the one in town, El Sablon, which is great for families with its fine sand and calm water, or for surfing and other watersports the ones at Andrin and Ballota are more suitable. If you're interested in local culture there are a number of fiestas in Llanes with folkdancing and townspeople in traditional dress.



Ballota cove near Llanes



Santander

Santander & Bilbao

Standing along the north shore of a great bay of stunning natural beauty Santander is one of the most traditional holiday resorts of northern Spain where many of the Spanish themselves choose to holiday, escaping the more arid inland areas. There is a superb sandy beach, modern leisure amenities and an attractive promenade laid out with flower borders and trees, popular with the locals who enjoy strolling along it in the early evening and at weekends. The city has wonderful restaurants and shops plus a variety of nightlife and entertainment.



Guggenheim museum Bilbao

Over recent years Bilbao has been transformed into a vibrant modern city with plenty to entice tourists. The top visitor attraction is the Guggenheim museum with its striking modern architecture which is spectacular both inside and out. There are permanent art displays and regular temporary exhibitions held here which are well worth a visit. There is much more to see (and best explored on foot) - the atmospheric Casco Viejo old quarter with its maze of cobbled streets filled with shops, cafés and restaurants; remarkable buildings, stunning bridges, squares, lovely parks, museums, art galleries. Shopping is also excellent and there is a large colourful Sunday market.