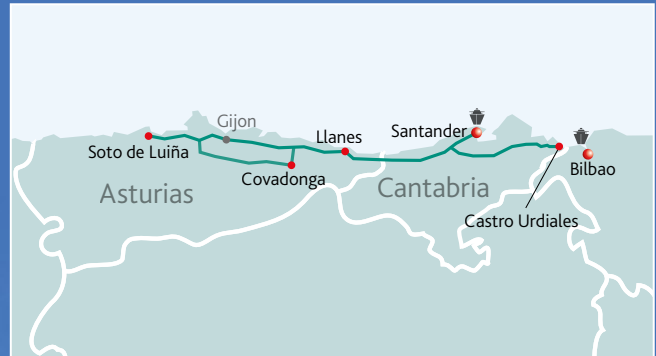


Seaside & Mountains

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 wish to go to one of the travel websites such as Google

maps, viamichelin.com* or www.theaa.co.uk.

*Motorway tolls, where applicable, are indicated on this site.

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.

If you love the coast but feel the pull of the mountains too then this tour is for you. Here we give some ideas of places to see in and around each of your overnight stops.

Santander



Standing along the north shore of a great bay of stunning natural beauty, Santander is a sophisticated resort with much to offer. King Alfonso XIII began spending his summers here back in the 1900s and the local people gave him the Magdalena peninsula upon which he built a palace

which sits in a prime position overlooking the bay. This 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 stroll along it in their droves in the early evening and at weekends. The city has wonderful restaurants, tapas bars and shops plus a variety of nightlife and entertainment.



Santander

Llanes

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 folk dancing and townspeople in traditional dress.



Playa de Buelna near Llanes



Hotel La Arquera

Soto de Luiña

A pleasant village of terracotta tiled buildings set amongst green hills, Soto de Luiña is a peaceful place to stay, a short drive inland (or about 2k on foot) from a charming little beach. The colourful fishing village of Cudillero is 15 minutes away and is one of the many



Hotel Valle Las Luiñas, Soto de Luiña

picturesque places to see along the Asturian coastline. It can become very busy in summer but it's lovely to spend a few hours here and perhaps have lunch or a drink in one of the pavement cafés overlooking the sea. Heading east along the coast it's worth visiting Gijón - once a small fishing port this is now the largest city in Asturias and as well as being a great cultural centre is also a lively seaside resort with a huge sandy beach which is popular for surfing.



Cudillero

Covadonga



Basilica of Covadonga

The main attraction here is the Basilica of Santa Maria, which is an inspiring sight when you see your first glimpse of it from the road in its beautiful mountain setting - you can see why this is a stop off point for tourists.

For walkers, not to be missed are routes around the glacial lakes of Covadonga - Enol and Ercina. There is a circular gentle walk of around 5k which allows you to appreciate the stunning peaceful surroundings and breathe in the clear mountain air. In addition there are numerous other walks taking you past little chapels, old sheepfolds and tumbledown

shelters used by shepherds in centuries gone by.

9k northwest of Covadonga is another great centre for excursions into the mountains - the ancient town of **Cangas de Onis**, where there is a distinctive Roman bridge with 5 arches.



Gran Hotel Pelayo, Covadonga

Castro Urdiales

Around 45 minutes' drive from Santander and even less from Bilbao, Castro Urdiales on the Bay of Biscay has grown from a little fishing port to a modern seaside town with several lovely beaches attracting lots of holidaymakers in summer. In a



Hotel Las Rocas

picturesque setting with a backdrop of mountains, this was originally a Roman settlement (called Flavióbriga at that time) and there is an archaeological site under the entire town and also examples of cave paintings, such as in the cave of Peña del Cuco, which contains drawings from the Upper Paleolithic period with images of deer, horses and goats. If you happen to be here on the first Friday in July there is the Coso Blanca local fiesta with fireworks.

Over recent years **Bilbao** has been transformed from an industrial port into a vibrant modern city with plenty to attract tourists. In addition to the famous Guggenheim museum there are impressive buildings, bridges, lovely parks, quaint museums and much more.



Castro Urdiales



Picos scenery