



***Group Travel Specialists***

***Spain, Portugal & Rest of Europe***

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## **Northern Portugal & Spain with Valencia, -11 Days Porto, Douro Valley, Valladolid, Bilbao, San Sebastian and Valencia. *Price On Request***

### **Included in the Trip**

- **Round trip air**
- 11 Days/9 Nights: 2 Nights Porto, 2 Nights Douro Valley, 2 Nights Bilbao, and 3 Nights Valencia.
- **4\* superior hotels** with air conditioning. (See descriptions at the end of the itinerary).
- **Buffet breakfast and Lunch or Dinner with wine daily**
- Visit and Wine Tasting at Grahams Winery in Porto.
- Visit, Wine Tasting and Lunch at Bodega Quinta da Avesada in Douro Valley.  
Visit, Wine Tasting and Lunch at Bodega Marques de Riscal in La Rioja.
- Lunch en-route to Bilbao.
- Paella lunch at a local restaurant in Valencia.
- **Private AC Motorcoaches with WI-FI**
- Flight Bilbao -Valencia.
- **Visits included:** Porto, Grahams Winery, Then World of Wine, Amarante, Vila Real, Pinhao Trancoso, Lamego, 50mt River Cruise on the Douro, Winery Quinta da Avesada, Valladolid, Bilbao, San Sebastian, Winery Marqués de Riscal in La Rioja, and the city of Valencia including The City of Arts and Sciences with oceanographic, aquarium, and dolphinarium.
- Headphones with all tours
- Airport transfers
- All Taxes

# ITINERARY

## DAY 1: USA - OPORTO, PORTUGAL

intercontinental flight to Porto via Madrid. Dinner with wine, movies and breakfast on board.



Porto

## DAY 2: Arrival in PORTO - City Visit

Welcome to Portugal. Porto is a beautiful and rich seaside town known worldwide for its excellent wines. Upon our arrival at about 11 am, our guide will pick us up at the customs exit to take us to the hotel where we will be offered with a welcome drink. Registration and free time for lunch. In the afternoon our guide will take us to a panoramic tour of Porto that will include its six beautiful bridges, Avenida dos Aliados with its magnificent and well-preserved buildings, the train station of San Bento, the Cathedral of Porto and the Tower of the Clerics, all reminiscent of medieval times. We will visit the Palacio de la Bolsa (Stock Exchange), built in the nineteenth century and the church of San Francisco, known for its bright interior baroque with altars of precious wood carvings. Welcome dinner with wine in a Portuguese restaurant.  
Accommodation in Porto.

### **DAY 3: OPORTO, GRAHAM WINERY and "World of Wine"**

After our breakfast buffet our guide will take us to visit the **GRAHAM WINERY** (see description below), known worldwide for its production of excellent Ports. There we will be shown the winery (1:00pm) and the manufacturing process and we will enjoy a Wine Tasting.



Graham Wineries, Porto, Portugal

**The Grahams Winery** is one of the most beautiful in Porto. It was founded in 1820 and has its own museum where you can review the history of Port wine from its origins, as well as the life of the Symington and Graham families, founders of the winery in the nineteenth century.

After the visit we will head to the "World of Wine" ([WOW.pt](http://WOW.pt)), a new leisure area with 6 museums, 9 restaurants, bars and cafes, located in Vila Nova de Gaia, where a tribute to the city of Porto, its Portuguese history, and traditions is displayed. We will have free time to have lunch on our own and visit any of the 6 museums on the grounds. At about 5:30pm we will return to the hotel.

Dinner with wine in our hotel. Accommodation in Porto.

### **DAY 4: OPORTO-AMARANTE-VILA REAL-VALLE DEL DUERO**

Buffet breakfast and departure in our private bus with our guide towards the Douro Valley, surrounded by hills and vineyards. On our route we will first visit the village of **Amarante** that offers two imposing natural features: the great Serra do Marao that rises over the city in a series of majestic landscapes and the River Tamega, the longest tributary of the Douro River, which begins in Galicia and flows through the heart of Amarante giving added color to the picturesque houses that are located on its banks. The Amarante Bridge perpetuates the memory of the local population's resistance

against Napoleon's troops, who invaded Portugal in the early 19th century. Amarante's sweets and cakes are extremely famous and easy to find in many of the region's pastry shops and cafés. Free time for lunch on our own.

From here we continue towards **Vila Real** which is an ancient city located at the confluence of the Corgo and Cabril rivers, framed by the mountains of Alvao and Marao to the west, and the Serra de Montemuro to the south. It preserves stately houses adorned with coats of arms, Manueline windows and traditional wrought-iron balconies. Avenida Carvalho Araújo, bordered by traditional cobbled sidewalks, crosses the city, which leads to one end of the 19th-century Town Hall building. Later you will find the Gothic Cathedral in Vila Real. We will visit the famous Mateus Palace (entrance 16 euros included). Built in the first half of the 18th century, this palace is located in the beautiful gardens of a vast farm and is considered one of the best examples of Baroque civil architecture in Portugal. Its interior décor includes wooden ceilings carved intricately, furniture from various eras, paintings from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, silverware, ceramics and a library with a remarkable edition of the epic poem "Os Lusíadas". After these two visits we arrive at our hotel in the Douro Valley where we will be offered a welcome drink.

At 7:30pm Dinner with wine and accommodation in our hotel.



Douro Valley Vineyards in Portugal

**DAY 5: VALLE DEL DUERO - EXCURSION TO PINHAO, TRANCOSO AND LAMEGO, AND WINE TASTING AND LUNCH IN A WINERY**

Buffet breakfast and departure on excursion with our guide to visit three charming Portuguese villages: Pinhao, Trancoso and Lamego. First, we will visit the beautiful village of **Pinhao**, located in the center of the Douro wine region. Its train station deserves special attention. It was built in the late nineteenth century and the interior is completely lined with tile panels. Before leaving Pinhao we will enjoy a **50-minute River Cruise** along the Douro River that will offer us a very different and beautiful perspective of the region. We continue to The Winery La Quinta [da Avessada in](#) the Douro Valley, where we will take a guided tour followed **by a wine tasting and a lunch with wine** (1:30pm).



[Bodegas Quinta da Avessada, in Valle del Duero](#)

**After lunch we** will leave to visit the villages of **Trancoso and Lamego**.

**Trancoso** is a city whose narrow streets and stone houses preserve a medieval atmosphere. The plateau on which it is located, at an altitude of 870 meters, gave it a strategic position in the defense of the border with Spain and made it an important fortress during the Middle Ages. **Porta d'El Rei** is the main entrance to the walls and a tribute to Don Dinis, who celebrated his marriage to Isabel de Aragón here in the Chapel of St. Bartholomew in 1282. The labyrinth of stone streets leads to the city center and the Pillory, where the old town and the new city converge. In the oldest part is the Castle, much contested by Moors and Christians and finally captured by Don Afonso Henriques in 1160.

Our last stop of the day will be **in Lamego**, an attractive city with Renaissance and Baroque mansions overlooking two hills. In one of the hills are the ruins of a 12th century castle, and the monumental Baroque shrine of Our Lady of Remedies. A beautiful granite staircase decorated with tile panels, allegorical fountains, small chapels and statues leads to a Baroque church overlooking the city. The most

significant moment in Lamego's history was in 1143, when the nobles declared Afonso Henriques the first king of Portugal. The Gothic cathedral of the city was built by him although only the Romanesque tower remains of the original building with its carved Renaissance portal and its fine cloister dating from the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. At the end of our day, we return to the hotel. Overnight in the Douro Valley.

**DAY 6: VALLE DEL DUERO-VALLADOLID (3h43m) BILBAO (2h46m)**

After our buffet breakfast at about 9am, we will leave for Spain making a stop **in Valladolid** for Lunch at about 1.30pm. After our **Lunch**, at about 3:00pm, our guide will give us a bus tour of the city of **Valladolid** before continuing trip to **Bilbao** where we will arrive at about 7:30pm Upon arrival at the hotel we will say goodbye to our friendly Portuguese guide because the next morning we will have a new guide who will teach us Bilbao and San Sebastian. Tonight, if desired we can go for “**Tapas**” **on** our own in the old part of town.

Overnight in Bilbao.



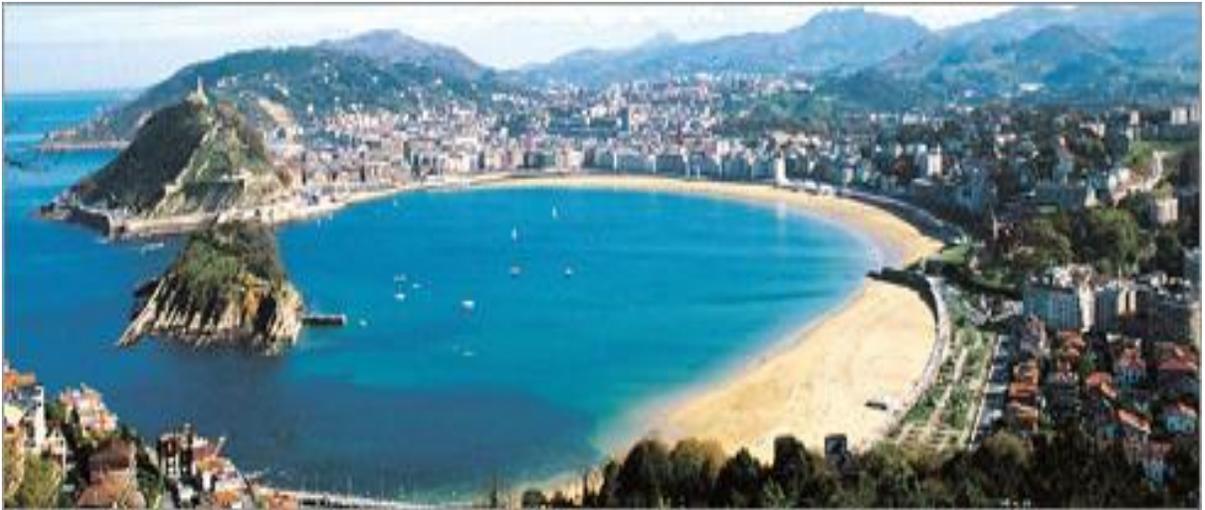
Bilbao (Vizcaya)



Typical bar in Bilbao

### **DAY 7: VISIT BILBAO and EXCURSION TO SAN SEBASTIAN**

Buffet breakfast and departure to visit the **city of Bilbao** that we will tour in our coach in a panoramic view. We will then take a walk through the city center in case we want to have some tapas. Then we will go on to visit the beautiful and elegant **city of San Sebastian**. Our guide will take us on a panoramic tour followed by a walk through the center. We will drive up to Mount Igueldo and then take a zipper train to enjoy the beautiful views of the Bay area and the city of San Sebastian. At 7:30pm we'll have Dinner with wine in a typical restaurant of San Sebastian Overnight in Bilbao.



San Sebastián (País Vasco)

**DAY 8: EXCURSION TO RIOJA - BODEGAS MARQUES DE RISCAL and then to VALENCIA.**



### **Bodegas Marqués de Riscal, La Rioja**

This winery is composed of the old house Marqués De Riscal (1858), one of the oldest in La Rioja, and a new building designed by the Canadian architect Frank O. Gehry that houses the Hotel. Marqués de Riscal 5\*, is a Luxury Collection Hotel & Spa, that holds two exclusive restaurants run by the famous chef Francis Paniego.

Today at 8:00am we will lower our bags to the lobby since this afternoon, after the visit to La Bodega, we will fly to Bilbao. After breakfast at about 9:30am, we will drive to **La Rioja** to visit the magnificent Bodega **de Marqués de Riscal**, one of the most beautiful in the area where we will arrive at about 11:30am.

Upon arrival we will be greeted by an expert from the winery to show us the facilities.

At 12:30pm they will offer us a wine tasting and lunch with wine **in the cellar**.

Throughout its history the wines of Marqués de Riscal have always been original, fresh, elegant and easy to drink. Today this winery is present in more than 110 countries to which they export 65% of their production. After lunch, at about 2pm, we will be taken to Bilbao airport to take our flight to Valencia, via Madrid. Arrival at Valencia Airport at 9:00pm and transfer to our hotel. Overnight in Valencia.

### **DAY 9: VALENCIA – CITY TOUR**

Buffet breakfast and then a panoramic tour of the city by the hand of our Valencian guide including a walk through the historic center: the Central Market, the Silk Market (World Heritage Site), the Plaza Redonda, Santa Catalina, the Marquis Palace of Dos Aguas, the Cathedral and the Plaza de la Virgen, the Basilica of the Homeless, the Palau Square, places that were and are today the living heart of the city. Next we will go to visit the factory of Lladró. Return to the hotel at about 3:00pm. Rest of the afternoon is at leisure. 7:30pm Dinner with wine in our hotel. Overnight in Valencia.



Valencia

**DAY 10: VALENCIA, City of the Arts and Sciences & Oceanografic**

Buffet breakfast and departure passing the Serranos Towers and linking through the Turia Garden with the Valencia of the 21st century: The City of the Arts and Sciences, designed by the Valencian architect Santiago Calatrava and point of international attraction. Walking tour of the area to observe the buildings of the Palace of the Arts (opera), L'Hemisferic (cinema-planetarium), Science Museum, and Puente Azud d'Or and Agora. We will discover the secrets of Calatrava architecture and the "organicist" forms of each of its monuments. Later we will enter the Oceanographic (cost 30 euros, included), the largest Marine Park in Europe and third in the world, where the seas and oceans of the planet are represented through large towers and underwater tunnels that house the ecosystems represented by more than 45,000 animals of 500 different species, immersing us on an underwater journey through the 7 seas of the planet. We complete the visit with the fascinating spectacle of the Dolphinarium. At 1:30pm we will enjoy a typical **Paella Valenciana Lunch with wine in a local restaurant**. The city of Valencia is known for its famous "Fallas", which are excellent artistic representations of political and other characters that burn in a great celebration in March of each year. Return to the hotel and rest of the afternoon at leisure. Overnight in Valencia.



Oceanographic, Valencia



Aquarium

### **DAY 11: VALENCIA - USA**

Buffet breakfast and transfer to the airport transfer to board our flight home, arriving this afternoon.

### **DESCRIPTION OF OUR HOTELS:**

**NH Collection Porto Batalha 4\*superior (Port, Portugal)**

[NH Collection Porto Batalha Hotel](#) 4\* rating 8.9



In the center of Porto

Offering access to an indoor pool, the sophisticated NH Collection Porto Batalha is a 4-star hotel located in Porto city center. Just a 4-minute walk from São Bento Station, this hotel offers free Wi-Fi throughout. The elegant rooms at NH Collection Porto have views of the San Juan National Theatre and the cosmopolitan Batalha Square and feature double or single beds and a private bathroom with bath or shower, bidet, hairdryer and free toiletries. Each air-conditioned room has a flat-screen satellite TV, seating area, safety deposit box, mini-bar, coffee machine and electric kettle. NH Collection serves a revitalizing breakfast buffet each morning and features an on-site restaurant. In the evening, guests can enjoy a drink at the hotel bar. Half a mile away of the Paris Galleries, the hotel has a 24-hour front desk, sauna, fitness center and a relaxing indoor pool. Massage parlor, laundry and dry-cleaning services. Just over half a mile away there are a variety of restaurants and bars where you can enjoy the most traditional Porto dishes and tapas and contemplate the Douro River and the Bridge Louis I.

**The Wine House Hotel - Quinta da Pacheca 4\* superior (Valle del Duero, Portugal)** [The Wine House Hotel 4\\*](#), [Quinta da Pacheca](#) rating 9.1



The luxurious Wine House Hotel in Lamego, in the heart of the Douro region, is surrounded by extensive private gardens with vineyards. This typical house of the eighteenth century was restored, respecting its traditional architecture and its original elements. It combines a modern design with a historic atmosphere. The charming rooms at The Wine House Hotel - Quinta da Pacheca are individually decorated and air-conditioned. Every room is equipped with a private bathroom, while selected rooms here will provide you with a private balcony. Free WiFi is available throughout the property. A buffet breakfast is available daily at the property. The restaurant serves gourmet cuisine prepared with local products and offers panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. It is also possible to taste and buy the wine produced in Quinta da Pacheca.

**NH Collection Villa de Bilbao 4\*superior (Bilbao, Spain)**

[Hotel NH Collection Villa de Bilbao 4\\* top](#) rating 8.8



This modern hotel is located in central Bilbao, next to the San Mamés football stadium and Euskalduna Palace. It offers free WiFi and free access to a fitness center.

Bilbao's NH Collection Villa is a short walk from the Guggenheim Museum, Doña Casilda Park and the Museum of Fine Arts. In the immediate vicinity is the Zubiarte shopping center, as well as many shops and tapas bars.

The spacious rooms at NH Collection Villa de Bilbao are well-equipped with air conditioning and satellite TV. There is underfloor heating and elegant décor including modern artwork.

A healthy NH detox breakfast is served in Le Bol Blanc restaurant. There is also a lobby bar with free Wi-Fi.

**Sercotel Sorolla Palace 4\*superior (Valencia, Spain)**

[Hotel Sercotel Sorolla Palace 4\\* superior.](#) rating 8.6





Located 150 meters from Valencia Congress Centre, the elegant Sorolla Palace features a pretty terrace with an outdoor swimming pool. It offers free Wi-Fi, a hot tub and a gym. Rooms at the Sercotel are bright and attractively decorated. Every room at this guest house is air conditioned and is fitted with a flat-screen TV with satellite channels. The upper floors of Sorolla Palace offer stunning views of the city; and the outdoor pool has a retractable roof that covers it during the winter, spring and autumn months. El Dossel Restaurant serves Mediterranean dishes and international cuisine. There is a main dining room and 4 private dining rooms. L'Estany Café serves tapas and a variety of cocktails. A buffet breakfast is available daily at the property. Sercotel Sorolla Palace is a 5-minute walk from Beniferrí Metro Station, which is 9 stops from the City of Arts and Sciences. Beniferrí Park is just 350 meters from the hotel.