

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL BY RAIL, RIVER CRUISE & LUXURY TRAIN

- Barcelona, Madrid, Granada, Córdoba, Tarifa, Cádiz, Seville, Algarve, Lisbon -
Sunday 10 May to Saturday 6 June 2026
- Lisbon, Porto by rail, Douro Valley by river cruise, Porto sightseeing –
Monday 1 to Tuesday 16 June 2026
- Porto, Santiago de Compostela, Oviedo, Santander, Bilbao, San Sebastian –
aboard the “Transcantábrico Gran Lujo”
Saturday 13 June to Tuesday 30 June 2026



Join us for one, two or three of our tours through Spain and Portugal by train, river cruise and luxury train. Select which tour/s appeal, and join for one, two or all depending on your interest.

Spain to Lisbon by train – 27 days commencing in Barcelona, we explore through Madrid, Toledo, Granada, Córdoba, Ronda, Tarifa, Cádiz, Seville, the Algarve and to Lisbon.

Lisbon, Porto and the Douro Valley – 15 days commencing in Lisbon, by train to Porto, city sightseeing, an 8 day Uniworld river cruise aboard S.S Sao Gabriel along the Douro, to Salamanca, Spain and return to Porto for sightseeing.

Porto to Vigo, Santiago de Compostela and through Galicia, Cantabria and the Basque Country aboard the *Transcantábrico Gran Lujo* luxury train– 16 days– visiting Oviedo, Gijón, Santander, Bilbao, San Sebastián and more.

The tours are led by Takako Ishige & Owen Johnstone-Donnet, with Martin Kopetschke joining the first tour. The tours begin in Barcelona, Lisbon or Porto, and conclude in either Lisbon, Porto or San Sebastián.

Flights to/from Barcelona / Lisbon / Porto / San Sebastián

There are a range of flight options from Australia to Barcelona, Lisbon and Porto, and return from Lisbon, Porto and San Sebastián, with options for stopovers in Asia or the Middle East in one or both directions, or with two stops via other European cities. We can assist with your flight preferences, or you can make your own flight arrangements.

SPAIN TO LISBON BY TRAIN

Sunday 10 May 2026 – Australia to Barcelona

Depart Australia to Barcelona. Overnight aboard the aircraft enroute to Europe.

Monday 11 May 2026 – arrive Barcelona

Arrive Barcelona and transfer to our hotel in Barcelona. Depending upon the time of your arrival, enjoy time exploring the city centre. From the vibrant city centre, harbourside and historic buildings, the evening is free and overnight Barcelona. (If you wish to spend additional nights in Barcelona before the tour we can book you at the same hotel.)

Tuesday 12 May 2026 (B/D) – Barcelona

We start at the iconic Sagrada Família, Gaudí's masterpiece – with construction beginning in 1882, it is the largest unfinished Catholic church in the world - marvel at its intricate façades and stunning interiors. Then, wander through the Passeig de Gràcia, home to Gaudí's Casa Batlló and La Pedrera, as well as luxury boutiques and architectural gems. After lunch at a local tapas bar, head to the Gothic Quarter (Barri Gòtic) to explore its medieval alleys, Plaça Reial, and Barcelona Cathedral. End the day with a stroll along La Rambla - considered the most well-known street in central Barcelona, it is a tree-lined pedestrian street, stretching 1.2 kilometres, and connecting the Plaça de Catalunya in its centre with the Christopher Columbus Monument at Port Vell and stop by the colourful Mercat de la Boqueria,. Dinner at leisure and overnight Barcelona. Tonight we dine together for our first meal - savour some Catalan dishes in a local restaurant. Overnight Barcelona.



Wednesday 13 May 2026 (B) – to Barcelona

On the second day, begin at Park Güell, where Gaudí's whimsical designs and panoramic views of the city await. From there, visit Montjuïc Hill, where you can explore the Magic Fountain - a spectacular display of colour, light, motion, music and water acrobatics. Nearby is the National Art Museum of Catalonia (MNAC), with its lush gardens. In the afternoon, head down to the Barceloneta neighbourhood for a relaxing walk along the beach or a seaside paella lunch. Finish your day at El Born, visiting the Picasso Museum or the Santa Maria del Mar church. Dinner is at leisure - perhaps enjoy a traditional meal in the lively El Raval or El Born districts. Overnight Barcelona.



Thursday 14 May 2026 (B) – Montserrat

Today we visit Montserrat – a day combining spirituality, art and nature in a dramatic mountain setting. The journey from Barcelona to Montserrat begins with a scenic train ride from Plaça Espanya through the Catalan countryside, passing rolling hills, villages, and the winding Llobregat River. You can ascend to Montserrat by rack railway or cable car, and we will use each in one direction. On arrival explore the Benedictine monastery, home to the revered Black Madonna, and admire the basilica's ornate interior, often enhanced by the angelic voices of the Escolania boys' choir. The Montserrat Museum showcases masterpieces by Dalí, Picasso and El Greco, while outdoor terraces provide sweeping views of jagged peaks and the Catalan countryside. For the more adventurous, funiculars lead to viewpoints offering unforgettable panoramas. Whether inspired by faith, culture, or scenery, Montserrat provides a uniquely enriching experience. We return to Barcelona, with dinner at leisure and overnight.



Friday 15 May 2026 (B/D) – to Madrid

Today experience the high-speed train from Barcelona to Madrid aboard the AVE - the most comfortable and efficient way to travel between Spain's two major cities. Covering 620 km at speeds of up to 310 km/h. Departing from Barcelona Sants station, the train leaves the city and glides through the Catalan countryside, with glimpses of rolling hills, vineyards and distant mountains. The terrain gradually changes as you cross the Aragonese plains, passing historic towns before approaching the heart of Spain. Inside the train is smooth and quiet, with spacious seating, panoramic windows and modern amenities. Nearing Madrid's Atocha station, notice the landscape becoming more arid and dotted with olive groves, signalling your arrival in Spain's vibrant capital in less than three hours— an effortless transition from Mediterranean charm to Castilian elegance. We transfer to our hotel, with dinner included and overnight Madrid.



Saturday 16 May 2026 (B) – Madrid

We begin at the majestic Puerta del Sol, the city's lively heart, and stroll to Plaza Mayor, a grand square framed by elegant arcades and cafés. Continue to the historic Royal Palace, the largest in Europe by floor area, with the option to explore its opulent halls and gardens. Nearby, visit Almudena Cathedral before heading to Mercado de San Miguel for tapas and local specialties. This afternoon wander through Gran Vía, Madrid's bustling shopping and theatre boulevard; or visit the Museo del Prado, home to a vast collection of European art, including masterpieces by Velázquez, Goya, and Bosch; or escape the urban bustle in the tranquil El Retiro Park, a vast green oasis in the city centre. Dinner at leisure, perhaps in the atmospheric La Latina district, famous for its traditional taverns. Overnight Madrid.



Sunday 17 May 2026 (B) – explore Madrid or visit Toledo

Enjoy a day exploring your favourite part of Madrid, or join us for a visit to nearby Toledo. A morning journey of 40 min by train brings us to Toledo – where we journey through layers of Spanish history. Start with the majestic Toledo Cathedral, a Gothic masterpiece filled with stunning art and intricate details, then stroll through the narrow, winding streets to the Alcázar, the hilltop fortress offering sweeping views of the Tagus River. Visit the Church of Santo Tomé to admire El Greco's *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz*, and explore the Jewish Quarter, home to the Synagogue of Santa María la Blanca and the El Tránsito Synagogue with its Sephardic Museum. Cross the San Martín Bridge for panoramic views, then return by train to Madrid. Dinner at leisure and overnight Madrid.



Monday 18 May 2026 (B/D) – to Almería

We leave Madrid and join a train for the scenic journey to Almería - a scenic ride from the bustling capital into the rugged beauty of southern Spain. Heading south through the rolling plains of Castilla-La Mancha, dotted with windmills and olive groves, we soon enter the dramatic landscapes of Andalusia. As the train approaches the Despeñaperros Pass, the scenery shifts to steep hills and rocky outcrops, then opens into the sun-drenched valleys and arid mountains of Almería province. Along the way, you'll pass whitewashed villages, citrus orchards, and the occasional glimpse of the Sierra Nevada peaks in the distance. End with views of Almería's desert-like terrain and its sparkling Mediterranean coastline. Dinner is included and overnight Almería.



Tuesday 19 May 2026 (B/D) – to Granada

A quick morning tour to the Alcazaba of Almería, the impressive 10th-century Moorish fortress perched above the city, offering panoramic views of the Mediterranean and surrounding desert. Through the historic old town, wandering narrow streets with whitewashed buildings and small plazas. Visit Almería Cathedral, a fortress-cathedral blending Gothic and Renaissance styles. Back to our hotel to collect luggage before our rail journey to Granada - a spectacular ride through some of Andalusia's most striking landscapes. Leaving the Mediterranean coast behind, the train travels inland across the Tabernas Desert, a barren, beautiful expanse famous for its spaghetti western film sets. Then climb into the rugged hills and fertile valleys of the Sierra Nevada foothills. Olive groves blanket the rolling countryside, with whitewashed villages and historic railway stations that feel frozen in time. Near Granada, the scenery becomes more dramatic, with winding tracks through rocky gorges and distant views of snow-capped peaks. Dinner is included and overnight Granada.



Wednesday 20 May 2026 (B) – Granada

This morning explore the Alhambra, the city's crown jewel, exploring its opulent Nasrid Palaces, serene courtyards, and the Generalife gardens with breathtaking views over Granada. Wander through the Albaicín, the old Moorish quarter, where narrow cobblestone streets lead to whitewashed houses and hidden patios, and stop at Mirador de San Nicolás for a postcard-perfect panorama of the Alhambra against the Sierra Nevada backdrop. Enjoy a leisurely lunch of tapas in a traditional bar before visiting the Granada Cathedral and the Royal Chapel, the final resting place of Ferdinand and Isabella. In the evening enjoy dinner as the city glows under the Andalusian night sky. Dinner is included tonight and overnight Granada.

Thursday 21 May 2026 (B) – to Córdoba

A relaxing morning to explore before departure by train for Córdoba. On arrival transfer to our hotel and enjoy an afternoon walk in the city. Wander through the Jewish Quarter (Judería), with its narrow, winding streets and whitewashed houses adorned with flower-filled patios. Stop at the Synagogue, one of the few remaining in Spain. Cross the Roman Bridge for a view of the old town framed by the Guadalquivir River, and end your day at Puerta del Puente and Calahorra Tower, where you can catch a sunset over the city's historic skyline. Dinner tonight is at leisure and overnight Córdoba.



Friday 22 May 2026 (B) – Córdoba

Today we start with the awe-inspiring Mezquita-Catedral, a masterpiece of Islamic architecture crowned with a Christian cathedral. Explore the charming squares like Plaza de la Corredera, then the serene gardens of the Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos, climbing its towers for panoramic views. Stroll through the charming Patios of San Basilio, especially beautiful in spring but picturesque year-round, before heading to the Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos, a former royal residence with tranquil gardens and reflecting pools. Explore the Viana Palace, famous for its series of patios filled with flowers and fountains, then stop by local artisan shops for handmade leather goods. Dinner is at leisure and overnight Córdoba.

Saturday 23 May 2026 (B/D) – to Ronda

The train journey from Córdoba to Ronda takes you through some of the most beautiful and varied landscapes of Andalusia. Departing from Córdoba, the route begins with sweeping plains and olive groves that stretch across the Guadalquivir valley, before gradually climbing into the Sierra Morena foothills. As the train heads south, the scenery becomes increasingly dramatic, with rugged hills, whitewashed villages, and fertile valleys framed by distant mountain peaks. Approaching Ronda, the line winds through the Serranía de Ronda, a region of deep gorges and rolling hills dotted with cork oaks and olive trees, offering glimpses of the spectacular terrain that makes Ronda so famous.



This afternoon relax or immerse yourself in dramatic landscapes and historic charm whilst perched high above the El Tajo Gorge. Begin at the iconic Puente Nuevo, the towering stone bridge offering breathtaking views of the gorge and surrounding mountains, before exploring the Old Town with its cobblestone streets, Moorish architecture, and charming plazas. In the afternoon, discover Plaza de Toros, one of Spain's oldest bullrings, and its fascinating museum. End your day watching the sunset from a clifftop viewpoint, as the golden light bathes the whitewashed buildings and rugged cliffs in a magical glow. Dinner is included and overnight Ronda.

Sunday 24 May 2026 (B) – to Algeciras and Tarifa

This morning visit the Mondragón Palace with its beautiful gardens and the Arab Baths, some of the best preserved in Spain, or stroll along the Alameda del Tajo park for panoramic vistas of the Serranía de Ronda. Around lunch time we join a train for the journey from Ronda to Algeciras - one of Spain's most scenic rail routes, winding through the wild beauty of the Serranía de Ronda and the lush valleys of southern Andalusia. The railway travels through some of the most difficult terrain in the world and is famous as much for its majestic scenery as for the engineering proficiency of the men who built the line. Leaving Ronda, the train descends through rugged mountains, passing cork oak forests, deep river gorges, and tiny whitewashed villages clinging to hillsides. The track follows the Guadiaro River, crossing stone bridges and running through tunnels carved into the rock, with constant views of dramatic cliffs and verdant countryside. As you approach Algeciras, the scenery opens to rolling hills and glimpses of the shimmering Mediterranean, with the distant outline of Gibraltar on the horizon. We change to our coach and continue our journey south for about 45 minutes to Tarifa – our destination for the next three nights. Located at the southernmost end of the Iberian Peninsula, Tarifa lies on the Costa de la Luz and across the Strait of Gibraltar facing Morocco. Enjoy a late afternoon stroll then dinner at leisure and overnight Tarifa.



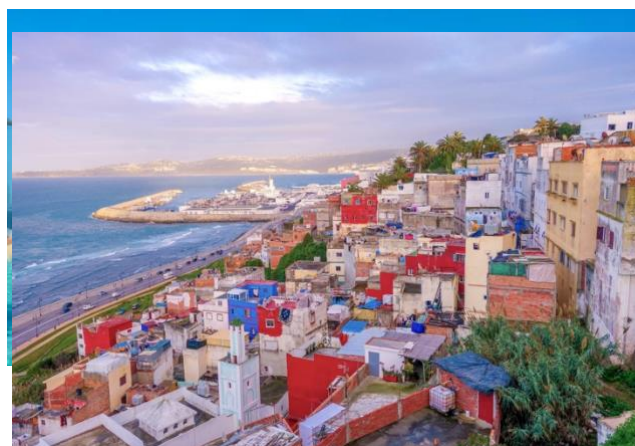
Monday 25 May 2026 (B) – to Gibraltar

Today we visit Gibraltar by coach - a blend of British character with Mediterranean flair and dramatic natural scenery. As a British Overseas Territory on Spain's southern coast, it is a strategically vital 6.8 sq km territory dominated by the Rock of Gibraltar. Historically, it guarded the Strait of Gibraltar, a crucial shipping lane, and has been a significant British naval and air base since its capture in 1704 and subsequent cession in 1713. The territory maintains self-governance for internal affairs but remains under UK responsibility for defense and foreign policy. Starting at the bustling Main Street, lined with colonial-style buildings, head to the Upper Rock Nature Reserve, where we visit the iconic Rock of Gibraltar and enjoy sweeping views of the Strait, Morocco, and Spain. Stop at the Great Siege Tunnels, an engineering marvel from the 18th century. See St. Michael's Cave, a stunning natural grotto turned auditorium, before descending to explore the historic Moorish Castle. With some time to stroll along the marina, grab a light lunch, and we return by coach to Tarifa - for dinner at leisure and overnight.



Tuesday 26 May 2026 (B) – Tarifa with optional ferry to Tangiers, Morocco

The option for a relaxing day in Tarifa, with a combination of sightseeing and hotel indulgence (pool and spa) or a day visit to Tangiers, Morocco (note the visit to Tangiers is own arrangement.) Located at the southernmost tip of mainland Europe, with stunning views across the Strait of Gibraltar, start by exploring the Old Town, a maze of whitewashed streets filled with artisan shops, tapas bars, and charming squares like Plaza de Santa María. Visit Guzmán el Bueno Castle, a 10th-century fortress with panoramic views of the coastline and Africa on a clear day. Stroll along Puerta de Jerez, the old city gate, before walking to the Isla de las Palomas, the meeting point of the Mediterranean and Atlantic oceans. Enjoy a seafood lunch at a beachside chiringuito, then spend the afternoon relaxing on Playa de Los Lances or watching the world-class kitesurfers ride



the waves. Alternatively journey across the Strait of Gibraltar, where Europe meets Africa. Begin early with a short ferry ride from Tarifa, enjoying sweeping views of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic as you cross to Morocco in just under an hour. On arrival in Tangier, start with the Kasbah, perched high above the city with its historic gates, whitewashed buildings, and panoramic views of the strait. Wander through the Medina, a labyrinth of narrow streets filled with colourful markets, spice stalls, and artisan shops, and visit landmarks such as the Grand Socco, the bustling main square, and the Mendoubia Gardens. Stop for a traditional Moroccan lunch of tagine and mint tea at a local restaurant, then explore the American Legation Museum or take in the coastal views from the Cor niche. In the late afternoon, return to the port for the ferry back to Tarifa. End the day with a sunset drink at our hotel, overlooking the dunes and the distant silhouette of Morocco, as Tarifa's vibrant yet laid-back atmosphere comes alive at night. Dinner at Leisure and overnight Tarifa.

Wednesday 27 May 2026 (B/D) – by coach via Cape Trafalgar and Vejer de la Frontera to Cádiz

We depart Tarifa today by coach, and follow the rugged Atlantic coastline to Cape Trafalgar, where the iconic lighthouse stands guard over sweeping sandy beaches and turquoise waters—the site of the historic 1805 naval battle. After a stroll along the dunes and a glimpse of the wild, unspoiled coastline, we continue inland to Vejer de la Frontera, a dazzling white hilltop village with narrow cobblestone streets, flower-filled patios, and panoramic views across rolling countryside to the ocean. Explore its charming plazas and Moorish arches before enjoying a leisurely lunch of local specialties such as tuna from nearby Barbate. In the afternoon, we travel north along the Costa de la Luz to Cádiz, one of Europe's oldest cities, where you can wander the atmospheric old town in the evening light, before ending your day with a sunset drink over the Atlantic. Overnight at the Parador de Cádiz.

Thursday 28 May 2026 (B/D) – Cádiz

Begin our half day of sightseeing in the Old Town, where narrow cobblestone streets lead to vibrant squares like Plaza de San Juan de Dios, framed by colourful facades and lively cafés. At Cádiz Cathedral, view its striking golden dome and sweeping views from the bell tower, stroll along the picturesque Campo del Sur promenade, often called the “Little Havana” of Spain. At the Tavira Tower, try the famous camera obscura for a unique 360° view of the city, then wander through the Mercado Central, one of Spain's oldest markets, to sample fresh seafood tapas. In the afternoon you can explore at leisure, wander the leafy Parque Genovés with its elegant gardens, or relax at our hotel with views over the ocean. Dinner is included and overnight Cádiz.



Friday 29 May 2026 (B) – to Seville

A late morning departure from the coastal charm of Cádiz, our train glides past the salt marshes and wetlands of the Bay of Cádiz Natural Park, where you might spot flamingos and other birdlife. As you leave the coast, the landscape shifts to fertile plains dotted with orange groves, vineyards, and olive trees under the bright Andalusian sun. Along the route, small whitewashed towns and historic stations hint at the region's rich heritage, while the Guadalquivir River valley signals the approach to Seville. We transfer to our hotel, leave luggage, then head out for luncheon and a leisurely stroll. Dinner at leisure and overnight Seville.

Saturday 30 May 2026 (B) – Seville

Known for its rich history, stunning architecture, lively culture, and warm climate, Seville is a major tourist destination and home to UNESCO World Heritage Sites like the Alcázar palace complex and the Seville Cathedral. We begin at the magnificent Seville Cathedral, one of the world's largest Gothic churches, with the option to climb the Giralda Tower for panoramic views of the city's rooftops and distant countryside. From there, wander through the Real Alcázar, a dazzling royal palace with intricate Mudéjar architecture, lush gardens, and tranquil courtyards. Stroll the charming Barrio Santa Cruz, the former Jewish Quarter, with its maze of narrow streets, flower-filled patios, and picturesque squares. Pause for lunch at a traditional tapas bar, sampling local favorites like jamón ibérico and salmorejo. In the afternoon, head to the spectacular Plaza de España in Parque de María Luisa, an architectural gem with tiled alcoves representing each Spanish province, before taking a leisurely walk along the Guadalquivir River. Return to our hotel for dinner at leisure and overnight Sevilla.



Sunday 31 May 2026 (B/D) – to Faro and the Algarve, Portugal

Depart Seville by coach late morning, crossing the fertile plains of Andalusia, as we head west toward the Portuguese border. We pause in the charming town of Ayamonte on the Guadiana River for a short break and luncheon, with a glimpse of the riverfront, before crossing into Portugal. Then along the Algarve coast, where golden beaches, dramatic cliffs, and quaint fishing villages set a picturesque backdrop looking over the North Atlantic. Arrive Faro mid afternoon, and after settling into the hotel stroll along the scenic Faro Marina. Dinner is included tonight, and overnight Faro.

Monday 1 June 2026 (B) – Faro

Today explore Faro - begin in the Old Town (Cidade Velha), entering through the Arco da Vila into a world of cobblestone streets, whitewashed houses and hidden courtyards. Visit the Sé Cathedral, with its Gothic and Baroque interiors and bell tower, then continue to the Carmo Church, home to the fascinating Chapel of Bones. Enjoy a seafood lunch near the Faro Marina, overlooking bobbing boats and the Ria Formosa lagoon. In the afternoon, join us for a short boat trip into the Ria Formosa Natural Park, a haven for birdlife and stunning scenery, and to the beach. End the day wandering lively squares like Praça Dom Francisco Gome or watch the golden Algarve sunset. Dinner is at leisure and overnight Faro.



Tuesday 2 June 2026 (B/L) – to Lisbon

A relaxing morning for you to rest or stroll through the old town, or along the waterfront. After check out we enjoy luncheon, before transferring to the railway station for an afternoon journey to Lisbon. Departing from Faro, the train glides past the salt flats and lagoons of the Ria Formosa Natural Park, where flamingos and other birdlife are often visible. As you leave the Algarve, the scenery transitions from sandy coastlines and orange groves to rolling plains dotted with cork oak forests and small whitewashed villages. Approaching Lisbon, the terrain becomes hillier, with bridges and glimpses of the Tagus River signalling the capital's proximity. The journey ends at Lisboa-Oriente station, a striking modern transport hub designed by Santiago Calatrava. We transfer to our hotel, and dinner is at leisure. Overnight Lisbon.

Wednesday 3 June 2026 (B/D) – Lisbon

The coastal capital, the most western in Europe, sees 4.5 million annual visitors, most of whom flock to the city for its fado music, historic ruins, winding old town, trams, and not to mention those pasteis de nata. Begin in the historic Alfama district, where narrow, winding streets lead to hidden squares, traditional fado music venues, and sweeping views from the Miradouros of Santa Luzia and Portas do Sol. Tour the grand Sé Cathedral and climb up to the São Jorge Castle, perched high on the hilltop with stunning vistas across the city and the Tagus River. From there, enjoy a tram ride on the iconic yellow Tram 28 winding past many of Lisbon's highlights, including the Baixa district with its elegant squares like Praça do Comércio and Rossio, perfect for strolling and enjoying the lively café culture. Dinner is included and overnight Lisbon.



Thursday 4 June 2026 (B) – Lisbon, or a day visit to Sintra.

Continue to explore Lisbon today, or visit the UNESCO listed town of Sintra. A short day trip into a fairytale landscape of palaces, gardens, and mountain scenery. A morning train ride from Lisbon's Rossio Station to Sintra, winding through green hills to arrive in about 40 minutes. Begin at the colourful Pena Palace, perched high on a hilltop, with its vibrant facades, ornate details, and sweeping views over the countryside. Stroll the mystical Gardens of Pena before heading down to the Moorish Castle, whose ancient stone walls and towers offer dramatic panoramas. Enjoy a traditional lunch in Sintra's historic centre, perhaps trying the local pastries travesseiros or queijadas.



Then visit the romantic Quinta da Regaleira, a whimsical estate filled with grottoes, tunnels, and the famous Initiation Well. Return by train to Lisbon and our hotel for dinner at leisure and overnight Lisbon.

Friday 5 June 2026 (B) – Lisbon

Today explore the riverside district of Belém, where Portugal's Age of Discovery comes to life. Marvel at the ornate Jerónimos Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and the striking Belém Tower, once a fortress guarding the river. The Monument to the Discoveries offers panoramic views, while a stop at the famous Pastéis de Belém bakery provides the chance to sample the city's most iconic custard tarts. The afternoon can be spent exploring the modern waterfront district of Parque das Nações with its Oceanarium and striking architecture, exploring the trams and funiculars of the city, or returning to the lively Bairro Alto for dinner and music, ending the Lisbon visit with the city's vibrant nightlife and charm. Dinner at leisure and overnight Lisbon.

Saturday 6 June 2026 (B) – to Australia or beyond, or continue to Porto and the Douro Valley

Depart to Lisbon Airport for flights to Australia or beyond. Thank you for joining the tour and we are confident you will have had a memorable experience with us.

Alternatively **join us from Australia**, or **continue with us** through to Porto by train, with a cruise along the Douro Valley, then Porto sightseeing, and the option to continue from Porto to Santiago de Compostela and aboard the luxury El Transcantabrico train across the northern region of Spain through to Bilbao and San Sebastian.



LISBON TO PORTO BY TRAIN, PORTO SIGHTSEEING AND THE DOURO VALLEY BY CRUISE SHIP

Monday 1 June 2026 – to Lisbon

Depart Australia for Lisbon – there are a range of flight options, and we will assist with recommendations.

Tuesday 2 June 2026 – Lisbon

Depending upon your arrival time, enjoy sightseeing in Lisbon, from local food markets, exhilarating tram experiences, to museum or galleries. Meet the group who've travelled from Barcelona. Overnight Lisbon.

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Saturday 6 June 2026 (B) – to Porto

Late morning we depart our Lisbon hotel and head to the rail station for our rail journey to Porto - the train rolls north through the fertile plains of the Ribatejo region, where vineyards, olive groves, and fields stretch toward the horizon. Passing through historic towns like Santarém and Coimbra, the scenery becomes more varied, with river valleys, forested hills, and clusters of red-roofed villages. Approaching Porto, the train follows the winding course of the Douro River, revealing terraced vineyards and bridges that signal the city's proximity. The journey ends at Porto-Campanhã station, where Porto's tiled facades and riverside views await. We check into our hotel with dinner at leisure and overnight Porto.

Sunday 7 June 2026 (B/D) – board the Uniworld S.S. São Gabriel for our cruise through the Douro Valley

The morning is at leisure before we transfer to the S.S. São Gabriel for our 7 night / 8 day cruise along the Douro River – the ship is promoted as embodying the beautiful Douro River Valley like no other ship in the region. Beautiful azulejos tilework, polished wood, and a summery palette bring the vivacity of Portugal onboard, while a sundeck pool beckons passengers to relax in the sunshine while soaking in the natural beauty of the surrounding landscape. This Super Ship vessel offers an entire deck of lavishly appointed suites with butler service, as well as three different dining venues in which to experience the delectable wine and cuisine of the Douro River Valley. As you follow the Douro River through Portugal and into Spain, you'll cruise past steeply terraced hillsides, quaint villages, and acres of ripe vineyards.



Enjoy private tastings of port, explore Porto's historic Ribeira district, home to iconic rabelo boats, cutting-edge cuisine, and a thriving art scene. Wind your way through the dramatic landscapes of the UNESCO-designated Douro Valley, heading ashore to visit charming quintas and meet the winemakers who operate them. See the famous university of Salamanca, Spain, and visit the mountaintop village of Castelo Rodrigo.

Monday 8 June 2026 (B/L/D) – Régua, Pinhão

Today is all about wine, which has been cultivated in the Douro River Valley since Roman times. The Douro Valley is the oldest demarcated wine-growing district in Europe. At the Douro Museum, learn about the region's unique geology and winemaking history, dating back to when the Romans planted vines in this region 2,000 years ago. See exhibits from port winemaker Real Companhia Velha showing how the process of making Port evolved over the centuries- tools of the trade and even a rabelo (a boat that carried wine from the vineyards to Porto). An interactive map shows where the quintas are; and by sniffing vials of concentrated fragrance, you can learn to identify the many aromas that a good Port exhibits. Sample regional Douro wine, and later partake in a choice of excursions, including a tasting at a prestigious Port wine estate or a vineyard hike with a wine tasting at a local quinta. In the evening enjoy a special Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner. Overnight S.S. São Gabriel.



Tuesday 9 June 2026 (B/L/D) – Pinhão, Pocinho, Vega De Terrón

Go medieval today at Castelo Rodrigo, both the name of a hilltop castle as well as the village that surrounds it. The view from the top is incredible and the village is a charming place to ramble, relax and replenish. The castle ruins stand high atop Marofa Mountain, telling the tale of border strife and Portugal's struggle for independence in a single structure. Alternatively, lace up your hiking boots and unleash your inner Indiana Jones with an up-close gander at some prehistoric carvings at an archaeological park. Overnight S.S. São Gabriel.



Wednesday 10 June 2026 (B/L/D) – Vega De Terrón (Salamanca), Barca D'alva

Today, visit the historic university town of Salamanca—the “Golden City”—famous for its sand-coloured buildings and abundance of churches. Called the “Golden City” for its tawny sandstone buildings, Salamanca boasts a dozen beautiful and historic churches, including two cathedrals: the new one, built in the early 16th century, and the Old Cathedral, which dates to the 12th century. Walk with your guide through Plaza Mayor, lined with wonderful baroque buildings, to the university, founded by Alfonso IX in 1218. The ornate plateresque façade is stunning, and the interior rooms are equally beautiful. Enjoy a typical tapas lunch or stroll the stalls of Salamanca's food hall (one of Spain's best). Feel the centuries fall away as your ship winds its way through the pristine, dramatic UNESCO-protected landscapes of the Douro River Valley. Overnight S.S. São Gabriel.



Thursday 11 June 2026 (B/L/D) – Barca D'alva, Régua

Discover the wonders of Lamego at the gateway of the Douro Valley, - known for a beautiful sanctuary dedicated to our Lady of “Remédios,” planted on top of one of the city hills and reachable by a gorgeous staircase with 686 steps. Discover the importance of Lamego's heritage and its importance for the production of sparkling wines and cold cuts, which you'll be able to taste in the regionally typical atmosphere of Presunteca, or the “Ham Library”. Later, enjoy a Night Out with dinner at a local quinta. Travel up winding roads with spectacular views for a traditional dinner bursting with regional flavours. Your hosts: the owners of a local quinta, a Portuguese analogue for the French “chateau” - overnight S.S. São Gabriel.



Friday 12 June 2026 (B/L/D) – Guimarães

Explore Guimarães, the town where Portugal was born. The geography surrounding the town is characterised by lush greenery, rolling hills and fertile valleys. To the north lies the Peneda-Gerês National Park and to the south, agricultural fields, vineyards, and the small villages of the Vinho Verde region. Guimarães itself sits in a valley surrounded by hills and is crossed by the Ave River, which flows from the Vieira do Minho village to the city of Vila do Conde. It's known for well-preserved medieval buildings like the hilltop, 10th-century Guimarães Castle, with its sweeping city views, and the restored Dukes of Bragança Palace, built in the style of a French chateau. Between the palace and the castle is the Romanesque São Miguel do Castelo Church, built in the 13th century. Overnight S.S. São Gabriel.



Saturday 13 June 2026 (B/L/D) – Porto

Wake this morning in Porto, with the choice of a guided walking tour or a coach tour of the city. We will aim to ensure the sights we visit by ourselves are different from what is included on today's tour. Or remain aboard and relax on the ship, admiring the river and city life from the comfort of the vessel. Of course, Porto is the longtime hub of the port wine trade, it is also much more. Take in the UNESCO-designated, 19th-century Stock Exchange Palace, the colourful multistorey townhouses that sheathe the hills and climb precipitously from the Douro estuary; medieval alleys snake through UNESCO-designated neighbourhoods enclosed by 14th-century walls—were erected on Roman foundations—and baroque church towers crowning the hilltops. Overnight S.S. São Gabriel.



Sunday 14 June 2026 (B/L/D) – Porto disembarkation and arrival of new travellers joining the next tour

After breakfast we disembark the ship.

The cruise includes: all meals onboard, prepared using the finest and freshest ingredients; 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners; welcome and farewell dinners; unlimited beverages onboard, including fine wine, beer, spirits, specialty coffee and tea, soft drinks, and mineral water. Six days of excursions, all fully hosted by English-speaking local experts; a guided “Do as the Locals Do” programme; state-of-the-art Quietvox portable audio-headset system on all excursions; free wi-fi on the ship; all gratuities for the ship staff; tour guides et al.

The S.S. São Gabriel offers boutique luxury, accommodating up to 100 passengers served by 37 crew members. Its top deck features lavishly appointed suites, many with French balconies, and it uniquely includes butler service, allowing guests to dine or request assistance at any time. The ship's amenities include a sundeck equipped with loungers and a small heated pool; a stylish main restaurant, a bistro for lighter fare, and a lounge bar—all serving locally sourced, farm-to-ship cuisine, complemented by premium wines, cocktails, and regional specialties; a Serenity River Spa, fitness centre, elevator access between decks, and thoughtful extras like a coffee and tea bar, complimentary Wi-Fi, and an onboard boutique for conveniences and souvenirs

Suites are elegantly appointed across three decks:

Grand Suites (~28.5 m²) and **Suites** (~20 m²) on the upper “Azores” deck, with bed, ensuite and sitting areas.

French Balcony Staterooms (~14 m²) on the “Cape Verde” deck with bed and ensuite. Both these categories feature floor-to-ceiling windows.

Deluxe or Classic cabins (~12–14 m²) on the “Madeira” deck have bed and ensuite, with a smaller, high level window (note these do not have floor to ceiling windows, and when lying in the bed or sitting, you cannot view outside.?)

Each suite/cabin features high-quality linens, ensuite bathrooms, and modern comforts like HD TVs, safes, and premium bath products

After disembarkation we transfer to our Porto hotel and leave luggage before a relaxing day exploring the city. Perhaps explore the Ribeira District, a UNESCO World Heritage site with colourful houses, lively squares, and views of the iconic Dom Luís I Bridge spanning the Douro River. Stroll along the riverfront promenade, and take in the view of the river along which we have spent the past week. Dinner tonight is at leisure and overnight Porto.

PORTO, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA AND THE 'TRANSCANTABRICO GRAN LUJO' LUXURY TRAIN

Those arriving to join us for our journey from Porto through to Santiago de Compostela and aboard the luxury train "El Transcantabrico" arrive into Porto on Sunday 14 June, 2026, and join us for sightseeing in Porto.

Monday 15 June 2026 (B/D) – Porto

Start our exploration today at the striking Livraria Lello, one of the world's most beautiful bookstores; stroll along Avenida dos Aliados, Porto's grand boulevard. Visit the Porto Cathedral (Sé), perched on a hill with sweeping city views, and wander through the historic streets lined with tiled facades. Stop for lunch to enjoy specialties like francesinha or fresh seafood, then explore São Bento Station, famous for its blue-and-white azulejo panels depicting Portuguese history. Visit the Clérigos Tower, climbing to the top for panoramic city vistas, or visit the Bolsa Palace, with its ornate Arabian Room, and the nearby Church of São Francisco, known for its gilded Baroque interiors. Cross the Dom Luís I Bridge to Vila Nova de Gaia, where the famous port wine cellars await— if you haven't heard and tasted and learned sufficient about port in the past week, take a guided tour and tasting to learn more about Porto's signature drink. Ride the Gaia cable car for sweeping views of the city and riverbanks. Spend some time at the Jardins do Palácio de Cristal, with tranquil gardens and breathtaking vistas of the Douro, and end perhaps an evening in Ribeira, sipping port wine by the water as the city lights shimmer. Dinner at leisure and overnight Porto.



Tuesday 16 June 2026 (B) – to Vigo

Those departing the SJR tour today head to the airport for flights out. Alternatively remain with us as we head north to Vigo and then to Santiago de Compostela to explore, and through Galicia, Cantabria and the Basque region, concluding our time in northern Spain in San Sebastian before we join a high-speed train to Paris for departures from Europe. With an early morning departure by train from Porto's Campanhã station, the train journey from Porto to Vigo is a scenic ride that follows Portugal's northern coastline before crossing into Spain's Galicia region. Pass the lush landscapes of the Minho region, with views of rolling vineyards, river valleys, and charming towns like Viana do Castelo. As the route nears the border, it runs alongside the broad Minho River, offering glimpses of the waterway that separates Portugal from Spain. Crossing into Galicia, the scenery shifts to rugged green hills and coastal vistas before arriving in Vigo around lunchtime, a bustling port city set on a sweeping bay of the Atlantic Ocean. We transfer to our hotel and there is time for lunch, before we explore the city in the afternoon. Start in the lively port area, where fishing boats and yachts fill the harbour, and stroll along the waterfront promenade lined with cafés and seafood restaurants. From there, head into the Casco Vello, the old town, with its winding lanes, stone buildings, and lively squares such as Praza da Constitución, perfect for soaking up local atmosphere. A walk up to Castro Fortress rewards visitors with panoramic views over the city, the Ría de Vigo estuary, and even the distant Cíes Islands. To round out the afternoon, visit the Mercado da Pedra to sample fresh oysters or browse local shops, before relaxing with a drink by the waterfront as the sun dips over the Atlantic.

Wednesday 17 June 2026 (B/D) – to Santiago de Compostela

After a relaxing morning to explore Vigo a little further, we head for the rail station for our journey north to Santiago de Compostela. The rail journey is a scenic ride through the lush landscapes of Galicia. Departing from Vigo's modern station, the train soon winds past the Ría de Vigo estuary with glimpses of fishing villages and forested hills before heading inland. The route passes through rolling green countryside dotted with vineyards, stone farmhouses, and small towns, giving a sense of the region's rural charm. As the train approaches Santiago, the scenery becomes more pastoral and tranquil, setting the stage for arrival in the historic pilgrimage city, where the spires of the cathedral await just a short walk from the station. We transfer to our hotel, then explore in the afternoon light before dinner together and overnight Santiago de Compostela.



Thursday 18 June 2026 (B) – Santiago de Compostela

Santiago de Compostela is an historic city and the capital of the Galicia region in northwest Spain, famous as the destination of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage and the burial site of the Apostle St. James. Its medieval Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, centred around the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, and offers a rich cultural experience beyond its pilgrim history, including unique architecture, local cuisine, and a vibrant atmosphere due to its university and population. We begin our exploration today in the grand Praza do Obradoiro, where the magnificent Santiago Cathedral dominates the square, its ornate façade and towering spires marking the endpoint of the Camino de Santiago. Inside, visitors can admire the baroque altar, the crypt of Saint James, and the famed Botafumeiro, the giant incense thurible often swung during special services. From there, wander the atmospheric old town with its maze of medieval streets, cloisters, and stone arcades lined with cafés, shops, and artisan boutiques. Enjoy Galician specialties such as pulpo a la gallega (octopus) or empanada for lunch, before continuing to landmarks like the Monastery of San Martiño Pinario and the University of Santiago's historic buildings. End the day strolling through Alameda Park, where leafy avenues frame splendid views of the cathedral skyline, providing a peaceful close to a rich and memorable visit. Dinner tonight is at leisure, and overnight Santiago de Compostela.

Friday 19 June 2026 (B) – Santiago de Compostela or Finisterre, Muxía and the Costa da Morte

Relax and explore further in Santiago de Compostela, or join us for sightseeing to Finisterre, Muxía, and the Costa da Morte offers a dramatic encounter with Galicia's wild Atlantic coastline. The journey begins with a scenic drive through rolling countryside and fishing villages before reaching Finisterre, once thought to be the "end of the world," where the rugged cliffs, lighthouse, and sweeping ocean views create a powerful sense of awe. Continuing along the coast, stops at secluded beaches and tiny harbors reveal the region's raw beauty, while legends of shipwrecks give the Costa da Morte its evocative name. In Muxía, visitors can explore the Sanctuary of Virxe da Barca perched on rocky shores, a site tied to both myth and devotion, and watch waves crash against the granite boulders. The day blends natural drama, maritime history, and spiritual tradition, leaving travelers with a vivid impression of Galicia's untamed edge. Dinner tonight is at leisure, and overnight Santiago de Compostela.



Saturday 20 June 2026 (B/L/D) – aboard the luxurious 'Transcantábrico Gran Lujo' train - Santiago de Compostela to Viveiro

Today we begin our seven night / eight day journey aboard the 'Transcantábrico Gran Lujo' train - a jewel of a train converted into a luxurious hotel, with historic original wagons from the 1920s and first-class suites that combine the elegance of yesteryear and the comfort of the 21st century. A dream trip through northern Spain on a journey through beautiful landscapes and cities of Galicia, Asturias, Cantabria and the Basque Country. With all the comforts, personalized attention, haute cuisine and leisure activities.



The Transcantábrico train has **14 magnificent Grand Luxury Suites** (approximate size of the Suite, including the bathroom, 12.82 m²). Spacious rooms decorated in wood create a very cosy and comfortable space, adorned with exquisite decoration. They include a living room, bedroom and private bathroom. The perfect setting to enjoy first-class accommodation. The spacious Grand Luxury Suites have a comfortable double bed measuring 1.50 wide x 1.90 long (10 suites), or two single beds 0.75 wide x 1.90 long (4 suites). After the night's rest, the room is transformed by day into a luxurious private lounge. The bed will be converted into a sofa, from where you can admire the views of the surroundings through the large windows. The private bathroom features a hot shower, a hairdryer and top-notch toiletries. In addition, the suites have wardrobe, luggage compartment, desk, safe and minibar, LED screens, music tuner, individually regulated air conditioning, multimedia computer with free Internet access and an indoor telephone.



Four spectacular salons cars built more than a century ago are integrated into the Transcantábrico Gran Lujo train. The Tea Room, the Panorama car and the entertainment room are the ideal setting for relaxing with a drink, reading, enjoying live evening entertainment or simply admiring the beauty of the landscape. Start your morning with a full buffet and a la carte breakfast served in the **elegant restaurant wagon** of the Transcantábrico Gran Lujo. The waiters will serve you directly at your table, where you can also enjoy the finest dishes of Spanish cuisine prepared by the prestigious chef of the train for dinners or lunches served on board.



We are received today at 12:00 pm at the Parador de los Reyes Católicos to begin our Transcantábrico route for eight wonderful days. After the reception, we will visit the historic centre of the city of Santiago de Compostela, a destination for pilgrims for a thousand years, which treasures innumerable artistic jewels headed by its splendid cathedral. After lunch, our luxury bus will take us to Ferrol, where the El Transcantábrico awaits. Upon our arrival, the crew will offer us a welcome toast, while the train moves to Viveiro. We will take a walk through the beautiful old town where we will have dinner and spend the night on board our train -

Sunday 21 June 2026 (B/L/D) – Viveiro - Ribadeo - Luanca

We start the morning, like every day of our trip, enjoying a delicious breakfast. The Transcantábrico will bring us closer to Ribadeo, a historic Galician town bordering the Principality of Asturias. From here, we will travel in our accompanying coach along the Lugo coast to Las Catedrales Beach, one of the most spectacular in the world. In addition, we will make a panoramic visit of Ribadeo. After we will make a stop to enjoy our luncheon. Back on our train, we enter Asturian lands. We visit a spectacular Villa Blanca on the Costa Verde, Luanca, to return to the train and head to Oviedo where we will spend the night aboard the Transcantábrico.



Monday 22 June 2026 (B/L/D) – Oviedo - Gijón - Llanes

Ending our breakfast, we begin the day with a visit to the coastal town of Gijón, a city as open to the Cantabrian Sea as it is full of cultural events. We visit the attractions of this city and stop for luncheon in a local restaurant. Then to the elegant capital of the Principality of Asturias, Oviedo. At its heart stands the Gothic Oviedo Cathedral, with its striking tower and the Holy Chamber, a UNESCO World Heritage site that houses treasured relics from early Christianity. The city is dotted with beautifully preserved pre-Romanesque churches, such as San Miguel de Lillo and Santa María del Naranco, perched on the green slopes of Monte Naranco with sweeping views over the valley. Strolling through Oviedo's old town reveals a tapestry of lively plazas, colourful facades, and bronze statues tucked along cobbled streets, while the bustling Mercado El Fontán offers a taste of Asturian life. We visit the highlights of the city then return to the train. Enjoy dinner on board while we head towards Llanes where we spend the night – relax in the lounge with a nightcap before overnight aboard the Transcantábrico.



Tuesday 23 June 2026 (B/L/D) – Llanes

Enjoy an excellent breakfast on board and then join our coach to the heart of the Principality of Asturias to reach the magnificent Picos de Europa National Park. Visit Lake Enol and later the Sanctuary of Covadonga, a sacred place full of tradition and legend. Then to Cangas de Onís to enjoy luncheon, before visiting the village of Llanes on Spain's northern coast - a charming seaside town known for its medieval old quarter, picturesque harbor, and colourful houses. Surrounded by rugged cliffs, sandy beaches, and the dramatic Picos de Europa mountains, it offers a perfect mix of history, culture, and natural beauty. Get to know this wonderful fishing village in eastern Asturias and we will have some time to explore. Enjoy dinner aboard and the train spends the night in Llanes - overnight aboard the Transcantábrico.



Wednesday 24 June 2026 (B/L/D) – Potes - Cabezón de la Sal

After breakfast join our coach to ascend to Potes, a picturesque town in Cantabria, crossing the impressive Desfiladero de la Hermida. After visiting this town, we enjoy a thermal circuit at the Balneario de la Hermida. After lunch visit El Capricho, in Comillas, a brilliant and colourful 19th century mansion by Antonio Gaudí. We continue to Cabezón de la Sal, in Cantabria, a lively market town surrounded by lush green hills and traditional villages. Known for its historic architecture, bustling weekly markets, and proximity to the Sequoia Forest of Cabezón, it serves as a gateway to both Cantabria's countryside and its nearby beaches. Enjoy dinner and overnight aboard the Transcantábrico



Thursday 25 June 2026 (B/L/D) – Santillana del Mar - Santander

On our sixth day on the Transcantábrico will visit the Altamira Neocave, a museum and reliable reproduction of this greatest exponent of Upper Paleolithic rock art. We travel back in time to medieval times as we stroll through the town of Santillana del Mar, which magnificently preserves an important medieval historic centre. We then rejoin the train and head to Santander, the elegant capital of Cantabria, where we'll take a guided tour and have free time to wander around the city – a vibrant city known for its elegant waterfront, sandy beaches and scenic bay its highlights include the Magdalena Peninsula with its historic palace, the bustling port area, and a lively mix of cafés, shops and cultural attractions, all set against a backdrop of rolling hills and the Atlantic Ocean. Rejoin our train for dinner, and we will spend the night stationary in Santander. Overnight aboard the Transcantábrico.



Friday 26 June 2026 (B/L/D) – Bilbao - Carranza

The Transcantábrico departs for Bilbao, a city full of dynamism that has managed to reinvent itself after the decline of its traditional heavy industry. During the visit to the city, explore its corners and its famous Guggenheim Museum, symbol of this new Bilbao, whose striking contemporary architecture and modern art exhibitions draw visitors from around the world. Stroll along the riverside promenade, cross the Zubizuri footbridge, and wander through the historic Casco Viejo with its narrow streets, bustling plazas and traditional shops. Stop at a pintxos bar to sample local Basque tapas, then enjoy views of the city from the nearby Artxanda funicular, rounding out a mix of culture, cuisine, and scenic charm. After luncheon there is some free time in the city, before returning to the train for dinner. We stop for the night in Carranza. Overnight aboard the Transcantábrico.



Saturday 27 June 2026 (B) – Bilbao - San Sebastián

Enjoying our last breakfast on board – the train returns to Bilbao, where our coach awaits to take us to San Sebastián on Spain's northern Basque coast - a picturesque city famed for its golden beaches, elegant promenades, and vibrant culinary scene. Its historic old town, Parte Vieja, is filled with narrow streets, lively bars, and tapas-style pintxos, while landmarks like La Concha Bay, Monte Igeldo, and the Kursaal offer stunning views and cultural highlights. The city combines natural beauty, historic charm, and world-class gastronomy, making it one of Spain's most alluring coastal destinations. Enjoy a guided tour of this city of elegant beauty before heading to the Hotel Costa Vasca in San Sebastián around 13:00 p.m., ending this wonderful tour of Northern Spain. Dinner at leisure and overnight San Sebastián.



Sunday 28 June 2026 (B/D) – Bilbao - San Sebastián

Our day of sightseeing in San Sebastián begins with a morning stroll along La Concha Beach, taking in the crescent-shaped bay and the elegant Belle Époque architecture of the promenade. From there, explore the charming old town, Parte Vieja, with its narrow streets, bustling plazas, and vibrant pintxos bars, perfect for sampling local Basque cuisine. In the afternoon, take the funicular up Monte Igeldo for panoramic views over the city and coastline, then visit landmarks such as the San Vicente Church and the Kursaal Congress Centre. End the day with a walk along Ondarreta Beach or a sunset along the waterfront, soaking up the city's blend of natural beauty, history and culinary delights. Enjoy a farewell dinner tonight and overnight San Sebastián.



Monday 29 June 2026 (B) – to Australia or beyond

Enjoying our last breakfast together – then depart by air from San Sebastián airport to Madrid or London for onward connections by rail or air.

Tuesday 30 / Wednesday 1 July 2026 – arrive back in Australia or beyond

Depending on your destination and flight departures, arrive back in Australia or other destinations. Thank you for joining us and we trust you have enjoyed your time with us in Spain and Portugal.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Accommodation is in 4 - 4½ star hotels. In some locations the best available may not be 4 star, and in some we have selected superior hotels as part of the experience. We will experience some Paradores in Spain and Pousadas in Portugal. Some hotels are older buildings, and in regional towns, sometimes without lifts. Rooms may be on the first or second floor, with access only possible by a flight or two of steps. Whilst we will do all possible to ensure the room quality (size, perspective, outlook, features) are shared equitably through the tour, some hotels will have no room exactly the same as others. All are comfortable, clean and well located for our tour. Meals are included as shown - breakfast is included most mornings, and we have included lunch and dinner on other occasions when it is prudent to do so. Where a wide range of dining options is possible, we have allowed you to dine when and with whom you wish. Meals are indicated as (B) Breakfast, (L) Luncheon, (LR) Light Refreshments and (D) Dinner.

PERSONAL SERVICE AND MEETING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

SJR prides itself on its personal service and attention to detail. The tour is escorted by the organiser/s of the itinerary. You are assured of the utmost service and our commitment to your satisfaction. We recognise that each passenger has different interests, and we will aim to provide the opportunity to allow you to rest from the group, explore by yourself or visit special sites you've read about – if you wish. Detailed advice and assistance will be given to help you, and many travel requirements can be made for you.

PARTICIPATION IN THE TOUR

A feature of the tour is travel by rail – this requires you to manage your own luggage between hotels and railway stations, and on and off trains. On some occasions we will have a coach to carry the luggage independently, however there may be occasions when it is necessary to change trains, and to use stations steps. Whilst most stations have elevators, they may not be working, or other impediments may mean it is necessary to use steps. A condition of joining this tour is your ability to manage your own luggage. Additionally, a medical / insurance form will be sent to you prior to departure from Australia, requesting the provision of key health information to pass to doctors/ hospitals in the event of an emergency, and requesting details of your travel insurance provider, and travel insurance policy number and contact telephone in the event a claim needs to be made. The provision of this information to the tour leader is a mandatory condition of participation in the tour.

FARES AND BOOKING PROCEDURES

The tour fare for each sector of the tour is shown below. The fare is per person (based on double/twin share) plus airfares from Australia. A supplement applies for sole use of hotel rooms. (Enquire if an alternate combination of tour dates is attractive to you.) Fares including the S.S. São Gabriel and “Transcantabrico Gran Lujo” are based on current fares and availability. As these are ‘dynamic priced’ fluctuating on demand, exact fare will be confirmed at time of booking.

Note the commencement date is the departure date from Australia for each tour. The concluding date is the final day of the tour in Spain or Portugal – you need to add return travel plans.

Tour 1: Barcelona, Madrid, Granada, Córdoba, Tarifa, Cádiz, Seville, Algarve, Lisbon - Sunday 10 May to Saturday 6 June 2026.

..... \$23,870 per person (based on double/twin share)
..... \$7,950 supplement for sole use of hotel rooms

Tour 2: Lisbon, Porto by rail, Douro Valley by river cruise, Porto sightseeing – Monday 1 to Tuesday 16 June 2026.

..... \$21,300 per person (based on double/twin share) in Grand Suite aboard S.S. São Gabriel
..... \$17,550 per person (based on double/twin share) in French Balcony Suite aboard S.S. São Gabriel
..... \$13,900 per person (based on double/twin share) in Deluxe Suite aboard S.S. São Gabriel

..... \$17,960 per person (supplement for Sole Use) in Grand Suite aboard S.S. São Gabriel and hotels
..... \$12,950 per person (supplement for Sole Use) in French Balcony Suite aboard S.S. São Gabriel and hotels
..... \$ 9,340 per person (supplement for Sole Use) in Deluxe Suite aboard S.S. São Gabriel and hotels

NOTE – if continuing with us from Tour 1, there is a **reduction** on the above fares of \$2,700 for twin/double share, and \$3,500 for sole use travellers.

Tour 3: Porto, Santiago de Compostela, Oviedo, Santander, Bilbao, San Sebastian – aboard the “Transcantabrico Gran Lujo” - Saturday 13 June to Tuesday 30 June 2026.

..... \$24,760 per person (based on double/twin share) and Grand Suite aboard the “Transcantabrico Gran Lujo”
..... \$15,100 supplement for sole use of hotel rooms/sole use of Grand Suite aboard the “Transcantabrico Gran Lujo”

NOTE – if continuing with us from Tour 2, there is a **reduction** on the above fares of \$1,440 for twin/double share, and \$1,960 for sole use travellers.

The tour is limited in size, with a maximum of 20 participants on each sector, with bookings confirmed in order of receipt of a deposit of \$3,000 per person per sector. The tour fare includes all hotels and sightseeing, rail and coach travel as indicated, all bus, tram, metro and light rail transfers when part of the group; all accommodation on a double/twin share basis (sole use of hotel accommodation, cruise stateroom and luxury train suite is available on payment of the sole use supplement); sightseeing and entrance fees to sites as indicated, and meals as shown in the itinerary for each day. The fare does not include meals not identified, drinks, excess baggage charges, gratuities, telephone calls, laundry, any items of a personal nature, travel outside the organised group. Due to the variety of interests of individuals, and the range of sites, museums etc. available for inspection on some days, we have included key features in the tour cost. Inspection and entry fees when not part of the planned group activity are not included in the tour cost. Additional or optional activities or entrance fees (shown as (O) in the itinerary, are not included in the cost. Bookings should be made on the attached form. The deposit of \$3,000 per person should be forwarded by Electronic Funds Transfer to:

Account Name: Scenic Journeys by Rail
BSB: 033364
Account Number: 612826
Reference: Your name and ‘Spain’ or ‘Portugal’

You can also pay by cheque, payable to St James Rail, sent to SJR, PO Box N400, GROSVENOR PLACE, 1220.

If paying by EFT, include the reference above and your surname, and email to sjr@digitor.com.au to advise you have paid. Please forward the booking form to the postal address above.

Debit/credit card payment is available, with merchant fees of 1.00% for Visa/MasterCard, and 1.8% for American Express. Please call us to make payment by debit/credit card.

BOOKING, CANCELLATION AND TRAVEL CONDITIONS

Bookings will be accepted on the attached form. **Changes to the itinerary** - as the tour involves a range of scheduled rail operations, and coach charters, some in remote parts of Spain and Portugal, where accommodation and travel options maybe limited, the tour organiser reserves the right to change and amend the itinerary at his sole discretion based on necessary changes to travel plans due to air, sea, land and rail operation schedule changes and hotel availability. **Currency fluctuations** – the tour organiser reserves the right to adjust the tour price based on significant foreign exchange movement between the Australian Dollar and the Euro. **Cancellation** fees apply as follows: the initial deposit is non-refundable. After further payment towards the final tour cost, costs for tickets, accommodation, sightseeing etc made on your behalf will incur cancellation charges equal to the cancellation charges incurred to us, imposed by suppliers/operators, plus a fee to cover administrative costs – more than three months prior to departure, \$1000 per person; within three months, \$2000 per person. No refund will be made for cancellations after 1 March 2026. All cancellation or administration charges imposed by the suppliers/operators of components of this tour must be borne by you, the passenger. **Responsibility** - St James' Rail acts only as the organiser of the tour. On acceptance of tickets and travel documents for this tour, which may be evidenced in writing by a ticket, voucher, letter, or other document, you accept that neither St James' Rail nor representatives from any other firm supplying services in conjunction with this tour programme, shall be liable in contract or in tort (actionable wrong) for any injury, loss, damage, accident, sickness, delay or additional expense to you or your possessions arising directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond our control, or which are not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part, including, but not limited to, civil disturbance, fire, floods, acts of God, acts of Governments or other authorities, changes in itinerary, weather, strikes, war, transportation disruption, failure of machinery or equipment, industrial action, pandemic, quarantine or any other cause. Where travel is by scheduled carrier, or charter service, that carrier's responsibility is limited in accordance with their conditions of carriage. Similarly all luggage is your responsibility, and we cannot be held liable for any loss or delay however caused. The care of your travel documents are your own responsibility. All expenses incurred by loss must be borne by you. Airline regulations and conditions are written on the airline tickets and are issued to passengers subject to their acceptance of these conditions. Changes in exchange rates, taxes and any land arrangements costs may alter the price of the tour, and St James' Rail reserves the right to change, amend or cancel this tour and/or itinerary if necessary. We reserve the right to amend the itinerary en route to account for unforeseen changes or conditions, or to improve the tour experience for the majority, as determined by the tour leader. **Passports, visas, vaccinations, health requirements** – a valid passport with six months validity from the end of the tour is required. Obtaining all visas, vaccinations or other health requirements to meet the expectation of airlines or foreign governments is your responsibility. St James' Rail cannot accept responsibility for any losses or expenses incurred as a result of a passenger not holding valid and necessary passport, visa, vaccination or health documents. **Special conditions relating to Government restrictions** – if the tour is unable to proceed due to Government restrictions, SJR may at our election: postpone your travel arrangements to a future date, in which case we will issue you with a credit note equal to amounts paid at the time of postponement; or cancel your travel arrangements, in which case our contract with you will terminate. If we cancel your travel arrangements and our contract terminates, neither of us will have any claim for damages against the other. However, we will refund payments made by you less unrecoverable third-party costs and less fair compensation for work undertaken by us up until the time of termination and in connection with the processing of any refund. SJR will refund payments it is able to recover or not incur from the various suppliers of services to this tour. Refunds will be made when the funds have been received by SJR from third party suppliers. **Full details of terms and conditions:** if you would like a copy of the full terms and conditions applicable to all SJR tours please contact us and we will forward a copy to you.

INSURANCE

Travel insurance is highly recommended to protect yourself against cancellation fees, health and other travel risks. If you cancel your participation in the tour, either prior or during the tour, cancellation costs will apply. An insurance policy can be sent to you from our travel agent, Sarah Manche, MTA Travel, for your consideration. Obtaining insurance cover is your responsibility. In the event of hospitalisation or prolonged medical care, you are responsible for managing your own situation. The tour leaders cannot provide an extended (more than six hours) of personal care to assist you in the event of medical care.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please call us on (02) 9326 9660, 0418 585 838, email at sjr@digitor.com.au or visit www.stjamesrail.org

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

BY RAIL, RIVER CRUISE & LUXURY TRAIN

- Barcelona, Madrid, Granada, Córdoba, Tarifa, Cádiz, Seville, Algarve, Lisbon -
Sunday 10 May to Saturday 6 June 2026

- Lisbon, Porto by rail, Douro Valley by river cruise, Porto sightseeing -
Monday 1 to Tuesday 16 June 2026

- Porto, Santiago de Compostela, Oviedo, Santander, Bilbao, San Sebastian -
aboard the "Transcantabrico Gran Lujo"
Saturday 13 June to Tuesday 30 June 2026

Booking Form

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Name:

Address: Suburb: Postcode:

Home tel: Work tel: Mobile:

Email:

BOOKING DETAILS (Full passenger names EXACTLY as shown in the passport – please include a scan of the data page of your passport, either with the booking form, or subsequently)

Passenger 1 Name:

Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:

Frequent Flyer: Airline No:

Passenger 2 Name:

Date of Birth: Passport No: Expiry Date:

Frequent Flyer: Airline No:

Please indicate the number of people for each relevant tour sector:

Tour 1: Barcelona, Madrid, Granada, Córdoba, Tarifa, Cádiz, Seville, Algarve, Lisbon - Sunday 10 May to Saturday 6 June 2026.

..... \$23,870 per person (based on double/twin share)

..... \$7,950 supplement for sole use of hotel rooms

Tour 2: Lisbon, Porto by rail, Douro Valley by river cruise, Porto sightseeing – Monday 1 to Tuesday 16 June 2026.

..... \$21,300 per person (based on double/twin share) in Grand Suite aboard S.S. São Gabriel

..... \$17,550 per person (based on double/twin share) in French Balcony Suite aboard S.S. São Gabriel

..... \$13,900 per person (based on double/twin share) in Deluxe Suite aboard S.S. São Gabriel

..... \$17,960 per person (supplement for Sole Use) in Grand Suite aboard S.S. São Gabriel and hotels

..... \$12,950 per person (supplement for Sole Use) in French Balcony Suite aboard S.S. São Gabriel and hotels

..... \$9,340 per person (supplement for Sole Use) in Deluxe Suite aboard S.S. São Gabriel and hotels

NOTE – if continuing with us from Tour 1, there is a **reduction** on the above fares of \$2,700 for twin/double share, and \$3,500 for sole use travellers.

Tour 3: Porto, Santiago de Compostela, Oviedo, Santander, Bilbao, San Sebastian – aboard the “Transcantabrico Gran Lujo” - Saturday 13 June to Tuesday 30 June 2026.

..... \$24,760 per person (based on double/twin share) and Grand Suite aboard the “Transcantabrico Gran Lujo”
..... \$15,100 supplement for sole use of hotel rooms/sole use of Grand Suite aboard the “Transcantabrico Gran Lujo”

NOTE – if continuing with us from Tour 2, there is a **reduction** on the above fares of \$1,440 for twin/double share, and \$1,960 for sole use travellers.

PAYMENT

..... I have paid \$3,000 per person, per tour, by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) as described previously. Please email SJR at sjr@digitor.com.au to advise and scan and send this form.

Account Name: Scenic Journeys by Rail
BSB: 033 364
Account Number: 612826
Reference: Your name and ‘Spain’ or ‘Portugal’

..... Please call as I/we wish to make payment by credit card.

AIR TRAVEL TO AND FROM EUROPE

..... Please call me to discuss air travel options.

..... I will make my/our own air travel arrangements and meet you in Europe.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Single rooms: Double rooms: Twin (two bedded) rooms:

A single supplement is payable for sole use of rooms in hotels.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please indicate any dietary or any other sort of special request :

.....
.....

INSURANCE

..... Please send an insurance policy from our travel agent, Sarah Manche, MTA Travel.

YOUR SIGNATURE

I have read the reservation conditions outlined above and accept them on behalf of myself and my party by whom I am authorised to make this agreement.

Signature of person making reservation: Date:

Cancellation charges will apply as advised in this itinerary. An insurance policy can be forwarded from our travel agent Sarah Manche, MTA Travel, upon request. It is your responsibility to obtain appropriate travel insurance for your personal circumstances.

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Mobile +61 418 585 838
Web www.stjamesrail.org

September 2025