# SPAINPS

# COSTAVERDE



APRIL 30-MAY 11, 2015 AHI: 800-323-7373

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Spain's Costa Verde, the Green Coast, considered by many to be the country's most beautiful area, enchants all who visit. This lush region stretches across Spain's northern coast next to the Bay of Biscay. The inland mountains created this verdant wonderland by trapping the Atlantic sea breezes and moisture along the coast. On this journey, discover Madrid and Spain's heartland before venturing to the Costa Verde, renowned for its natural beauty. Enjoy pastoral scenes, dramatic mountain views and ocean vistas. Savor delicious local cuisine and a glass of refreshing cider, a Basque specialty, while making memories of a lifetime.



#### Dear Johns Hopkins Alumni and Friends,

We are excited to invite you on a trip to Spain's Costa Verde, the Green Coast. This northern coast of Spain is unlike any other region of Spain. It owes its green hills and forests to Los Picos de Europa, a mountain range that blocks misty sea breezes from dissipating over the Spanish plains.

Our journey begins in Madrid, the Spanish capital. We'll spend some time exploring the heartland and venture out to the cities of Toledo and Segovia before heading north to the great medieval city of León. We'll continue to the resort cities of Santander and San Sebastián. Along the way, we'll be able to appreciate both the natural beauty of this special region of Spain as well as spectacular examples of man-made greatness created over the centuries: Segovia's Roman aqueduct; the medieval walled city of Toledo; Leon's Gothic cathedral; and Frank Gehry's signature titanium swirls in Bilbao.

This expertly planned journey includes exciting excursions and informative lectures designed to give you an insider's knowledge of your destination. This program is an outstanding value, and space is limited to 28 travelers. Please make your reservation today to avoid disappointment!

Sincerely,

Marguerite highly formes

Marguerite I. Jones, A&S '74, Bus '88 Travel Program Director Office of Alumni Relations The Johns Hopkins University

Los Picos de Europa

"Architecture should speak of its time and place, but yearn for timelessness."

> ~ Frank Gehry, (b. 1929), Canadian-American architect

"But man does not create ... he discovers."

> ~ Antoni Gaudí, (1852-1926), Spanish architect

It is not the same thing to talk of bulls as to be in the bullring.

~ Spanish proverb

#### AHI: 800-323-7373



# De Madrid al cielo. (From Madrid to heaven.)

~ Spanish proverb

#### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the stunning coastal and mountain landscapes of the Costa Verde.
- Journey through the **heartland of Spain** to Madrid, Toledo and Segovia.
- Take a scenic drive through **Los Picos de Europa**, the limestone mountain range that forms Spain's largest national park.
- Follow in the footsteps of pilgrims who have traveled the Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage route in León.
- See the artistic treasures of the **Guggeheim Museum Bilbao.**
- Discover Spain's Basque Country in Bilbao and San Sebastián before visiting Saint Jean de Luz in France's Basque region.

#### | UNESCO |

Los Picos de Europa, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and the UNESCO World Heritage sites of the Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct, the Historic City of Toledo and the Route of Santiago de Compostela in León are featured in this program. Los Picos de Europa, a limestone mountain range, offer a dramatic welcome to the Costa Verde. Visit Santander, Santillana del Mar, Bilbao and San Sebastián, all stops along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, the Way of St. James and treasures in their own right. A journey through old Castile completes your experience. Discover the authentic personalities of Basque Country, Cantabria and Old Castile.

#### DAY ONE

Depart for Madrid, Spain.\* \*Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

# DAY TWO

Arrive at Madrid-Barajas Airport. Transfer≁ to the Hotel Wellington.

This evening, gather with your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception.

# DAY THREE

**Excursion:** *The Spanish Capital.* Madrid has been the capital of Spain since the midl6th century, but it was an established city for many centuries before that. Discover its historic medieval center. See the Royal Palace, Plaza Mayor and Plaza España. Travel along the Gran Vía, the city's beautiful main boulevard.

**Independent Exploration:** The afternoon and evening are at leisure.

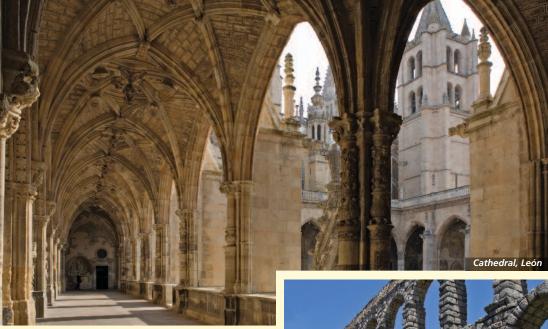
#### DAY FOUR

#### TOLEDO

BIL

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**Excursion:** *Toledo, the Cultural Capital.* Discover a harmonious blend of Jewish,





Moorish and Christian culture in this elegant walled city. See the Gothic cathedral, a 14thcentury synagogue and a 10th-century mosque. See El Greco's "The Burial of the Count of Orgaz" inside Santo Tomé Church.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at a restaurant in Toledo's Old Town.

#### DAY FIVE

#### BILID

#### SEGOVIA | LEÓN

#### **Excursion:** Segovia, Heart of Castile.

Stroll streets lined with Romanesque churches and 15th-century palaces. Visit the Plaza Mayor. See the Roman aqueduct that was built at the end of the first century and the 14th-century Alcázar.

**Local Flavor:** Savor regional specialties during lunch in Segovia.

Continue to León, where you will check in to the Parador de León. This parador is a former monastery that was built in the 16th century to lodge pilgrims traveling to Santiago de Compostela.

**Local Flavor:** Tonight, dinner is served at the parador. The restaurants in Spain's paradors



are known for their cuisine, which emphasize local ingredients and regional specialties.

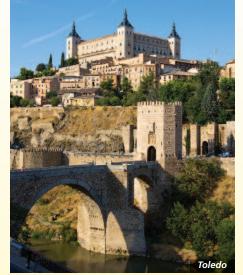
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#### DAY SIX LEÓN

#### Excursion: León, a Medieval Treasure.

Built on the site of a Roman camp, León grew to become a major stop along the Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage route. Among its highlights are the Gothic cathedral, San Isidoro Basilica and the Royal Pantheon.

**Educational Focus:** *El Camino de Santiago de Compostela.* Since the ninth century, León has welcomed pilgrims traveling on El Camino de Santiago de Compostela, the Way of St. James of Compostela. According to tradition, James the Apostle introduced Christianity to Spain and later traveled to Judea, where he was martyred. It is said that St. James' followers brought his remains back





to Spain, where his tomb was discovered in the ninth century. Today, about 70,000 people travel El Camino each year, but during the 11th and 12th centuries, 500,000 pilgrims annually made their way to Santiago de Compostela.

#### DAY SEVEN

BILID

#### LOS PICOS DE EUROPA | SANTANDER

**Excursion:** *Los Picos de Europa.* This morning, depart for Santander via the Picos de Europa National Park, Spain's oldest national park and a UNESCO biosphere reserve. Sailors returning from the New World knew they were close to home once they saw the craggy limestone peaks in the distance.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch served at a restaurant en route to Santander. Check in to the Hotel Real in Santander.

#### DAY EIGHT

BILID

#### SANTILLANA DEL MAR | COMILLAS

#### **Excursion:** Towns of the Costa Verde.

Travel the scenic coast to Santillana del Mar, one of Spain's most historic cities and one of the major stops on the Way of St. James. Enjoy free time in Santillana del Mar to explore the town or visit the Altamira National Museum, which contains exhibits about the famous



prehistoric art that decorates the walls of the cave near the city. Comillas features an interesting combination of historic and modernist architecture. One of the highlights in Comillas is El Capricho, a fanciful creation of Cataluña's most famous architect, Antoni Gaudí.

**Local Flavor:** Stop for lunch in Comillas.

DAY NINEBILIDBILBAO I SAN SEBASTIÁNExcursion: Bilbao, a Modern BasqueCity. Visit Bilbao and the GuggenheimMuseum, designed by acclaimed architectFrank Gehry. Inside the museum's iconic,undulating titanium curves, you can admirean excellent collection of contemporarymasterpieces by artists ranging fromde Kooning to Rothko.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at a restaurant in Bilbao.

Upon arrival in San Sebastián, check in to the Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra in San Sebastián.

**Educational Focus:** *The History of* 

*Northern Spain.* Basque Country — País Vasco in Castilian and Euskadi in the Basque language — is one of the most intriguing regions in Spain. There is a mystique about the Basque region and its people, who are most commonly believed to be descendants of the Vascones, a tribe that lived in this region long before the Romans invaded the peninsula.

**Local Flavor:** Visit a restaurant in San Sebastián, a city known around the world for its delectable cuisine, for a dinner of Basque specialties.

DAY	TEN
SAN	SEBASTIÁN

в

Excursion: A Walk Through San Sebastián. Stroll through San Sebastián — Donostia in the Basque language — to see the highlights of this popular resort town along the Bay of Biscay. It is considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in Spain.

**Educational Focus:** *Contemporary History of Basque Country.* Learn about recent events in Basque Country and how they have affected the development of this unique part of Spain.

#### DAY ELEVEN

BID

#### Saint Jean de Luz, France | San Sebastián, Spain

#### **Excursion**: French Basque Country.

Discover Basque Country north of the border. Venture into France and explore a Basque town along the coast. Visit charming Saint Jean de Luz.

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy time at leisure in Saint Jean de Luz for lunch. The

### ACCOMMODATIONS |



#### HOTEL WELLINGTON | MADRID

This deluxe hotel, near Madrid's Retiro Park in the elegant Salamanca neighborhood, is within walking distance of the museums of the Art Triangle. The hotel's restaurants serve local and international fare. The hotel also has a library, spa, fitness center and Wi-Fi. restaurants are known for fresh seafood and the local wine. Spend some time exploring the town before returning to San Sebastián.

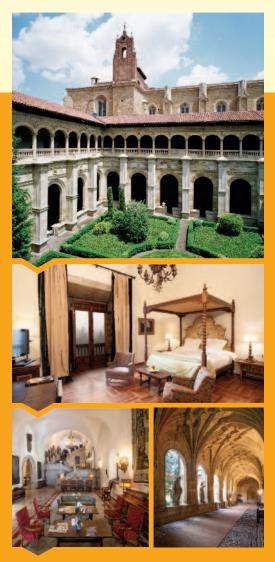
Tonight, join your fellow travelers for a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

#### DAY TWELVE

Transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.\*

**Note:** Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

Included meals indicated each day as  $B \mid L \mid D = Breakfast \mid Lunch \mid Dinner.$ 



**PARADOR DE LEÓN | LEÓN** This one-of-a-kind hotel was a 16th-century monastery that welcomed pilgrims making their way across Europe to Santiago de Compostela.

way across Europe to Santiago de Compostela. Relax in elegant surroundings, which include a courtyard, a library and a restaurant that serves regional specialties. Wi-Fi is available.









Above left: Saint Jean de Luz, France Left: Santander Above: El Capricho, a building designed by Antoni Gaudí, Comillas



HOTEL REAL | SANTANDER

Surrounded by its gardens, the Hotel Real faces Santander's famous coastline and overlooks Bay of Biscay, also known as the Cantabrian Sea. Originally built to lodge the guests of the royal family on their vacations in Santander, the Hotel Real is elegant and regal. Enjoy Cantabrian cuisine at the restaurant, and unwind at the state-of-the-art thalassotherapy spa. Wi-Fi is available.



#### HOTEL DE LONDRES Y DE INGLATERRA | SAN SEBASTIÁN

Situated in the heart of San Sebastián and overlooking pretty Concha Beach and the Bay of Biscay, this elegant hotel is close to many of the town's highlights. Marvel at breathtaking views from the terrace, and sample delicious regional cuisine served in the restaurant. Wi-Fi is available.

Reserve your trip to Spain today!	NEW ULTIMATE FLEXIBILITY-The AHI Travel Passenger Protection Plan now offers a low-cost Any Reason
Trip #:1-22137W	Cancellation feature. Book worry free! NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas,
Send to: Spain's Costa Verde The Johns Hopkins University c/o AHI Travel International Tower-Suite 600 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue Chicago, IL 60631 Please contact AHI Travel at <b>900-323-7373</b> with questions regarding this tour. For	entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry clean- ing; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature. MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVELTHE right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to them- selves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement to be the opticing of the kital menuet neidwide acremende to
Please contact AHI Travel at <b>800-323-7373</b> with questions regarding this tour. For questions regarding Johns Hopkins, please call <b>800-JHU-JHU1(548-5481)</b> or Email: <b>travel@jhu.edu</b> .	that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limi- tation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist
Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)	them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance. <b>AIR TRANSPORTATION</b> . The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares.
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Land Program	with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occa-
<ul> <li>I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.</li> <li>I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$1,095 (limited availability).</li> <li>I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.</li> </ul>	sioned thereby. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, are subject to change at or before the time of departure. No revisions of the printed itinerary or its included features are anticipated; how- ever, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mutual under- standing that any additional expenses will be paid by the individ-
Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by February 14, 2015 (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa or Discover. Make checks payable to AHI International.	ual passenger. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is canceled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the deposit, the pas- senger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himsel/therself or other passengers and accepts the terms of
Note: A small portion of the cost of your trip supports the Johns Hopkins Alumni Travel Program. Eligibility: At least one member of the traveling party is required to make a sus- taining financial contribution of \$50 or more to the Johns Hopkins Alumni Association within the fiscal year. Please visit alumni.jhu.edu/support.	this contract set out herein and in more specific pre-departure passenger information. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the compa- ny(ies) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip. <b>CANCELIATION-I</b> and/titon to airline cancellation penalties, all
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Signature Date Enclosed is a deposit of (\$600 per person required)	istrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following.} Cancellation from
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# LAND PROGRAM May 1-11, 2015

Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
\$4,245	\$250	\$3,995*

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel. VAT is an additional \$395 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air program costs (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$1,095 (limited availability).

# AHI FLEXAIR April 30-May 11, 2015

Our personalized air program allows you to select your flights, routing, class of service and dates of travel in consultation with one of our experienced Passenger Service Representatives. Airfares will vary, depending on airline, routing and class of service. In most cases, transfers between the airport and hotel/cruise ship will be included on arrival and departure days. Your Passenger Service Representative will provide you with all of the details you need to guarantee your transfer. Book your air with us to ensure assistance in the case of schedule changes or delays that may impact your air travel plans.

# **ITINERARY**

- Day 1 Depart Gateway City\*
- Day 2 Arrive in Madrid, Spain
- Day 3 Madrid
- Day 4 Toledo | Madrid
- Day 5 Segovia | León
- Day 6 León
- **Day 7** Los Picos de Europa | Santander
- Day 8 Santillana del Mar | Comillas | Santander
- Day 9 Bilbao | San Sebastián
- Day 10 San Sebastián
- Day 11 Saint Jean de Luz | San Sebastián

Day 12 Return to Gateway City\*

*Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.* 

★Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.





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# | INCLUDED FEATURES |

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

- Three nights in Madrid, Spain, at the deluxe Hotel Wellington.
- Two nights in León at the deluxe Parador de León.
- Two nights in Santander at the deluxe Hotel Real.
- Three nights in San Sebastián at the deluxe Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra.

### MEALS

- Enjoy an **extensive meal program,** featuring 10 breakfasts, five lunches and five dinners. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner. Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Sample authentic regional specialties at local restaurants.
- Attend festive Welcome and Farewell Receptions and a special Farewell Dinner.

# TRANSPORTATION

• All deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land Program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers are included.

# YOUR EXCITING TRAVEL PROGRAM

#### (For details, see the day-by-day itinerary.)

- **Informative educational programs** presented by local experts to enhance your insight into the region.
- **Personal VOX listening devices** allow you to hear every word from your expert, English-speaking guides.

#### • All excursions:

- -See the highlights of Madrid, capital of Spain.
- -Visit Toledo, one of Spain's most historic cities.
- -Discover Segovia's Roman and Moorish heritage.
- -Explore the city of León, a fascinating medieval city.
- -Marvel at Los Picos de Europa, a beautiful mountain range in northern Spain.
- Stroll through the towns of Santillana del Mar and Comillas.
- Enjoy a visit to the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao.
- Immerse yourself in Spanish and French Basque culture in San Sebastián and Saint Jean de Luz.

# MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Travel Director** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of all guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in your planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.







**Top to bottom:** Plaza Mayor, Madrid Church bell Vineyard Spanish man

**Cover photo:** Coastline, Santander



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**AHI Travel** is the premier operator of deluxe travel programs sponsored by alumni associations. Their experienced, professional staff has offered the highest level of service in **innovative travel programs since 1962**.

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- An exceptional travel value. It would be impossible for an independent traveler to arrange all these unique experiences, inclusions and services at a comparable price.
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