

Gardens & Art of Spain - Tour Overview

Northern Spain: Bilbao to Santiago de Compostela 4 - 11 October

Southern Spain: Cordoba, Granada, Seville & Madrid 11 - 18 October

\$5120 per person double occupancy - \$1500 single supplement (based on group of 8 travelers)

New View Tours is delighted to offer a new trip to Spain with a focus on the art and gardens, and the architectural legacy of the country: the palaces, churches and sites of Romans, Moors, the Spanish Reconquista and local peoples. Enjoy the flora and fauna of different regions during this shoulder Fall season after the high tourist season subsides.

With the assistance of Marina Duque Mulvihill of Madrid and Stockbridge; and her mother Mrs. Sally Crane Duque of Seville and Philadelphia, join us to explore unique niches in their country. Special visits arranged for the group will include private gardens in Seville and a visit to the home of Marina and Stephan Duque/Mulvihill outside of Madrid.

Accommodations will be well-appointed boutique hotels and one 5-star parador in Santiago de Compostela. Each hotel is chosen for its proximity to the art, gardens and historic architecture. Most stays will be two nights.

Day trips will be by private van with driver; high speed train and between the northern and the southern tours by plane from Santiago de Compostela to Seville.

Ramelle and Michael Pulitzer will coordinate arrangements during the trip and look forward to traveling with you!

Travelers need to be in good health, able to walk distances across the gardens in open parks and port their luggage in the train station and airport. See

The Itinerary:

Northern Tour - 4 - 11 October

7 nights/8 days Bilbao to Santiago de Compostela

Meet in Bilbao to explore the Guggenheim Museum designed by Frank Gehry. Visit the Museo de Bellas Artes de Bilbao. Stay at the Hotel Jardines de Albia www.spajardinesdealbia.com

In private van, travel to Santander, Cantabria. Visit the impressive reproduction of Altamira cave outside the splendid medieval town of Santillana del Mar that, unlike its name suggests, is not by the sea. Also visit the original El Castillo Cave in Puente Viesgo which is at least 39,000 years old and has impressive cave paintings to view. Also tour the newly opened Centro Botin Museum in Santander city which is in a magnificent location on the bay, hanging out over the sea . Stay at Gran Hotel Sardinero that is on the ocean by the esplanade and stunning Sardinero Beach, once a popular retreat for the Spanish Royalty who stayed at the nearby Magdalena Palace: www.hotelsardinero.es

Continue west across the north coast of Spain in the shadow of the mightly Picos Mountains to the colorful province of Asturias known as a `natural paradise´ in Spain for it's deep woodlands, mountains and green valleys. We visit Gijon on the Biscay coast, the Garden of Evaristo Valle and the Quinta in Cudillero. Stay at Casona de la Paca a typical style of historic house found throughout Asturias and which were built by returning emigrants who had earned their fortune in South America. See it here: www.casonadelapaca.com

In Santiago de Compostela, find the spectacular cathedral renowned throughout Europe. Here is the site where St. James is believed to be buried. The last stop on the ancient Christian pilgrimage is yours to explore. Rooms are reserved at the spectacular 5 star Parador, a converted palace located by the cathedral in the Obradoiro Plaza and operated by the Spanish government. www.paradores-spain

It will be a morning flight direct to Seville. Upon arrival, van transport to Cordoba for one night. These tickets are included.

Southern Tour - 11 - 17 October

Cordoba, Grenada, Seville to Madrid

Begin in Cordoba where the UNESCO world renowned Mosque features a catholic Baroque cathedral! It will be an eyeful of cultural and religious confluence! Stay a night at the Amistad Hotel in the centre city. www.nh-collection.com

The next stop is the renowned UNESCO Alhambra Palace in Granada. We stay at the NH Victoria Hotel.

Visit Carmen de Los Martires, originally a shrine, then established as a convent still operates as nuns continue their lives here today. The grounds have several gardens, one is enclosed, two more are the restored French and English gardens and there is a lake area with vegetable garden and maze. Also tour the historic Albaicin which in places is like stepping right in to a seen from Morocco with it's tea houses and traditionals Moroccan market stalls. We will have a second day to explore the region with guide. Stay at the NH Victoria Hotel www.nh-collection.com

History from the 5th century is alive in Ronda, our half a day stop on the way from Granada to Seville, with Islamic and Roman architecture as well as the dramatic El Tajo Gorge with ancient bridge built into the cliffside,

In Seville, a top destination recognized by the New York Times this year, we meet Ms. Sally Crane de Duque who will join the group as our local guide and friend from Sevilla Garden Club. Sites will include the Reales Alcazares, a great urban park deigned by the French landscape gardener Forestier for the Ibero-American Exhibition in 1929; the Maria Luisa Park, the largest in Seville and most beautiful in Europe; the Jardines de Murillo, another 14th century sunken garden by Pedro El Cruel; and the Casa de Pilatos Gardens owned by a Duke!

Stay two nights at the Hotel Becquer is in the heart of Seville. www.hotelbecquer

The high-speed train takes only a couple of hours to Madrid where we visit the center city with Royal Botanical Gardens adjacent to the Prado Museum; the El Capricho Park. Hotel here is Palacia San Martin www.hotelpalaciosanmartin

The group then pays a visit to the outskirts of Madrid to the San Lorenzo de El Escorial and Monastery that was a Renaissance residence for the king of Spain. Here we end the tour enjoying a personal tour of the enormous cathedral and school with Stockbridge friends Marina Duque and her husband Steven Mullvihill. Dinner is included at their home this evening.

With appreciation to Marina Duque Mullvihill for the local research and guidance that initiated the design of the tour.

TO SIGN UP FOR THE TOUR:

GIVE US A CALL & FILL OUT THIS FORM ONLINE:

Trip Reservation Form

Send a \$500 non-refundable deposit to: New View Tours PO Box 583 Stockbridge, MA 01262

Ramelle 336-416-2390

Michael 413-717-5459

INCLUDED SERVICES:

All transportation described, including local air fare, high speed train and van services; 4 dinners, 5 lunches, guides and many entry fees.

All hotels: All hotels are very centrally located and are quality hotels with very high customer satisfaction ratings. We can guarantee their being quality establishments.

Upon full payment, a detailed itinerary will confirm services. The tour is planned months in advance and every effort will be made to follow the arrangements.

NOT INCLUDED:

International flights, Travel Insurance, Porterage (not commonly available in Spain) some meals, drinks or hotel extras other than those described above.

New View Tours strongly recommends all passengers obtain travel insurance. Consider Travelguard.com. Go to New View Tours website and click on Nuts & Bolts. Here you go: www.travelguard.com

More Details arranged by Totally Spain:

Day 2: Bilbao: Half-day (Guggenheim & City)

Day 3: Cantabria: 6 hours (El Castillo Cave & Altamira)

Day 4: Santander Half- Day (City & Botin Centre)

Day 5: Asturias: Half-Day

Day 6: A Coruña: Half-day

Day 7: Santiago: Half-day

Day 8: Cordoba: Half-day

Day 9: Ubeda & Baeza:

Day 10: Granada: Full-day

Day 11: Ronda: Half-day (on way to Seville)

Day 12: Seville: Full-day

Day 13: Madrid: Half-day

Day 14: Madrid: Full-day

ENTRANCE TICKETS INCLUDED

Bilbao: Guggenheim Museum, Bellas Artes Museum

Cantabria: El Castillo Cave, Altamira Cave Reproduction, Centro Botin Museum

Cordoba: Mezquita, Viana Palace, Cathedral, Alcazar, Casa Pilatos

Granada: Alhambra Palace & Generalife Gardens, Cathedral, Royal Chapel

Cathedral, Alcazar, Casa Pilatos

Sevilla: Reales Alcazares, Maria Louisa Park, Casa de Pilatos Gardens

Itinerary Draft - January 18, 2018