

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Embrace the many personalities of Spain as you explore the cities of Madrid, Laguardia, Barcelona and San Sebastián.
- Take guided tours of the
   Guggenheim
   Museum in
   Bilbao and the
   Prado in Madrid.
- •See the fanciful architecture of Antoni Gaudí in Barcelona.
- Discover
   Pamplona,
   Hemingway's
   beloved city.
- Taste the wines of La Rioja and explore the famous underground wine cellars.
- Explore Toledo, a former capital with a glorious cultural legacy created by its Jewish, Moorish and Christian communities centuries ago.



and more define very different cultures and create a rich

passion for life!

tapestry. The people of these regions, despite their differences, possess at least one common Spanish trait: an irresistible



## Dear Carolina Alumni and Friends,

We are pleased to invite you on an unforgettable journey to Spain, a country of incomparable culture and history. Your itinerary, carefully crafted by seasoned travel professionals, showcases northern Spain's most interesting destinations.

Begin your adventure in Madrid, where the Prado Museum, Gran Vía and Plaza Mayor await your discovery. Travel to Toledo with its magnificent Cathedral, and then savor the wine and cuisine in La Rioja, Spain's renowned wine region. Get an insider's look at the Gehrydesigned Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, and explore the vibrant coastal town of San Sebastián. Stroll along the bustling streets of Pamplona before traveling on to Barcelona, with the whimsical creations of Antoni Gaudí. Enjoy three nights at the Majestic Hotel & Spa.

On this small group tour of 28 travelers, you will receive special access and enjoy behind-the-scenes experiences not available to larger groups. An experienced Travel Director will take care of every detail during your journey. Best of all, expert guides will lead you on fascinating excursions that will give you an in-depth look at the local culture and history. You will appreciate the ease with which a small group travels. In addition, you have ample free time for independent exploration.

This is sure to be a popular program, so we encourage you to make your reservation today.

Yours at Carolina,



Douglas S. Dibbert '70 President The University of North Carolina General Alumni Association Marqués de Riscal Hotel and Winery designed by Frank Gehry, Elciego

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

> ~ Frank Gehry, Canadian-born U.S. architect, b. 1929

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

> ~ Antoni Gaudí, Spanish architect, 1852-1926

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

~ Spanish proverb



#### DAY ONE

Depart your gateway city for Madrid, Spain. \*Provided for Air Program participants.

#### **DAY TWO**

#### MADRID, SPAIN

Upon arrival, transfer<sup>★</sup> to the Hotel Wellington.

This evening, attend a Welcome Reception.

#### **DAY THREE**

#### MADRID

# **Educational Focus:** Contemporary **Spain.** Explore recent Spanish history and

discover Spain's role in the world today.

**Excursion:** *Madrid.* Witness the grandeur of Madrid. See the Royal Palace, Plaza Mayor and Plaza España. Travel along the Gran Vía, the city's beautiful main boulevard.

**Local Flavor:** Break for lunch at one of the city's many excellent restaurants.

**Excursion:** *Museo del Prado.* The Prado. one of Madrid's many spectacular museums, features masterpieces by Velázquez, Goya and other Spanish and international artists.

#### **DAY FOUR**

#### TOLEDO

**Excursion:** *Toledo.* Discover a harmonious blend of Jewish, Moorish and Christian culture in Toledo. See the cathedral, one of the most impressive Gothic structures in the world; the 12th-century Santa Maria La Blanca Synagogue; and El Greco's "The Burial of the Count of Orgaz" inside Santo Tomé Church.

#### I UNESCO I

The Historic City of Toledo, Burgos Cathedral and the Works of Antoni Gaudí are UNESCO World Heritage sites featured in this program.



**Local Flavor:** Enjoy a classic Castilian lunch at the hilltop Parador de Toledo, which also provides a view over the city.

#### DAY FIVE

#### **BURGOS | LAGUARDIA**

Today, journey from Castile to the hilltop town of Laguardia in Rioja wine country.

Excursion: Burgos, a Historic Castilian Capital. En route, visit delightful Burgos, the old capital of Castile and see its Old Town and its famous Gothic cathedral. Completed in the 15th century, the church took more than 300 years to build.

**Local Flavor:** Dine on delectable regional dishes during lunch in Burgos.

Arrive in Laguardia this afternoon, and check in to the Hotel Sercotel Villa de Laguardia.





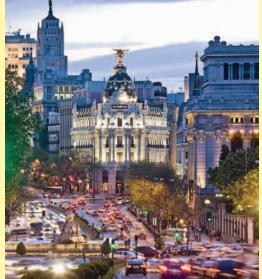
**Local Flavor:** Tonight, enjoy a classic Rioja dinner featuring the famous wine of the region.

#### DAY SIX

LAGUARDIA | ELCIEGO B | L | D

**Excursion:** The Wines of La Rioja. Visit the Frank Gehry-designed Marqués de Riscal winery in Elciego for a tour and wine tasting. Return to Laguardia to explore this charming walled city. Visit the church of Santa Maria de Los Reyes to see its splendid Gothic portico, the Plaza Mayor and a honeycomb of historic wine bodegas hidden in the city walls and underground. Visit La Fabulista bodega for a tasting.

**Local Flavor:** Savor lunch and a view of the





**Top left:** Burgos Cathedral | **Top right:** Gran Vía, Madrid | **Above:** San Sebastián | **Left:** Detail from "The Burial of the Count of Orgaz," Toledo

vineyards at a restaurant in Laguardia.

**Independent Exploration:** The afternoon is at leisure.

#### DAY SEVEN

#### BILBAO I SAN SEBASTIÁN BIL

This morning, depart for Bilbao and San Sebastián.

**Excursion:** *Bilbao.* Visit Bilbao and the famous Guggenheim museum designed by American architect Frank Gehry. Inside the museum's undulating titanium curves, you'll find a breathtaking collection of contemporary masterpieces from de Kooning to Rothko. Enjoy a panoramic tour of the city before lunch.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch in Bilbao, a city known for its exceptional Basque cuisine. Upon arrival in San Sebastián, check in to Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra.

#### DAY EIGHT

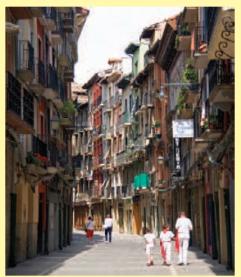
#### SAN SEBASTIÁN

BID

**Excursion:** A Walk Through San Sebastián. Stroll through San Sebastián — Donostia in the Basque language — to see



**Left:** Sardana Dance Monument, Montjuïc Park, Barcelona | **Below:** People in traditional white and red clothing, Pamplona



the highlights of this popular resort along the Bay of Biscay.

Educational Focus: A History of Basque Country. 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 descendents of the Vascones, a tribe that lived in this region long before the Romans invaded the peninsula.

**Excursion:** *An Evening with Locals.* Meet local residents of San Sebastián and learn about local life.

#### DAY NINE

#### **PAMPLONA**

3 | L

**Excursion:** *Pamplona.* Today, venture out to Pamplona. Wander along the 16th-century streets of Hemingway's beloved city. Visit one of the largest bullrings in Spain, the chapel where matadors pray and the splendid Gothic cathedral.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy local fare at a restaurant in Pamplona.

#### **DAY TEN**

#### BARCELONA

BIL

This morning after breakfast, transfer to Barcelona.

**Excursion:** Spanish countrysiude and Zaragoza. During your transfer, take in the picturesque Spanish countryside and stop for lunch and a chance for a quick stroll in Zaragoza, the Capital of the Aragón region. Upon arrival in Barcelona, check in to the Majestic Hotel & Spa.



# The Wine of La Rioja

Spanish vineyards produce many great wines, but the grapes of the northern La Rioja region are the basis of truly exceptional wines. Here, 1,200 vineyards produce 278 million liters of wine each year. Three white-wine grapes are grown here: Viura, Malvasia de Rioja and Garnacha Blanca. But the most noted wines

are made from red grapes: Tempranillo, Garnacha, Mazuelo and Graciano. La Rioja wines are categorized by their age: joven, young, fruity wines; crianza, wine that is at least 3 years old and that has been casked for at least one year (six months for white wine); reserva, top-vintage wine that has been aged for at least three years, with one year in a cask (two years of aging and six months in a cask for white wines); gran reserva, wine from the best vintages that have aged two years in casks and three years in the bottle (one year in a cask and three in a bottle for white wines).





Above: Matadors, Pamplona

#### DAY ELEVEN

BARCELONA

В

**Educational Focus:** *History of Cataluña and Barcelona.* This region of Spain has its own history and culture. Discover what makes Cataluña unique.

**Excursion:** *Barcelona.* See the Passeig de Gràcia, the Champs-Élysées of Barcelona; the lush hilltop retreat of Montjuïc, home to the Olympic Stadium; and other architectural marvels from 14th-century Gothic buildings to more modern designs.

**Excursion:** *Gaudí's Barcelona.* Antoni Gaudí's moderniste style left an indelible mark on Barcelona. See some of his famous works, including the fascinating La Sagrada Familia and leafy Parc Güell.

#### DAY TWELVE

BARCELONA

BID

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy a full day to explore Barcelona on your own.

Tonight, gather for a Farewell Dinner at a restaurant in Barcelona.

# The Architecture of Northern Spain

Head to northern Spain to see some of the country's most glorious architecture. Barcelona has its share of historic monuments in the Barri Gótic, its Gothic Ouarter, but its architectural stars are from the modernisme movement. Antoni Gaudí (1852-1926), the most famous architect of this movement, created unforgettable works, including Parc Güell, Casa Batlló and opulent La Sagrada Familia, which remains unfinished. Another architect who has made his mark in northern Spain is Canadian-born American Frank Gehry (b. 1929), whose contemporary buildings seem like an homage to his modernism forebears. The facades of his Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and the Hotel Margués de Riscal in Elciego both bear the sweeping ribbons of titanium, a common Gehry feature.

#### DAY THIRTEEN

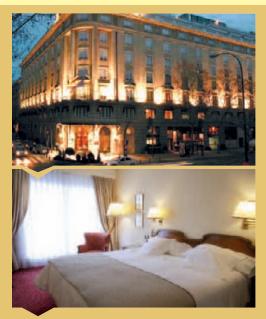
В

This morning, transfer to the airport for the return flights to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary subject to change. Some events on this program involve an element of walking.

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

# | ACCOMMODATIONS |



#### WELLINGTON HOTEL | MADRID

Found in Madrid's stately Salamanca neighborhood close to Retiro Park, elegant boutiques and the Prado museum, the stylish Wellington Hotel is a quiet retreat in cosmopolitan Madrid. The hotel offers guests state-of-the-art fitness and business centers, restaurants serving different cuisines — from Basque to Japanese — and an outdoor pool and Jacuzzi.



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

Overlooking a beautiful beach and bay from the heart of San Sebastián, this elegant hotel was once the home of Queen Isabella II, who was dethroned in 1868. By the turn of the century, the building had become a hotel. Marvel at breathtaking views from the terrace, and sample the restaurant's delicious offerings.





# HOTEL SERCOTEL VILLA DE LAGUARDIA

Set amid the vineyards of Rioja wine country, the Hotel Sercotel Villa de Laguardia features views of the Cantabrian Mountains. The hotel has a restaurant, wine bar, swimming pool, fitness center and reading room. The spa features treatments using products made from the region's two most famous products: wine and grape seed oil.



#### **MAJESTIC HOTEL & SPA BARCELONA**

Located in the heart of the city, the Majestic Hotel & Spa Barcelona is within walking distance of Las Ramblas, Barcelona's lively entertainment district. Savor Mediterranean cuisine in the hotel's restaurant, enjoy a cocktail on the rooftop terrace or indulge in a pampering treatment at the luxurious spa.

Reserve y	our trip to	Spain to	day!	NOT INCLIDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and
For Office Use Only: B#:		Date:		meals not mentioned in this brochure under included fea-
Trip #:4-21135W		PSR:		tures; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL. The right is retained to
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Please contact 877-962-398 reservation.	<b>0</b> with questions r	egarding this tr	ip or to make a	by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, spe-
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(1) Title First	Middle	Last	Date of Birth	higher, all year Economy class fare, VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be
(2) Title First	Middle	Last	Date of Birth	wholly responsible for any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s). CANCELIATION-In addition to airline cancellation penalties,
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Email:				BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are
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Land and Air Program		t the Air Dresus	m to Madrid Casia	effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.  AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS - On
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Signature			e	entire program is canceled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the
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# LAND PROGRAM October 4-15, 2014

Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
\$4,545	\$250	\$4,295*

\*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 \$1,395 (limited availability).

# AIR PROGRAM October 3-15, 2014

AHI Travel's exclusive Air Program provides special advantages for travelers who are flying on our designated group flights. Reserve your air with us to enjoy a number of important services to help ensure a smooth and relaxing journey. We have negotiated special fares and benefits with our airline partners.

## **AHI AIR BENEFITS**

- Arrival and Departure Transfers including baggage handling.
- **Price Guarantee** protect yourself from fare and fuel surcharge increases.
- Advance Seat Assignments on most airlines.
- Group Discount Business Class Prices on most airlines.
- Flexibility most programs do not require immediate ticketing, avoiding penalties for cancellations or changes until the tickets are issued.
- A dedicated Passenger Service Representative — a single point of contact to assist you.
- **Knowledgeable Air Agents** will track your flights and assist with any lost baggage, flight delays or cancellations.

#### **ITINERARY**

Day 1	Depart Gateway City★
Day 2	Madrid, Spain
Day 3	Madrid
Day 4	Toledo
Day 5	Burgos/ Laguardia
Day 6	Laguardia/ Elciego
Day 7	Bilbao/ San Sebastián
Day 8	San Sebastián
Day 9	Pamplona
Day 10	Barcelona
Day 11	Barcelona
Day 12	Barcelona
Day 13	Return to Gateway City★

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

**★**Provided for Air Program participants.



Madrid

# | INCLUDED FEATURES |

#### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

- Three nights in Madrid, Spain, at the deluxe Hotel Wellington.
- Two nights in Laguardia at the deluxe Hotel Sercotel Villa de Laguardia.
- Three nights in San Sebastián at the deluxe Hotel de Londres y de Inglaterra.
- Three nights in Barcelona at the deluxe Majestic Hotel & Spa Barcelona.

#### **MEALS**

- Enjoy an extensive meal program, including 11 breakfasts, seven lunches and four 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 Reception 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 full details, please refer to 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:
  - Discover the highlights of Madrid.
  - Explore the Prado Museum.
  - Wander through historic Toledo.
  - Tour Burgos and the city's cathedral.
  - Tour the Gehry-designed Marqués de Riscal winery and have a wine tasting.
  - Enjoy the sights of Laguardia and a wine tasting.
    - Journey to Bilbao for a tour of the city and a visit to the Guggenheim Museum.
      - Stroll through San Sebastián.
        - Explore Hemingway's beloved Pamplona.
        - Uncover the charm of Barcelona and admire Gaudí's architectural whimsy.

#### 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: La Rambla, Barcelona Mosaic, Parc Güell, Barcelona Man wearing a Basque beret Santa Maria del Coro Basilica, San Sebastián

## Cover photos:

La Sagrada Familia, Barcelona





## A word about your Tour Operator

**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.

#### In AHI Travel's care, you can rely on:

- 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.
- Unique access to local sites. Take advantage of over 50 years of travel experience to gain preferred entrance to popular sites and to uncover the region's hidden treasures.
- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- Expertise of local guides who possess authoritative knowledge of the region and offer personal insight into local culture.
- Flexibility and customization. Free time during the trip allows you to pursue your own interests. They will also help you tailor your dream trip with add-ons and extensions.
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