

SPAIN'S



COSTA VERDE



SPONSORED BY

**THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA
GENERAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

MAY 28-JUNE 8, 2015

877-962-3980





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 Carolina Alumni and Friends,

Join fellow Tar Heels and friends 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.

Your journey begins in Madrid, the Spanish capital. You'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. You'll continue to the resort cities of Santander and San Sebastián. Along the way, you will see 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. We encourage you to make your reservation today.

Yours at Carolina,

Douglas S. Dibbert '70
President

The University of North Carolina General Alumni Association

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

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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 **Guggenheim 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

MADRID, SPAIN

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

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

DAY THREE

B

MADRID

Excursion: *The Spanish Capital.* Madrid has been the capital of Spain since the mid-16th 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

B I L

TOLEDO

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



Cathedral, León



Basque dancers

Moorish and Christian culture in this elegant walled city. See the Gothic cathedral, a 14th-century 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

B I L I D

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



Aqueduct, Segovia

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

DAY SIX

B

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



Toledo



Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao



Santillana del Mar

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 **B I L I D**

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 **B I L I D**

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 NINE **B I L I D**

BILBAO | SAN SEBASTIÁN

Excursion: *Bilbao, a Modern Basque City*.

Visit Bilbao and the Guggenheim Museum, designed by acclaimed architect Frank Gehry. Inside the museum's iconic, undulating titanium curves, you can admire an excellent collection of contemporary masterpieces by artists ranging from de 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 **B**

SAN SEBASTIÁN

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

B | D

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

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

B

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 | L | D = Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner.*

| 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.



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. 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!

Trip #: 5-21823W

Send to: Spain's Costa Verde
 The University of North Carolina
 General Alumni Association
 George Watts Hill Alumni Center
 CB# 9180
 Stadium Drive, PO Box 660
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0660
 Toll Free: **877-962-3980**

Please contact **877-962-3980** with questions regarding this trip or to make a reservation.

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

(1) _____
 Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

(2) _____
 Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home: (_____) Cell: (_____) _____

Sharing with _____ (Form sent separately)

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Land and AHI FlexAir Program

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the AHI FlexAir to Madrid, Spain, with a return from Bilbao to depart from:

_____ Departure City

- Please contact me regarding air options.
- Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

Land Program

- I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.
- I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$1,095 (limited availability).
- 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.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by March 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.

Tour participants who are not members of the General Alumni Association must join the Association (\$45 for singles, \$55 for couples) to participate. Please pay by separate check made payable to the General Alumni Association and mail with this reservation form. I understand that reservations will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. I accept the conditions as stated in this brochure and submit my reservation as indicated. I understand that the balance is to be paid 75 days prior to departure.

Signature _____ Date _____
 Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600 per person required)
 to reserve _____ place(s).

- Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.
- Charge my: MasterCard Visa Discover Expires _____ / _____

Card # _____

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI International constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; 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 TRAVEL-The 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 themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

AIR TRANSPORTATION-The price of air transportation offered 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, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the 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 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).

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 subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

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CANCELLATION-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. (Please note that you may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following.) Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

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LAND PROGRAM

May 29-June 8, 2015

Full Price

\$4,245

Special Savings

\$250

Special Price*

\$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

May 28-June 8, 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.



San Sebastián



San Sebastián

877-962-3980

| 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

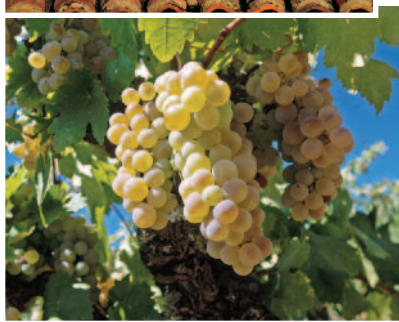
(For details, see the day-by-day itinerary.)

- **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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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 more than 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.
- **Safety and security.** In a country where you might not know the language or culture, their professional staff is on hand to ease your way and get you any help you need.



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