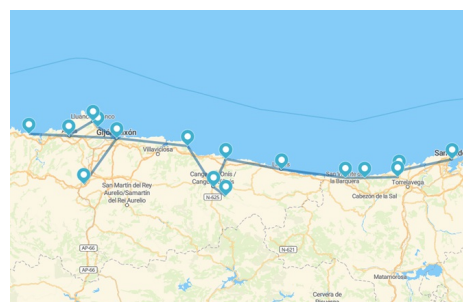




Spain, 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

Green Landscape Route

The north of Spain is famous for its spectacular natural beauty, its deep-rooted traditions and its delicious cuisine. The Picos de Europa mark the boundary between Cantabria and Asturias, two fabulous regions that never fail to surprise travellers with their picture-postcard landscapes, villages nestled in verdant valleys, elegant and aristocratic cities, charming harbours, graceful beaches, and much-appreciated Romanesque churches. Along the way, you'll discover the fascinating National Museum of Altamira, the feats of Don Pelayo and key historical episodes that took place in these lands. You'll also get to enjoy experiences such as canoeing down the River Sella, coming face-to-face with dinosaur remains, or enjoying the sun and sea on a heavenly coastline. The cities of Santander and Oviedo boast a rich cultural life and a vast array of leisure activities to suit all ages. Come and discover the so-called Green Spain from behind the wheel!



NATURE CULTURAL

Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till May 2027

From: Cork, Shannon, Dublin

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - SANTANDER

Flight departure from the city of origin to Santander. Arrival and rental car pick-up.

The capital of Cantabria captivates visitors with its magnificent location on a beautiful bay with the port at one end and the mountains in the background. Santander will enamour you from the minute you set foot in the city. The fury of the Cantabrian Sea, its graceful beaches, its beautiful buildings, its mild climate and its evergreen natural environment will make your visit truly memorable. You can start your tour by heading down the effervescent Avenida Castañeda with its delightful views of the Bay of Santander and the sweeping El Sardinero beach, two kilometres long and one of the least contaminated beaches in the whole world. Flanked by beautiful Belle Époque style buildings and close to excellent restaurants, luxurious hotels and beautiful gardens, this area of Santander has been an outstanding holiday destination since the mid-19th century. Then head over to the Peninsula of La Magdalena, a seaside paradise that wouldn't go amiss in a fairytale. You can get to this area on foot, by car or by tourist train. Take some time to explore the headland and don't miss the famous Palacio de la Magdalena, the former summer residence of King Alfonso XIII and Queen Victoria Eugenia. (Note: Make sure you book tickets in advance, as the palace has a limited capacity. Not included). This elegant and refined building contains incredible spaces such as the Alfonso XIII Room, the Royal Hall, the Banquet Room and the Ballroom. After the visit, you can marvel at the breathtaking views of the Cantabrian Sea and the island of Mouro.

Then, you can take a stroll along Avenida Reina Victoria and admire its stately buildings.

And after a leisurely walk, you'll come across the Cantabrian Maritime Museum. Here you'll discover the fusion between the Cantabrian Sea and humankind, getting to understand more about the idiosyncrasies of this traditional city. Make sure you visit the Cathedral of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, the Jardines de Pereda park or the avant-garde Centro Botín. For a spot of shopping, head over to Calle Burgos, while if you want to savour the exquisite local cuisine and the delicious rabas or fried calamari, go to Plaza Porticada or the Mercado Municipal del Este market. If you still have time, you can take a sightseeing tour by boat across the beautiful Bay of Santander. This hour-long cruise will take you past the unspoilt beaches of Somo and El Puntal. (Note: Tour not included. These cruises set sail from the Palacete del Embarcadero). And to round off the day, the Faro de Cabo Mayor lighthouse will give you an insight into a more romantic Santander, with breathtaking views of a seemingly endless sea.

Overnight stay in Santander.

DAY 2 · SANTANDER - UBIARCO - NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ALTAMIRA - SANTILLANA DEL MAR - COMILLAS

After enjoying a delicious breakfast, you can take advantage of the morning to explore any parts of Santander that you didn't see yesterday. Art and history buffs have a couple of must-visits: the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art and the Museum of Prehistory. (Note: Admission not included). After enjoying a pleasant walk along the sea and around the historic quarter of the city, you can set off on your road trip as such. Get ready to discover the true allures of Cantabria from behind the wheel!

After half an hour on the road, you'll arrive in the town of Ubiarco, located just five kilometres from Santillana del Mar. The picturesque beach of Santa Justa awaits you here. The cliffs, the hidden cove, the chapel semi-carved into the rock and the evergreen fields are simply unique. Then, you can head to the fascinating National Museum of Altamira. The Cave of Altamira is often called the Sistine Chapel of paleolithic art and is listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. (Note: To prevent damage to the paintings, the cave is no longer accessible, but you can see exact reproductions of the different chambers at the National Museum of Altamira. Apart from the twenty-minute visit to the museum, you can take part in interesting workshops on hunting and fire, aimed at children and adults alike. Admission not included. Try to book tickets in advance and check the opening hours, as the museum usually closes on holidays such as 24 and 25 December). And then it's on to the picturesque Santillana del Mar, which Jean-Paul Sartre described as "the prettiest town in Spain"! It certainly doesn't lack attractions. Located three kilometres inland and brimming with palatial villas, the town cherishes Romanesque jewels such as the Collegiate Church of Santa Juliana, home to the tomb of the martyr Saint Juliana who is said to have slayed the devil. This incredible feat is portrayed in the murals of the building. Stroll leisurely around its streets and immerse yourself in a one-of-a-kind atmosphere in Spain. We also recommend the defensive towers of Don Borja, Merino and Los Velarde, the Casas del Águila y la Parra, the Town Hall, the Plaza Mayor, and the National Parador...

Time will be flying by, though, so it's time to head back on the road. The next stop will be Comillas, less than half an hour away. This town boasts a truly fantastic historic quarter, full of cobblestone streets, modernist buildings and stately homes, as well as a beautiful beach. Must-sees include the University of Comillas and the impressive Palacio de Sobrellano. You should also visit the Capilla-Panteón de los Marqueses de Comillas, the Arabesque-style Capricho de Gaudi, the Plaza del Corro and the Plaza de los Tres Caños. Another essential is the Cemetery of Comillas, with a breathtaking sculpture of the Angel of Death and the ruins of a Gothic convent. And if you have more time, you can round off this memorable day by visiting the Monument to the Marqués de Comillas, which commands impressive views over the sea. (Note: Just eleven kilometres from Comillas is the town of Cabezón de la Sal, famous in Roman times as a salt trading centre. Sights include the Palacio de la Bodega and the Church of San Martín).

Overnight stay in Comillas.

DAY 3 · COMILLAS - SAN VICENTE DE LA BARQUERA - LLANES - RIBADESELLA - CANGAS DE ONÍS

Today's first destination is San Vicente de la Barquera, just twenty minutes' drive from Comillas.

San Vicente is a charming fishing village that dates back to Roman times. With the Picos de Europa as a backdrop, green meadows everywhere and the magnetic force of the Cantabrian Sea, this is a truly privileged place that for centuries was an important stop for pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago. Make sure you see the Castillo del Rey, located right in the historic quarter and one of the best-preserved fortresses in the so-called Green Spain. You should also visit the Church of Santa María de los Ángeles, the ruins of the former Convento de San Luis, the Santuario de la Barquera shrine, the Torre del Preboste tower and the fifteenth-century Puente de La Maza bridge. But San Vicente has much more to offer. Nearby are stunning beaches such as El Tostadero, Merón and Gerra... And let's not forget the delicious cuisine! Make sure you order the 'marmita barquereña', a typical stew made with fish and potatoes. (Note: If you fancy a different trip, the Cave of El Soplao is located about fifty kilometres away. Admission not included. Check opening hours and book in advance).

Back on the road again, your next stop will be the Asturian town of Llanes, very popular thanks to its beautiful sandy beaches. In fact, it's one of the most stunning coastal towns in the whole of Asturias. This is nature in its purest state, with the Picos de Europa in the background and the mighty Cantabrian Sea in the foreground. Llanes is a traditionally seafaring village that boasts a charming old quarter. Discover the Paseo de San Pedro, the port and the famous breakwater decorated by the Basque artist Ibarrola and christened the Memory Cubes. The kaleidoscope of colours has turned these inert grey blocks into avant-garde art. And savour the local cuisine at the many restaurants and cider houses! Fabada, a stew made with Asturian beans and different types of meat (particularly chorizo and ham), is always a safe bet. Next stop is Ribadesella, a little less than half an hour away. You'll realise this is a special place as soon as you arrive, with the River Sella turning into an estuary and creating landscapes of unbelievable beauty. Stroll along the Paseo de Princesa Letizia and Paseo de la Grúa, two stunning boulevards, and pop down to the vibrant marina, dotted with tapas bars. To take in some fresh air and feel the sea breeze on your face, the best idea is to saunter along the Santa Marina beach up to Punta'l Pozu viewpoint. If you have more time, pop over to the nearby Centro de Arte Rupestre, a fascinating cave art museum. In fact, this beautiful town boasts important prehistoric caves listed together as a World Heritage Site, including the Tito Bustillo Cave, famous for its paintings of horses and reindeer. And another must-see cave nearby is the Cueva de Ardines. (Note: Make sure you book in advance and check that the caves are actually open, as the Tito Bustillo closes for certain months of the year. Admission not included). More incredible ideas? What about canoeing down the Sella River?

Overnight stay in Cangas de Onís.

DAY 4 · CANGAS DE ONÍS - PICOS DE EUROPA - COVADONGA - CANGAS DE ONÍS

Today will be spent discovering the mythical town of Cangas de Onís, the Picos de Europa Natural Park and the shrine of Nuestra Señora de Covadonga. This will be a mind-blowing encounter with nature, religious art and the legends of the Reconquista.

In Cangas de Onís, the first city and court of the Asturian Monarchy, you can visit the famous Puente Romano. Hanging from central arch of this bridge is the iconic Victoria Cross, the true emblem of the Principality of Asturias. Although its true origin is medieval, a Roman road did actually cross this mythical bridge. Another place of interest near Cangas de Onís is the prehistoric El Buxu Cave. (Note: If you want to go, book in advance and check that it's open on the day of your visit. Admission not included).

Onward journey to the Real Sitio de Covadonga, just fifteen minutes away.

This is an iconic Neo-Romanesque basilica nestled in a unique natural setting, in the heart of the Asturias of the Reconquista. Make sure you visit the Santa Cueva, the Museum, the headquarters of the Escolanía choir and the Gran Hotel Pelayo. Ask the locals about the history of Don Pelayo and the mythical Battle of Covadonga in the year 722. Afterwards, head back on the road and drive over to Lake Enol and Lake Ercina, located at more than one thousand metres above sea level. Multiple hiking trails varying in duration and difficulty set out from here. Head over to the nearby Buferrera Mines and the Pedro Pidal Visitor Centre, which houses an exhibition on the Picos de Europa National Park, listed as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO.

Return and overnight stay in Cangas de Onís.

DAY 5 · CANGAS DE ONÍS - LASTRES - GIJÓN

Today's stretch will take you from Cangas de Onís to Lastres, a magnificent fishing village that's arguably one of the most beautiful in Asturias. The drive will only take you half an hour. Beforehand, though, head over to the El Fitu viewpoint, in the picture-postcard Sierra del Sueve. Also near Lastres is the Jurassic Museum (Museo del Jurásico). The building is shaped like a tridactyl footprint and plays host to fascinating exhibitions and models of dinosaurs. You'll see up to twenty replicas of dinosaurs! What's more, the La Griega beach is the starting point of a trail that features dinosaur fossils and footprints. (Note :Check opening hours of the museum. Admission not included). And then you'll get to Lastres!, a seaside town on the east coast of Asturias famous for the spectacular image of its tiered houses looking out to sea. Take a stroll through its historic quarter to admire the Indian-style mansions. The cuisine in Lastres is excellent, with an exquisite offering of fish and seafood. And if you have time, head down to the golden-sand beaches of Lastres or La Griega for a dip in the sea. Another recommendation is to take in the magnificent views from the Chapel of San Roque. Then it's back on the road for half an hour over to Gijón, a city that will surprise you with its laid-back vibe, excellent beach, exquisite food and much more.

First of all, take a leisurely stroll along the promenade overlooking San Lorenzo beach. At one end of this beach is the Church of San Pedro and the Cerro de Santa Catalina, where you'll be rewarded by an amazing view of the Cantabrian Sea, the city of Gijón and the mountains in the background. And make sure you see the legendary Elogio del Horizonte an impressive sculpture by Chillida and an icon of the city. Another must is a stroll through the historical Cimadevilla, a fishing district full of landmarks, including Roman ruins, the Museo Casa Natal de Jovellanos and the Palacio de Revillagigedo. This neighbourhood is also packed with restaurants serving the excellent Asturian cuisine, including succulent pinchos, ciders, cheeses, fabada stews, arroz con leche... After a hearty lunch, you could always head down to the marina or the nearby Poniente beach. Children will particularly love the city's aquarium. Its sixty tanks contain a host of freshwater and saltwater fish from different climates and countries. And to round off your spectacular visit, we suggest a browse around the shops on the central Calle Corrida.

Overnight stay in Gijón.

DAY 6 · GIJÓN - CANDÁS - LUANCO - CABO DE PEÑAS - AVILÉS - CUDILLERO - GIJÓN

Set off from Gijón towards Cabo de Peñas, half an hour away by car. On the way, you can make a brief stop in Candás, a pretty seaside town with a pleasant promenade, and Luanco, a fishing village with a beautiful historic quarter, a clock tower, a waterfront church and a Maritime Museum. Next stop is the northernmost point of Asturias and a true balcony over the Cantabrian Sea: Cabo de Peñas. The landscape here is literally breathtaking, where towering sheer cliff faces and nearshore islets withstand the ravages of the enraged sea. You'll discover a unique panorama. After having taken countless photos of this exceptional natural reserve, set off for Avilés, half an hour away. Avilés delivers an exciting mix between tradition and avant-garde, as well as excellent beaches, such as Salinas (perhaps the most popular in the Principality), El Espartal and San Juan de Nieva. It's also nicknamed the medieval town of Asturias. Stroll through its historic quarter full of arcaded streets, fountains, churches and historic plazas, but also make sure to stop off for a refreshing cider or some traditional Asturian cuisine. And then you can get to know the more modern face of Avilés. The Centro Cultural Niemeyer will astound you with its avant-garde structures and fascinating art exhibitions. And after so much excitement, it's time to head off to Cudillero, half an hour away along the western Asturian coast. This is a magical seaside town brimming with coloured houses mashed together and piled on top of each other. Admire the fabulous views of the town and the sea from the lighthouse, the Mirador de la Atalaya viewpoint or the colossal 'amphitheatre' formed by the tiered houses around the main square. Its restaurants serve exquisite fish dishes well worth trying. And, of course, you could also visit the beautiful nearby beaches, where crystal-clear waters, sheer natural beauty and outstanding sand blend together to form an unforgettable image. Our favourite beaches are Silencio, Gueirúa, Concha de Artedo and San Pedro de la Ribera. Return and overnight stay in Gijón.

● DAY 7 · OVIEDO

This road trip comes to an end in Oviedo, the capital of Asturias and located less than half an hour from Gijón. This is a regal, Jacobean, monastic, legendary, contemporary and truly welcoming city all in one. Oviedo has it all and you can easily explore it on foot. There are beautiful green areas, such as the Campo de San Francisco, and wonderful historic areas, such as the old town, which is home to the UNESCO-listed Cathedral of San Salvador and Holy Chamber that house the famous Holy Shroud and other treasures. The old town as such radiates around the elegant Plaza de Alfonso II el Casto and the surrounding streets. Continue your sightseeing tour to the pre-Romanesque fountain of La Foncalada, the pre-Romanesque churches of Santa María del Naranco and San Miguel de Lillo (also UNESCO World Heritage Sites), the Archaeological Museum and the Fine Arts Museum, the Mercado del Fontán market and the Monastery of San Pelayo. And to round off this magnificent day, head to the Boulevard de la Sidra or the famous Calle Gascona to savour some excellent Asturian gastronomy. And if you fancy a spot of shopping, Calle Uria is always a great option. Overnight stay in Oviedo.

● DAY 8 · OVIEDO - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Santander.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Santander.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Comillas.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Comillas.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Cangas De Onis.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Cangas De Onis.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Gijón.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Gijón.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Oviedo.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Oviedo.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.
- ✓ Amount of the supplement for collection and return of the vehicle in a different office.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Santander



Ubiarco



Santillana Del Mar



Comillas



San Vicente De La Barquera



Llanes



Ribadesella



Cangas De Onis



Covadonga



Lastres



Gijón



Candás



Luanco



Aviles



Cudillero



Oviedo



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.