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TAILOR MADE RAIL

San Sebastian and Lisbon

From £1,599 per person // 12 days



Travel to Portugal by train from the UK, stopping off at the city of San Sebastian with its sweeping urban beaches and Michelin-starred restaurants before continuing across Northern Spain to Portugal and enjoying three days in historic Lisbon. Return via historic Merida and Barcelona.

The Essentials

- London to Northern Spain by train
- San Sebastian – a foodie's paradise
- Lisbon – trams, fado music and pastel de nata
- Return via historic Merida and buzzing Barcelona

Tailor make your holiday

- Decide when you would like to travel
- Adapt the route to suit your plans
- Upgrade hotels and rail journeys
- Add extra nights, destinations and/or tours

What's included

- Standard Class rail travel with seat reservations
- 9 nights' handpicked hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Comprehensive directions to your hotel
- Easy-to-follow travel documentation
- Despatch of tickets by email, post or collection from our London office

- Suggested Itinerary -



Day 1 - London To Paris

Start your rail journey to Spain and Portugal with a morning Eurostar from London to Paris. Cross to the Gare Montparnasse and check in at the Novotel Paris Montparnasse (or similar) for an overnight stay. Spend the rest of the day exploring the French capital, perhaps visiting one of the city's famous museums, walking along the banks of the Seine or enjoying a meal in a typical Parisian bistro.



Day 2 - Paris To San Sebastian

Board a high speed TGV this morning which will take you down through Bordeaux and Biarritz to Hendaye, close to the Spanish border. Here you'll need to purchase a ticket locally for the service which will take you through Basque countryside to San Sebastian, known in the Basque language as Donostia. On arrival in San Sebastian, check in for a 2 night stay at the Zinema7 Hotel (or similar).



Days 3 & 4 - San Sebastian

San Sebastian is a beautiful resort town on the Bay of Biscay. It's famous for its sweeping city beaches and its cuisine. The city boasts the second highest number of Michelin stars in the world, after Kyoto in Japan. Spend a full day here relaxing, catching some rays on the La Concha or Ondarreta Beaches or, if you're feeling energetic, take a walk up to the top of Monte Igueldo for spectacular views (there's also a funicular if you want to take the easy route). In the evening, head for one of the city's famous pintxo bars (basque tapas) for a delicious meal.



Day 5 - San Sebastian To Madrid

Check out of your hotel early this morning and make your way to San Sebastian's main station for your onward journey to Spanish capital Madrid. On arrival, check in for an overnight stay at the NH Atocha (or similar), close to Atocha station and then why not head out for a late lunch? Madrid is a vibrant city with many attractions to discover. If you'd like another night here, please let us know.



Day 6 - Madrid To Vigo

Enjoy a leisurely start today, with time for another wander along the Gran Via before you check out of your hotel and return to Atocha station for an onward rail journey to the west coast of Spain and the pretty city of Vigo. When you arrive here, check in for an overnight stay at the NH Collection Vigo (or similar).



Day 7 - Vigo To Lisbon

Enjoy a free morning in Vigo today. This is the largest city in Galicia, looking out over the Atlantic Ocean. You might like to take a stroll around the Casco Vello (old centre) or even enjoy some time on the beach if the weather is fine. This afternoon, make your way back to the station and catch a train south, across the Portuguese border to Porto. Change here (or choose to stop for a couple of nights if you have the time) and catch a train to Lisbon. On arrival, check in for a 3-night stay at the Lisboa Prata Hotel (or similar).



Days 8 & 9 - Lisbon

Enjoy two full days at leisure in the Portuguese capital. Lisbon is one of the oldest cities in the world and enjoys one of the warmest climates in Europe, particularly during the winter season. You can get around on foot, or use the historic trams to ascend one of the city's seven hills. Don't miss the views from the commanding Castelo de Sao Jorge or the stunning, UNESCO World Heritage listed Jeronimos Monastery and Belem Tower, both fine examples of Portuguese Manueline architecture.



Day 10 - Lisbon To Merida

It's an early start today as you make your way back to the station and board an InterCity service to Entroncamento. Here, change onto a Portuguese regional service which will take you back into Spain via Badajoz, and into the Roman city of Merida. Here, check in for an overnight stay at the Parador de Merida (or similar). You arrive in the mid-afternoon and have the evening here, but we'd recommend an extra night to explore this fascinating city if you have the time. Merida was founded as a Roman colony in 25BC and has some amazing Roman remains.



Day 11 - Merida To Barcelona

After breakfast this morning, head back to the station and catch a train up to Spanish capital Madrid. Change here onto a high-speed AVE service to Barcelona and check in for an overnight stay at the Abba Sants Hotel (or similar), conveniently located for the station.



Day 12 - Barcelona To London

This morning, at the end of your exciting holiday, catch a direct TGV service from Barcelona Sants which will whisk you through Catalonia and France up to Paris. Here, an easy connection brings you to the Gare du Nord for your return Eurostar to London.

Pricing

From £1,599 per person

Low season (November-March) from £1,599pp

High season (April-October) from £1,799pp

These prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. Single supplements will apply for sole occupancy. It is based on Standard Class rail travel and includes seat reservations as necessary. It is based on the best fares on the trains. If you travel during a peak period, particularly at short notice, then supplements may apply.