




**PALACE TOURS**  
Travel Like Royalty


PALACE TOURS


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# Costa Verde Express Luxury Train - Oviedo to Bilbao

2 Nights • Luxury Experience

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# Overview

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Travel in the heart of Green Spain onboard the original luxury train Costa Verde Express, a modern train with ensuite rooms, restaurants, bar and sightseeing in different cities.

# Your Itinerary

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## DAY 1

### OVIEDO – PICOS DE EUROPA - LLANES

Reception on board the train at the Oviedo station at 10:00 a.m. Accommodation on board and subsequent visit to the Historic Center of Oviedo. While we eat on board the train we will arrive at Arriondas, from where we will depart with our coach to the Picos de Europa; Lagos de Covadonga, Santuario and Cangas de Onís, the first Spanish capital after the reconquest. Dinner and night in Llanes.

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## DAY 2

### LLANES – SANTILLANA - SANTANDER

During breakfast the train will arrive at Cabezón de la Sal, from where we will depart to visit the Neo-cave of Altamira, a museum and reliable reproduction of this greatest exponent of Upper Paleolithic rock art. Then, Santillana del Mar, a town with its magnificently preserved medieval old town. After lunch, we will go by train to Santander, the elegant capital of Cantabria, visit and free time. Dinner and night in Santander.

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## DAY 3

### SANTANDER – BILBAO

During breakfast, the Costa Verde Express sets off for Bilbao, upon arrival we say goodbye to the crew and the train to visit this city full of dynamism, which has managed to reinvent itself after the decline of its traditional heavy industry. The visit to the city includes the entrance to the famous Guggenheim museum, symbol of this new Bilbao. After the visit we will end the trip at approximately 2:00 p.m. at La Concordia station.

# Tips & Travel Guide

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## **The Train:**

### **What is the capacity of the train?**

There are 23 suites on the train. The number of passengers depends on the occupancies sold in that departure. The maximum capacity of the train is 46 passengers.

### **Is there a dress code onboard?**

There is no official dress code onboard, but we recommend comfortable shoes and clothes due to the nature of the visits and excursions.

### **What kind of food is served on the train?**

Galicia, Asturias, Cantabria, the Basque Country and Castilla y León are, in the opinion of the most fastidious chefs and gourmets, the regions where you can still find the best cuisine in Spain. The cheeses, sausages, meat, vegetables, fish and seafood are all universally renowned.

The restaurants on our route not only select the highest quality raw materials and have them prepared by the greatest professionals; they are also the ideal setting for tasting the local cuisine. All of our menus include a careful selection of wines that blend harmoniously with the ingredients of each lunch and dinner. Coffee and liqueurs are also included.

### **How are the meals served?**

Breakfasts are buffet-style and are served onboard the train in the four lounge carriages. Lunches and dinners are either taken at restaurants in the cities as mentioned in each day's itinerary, or served in the Restaurant Cars.

### **Is there a laundry/dry cleaning service on the train?**

Yes, laundry service is available at an additional charge. Please see the crew for details.

### **Is there internet or telephone accessibility on the train?**

There is internet access onboard the train but also in cybercenters in several cities along the route. Your room onboard is equipped with a telephone, which you may use for long distance calls (guest's own account). Phones will generally get reception, however sometimes this is a bit difficult due to the mountains and tunnels along the way.

### **Is the train accessible to wheelchairs / physical challenges?**

Wheelchairs for sightseeing excursions are available upon request; kindly advise our office as soon as possible and at least 30 days prior to your departure of the necessity for a wheelchair. Please know there are no ramps

for entering/exiting the train, and the train's corridors are too narrow to accommodate wheelchairs. For those with other physical challenges, please contact our office.

### **Is smoking allowed onboard?**

No. Since January 2006, it is forbidden by Law to smoke onboard the train and in the train stations.

### **What facilities are available on the train?**

The four lounge carriages on the train are the most unusual and beautiful places on the train. They are veritable rail treasures that are much admired owing to their exquisite design, their finish and the interior decorations. The "pub carriage" has a bar and dance floor and is decorated and lit like a small night-club, where lively entertainment is provided every night until the early hours of the morning. Another lounge carriage also has a bar where you can sit back and have a quiet drink. The other two lounges are for other types of entertainment, such as reading, enjoying a board game with your fellow passengers, talking or watching the passing scenery through the big picture windows. And wherever you are, you will always be served by our attentive waiters.

Passengers are offered daily newspapers, magazines, a thoughtful collection of books from the library, television and videos; all that you need to make your journey a pleasure.

### **The Rooms:**

#### **Are there different types or sizes of rooms onboard the train?**

Suites onboard Costa Verde Express are specially designed for rest and privacy. You can sleep in comfort as the train will be parked at a station each night. This means that your sleep will not be disturbed by moving and jolting and also gives those who enjoy nightlife an opportunity to go out and savor the atmosphere of each town.

24 Classic Suites, double/matrimonial bed (120cm x 185cm or about 4ft x 6 ft) The suites measure 64.8 square feet, or 6 square meters. The private ensuite bathroom has a hydro sauna, turbo massage and steam bath and a hairdryer. The air-conditioning and heating, piped music and lights are all controlled individually. The electrical power is 220 volts. All suites are equipped with a luggage rack, minibar, safe deposit box, wardrobe, writing desk and a telephone with an outside line.

#### **Are rooms pre-assigned or can you choose your own room?**

The rooms are assigned on-site. If you have any specific room requirements, please contact us at least one month prior to departure so that we can send your request to our Operations Team.

#### **Is there a hairdryer in each bathroom? Are toiletries provided?**

Yes, there is a hairdryer provided in every bathroom, along with a dental set, comb, eau de toilette, shaving set, shower cap, shoe polish and more.

#### **Is there bottled water available?**

Yes, bottled spring water is provided free of charge throughout the tour.

### **The Tour:**

Northern Spain experiences a mild oceanic climate, with not too many extreme temperatures. Please bring along a jacket or coat for chilly evenings, and sun protection for warm afternoons.

### **Do I have to stay onboard all seven nights?**

You are not required to stay onboard the train for seven nights. However, as the train follows a fixed itinerary, you will be responsible for your own transportation to/from your points of embarkation/disembarkation, for any hotels you use during the journey, for meals taken while separated from the group, etc. There are no refunds for unused portions of the tour. Therefore, should you choose to shorten the journey in any way, you are still required to pay for the full seven-night tour.

### **Are doctors available at all times?**

The train carries a first aid kit, and El Transcantábrico has contacts with various health centers along the train route.

### **Expenses:**

#### **What expenses will I have during the trip?**

El Transcantabrico is a very inclusive experience, so you will not need to pay for any meals, beverages during lunch/dinner, sightseeing, monument entrances or accommodations. You will incur additional cost if you choose to purchase any additional beverages onboard; laundry services; camera fees at monuments; transfers, additional sightseeing or other services in Leon or Santiago de Compostela; gratuities; and/or souvenirs.

#### **How can I settle my expenses on the train?**

You may settle your onboard expenses by paying in Euros or by major credit card.

#### **How much should I expect to tip?**

Tipping is not mandatory, and is left to the sole discretion of the traveler. This is a decision that should be made based on your enjoyment of the journey and the service.

#### **What are the passport/visa requirements for travel to Spain?**

Please ensure that your passport has at least three blank pages and that it is valid for at least six months beyond your departure date from Spain. Please check with your local embassy regarding visa requirements.

# Terms & Conditions

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## **PAYMENT TERMS:**

15% of total tour cost due at the time of booking  
85% or balance no later than 35 days prior to tour departure date

## **CANCELLATION FEES:**

Up to 30 days before departure: refund less 15% of official price.

Between 30 and 15 days: refund less 25% of the total.

Between 14 and 5 days: refund less 50% of the total.

Between 4 and 1 day(s): refund less 80% of the total.

Less than 24 hours or failure to turn up: No refund, 100% of the total is payable.

A 15% Administrative fee will be charged from Palace Tours against any refunds. All cancellation fees and administrative fees is applicable for FULL Tour price before coupons.

Cancellations should be intimated by FAX to the corporate office in Miami FL.

## **CHANGE OF DATE/OCCUPANCY/NAME/SCHEDULE (not including changes to itinerary)**

WITHIN SAME TRAVEL SEASON (September to August) may be possible if requested up to 120 days prior to the first scheduled service of the tour. For certain tours, change of date/name/occupancy/schedule will NOT be possible. No changes will be permitted within 65 days of the first scheduled service; any requests for such are not guaranteed and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Change of date/occupancy/name/schedule is subject to availability and at the sole discretion of TRAVBUZZ / PALACE TOURS. There might be a cost associated with any changes to a booking and the same will be communicated before the time of such change being processed or confirmed. No changes will be done without a formal change request and confirmation and payment of any fees acceptance by the client.

The above times are based on local time of the destination where the tour is provided. In order to provide enough time for processing cancellation, guests need to add 3 business days to the above timeframes.

We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance to cover the losses incurred in case of cancellation. For information on available plans or to purchase travel insurance, please visit [www.palacetours.com/insurance](http://www.palacetours.com/insurance).

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## How big are the suites?

The suites on the El Transcantabrico are 6m<sup>2</sup>

## What size are the beds in the suites?

The size of the bed is dependent on the type of suite you reserve.

- A double/matrimonial bed is 1.20 x 1.85 m
- A bunk bed is 0.90 x 1.85 m
- A fold-down bed is 0.75 x 1.75 m

## Will I have internet connection on the train?

The El Transcantabrico train does have wifi in the lounge of the train, although the signal is not strong and may not reach outside of the lounge car. (The signal is also best when the train is stationed.) You may use the computer in the lounge provided for guests' convenience, or you may connect to the train's wifi using your personal laptop, tablet or device.

# Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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