PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

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Costa Verde Express Luxury Train Tour: Bilbao to Santiago de Compostela

5 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

You find yourself transformed, shedding the layers of everyday life to become a traveler filled with awe and gratitude, as the Costa Verde Express Luxury Train Tour from Bilbao to Santiago de Compostela offers you a passage through the heart of northern Spain. As the train glides seamlessly through stunning landscapes, you evolve into a version of yourself more connected to the world and its wonders, carrying with you a newfound sense of serenity and inspiration that whispers to your soul.

In Bilbao, the Guggenheim Museum awakens your creative spirit, while the medieval streets of Santillana del Mar connect you to history in a way that feels intimate and profound. Oviedo envelops you in its vibrant atmosphere, inviting reflection and gratitude, while the coastal cliffs of Luarca instill a deep peace in your soul. By the time you reach the historic embrace of Santiago de Compostela, your heart is filled with dreams and aspirations that you never knew you had, making the journey not just a trip, but a transformation.

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary

DAY 1

SANTANDER

You step aboard the magnificent Costa Verde Express, a wave of anticipation washing over you as you immerse yourself in the rich culture of Bilbao.

The Guggenheim Museum unfolds before you, igniting a spark of creativity and wonder that will linger long after your visit. Each brushstroke of art resonates with your soul, reminding you of the beauty that exists in the world.As you journey to Santander, the panoramic vistas blend seamlessly with your thoughts, ushering in a profound sense of peace and connection.

DAY 2

LLANES / SANTANDER / SANTILLANA DEL MAR

You awaken to the gentle sway of the train, the aroma of breakfast filling the air, as anticipation builds for the enchanting day ahead. Wandering through the medieval streets of Santillana del Mar, you feel a profound connection to history, every cobblestone whispering tales of yesteryears. This moment, vibrant with life and wonder, stirs a deep joy within you.

As you explore the neo-cave of Altamira, the artistry of ancient hands captivates your imagination, sparking a newfound appreciation for creativity and expression. Each sight, each flavor, weaves a tapestry of unforgettable memories, leaving you with a heart full of peace and a spirit ready to embrace life’s adventures.

DAY 3

LLANES / OVIEDO

You awaken to the sound of soft whispers from the Picos de Europa, feeling a sense of wonder as you step into the enchanting landscape of Arenas de Cabrales. The rich aroma of artisan cheese fills the air, awakening your senses and sparking joyful connections with fellow travelers. This moment is a celebration of authenticity, igniting your spirit of discovery.As you wander through Oviedo, the city's vibrant atmosphere envelops you, encouraging reflection and gratitude.

The laughter shared over dinner resonates in your heart, crafting memories that will linger long after the journey ends.

DAY 4

GIJÓN / LUARCA / OVIEDO

As you step into the vibrant streets of Gijón, the salty breeze of the sea awakens a sense of adventure within you, filling your heart with joy and possibility.

Every bustling corner and lively market invites you to connect with the local spirit, leaving you with cherished memories that dance in your mind long after the day ends.In Luarca, the ethereal beauty of the coastal cliffs stirs a profound peace in your soul, allowing you to embrace the simple pleasures of life.

DAY 5

LUARCA / RIBADEO / VIVEIRO

As you step off the train into the charming town of Ribadeo, a sense of wonder envelops you, igniting a spark of joy as you explore the rich tapestry of culture at Os Teixois. The laughter of locals and the natural beauty surrounding you awaken your spirit, reminding you of the beauty in life's simple moments.

In the quaint streets of Viveiro, you feel a profound connection to the past and present, as each culinary delight and scenic view deepens your appreciation for the journey. Memories crafted here will linger in your heart, transforming your perspective on life and enriching your soul with every shared experience.

DAY 6

FERROL / SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA / VIVEIRO

As you embrace the morning light over Ferrol, a sense of tranquility washes over you, awakening a deep appreciation for the journey you've undertaken. The laughter and camaraderie shared with fellow travelers become cherished treasures, weaving a tapestry of connection and joy that will linger in your heart long after this adventure ends.

In the historic embrace of Santiago de Compostela, you find yourself enveloped in a profound sense of purpose, igniting dreams and aspirations you never knew were within reach. Each moment spent savoring the exquisite flavors at the Parador de los Reyes Católicos fills you with gratitude, crafting memories that will inspire you for years to come.

Tips & Travel Guide

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:

What is the weather like?

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.

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Oct 24, 2026	Gran Clase Suite	**€9,000**	**€5,000**
May 15, 2027	Gran Clase Suite	**€9,550**	**€5,300**
May 29, 2027	Gran Clase Suite	**€9,550**	**€5,300**
Jun 12, 2027	Gran Clase Suite	**€9,550**	**€5,300**
Sep 18, 2027	Gran Clase Suite	**€9,550**	**€5,300**
Oct 2, 2027	Gran Clase Suite	**€9,550**	**€5,300**

Rates shown in Euro (EUR). Approximate USD equivalents available upon request.

Rates shown are per person. Single rate applies to single occupancy; Double rate applies per person in double occupancy.

🏷️ **Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.**

Visit https://www.palacetours.com/tour/costa-verde-express-bilbao-santiago-regularjourney for the latest information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions

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 5% 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.

All cancellation, change, or update requests must be submitted in writing by email to travel@palacetours.com. Please allow at least 48 hours (and in some cases longer) for us to review, confirm, and process the request and advise any applicable fees. A cancellation, change, or update takes effect only once we have received and processed the request, and we will confirm the outcome to you once it has been processed. Cancellation timeframes and the applicable fee are calculated by reference to the local time and normal business hours at the destination where the tour is provided; a request received outside those business hours (including evenings, weekends, and public holidays at the destination) is treated as received on the next business day at the destination, and a further processing period of at least 48 hours (and in some cases longer) then applies before the request takes effect.

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.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

How big are the suites?

> The suites on the El Transcantabrico are $6m^2$

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.

How long is the Costa Verde Express journey from Bilbao to Santiago de Compostela and what day does it start?

> This is a 6-day, 5-night journey that always starts on a Saturday. Guests are received at 10:00 a.m. at Bilbao-Concordia Station and the tour ends on Thursday in Santiago de Compostela, with a farewell lunch at the Parador de los Reyes Catolicos.

What route does the Costa Verde Express follow between Bilbao and Santiago?

> The train runs west along the Bay of Biscay: Bilbao, Laredo, Santona and Santander on day 1, Santillana del Mar and Llanes on day 2, Arenas de Cabrales and Oviedo on day 3, Gijon and Luarca on day 4, Ribadeo, Taramundi and Viveiro on day 5, then Ferrol and a coach to Santiago de Compostela on day 6.

Is Palace Tours the operator of the Costa Verde Express?

> No. Palace Tours is the Official Representative and Authorized Renfe Sales Agent for Spain's luxury trains. We sell the Costa Verde Express at the official fares, confirm your suite and handle your booking, deposit and documents from start to finish.

What kind of accommodation is on board the Costa Verde Express?

> Every guest travels in a Gran Clase Suite with a private bathroom. The train has 23 suites and carries a maximum of 46 passengers, so the atmosphere is small and personal, and the saloon cars mix 1920s-style decor with modern amenities.

How much does the Costa Verde Express Bilbao to Santiago tour cost?

> Fares start from EUR 5,000 per person sharing a Gran Clase Suite. Single-occupancy fares are also offered. The exact fare for each departure is shown on this page, because rates can vary by date.

What is included in the Costa Verde Express fare?

- Accommodation on board, daily breakfast and all lunches and dinners on the train or in top restaurants, with beverages, water, soft drinks and coffee
- Welcome drink and snack, travel toiletries bag and mineral water in the cabin minibar
- Excursions, museum and attraction tickets, a luxury coach following the train and a multilingual guide
- On-board music, live performances and show cooking, plus taxes and services

Do I get rail tickets to reach Bilbao and leave from Santiago?

> Yes, currently the fare includes a complimentary national rail ticket from anywhere in Spain to Bilbao and another from Santiago de Compostela back to anywhere in Spain, for travel on the dates closest to your luxury train journey. This is a rail offer that may change without notice, so we confirm it when you book.

What is not included in the Costa Verde Express price?

> Domestic and international flights, travel insurance and any visa fees are not included. Personal items such as laundry and souvenirs, extra hotel nights before or after the tour, and anything not listed as included are also at your own cost.

What deposit is needed to book the Costa Verde Express and when is the balance due?

> A deposit of 15% of the fare confirms your suite. The remaining balance is due 35 days before departure. We send you a clear statement of both amounts when your booking is confirmed.

Are there child fares on the Costa Verde Express?

> Yes. Child fares are set in two bands based on age at departure: from 0 to under 12, and from 12 to under 18. Tell us the ages when you enquire and we will show the fare that applies to your date.

Which Costa Verde Express Bilbao to Santiago departures are on sale?

> There are currently 8 departures on sale, from 26 September 2026 through to 2 October 2027, all starting on a Saturday. The full departure list with availability is shown on this page and can be booked directly.

What are the main highlights of this Costa Verde Express itinerary?

> Highlights include the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, the medieval town of Santillana del Mar and the neo-cave of Altamira, the Cabrales Cheese Cave-Museum in the Picos de Europa, the old towns of Oviedo and Gijon, the ethnographic complex of Os Teixois near Taramundi and a final tour of Santiago de Compostela.

What is the neo-cave of Altamira visited on day 2?

> The neo-cave is a faithful full-size replica of the Altamira cave near Santillana del Mar, famous for its prehistoric paintings of bison. The original cave is protected, so the replica lets visitors see the art up close. You reach it by coach after breakfast on board, when the train arrives at Cabezon de la Sal.

Do we sleep on the train every night or in hotels?

> Accommodation is on board the train for all 5 nights, so you never pack or unpack. The train stays overnight in Santander, Llanes, Oviedo, Luarca and Viveiro, and a coach accompanies the train for excursions away from the tracks.

How do I get to Bilbao for the start and home from Santiago de Compostela?

> Flights are not included, so most guests fly into Bilbao and out of Santiago de Compostela, or use the complimentary national rail tickets from and to anywhere in Spain. Extra hotel nights before or after the tour are not included; our travel specialists can advise on arriving the day before.

Is there a dress code on the Costa Verde Express?

> There is no official dress code on board. Because the programme includes walking tours, caves, museums and village visits, comfortable shoes and clothes are recommended, with a light layer for the changeable weather of Spain's green northern coast.

How do I ask a question or book the Costa Verde Express from Bilbao to Santiago de Compostela?

> Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610, or message us on WhatsApp at https://wa.me/17864080610, where a travel specialist or our AI assistant will answer. The departure list on this page is bookable directly, with the exact fare shown for each date.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

travel@palacetours.com | 786-408-0610

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