



## Heart of Spain

Venture deep into the heart of Spain. Lose yourself in its romance, passion and history. Travel in style on one of Europe's most luxurious trains, the Al Andalus.

Spain is one of the world's most fascinating countries—a melting pot of Eastern and Western cultures where Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs and other peoples have created a unique cultural landscape throughout the centuries. This outstanding and delightful train journey will lead you to some of the most beautiful cities in Spain: Santiago de Compostela, León, Ávila, Toledo, Córdoba and Seville.

### What Makes Your Journey Unique

- Explore 775 miles/1,250 kilometers of Spain by rail between Santiago and Seville
- Enjoy panoramic views of 4 distinct Spanish regions: Galicia, Castile–León, Castile–La Mancha, and Andalusia
- Discover 6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Santiago de Compostela, Seville, Toldedo, Córdoba, Ávila, and Aranjuez

### Dates

- 28 Aug 19 - 05 Sep 19 (9 days)
- 01 Sep 19 - 09 Sep 19 (9 days)

### Info and Booking

Michael Lange  
E-Mail: [m.lange@lernidee.de](mailto:m.lange@lernidee.de)

### Itinerary



### **Day 1., Welcome to Santiago**

Arrival and transfer to your hotel. Enjoy the day at your leisure and spend two nights in the historic Parador Santiago de Compostela, known as the world's oldest hotel.

Overnight: Parador Santiago de Compostela (or similar) (D)

### **Day 2., Rías Baixas**

The Rías Baixas region stretches from the Atlantic Ocean deep into the countryside. Beautiful beaches, unspoiled nature and diverse culinary delights await you. This part of Galicia is not only characterized by its unique natural beauty with its fjord coast and numerous offshore islands, but also by its deep-rooted traditions. On a boat excursion to the region's mussel beds, known for their world-famous blue mussels and scallops, you get the chance to dine on freshly prepared seafood on board. If the weather agrees, you also enjoy an excursion to the Cies Islands, the gem of the Atlantic Islands National Park. Afterward, you head to the historical fishing village Combarro. Its center is a characteristic example of Galicia's traditional architecture.

Overnight: Parador Santiago de Compostela (or similar) (BLD)

### **Day 3., Santiago de Compostela – UNESCO World Heritage Site**

Every year, Santiago de Compostela is the final stop for countless pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago, who come to visit the shrine of the apostle St. James, the Greater. Later you enjoy a walking tour through Santiago's historic center. In the late afternoon you board the Al Andalus luxury train and settle into your compartment. While rolling southbound, you enjoy a typical Galician dinner in the restaurant.

Overnight: On board (BLD)

### **Day 4., Galicia: Fine Wines and Unspoiled Nature**

The morning you are at your leisure to explore Ourense, the capital city of the Galician province of the same name, situated on the banks of the Rio Miño. While enjoying lunch on board, the Al Andalus continues its journey. Later you reach Ribeira Sacra, a Spanish wine-growing region close to the Portuguese border. You then enjoy a river cruise through the spectacular Sil Canyon with its up to 500-meter-deep gorges.

Overnight: On board (BLD)

### **Day 5., Ávila and León: UNESCO World Heritage Site**

Your first stop today is León, one of the most important stops of Jacobean pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela, where you visit the gothic cathedral. Afterward, your train continues towards Ávila (UNESCO World Heritage Site). Its huge fortifications from the 11th century belong to one of the best preserved and most complete medieval fortifications in the world. At a height of 1,128 meters, you find the whole beauty of Castile right before your eyes: Gothic manors; narrow, winding streets; Romanesque churches and the 2.5-kilometer-long city wall with 88 towers.

Overnight: On board (BLD)

### **Day 6., Toledo: UNESCO World Heritage Site**

Toledo is also called the "City of Three Cultures" because Christians, Moors and Jews have all left their marks. Toledo is a living history museum, whose churches, palaces, Arabesque houses, and narrow streets create a romantic atmosphere. You see the monastery of San Juan de los Reyes, the synagogues of Santa María la Blanca, and El Tránsito, as well as the famous painting "The Burial of Count of Orgaz" by El Greco in the church San Tomé. Enjoy some free time in the afternoon. In the evening your train continues towards Aranjuez, one of the summer residences of the royal family since the 16th century. That evening is perfect for a moonlit walk through the city.

Overnight: On board (BLD)

### **Day 7., Córdoba – UNESCO World Heritage Site**

Today you arrive in the city of Córdoba, where Moorish Spain experienced its intellectual, cultural and economic zenith. During the caliphate of Córdoba in the 10th century, about half a million people lived here. A walking tour through the old town will bring you closer to the most important buildings of the city – the Mezquita with its fascinating pillars, the former mosque and the Christian cathedral. You will also visit the Alcázar that is surrounded by wonderful gardens. You will stroll through the narrow streets of the Jewish quarter before getting back to your train.

Overnight: On board (BLD)

### **Day 8., Seville**

Today your tour in Seville brings you closer to famous Spanish characters like Don Juan, the Barber of Seville and Carmen. Here you marvel at the Seville Cathedral, the largest Gothic cathedral in the world, whose bell tower, the Giralda, was once a minaret of the Great Mosque of Seville. The Alcázar of Seville, another impressive stop on your city tour, is a wonderful example of Andalusian Mudéjar architecture. For your last evening in Spain, you enjoy an Andalusian farewell dinner in a beautiful restaurant housed in an old palace.

Overnight: Hotel Alfonso XIII (or similar) (BLD)

### **Day 9., ¡Adiós España!**

Transfer to the airport for return flight. (B)

Reverse journey also available

## **Highlights of Your Journey**

- Unique route on 1,250 kilometers of track through Spain between Santiago and Seville
- 4 Spanish regions in just one trip: Galicia, Castile–León, Castile–La Mancha, and Andalusia
- 6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Santiago de Compostela, Seville, Toldedo, Córdoba, Ávila, Aranjuez
- Culinary delights and fine wines
- Boat ride in the Atlantic Islands of Galicia National Park and in the Sil Canyon
- Flamenco museum in Seville

## **Rates Include**

- Train journey between Santiago de Compostela and Seville with 5 overnights on board the train in the category booked
- 3 overnights in hotels
- All meals as per itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- City tours and excursions as per itinerary
- Multilingual group guide for max. 31 passengers
- English-speaking local guides at the stops
- Transport to and from airports on first and last days

## **Not Included**

- International flights
- Visa fees
- Tips and gratuities
- Personal expenses

## **Entry Requirements**

- Passport and visa may be required. Please consult your local embassy

- No vaccinations required. Please consult with your doctor

## Dates and Prices

### 28 Aug 19 - 05 Sep 19 / AI Andalucía

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<b>Gran Clase</b>	<b>7,340 \$ Limited</b>
	2,640 \$ Single use supplement in compartment + hotel

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<b>Deluxe</b>	<b>7,940 \$ Limited</b>
	3,000 \$ Single use supplement in compartment + hotel

### 01 Sep 19 - 09 Sep 19 / AI Andalucía

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<b>Gran Clase</b>	<b>7,340 \$ Waiting List</b>
	2,640 \$ Single use supplement in compartment + hotel

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<b>Deluxe</b>	<b>7,940 \$ Available</b>
	3,000 \$ Single use supplement in compartment + hotel

Price and availability as of: 2019-06-19