

Drive Espana

Spring in Spain Barcelona and the Pyrenees 4-16 May 2022

We have been running trips to Spain for many years but rarely find ourselves out East—for no good reason, so in 2022 we're going to Barcelona and the Pyrenees

We start with a ferry crossing from Plymouth (much better departure time) to Santander on Brittany Ferries' flagship Pont Aven. The trip will include an outside twin cabin and upgrades will be available for people who move fast as they are always in short supply. We arrive in Santander and then it's a few hours drive to Sos del Rey Catolico—a wonderful place to start a tour. The hotel is a hilltop fastness with brilliant views over to the Pyrenees and a wonderful café terrace where there have been many previous Drive Espana parties.

After the night at Sos we then go to Vic Sau for three nights. The hotel is a very comfortable Parador with fantastic views over a huge lake. It is peaceful and tranquil, a great place to return to after a day's drive out. There is the chance to spend a day in Barcelona, go to Sitges, home of a 1920's circuit, or go North to France and Perpignan

Monday calls for a change of scene so we're going to Vielha in the middle of the Pyrenees—why? Because the views are brilliant and the drive up there is sublime, sweeping bends next to spring torrents and snow capped peaks. There are also just a few tunnels—probably more than 20 from very short to quite long

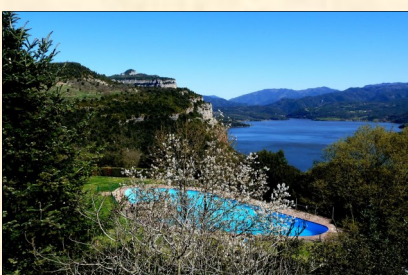
After Vielha there is further great driving as we head for two nights in Bielsa which is in the heart of the Pyrenees. The winter snows will have melted enough not to be a problem, but the mountain passes with white topped mountains are a joy. Bielsa is at the end of quite a log cul-de-sac—the most peaceful spot with amazing scenery

Thursday is the day we head back to the sea— not to Santander or Bilbao, but to San Sebastian, a lovely and stylish city. We are there for two nights at a hilltop hotel (in fact the old casino) overlooking the bay and the city. San Sebastian is a magnet for foodies with its pintxo bars and outstanding gastronomy—so these two nights are bed and breakfast

Saturday night is our last night in Spain—so we are going to Limpas, just outside Santander, for a night at the C19 Palace which the King built for his paramour. A lovely spot with a great rambla by an ocean inlet and a stylish place to be

On Sunday we have lunchtime departure from Santander on the Galicia for an evening arrival at Portsmouth

The trip will be limited to 20 cars and Jasper Gilder will accompany this group.



2011 Grid



Spring in Spain

Barcelona and the Pyrenees

Wed 4 May	Mid afternoon departure from Plymouth for Santander on Brittany Ferries flagship Pont Aven
Thurs 5 May	Arrive in Santander then drive to Sos del Rey Catolico in the ancient Kingdom of Navarra for a night at the Parador (190 miles)
Fri 6 May	Drive to Vic Sau for three nights at the Parador which will be our base for Barcelona
Sat 7/Sun 8 May	Free days to explore Catalonia, visit Barcelona with the Ramblas, Segrada Familia, Park Guell and the refurbished waterfront. Other options are Sitges—Lloret de Mat or up to Perpignan in France
Mon 9 May	Drive to Vielha, high in the Pyrenees and close to the French border. Great views, and a stunning drive to arrive. There is a small spa at the hotel. (170 miles)
Tues 10 May	Drive to Bielsa for two nights at the Parador - the route can either loop via France and some amazing scenery, or loop through Spain - The French option is about 80 miles. Bielsa is a great stop
Thurs 12 May	Drive to San Sebastian for two nights at the hotel Monte Igueldo perched high above the city (with a funicular outside the hotel) (190 miles)
Sat 14 May	Drive 100 miles through the Basque Country to Limpias for our last night
Sun 15 May	Drive to Santander ferry port for afternoon embarkation on Brittany Ferries Galicia (40 miles)
Mon 16 May	Mid evening arrival at Portsmouth

What is included

- ⇒ **Ferry crossings with standard outside cabin (upgrades available at extra cost), Dinner and Breakfast included on the Galicia**
- ⇒ **Overnight accommodation as described.**
- ⇒ **Dinner bed and breakfast at all hotels except San Sebastian which is Bed and Breakfast**
- ⇒ **Services of Jasper Gilder as tour leader**
- ⇒ **Map and Road book.**

Price £3600 per car with driver and one passenger

For more info or to book contact Jasper Gilder on 01442 842542 / 07831 327727 or email info@driveespana.com

